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

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

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

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Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1938-1939.



# CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

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ISADOR E. PHILO, Youngstown, Ohio  
ABRAM SIMON, Washington, D. C.

Oct. 27, 1938.

Dear Colleague:

At a meeting of the Executive Board held last week, a committee consisting of Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, as Chairman, James G. Heller, A. H. Silver, Louis L. Mann, Sidney Goldstein and Jacob Z. Lauterbach was appointed to suggest some rules for the guidance of members in the matter of Inter-marriage. You will recall that this committee was the outcome of the paper read at the Columbus convention and resulted in appointment of a committee to report on what our attitude should be in regard to performing ceremonies in case of Inter-marriage. The motion carried with it the thought that rules should be drawn up for the guidance of the members to be presented to the next convention for discussion and possible adoption.

Cordially yours,

*Isaac E. Marcuson*  
Isaac E. Marcuson, Secretary.

IEM:b

B.



November 1, 1938

Rabbi Isaac E. Marcuson, Secretary  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
204 Buford Place  
Macon, Ga.

My dear Rabbi Marcuson:

Let me thank you for your kind letter of  
October 27. I am sorry that I will not be able  
to serve on the committee for the guidance of  
members in the matter of Inter-marriage.

With best wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



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Office of President  
523 W. Ninth Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania  
December 15, 1938.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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ISADOR E. PHILO, Youngstown, Ohio  
ABRAM SIMON, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Silver:

I have received from the New York office of the United Palestine Appeal the letter sent to national organizations which asks that I appoint five delegates from the Central Conference of American Rabbis to the Washington Conference. I shall be very glad to do this, but I think I ought first to get the approval of the Executive Board.

So, if you hear that there is a delay in obtaining the names of the Central Conference of American Rabbis delegates, you will understand. Also, if there are any of our men who you think should be appointed, I shall be glad to have your suggestions.

Best wishes from house to house,

Yours,

*Currick*



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ISADOR E. PHILO, Youngstown, Ohio  
ABRAM SIMON, Washington, D. C.

December 13, 1938.  
(Dict. December 12)

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Colleague:

As Chairman of the Program Committee of the Conference it is my pleasure to invite you to give one of the two general papers which will be presented at the next Conference which is the 50th Anniversary of the Conference.

The subject chosen is "The World Crisis and Jewish Survival". The second paper proposed will be on "The Jew, Champion of the Ideals of Democracy; A Survey and a Program". The Conference Lecture will also be devoted to an allied subject, as the general topic "The Jew, the Perpetual Sacrifice on the Altar of Freedom."

It is the sincere hope of the whole Committee composed of Rabbi James Heller and Dr. Israel Bettan and myself that you will accept this assignment. The Anniversary Conference should be one of great significance, and the Committee feels sure that your Message would help to make it so.

Hoping to hear affirmatively at your earliest opportunity, I remain,

Yours fraternally,

Emil W. Leipziger,  
Chrmn. Program Comm.

EWL:AB



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Office of President  
523 W. Ninth Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania

December 28, 1938.

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Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Silver:

Some of us have had it out with Libby a number of times on the question you raise. You will remember that at one time he was openly charged with being pro-Nazi. I think he more or less successfully refuted it. You will remember that Ed Israel withdrew from the N.C.P.W.

He is so much a one track pacifist that he judges every event and every utterance by what he thinks the effect will be on the peace between nations. I quite agree with you that the A. P. statement you sent me reads precisely as the Nazi propaganda machine would want it to, and I shall write Libby a very vigorous protest. Thank you for calling the matter to my attention.

On another matter: So far I have one delegate to the U.P.A. convention, Feuer. Have you any recommendations for the others?

And still another: I have been told that Feinberg of Mt. Neboh Congregation, in New York, has been called to Denver. My assistant, Burton E. Levinson, now in his third year with us, is eager to get on his own. If you get the chance to say a word for him he will appreciate it. You know he comes from Cleveland.

With best wishes, as always,

Yours,

*Max C. Currick*



December 29, 1938

Dr. Max C. Currick  
523 W. Ninth Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania

My dear Currick:

Perhaps Dr. Philo, Felix A. Levy, Philip Bernstein, Dr. Charles Shulman, Abraham Feldman, George Lieberman might be considered as delegates to the Washington Conference of the United Palestine Appeal.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



December 29, 1933.

Mr. Frederick J. Libby,  
The National Council for Prevention of War,  
532 17th Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Libby:

The A. P. article of Dec. 23 on the permanent Atlantic fleet, contains the following paragraph from the statement issued by the National Council for Prevention of War: (I quote also the introductory paragraph)

"The National Council for Prevention of War issued a statement declaring President Roosevelt was fully responsible for recent official criticism of the Nazi regime, and added:

"The question may well be raised whether recent statements by administration officials are a part of an effort to create an international spirit of fear and hate which will overcome ~~the~~ rising opposition to the president's armament program, and to excite the American people to a point where they would be willing to fight a foreign war."

I think this is a most astonishing statement coming from you or the organization. Would you silence all condemnation of the horribly cruel persecutions now being perpetrated in Germany because it might arouse the anger of the civilized world? Should it not do so? Even if it would have the consequences your statement suggests, which I certainly do not believe, who would be at fault, the perpetrator of barbarous outrages or the humane objector to them? Who has created the spirit of "fear and hate", the people of the United States or the German Government? Your approach to this part of the question is utterly incomprehensible to me, who know you so well.

One of the most eminent rabbis of the country, who can by no means be considered a war monger, has written me an indignant letter about your statement. It contains the following paragraphs:

"Consciously or unconsciously, this is dastardly Nazi propaganda. This is the Nazi way of silencing criticism in foreign countries, by denouncing all the critics of their barbarism as war fomenters and breeders of hate. If this line is now to be adopted by a liberal American



December 29, 1938.

organization working for international peace, then we shall be faced with the situation when any criticism of Nazi and Fascist terrorism, whether on the part of officials of our government or lay leaders, will be branded as war mongering. The only governments which would then be free to denounce and criticize will be dictatorships, which seemingly have no fear of fomenting war either by their actions or by attacks on the part of their controlled press of democracies and of democratic officials in all parts of the world.

This is a serious matter, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis ought to protest against this amazing position taken by the National Council for Prevention of War."

I quite agree with his point of view and must add that your statement apparently justifies those who say that Hitler is beginning his campaign not only of poisoning the sources of American public opinion but also of actually controlling them.

As one who has in the past actively co-operated with the National Council for Prevention of War and as president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis which has also done so for many years, I must protest against the position of the National Council for Prevention of War which would in effect silence all criticism of Germany's gross inhumanity both by officials and private citizens on the ground that possibly the normal expression of decent, moral and religious sentiments may lead those who utter them to feel ready to fight. We want no wars and do not wish to go to war with Germany or any other country but we must maintain the fine American tradition, official and private, of protesting against political, religious and racial persecution.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Max C. Currick

CC to Dr. Abba Hkillel Silver



December 29, 1938

Dr. Emil W. Leipsiger  
7624 St. Charles Ave.  
New Orleans, La.

My dear Dr. Leipsiger:

Please pardon the delay in answering your kind letter. I have been away from the city a good deal of the time and my correspondence has lagged.

I appreciate very much your invitation to read a Paper before the forthcoming convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis on the subject "The World Crisis and Jewish Survival". I would have preferred that this invitation were extended to me some other year when I would not be as busy as I am this year. As you know, I am national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal and I have been devoting all my spare time to campaign activities. Beginning January, the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal are going out on a United Campaign for Twenty Million Dollars. This will involve me in even more traveling and lecturing. I will therefore have little time to spend at my desk.

However, since this is the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Central Conference, I feel obligated to accept your very complimentary invitation and I shall do my best.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

P.S. What are the dates of the Conference, and where will it be held?



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ABRAM SIMON, Washington, D. C.

January 3, 1939.

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

Dear Colleague:

I want to thank you for your acceptance of the assignment of the Program Committee of the Conference. I am sure I may speak for the Committee as well as for myself.

The Executive Committee decided the Conference should be in Washington, but they were waiting to determine the date on some conference that Simon was having in Washington. Whether Simon's unfortunate passing will change our plans or not I do not know. As soon as I get final word of the date, I shall let you know.

Again thanking you for your cooperation, I remain,

Yours fraternally,

Emil W. Leipziger  
Chrmn. Program Committee

EWL:AB



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ABRAM SIMON, Washington, D. C.

January 27, 1939.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Colleague:

You will want to know the exact date of the Rabbinical Conference. It will begin June 13 and will be held at Washington.

It was nice to see you in Cincinnati. Your inspiring Address gave us of the Central Conference a foretaste of the pleasure we shall have in hearing your message with reference to the 50th Anniversary of the Conference.

Fraternally yours,

Emil W. Leipziger.

EWL:AB



C O P Y

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS  
OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN  
Committee on Solicitation of Funds  
840 Vernon Avenue  
Glencoe, Illinois

February 2, 1939.

Dear Colleague:

I have reluctantly consented to act for another year as Chairman of the Committee on Solicitation of Funds for the Conference. You know it is a thankless task; but the job has to be done.

This time our work is complicated. In addition to the usual problem of caring for our own impoverished and indigent Rabbis, there is the German situation. The Conference is encouraging small communities in the United States to engage German Rabbis in order to obtain their release from Concentration Camps. Should financial difficulties arise AFTER a German Rabbi settles in a small community, the Conference may have to step in and help with a few dollars here and there. Small amounts will be involved and it seems that the Welfare Funds cannot plan for such exigencies.

Our goal this year is \$25,000.00. There are two ways in which you can help: Ask the Welfare Fund in your city for funds, or solicit your congregation by letter. It does not matter which course you follow. The need is imperative.

Enclosed is a postal card for your reply. Won't you make my task easier by returning it to me at once.

Awaiting word from you and with kindest personal greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

Charles E. Shulman, Chairman.

CES:RS



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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

April 1, 1939

Rabbi Emil Leipsiger  
New Orleans, La.

Please wire what day and session of  
Conference I am to address. Must know  
that in order to make other engagements.  
Kindest regards.

Abba Hillel Silver



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Office of Chairman  
Committee on Solicitation of Funds  
840 Vernon Avenue  
Glencoe, Illinois

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## COMMITTEE ON SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

CHARLES E. SHULMAN, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM G. BRAUDE

ABRAM BRILL

JOSEPH H. GUMBINER

DAVID LEFKOWITZ

HARRY S. MARGOLIS

IRVING F. REICHERT

April 17, 1939.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Friend:

You will recall that last spring we had some correspondence in connection with the solicitation of funds for the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and that you promised that this year you would help to procure some funds for the Conference.

Because of the complications associated with the Refugee rabbis and scholars, I felt that a budget for the Solicitation Committee ought to be set at a sum far in excess of previous collections. With the approval of the Executive Board, I set it at \$25,000 for this year. If congregations such as yours could be prevailed upon to make a representative contribution to the Fund, I do not think we would have very much difficulty in obtaining the sum set. I should like to come to Cleveland to speak to you personally about this matter and, if you deem it advisable, to appeal to your congregation on behalf of the Conference. However, any suggestions that you yourself might offer will be gladly received since you are the best judge of your own situation.

In any event, I am extremely anxious to collect as much of this budget as possible before Shevuoth. I am writing in similar vein to many members who have thus far given me no reply to previous communications. Would you be kind enough to let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

With kindest personal greetings and regards to your family and yourself, I remain

Sincerely yours,

CES:YW

*Charles E. Shulman*



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## COMMITTEE ON SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

CHARLES E. SHULMAN, CHAIRMAN  
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE  
ABRAM BRILL  
JOSEPH. H. GUMBINER  
DAVID LEFKOWITZ  
HARRY S. MARGOLIS  
IRVING F. REICHERT

April 24, 1939.

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,  
E. 105th St. & Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Colleague:

Did you ever listen to Conference debates on Social Justice?

Many of our men wax eloquent about the underdog in society, but when it comes to concrete, specific and simple issues which they themselves can control they are indifferent. JUST CONSIDER:

We have over 300 men in the Conference. This year the desperateness of the European situation caused us to set a budget of \$25,000 for the relief of refugee rabbis and scholars, as well as for our own men and their families. 286 personal letters were sent out recently. 162 rabbis, or almost 60% of the entire Conference, did not even grant me the courtesy of a reply.

I enclose copy of the ORIGINAL letter sent you and STILL UNANSWERED. What shall I report to the Conference this year? That you do not care? That your congregation cannot afford it? Little congregations of 25 or 50 members have contributed upward of \$50.00 each to our fund.

Shall we continue to keep our congregations ignorant of the emergency confronting European rabbis and scholars? All you are asked to do is to send letters to your Temple members, which we shall gladly print for you, or appeal to your Welfare Fund, which we shall gladly help you to do. May I hear from you?

Sincerely yours,

Charles E. Shulman, Chairman.

CES:RS



May 1, 1939

Rabbi Charles E. Shulman  
840 Vernon Avenue  
Glencoe, Ill.

My dear Charles:

I read your letter of April 24 and I can fully appreciate your righteous indignation. I am one of those one hundred sixty-two Rabbis who did not reply to your communication. That, in my case at least, was not due to any lack of courtesy, but simply because I have been chasing around the country like "meshuga" in connection with the United Jewish Appeal, of which, as you probably know, I am national chairman. It was therefore, not through any lack of interest in Social Justice, but perhaps a bit too much interest, that my correspondence has unfortunately lagged.

You may be interested to know that my Temple is bringing a refugee Rabbi over under contract for two years. This will involve the congregation in an outlay of a minimum of \$3000. You will readily understand the reason why we cannot, at this time, appeal to our members for additional refugee Rabbis which are to be assisted through the C.C.A.R.

With all good wishes to you and Avis,  
I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



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ISADOR E. PHILO, Youngstown, Ohio  
CHARLES E. SHULMAN, Glencoe, Ill.

May 10, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Rd.,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Colleague:

Would you kindly let me have a copy of your paper to be read before the convention as soon as possible for the publicity man so that he can get his material ready for the press. Mr. Arthur T. Weil, who writes a column for the American Hebrew and is Washington correspondent for a Buffalo paper, is going to handle the publicity. He ought to have it a few days before the convention.

Cordially yours,

*Isaac E. Marcuson*  
Isaac E. Marcuson, Secretary.

IEM:b



*Cable Mayflower*

*Telephone District 3000*



*The Mayflower*  
*Washington, D. C.*

*Executive Offices*

May 10, 1939

Rabbi A. H. Silver  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

It gives the management of The Mayflower much pleasure to reserve a double room and bath for you, commencing June 14th.

Thanking you for this reservation, and assuring you of our best attention to your comfort, we are

Very truly yours,  
THE MAYFLOWER

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. E. Brown", written over a faint circular stamp that contains a menorah and the words "JEWISH ARCHIVES".

J. E. Brown  
Office Manager



# CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS



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May 15, 1939.

Dear Colleague:

Mr. Arthur T. Weil, 3808 Legation Street, Washington, D. C., who will handle our publicity during the coming convention, has asked for a picture to be used in the local press during the Washington convention. Would you kindly send him either a picture or a cut or a mat for use in publicity?

Cordially yours,

*Isaac E. Marcuson*  
Isaac E. Marcuson, Secretary.

B

*Photo sent  
May 18, 1939*



June 10, 1939

Rabbi Isaac E. Marcuson, Secretary  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Mayflower Hotel  
Washington, D.C.

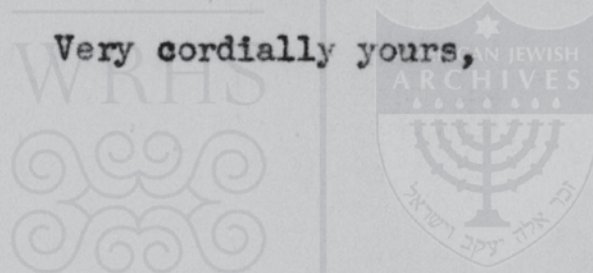
My dear Rabbi Marcuson:

I am enclosing herewith an abstract for publicity  
purposes of the Paper which I am to read at the Conference  
next Wednesday on "The World Crisis and Jewish Survival."

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:EK  
Enc.





June 13, 1939

Rabbi Isaac E. Marcuson, Secretary  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Mayflower Hotel  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Rabbi Marcuson:

Please make the following correction in  
the abstract on "The World Crisis and Jewish Survival"  
which Rabbi Silver sent you on June 10:

On page two, the second paragraph, eleventh  
line from the top, the last word should be one instead  
of our. The sentence should read as follows: "The Jewish  
dispersion is too far-flung for one policy to embrace it all."

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Rabbi Silver.



# **BULLETIN**

## *Golden Jubilee Convention*

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This Jubilee marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of our Conference.

The Convention will be held at Washington, D. C., June 13-18, 1939, with headquarters at the Mayflower Hotel. Make your plans to attend. A letter has been sent to the President of your congregation urging that the congregation pay your expenses.

### **HOTEL RATES**

Mayflower Hotel — Single Room .....\$3.50 to \$ 5.00  
— Double Room, double bed .... 5.00 to 8.00  
— Double Room, twin beds .... 6.00 to 10.00

Lee House            }  
Hay-Adams        }  
LaFayette        }  
                      } — Single Rooms from .....\$3.00  
                      } — Double Rooms from ..... 4.50

### **PROGRAM**

There will be two papers, "The World Crisis and Jewish Survival" by Abba Hillel Silver and "The Jew, Champion of the Ideals of Democracy" by Samuel H. Goldenson. The Conference Lecture will be given by William H. Fineshriber and the Conference Sermon by Julius Mark. There will also be a Round Table under the general topic, "Ways of Fortifying Religious Life." Those participating are William B. Schwartz, Jacob K. Shankman, Maurice Goldblatt, Walter G. Peiser, Melbourne Harris, Jacob J. Ogle and J. Marshall Taxay.



## **BANQUET**

An unusual event of the convention will be the Banquet on Thursday evening where men of national and international reputation will speak.

## **NAVAL OBSERVATORY VISIT**

An official invitation has been extended to permit the members to visit the Naval Observatory and see the stars. Your Program Committee will endeavor to have enough "stars" on the program that this visit may not be necessary.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

There will be a meeting of the Executive Board held at the Mayflower Hotel, June 13, 9:30 A. M. If there is any matter which you wish to bring before the Executive Board, kindly communicate with the Secretary.

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

According to the resolution of the Executive Board, reports will be mimeographed and distributed and only the essential parts read before the convention. Reports must be in the hands of the Secretary at least ten days before the convention. Please prepare your report and send it to the members of your committee for signature. No report can be presented which is not signed by a majority of the membership of the committee.

**MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND THE CONVENTION.** Make your reservations direct to the Mayflower Hotel.

**MAX C. CURRICK,**  
President.

**ISAAC E. MARCUSON,**  
Recording Secretary.