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Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1929-1930.

Sept. 4th, 1929.

Rabbi A. L. Lassen,
6642 N. Ashland Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Rabbi Lassen:-

I have just returned from abroad
and find your letter of August 21st.

I should very much like to accept
your invitation but the date which you suggest, Feb.
11th is not a convenient one for me. Would Tuesday,
March 11th fall in with your forum program? If so,
I shall be very pleased to come to you on that date.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

Sept. 4th, 1929.

Isaac E. Marcuson, Sec'y.,
Central Conference of American Rabbis,
204 Buford Place,
Macon, Ga.

My dear Rabbi Marcuson:-

I am enclosing herewith a
corrected copy of the remarks which I made at the
last meeting of the Central Conference of American
Rabbis on the subject of the Prayer Book. I
trust that you will find it satisfactory.

me to remain

With kindest regards, permit

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

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DAVID LEFKOWITZ, President
Dallas, Texas
MORRIS NEWFIELD, Vice President
Birmingham, Alabama
FELIX A. LEVY, Treasurer
Chicago, Illinois
ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Recording Secretary
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Cincinnati, Ohio.



Office of Recording Secretary
204 Buford Place
Macon, Ga.

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EUGENE MANNHEIMER, Des Moines, Iowa
SAMUEL S. MAYERBERG, Kansas City, Mo.
JULIUS RAPPAPORT, Kenosha, Wis.

September 10, 1929.

Dear Colleague:

At the last Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, after a long discussion it was decided to continue the present practice of printing degrees in the Year Book but the Secretary was instructed to secure a list of the degrees and the institutions conferring them to be kept on file at the Secretary's office. It was definitely decided that NO DEGREE SHALL BE PRINTED IN THE YEAR BOOK UNLESS THE MEMBER FURNISHES THE SECRETARY WITH THE NAME OF THE INSTITUTION CONFERRING THE DEGREE.

Would you kindly fill in the enclosed card and give me the desired information so that a corrected directory of the members can be published at once?

With cordial greetings, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Isaac E. Marcuson

Secretary.

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Office of President
1900 South Boulevard
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JULIUS RAPPAPORT, Kenosha, Wis.

October,
Seventeenth,
1929.

*Please
return!*

Dr. Alba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th St.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Friend Silver:-

In planning the various matters that are to come before the Executive Board of the Conference in Cincinnati on the 29th of Oct., I have had in mind, of course, the naming of a place for the next Conference. This will have to be decided at the Board meeting. Up to date, no satisfactory place of meeting has been suggested. Lake Hopatcong in New Jersey had been mentioned, but investigation found it not desirable, as it was first thought. Then we had again an invitation from Ashville, N.C. You recall that the Ashville Conference a number of years ago was pleasant, but did not draw many members, and we also remember that one of our colleagues was stricken and died there. To some of our members the high altitude was not so favorable.

I thought, therefore, that if it would be at all agreeable to the Cleveland Jewish community, it would be a fine thing to have the Conference invited to meet there next June, for the reason that in June 1930 it will be forty years since the Conference met for its really first program meeting at Cleveland, (the organization meeting with no definite program meeting was, of course, held in Detroit). It was in Cleveland at this first business meeting that the first draft of the Union Prayer book was presented by Moses Mielziener, of blessed memory.

I hope that you see the sentimental value of having the 1930 meeting in Cleveland, and that you agree with me as to the matter of it being the logical place for the Conference meeting for next year. I hope that you will consult with your colleagues in Cleveland, and if they are of the same mind, that you will offer Cleveland as the place of meeting to the Executive Board of the Conference when this matter will be taken up. Could you let me have your answer either here in Dallas or at the Sinton Hotel in Cincinnati where I will be from the 28th of October to the 30th? With kindest greetings, I am sincerely yours,

David Lefkowitz

Oct. 24th, 1929.

Rabbi B. R. Brickner,
The Euclid Ave. Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Brickner:-

I am enclosing herewith a letter from David Lefkowitz which is self explanatory. What do you think of his suggestion that the next C. C. A. R. Conference be held in Cleveland?

Personally I feel that it would impose a financial tax upon our community which the community might not care to bear in view of the fact that we had the convention of the Union here less than three years ago.

I have an additional hesitancy in recommending Cleveland to the Conference. My Congregation will be busily engaged next April and May in celebrating its Eightieth Anniversary and neither I nor the active members of my Congregation will have time to devote to the many details which such a convention would involve. Let me know how you feel about it.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

October 25th, 1929.

Rabbi David Lefkowitz,
Sinton Hotel,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Lefkowitz:-

Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your
letter of October 17th.

We should very much like to have the C. C. A. R.
meet in Cleveland but there are reasons why this year is not the
most appropriate time for it.

It is less than three years ago that we had
the convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in
Cleveland and the community was at that time quite heavily taxed
in order to cover the expenses of the convention. Our people
would not look with favor on another canvass for funds to cover
the expenses which would be involved in the Rabbinical conference.

In the next place my own congregation will
celebrate late in May its Eightieth Anniversary. The celebration
will be on an extensive scale and will occupy the thought and
interest of our members for a few months prior to the celebration.
It may be, too, that we shall utilize the occasion to raise funds
for some of our congregational needs. Neither I, nor the active
people of my congregation would therefore be in a position to
devote any time to the planning of the Rabbinical conference.

We shall be very happy to extend an invitation
to the C. C. A. R. at a not distant future.

With kindest regards, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

CENTRAL CONFERENCE
of
AMERICAN RABBIS



WRHS



- BULLETIN -

VOL. V.

December 1, 1929

No. 1

DAVID LEFKOWITZ, President

JAMES G. HELLER, Corresponding Secretary

DAVID PHILIPSON, Hon. President

MORRIS NEWFIELD, Vice President

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Recording Secretary

TIME AND PLACE OF CONVENTION

The next Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis will be held at Providence, Rhode Island, Wednesday, June 25th, 1930. X

PROGRAM

An interesting program has been prepared under the chairmanship of Rabbi Freehof. It will consist of:

(A) Symposium on Union Prayer Book.

1. The Union Prayer Book in the Evolution of the Liturgy.

2. The Function of a Public Prayer Book.

3. The Religious Ideas of a Union Prayer Book.

4. The Devotional Value of the Union Prayer Book.

(B) The Purpose and Possibility of Synagog and School Extension Work in American Reform Judaism.

(C) The Condition of Jewry and Judaism in South America.

(D) Three Round Tables on Practical Problems of the Ministry.

DR. RAFFALOVICH

An effort is being made by the Conference to bring to the United States to address the Convention, Dr. Raffalovich through whose efforts much of the fine work in South America is being carried on.

SUBVENTIONS

The special committee appointed at the last Convention to work out a plan for Subventions has submitted the following plan which was approved by the Executive Board.

That for this year the Subvention Fund shall consist of a sum equal to 5% of the balance in the general fund, namely \$3500.00. That in the future in the letters sent out by the Committee on Relief the statement shall be added that the money may be used for the relief of aged members and their families and for the relief of SCHOLARS AND THEIR WORK and that one-half of the amount raised shall be transferred to the Subvention Fund to be administered for that purpose. That Subventions shall be granted to the amount in the Subvention Fund in the following order:

1—To poor and needy colleagues.

2—To educational and philanthropic organizations and causes.

3—To assist worthy colleagues personally and in the publication of their books.

4—Subventions to learned societies.

5—Subventions to worthy Jewish or theological publications.

It is with great pleasure that the Executive Board is able to inform the members that the Littauer Fund of \$5000.00 is again available this year for subsidies or subventions.

GROUP INSURANCE

The Executive Board has again authorized a committee to be appointed to study the possibility of group insurance for the members of the Conference.

The President was also authorized to appoint a committee to make a survey of the status of the rabbinate in Reform Jewish congregations in the United States and to employ a statistician for this purpose, if necessary. The purpose of this study is to discover what unemployment exists in our rabbinate and what are the possibilities for the opening up of new pulpits, etc.

JEWISH QUARTERLY

A committee was appointed to consider the possibility of publishing a Jewish Quarterly under the auspices of the Conference.

ADDRESS CARDS

Some of the members have not returned to the Secretary the cards asking for their academic degrees. At the last Convention it was decided that **NO DEGREES SHALL BE PRINTED IN THE YEARBOOK UNLESS THE DEGREE AND THE INSTITUTION CONFERRING IT IS SENT TO THE SECRETARY.** The yearbook will appear shortly. The Secretary is anxious that all degrees be included. If you have not returned your card, do so promptly.

WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

We have received word from Miss Montagu, Hon. Secretary of the World Union for Progressive Judaism that the second meeting of the World Union will be held next summer, about the middle of July in London. The Conference is entitled to a certain number of delegates. Will you kindly let the President know if you are planning to attend, so that he might appoint you a delegate. These will be appointed in the order in which their names are brought to the attention of the President.

THE AMERICAN ORT

The Ort with the cooperation of the Soviet government is anxious to aid the American Landsmanschaften to help the Jewish population in Russia back on their feet and asks your active cooperation. We are sure you will do anything in your power.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR REVISION OF UNION PRAYER BOOK

Enclosed herewith please find questionnaire on Revision of the Union Prayer Book. Please fill this out immediately and return it to the Secretary so that the Committee can get to work to carry out the wishes of the members.

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation

MADISON AVE. AND ROBERT ST.
BALTIMORE, MD.

OFFICE OF THE RABBI

COPY

December 3, 1929.

Dr. David Philipson,
270 McGregor Avenue,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Philipson:

I was surprised to receive the letter and questionnaire from Rabbi Marcuson.

As I remember it, the conference went on record not "to ascertain whether a revision of the Union Prayer Book at this time was desired", but to revise the prayer book. It was just this point on which many of us insisted: that the vote of the conference constitutes a mandate to the Liturgical Committee that the conference desires the revision. The revision, however, was not to be made hurriedly, but only after the most careful study, which might take a number of years. The character of the revision was to depend entirely upon the result of the studies, all of which, of course, would have to be finally submitted to the conference for action. Surely, there must be some misunderstanding of what took place at the Sunday afternoon meeting, for the letter completely misses the intent of the conference resolution.

Furthermore, a questionnaire on this subject, to be of any value, should be given the most careful thought. The questionnaire sent is entirely too general and sketchy and I fear will get us nowhere so far as ascertaining the mind of the conference is concerned.

Would it not have been better to have called the Liturgical Committee together for the single purpose of working out a program for our committee's procedure, incuded in which would be an adequate questionnaire?

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation

MADISON AVE. AND ROBERT ST.
BALTIMORE, MD.

OFFICE OF THE RABBI

COPY

-2-


For myself, I believe that certain aspects of the subject should be given to certain men peculiarly fitted to do the studies assigned to them.

There is no need for hurry. It is a serious work. It can be a great work.

I have sent copies of this letter to the other members of our committee.

With kindest regards,

Faithfully yours,


Morris S. Lazaron
Morris S. Lazaron.

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Cincinnati, Ohio.



Committee on Solicitation
Office of Chairman
Holly & Avon
Saint Paul, Minnesota

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JACK H. SKIRBALL
WILLIAM M. STERN
SAMUEL THURMAN
MARTIN ZIELONKA

Dear Colleague:

Your committee on Solicitation of Funds has been working earnestly and faithfully all year. Many colleagues have cooperated splendidly and have already made their appeals. There are a few, however, who have thus far neglected the work. For some reason or other, you have failed to answer my communication calling for your assistance in this splendid undertaking. This is not the task of one or of a few members of the Conference. It is the duty of all! Won't you please join with your colleagues in making this year's appeal the outstanding one in the history of the Conference?

Our offer to supply you with form-letters, mailing and return envelopes, still holds good. If you prefer to use a letter of your own composition, we will have it printed for you on Conference stationery, provided you send me the copy.

Please do not lay this aside. Answer now and let me know how many letters you can use.

With warmest greetings, I am

Cordially yours,

Harry S. Margolis

Chairman

HSM:MS
March
Third
1930

*File
4-16-30*

April 3d, 1930

Rabbi George Zepin,
Merchants Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Zepin:-

I would appreciate very much if
you will kindly advise me at your earliest convenience
when the Central Conference of American Rabbis will
hold its convention this year.

With kindest regards and thanking
you in advance for an early reply, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Rabbi Silver

June 25

CENTRAL CONFERENCE of AMERICAN RABBIS

DAVID PHILIPSON, *Honorary President*
DAVID LEFKOWITZ, *President*
MORRIS NEWFIELD, *Vice-President*



FELIX A. LEVY, *Treasurer*
ISAAC E. MARCUSON, *Recording Secretary*
JAMES G. HELLER, *Corresponding Secretary*

: BULLETIN :

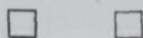
Vol. IV

May, 1930

No. 3

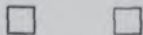
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT CONVENTION

The Convention of the Conference will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, June 25th. You should be there. This is the first time in the history of the Conference that it will convene in New England. During the Convention there will be opportunity to visit the historic Newport Synagog and Community. Make every effort to attend.



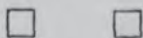
THE CONVENTION

The Providence, Rhode Island Community under the leadership of Rabbi Gup is making careful arrangement for our comfort, though they are mindful of our wish not to be elaborately entertained. One day's session will be held at Newport, Rhode Island.



TENTATIVE PROGRAM AND HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS

Enclosed herewith you will find the tentative program and hotel arrangements. Make your hotel reservations as early as possible either through Rabbi Gup or directly to the hotel.



PACHAD YIZCHAK

Enclosed with this Bulletin is a prospectus for a new edition of Lampronti's Pachad Yizchak by H. Kanel who is vouched for by Prof. Louis Ginsberg and Rabbi Dr. Chaim Heller. It will appear in six parts. The editor needs some 200 more subscriptions to this work before he can proceed to publication. It is hoped that many of our members will be interested and send in their subscriptions.

SOLICITATION COMMITTEE

Rabbi Harry S. Margolis as chairman of the Solicitation Committee of the Conference writes that he is not receiving the support that was to be expected from a large number of our colleagues. You surely must know that the number of our members who are on our superannuated list is growing, and that a number of European scholars of note are being temporarily assisted by our funds. Only if every member will assist can the Solicitation Committee bring about the splendid financial results that followed the appeals the last few years.

☐ ☐

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Chairmen of Conference committees are urged to begin collating their reports at this time and getting the signatures of their committee. Without such signatures the Conference will consider the information presented a personal statement and not a committee report.

Your president has written to all the congregations served by our membership requesting that the Rabbi's expense to the Conference at Providence be met by the congregation. Many affirmative responses have come to this request. Has your president failed to receive this appeal of President Lefkowitz? If so, let him know and another will be sent.

This is the first time in the history of the Conference that it is going to convene in New England. This is the first time that the Conference will have the opportunity to visit the historic Newport synagogue and community. **YOU SHOULD BE THERE!**

☐ ☐

LONDON CONFERENCE OF WORLD UNION

There are still seven vacancies for delegates to the World Union meeting in London. The President would like to learn from any member of the Conference who has not already been appointed that he will be in London from July 19th to July 22nd and the President will be glad to appoint him as a delegate.

☐ ☐

ERROR IN MINISTER'S HANDBOOK

Rabbi Jacob H. Kaplan calls attention to the fact that there is a misplaced line on Page 125 of Minister's Handbook. Please cross out the line.

☐ ☐

HOTEL HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Convention will be at Biltmore Hotel, Providence, Rhode Island.

RATES: Biltmore Hotel (all rooms with bath).

Single Room, \$4 up; Double room, \$7.50 up.

Narragansett Hotel (all rooms with bath).

Single Room, \$3 up; Double Room (twin beds) \$6; (double Bed) \$5.

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Thursday, June 26th will be spent at Newport and the sessions fixed for that day will be held at the Newport Synagogue.

If you have not already done so, please fill out your postcard notifying the Providence committee whether or not you expect to attend.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following have applied for membership in the Conference. If you know of any reason why they should not be admitted, kindly notify the Secretary. You may rest assured that your letter will be treated confidentially:

Name	Training	Positions Held
Morris Clarke	Glasgow University (2 yrs.) Shavli Yeshiva	Pine Bluff, Ark.
Lawrence W. Schwartz	J. I. R. '28 Hebrew University '29	Adas Israel, Boston

Graduates of H. U. C. and J. I. R. Class of 1930

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Executive Board, June 24th. If there is any matter that you desire to bring to the attention of the Board, kindly send a letter to the secretary and he will be pleased to present it.

NOTICE TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

It is the rule of the Conference that all reports must be presented to the Executive Board before they can be read before the convention. Please have your report in the hands of the secretary before he leaves for the convention or send it to him in care of the hotel. Biltmore Hotel, Providence, R. I. This is important.

RESIDENCE:
270 MCGREGOR AVE.
MT. AUBURN

DAVID PHILIPSON
RABBI ROCKDALE AVENUE TEMPLE
CINCINNATI, OHIO

June 8, 1930.

To the members of the Liturgical Committee:

I am enclosing the brief report which I have written to be presented to the Conference meeting, at Providence. If I do not hear from you to the contrary I shall take for granted that your name can be signed in approval.

With kind regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

David Philipson

CHAIRMAN.

Encl.

MINUTES

COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION

Providence, R. I.
June 24, 1930.

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, a meeting of the Commission on Jewish Education was held at the Providence Biltmore Hotel, Providence, R. I. at 6:30 P.M., June 24, 1930.

There were present Rabbis David Philipson, Chairman; Samuel J. Abrams, Edward N. Calisch, H. G. Enelow, Leon Fram, Solomon A. Fineberg, James G. Heller, Lee J. Levinger, Julian Morgenstern, Joseph Rauch, Louis Witt, George Zepin and Dr. Emanuel Gamoran.

Letters were received from the following members of the Commission who were unable to attend: Rabbis Samuel Goldenson, Samuel Koch, Louis I. Mann, Wm. Rosenau, Samuel Schulman, Abram Simon.

Reports

The Secretary presented the following report, which was received and ordered filed.

Secretary's Report

Providence, R. I.,
June 24, 1930.

To the Commission on Jewish Education.

Gentlemen:

The following brief survey of the business transacted at the last meeting of the Commission held in New York City on April 29th, 1930, will serve as an introduction to the matters claiming your attention today.

1. In connection with the report of the Secretary which reviewed the work for the preceding year, the Commission approved the suggestion to publish a third volume of Jewish Folklore stories by Joseph Gaer.

2. The Commission resolved to request the Board of Managers to turn over to the Commission full jurisdiction with reference to supervising the work of the Fellows in Pedagogy. A letter from the Board of Managers on this subject will be presented.

3. The Chairman of the Commission was authorized to appoint a Committee on Fellowships, should the action of the Board of Managers warrant such action.

The annual report of the Committee on Elementary Education was presented, the same containing several recommendations which were acted upon as follows:

4. The Commission approved the preparation of a Peace Book for Home Reading for Young Children.

5. The Commission approved the publication of a Teacher's Monograph on Teaching Peace in Jewish Religious Schools to be prepared under the supervision of the Teacher Training Committee.

6. The Commission approved the production of a book on Jewish Customs and Ceremonies for the intermediate grades, dealing with the subject in a descriptive manner.

7. The report of the Committee on Bible Commentaries recommending that a series of Bible Commentaries be published and containing a statement of the purpose of such commentaries was approved and the Committee was authorized to proceed.

8. The report of Dr. E. Gamoran, Educational Director, was considered, the same recommending the establishment of a graduate school for Jewish educators.

9. The Commission resolved to suggest to the Hebrew Union College the establishment of an undergraduate department devoted to the Theory and Practice of Jewish Education.

This suggestion was transmitted to the Board of Governors by the Chairman of our Commission.

Further consideration of the Report was postponed.

10. The Chairman was requested to answer certain correspondence of Mr. Milton Fairchild, dealing with the teaching of morality in the public schools.

11. The report of the Committee on Youth Work was adopted, carrying with it the presentation of a request to the Board of Managers for an appropriation for a special worker for this department.

The answer of the Board of Managers is here for presentation.

12. Dr. A. H. Silver recommended the early publication of volumes on "A Course on Moral Problems", "A Course on Biblical Literature", "A Course on Post-Biblical Literature". Action on these suggestions was postponed until present meeting.

13. Two reports were ready for presentation at the last meeting, but owing to lack of time for their consideration, were postponed until this meeting. They are "The Report of the Committee on Adult and University Education" by Dr. H. G. Enelow, Chairman, and the Report on Research, by Dr. J. Maller.

14. Owing to receipt of many requests for "Cradle Roll", material by the Department of Synagogue and School Extension, I have requested Rabbi L. I. Egelson to prepare a report on action taken by our Commission on the subject, and also with reference to the cost of preparing certain material for this purpose. This is ready for presentation.

15. Your secretary has ready for presentation a detailed report dealing with the status of our present holders of Fellowships at Teachers College, Columbia University, and various letters from applicants, together with other details and recommendations. This material should properly be presented to a subcommittee, and after the facts have been digested for later presentation to the Commission. In view of the fact that the awarding of fellowships must be made immediately, I would suggest that the Committee to be appointed be given authority for this occasion to award fellowships without referring the matters involved back to the Commission, but that the Committee report their action to the Commission at its next meeting.

16. Your secretary desires to present to the Commission a plan for conducting a special activity, - namely, the gathering of materials of historic and descriptive character in each community in the United States where we are represented, covering the complete field of Jewish institutional life, the same to constitute a year's study by various local groups. Correspondence and further description of this enterprise are ready for presentation.

17. An exhibit of our publications and of recent books related to Education has been prepared for the meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. A catalogue of this exhibit is attached for the information of the members of the Commission, together with typed list of all of our publications.

18. In accordance with the usual custom, the Chairman of the Commission has prepared an annual report for the Central Conference of American Rabbis dealing with the work of the Commission for the past twelve months. A copy of this report is attached for the information of members of the Commission.

19. The attention of the members of the Commission is directed to the fact that at this meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis a paper is to be presented on the "Purpose and Possibilities of Synagogue and School Extension", which is to be followed by discussion. The paper will deal to a large extent with the work of this Commission.

This summary is followed by a schedule, listing the items that require further attention.

Respectfully submitted,

George Zepin,

Secretary

Fellowships in Pedagogy

A letter from the Board of Managers of Synagogue and School Extension was presented welcoming the offer of the Commission to assume greater responsibility for the work of the Fellows in Pedagogy.

It was resolved that the thanks of the Commission be extended to the Board of Managers and that the suggestion of the Board of Managers be accepted with reference to assuming responsibility for the work of the Fellows in Pedagogy.

It was further resolved that a Committee of Four consisting of the present Committee on Fellows and Dr. Enelow be appointed to study all problems involved in this subject with full power to act on the appointment of the Fellows, etc. This Committee is to act in conjunction with Dr. Gamoran.

It was resolved that each Fellow be assigned to some member of the Commission living in New York City who is to act as an advisor to him.

With reference to the suggestion made at the last meeting of the Commission regarding the creation of an Undergraduate Department in Jewish Education at the Hebrew Union College, Dr. Philipson reported that he made the suggestion to the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College and that it was received with favor.

Report on Adult and University Education

The report of the Committee on Adult and University Education was presented by Dr. Enelow and was approved by the Commission. This appears as Appendix A of these minutes.

It was resolved that the Committee be requested to prepare plans for bringing the subject of Adult Education more forcibly to the attention of congregations. The Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Enelow, offered to have such a report ready and the Secretary was ordered to make this a special order of business for the next meeting.

Report of Committee on Teacher Training

Dr. Gamoran, at the request of Dr. Abram Simon, Chairman of Committee on Teacher Training reported verbally concerning the progress made by this Committee in the publication of Syllabi and in arranging Teachers' Conventions in which various members of our Commission as well as members of our staff participated.

Dr. Gamoran requested the advice of the members of the Commission regarding one of the problems of this Committee, namely, the teaching of Hebrew in the Normal Courses.

It was resolved that this be referred back to the Committee on Teacher Training for its recommendation.

Suggestions for Books by Dr. Silver

Dr. Gamoran reported that he had had an interview with Dr. Silver with reference to the suggestions made at the last meeting.

It was resolved that all the suggestions be referred to the Committee on Youth Education and the Committee on Youth Education was requested to consult with Dr. Silver concerning same.

Report of Director of Educational Research

The report of the Director of Educational Research, Dr. Julius B. Maller was accepted and ordered spread upon the minutes. The same appears as Appendix B of these minutes.

Cradle Roll Material

The Secretary presented a report prepared by Rabbi Egelson with reference to action taken at various meetings regarding the preparation of material for a Cradle Roll Department and also apprised the Commission that numerous requests had been received for material of this kind. This report which appears as appendix C of these minutes was received and ordered filed.

It was resolved that the officers of the Commission be empowered to prepare any literature needed for this department.

Community Surveys

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Commission correspondence dealing with a project for making community surveys in various parts of the country, the same to serve as educational enterprises for Sisterhoods and Brotherhoods. It was resolved that the matter be referred to the Committee on Research whenever this Committee is appointed. Dr. Philipson presented the report of the Commission which was prepared for presentation to the meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. The report was approved and appears as Appendix D of these Minutes.

Rabbi Leon Fram moved the appointment of a Committee on Pre-School Education as part of the scheme of organization of our Commission. The following substitute offered by Dr. Enelow was adopted.

Resolved that a Special Committee be appointed to study the problems involved in pre-school education and the necessity for organizing a Special Committee to deal with same, this report to be presented at the next meeting of the Commission.

The Chairman appointed the following Committee for this purpose: Rabbis Leon Fram, H. G. Enelow and Joseph Rauch.

ADJOURNED

George Zepin,
Secretary

David Philipson,
Chairman

Note

To these Minutes is appended the Minutes of the Sub-Committee on Fellowships for the information of the members of the Commission. This appears as Appendix E.

G.Z.

Appendix A

Report of the Committee on Adult and University Education

April 29, 1930.

To the Commission on Jewish Education:

Gentlemen:

Your Committee on Adult and University Education begs to submit the following report:

(1) At the last meeting of the Commission it was decided that this sub-committee prepare, first of all, a paper on Adult Education in Judaism, for the purpose of stimulating interest in this phase of religious education. The sub-committee at the meeting held after the meeting of the Commission, requested the chairman of this sub-committee to prepare such a paper. This was done and the paper was published and distributed by the Commission on Religious Education.

(2) For the purpose of co-ordinating and advancing the Jewish work at universities, this sub-committee recommended that a conference be called of all national organizations interested in Jewish university work. This recommendation was accepted by the Commission, and the Chairman of the Commission, Dr. David Philipson, issued a call for such a conference, to be held at Harvard University. The conference took place at Cambridge, Mass., on April 28, 1925. Various national organizations sent representatives.

At this conference the chairman of this sub-committee presided, and the following program was presented and adopted by the conference:

(a) As far as the teaching of Judaism is concerned, the Jewish community of America should make an effort to have academic chairs for the teaching of Judaism established at the universities of the country.

(b) As far as work in behalf of Jewish students is concerned, an effort should be made to co-ordinate all the various organizations interested in the subject, in order that duplication might be avoided and proper collaboration be brought about.

(3) Another conference was held at Temple Emanu-El, New York, with representatives from various organizations. Unfortunately, one of the important organizations interested in work among Jewish students at universities was unwilling to commit itself outright to a program of collaboration. It was understood that the representatives of that organization would submit the question to its executive board. No further action was reported and no other meetings of the conference have been held. At that conference a committee was appointed to study the situation at Cornell University, with a view to inaugurating some activity in behalf of Jewish students.

It is gratifying to record that since the Harvard Conference, chairs in Jewish History and Literature and Institutions have been established at American Universities—one at Harvard University by Mr. Lucius N. Littauer and one at Columbia University by Mrs. Nathan J. Miller.

(4) Under the auspices of this committee, a syllabus on Factors in Modern Jewish History, by Dr. Sachar, was issued. It is also proposed to issue a series of source books of Jewish history, and specimen chapters are now being prepared on the first of the series, namely, Sources of Medieval Jewish History.

The sub-committee begs to urge again upon the Commission the importance of the subject of adult education in Judaism. No matter how much progress we may make with our children and young people, no substantial improvement can be expected unless the religious education of our adults is developed. To this end, the sub-committee hopes that the Commission will find it possible to advance the development of adult education and to take steps toward the production of religious literature for adults. The sub-committee feels that there is a considerable number of rabbis among us who might be willing to contribute to such literature, if invited by the Commission to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID MARX
LEON FRAM
H. G. ENELOW, Chairman.

Appendix B

Report of the Director of Educational Research

April 1, 1930.

The educational research of the present year consisted largely of three major projects:

1. An investigation into the knowledge of Jewish history acquired by Sunday School pupils, as revealed on objective examinations.
2. The status of classroom instruction in the Sunday School, as revealed by stenographic reports of lessons.
3. Character Education in the Jewish School.

The first investigation attempted to answer such pertinent questions as:

How much of Jewish history do our pupils actually learn in school? Does that knowledge increase with age, with grade status, with intelligence, with regularity of attendance, with home background, etc.? To what degree do these factors contribute toward knowledge of Jewish history and how can the Jewish school make use of these correlations? Does the Jewish school lay more emphasis on actual knowledge than on the ability to interpret Jewish history and comprehend its continuity? Is there any repetition of subject matter from grade to grade? What misconceptions and errors in Jewish history are prevalent among our pupils?

In order to answer some or all of these pertinent questions it was necessary to examine a large number of pupils in various schools with a set of uniform tests. A series of eight objective tests were therefore prepared and standardized by Rabbi Jacob Pollak and the present writer. These tests are the first standardized tests in the field of Jewish education. The tests themselves, however, constituted only one phase of our investigation. They were merely the tools of research by means of which we gathered objective data on the status of the study of Jewish history in our religious schools. The more important and the more laborious phase of the work was the treatment of the results which the tests yielded. The tests were given under controlled conditions to some 3,000 pupils of grade IV and upward in twelve religious schools of New York, Cleveland and Cincinnati.

The findings revealed by this testing program are presented in a book called Testing the Knowledge of Jewish History, which is herewith submitted for your approval. The monograph presents temporary norms of achievement in Jewish history. These will enable any teacher, principal, or rabbi to use the tests and to compare the results with the norms for each grade and age.

The book includes also a detailed study of children's errors and misconceptions, and a series of Scales of Difficulty in Jewish history similar to Van Wageningen's scales in American history. The scales present the relative difficulty of each of 500 questions covering the whole range of Jewish history.

There is also a chapter on differences between boys and girls in knowledge in Jewish history, and another chapter presents a comparison between Sunday School pupils and those of a typical Hebrew day school in regard to knowledge of Jewish history.

A similar series of Jewish background tests are now in the process of preparation. The tests are based largely on Dr. Rosenau's book on Jewish customs and ceremonies. They cover practically the whole range of Jewish practices of the home and synagogue. These tests are intended for the upper grades of the religious school and for teachers in training. They will also be used by a graduate student in a dissertation on The Jewish Background of Jewish College Students.

The second research project begun this year is a study of classroom instruction in the Sunday School based on stenographic reports of lessons. Twelve classrooms, from the kindergarten through the third year high school, are observed every session of the present school year. The observers are stenographers who are also students in a teacher training school. A copy of each transcribed lesson is sent to the observed teacher who is to correct errors and explain obscurities. The report includes everything the teacher and pupils said and did as well as a description of the class, and the observer's remarks. The lesson is then edited and its weak and strong points analyzed in the light of pedagogic principles. We shall have at the end of the present school year some 300 stenographic lesson reports and some 90 reports of assemblies.

This material will be used for three purposes:

- A. The reports will present a complete picture of the status of classroom instruction in the Sunday School, revealing what is actually being taught. All the classes that are observed will be tested at the end of the year with our standard tests. It will be possible to determine the effect of certain methods of instruction, teacher-pupil relationship, etc., upon achievements and knowledge. It will also

enable us to trace and to remedy numerous shortcomings of instruction in our religious schools.

- B. The best of these lessons, and some of them are splendid, will be edited and published as a volume of Model Lessons for the Jewish Religious School. These will be of value to those who are in training for Sunday School instruction, as well as to teachers with little teaching experience, to teachers in small communities, etc.
- C. The reports will be used as source material for more detailed studies in Jewish education, such as
 - 1. A study of children's vocabulary in a religious school.
 - 2. A study of the growth of children's religious ideas as revealed in classroom discussion (particularly in high school.)
 - 3. A study of the overlapping of subject matter from grade to grade in the Sunday School.

The reports contain sufficient material for a number of doctoral dissertations. We have the requests of two graduate students of Teachers College who wish to use the reports for their theses.

Your Director of Educational Research has continued his work toward the preparation of a curriculum of character education of our religious schools. A paper on "Confirmation Manuals and Their Value for Character Education" was read at the Teachers Convention at Canton, Ohio; a paper on "Character Education in the Jewish School" was read before the New England convention at Hartford; and another paper on "Jewish Religious Education and its Effects upon Character Growth" was read at the regional conference of the Religious Education Association at Baltimore.

Our book on "Cooperation and Competition" was published by Columbia University in the beginning of the present scholastic year. It is a study of group loyalty among children in the upper grades of the elementary school.

Your director also collaborated with Professors Hugh Hartshorne and Mark May of Yale University on a volume called "Studies in Service and Self-control," published recently by Macmillan. The book is the second volume of the Character Education Inquiry.

Respectfully submitted,

JULIUS B. MALLER,
Director Educational Research

Appendix C

A REPORT ON CRADLE ROLL

by

Rabbi Louis I. Egelson

June 5, 1930.

— — —

1. At the meeting of the Board of Editors on Religious School Literature, held December 9, 1919, a letter was presented from Rabbi Samuel Koch, urging that the Board of Editors publish a Cradle Roll Certificate and a descriptive pamphlet telling of the plans of the Cradle Roll Department in the Religious School.
2. At the meeting of the Commission on Jewish Religious Educational Literature, held February 23, 1921, the Committee on Cradle Roll Department, consisting of Rabbis David Marx, Abram Simon and Harry Levi, reported verbally on the subject. The Committee was requested to submit its report in writing.
3. At the meeting of the Commission on Jewish Educational Literature, held January 18, 1922, the Chairman of the Committee on Cradle Roll, Dr. David Marx, presented the following report, which was ordered spread upon the minutes:

"Gentlemen:

In regard to the Cradle Roll, I do not think that the need is sufficiently great to warrant the expense necessary to publish literature, etc. Would suggest the blessing of infants by the rabbi in the Temple at such time as is convenient for the parents to bring the child. A suitable card in honor of the occasion might be appropriate."

That is the status of the action of the Commission with reference to the Cradle Roll Department.

We have a letter from Mrs. Steinfeld, President of the N. F. T. S. suggesting that we utilize some form of Cradle Roll cards in our Jewish Religious Schools.

Cradle Roll Material

If the Commission should so decide, we could get up some Cradle Roll Material consisting of the following items:

1. An enrollment card congratulating the parents, and asking that the child's name be placed on the Cradle Roll.
- 2a. Notification card. When the name of the baby has been entered on the Cradle Roll of the school, this card is sent to the mother.
- or 2b. Cradle Roll Greetings. A booklet containing certificate of enrollment and various poetical or scriptural quotations.
3. A party invitation card for Cradle Roll parties.
4. Cradle Roll invitation cards for special exercises that may mark the day.
5. Cradle Roll card with spaces for a number of names of children in the Cradle Roll Department.
6. A Cradle Roll bank to be kept in the home where parents and relatives might fill it with contributions, charity and otherwise in the name of the baby.
7. A series of birthday post cards for members of the Cradle Roll marking their birthdays from 1 to 5 or 6.

The initial cost of producing about 1000 sets of the material mentioned above would be about \$500. If more than 1000 sets are ordered printed the cost per set would be greatly reduced.

Appendix D

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE ON FELLOWSHIPS
of the
COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION

A meeting of the Committee on Fellowships was held at the Hotel Providence Biltmore, Providence, R. I., on Wednesday, June 25th.

Rabbis David Philipson, Julian Morgenstern, H. G. Enelow and George Zepin, were present, and Dr. Emanuel Gamoran.

General Problems

At the suggestion of Dr. Enelow, the Committee discussed a number of general problems dealing with the policies to be pursued in the award of fellowships. The discussion resulted in the following action.

It was resolved that whenever possible, graduates of the Hebrew Union College should be given preference in the award of fellowships.

On motion of Dr. Enelow, duly seconded and carried,—

It was resolved that a method be devised for publicly announcing that the Union had such fellowships available, this announcement to be made to the proper University officials, and to the Jewish students attending the various universities of this country.

On motion of Dr. Morgenstern, duly seconded and carried,—

It was resolved that printed application blanks be prepared setting forth the facts about the fellowships, and requesting the following information:

- A. Age, residence and academic degrees.
- B. A complete transcript of the record of each applicant from all schools that he attended.
- C. The religious and other Jewish affiliations of each applicant.

- D. A statement as to aim and purpose in applying for this fellowship.
- E. Educational experience.
- F. The application should contain a statement of the pledge implied in the acceptance of this fellowship, namely, the obligation to render two years service to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations upon graduation, if a position is available with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, or to the Hebrew Union College, or in any of its departments.
- G. Also, that during the period of the fellowship, the applicant should not undertake any gainful occupation without the permission of the officers of the Commission. Also, that such remunerative work or voluntary service along the lines of educational work as is required by the officers of the Commission, be undertaken by the applicant.
- H. Each applicant shall be required to undergo a physical examination at the expense of the Commission.

It was further resolved that the task of preparing the questionnaire be delegated to Dr. Gamoran, who is to prepare same, and submit copies to all members of the Committee on Fellowships before the same is printed by the officers.

Renewal of Fellowships

Dr. Gamoran reported with reference to the status of Mr. Morris Arzt.

It was resolved that Mr. Arzt's fellowship should be renewed on condition that he undertake to present himself for re-examination (at Teachers College) in February, and that the fellowship be continued thereafter only if he passes the examination.

Dr. Gamoran presented the status of Dr. Harry Comins.

It was resolved that Dr. Comins' fellowship be renewed for one year, provided that Dr. Comins arrange to complete a course of studies by the end of one year, the studies to be prescribed by Dr. Gamoran.

Also, that Dr. Gamoran advise the members of this Committee, as soon as possible, of the studies to be pursued by Dr. Comins, and of the department of the Union that Dr. Comins will be ready to enter upon the completion of the year of work.

Dr. Gamoran reported with reference to the status of Mr. Joseph Zubin.

In view of the fact that Mr. Zubin's doctorate thesis will be ready in the early fall, and in view of the fact that the present fellowship will continue until September, it was resolved that for the present, no action be taken with reference to the renewal of this fellowship.

Should it appear, in the Fall, that Mr. Zubin requires more time for the completion of his thesis, —

It was resolved that the Committee be empowered to take whatever steps necessary at that time.

It was further resolved that the Committee determine before the conclusion of Mr. Zubin's thesis in the Fall, the character of the service that Mr. Zubin is to render in this department.

Applicants for Fellowships

It was resolved that not more than four fellowships should be awarded.

Applications were received from the following for fellowships in pedagogy.

1. Mr. E. A. Nudelman, c/o Board of Jewish Education, 1800 Selden St., Chicago, Ill.
2. Mr. Israel L. Eisenberg, 1625 Ocean Ave., c/o East Midwood Jewish Center, Brooklyn, New York.
3. Mr. Joseph Elkin, c/o Emanuel Hebrew School, 809 Westchester Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
4. Rabbi Michael Alper, 547 W. 147th Street, New York, N. Y.
5. Miss Dorothy Zeligs, 670 Rockdale Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.
6. Mr. Joseph M. Fish, 860 Windham Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.
7. Mr. Samuel H. Rosenberg, 202 Ross Street, Brooklyn, New York.

8. Mr. Herman Ashrey, c/o Miss Judith Israelite, Rm. 1190,
11 W. 42nd St., New York City.
9. Rabbi Harry J. Brevis, 40 W. 68th St., New York, N. Y.

Since the above applications were received, two applicants have withdrawn.

The application of Rabbi Harry J. Brevis, 40 West 68th Street, New York, N. Y., was given special consideration. Rabbi Brevis' letter indicated that he is blind. Inasmuch as these fellowships have been established for the purpose of training a group of men to assume positions of leadership in our own organization, it was the opinion of the Committee that Rabbi Brevis' physical handicap would prove to be an insurmountable obstacle for such leadership. The application was carefully and sympathetically considered, but his request was not granted.

The officers were instructed to inform Rabbi Brevis of the decision of the Committee and also to write to Judge Irving Lehman and Mr. Arthur Hays Sulzberger, from whom letters have been received with reference to Rabbi Brevis, indicating that Rabbi Brevis was already prepared in view of his present training to pursue such educational activities as he would be called upon to perform and that it was not necessary to obtain a doctorate degree in pedagogy to be qualified to teach Jewish subjects.

Correspondence with reference to all of the applicants was considered, and it was finally resolved that Dr. Enelow, as well as Dr. Gamoran, interview Mr. Joseph Elkin, Mr. Samuel H. Rosenberg, and Mr. Herman Ashrey, for the purpose of securing all necessary information and that this information, together with the recommendation of Dr. Enelow and Dr. Gamoran, be forwarded to all members of this Committee for their information, and to the Chairman of this Committee for final decision.

Assistance in Preparation of Theses

A letter was presented from Dr. Julius Maller recommending that assistance be rendered to the following persons who were pursuing special research studies at Teachers College.

A. Mr. Herman Jacobs, director of a community center in Brooklyn, a graduate student at Teachers College, who is conducting a study on "The Influence of Attendance at a Jewish School upon Honesty."

B. Miss Judith Israelite, who is one of our part-time employees in the New York office, and who is preparing a Master's thesis at Columbia, on the problem of "The Jewish Background of Jewish College Students."

C. Mr. A. Klein, teacher in one of Rabbi Pollak's Hebrew Schools, who is preparing a Master's thesis on "The Jewish College Student's Knowledge of Jewish History."

The Committee expressed itself in favor of granting the necessary assistance, and referred the matter to Rabbi Zepin and Dr. Gamoran for execution.

ADJOURNED

DAVID PHILIPSON, Chairman

GEORGE ZEPIN, Secretary



TENTATIVE PROGRAM
Forty-First
ANNUAL CONVENTION
of the
CENTRAL CONFERENCE
of
AMERICAN RABBIS



PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

WEDNESDAY, JUNE TWENTY-FIFTH TO
MONDAY, JUNE THIRTIETH
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY

PROGRAM

Tuesday, June 24th, 10:00 A. M.
MEETING OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday, June 25th, 9:30 A. M.

Opening Prayer

Address of Welcome Morris Newfield

Response

Roll Call

REPORTS:

President David Lefkowitz

Recording Secretary Isaac E. Marcuson

Corresponding Secretary James G. Heller

Treasurer Felix A. Levy

Solicitation Committee Harry S. Margolis

Investment Committee Felix A. Levy

Finance Morris Newfield

Publications Isaac E. Marcuson

Tracts Leo M. Franklin

Church and State Edward N. Calisch

Cooperation with International and
National Organizations David Lefkowitz

Synagog Council of America

International Peace Max C. Currick

Curators of Archives Henry Englander

Cooperation with Jewish Publication
Society Wm. H. Fineshriber

Wednesday Afternoon, 2:30 P. M.

REPORTS:

Arbitration David Marx

Social Justice Edward L. Israel

Liturgical Literature David Philipson

Contemporaneous History Felix A. Levy

Wednesday Evening, 8:00 P. M.

Opening Prayer

Evening Service from the Union Prayer Book

President's Message David Lefkowitz

Memorial Resolutions

JULIUS FRANK Sidney Regner

SAMUEL S. KAPLAN Joseph Baron

MAYER MESSING Morris M. Feuerlicht

DAVID GOODIS Samuel H. Baron

JACOB NIETO Louis I. Newman

Kaddish and Benediction

Thursday, June 26th, 9:30 A. M .

Opening Prayer

REPORTS:

Synagog Music	Louis Wolsey
Relief	Joseph Stolz
Source Books of Reform	Joseph Rauch
Falashas	Isaac Landman

Thursday Afternoon Free for Committee Meetings

Thursday Evening, 8:00 P. M.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE UNION PRAYERBOOK:

1. The Union Prayerbook in the Evolution of the Liturgy—Sol B. Freehof
2. The Function of a Public Prayerbook—Israel Bettan
3. The Religious Ideas of a Union Prayerbook—Samuel S. Cohon
4. The Devotional Value of the Union Prayerbook—Jonah B. Wise

Friday Morning, June 27th, 9:30 A. M.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DAY

Opening Prayer

REPORT:

Committee on Religious Education Louis L. Mann

DISCUSSION:

Methods of Teaching the Idea of God to Children—Louis Wolsey
and Barnet R. Brickner

Friday Afternoon, 2:30 P. M.

Commission on Religious Education David Philipson
Discussion of Papers on Union Prayerbook.

Friday Evening, 8:00 P. M.

Evening Service from the Union Prayer Book

Conference Lecture Solomon Foster

Adoration and Kaddish

Benediction David Lefkowitz

Saturday Morning, June 28th, 10:00 A. M.

Morning Service from the Union Prayer Book

Reading from the Torah

Conference Sermon Emil W. Leipziger

Benediction Morris Newfield

Saturday Afternoon

ROUND TABLES (To be carried on simultaneously)

PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF THE MINISTRY:

1. A Bureau of Synagog Research—Sidney Goldstein, Chairman
2. The Rabbi and the General Community—Joseph Rauch
Chairman.
3. Methods of Teaching the Idea of God to Children—Louis L.
Mann, Chairman.

4:30 to 5 P. M.

Synopsis of Discussion of Round Tables by Chairmen.

Saturday Evening

Meeting of the Hebrew Union College Alumni Association.

Sunday Morning, June 29th, 10:00 A. M.

Opening Prayer

REPORTS:

Responsa Jacob Z. Lauterbach
Committee on Resolutions
Committee on President's Message

Sunday Afternoon Free.

Sunday Evening, June 29th, 8:00

ADDRESS:

"The Condition of Jewry and Judaism in South America"—Dr. I.
Raffalovich of the Jewish Colonization Association at Rio
Janeiro, Brazil.

REPORTS:

Thanks
Nominations
Election of Officers
Benediction

Monday Morning, June 30th, 9:30 A. M.

Meeting of the Executive Board

[undated]

Dear Colleague:

So much has been said in the public press about the revision of the Union Prayer Book that our agents report a hesitancy on the part of the people and congregations to buy books. Will you not kindly call your congregation's attention to the fact that a period of at least from five to ten years will elapse before the new book will be ready for the market, if agreed upon. Let us hope that the books are used enough that they will be worn out before the new edition appears.

Cordially yours,

Isaac E. Marcuson

Chairman.

Publications Committee.

RABBI A. H. SILVER:

I have given considerable thought to the subject of the Prayer Book and it has occurred to me that we ought not as a matter of psychology to be revising our Prayer Book so frequently, even if certain objections to certain parts of the Prayer Book are discovered. One of the great values of a ritual is its unbroken continuity, the fact that in the course of time it gathers around itself a host of memories and associations which are stimulating and which surround the worshiper with an emotional atmosphere congenial to soul expression. Its very age contributed^s to its effectiveness; otherwise why have a ritual at all? There are denominations which have no rituals and which rely upon extemporaneous and improvised prayer. The ^{tradition} philosophy of the Jewish prayer book is quite the opposite of that. We have always believed in a ritual. What we should concern ourselves with is not the writing of new Prayer Books but the intensification, or the cultivation of the spirit of prayer among our people - the desire for prayer, the love of prayer. After all is said and done, the value of a prayer lies not so much in what the prayer says but in what the heart says through the medium of the prayer. I have vivid recollections of my mother taking up the old Psalms and reading them in Hebrew, weeping copious tears over them and receiving from them real soul-food and exaltation, although she understood very little of what the Psalms actually said for they were in Hebrew. I have seen people in churches where the whole service was in Latin and where they did not understand the meaning of the prayers at all, and yet they received more uplift and spiritual healing out of that service than many of us who read our cold, intellectual, perfectly proper and rationally correct prayers in our Prayer Book. It is not the Prayer Book which attracts people to worship. It is the people who want to worship, who have a desire to pray, who come to services. You are not going to save Reform Judaism or any other type of Judaism by Prayer Book revision. I am perfectly satisfied to have certain patently objectionable words eliminated. We have been eliminating them for some time. I have been substituting the word "worship" for the word

"rest" in one of our Sabbath prayers for a long time. I have made other slight substitutions but I have not felt the need for a thorough-going revision of the Prayer Book. The trouble is that we are living in an age which is avid for change. Any ritual which you will adopt, your people will tire of in five or ten years. They want novelty. They want their prayers changed as frequently as their movies are changed - a new bill every week. It is largely those who have lost the gift of prayer and the desire for prayer who demand a new Prayer Book every few years. This is an age which is clamoring for companionate marriages; let us not begin to clamor for companionate prayer books as well.

I should like to see a group of men representing the best minds in this Conference make a study of the entire subject over a period of years and then bring in their well considered findings to this body. I do not believe that we should allow ourselves to be driven into precipitate action because a group of laymen, meeting in convention and at the instigation of a few men expressed themselves in favor of a change in the Prayer Book. Let us make a thorough study of the whole subject. If as a result of these studies, we come to the conclusion that a thorough-going revision is necessary we shall then be warranted in taking such action. At the present time we are not in position to act. We should therefore not make a public declaration that we favor revision.

Rabbi A. H. Silver: I have given considerable thought to this^e subject
of the Prayer Book and it has occurred to me in the first place that
we ought not as a matter of psychology to be revising our Prayer Book
so frequently, even if ~~such~~ certain objections to certain parts of the
Prayer Book ~~be readily~~^{are} discovered. One of the great values^{is its unbroken continuity} of a ritual
~~is~~ the very fact that in the course of time it gathers^{around itself} a host of
~~happy~~^{And associations} memories which are stimulating and which surround the worshiper
with an emotional, ~~shall I say~~, atmosphere which is congenial to soul
expression, ~~through prayer~~. Its very age contributed to ~~its~~^{its effectiveness} otherwise
why have a ritual at all? There are denominations which have no rituals
and ~~must depend~~^{which rely} upon ~~its~~ temporaneous and ~~spontaneous~~^{improvised} prayers. The
~~philosophy~~^{philosophy} of the Jewish prayer book is quite the opposite of that.
We have always believed in a ritual. What we ~~ought to be concerned about~~^{should concern ourselves with}
is not ~~new~~^{the writing of} Prayer Books but the intensification, or the cultivation of
the ~~devotional spirit~~^{spirit of prayer} among our people -- the desire ~~for~~ for prayer,
the love of prayer, ~~because~~ After all is said and done, the value of
a prayer ~~is~~^{lies} not so much what the prayer says but what the heart says
through the ~~prayer~~^{medium of the}. I have vivid recollections of my Mother and my
~~grandmother~~^{mother} who would sit down and take^{up} the old Psalms and readⁱⁿ them
in Hebrew, ~~and~~^{we} weep copious tears over them and received^{we fear them} real exaltation,
~~and I am sure that neither of them understood four-fifths~~^{although she understood very little} of what the
Psalms ~~said~~^{actually} because they were in Hebrew. I have seen people in
Catholic church ~~with~~^{as when} the whole services^{was} in Latin and ~~the~~ where they
did not understand the ~~whole~~ meaning of the prayers at all, ~~received~~^{and yet they}
~~much more~~^{uplift and spiritual healing} ~~soil feed~~ out of that service than many of us who read our
cold, intellectual, perfectly proper, ~~rational~~^{and} ~~correct~~^{correct} prayers in
our Prayer Book. ~~It is~~^{it is} not the Prayer Book which attracts people to
worship, ~~it is~~^{it is} the people who want to worship, who have a desire to
pray, who come to services, ~~and pray~~. You are not going to save Reform

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Dear Friend:-

In our country there are many rabbis who have served until old age has come upon them and they have become unable to carry on the active labor of the ministry. There are also many widows of rabbis the death of whose husbands has left them destitute. Both are dependent upon the little that can be given them from the Special Fund for the support of infirm rabbis, their widows and orphans, established by the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

The Conference has made only a small appeal up to this time. But the number of cases is increasing, and we must also increase our aid to them. The President of the Conference has, therefore, requested me to make this effort to collect as large an amount as possible for this good cause.

There is no other agency or fund at present to take care of the pathetic cases of these men who have served our cause and who are now too old to work on,- or whose widows are in want.

The Conference does not ask for any extravagant contributions. We ask you merely to help, to do what your heart may prompt, to send us in the enclosed envelope your check for any sum from One to Fifty Dollars,- as much as you feel able to do.

Please do not disregard this appeal for what you will surely admit is a real duty for all of us. Anticipating an early and favorable reply, I am, in the name of Israel,

Sincerely yours,

I have made other slight substitutions but

Judaism or any other type of Judaism by Prayer Book ^{Revision}. I am perfectly satisfied to have certain patently objectionable words ^{eliminated, have been eliminating in some times} ~~omitted~~. We are ~~omitting~~ ^{eliminating} them ~~already~~. I have been substituting the word "worship" for the word "rest" ^{in those Sabbath prayers} for a long time, ~~and~~ I have not felt the need ^{for a thoroughgoing} of revising the Prayer Book, ~~for that purpose~~. The trouble is that we are living in an age which is avid for change. Any ritual which you will ^{adapt, your} give people will tire of in five or ten years. They want novelty. They want their prayers changed ^{as frequently} as their ~~moved~~ movies are changed, a new bill every week, ~~and~~ ^{largely} it is ~~mostly~~ those who have lost the gift of prayer and the desire for prayer who ^{demand} ~~allow this demand for~~ a new Prayer Book. ^{Every few years} This is an age which is clamoring for companionate marriages; let us not begin to clamor for companionate prayer books, ^{as well,}

I should like to see a group of ~~these~~ ^{representative} men, the best minds in this Conference make a study of ~~this~~ ^{the} entire subject over a period of years and ^{then} bring in their well considered findings to this body ~~in the course of time~~. I do not believe that we ^{should allow ourselves} ~~have to be driven~~ ^{precipitate} into action because a group of laymen, meeting in convention at the instigation of a few ~~people~~ ^{men}, ~~vote that they want a change in the~~ ^{should themselves in January} Prayer Book. Let us make a thorough study of the whole subject, and ~~when these reports or findings are brought in, let them be~~ carefully discussed by our body and action taken. If as a result of these studies, we come to the conclusion that a ~~revision or a~~ ^{we shall then be warranted in taking} throughgoing revision is necessary ~~to take~~ such action. At the present time we are not in position to act, ~~and therefore I believe~~ ^{therefore} we should not make a ^{public} declaration that we favor revision.

Please correct & return promptly. D. M.

[undated]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LITURGICAL LITERATURE

No meeting of this committee has been held during the past year for the reason that it has been thought advisable to await further action of the Conference on the subject of the revision of the Union Prayer Book, following the conducting of the symposium at the Providence session. In accordance with the suggestion made at the Detroit Conference in 1929 a questionnaire was mailed to the members of the Conference. Eighty replies were received. Since the Conference has three hundred and forty-six members, less than twenty-five percent of the membership were heard from. The replies to the questionnaire will be presented for consideration to a meeting of the Liturgical Committee during the coming year.

The resolution adopted at the convention of the U. H. C. at San Francisco, 1929 that the Conference of American Rabbis be requested to appoint a committee, with which a committee of five laymen, to be appointed by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, may confer on/recasting and revising the Union Prayer Book, was referred by the Executive Board of the Conference to the Committee on Liturgical Literature. The Joint Committee met at the home of Mr. Roger W. Straus, in New York City, on March 11, 1930. There were present all five members of the committee of the Union viz: Messrs. Roger W. Straus, A. Leo Weil, Lester Aaron, Dr. Edward E. Meyer and Dr. F. H. Hirschland; of the Conference Committee four were present, Rabbis David Philipson, Edward M. Calisch, Abram Simon and Samuel Schulman. The fifth member, Rabbi Samuel H. Goldenson was detained by a funeral. The subject of revision was fully discussed by all present, but no action was taken. It was decided to adjourn without making any definite recommendation to the parent bodies but to meet again at some convenient time after the meeting of the Central Conference in Providence. Therefore nothing remains but to report progress.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAIRMAN.

[undated]

REVISION OF UNION PRAYER BOOK

Dear Colleague:

At the last convention it was moved and adopted that a questionnaire be sent to the members to ascertain whether a revision of the Union Prayer Book at this time was desired and what the nature of the revision should be. Kindly fill out this questionnaire and return it promptly to the undersigned. Your reply must be returned by January 15th to receive consideration.

Cordially yours,

Isaac E. Marcuson

Secretary, Liturgical Committee.

1. Are you in favor of a revision of the Union Prayer Book?
If so why?



2. Specify your objections to the present volume.

a—Theological?

b—Literary?

3. What other objections have you?

(Over)

4. Do you think there should be more or less Hebrew than in the present book?

5. Do you think the present responses should be retained?

If not, what other responses do you suggest?



6. Give any other thoughts that you may have on the Subject of Revision?

[undated]

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

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Dear Colleague:

The President with the approval of the Executive Board has appointed you on the Committee given below. Kindly advise acceptance of appointment at once so that the yearbook can appear earlier this year.

Cordially yours,

Isaac E. Marcuson

Recording Secretary.

LITURGICAL COMMITTEE

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Heller, Bernard
Mendelsohn, S. F.

Rappaport, Julius
Faber, Morris
Sale, Samuel
Silver, Abba H.
Raisin, Jacob S.

COPY

Oct. 17th, 1929.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Friend Silver:-

In planning the various matters that are to come before the Executive Board of the Conference in Cincinnati on the 29th of Oct. I have had in mind, of course, the naming of a place for the next Conference. This will have to be decided at the Board meeting. Up to date, no satisfactory place of meeting has been suggested. Lake Hopatcong in New Jersey had been mentioned but investigation found it not desirable, as it was first thought. Then we had again an invitation from Ashville, N. C. You recall that the Ashville Conference a number of years ago was pleasant, but did not draw many members, and we also remember that one of our colleagues was stricken and died there. To some of our members the high altitude was not so favorable.

I thought, therefore, that if it would be at all agreeable to the Cleveland Jewish community, it would be a fine thing to have the Conference invited to meet there next June, for the reason that in June 1930 it will be forty years since the Conference met for its really first program meeting at Cleveland (the organization meeting with no definite program meeting was, of course, held in Detroit.) It was in Cleveland at this first business meeting that the first draft of the Union Prayer book was presented by Moses Mielziener, of blessed memory.

I hope that you see the sentimental value of having the 1930 meeting in Cleveland, and that you agree with me as to the matter of it being the logical place for the Conference meeting for next year. I hope that you will consult with your colleagues in Cleveland, and if they are of the same mind, that you will offer Cleveland as the place of meeting to the Executive Board of the Conference when this matter will be taken up. Could you let me have your answer either here in Dallas or at the Sinton Hotel in Cincinnati where I will be from the 28th of October to the 30th? With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

(signed) David Lefkowitz