



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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Billikopf, Jacob, 1920-1923.



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THE FEDERATION OF  
JEWISH CHARITIES OF PHILADELPHIA  
SYDENHAM BUILDING  
1512 WALNUT STREET  
(ENTRANCE ON SYDENHAM ST.)

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December 31, 1920.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Dr. Kaufmann Kohler has kindly  
invited me to give four talks at the Hebrew Un-  
ion College on the following subject:

"The Relation of the Rabbi to the Problem  
of Jewish Communal Organization."

In one of my talks, I should like to pre-  
sent to the student body the views on the above  
subject of several eminent rabbis who have taken an  
active interest in the communal problems of their  
respective communities.

May I ask you to do me the kindness to give  
me, out of the variety of your own vast experiences,  
your interpretation of the relation of the rabbi  
to communal problems?

I shall appreciate more than I can say an  
early reply.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Jacob Billikopf*



THE FEDERATION OF  
JEWISH CHARITIES OF PHILADELPHIA  
1512 WALNUT STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

June 13, 1923.

Dear Silver:

I suppose you are aware that I have tentatively accepted an invitation to be in Cleveland on Sunday, the 24th, to address a group of your citizens relative to a survey to be made of your various communal movements.

In a note received this morning from Goldhamer he tells me that you would like to see me immediately upon my arrival in Cleveland. Of course, I shall be only too happy to get in touch with you and in the meantime you will do me the great kindness to indicate in a general or specific way what particular features should, in your judgment, be stressed before this group of people. While I am fairly familiar with conditions in your town, still, there are many features which probably might be stressed on that occasion and on which you could enlighten me.

I am ready to receive congratulations on the arrival of a daughter and trust that within a year I shall also have occasion to congratulate you.

Looking forward to seeing you and with kindest regards *to you and Mrs. Mfe*

Cordially yours,

*Billie*

Rabbi A. H. Silver.



June 15th, 1923.

Mr. Jacob Billikopf,  
1512 Walnut Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Billikopf,

First of all my heartiest congratulations.  
I trust that both mother and child are doing splendidly.

I am delighted to learn that you are going to be with us on the 24th. I am quite anxious to spend a little time with you and talk the Cleveland situation over with you. I know of no more hopeful sign for our community progress than the proposed survey. Our Federation needs a complete new set of ideas. It has not adjusted itself to this swift changing community in twenty years. In philanthropic efforts we have done nothing to bring orthodox and reform groups into some relationship or accord. The problem of education our Federation has completely ignored. It is perhaps this problem that I would like to discuss with you most.

I think the community is ready for a new orientation and realignment. Both groups are ready to meet on some common basis and a measure of tact, patience and above all technique may yield us a happy solution.

The orthodox groups in this city have not yet evolved competent leadership. There are no outstanding men who are recognized as their spokesmen. Some of the men in control of orthodox institutions are utterly incompetent and undesirable, but I suppose that situation is not to be found in Cleveland alone.



June 15th, 1923.

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The big job will be to dissolve an attitude of suspicion and mistrust which years of estrangement and non-cooperation have created in our communal life.

With kindest regards to yourself and your dear wife, I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,

