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American Jewish Tercentenary Committee, 1953-1954.

Western Reserve Historical Society

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AMERICAN JEWISH TRICENTENARY COMMITTEE

Room A-203, 270 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

Murray Hill 8-1654

March 4th

1953

Ralph E. Samuel
Chairman

Henry L. Moses
Treasurer

Simon H. Rifkind
*Chairman,
Membership Committee*

Mrs. Irving M. Engel

Israel Goldstein

D. de Sola Pool

Alan M. Stroock

Albert M. Greenfield
*Chairman,
Finance Committee*

Simon G. Kramer
*Chairman,
Committee on Religious
and Educational Participation*

Salo W. Baron
*Chairman,
Committee on
Research and Publications*

David Bernstein
Executive Director

Rabbi Abba Hillel

The Temple

East 105th Street and Ansel Road

Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Hillel:

After very nearly a full year of planning and hard work, we are now ready to submit to the Tercentenary Committee of 300, and to the entire community, a carefully considered program for the commemoration in 1954-55 of the 300th anniversary of Jewish settlement in the United States. Various working committees have considered all aspects of the forthcoming observance -- scope and theme, program, finances and administrative problems. The time has at last come when their recommendations are ready to be placed before the full national committee for its serious consideration, for such changes as it may deem suitable, and for final approval.

I take great pleasure, therefore, in inviting you to attend the first full meeting of the Tercentenary Committee of 300, which will be held at the Hotel Commodore in New York City on Saturday evening, April 11th, and Sunday, April 12th, 1953.

The decisions made at this meeting will determine both the nature and the success of the forthcoming observance, and will be vital to the formulation of a meaningful and effective program. What we decide at the meeting will have a lasting effect upon our own understanding of ourselves as American Jews as well as upon the image of the American Jew in American life. We look to you, as a distinguished American Jew, to share in the making of these decisions.

In the near future we shall send you a copy of the agenda and other materials for the meeting, as well as the names of the prominent personalities who will address the Saturday evening dinner and the Sunday luncheon, and will take part in the business sessions on Sunday.

I am confident you will want to attend this vitally important meeting. In order to facilitate our preparations for the conference, won't you please fill out and return the enclosed card at your earliest convenience?

Sincerely yours,

Ralph E. Samuel
Ralph E. Samuel
Chairman

AMERICAN JEWISH TRICENTENARY COMMITTEE

Room A-203, 270 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

MUrray Hill 8-1654

March 20th
1953

Ralph E. Samuel
Chairman

Henry L. Moses
Treasurer

Simon H. Rifkind
*Chairman,
Membership Committee*

Mrs. Irving M. Engel
Israel Goldstein
D. de Sola Pool
Alan M. Stroock

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*Chairman,
Committee on
Research and Publications*

David Bernstein
Executive Director

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

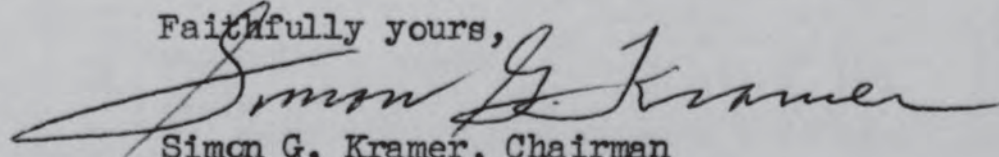
As you know, the 300th anniversary of Jewish settlement in the United States will be observed in September 1954. This anniversary will provide American Jews with an opportunity to review the three centuries of Jewish life in this country and to rededicate themselves to the spiritual values of Judaism and American ideals.

The American Jewish Tercentenary Committee was organized some months ago for the purpose of developing and carrying out plans for the celebration on a scale worthy of the occasion. In planning this celebration, the participation of synagogues and Jewish schools is of the utmost importance.

I have been asked to serve as chairman of the Committee on Religious and Educational Participation. Mr. Harry Starr, President of the American Association for Jewish Education, is co-chairman of this committee. In order to make possible a truly successful observance, we are organizing a national committee of religious and educational leaders in the American Jewish community which will have the responsibility of conducting these vital aspects of the observance. I therefore take great pleasure in inviting you to serve on this committee.

Since you are a member of the overall Committee of 300, I need not remind you that the National Planning Conference for the Tercentenary will be held in New York City on Saturday evening, April 11th, and all day Sunday, April 12th. I trust that you plan to be with us at that conference, and I look forward to the opportunity, at the business sessions on Sunday, to discuss with you the various proposals for the religious and educational portion of the Tercentenary program. I would appreciate it, however, if you would let me know at your earliest convenience that you are accepting the invitation to participate in the work of this committee.

Faithfully yours,


Simon G. Kramer, Chairman
Committee on Religious and
Educational Participation

TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE OF 300

Maxwell Abbell, *Chicago, Ill.*
 Herbert R. Abeles, *South Orange, N. J.*
 Philip Adler Jr., *Indianapolis, Ind.*
 Isaac Alcalay, *New York City*
 Henry A. Alexander, *Atlanta, Ga.*
 Lester D. Alexander, *Toledo, Ohio*
 George O. Arkin, *New York City*
 Emil N. Baar, *New York City*
 Paul Baerwald, *New York City*
 Barney Balaban, *New York City*
 Salo W. Baron, *New York City*
 Jennie Loitman Barron, *Boston, Mass.*
 Moses Barron, *Minneapolis, Minn.*
 James H. Becker, *Chicago, Ill.*
 Samuel Belkin, *New York City*
 Alfred A. Benesch, *Cleveland, O.*
 Isadore J. Berman, *Charleston, W. Va.*
 Morton M. Berman, *Chicago, Ill.*
 Israel Bernstein, *Portland, Me.*
 Sam E. Binswanger, *Richmond, Va.*
 Maurice Bisgyer, *Washington, D. C.*
 A. H. Blank, *Des Moines, Iowa*
 Jacob Blaustein, *Baltimore, Md.*
 Ernest Bloch, *Agate Beach, Ore.*
 Joseph L. Block, *Chicago, Ill.*
 Mrs. Sidney C. Borg, *New York City*
 Samuel J. Borowsky, *New York City*
 Hyman Brand, *Kansas City, Mo.*
 Raphael Brandes, *Tucson, Ariz.*
 Charles D. Breitell, *New York City*
 Isadore Breslau, *Washington, D. C.*
 Barnett R. Brickner, *Cleveland, O.*
 Charles Brown, *Los Angeles, Cal.*
 Meyer L. Brown, *New York City*
 Benjamin J. Bittenwieser, *New York City*
 Mrs. Moise S. Cahn, *New Orleans, La.*
 Eddie Cantor, *Beverly Hills, Cal.*
 Louis Caplan, *Pittsburgh, Pa.*
 Emanuel Celler, *New York City*
 Joseph Cherner, *Miami Beach, Fla.*
 Benjamin V. Cohen, *New York City*
 W. C. Cohen, *Wichita, Kan.*
 Samuel H. Daroff, *Philadelphia, Pa.*
 Max D. Davidson, *New York City*
 Moshe Davis, *New York City*
 Morris F. De Castro, *Virgin Islands*
 Amos S. Deinard, *Minneapolis, Minn.*
 David Diamond, *Buffalo, N. Y.*
 S. Dingol, *New York City*
 Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel, *San Francisco, Cal.*
 Louis I. Dublin, *New York City*
 Irving Edison, *St. Louis, Mo.*
 Herbert B. Ehrmann, *Boston, Mass.*
 Maurice N. Eisendrath, *New York City*
 Harry Elson, *Norfolk, Va.*
 Irving M. Engel, *New York City*
 Mrs. Irving M. Engel, *New York City*
 William P. Engel, *Birmingham, Ala.*
 Max J. Etta, *New York City*
 H. J. Etlinger, *Austin, Tex.*
 S. H. Fabian, *New York City*
 Oscar Z. Fasman, *Chicago, Ill.*
 Sara Feder, *Columbia, Mo.*
 Frank M. Fink, *Portland, Ore.*
 I. B. Finkelstein, *Wilmington, Del.*
 Louis Finkelstein, *New York City*
 Samuel W. Fishman, *Middlebury, Vt.*
 Phillip Forman, *Trenton, N. J.*
 Abe Fortas, *Washington, D. C.*
 Jerome N. Frank, *New Haven, Conn.*
 Felix Frankfurter, *Washington, D. C.*
 Jonas S. Friedenwald, *Baltimore, Md.*
 B. C. Friedman, *Newport, R. I.*
 Lee M. Friedman, *Boston, Mass.*
 Stanley H. Fuld, *New York City*
 Benjamin A. Gebiner, *New York City*
 S. D. Gershovitz, *New York City*
 Mrs. Isaac Gilman, *New York City*
 Bernard F. Gimbel, *New York City*
 Nelson Glueck, *Cincinnati, O.*
 Norman S. Goetz, *New York City*
 Arthur J. Goldberg, *Washington, D. C.*
 Irving L. Goldberg, *Dallas, Tex.*
 Morris M. Goldberg, *New York City*
 Harry L. Golden, *Charlotte, N. C.*
 Frank Goldman, *Lowell, Mass.*
 Harold A. Goldman, *Des Moines, Iowa*
 Solomon Goldman, *Chicago, Ill.*
 Nahum Goldmann, *New York City*
 Sidney Goldmann, *Trenton, N. J.*
 Samuel A. Goldsmith, *Chicago, Ill.*

Israel Goldstein, *New York City*
 Mrs. Israel Goldstein, *New York City*
 Joseph Goldstein, *Rochester, N. Y.*
 Nathaniel L. Goldstein, *New York City*
 Bert Goldwater, *Reno, Nev.*
 Lazure L. Goodman, *Indianapolis, Ind.*
 Louis E. Goodman, *San Francisco, Cal.*
 Sylvan Gotshal, *New York City*
 Albert M. Greenfield, *Philadelphia, Pa.*
 Harry Greenstein, *Baltimore, Md.*
 William Haber, *Ann Arbor, Mich.*
 Philip Halpern, *Buffalo, N. Y.*
 Oscar Handlin, *Cambridge, Mass.*
 Mrs. Frederick M. Heimerdinger, *New York City*
 Adolph Held, *New York City*
 Isaac S. Heller, *New Orleans, La.*
 James G. Heller, *New York City*
 Maurice B. Hexter, *New York City*
 Norman Hirschfeld, *Oklahoma City, Okla.*
 Moses H. Hoenig, *New York City*
 Louis Hollander, *New York City*
 Sidney Hollander, *Baltimore, Md.*
 Jacob L. Holtzmann, *New York City*
 S. Hurok, *New York City*
 Fanny Hurst, *New York City*
 J. K. Javits, *New York City*
 Milton Kahn, *Brookline, Mass.*
 Horace M. Kallen, *New York City*
 Irving Kane, *Shaker Heights, O.*
 J. M. Kaplan, *New York City*
 Jacob J. Kaplan, *Boston, Mass.*
 Mordecai M. Kaplan, *New York City*
 Ben Kaufman, *New York City*
 C. E. Hillel Kauvar, *Denver, Col.*
 Leon H. Keyserling, *Washington, D. C.*
 Milton W. King, *Washington, D. C.*
 J. I. Kislak, *Jersey City, N. J.*
 Gustave K. Klausner, *Los Angeles, Cal.*
 Stephen Klein, *New York City*
 Bernard P. Kopkind, *New Haven, Conn.*
 Bertram W. Korn, *Philadelphia, Pa.*
 Robert J. Koshland, *San Mateo, Cal.*
 Simon G. Kramer, *New York City*
 Seldon M. Kruger, *Newark, N. J.*
 Sidney Kusworm, *Dayton, O.*
 Fred Lazarus Jr., *Cincinnati, O.*
 Ralph Lazarus, *Cincinnati, O.*
 Benjamin Lazrus, *New York City*
 Mrs. Arthur Lehman, *New York City*
 Herbert H. Lehman, *New York City*
 Samuel D. Leidesdorf, *New York City*
 Monte M. Lemann, *New Orleans, La.*
 Samuel Levin, *Chicago, Ill.*
 Theodore Levin, *Detroit, Mich.*
 Mrs. H. B. Levine, *West Englewood, N. J.*
 Louis E. Levinthal, *Philadelphia, Pa.*
 Mrs. David M. Levy, *New York City*
 Emanuel Lewis, *Savannah, Ga.*
 Mrs. Samuel A. Lewisohn, *New York City*
 Louis Lipsky, *New York City*
 Julius Livingston, *Tulsa, Okla.*
 Alan V. Lowenstein, *Newark, N. J.*
 Isador Lubin, *New York City*
 H. L. Lurie, *New York City*
 Louis L. Mann, *Chicago, Ill.*
 Jacob R. Marcus, *Cincinnati, Ohio*
 Leo Marder, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*
 S. Margoshes, *New York City*
 Sidney Marks, *New York City*
 James Marshall, *New York City*
 Armand May, *Atlanta, Ga.*
 Mortimer May, *Nashville, Tenn.*
 Joseph M. Mazer, *New York City*
 A. Piza Mendes, *New York City*
 Irving Miller, *Woodmere, L. I., N. Y.*
 Mrs. Henry Monsky, *Los Angeles, Cal.*
 Morris Morgenstern, *New York City*
 Charles W. Morris, *Louisville, Ky.*
 Henry L. Moses, *New York City*
 Stanley C. Myers, *Miami, Fla.*
 Edgar J. Nathan Jr., *New York City*
 Robert R. Nathan, *Washington, D. C.*
 Abraham A. Neuman, *Philadelphia, Pa.*
 S. Niger, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*
 Isaac Pacht, *Los Angeles, Cal.*
 William S. Paley, *New York City*
 Philip B. Perlman, *Washington, D. C.*
 Selig Perlman, *Madison, Wis.*
 Harris Perlstein, *Chicago, Ill.*
 Joseph B. Perskie, *Atlantic City, N. J.*

David Petegorsky, *New York City*
 N. Taylor Phillips, *New York City*
 Judah Pilch, *New York City*
 Justine Wise Polier, *New York City*
 D. de Sola Pool, *New York City*
 Mrs. D. de Sola Pool, *New York City*
 Jacob S. Potofsky, *New York City*
 Joseph M. Proskauer, *New York City*
 Louis M. Rabinowitz, *New York City*
 Nathan Reich, *Flushing, N. Y.*
 A. A. Ribicoff, *Hartford, Conn.*
 Harold Riegelman, *New York City*
 Simon H. Rifkind, *New York City*
 Richard Rodgers, *New York City*
 Harry Rogoff, *New York City*
 Alex Rose, *New York City*
 Charles J. Rosenbloom, *Pittsburgh, Pa.*
 William F. Rosenblum, *New York City*
 Samuel I. Rosenman, *New York City*
 Mrs. Samuel J. Rosensohn, *New York City*
 David Rosenstein, *New York City*
 Mrs. Ben Rosenthal, *Los Angeles, Cal.*
 Lessing J. Rosenwald, *Jenkintown, Pa.*
 William Rosenwald, *New York City*
 Louis L. Ruffman, *New York City*
 A. L. Sachar, *Waltham, Mass.*
 Benjamin F. Saltzstein, *Milwaukee, Wis.*
 Maurice Samuel, *New York City*
 Ralph E. Samuel, *New York City*
 Arthur Sanford, *Sioux City, Iowa*
 David Sarnoff, *New York City*
 Sol Satinsky, *Philadelphia, Pa.*
 Dore Schary, *Culver City, Cal.*
 Harry Scherman, *New York City*
 John M. Schiff, *New York City*
 Samuel S. Schneerson, *New York City*
 Henry E. Schultz, *New York City*
 Joseph J. Schwartz, *New York City*
 Jacob Schwolsky, *Hartford, Conn.*
 Joseph C. Seide, *New York City*
 Bernard Semel, *New York City*
 Ezra Z. Shapiro, *Cleveland, O.*
 Philip Sher, *Omaha, Neb.*
 Mendel B. Silberberg, *Los Angeles, Cal.*
 Abba Hillel Silver, *Cleveland, O.*
 Charles H. Silver, *New York City*
 Mrs. Archibald Silverman, *Providence, R. I.*
 John Slawson, *New York City*
 Philip Slomovitz, *Detroit, Mich.*
 Isidore Sobeloff, *Detroit, Mich.*
 Simon E. Sobeloff, *Baltimore, Md.*
 D. Hays Solis-Cohen, *Philadelphia, Pa.*
 J. Solis-Cohen Jr., *Philadelphia, Pa.*
 Moshe Starkman, *New York City*
 Harry Starr, *New York City*
 Meier Steinbrink, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*
 Jesse H. Steinhart, *San Francisco, Cal.*
 Horace Stern, *Philadelphia, Pa.*
 Maurice Stone, *New York City*
 Roger W. Straus, *New York City*
 Lewis L. Strauss, *New York City*
 Theodore Strimling, *Los Angeles, Cal.*
 Alan M. Stroock, *New York City*
 Arthur Hays Sulzberger, *New York City*
 Frank L. Sulzberger, *Chicago, Ill.*
 Leon C. Sunstein, *Philadelphia, Pa.*
 Benjamin H. Swig, *San Francisco, Cal.*
 Sam L. Switzer, *Vicksburg, Miss.*
 Sam W. Tarshis, *Seattle, Wash.*
 William Thalheimer, *Richmond, Va.*
 Thomas J. Tobias, *Charleston, S. C.*
 Bernard H. Trager, *Bridgeport, Conn.*
 Richard Tucker, *New York City*
 Selman A. Waksman, *New Brunswick, N. J.*
 Edward M. M. Warburg, *New York City*
 Mrs. Felix M. Warburg, *White Plains, N. Y.*
 Frank L. Weil, *New York City*
 Milton Weill, *New York City*
 Mrs. Joseph M. Wele, *Birmingham, Mich.*
 James L. White, *Salt Lake City, Utah*
 Joseph Willen, *New York City*
 H. Wineman, *Detroit, Mich.*
 Moses Winkelstein, *Syracuse, N. Y.*
 Jonah B. Wise, *New York City*
 Albert A. Woldman, *Cleveland, O.*
 Edwin Wolf 2nd, *Wyncote, Pa.*
 Herman Wouk, *New York City*
 Charles E. Wyzanski Jr., *Boston, Mass.*
 William Zeckendorf, *New York City*
 Harry Zeitz, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*
 Baruch Zukerman, *New York City*

NATIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE

AMERICAN JEWISH TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE

HOTEL COMMODORE, NEW YORK

SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH, 1953

BUSINESS SESSION - RALPH E. SAMUEL, Presiding

Mr. Samuel, welcomed the members and friends of the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee, and called upon Judge Simon H. Rifkind, chairman of the Membership Committee, to present the report on behalf of his Committee, which is composed of Mrs. Irving M. Engel, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Dr. David de Sola Pool, and Mr. Alan M. Stroock.

MEMBERSHIP

Judge Rifkind said that, from the beginning, it was clear that the magnitude of the national Tercentenary Committee -- by nature a governing body designed to give direction, tone and purpose to the forthcoming observance -- would have to be limited, and the Committee was therefore limited to 300 members, "a cross-section of Jewish leadership in America in terms of ideological viewpoint, geographical location, organizational and religious affiliation." He said that membership was not determined on the basis of formal representation; no member of the national Committee officially represents any organization, but organizational affiliations were considered to be indications of standing in the community. Judge Rifkind said:

"Over a year ago a Provisional Committee was hastily assembled for the purpose of establishing a formal Committee. At the first meeting of this provisional group it was recognized that we must make a conscious effort to assure an adequate reflection of all segments of the community. A Membership Committee was appointed for this purpose.... We have not often had to face resistance to membership on the Committee, but we have time and again had the difficult problem of maintaining a healthy balance among the many individuals who have expressed their eagerness to serve. We have undoubtedly made errors, particularly serious omissions from our membership. From time to time, over the past year, we have met to consider additional suggestions."

As of April 12, 1953, the national Committee membership stood at 278, so that there was still some margin of play to correct "some of our more grievous errors." He said members were from 42 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands. They include Zionists, non-Zionists, and anti-Zionists; every important Jewish national organization; Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Jews, and Jews without any synagogal affiliations; as well as businessmen, labor leaders, rabbis, scholars, scientists, writers, communal leaders, and men in all the professions. "We have descendants of the original settlers in New Amsterdam as well as the newest of the new Americans. We have a cross-sectional slice of a very varied group of people who only have two common denominators: they are Americans and they identify themselves as Jews."

Judge Rifkind said that the Membership Committee had tried to reflect

the philosophy stated in the statement on Tercentenary Scope and Theme: "We do not believe that the Tercentenary should be made a vehicle for propagation of any particular ideology in American Jewish life." He said that, as the need arises in the future to readjust the composition of the national Committee, the Membership Committee will continue to function within this same framework.

Judge Rifkind's report was unanimously approved by the meeting.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. Samuel then called upon Mr. Harry L. Lurie to present the report of the Special Committee on Nominations, which was composed of Dr. Louis I. Dublin, Mrs. Irving M. Engel, Rabbi Simon G. Kramer, and Justice Justine Wise Polier, with Mr. Samuel ex-officio and Mr. Lurie as Chairman.

Mr. Lurie said that the Nominations Committee, in addition to suggesting a Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and Chairman of the Finance Committee, proposed that several Co-Chairmen be elected to share with the Chairman the responsible tasks of the national Committee. He said the Regional Chairmen would also assume some measure of responsibility for celebrations in various communities throughout the United States. He said that the Nominations Committee further recommended the election of Honorary Vice-Chairmen, who would represent a distinguished cross-section of American Jewry and whose names, prestige and participation would strengthen the work of the Committee.

Mr. Lurie then read the list of nominations. Dr. David de Sola Pool (New York) suggested that many of those nominated as Honorary Vice-Chairmen should be elected Vice-Chairmen, with the implication that they would be working officers. Mr. Lurie commented that the term Vice-Chairman, when applied to a large group, did not carry very much appeal. Mr. Harry L. Golden (Charlotte, North Carolina) said that the Southeast should be represented among the Co-Chairmen, Honorary Vice-Chairmen, and Regional Chairmen. Mr. Archibald Silverman (Providence, Rhode Island) felt that those who would be called upon to do the "spade work" in fund-raising should also be among the officers of the Committee. Mr. Lurie said that, while all who were concerned with the Tercentenary should feel some responsibility for raising funds, his Committee had not made this the prime consideration in making its nominations. Mr. Herbert R. Abeles (South Orange, New Jersey) moved that the Nominating Committee be authorized to add such names and take such other action regarding the list of officers as they deemed wise.

The report of the Nominating Committee was put to a vote and unanimously carried. Mr. Abeles' motion was then seconded and unanimously carried. (The Nominating Committee subsequently decided to merge the list of Co-Chairmen and Honorary Vice-Chairmen into a single list of Associate Chairmen, and the full list of permanently elected officers of the Tercentenary follows: Maxwell Abbell, Samuel Belkin, Jacob Blaustein, Ernest Bloch, Maurice N. Eisendrath, Mrs. Irving M. Engel, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Max J. Etra, Louis Finkelstein, Felix Frankfurter, Julian Freeman, Nelson Glueck, Frank Goldman, Israel Goldstein, Horace M. Kallen, Irving Kane, Philip M. Klutznick, Herbert H. Lehman, H. Leivick, Louis E. Levinthal, Louis Lipsky, Edgar J. Nathan, Jr., Abraham A. Neuman, Justine Wise Polier, D. de Sola Pool, Jacob S. Potofsky, Joseph M. Proskauer, Simon H. Rifkind, Samuel I. Rosenman, A. L. Sachar, Henry E. Schultz, Abba Hillel Silver, Simon E. Sobeloff, Selman A. Waksman, Edward M. M. Warburg, Frank L. Weil).

AMERICAN JEWISH TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE

Room A-203, 270 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

MUrray Hill 8-1654

April 15th,
1953

Ralph E. Samuel
Chairman

Henry L. Moses
Treasurer

Simon H. Rifkind
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Mrs. Irving M. Engel

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Co-Chairman
Committee on Religious
and Educational Participation

David Bernstein
Executive Director

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am delighted to inform you that, at the National Planning Conference of the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee on April 12, 1953, you were unanimously elected to the co-chairmanship of the Tercentenary Committee.

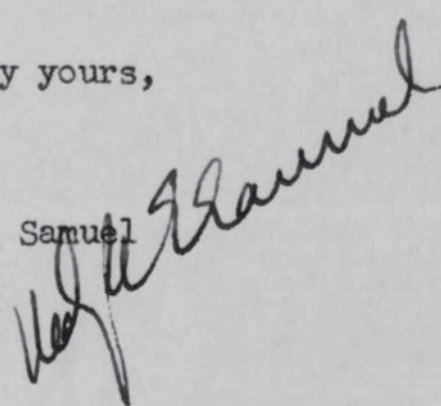
It will be a great honor to the Committee, and an assurance of the success of the observance, if you will accept this important post of leadership in organizing the Tercentenary.

May I have word of your acceptance as early as possible?

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Ralph E. Samuel
Chairman



April 19, 1953

Mr. Ralph E. Samuel, Chairman
American Jewish Tercentenary Committee
270 Park Avenue
New York 17, New York

My dear Mr. Samuel:

Thank you for your kind note of April 15th advising me of my election as co-chairman of the Tercentenary Committee. I am very pleased to accept.

With warmest regards, I remain

Most cordial ly yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

AMERICAN JEWISH TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE

Room A-203, 270 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

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Chairman

Harry Starr
Co-Chairman
Committee on Religious
and Educational Participation

David Bernstein
Executive Director

June 5th

1953

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 195th St. at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

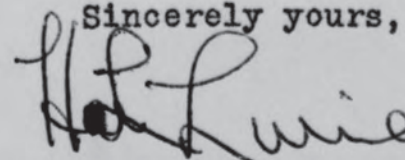
I am writing to you in your new capacity as an officer of the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee. You may recall that at the Planning Conference last April the members of the Committee of 300 elected Co-Chairmen and Honorary Vice-Chairmen for the Tercentenary. At the same time the Conference adopted a resolution delegating to the Nominating Committee the authority to take such further action as might be useful in organizing effective machinery for the observance itself.

It has become apparent in the past few weeks that for a variety of reasons -- not least of which, perhaps, is the problem of protocol -- it would be preferable, in terms of our letterhead and other publicity, to combine the two lists and identify both those who were elected as Co-Chairmen and those who were elected as Honorary Vice-Chairmen under a new title of Associate Chairmen. The Nominating Committee has, therefore, taken such action and I am sending you this letter to notify you to this effect.

I am confident that you will understand the reasons for our acting in this way.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,



H. L. Lurie, Chairman
Nominating Committee

AMERICAN JEWISH TRICENTENARY COMMITTEE

Room A-203, 270 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

Murray Hill 8-1654

June 15th

1953

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David Bernstein
Executive Director

TO MEMBERS OF THE TRICENTENARY COMMITTEE:

The American Jewish Tercentenary Committee has recently made formal application to the United States Post Office Department for the issuance of a Commemorative Stamp in the fall of 1954 to mark the 300th anniversary of Jewish settlement in the United States. I am attaching a copy of Mr. Samuel's letter and memorandum to Honorable Albert J. Robertson, Assistant Postmaster General.

It is important to assure the Post Office Department that there is wide and influential support for this proposal, and I hope you will find it possible to write to the Postmaster General, U. S. Post Office Department, Washington 25, D. C., urging favorable consideration of our application. Formal resolutions or other statements by organizations with which you are associated would also be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

David Bernstein

David Bernstein
Executive Director

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AMERICAN JEWISH TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE

270 Park Avenue, New York 17, N.Y.

May 18th
1953

Honorable Albert J. Robertson
Assistant Postmaster General
Bureau of Finance
U. S. Post Office Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Robertson:

At the suggestion of Colonel Harold Riegelman, Acting Postmaster of New York, and on behalf of the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee, I have the honor to submit to you our formal request that the United States Post Office Department issue a special commemorative stamp in 1954 to mark the 300th anniversary of Jewish settlement in the United States.

This historic event will be celebrated from September 1954 through May 1955. It will provide an opportunity for all Americans to mark a memorable date in the early history of our country, and also to give recognition to the role that Jews -- along with all other Americans -- have played in the making of America through three centuries. This anniversary, therefore, will have significance not only to five million American Jews but to all 158 million citizens of the United States. It will be a tribute to the American way of life which has made this nation a source of strength and a symbol of freedom for all the world.

The national Tercentenary Committee, which is organizing the arrangements for the observance, is composed of 300 distinguished American Jews from all parts of the United States, and is completely cross-sectional and non-political. Our plans for the observance are detailed in the attached brochure, and the basic concepts upon which we have developed these plans are outlined in the attached statement on Scope and Theme of the Tercentenary.

It is our hope that several other governments, notably the Netherlands, Brazil and Israel, may also issue commemorative stamps on this occasion; but we feel that as an American anniversary it would not be appropriate to encourage such action on their part unless we have some assurance that our own Government will take favorable action.

On behalf of the Committee, therefore, and indeed on behalf of five million American Jews, I submit this earnest expression of our hope that you will approve the issuance of a commemorative stamp for the American Jewish Tercentenary in the autumn of 1954.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph E. Samuel
Chairman

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P
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May 18th
1953

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Albert J. Robertson
Assistant Postmaster General
Bureau of Finance
U. S. Post Office Department
Washington, D. C.

FROM: Ralph E. Samuel, Chairman
American Jewish Tercentenary Committee
270 Park Avenue
New York 17, New York

SUBJECT: COMMEMORATIVE STAMP
AMERICAN JEWISH TERCENTENARY

1. Historical Background of the American Jewish Tercentenary. In September 1654, twenty-three Jews in search of freedom landed at Nieuw Amsterdam, after months of hazardous flight from the Portuguese-conquered Dutch colonies of Brazil. They constituted the first Jewish settlement in what is now the United States of America. Together with their neighbors they worked to establish their right to citizenship, to freedom of religion, and to a share in the defense of the community in which they lived.

Through three centuries, they have been a part of America as are all others who sought refuge on these shores. They shared in the development and upbuilding of the United States as a free nation. They have made significant contributions in the fields of religion, science, culture, education, the arts, politics, commerce and industry, and the professions. There are today more than five million American Jews, proud of the role that they and their forebears have played in the making of this country since the earliest colonial days.

2. The American Jewish Tercentenary Observance will run from September 1954 through May 1955. The program of the observance was approved at a National Planning Conference of the national Tercentenary Committee of 300, held in New York City on April 11 and 12, 1953. The general theme of the observance is "Man's Opportunities and Responsibilities Under Freedom." The underlying philosophy of the observance, and the detailed plans, are described in the attached brochure.

3. The American Jewish Tercentenary Committee was established in April, 1952, for the sole purpose of organizing the celebration. Its governing body is a national Committee of 300, consisting of distinguished American Jews from 42 States, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. Members include the heads of all important national Jewish organizations, and outstanding business, professional, religious and cultural personalities. The Committee includes

representatives of all denominational groups among Jews, as well as Zionists, non-Zionists, and anti-Zionists. It is, in sum, a non-political cross-sectional reflection of a significant segment of the American people. Chairman of the Committee is Mr. Ralph E. Samuel, senior partner of the brokerage firm of Ralph E. Samuel & Co. and former President of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

4. Tercentenary Commemorative Stamp. It is proposed that the occasion of the American Jewish Tercentenary be marked by the issuance of a 3¢ commemorative stamp by the United States Post Office Department.

Precedents for such a commemorative stamp include:

- 1920 - 300th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims. (1¢, 2¢ and 5¢)
- 1924 - 300th anniversary of the settlement of the Huguenot-Walloons in New Netherlands. (1¢, 2¢ and 5¢)
- 1925 - 100th anniversary of landing of first immigrants from Norway. (1¢ and 5¢)
- 1938 - 300th anniversary of first Swedish and Finnish colony. (3¢)
- 1948 - Swedish Pioneer Centennial. (5¢)
- 1952 - 500th anniversary of Printing of the Gutenberg Bible. (3¢)

The American Jewish Tercentenary Committee would be pleased to submit a series of suggested sketches as a basis of design for a 3¢ stamp commemorating the American Jewish Tercentenary. This stamp might depict one of the following examples:

1. The landing of the first 23 Jewish settlers at Nieuw Amsterdam in September 1654.
2. The Touro Synagogue at Newport, Rhode Island, which is the oldest Jewish House of Worship in existence in America in its original form. This Synagogue is a national Shrine in the care of the U. S. Department of the Interior.
3. Aaron Levy, the first Jew to found a settlement -- Aaronburg, Pennsylvania -- in the United States.
4. Francis Salvador, the "southern Paul Revere," who was the first Jew to give his life for the United States of America on July 1, 1776.
5. A design by the late Arthur Szyk, depicting "Jewish Soldiers in the American Revolution."

AMERICAN JEWISH TRICENTENARY COMMITTEE

Room A-203, 270 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

Murray Hill 8-1654

June 18th
1953

Ralph E. Samuel
Chairman

Henry L. Moses
Treasurer

William Rosenwald
Secretary

Albert M. Greenfield
*Chairman,
Finance Committee*

Simon G. Kramer
*Chairman
Committee on Religious
and Educational Participation*

Salo W. Baron
*Chairman,
Committee on
Research and Publications*

Joseph Willen
*Chairman,
Dinner Committee*

David Bernstein
Executive Director

Associate Chairmen:

Maxwell Abbell
Samuel Belkin
Jacob Blaustein
Ernest Bloch
Maurice N. Eisendrath
Mrs. Irving M. Engel
Mrs. Moses P. Epstein
Max J. Etra
Louis Finkelstein
Felix Frankfurter
Julian Freeman
Nelson Glueck
Frank Goldman
Israel Goldstein
Horace M. Kallen
Irving Kane
Philip M. Klutznick
Herbert H. Lehman
H. Leivick
Louis E. Levinthal
Louis Lipsky
Edgar J. Nathan, Jr.
Abraham A. Neuman
Justine Wise Polier
D. de Sola Pool
Jacob S. Potofsky
Joseph M. Proskauer
Simon H. Rifkind
Samuel I. Rosenman
A. L. Sachar
Henry E. Schultz
Abba Hillel Silver
Simon E. Sobeloff
Selman A. Waksman
Edward M. M. Warburg
Frank L. Weil

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The celebration of the American Jewish Tercentenary is about a year away. Plans for the observance are pretty well agreed upon, and it should be a safe prediction that the project will be featured by modesty and dignity.

In the field of Scholarship and Research, a ten-volume documentary history is planned, and for this an earmarked contribution of \$25,000 has been obtained as a starter. In addition, there will be a one-volume interpretive history of Jewish life in America, written by Professor Oscar Handlin of Harvard and published by McGraw-Hill.

After about a year of preliminary planning, we can now talk about other features of the Tercentenary program. The event will get under way with a Reconsecration Service in 300-year-old Congregation Shearith Israel, followed by a public dinner at the Waldorf which will feature appropriate speeches by American leadership of all faiths.

There will, of course, be considerable activity in the religious observance throughout the Tercentenary period and we plan, during the Thanksgiving weekend, that a Tercentenary Sabbath will be set aside. It is hoped that there will be combined religious services, a special Tercentenary prayer and, if funds are available, we would want to stage a notable two or three day religious convocation.

We will make effective use of radio and television and, of course, of the daily and magazine press. The event can mean much, I believe, in the field of group relations and, without being chauvinistic, we would hope to take inventory of the significant Jewish contributions to all facets of American life.

Local celebrations throughout the country will be encouraged and our plans include such diverse projects as a commemorative postage stamp, a historical exhibit, and suitable activities in the fields of art and music.

The theme of the Tercentenary, "Man's Opportunities and Responsibilities Under Freedom", will be appropriately and continually stressed. We should be able to demonstrate to the world that a so-called minority group, in a climate of freedom and democracy, turns out to be not a problem nor an embarrassment, but rather a priceless continuing national asset.

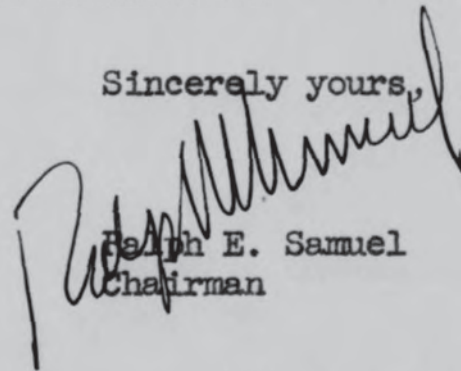
The Tercentenary celebration will end in May 1955 with an outdoor religious service in Washington, to be conducted jointly by Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Rabbis. This event, moreover, will typify the spirit of the Tercentenary, which has featured all groups of American Jewish life working harmoniously together to the end that the 1954-55 celebration will be a useful project of which all of us can be proud.

This is an all-too-brief condensation of the activities and the spirit of the Tercentenary, and I come now to the question of costs.

Our budget for the entire period will run to about \$350,000; an amount obviously too small to warrant running an elaborate fund raising campaign. Moreover, we would like to raise this modest sum without going to any considerable cost. We must therefore depend on the generosity of those who appreciate how much a dignified Tercentenary observance can mean.

It will be most helpful and much appreciated if you can make your personal contribution at this time. I trust you will be as generous as you can for this once-in-a-lifetime communal project of high promise and significance.

Sincerely yours,



Ralph E. Samuel
Chairman

P.S. Contributions to the Tercentenary Committee are of course tax exempt.

AMERICAN JEWISH TRICENTENARY COMMITTEE

Room A-203, 270 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

Murray Hill 8-1654

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*Chairman,
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Joseph Willen
*Chairman,
Dinner Committee*

Henry E. Schultz
*Chairman,
Budget Committee*

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A. L. Sachar
Henry E. Schultz
Abba Hillel Silver
Simon E. Sobeloff
Selman A. Waksman
Edward M. M. Warburg
Frank L. Weil

October 30th
1953

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I understand that you are scheduled to deliver a major address at the meeting of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds in Cleveland next month, and that you will devote a substantial portion of your remarks to the implications of the forthcoming observance of the American Jewish Tercentenary.

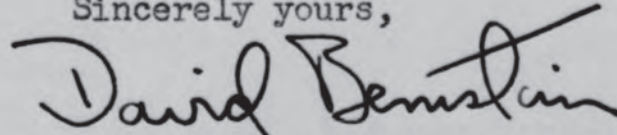
Since you are an Associate Chairman of the Tercentenary, we are delighted to learn that our story will be in good hands. It occurs to me that you may wish to have some of our more recent background material on the plans and program for the Tercentenary, which I am enclosing.

We have, as you may know, approached every welfare fund and federation in the country for financial support for the Tercentenary. The response thus far has been somewhat spotty, possibly because the executives and officers of many of the welfare funds are reserving judgment until they have a sense of the national feeling about the observance, at the Cleveland gathering. For this reason, your remarks will be of especially vital importance to the success of the Tercentenary.

If there is any way in which we can be of service to you on this matter, please let me know.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,



David Bernstein
Executive Director

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THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

CHURCH
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UNITED STATES



POSTAL CARD

WRHS
RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER
THE TEMPLE
E. 105TH ST. AT ANSEL RD.
CLEVELAND 6, OHIO

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PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS:

AMERICAN JEWISH TRICENTENARY

3 East 65th Street

New York 21, New York

LEhigh 5-5450

MINUTESSTEERING COMMITTEEAMERICAN JEWISH TRICENTENARY COMMITTEE

February 1, 1954

The eighth meeting of the Tercentenary Steering Committee was held at 8:00 P. M. on Monday, February 1st, 1954, at the Hotel Biltmore, 43rd Street and Madison Avenue, New York City. The following persons attended: Ralph E. Samuel, presiding, Isaac Alcalay, Meyer L. Brown, Mrs. Irving M. Engel, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Hyman B. Grinstein, Harry Halpern, Donald Jenks, J. I. Kislak, Mrs. David W. Klau, David W. Klau, Gustav Klein, Simon G. Kramer, Benjamin Lazrus, A. Piza Mendes, Henry L. Moses, Edgar J. Nathan, Jr., Mrs. David de Sola Pool, Harold J. Riegelman, William Rosenwald, John Slawson, Harry Starr, J. Solis-Cohen, Jr., Frank L. Weil and Joseph Willen. Staff: David Bernstein, Mrs. Hanna F. Dessler, Henry Schapper and Charles M. Segal.

Mr. Lazrus presented the Treasurer's report, which follows:

"As of January 29, 1954, our bank balance was \$41,484.53

"The financial status of the American Jewish Tercentenary is healthier than at any time since the establishment of this Committee. In the past few months, our support from federations, welfare funds and community councils throughout the country has been highly gratifying, and we are also somewhat more encouraged by the support we may expect to receive from individuals and foundations in New York City as well as from national organizations.

"From the establishment of the Tercentenary Committee in April 1952 through January 29, 1954 total contributions were \$117,553.48. Of these, earmarked contributions, were: \$11,000 (\$10,000 from the Jacob R. Schiff Fund and \$1,000 from the Altschul Foundation for the Documentary History); \$2,500 for the Tercentenary Exhibit catalogue (contributed by Lessing Rosenwald); and \$750 (contributed by David Klau) for the lecture series on American Jewish History at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

"During this period, we received loans amounting to \$44,000. All of these loans, with one exception, have been extended to December 1, 1954. We are currently engaged in negotiations regarding the single exception, and the matter will no doubt be discussed further in the course of this meeting.

"As of January 29, 1954, our total expenditures for all purposes were \$120,068.95. A breakdown of these expenditures will be included in the regular semi-annual report of our accountants, the firm of Brach, Gosswein and Lane, which provides this service as a contribution to the Tercentenary.

"Aside from the loans outstanding, our current obligations are just over \$1,000, plus normal payroll and operating expenses. However, we have a series of continuing obligations for projects in progress, such as publications, exhibits, and the like. These are the normal financial needs of our Committee, and are in fact the purposes for which the Committee exists.

- 2 -

"As to the future prospects, we can provide only a series of estimates. On the basis of pledges and of our experience thus far, we can conservatively anticipate the receipt of approximately \$130,000 from federations and welfare funds outside New York City. Within New York City, we will endeavor to raise at least \$100,000 from individuals and foundations for the general purposes of the Tercentenary. (In addition, we are approaching national organizations, foundations, and individuals for earmarked contributions to meet the costs of specific projects, such as the Documentary History and the exhibit. It is not possible to estimate our future income in this respect.)

"However, if the anticipated future income from New York and other cities of \$230,000 materializes, I can report to you that we will be able to cover the costs of our minimum program for the observance. All additional income will make it possible for us to develop those additional projects which we hope to carry out during the Tercentenary."

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted that the Treasurer's report be adopted as read.

Mr. Jenks read the report of MR. ALBERT GREENFIELD, Chairman of the Finance Committee, in Mr. Greenfield's absence. A breakdown of sources of funds received to date showed that the Tercentenary had received from federations and welfare funds - 47 per cent; from organizational grants - 1 per cent, and from individuals and foundations - 52 per cent. Federations and welfare funds had been represented notably in recent months by Philadelphia and Chicago; individual members of the national Tercentenary Committee had made outstanding gifts; although organizational grants had so far formed but a small percentage of receipts, a joint gift of \$5,000 was made recently by B'nai B'rith and the Anti-Defamation League. Intensified fund-raising efforts will soon be undertaken in New York City, and funds specifically earmarked for such projects as the documentary history and the historical exhibit will also be energetically sought. Mr. Greenfield urged swift and concerted action to reach the financial goal of \$600,000.

MR. SAMUEL summarized the status of the loans made to the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee. He explained that five individuals and one family had made loans of varying sizes, with the understanding that no single lender was to be repaid before any of the others. Two loans had been converted into gifts. MR. SAMUEL said that Mr. Morris Morgenstern, one of the leaders, was now asking repayment in whole or in part, and had requested that the matter be put before the Steering Committee. MR. SAMUEL did not feel he had the authority to repay one lender in advance of any other and asked the Committee's advice on this matter. A motion was made and carried (with one negative vote) that the Chairman be empowered to resolve the situation according to his judgment.

MR. BERNSTEIN presented his report as Executive Director. He said there was a rising tide of interest and enthusiasm for the Tercentenary throughout the country, reflected in the Committee's improved financial condition, in the extent of activity in local communities, and the activity of national organizations. He announced the transfer of the Committee's offices to 3 East 65th Street, New York 21, N. Y. (telephone: LEhigh 5-5450). He introduced the

- 2 -

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Instead of an Interfaith Committee it had been decided to create a committee with a membership, which would work with national organizations in the fields of labor, religion, veterans groups, women's groups and the like, in terms of ways in which the theme of the Tercentenary, "Man's Opportunities and Responsibilities Under Freedom," might be integrated into their programs. This committee would use major organizations throughout the country, as well as mass media, in every proper and dignified way to implement the theme of the observance.

MR. WILLEN, Chairman of the Dinner Committee, outlined tentative plans for the opening event of the Tercentenary on September 12th. This will be a dinner (kosher) at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, with Mr. Samuel presiding. President Eisenhower is being invited to speak, and former Presidents Hoover and Truman. The Dinner Committee suggested that Justice Felix Frankfurter be invited to speak on the theme, "Man's Opportunities and Responsibilities Under Freedom," and that Senator Herbert H. Lehman be invited to speak as the representative of the American Jewish Community. The Committee suggested that a new symphony based on the Tercentenary, by an outstanding American Jewish composer, be given its premiere performance at the dinner, possibly by the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra. The Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria holds 1,800 persons and one of the chief problems would be to assure a truly representative audience. A \$25 fee was recommended.

A special meeting of the Dinner Committee would be held in Washington on March 5th, following which the committee would call on the President at the White House to invite him to attend and address the dinner.

The discussion which followed took up the question of speakers to be invited, the feasibility of presenting a symphony, and the length of the program.

The general feeling was that the dinner would not be a suitable setting for the premiere performance of a symphony by an outstanding composer, and that the presentation of such a musical program would unduly lengthen the time required for the dinner as a whole. A soloist like Jan Peerce for a short program was suggested.

On the question of the speakers, it was recommended that Jewish contributions in science and culture should be represented by persons prominent in those fields, and that an outstanding scholar or historian might also be invited. The name of Lewis L. Strauss was suggested as the key speaker.

It was further suggested that the letter from George Washington to the Newport Congregation be read. It was generally understood that the Governor of New York State and the Mayor of New York City would be invited to give brief greetings. The general sentiment was that the dinner should end no later than 10:30 or 11:00 P.M., but the Chairman pointed out that it must be remembered that the time zones make 11:00 P.M. in New York only 8:00 P.M. on the West Coast, and that radio and television timing must be taken into consideration.

The question of the cost per dinner ticket was also discussed. Some committee members felt that \$25 would not be enough to cover the cost and that a higher charge, possibly of \$30.00 or \$50 or \$100, might be preferable, with thought in mind that the dinner might produce a surplus to be applied to the Tercentenary budget.

The Chairman asked the Committee to approve further planning by the Dinner Committee to work out the points brought up, and it was agreed that this would be done.

MRS. KLAU reported on the work of the Exhibit Committee. She said that a very worthwhile and exciting Tercentenary Exhibit was being planned.

The Exhibit would have as its title, "Under Freedom," and it would be designed to underscore the official Tercentenary theme, "Man's Opportunities and Responsibilities Under Freedom."

MRS. KLAU said that, after discussion as to the time the Exhibit could open, due to the difficulty of securing, making, and assembling material of such scope and magnitude, it was agreed by her committee that the Exhibit should open as early as possible but not later than December 1954; that the Exhibit would be located in the Jewish Museum, New York City, and remain there until May 1955 when it would also be presented to the public in Washington, D. C., at the Smithsonian Institution.

The Exhibit was planned with a three-dimensional approach. There would be a replica of the Liberty Bell with the Biblical inscriptions: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land, and to all the inhabitants thereof"; the ship St. Charles, the Touro Synagogue, a typical Colonial living room, early correspondence of the Jewish settlers with Peter Stuyvesant, letters from George Washington to the Jews in Revolutionary days, the Jews' role in the opening of the West -- all to bring to life the participation of the Jew in American life throughout three centuries.

The question of the Exhibit Catalogue, which would not only list the articles on view but would also tell the story of the Tercentenary as well, as also discussed, MRS. KLAU reported. It had been decided that a fine comprehensive catalogue was basic to the Exhibit as a permanent record.

A budget for the exhibit was adopted, providing for \$32,000 for the exhibit itself and \$18,000 for the catalogue, the latter figure to be reduced by the sale of the catalogue. In order to make it possible for the work of the exhibit to begin at once, initial funds would be advanced out of the general funds of the Tercentenary Committee, to be repaid by money raised through especially earmarked gifts and the sale of the exhibit catalogue.

MRS. KLAU said that she felt there would be such interest and enthusiasm throughout the country in this fine national exhibit that the committee would have no difficulty in meeting its budget.

The Committee then took up the matter of a letter from the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston, dated January 29th, 1954, signed by Lewis A. Weinstein, Chairman. The text follows:

"Dear Mr. Samuel:

"In accordance with action taken by the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston yesterday, when you and Mr. Bernstein met with us, I write to request that the Steering Committee of the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee con-

sider at its meeting, February 1st, the following resolution:

"The Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston expresses to the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee the Council's dismay and indignation on the selection of the person who is President of the American Council for Judaism as an Associate Chairman of the Tercentenary Committee and regards the election of Mr. Lessing Rosenwald as an affront to the Jewish Community of America.

"Further, the Boston Council urges the Tercentenary Committee to reconsider and rescind his election and to terminate Mr. Rosenwald's tenure as an Associate Chairman."

"You will recall that this resolution was adopted with the understanding that no publicity of any kind will be given to it currently, but that we would expect the Steering Committee of the Tercentenary Committee to consider this matter within a reasonable time.

"I am sure that you will want to emphasize to your associates in the Steering Committee that the Boston Council subscribes completely to the Tercentenary project and wants in no way to hurt, but on the contrary to help substantially, that important undertaking. The sense of those who voted for the resolution yesterday was that the American Council for Judaism has done irreparable harm to Jews and to American interests both at home and abroad; that the Tercentenary Committee's selection of Mr. Rosenwald will, in the view of the public, enhance the status of the American Council for Judaism, regardless of the fine intentions of the Tercentenary Committee; that the inclusion of the head of that organization on the theory that all facets of Jewish life should be represented in the celebration would lead, logically, to the distressing conclusion that persons of the Jewish faith who hold obnoxious political views should also be included; that Mr. Rosenwald is not being muzzled, but that he should not be honored during such an important simcha; and that the Tercentenary Committee can correct its error.

"You will recall that even most of those voting in the minority yesterday stated that the election of Mr. Rosenwald as an Associate Chairman was a grave error.

"We are deeply grateful to you for your conscientious concern with this matter. It was most gracious and thoughtful of you and Mr. Bernstein to come to Boston to discuss the resolution with members of the Council at our special meeting yesterday. We hope that the Steering Committee will act favorably upon our request, and we know that under your capable and devoted leadership the Tercentenary celebration will be a notable success."

MR. BERNSTEIN said that he and Mr. Samuel had made a special visit to Boston to discuss this matter with the Jewish Community Council. MR. BERNSTEIN then read from the minutes of the October 21st, 1953 meeting of the Tercentenary Steering Committee as follows:

"MR. SCHAPPER reported that the Tercentenary Committee had been approached by various groups which have noticed that the associate chairmen in the main are heads of national organizations. He reminded the Steering Committee that all members and officers are chosen because of their standing in the community; but it sometimes follows that those who are the leaders in the community are also leaders of organizations. Among the associate chairman, nearly every national organization was thus represented. He therefore presented a recommendation that Mr. Lessing J. Rosenwald, president of the American Council for Judaism; Mr. Harry T. Madison, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans, and Rabbi Norman Salit, President of the Synagogue Council of America, be elected associate chairmen of the American Jewish Tercentenary.

"MR. WILLIAM ROSENWALD pointed out that they would be elected as individuals.

"MR. SAMUEL reported that, of the 36 associate chairmen, 23 or 24 by actual count were heads of organizations. After further discussion by Mrs. Pool, Mr. Samuel, Mr. Schapper, Dr. Pool, Judge Rosenman and Mr. Kislak, it was moved by Mr. Kislak and seconded by Mr. Morgenstern and Dr. Mark that the three persons be invited to serve as associate chairmen of the Tercentenary. The motion was carried unanimously."

MRS. POOL asked that the minutes of the October 21st meeting be amended to record the fact that Dr. Pool and Mrs. Pool had expressed opposition to the nomination of Mr. Rosenwald. MR. SAMUEL said that the point would be entered in the record, but reminded the Committee that a voice vote had been taken at the meeting and the resolution was passed without a dissenting vote.

MRS. ENGEL said that she had originally proposed the name of Mr. Rosenwald to the Membership Committee, of which she is a member. She was not a member of the American Council for Judaism, and was heartily opposed to its policies. She felt that there was still confusion about the fact that members and officers of the Committee held their positions as individuals, not as heads of organizations. She said: "Mr. Rosenwald represents a segment of American Jewish life and this segment is entitled to have membership in the Tercentenary. No one man probably did more to help Jews come into this country during the flight of displaced persons than Mr. Lessing Rosenwald. I believe this letter must be disregarded, and I ask that the name of Lessing Rosenwald be kept as an associate chairman of the Tercentenary."

MR. WILLEN declared: "Speaking for myself, I have had my differences with the Council. I have a profound respect for Mr. Lessing Rosenwald and I do not think any man has the right or the privilege of writing him out as a distinguished leader of the Jewish community. I think when the day comes that you can rule Mr. Rosenwald out of this committee, or vote him out of this Associate Chairmanship, the theme of the Tercentenary should be changed. The words of the theme are a banner under which we should all live."

MR. WEIL stated that he disapproved of the American Council for Judaism, but that there was no way to "excommunicate those with whom we disagree." He moved that the Boston Jewish Community Council be told that its resolution was given every consideration, and that it was the opinion of the Tercentenary Steering Committee that the Community Council's view was in conflict with the theme of the Tercentenary and did not meet with the approval of those at this meeting."

MR. WEIL'S motion was seconded, and was put to a vote. It was carried, with four abstentions.

Several members requested permission to explain their votes for the record.

COL. RIEGELMAN: "If I had been present when the initial issue was presented, I would not have voted for Lessing Rosenwald to occupy this post. That was a mistake, but perhaps we will get the opportunity to reverse our position. I therefore voted for the motion."

MR. SOLIS-COHEN: "I cannot help but resent some of the statements that have been made here. I have no hesitancy in saying that I am a member of the American Council for Judaism and offer no apologies for being a member of that Council. I consider Mr. Rosenwald an outstanding Jew and an outstanding American."

MRS. EPSTEIN stated that she was abstaining since she had not been present at the original discussion of the appointment of Mr. Lessing Rosenwald as one of the associate chairmen of the American Jewish Tercentenary. She had strong reservations as to the appropriateness of this appointment. However, since she had not had the opportunity of expressing her point of view at the time, she was abstaining. She did not wish her abstention to be interpreted as acquiescence in having Mr. Rosenwald included among the associate chairmen of the committee.

(On the basis of the discussion and action of the Steering Committee, the Chairman addressed the following letter on February 5th, 1954 to Mr. Lewis H. Weinstein, Chairman of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston:

"Your letter of January 29th, transmitting the resolution adopted by the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston, was presented to the Tercentenary Steering Committee at its regular meeting on Monday evening, February 1st.

The Steering Committee gave serious consideration to the views expressed in the Council's resolution, and to the comments contained in your letter. By an overwhelming vote, the Committee requested me to say that your suggestion that the election of Mr. Lessing J. Rosenwald as Associate Chairman be rescinded would be in conflict with the basic Tercentenary theme, "Man's Opportunities and Responsibilities Under Freedom."

The Steering Committee appreciated the Council's interest in the Tercentenary observance, as manifested by the expression of its convictions on this matter. However, the Steering Committee concluded that it could not comply with the Council's suggestion."

The Committee then proceeded to other business.

MR. WILLEN suggested that early in 1954 the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee should sponsor a national conference, of two or three days' duration, to be organized and conducted by leading American Jewish scholars, to discuss the basic theme of the Tercentenary. He said he thought such a conference might cost \$50,000 to arrange and carry out and urged that planning begin soon if the idea was approved.

DR. GRINSTEIN stated that the American Jewish Historical Society planned to prepare a conference of historians in early September and suggested that one day might be devoted to American Jewish history as relating to the problem of Man's Opportunities and Responsibilities Under Freedom.

MR. WILLEN was asked by the Committee to look further into the matter and bring a "blueprint" of suggestions to the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

RABBI KRAMER reported on the activities of the Committee on Religious and Educational Participation. He stated that his committee had held a conference in New York, with some 65 to 70 people present, and had gone into the religious program for the observance at great length. Approval was given to the general plan presented by the Religious Committee to all the representatives of the various religious groups present at that time, the representatives of the Synagogue Council of America, and of the denominational groups, both rabbinical and lay. The conference approved the issuance of a joint proclamation by the six religious organizations in this country, proclaiming the period from September 1954 to May 1955 as a period of national Jewish celebration and observance, when the Jewish people would come to the synagogues and offer thanks to the Almighty for the privileges which they enjoy in this country.

The Conference decided that the religious service on the afternoon of September 12th at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue would give the opening of the Tercentenary a religious character. However, another gathering was suggested, for October or November 1954, with the type of program arranged at the 250th anniversary celebration in Carnegie Hall. Such an event, religious and cultural in character, it was felt, would give large numbers of persons an opportunity to have the feeling of participation in the observance. The Committee on Religious and Educational Participation urged the Steering Committee to approve this plan.

He stated further that the Synagogue Council of America had planned to call a two-to three-day conference this Spring to discuss the problems of religion in American life today, but had agreed to postpone this conference until later in the year, to make it a part of the Tercentenary celebration. The culminating event on the Synagogue Council's program would be a meeting jointly sponsored with the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee at a large hall with the theme, "The Synagogue Speaks." RABBI KRAMER asked that the Steering Committee consider the possibility of extending financial aid to the Synagogue Council for this meeting.

After a brief discussion MR. BERNSTEIN suggested that the project be voted assistance to the extent of \$2,000 to \$5,000, depending on funds available at the time. The proposal was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 P. M.



THE AMERICAN JEWISH TERCENTENARY

3 EAST 65TH STREET

NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

LEHIGH 5-5450

Ralph E. Samuel
Chairman

April 7, 1954

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Lessing J. Rosenwald
A. L. Sachar
Norman Salit
Abba Hillel Silver
Simon E. Sobeloff
Bernard H. Trager
Selman A. Waksman
Edward M. M. Warburg
Frank L. Weil

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

You are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting of the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee, Inc. on Tuesday, April 27th, at 8 P.M. at the Park Lane Hotel, 299 Park Avenue (48th Street) New York City.

Since this may well be the last meeting of the full committee before the official opening of the Tercentenary celebration, and a number of important matters will be under discussion, it is necessary to have as many members in attendance as possible. You are, therefore, urged to make every effort to be with us.

Will you be good enough to fill out and return the enclosed post card at your earliest convenience, so that we may know whether you will be with us at the meeting?

We shall appreciate your cooperation.

Cordially,

William Rosenwald
Secretary

WR:fgw
enc.

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Benjamin Lazrus

Treasurer

William Rosenwald

Secretary

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Simon G. Kramer

Chairman, Committee on Religious and Educational Participation

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