

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.

Reel	Box	Folder
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B'nai Zion, 1949-1953.

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NEW YORK 19. N. Y. TELEPHONE PLAZA 7-7461 November 17, 1949

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Dear Friend:

Some time ago we wrote to you about the formation of a new group in Bnai Zion, the fraternal branch of the Zionist Organization of America. This group bears the name of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver in tribute to the great leader of American Zionism who did so much to achieve United Nations recognition of the Jewish state.

The invitation to join this select new group was extended to a limited number of leaders in the regions and districts of the Zionist Organization of America, who would like to take this means of showing their high regard and esteem for Dr. Silver and at the same time to work for those causes to which he has given so much of his life.

Mr. Daniel Frisch, president of the Z. O. A., and Dr. Emanuel Neumann, former president, are serving as honorary chairmen of this group.

Before closing the list of "Charter Members," we again extend this invitation to you to join. I am certain that Dr. Silver would be very happy to see you included in this group.

Our roster of charter members will close on November 29th, the second anniversary of the U. N. partition decision. If you wish to be included in this select Zionist group, will you be good enough to fill out the enclosed membership application blank and return it promptly.

Yours with fraternal and Zion's greetings,

HARRIS J. LEVINE

P. S. You will recall from our previous invitation that membership dues in the Dr. Silver Chapter are \$12.00 per annum, which also includes a \$100 life insurance policy with the Jewish National Fund designated as the beneficiary.

A tribute to Dr. Silver

I am happy to associate myself with the Zionist ideals of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and pay tribute to his courage and devotion to Israel, Jewry, and the Zionist movement.



I hereby apply for membership in the DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER CHAPTER NO. 11 of BNAI ZION and enclose herewith my first annual payment of twelve dollars.

I understand that this will entitle me to all membership benefits of Bnai Zion which includes a \$100 insurance certificate with the Jewish National Fund as the beneficiary.

I am of sound bodily health; had no serious illness in the past five years.

I am......years of age (nearest birthday); I was born in the City of

 Name
 Signature

 Address
 City

 38
 DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER CHAPTER NO. 11, BNAI ZION

 225 West 57th Street
 New York 19, N.Y.

PLACE * STAMP HERE

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver Chapter No. 11 Bnai Zion

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NEW YORK 19, N. Y.



BNAI ZION

The Fraternal Zionist Organization of America

225 WEST 57TH STREET

NEW YORK 19, N.Y.

PLAZA 7-7461

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May 8, 1950

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

As I mentioned to you over the telephone last week, I am enclosing herewith a rough draft of the principles and purposes of the Dr. Abba Hillel Silver Zionist Society which Bnai Zion has organized.

A meeting of this group will be held on May 16th at which time we intend to present these principles for discussion and approval. I would greatly appreciate your suggestions in regard to them, and any corrections that you would like to make would be gratefully accepted by us. It would be helpful if you could possibly return the corrected draft so that we could have it ready for presentation at the meeting.

I am confident that this group will serve to create a strong force in this country for the carrying out of those ideas which you have so effectively sponsored for a good many years. I know that you will derive a great deal of "naches" from this work.

My sincerest regards.

HJL:rs

Very sincerely yours, Dr. Harris J. Levine

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DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER ZIONIST SOCIETY

BNAI ZION CHAPTER NO. 11

Principles and Purposes of the Society:

<u>Preamble</u>: ^Bnai Zion, the fraternal Zionist Organization of America, recognizes the need for an "open forum" where Zionists, cognizant of the importance of a reoriented American Zionist movement following the establishment of Israel, will have an opportunity of examining current issues in Jewish life and through an open interchange of views and ideas, crystallize opinions which will help to revitalize the Zionist movement in America. To provide such a forum and to implement these ideas, Bnai Zion has established the Dr. Abba Hillel Silver Zionist Society, and through its work to help not only the Zionist movement but the American Jewish Community as a whole.

The name of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver was selected for this new group in Bnai Zion as a means of paying tribute to the outstanding champion of the Zionist movement in this country and particularly for the important role he played as the Jewish people's spokesman before the United Nations.

The dynamic, vital and creative Zionism which Dr. Silver has always displayed will be the pattern which this society will seek to follow. The society will aim:

1) to stimulate creative efforts within the Zionist movement and to maintain a vigorous and widely-supported American Zionism.

2) to develop a Zionist pattern of living in this country which will serve as a guide to all members of the American Jewish Community.

3) to help forge a strong spiritual and cultural link between the people of Israel and the Jewish Community in the United States.

4) to provide a forum for the open and unfettered interchange of ideas and views regarding Jewish life in America.

5) to encourage the participation of American Jews in the practical economic upbuilding of Israel. Dr.J OWN CAMP

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living tribute to

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Leader

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June 5, 1950

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Several weeks ago, Dr. Harris J. Levine forwarded to you the proposed "aims and principles" of the Dr. Abba Hillel Silver Zionist Society of Bnai Zion, hoping to receive your approval and suggestions on same.

In view of the fact that our charter presentation will take place next week, I should very much like to hear from you before then. I do hope we are not imposing too much upon you.

Looking forward to the pleasure of hearing from you, I am,

With Bnai Zion greetings,

TMAN Secretary Mazkir

HZQ: VP

Juna 6, 1950

Mr. Horman Z. Quittman 225 West 57th Street New York 19, New York

My dear Friend:

Permit me to acknowledge your letter of June 5th. I am sorry that I did not reply earlier to the request for comments on the aims and principles which Dr. Levine kindly sent me. I have been away from Cleveland most of the time.

I am in full agreement with these principles, and I hope that the new Abba Hillel Silver Camp of B'nai Zion will have a career of great usefulness to our movement.

With warmest regards, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS :er



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The Fraternal Zionist Organization of America

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225 WEST 57TH STREET

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September 17, 1951

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

Now that my rage and disappointment over the antics of our colleagues in Jerusalem is subsiding, I realize how useless it is for me to limit myself purely to the practice of my profession. The truth of the matter is, Dr. Silver, that I am an incurable Zionist and it rests with you to decide whether I can also be a happy one.

Since my return from Jerusalem, I have become convinced more than ever before that the future of the Z.O.A., of Zionism in general, and possibly of Israel itself, lies in a great measure in your hands. The weakness and ineffectiveness of the Z.O.A. and its leadership contributed greatly to the "Debacle of Jerusalem". I am convinced that you and you alone can provide the leadership necessary to bring about an effective change.

After you left Jerusalem, Sprinzak spoke to me on three different occasions asking me to help you "see the light", and that Israel and Zionism need you. Such apparently hopeless "antis" as Ezra Shapiro and Joseph Weiss spoke to me about the hopelessness of the Z.O.A. unless you come back. At an overflow meeting held at the Waldorf Astoria the other night, my demand that you return to leadership brought forth tremendous enthusiasm; and when I read the enclosed clipping from the Jerusalem Post, I felt like a rabble rouser because of the exclamations from the audience that indicated a determination to purge the Z.O.A. at once.

Jacques and I are ready to go to Cleveland alone or with a committee to convince you of the need for positive action at once. I know that your charming and wonderful wife will probably be reluctant about having you return to the strain and decision that

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HONORARY NASSI LOUIS LIPSKY

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Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

-2-

9/17/51

leadership inevitably carries with it. I would like to assure her through you that we will do everything possible to keep these strains to the bare minimum and to ease the path for you in the future.

Dorothy wants me to extend to both of you her sincerest regards and does so by proxy only because she is in the midst of the first excitement of becoming a grandmother. We both join in extending to you and Mrs. Silver our sincerest best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

NO men

DR. HARRIS J. LEVINE

HJL:rs Encl. JEWISH NATIONAL FUND



41 East 42nd Street • New York 17, N.Y.

VAnderbilt 6-3780

September 20, 1951

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My dear Dr. Silver:

I sincerely hope that you will find it possible, although I have no desire to impose unnecessary burdens on you, to visit a few key communities on our behalf. In extending the invitation, it is understood that the matter has been cleared locally with all parties concerned and now that the position of the Jewish National Fund has been clarified in Jerusalem, I believe that some of the difficulty that we may have experienced in the past will be eliminated.

I would not think of asking you to go to all the cities that have requested you as their guest speaker. Of immediate importance are two communities and I have heard from the leaders in both cities urging, insisting and pleading that you should be the speaker this year.

1. Milwaukee is having a large-scale affair on November 11th which has been cleared with the Welfare Fund. The work in Milwaukee has been practically paralyzed excepting for the smaller collections and this year after a great deal of effort we have persuaded them to hold an annual function. Mr. Seidelman, who is the leader of the JNF and one of the important people in the Welfare Fund, is prepared and willing to go through with the affair but he has made the condition that you must be their speaker. If it is humanly possible, I would beg of you to accept this invitation.

2. Los Angeles has been trying for years now to have you as their guest speaker at the Annual Chanukah Festival which is the largest affair in the community. It brings out the largest attendance and also yields the largest sum of money. I am, therefore, renewing Mr. Strimling's request that you should be their guest speaker on December 23rd. San Francisco has fixed the date for their Chanukah dinner for December 15th but they are holding an option for December 20th and should you agree to go to Los Angeles and also San Francisco, they will have the San Francisco affair on December 20th. If you are unable to go to both cities then it would be quite all right for you to go to Los Angeles only.

It would be a real service to the JNF and I should be deeply grateful if you will give this invitation your most earnest consideration and advise me as soon as possible. If you are too busy to write a letter, I should appreciate a telegram. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver - 9/20/51

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

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DR. HARRIS J. LEVINE President

HJL:ss

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September 26, 1951

Dr. Harris J. Levine B'nai Zion 225 West 57th Street New York 19, New York

My dear Friend:

Thank you so much for your letter of September 17th and also the one of September 20th. I cannot at the present writing give you my reactions to your letter. I am at the moment very busily engaged in congregational activities after an absence of nearly three months from my post. The High Holy Day season has imposed additional responsibilities upon me.

I have really not had a quiet period for thought during which to think through the questions which you and other friends have in recent weeks, since my return from Israel, raised in their communications. I should like to wait a while before I make any final decisions. I am also waiting to see what will be the final outcome of the negotiations for a coalition government in Israel.

As regards my addressing the meetings for the Jewish National Fund, I am afraid that here, too, I must be allowed a little time to catch my breath. I wrote to Mr. Strimling in Los Angeles that I could not accept his invitation inasmuch as I must be in my own pulpit on that Sunday and I already have quite a number of other important congregational activities on that day. Before I left for my JNF tour of South Africa, I accepted quite a number of lecture engagements for the next few months, and I am afraid that I am unable to take on additional out-of-town commitments at this time.

On the eve of the New Year I should like to extend to you and Dorothy Virginia's and my warmest greetings and best wishes for the coming year. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you in New York Before long.

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS :er

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National Field Director SHOLEM SONTUP December 16, 1952

165 West 46th Street, N. Y. 36, N. Y. PLaza 7-1500 Cable Address, UJAPPEAL, New York

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple East 105th Street at Ansel Road Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

A'hai zon

I have taken up with the New York United Jewish Appeal the question of postponing the B'nai Zion dinner from February 8th to March 1st.

The problem in New York is that they have no agreement with B'nai Zion which would permit them to run a dinner in New York City for fund raising purposes at any time during the UJA campaign which covers the period from February 1st to September 1st.

The B'nai Zion dinner is a fund raising affair for the JNF. The position of New York City UJA is that since the Jewish Agency will make a substantial grant of some \$6,000,000 out of UJA funds to the JNF in 1953, there is no excuse for running a fund raising function for JNF in New York, particularly during the height of the New York UJA campaign.

Since New York objects strenuously to the February 8th date, it cannot possibly agree to the March 1st date when the New York campaign is gathering its greatest momentum.

The matter now seems to be up to B'nai Zion to resolve and I am afraid that it is completely out of our hands here. Because of your long familiarity of the situation here, I am sure that you understand.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Schwartz

JJS:PFR



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BNAI ZION

The Fraternal Zionist Organization of America

225 WEST 57TH STREET

NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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Louis K. Bleecker Dorothy S. Levine Judge Arthur Markewich Dr. Sidney Marks Nathaniel S. Rothenberg Herman Z. Quittman Dr. Jacob I. Steinberg Nassi-Grand Master Sgan-Dep. Grand Master Sgan-Dep. Grand Master Sgan-Dep. Grand Master Sgan-Dep. Grand Master Mazkir-Grand Secretary Gizbor-Grand Treasurer RUDOLPH EDELSON HYMAN J. FLIEGEL DR. HARRIS J. LEVINE SAMUEL M. STUCKGOLD, C.P.A. BENJAMIN E. GORDON HARRY GRAYER JUDGE HARRY A. PINE Assoc. Grand Treasurer Counsel Chief Med. Examiner Auditor Trustee Trustee Trustee

January 28, 1953

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Rabbi Irving Miller, distinguished President of the Zionist Organization of America, will be the guest of honor at the 45th Annual Order Day Banquet tendered by Bnai Zion, the American Fraternal Zionist Organization on Sunday evening, March 1, 1953, at the Commodore Hotel in New York City.

The proceeds of this outstanding function, to be attended by more than 1500 representatives of the American Jewish community, will be used by the Jewish National Fund for land redemption, reclamation and afforestation programs in Israel.

In connection with this event a special Journal will be published that will record this notable occasion through messages of felicitations.

I am therefore taking the privilege of extending this invitation to you to favor us with such a message which I know will be a source of deep personal satisfaction and joy to Rabbi Miller.

We would appreciate the receipt of your greetings by February 20, 1953, which has been set as our press time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Harris /J. Levine, Pres. Jewish National Fund of America Chairman Dinner Committee February 10, 1953

Dr. Harris J. Levine, President Jewish National Fundof America Lil East L2nd Street New York 17, New York

My dear Dr. Levine:

I have been informed that Rabbi Irving Miller will be the guest of honor at the annual Order Day Banquet of the Bnai Zion on March 1st of this year. May I join Rabbi Miller's hose of friends in extending to him felicitations on this occasion, and in congratulating Order Bnai Zion for having designated Rabbi Miller for this honor. Rabbi Miller has been a faithful and devoted Zionist for many years, and has brought to the leadership of the Zionist Organization of America, where he now cocupies the high office of president, a brilliant mind, an eloquent tongue and a charming personality, which have proved great assets to the movement and which will serve it greatly, I am sure, in the searching days which lie ahead.

As far as Bnai Zion is concerned, its notable record of the past should be a great challenge to it for the future.

With warmest regards, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

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JEWISH NATIONAL FUND 41 EAST 42ND STREET NEW YORK 17. N. Y.

> THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE 16 East 66th St. NY 21, N.Y.

> > March 5, 1953

Dr. Harris J. Levine 41 East 42nd Street New York City

Dear Dr. Levine:

At the meeting a few weeks ago attended by Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Locker, Mr. Zuckerman, Mr. Tisher, yourself and myself regarding Jewish National Fund fund-raising problems, I raised the question of the B'nai Zion Annual Order Day Dinner which was held this year on March 1. I pointed out that it was surprising that this dinner was held as late as March 1 which constitutes a reversal from all our attempts of previous years to move the B'nai Zion dinner forward earlier in the year. Indeed in 1952 the dinner was held in early February in recognizion of the need to give United Jewish Appeal full priority during the Spring months. You stated at our meeting that Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver spoke to Mr. Henry Bernstein on the telephone about this matter explaining that technical reasonsmade it impossible to have the dinner before March 1 and that Mr. Bernstein agreed to this one exception.

I find that I must advise you that Mr. Bernstein denies having discussed this matter with Rabbi Silver and having ever agreed to make an exception for the Annual Order Day Dinner.

If there is anything you can advise us which would tend to clarify this matter, I would greatly appreciate hearing about it.

Sincerel y yours,

ISADORE HAMLIN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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March 9, 1953

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Ansel Rd. & E. 105th St. Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

I find myself in a quandary as you will see from the attached letter received from the office of the Jewish Agency. It is Honorary Vice Chairmen not a very enviable task to be the head of the JNF in these difficult times.

There are two matters that I wish to bring to your attention:

1. You will remember our telephone conversation in postponing the Bnai Zion dinner. You indicated at that time that you would communicate with Mr. Bernstein. That is what I conveyed at the Agency meeting when we were taken to task for holding our dinner in March whereas we had planned it earlier.

2. It is a great source of personal regret not only to me but to all my associates that after we had completed plans to officially receive Dr. Granott, we learned that the UJA was planning a meeting in New York on the same night. Since we had already several postponements and invitations had been sent out for the meeting of our National Advisory Board which is so urgently necessary, it is impossible to cancel the dinner at this late hour. I want you to know the facts so that there should be no misunderstanding as the JNF and I would not permit anything to interfere with the UJA, particularly with a function at which you are speaking. It is just one of those things and it so happens that the majority of those coming to this dinner are not exactly in the class of the large donors. We would have avoided the conflict but unfortunately when we sent out the announcements we did not know nor was any announcement made that you would participate in the program.

With warmest personal regards.

Yours cordially

DR. HARRIS J. LEVINE President

HJL:ss Enc.

March 17, 1953

Dr. Harris J. Levine Jewish National Fund 41 East 42nd Street New York 17, New York

My dear Harris:

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Replying to your letter of March 9th, and the matter of postponing the B'nai Zion dinner, I am sorry to hear that you were taken to task for holding your dinner in March. I was under the impression that you had straightened out the matter with them.

Following our phone conversation, I got in touch with Dr. Joseph Schwartz and explained the situation to him. He took up the matter with the New York UJA people and on December 16th he informed me that their attitude was decidedly negative, that they were opposed to the holding of the B'nai Zion d nner on February 8th quite as much as on March 1st. He suggested that the matter was up to the B'nai Zion to resolve. Not having heard from you to the contrary, I assumed that the matter was satisfactorily resolved.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

B'hai zion

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

KEREN KAYEMETH LEISRAEL) Inc.

41 EAST 42 STREET • NEW YORK 17, N. Y. • VAnderbilt 6-3780

March 19, 1953

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

My dear Dr. Silver:

I just received yours of March 17th. I cannot tell you how much grief the small matter of postponing the dinner has caused me. I informed the Jewish Agency exactly what transpired.

When you asked me to postpone the dinner, I informed you of the complications arising out of the fact that the UJA campaign would be underway in March. I assumed all the time that you discussed the matter with Mr. Bernstein. I now find that you spoke to Dr. Schwartz.

As you know, the Bnai Zion dinners are strictly confined to the membership of Bnai Zion. Like all Zionists, I am eager to give the UJA effort every measure of cooperation but I did not know that this matter would create so much confusion. Certainly as a matter of courtesy to you, I had believed that Mr. Bernstein whom you were to have contacted would not make such a fuss.

With all good wishes and warmest personal regards,

Cordially yours,

DR. HARRIS J. LEVINE President

President Dr. HARRIS J. LEVINE

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