



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and  
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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

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

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

---

Reel  
18

Box  
6

Folder  
400

Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1943-1944.

POST CONFERENCE MEETING, CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS  
JUNE 27, 1943

The post conference meeting of the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis was held in Hotel New Yorker, New York City, Sunday, June 27th, 1943 with the president, Solomon B. Freehof in the chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT. The following members were present; Solomon B. Freehof, Abba Hillel Silver, Harry S. Margolis, Sidney L. Regner, Isaac E. Marcuson, Solomon N. Bazell, Philip D. Bookstaber, Lawrence W. Schwartz, Abraham Schusterman, Maurice Bloom, William G. Braude, James G. Heller, Albert G. Minda, Phineas Smoller, Harry J. Stern. Maurice N. Eisendrath, acting executive secretary of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, was invited to attend the meeting.

MEMBERS ELECTED. Abraham Shinedling, Leo Reichel, Joseph Spevack, and Meyer Machlis were elected to membership. The application of Arthur Meyerowitz was rejected on the ground that he is not engaged in rabbinical work.

REFUGEE RABBIS. William G. Braude was named chairman of the committee on admission of refugee rabbis in place of Solomon N. Bazell, who plans to enter the chaplaincy.

MEMBERSHIP DISCONTINUED. The membership of Harold Goldstein was discontinued, it having come to the attention of the Executive Board that he was no longer in rabbinical work.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, UAHC. Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner was elected to fill the unexpired term of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver on the Executive Board of the Union.

KORNFELD MEMORIAL. The President was asked to appoint someone to write memorial resolution in memory of Joseph S. Kornfeld, the memorial to appear in the forthcoming yearbook.

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS. It was moved and adopted that the president and executive director of the UAHC shall serve as ex-officio members on the Executive Board of the Conference until the Union names a new chairman of the Board. In that case the president and chairman of the Board shall serve as ex-officio members.

PAPERS IN YEARBOOK. It was moved and adopted that Rabbis Polish and Levy be asked to cut the length of their papers and that Rabbi Fineshriber be asked to rewrite his paper and that the secretary shall then publish the four papers on Zionism and Reform Judaism in pamphlet form for distribution.

It was moved and adopted that the papers read at the joint meeting with the Rabbinical Assembly shall not be published.

It was moved and adopted that the Conference recommend to the JEWISH TEACHER that they reprint the papers read by Rabbis Gittlesohn and Feldman on the religious education day program.

DECLARATION OF JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION. It was moved and adopted that the declaration issued by the commission on justice and peace be reprinted in the yearbook.

REPRINTS. The secretary was requested to list reprints on hand in the next bulletin issued.

THANKS. It was moved and adopted that the secretary write a letter of thanks to Temple Emanu-El and to the Free Synagogue for the use of their synagogues for Sabbath services.

RESOLUTIONS. The president named Rabbis Shusterman and Minda as a committee to reword the resolutions which were referred to the Executive Board for revision.

AIR TRAVEL. It was moved and adopted that the present arrangements for air travel be continued.

PROGRAM FOR NEXT CONVENTION. Rabbi Silver and two members to be chosen by him were appointed as a committee on program for next convention to report to the October meeting of the Executive Board.

TIME AND PLACE. Rabbis Margolis, Bookstaber, and Minda were named as a committee to recommend to the October meeting time and place of next convention.

The program committee was instructed to study the question as to the best day of the week on which to start the convention.

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL BOARD. The recommendation that the Conference hold a joint meeting with the Jewish Educational Board was referred to the October meeting of the Executive Board.

FRISCH AND JUSTICE AND PEACE. It was reported that the money which had been collected by Rabbi Frisch while he was acting as executive

director of the Commission on Justice and Peace had been returned to Rabbi Frisch to be sent back to the contributors.

RABBI TINTNER. The request of Rabbi Benjamin A. Tintner that the Executive Board seek to reopen his case and that he be restored to his standing in the chaplaincy was discussed. It was moved and adopted that the Secretary be instructed to notify Rabbi Tintner that there was nothing the Conference could do in the matter.

THEOLOGY VOLUME. Rabbi James G. Heller was named chairman of a committee which he was authorized to organize to plan a volume on Theology as suggested in the message of the president.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING. It was decided that the next meeting of the Executive Board shall be held in Pittsburgh, Penna., Tuesday, October 26, at nine thirty A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Isaac E. Marcuson*  
Isaac E. Marcuson  
Secretary

PLEASE NOTE:

Executive Board Meeting, Pittsburgh, October 26th, 9: 30 A.M.

MARK EISNER  
20 EXCHANGE PLACE  
NEW YORK CITY

October 1st, 1943.

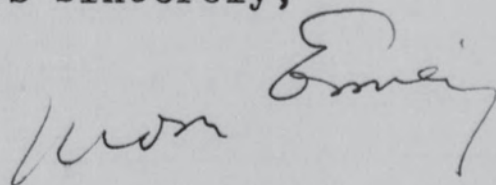
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Much to my regret I find I shall be unable to attend the Union Executive Board Meeting next Sunday afternoon. In view of the fact that Judge Horace Stern of Philadelphia saw fit to circulate among the members of our Board his comments on the resolution which was adopted by the American Jewish Conference, I thought that you might be able to make some use of my letters to Adolph Rosenberg bearing on the subject. I am therefore sending them on to you and you are at full liberty to use these letters as you see fit. I hope the battle will not be too bloody.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark Eisner', written in a cursive style.

ME:RH.  
encl.

MARK EISNER.

September 9, 1943.

Mr. Adolph Rosenberg,  
The Union of American Hebrew Congregations,  
34 West Sixth Street,  
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I will make every effort to attend the meeting of the Executive Board of the Union which you have convened for Sunday, October 3rd. The date chosen for the meeting is not convenient for those of us who must come long distances. It would have been preferable to fix a meeting time later in the year after the Jewish holidays.

In my judgment it would be well to wait a little longer to permit tempers to cool and to crystalize the public reactions. Furthermore, world events are moving so rapidly that a little later our course of action may be more easily discerned.

I do not want to convey the impression that I make this plea for delay because I need more time to think about this matter. I attended the sessions of the American Jewish Conference and have carefully examined its important achievements and resolutions. Personally I am now in hearty accord with the decisions and action taken by the historic Conference. However, I do not see what constructive purpose we can serve at this time by a full dress rehearsal at our Board meeting of the disruptive arguments advanced by the unfortunate Council for American Judaism.

We do not serve Judaism and we most certainly do not serve our Jewish brothers by such debates at this serious juncture in world history. Furthermore, such discussion in our Board may only lead to a weakening of the Union.

If in accordance with the terms of our resolution it is necessary for us to make an immediate decision perhaps we can dispose of the matter by a straight mail vote. This might obviate the baneful publicity which would necessarily emerge from a discussion and which the Jewish enemies are quick to magnify as a demonstration of divisiveness and disunity among Jews.

Sincerely yours,

ME:RH.

MARK EISNER  
20 EXCHANGE PLACE  
NEW YORK CITY

September 23, 1943.

Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, President,  
The Union of American Hebrew Congregations,  
34 West Sixth Street,  
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I have just learned that it will be impossible for me to come to Cincinnati on October 3rd for the meeting of the Executive Board of the Union. I regret exceedingly my enforced absence from this important meeting. I had hoped to have the opportunity to say to my fellow members of the Board that they can best serve the Jewish people and the cause of the Union by endorsing without equivocation the resolutions and decisions which were adopted at the American Jewish Conference.

If possible, please record me as voting for our wholehearted acceptance of these resolutions. Furthermore, I believe that as an important body of lay religious leaders we ought to press for the early implementation of the resolutions.

Those who were privileged to attend the sessions of the American Jewish Conference must have sensed the energy and vitality which inheres in the American Jewish community. Through the medium of the Conference, a truly representative democratic assembly, we are enabled at last to unite and to harness our resources for the Jewish good. Don't let us miss this chance to serve by breaking the American Jewish Community once again into petty fragments. We should not retreat down the paths indicated by a recently created organization which reeks of dissolution and the grave. Let us rather bind American Jewry together to confront our herculean problems with our combined strength and with all our resources of vision and statesmanship.

I pray that my colleagues on our Board will lay aside their dislikes and prejudices to serve with their fellow Jews in the common cause of our people.

Sincerely yours,

*Mark Eisner*

ME RH

MARK EISNER  
20 Exchange Place,  
New York City.

September 29, 1943.

Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, President,  
The Union of American Hebrew Congregations,  
34 West Sixth Street,  
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

Since receiving Judge Stern's mimeographed letter I have decided to send to you enough copies of my letter of September 23rd to have distributed among the members of the Executive Committee present at the meeting. I would thank you if you could arrange to have this done for me. If time permitted I would have sent them directly to the membership and I hope that in all events you will have my letter read at the meeting.

Without trying to burden the record, I would ask whether I might be recorded on three points:

1. In favor of the acceptance of the resolution regarding Palestine adopted at the recent conference.
2. Against any proposal that the Union withdraw from the conference, and
3. In favor of postponing any action with respect to the foregoing two questions and referring the entire matter for the consideration by the membership at the next general membership meeting.

In my letter of September 23rd I have stated as briefly as possible the reasons which in the main govern the position which I have taken.

Sincerely,

ME:RH.

October 1, 1943

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

My dear Dr. Marcuson:

As far as I am concerned, Cincinnati is  
just as agreeable a place for a meeting of the  
Executive Board as Pittsburgh.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

October 6, 1943

Mr. Mark Eisner  
20 Exchange Place  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Eisner:

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness in writing to me and in sending me copies of your correspondence with Mr. Adolph Rosenberg. The position which you took was a very sound one and I am sure was helpful in arriving at the decision which the Executive Committee took at its meeting last Sunday. I attended the meeting. A frank and comprehensive discussion took place in which all points of view were adequately presented. A decision to ratify the Palestine resolution or not to ratify it might have passed with a very small majority, and would have led to considerable bitterness which would have hurt the Union and the College, a thing which nobody desired. It was felt that the Executive Committee should not speak on such a controversial issue without first consulting the member congregations. It was therefore voted to refer the entire matter to the next meeting of the Council of the Union. In the meantime, the Union remains a member of the American Jewish Conference. I think that the action of the Executive Committee was a statesmanlike one.

I do hope to have the pleasure, my dear Mr. Eisner, on one of my frequent visits to New York, to sit down with you and talk over quite a number of things which are of vital moment in Jewish life at present.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

# CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

## OFFICERS 1943-1944

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Vice-President  
Cleveland, Ohio

HARRY S. MARGOLIS, Treasurer  
St. Paul, Minn.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary  
Macon, Ga.

SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT  
4905 FIFTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
MAURICE J. BLOOM, Newburgh, N. Y.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE, Providence, R. I.  
JAMES G. HELLER, Cincinnati, Ohio  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
ALBERT G. MINDA, Minneapolis, Minn.  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
PHINEAS SMOLLER, Joplin, Mo.  
HARRY J. STERN, Montreal, Canada  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHKE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

October 8, 1943.

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

Dear Abba:

I have been thinking over the problem of the program for the next session of the Conference, on which you are to give a report at this coming meeting of the Executive Board which, as you know, will take place in Cincinnati.

The chief elements in the program that have to be provided for are:

- 1) The Conference Lecturer Friday evening;
- 2) The Conference preacher Saturday morning;
- 3) The three Conference 10-minute Chapel services conducted by ex-presidents of the Conference;
- 4) Two papers;
- 5) A Symposium by the young men of the Conference;
- 6) A theme for Religious Education Day. This is usually a half-day.

We often try (but with indifferent success) to have one theme for the entire Conference. This theme is carried out in the Lecture and Sermon, the papers, symposium, etc., and also, if possible, in the Religious Education discussion, although generally the Chairman of the Committee on Religious Education suggests a theme, but I have found that he is usually grateful for a suggestion from the Program Committee.

If you cannot devise one theme that will cover most of these addresses, then think of a series of themes. I have a number of suggestions which you might find helpful. First of all, you know that the Conference accepted the suggestion of the President's message that we should begin, over a series of years, a number of discussions leading to a reconstruction of Jewish theology. We might have one paper along that line. I also have another suggestion. The Conference accepted in



CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1943-1944

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Vice-President  
Cleveland, Ohio

HARRY S. MARGOLIS, Treasurer  
St. Paul, Minn.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary  
Macon, Ga.

SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT  
4905 FIFTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
MAURICE J. BLOOM, Newburgh, N. Y.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE, Providence, R. I.  
JAMES G. HELLER, Cincinnati, Ohio  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
ALBERT G. MINDA, Minneapolis, Minn.  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
PHINEAS SMOLLER, Joplin, Mo.  
HARRY J. STERN, Montreal, Canada  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHKE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dr. Silver - page two -

principle Heller's plans for a country-wide system of pulpit placement. However, you and I know the dangers involved in any such plan. I am sure Heller knows it too, but he has felt that the benefits outweigh the dangers. Anyhow, I suggest the possibility of a paper either on the specific problem of pulpit placement or any general theme of the professional status of the Rabbinate. A paper on the former theme will give the right man a chance to analyze the subject thoroughly and form the basis for Conference discussion and action.

I am also including here three slips from the list of Jews whose death was made known during the past year:

- a) Chaim Zhitkowsky;
- b) Simon Dubnow;
- c) Zvi Hirsh Mashliansky.

a) suggests a paper on the Jewish labor movement in relation to Jewish life; b) suggests a paper on the writing of Jewish history; and c) a paper on the Maggid and his place in Jewish preaching.

Anyhow, here are four suggestions for two papers. They are of course only suggestions. It would help the Conference if you would have two or three candidates for each job. You need not bother about the Conference Preacher and the Conference Lecturer. They are usually selected by the Executive Board on the nomination of the President.

With best wishes from Lillian and myself to Virginia and you,

As ever,

Sol.

SBF.lsf



To The Members Of The Executive Board:

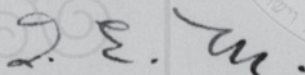
The question has arisen as to whether it would not be better to hold the meeting of the Executive Board scheduled October 26th in Cincinnati instead of Pittsburgh.

(1) The Conference is incorporated under the laws of Ohio and legally we should hold one meeting a year in the state of Ohio.

(2) On account of the difficulties of travel it seems to be easier to reach Cincinnati than to reach Pittsburgh. The men from the south and west would have to go to Cincinnati to reach Pittsburgh and would have to change trains in many cases. The men from the east can reach Cincinnati overnight just as easily as they can reach Pittsburgh.

Kindly let me know by return mail if you agree to change the meeting to Cincinnati.

Cordially yours,



Isaac E. Marcuson  
Secretary

ike

# CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

1220

## SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter
NT=Overnight Telegram
LC=Deferred Cable
NLT=Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

HW62 NL SENT PCTNS=TDB BROOKLINE MASS OCT 25 OCT 26 AM 11 53  
RABBI EBBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE TEMPLE E 105 ST AND SEL RD=

WILL YOU JOIN IN SIGNING THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT?  
PLEASE ANSWER AFFIRMATIVE REPLY COLLECT. JOSHUA LIEBMAN.  
TEMPLE ISRAEL, BOSTON. STOP.

" WE, THE UNDERSIGNED ALUMNAE OF THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE DEEPLY DEPLORE THE REMARKS ON ZIONISM OF DOCTOR JULIAN MORGENSTERN, PRESIDENT OF THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, AS REPORTED IN THE PUBLIC PRESS. THESE REMARKS, GIVEN WIDE CIRCULATION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY APPEAR TO US AS DETRIMENTAL TO THE CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF JEWISH HOMELESSNESS IN THIS TIME OF SORROW FOR WORLD ISRAEL. WE BELIEVE THAT PALESTINE AS A JEWISH COMMONWEALTH IS THAT CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE PROFOUNDLY DISAGREE WITH THE REPORTED VIEWS OF DOCTOR MORGENSTERN BOTH ON THE NECESSITY OF PALESTINE AND THE NATURE OF ZIONISM. WE REJECT HIS VIEW THAT PALESTINE WILL NOT BE THE MOST IMPORTANT AND INVALUABLE FACTOR IN THE REHABILITATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE. WE LIKEWISE REJECT THE IDEA THAT JEWISH NATIONALISM IN ANY WAY IS

## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

# WESTERN UNION

1220

## SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NT = Overnight Telegram
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

1943 OCT 26 AM 11 53

'PRACTICALLY IDENTICAL WITH NAZI AND FASCIST THEORY'. IT IS UNTRUE AND UNFAIR SO TO CHARACTERIZE A MOVEMENT WHICH ENJOYS THE LOYALTY OF SO MANY ALUMNAE OF THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE AND IN WHICH THEY SEE GREAT SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE. THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS IN ITS CONVENTION THIS PAST JUNE PASSED A RESOLUTION WHICH DECLARED THAT ZIONISM AND REFORM JUDAISM ARE NOT INCOMPATIBLE, ARE SOLUTION WHICH DOCTOR MORGENSTERN HIMSELF SUPPORTED. WE CANNOT HELP BUT REGARD IT AS TRAGIC AT THIS CRUCIAL HOUR IN JEWISH HISTORY FOR ANY OBSTACLES TO BE PLACED IN THE WAY OF THE FULFILLMENT OF THE BALFOUR DECLARATION, THE FREE IMMIGRATION OF JEWS INTO PALESTINE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINE AS A NATIONAL HOME FOR HUNDRED OF THOUSANDS OF JEWS WHO WILL NEED AND WHO WILL WANT TO LEAVE THE HAUNTED HOUSE OF EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE THAT HITLER HAS CREATED AND WHO CAN FIND THEIR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE RESTORATION BEST IN THE ANCIENT LAND OF THEIR FATHERS. STOP

WE THEREFORE VIGOROUSLY DISSENT FROM DOCTOR MORGENSTERN'S VIEWPOINT ON ZIONISM AND PALESTINE AS IT

## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

# WESTERN UNION

1220

## SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NT=Overnight Telegram

LC=Deferred Cable

NLT=Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

1943 OCT 26 AM 11 53

HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS OF THE COUNTRY AND WE AFFIRM OUR EQUALLY VIGOROUS SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINE RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER, A RESOLUTION WHICH CALLS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINE AS A JEWISH COMMONWEALTH, WITH DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL OF ITS INHABITANTS, ARAB AS WELL AS JEW A COMMONWEALTH THAT ALONE CAN MAKE POSSIBLE A BASIC SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT JEWISH TRAGEDY."

JOSHUA LOTH LIEBMAN

BARNETT R BRICKNER

JAMES G HELLER

FELIX A LEVY.

November 3, 1943

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

I am sorry that I had to leave the meeting of the Executive Committee before action was taken on the resolution which I introduced with reference to Morgenstern's address. I would appreciate it if you would let me know what action was finally taken.

I recall that you said that I would be expected to send the invitations to the men who are to participate in the program. I have not received the final draft of the program and the names we agreed on. As soon as I get them, I will send out the invitations.

We are looking forward eagerly to your coming here next week. Will you be able to have dinner with us that evening?

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

December 4, 1943

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof  
Temple Rodef Shalom  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

My dear Sol:

I have not yet received the list of Conference members who are to be invited to participate in the program of the next Conference, and the subjects which they are to discuss. We ought not to delay sending out the invitations much longer.

I am greatly concerned by the recent action taken by Eisendrath in conjunction with a group of Rabbis which he called together. He wrote me a long explanatory letter, enclosing the resolution which was adopted. Such a resolution, if adopted by the Executive Committee in reversal of its earlier position, will provoke a storm of protest among our colleagues who are pro-Zionists, not to speak of other sections of American Jewry. I do not know whether you attended the meeting. As a result of the resolution adopted with the avowed purpose of pushing it through the next Executive of the Union, we here have been constrained to call off a meeting which had been arranged for the Union next Tuesday, which was to be addressed by Eisendrath.

We had agreed at the last Executive Meeting on a democratic process to determine the real attitude of American Reform Jews on the subject of the Palestine Resolution of the Conference, etc. It seems, however, that the democratic process is to be sacrificed to minority pressure groups who are determined on an immediate repudiation of the Palestine Resolution. Pressure is a dangerous weapon, and can be used by various groups. I am afraid that we are drifting into a very dangerous situation, aggravated by Eisendrath's own blundering and inconsistencies.

Very cordially yours,

KENESETH ISRAEL    -:-    RODEPH SHALOM

# BAZAAR

*Fun for All*

- SOUVENIRS
  - GAMES
    - MUSIC AND DANCING
    - REFRESHMENTS
    - WAR BOND PRIZE

*Benefit for*

**RED CROSS**

**ALLIED JEWISH APPEAL**

**UNITED WAR CHEST**

COME ONE — COME ALL

**K. I. Alumni Building  
1715 N. Broad Street**

8:00 P. M.

**Sunday, Dec. 5, 1943**

Sponsored by  
K. I. Junior Congregation and R. S. Youth Forum

The  
**Temple Bulletin**  
REFORM CONGREGATION KENESETH ISRAEL  
PHILADELPHIA

(Member, Union of American Hebrew Congregations)

R a b b i s  
WILLIAM H. FINESHRIBER  
JOSEPH KLEIN MALCOLM H. STERN  
(Chaplain, U. S. Army)

Isadore Freed, Music Director

Vol. xlviii

December 3, 1943

No. 6

## *Services*

Friday Evening, December 3, 8:30 P. M.

### ALUMNI SERVICE

Conducted by Members of the Alumni

Sermon by DR. FINESHRIBER

Friday Evening, December 10

### 96th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

(Business Session, 8:00 P. M.)

Sabbath Eve Service, 8:30 P. M.

Guest-Speaker

DR. SAMUEL H. GOLDENSON  
of Temple Emanu-El, New York City

Social and Buffet, Alumni Auditorium, 10:00 P. M.

ALL CORDIALLY INVITED

Friday, December 17

Sermon by  
RABBI KLEIN

Friday, December 24

Sermon by  
DR. FINESHRIBER



SABBATH MORNING SERVICES, 10:30 A. M.

Saturday, December 4

"Religious School Sabbath"  
Sermon by RABBI KLEIN

Saturday, December 18

Sermon by  
RABBI SAMUEL GLASNER

Saturday, December 11

Sermon by  
DR. FINESHRIBER

Saturday, December 25

Sermon by  
RABBI KLEIN

## OUR YOUNGEST GROUP CONDUCTS SERVICE THIS FRIDAY

The Keneseth Israel Alumni comes prominently to the fore by electing to participate in an "ALUMNI SERVICE," in our Temple Friday Evening, December 3rd. Dr. Fineshriber will preach the sermon.

Readers, who will be on the pulpit with the Rabbis, will be Carol Betty Binswanger, President of the Alumni; Frances Gittlemacher, Stephen Schafer, Hortense Meyers.

Ushers will be: Robert Gross, Robert Drucker, Charlotte Halpern, Jacqueline Ullman, Marilyn Witlin, Richard Wasserman.

The Alumni will be Hosts at the Social Hour following the Service. The young ladies of the group acting in this capacity will be Phyllis Taplinger, Babette Harrison, Janice Pinheiro.

Mrs. Rose Flomenhoft, who is Adviser to the Alumni this year, is in charge of the Program.



## THANK YOU, HOSTESSES

We are most grateful to our women under Mrs. J. D. Lindy, who have graced our Social Hours as Hostess Chairmen, and to the many ladies of the Congregation who assisted them each Friday. On November 26th Mrs. Martin Landes acted as Hostess; on December 3rd, Miss Carol Betty Binswanger, President of the Alumni, will act in this capacity; for the Annual Meeting on December 10th Mrs. Howard Fineshriber, and a large group of ladies will preside to make this occasion truly significant; and for the remainder of the Friday Evenings of December, Mrs. Charles Schafer has graciously consented to serve.



## CHOIR PROGRAM, DECEMBER

Since the recent great exodus from Germany began in 1933, a number of outstanding composers of Synagogal Music have come to our shores. Many of them have been appointed to positions as music directors and organists in outstanding American Congregations, and are thus again able to place their considerable talents at the services of the synagogue.

During the present season of Late Friday Evening Services, music of the following composers will be heard in our Temple for the first time:

Heinrich Schalitt, of Providence, R. I.  
Herbert Fromm, of Boston, Mass.  
Hugo Adler, of Worcester, Mass.  
Julius Chajes, of Detroit, Mich.

These men, having been given refuge in our land, are repaying their debt many times over by singing their new songs to the Almighty in their new land.

### Our Soloists in December will be:

Dec. 3rd: "Great Peace Have They" (Rogers)  
Sung by Carolyn Thomas

Dec. 10th: "Most Beautiful Appear,"  
from Haydn's "Creation"  
Trio sung by Brenda Lewis, Fritz Krueger,  
Arthur Wolfson.

### The Organ Preludes for these dates follow:

Dec. 3—"Prayer" (Boellman)  
Dec. 10—"Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor" (Bach)

## IS YOUR RESERVATION IN FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING?

The responses received from our membership indicating that they will attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on December 10th, and remain to enjoy a happy Social Gathering in the Alumni Auditorium afterwards, convince us that the decision of the Board this year to have the Annual Meeting in our own Building was a wise and timely one. We are all looking forward to a delightful evening, with all the eclat and dignity of our previous, more formal meetings, combined with the feeling of being at-home and at ease in one's own building.

The Rabbis and Board of Trustees extend a hearty invitation to the entire Congregation to attend this, the 96th Annual Meeting. Although we have previously announced the High-Lights of the Evening, they bear repeating:

**8:00 o'clock, Brief Business Meeting, and Election of Officers and Trustees.**

**8:30 o'clock, Sabbath Eve Services in the Temple, when we will be honored by the presence and the Address of Dr. SAMUEL H. GOLDENSON, Rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, New York City.**

**10:00 o'clock, Buffet and Social, Alumni Auditorium.**

Return your cards at once indicating that you will attend. Last date for reservations, December 8.

**MAKE THIS A TRULY HISTORIC MEETING BY  
THE HEARTINESS OF YOUR SPIRIT  
AND ATTENDANCE.**

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NOTES

### Hanukkah Assembly, December 19

Pupils in the Branch Schools will not go to the Branch Schools, but will come to the Main School on Sunday morning, December 19th, at 9:45 o'clock. Branch School pupils will assemble on arrival in the Alumni Chapel. The HANUKKAH ASSEMBLY will take place at 11:00 o'clock in the Alumni Auditorium. Parents are cordially invited to this Assembly, which will present a delightful Hanukkah Program.

Hanukkah CANDLES are being distributed to pupils of the Religious School as a gift from the Sisterhood. Because of a shortage of Candles, pupils are asked to take ONLY ONE box for a family. The youngest child in the family will receive the Candles. Hanukkah MENORAHS will be presented to new pupils. Here again it is requested that the youngest member of a family take the Menorah home, which will suffice for the whole family.

### HANUKKAH, 5704

The Festival of Hanukkah carries a message this year not alone to adherents of Judaism, but to all freedom-loving people everywhere in the world. This Festival, which for more than 2100 years has been celebrated to commemorate the first great struggle for religious freedom and independence, continues to inspire not only our own people who suffer from the crushing might of tyranny, but all peoples who have been afflicted by the ruthlessness of totalitarianism and dictatorship. We are beginning to see, as the year 1943 draws to a close, the first rays of light in a darkened world, heralding the coming victory of democratic and humane forces in the world.

May the Candles that we light this Hanukkah season help to illumine every dark path and guide the way to the establishment of a new world of liberty, justice and peace.

## JOINT HANUKKAH RALLY, DEC. 26

The Men's Club has arranged with the Men's organizations of Rodeph Shalom and Temple Judea for the Annual HANUKKAH RALLY, to be held in our Alumni Building, Sunday evening, December 26th, 8:15 P. M. The Program will consist of a Hanukkah Service, and afterwards a "Comedy of Contemporary Characters," and Refreshments. The Ladies are cordially invited.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Thursday, Dec. 2:** General Faculty Meeting, Alumni Bldg., 8:30 P. M.
- Thursday, Dec. 2:** Men's Temple Club Board Meeting, 2601 Parkway, 6 P. M.
- Friday, Dec. 3:** "Alumni Service" in the Temple, 8:30 P. M.
- Saturday, Dec. 4:** Religious School Monthly Sabbath.
- Sunday, Dec. 5:** ANNUAL BAZAAR, K. I. Juniors, R. S. Youth Forum, 8 P. M.
- Monday, Dec. 6:** Current Topics Class, 1 P. M.; Sisterhood Meeting, 2 P. M.
- Friday, Dec. 10:** 96th Annual Meeting of Congregation, 8 P. M., followed by Sabbath Eve Service, 8:30; Speaker: Dr. Samuel H. Goldenson, N.Y.C.; Buffet and Social, 10:00 P. M.
- Saturday, Dec. 18:** Rabbi Samuel Glasner occupies pulpit.
- Sunday, Dec. 19:** Religious School Hanukkah Assembly and Party.
- Tuesday, Dec. 21:** 1st Night of Hanukkah. Kindle 1st Hanukkah Light.
- Sunday, Dec. 26:** Mid-Winter Religious School Holiday. Joint MEN'S CLUB HANUKKAH RALLY, 8:15 P. M.
- Monday, Dec. 27:** Sisterhood's Evening Business Women's Meeting—Supper to Paid-Up Members. Dr. Fineshriber Guest-Speaker.
- Sunday, Jan. 2:** Mid-Winter Religious School Holiday. School reconvenes Sunday, January 9th.
- Adult Institute Jewish Studies, Every Tuesday, 7:30 P. M. Recess, December 28.



## SISTERHOOD NEWS

**Monday, December 6th at 2 P. M.**  
**SISTERHOOD'S MONTHLY MEETING**  
Presenting the Artists of the Temple's  
own Choir in

### "An Afternoon of Varied Music"

**Brenda Lewis**, formerly Prima Donna Soprano, Philadelphia Opera Company

**Fritz Krueger**, formerly leading tenor, Philadelphia Opera Company

**Isadore Freed**, Music Director of our Choir, composer of note, pianist

Each of these three will do a group of solos, both of a serious and light character.

Opening Prayer by  
Mrs. Henry Wieder

\* \* \* \* \*

Preceding the Meeting, Dr. Fineshriber's CURRENT TOPICS CLASS will be held at 1 P. M. in the Alumni Chapel.

## BUSINESS WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF SISTERHOOD FORMED

An enthusiastic gathering of Business and Professional Women and Juniors met on November 15th to organize the New Evening Business Women's Group of the Sisterhood. Under the guidance of Mrs. Morton M. Kohn a working basis was established by choosing Miss Marguerite L. Greenwald as General Chairman, Miss Hortense E. Mann as Assistant Treasurer, and Miss Elsa Springer as Secretary, together with the following Vice-Chairmen of Committees:

**Membership**, Miss Linda Strauss, **Hospitality**, Miss Rita A. Schloss; **Sociability**, Miss Helen E. Anathan; **Refugee Service**, Mrs. Flora K. Reiss; **War Service**, Miss Ella W. Wile, **Program**, Miss Malvian Wirtschafter; **Publicity**, Miss Carrie Adler.

It was decided to meet the **Fourth Monday Evening** of each month. After the business session, Refreshments were served, and over the tea-cups Rabbi Joseph Klein spoke informally and entertainingly, and touched on extra-curricular activities at the Hebrew Union College.

The next Meeting of the BUSINESS WOMEN'S GROUP is scheduled for December 27th, and will be a **Supper Meeting** for PAID-UP MEMBERS, at which Dr. Fineshriber will be the Guest-Speaker.

---

**ATTENTION! WOMEN OF THE JUNIOR CONGREGATION!!!** You are Guest-Members of the Sisterhood, either at its Afternoon or Evening Social Meetings. Your Junior Congregation membership card admits you.

---

## WAR SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Howard Fineshriber, Chairman

Our Sisterhood is very proud of the excellent work we are accomplishing in all fields of war service. The following reports show some of our activities:

### Clothing Collection

Mrs. H. M. Gausman, Chairman

The clothing campaign for Russian and British War Relief held the first week in November was most successful. We had clothing centers in all parts of the city and the response was most gratifying. We feel justly proud that we were able to contribute toward making this campaign such a successful one.

### Victory Book Drive

Mrs. Marcus Baum, Chairman

Our Victory Book Drive is continuing thruout the year. Mrs. Marcus Baum, Chairman, is kept busy tying up the books to go to the Victory Book Center at Broad St. and Girard Avenue. Many of our members have formed the habit of bringing the current book they have just finished reading to the Temple Office and placing it in the bin in the hall. Let us continue to keep the book-bin filled to the brim! Share YOUR current fiction with those in the armed forces.

We also have a carton next to our book-bin for complete decks of cards. Patients in our Army and Navy Hospitals enjoy playing cards, and there is a need for more complete decks.

### Surgical Dressings

Mrs. Arthur New, Chairman

The surgical dressing group—a very important civilian War Effort—meets Wednesdays, 10 A. M. to 4 P. M., in the room back of the pulpit. We are using a new board, which makes work much simpler and easier. Our unit now makes from 800 to 1000 dressings at each meeting. You can help us increase this number of much needed dressings which play such an important part in saving the lives of our boys on the battle field. It is not all work! The humor tossed around at lunch time is worth the price of admission to the best of shows. Bring a sandwich and join us next Wednesday.

## War Bonds and Stamps

Mrs. David Solo, Chairman

Don't forget to call Mrs. Solo, Waverly 3272, when you are purchasing War Bonds and Stamps; she is always happy to take care of this for you. We especially urge all Sisterhood members to BUY, BUY and again BUY WAR BONDS. This is just a reminder that at all open Sisterhood Meetings, Mrs. Solo or a co-worker have a booth at which they sell Bonds and Stamps.

## Cradle Roll

Mrs. Martin Meyer, Chairman

Do you know what a Cradle Roll Certificate is. It's a beautiful document inscribed with the name and date of birth of your baby, and signed by our Rabbis, and the President and Secretary of the Congregation.

Many parents have been greatly pleased to receive a Cradle Roll Certificate for the newcomer. The Sisterhood would like to greet every new baby in the Congregation in this manner. Will you help us? It is impossible for us to know of every new arrival. If there is one in your home or if you know of some member of the Congregation who has a new baby, please call the Temple Office, or Mrs. Martin Meyer at Melrose 3954.

## Uniongrams

Mrs. Jacob D. Lindy, Chairman

**Support the Hebrew Union College!** Send all your messages of congratulation, condolence and good will by UNIONGRAM.

All funds raised from the sale of Uniongrams go to the support of our great institution for the training of Rabbis in Cincinnati. Uniongrams may be obtained at the Temple Office, or by calling Mrs. J. D. Lindy, (Ten. 0526) or Mrs. Max Bernhardt, (Gre. 9323).

## Hospitality

Mrs. Walter J. Lehman, Chairman

Mrs. David Rosen, Co-Chairman

The Hospitality Committee is continuing its splendid work in spite of obstacles. You can help us greatly on our "home front" by doing your share, contributing your cake when called upon, or offering to serve on our committee. Just drop a card to 5128 North 15th Street and tell us you are interested.

## Religious School Committee

Mrs. Sylvan Drucker, Chairman

The first Hanukkah candle should be lighted the evening of **December 21st**. As usual, the Sisterhood will contribute Menorahs and candles to the Sunday School children. If there are several children of one family attending Sunday School, only one box of candles per family will be given this year. Newly enrolled children will be given Menorahs; all others may place orders with their teachers if they wish to buy them. Candles and Menorahs will be on sale in the School Office, Sunday, December 19th. Menorahs 30 cents; Candles 25 cents.

## WEEKLY MEMORIALS DURING DECEMBER

The following names, for whom perpetual commemoration was made by dear ones, such as on the Memorial Tablet, by Windows, etc., will be read at the Services on the following dates:

**Fri. & Sat., Dec. 3-4:** Israel Stern, Alean G. Winkelman, Emily Goldsmith Gerson, David Hirsh, Rosa Netter, Julia M. Stamm, Henrietta Winelander, Julius J. Louchheim, Horace Loeb, Theodore Schweriner, Marcus K. Cohen, Celia Hirshler, Fannie Loeb, Simon Gans, Henrietta Sternfeld.

**Fri. & Sat., Dec. 10-11:** Louis Morris, Jeanette Sterne, Benjamin Sledenbach, Amelia Wyman, Amalia Heyman, Jeannie Armhold, Joseph Reinheimer, Minnie Rosenbaum, Emil Lehman, Charles P. Wieder, Benjamin M. Kahn, Tenie Mark.

**Fri. & Sat., Dec. 17-18:** Abraham L. Asher, Solomon Aarons, Emma Weil, Flora Kahn Wasserman, Abraham Klinordlinger, Abraham Meyer, Hannah Eichholz Snellenburg, Sarah Sternau Berg, Julia Gans, Joseph Hirsch, Sophie Klein, Ida Stern.

**Fri. & Sat., Dec. 24-25:** Rachel Hano, Helen Fleisher, Emanuel Winelander, Nettie M. Dilsheimer, Fredericka Mendelsohn, Lottie Nusbaum, Clara Oppenheimer, Clara L. Eliel.

**Fri. & Sat., Dec 31, Jan. 1:** Edward L. Hass, Gustave L. Blieden, Edward Herzberg, Amelia Langsfeld, Isaac Singer, Hermann Weber, Betty Eichengreen, Solomon Dreifus, Joseph Morris, Solomon Rothschild, Theodore Weil, Emanuel Van Baalen, Fannie Dalsimer, Leopold Lisberger, Sophia Hoffman, Isaac B. Stein.

## RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD ADOPTED NOV. 18

At the request of the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and of Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, President, the Board of Trustees of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel met on Thursday, November 18, 1943, to consider and take action concerning the Resolutions adopted by the American Jewish Conference in New York City, September 2, 1943. After an extended and free discussion of the problems involved, the Board, by an almost unanimous vote, adopted the Resolutions herewith submitted:

**"WHEREAS**, the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in June, 1943, ratified and adopted the following 'Declaration of Principles':

1. "Provision shall be made for large-scale immigration into Palestine regulated in cooperation with the Jewish Agency for Palestine by such a concert of nations as shall be established after the war.

2. "Palestine shall remain under the stewardship of this concert of nations until it shall become possible to establish self-government without jeopardizing the rights or status of any group in Palestine.

3. "Such a government shall be democratic and non-sectarian, modelled upon the governments of the democratic nations. There shall be complete separation of Church and State. The inviolability of the Holy Places of the various religions shall be guaranteed;

**"AND WHEREAS**, the American Jewish Conference, on September 2, 1943, adopted a 'Declaration on Palestine' in the pursuit of its objective for the recreation and establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth, and demanding the control of immigration by the Jewish Agency;

**"And WHEREAS**, when the Union decided to participate in the deliberations of the American Jewish Conference it did so in accordance with the following Resolution adopted by the Executive Board on April 1, 1943:

**"RESOLVED**, That we adhere to the American Jewish Conference ('Assembly,' as it was then called) with the reservation that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations shall not be bound by the conclusions of the American Jewish (Assembly) Conference without ratification by the Executive Board of the Union. A special meeting of the Executive Board for such purpose shall be called as soon as possible after the adjournment of the American Jewish (Assembly) Conference;

**"And Whereas**, the Executive Board of the Union on October 3, 1943, instead of re-affirming the 'Declaration of Principles' adopted by it in June, 1943, and refusing to ratify or accept the 'Declaration on Palestine' adopted by the American Jewish Conference on September 2, 1943, referred the issue to the next Biennial Council of the Union with instructions to each Congregation to appoint delegates to that Council to vote on said issue;

**"And WHEREAS**, We, the Board of Trustees of REFORM CONGREGATION KENESETH ISRAEL, of Philadelphia, Pa., believe such action of the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations of October 3, 1943, to have been ill-advised and harmful to the best interests of the Union, and of Reform Judaism in America;

**"Now, Therefore, be it RESOLVED:**

1) That we hereby approve and ratify the 'Declaration of Principles' adopted by the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations June, 1943, and disapprove the 'Declaration on Palestine' adopted by the American Jewish Conference September 2, 1943;

2) That we urge the President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to reconvene the Executive Board as soon as reasonably possible, in order that it may reconsider its action of October 3, 1943, and instead adopt a Resolution similar to that herein stated, and take such further action in support thereof as to the Executive Board may seem proper."

RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

December 6, 1943

Dr. Abba H. Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

I am writing in response to your letter of December 4th and I am trying to persuade you to reconsider your reaction to the results achieved at the meeting of rabbis held in Cincinnati on Tuesday, November 30. First, as to the men who were present. There were about twenty rabbis representing all shades of opinion from Heller and Felix Levy to Lazaron and Binstock. I was present at the meeting and presided. The meeting lasted for about eight hours. It was arduous but ending up in complete agreement.

That in itself is a valuable achievement first of all for the Union which must be our most immediate concern and secondly, for the great issues which concern the Jews in America and all over the world. If we have arrived at an agreement on this matter, it may well be that the whole determined anti-Zionist effort of the American Council for Judaism will lose its chief motivating impulse. The members of the American Council have argued that the Union, the College, and the Conference have forced them unjustly and undemocratically to the acceptance of doctrines which they reject. I believe this feeling of theirs that in our own institutions they were being unjustly treated is the real impulse for all their nation-wide campaign. If, therefore, we take away from them the sense of being oppressed, the whole campaign may very well diminish and everyone (American Judaism, Palestine, and the American Jewish Conference) will all in the long run gain.

The next question is whether an unjust price was paid to achieve this subsidence of bitterness. I do not think so. The anti-Zionists felt that the only just action would be for the Union to follow the American Jewish Committee and leave the American Jewish Conference. This demand of theirs was completely overcome and I am glad to say they are content with the result. I do not believe that this new resolution is in essence different from the resolution which

Dr. Abba H. Silver  
December 6, 1943  
Page 2

was passed by the Executive Board of the Union at its last meeting when you were present. The new resolution instead of recommending postponing the discussion of the Palestine Resolution makes a definite statement with regard to it now. While the statement says that the Union, being impartial on the matter of Zionism, cannot associate itself with the demand for a commonwealth and the exclusive Jewish control of immigration, it also states clearly the entire Philadelphia resolution and the New Orleans resolution which plainly come out strongly for full unrestricted immigration, the up-building of Palestine in the spirit of the Balfour Declaration, etc. It is of course debatable whether this part of the resolution would be better from the Zionist point of view than the original indeterminate resolution or not. While it is clearer as to the two elements in the resolution with which the Union being undecided on the question of Zionism cannot associate itself, it is on the other hand much more definite as to the parts of the Palestine Resolution with which it is in hearty accord and in regard to which it will work for full implementation.

The second part of the new resolution is all to the good. Whereas the original resolution passed at the Executive Board meeting of the Union was vague about our adherence to the American Jewish Conference, this resolution declares unequivocally (it was on my insistence) that we adhere to the American Jewish Conference.

Substantially the resolution is equivalent to those adopted by the Council of Jewish Women and the Labor group while it is opposite to that adopted by the American Jewish Committee which withdrew from the Conference. Let me add also that this resolution will come before the Executive Board of the Union for discussion. I hope that when it comes, you will see your way clear to support it.

It may be that we have not achieved peace after all, but it may well be that we have and if we have, we have done a great job for all causes dear to us.

As ever,  
Sol

CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1942-43

JAMES G. HELLER, President  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, Vice-President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
LOUIS BINSTOCK, Treasurer  
Chicago, Ill.  
ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Recording Secretary  
Macon, Ga.  
SIDNEY L. REGNER, Corresponding Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

SOLICITATION OF FUNDS  
COMMITTEE ON

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, CHAIRMAN  
LOUIS BINSTOCK  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER  
BARNETT R. BRICKNER  
JULIAN B. FEIBELMAN  
ABRAHAM L. FEINBERG  
JOSEPH KLEIN  
ARTHUR J. LELYVELD  
BURTON E. LEVINSON  
JOSEPH RAUCH  
J. MARSHALL TAXAY  
COLMAN A. ZWITMAN

OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

~~XXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXX~~  
X LOUISVILLE, KY X

6300 Park Heights Avenue  
Baltimore 15, Maryland

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
BARNETT R. BRICKNER, Cleveland, Ohio  
FERDINAND M. ISSERMAN, St. Louis, Mo.  
EMIL W. LEIPZIGER, New Orleans, La.  
HARRY S. MARGOLIS, St. Paul, Minn.  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
AHRON OPPER, New York City  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHE, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
LOUIS WOLSEY, Philadelphia, Pa.

December 8, 1943

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

My dear Doctor:

As yet I have not received your response to the letter sent out by the Committee on Solicitation of Funds of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Because of the needs of the Conference and because I am eager to set a new precedent I am writing to you personally to ask for your cooperation. I am very eager to do justice to this job for the reasons which are known to you. We already have pledged \$150,000 to the pension plan and an additional \$10,000 per year toward it. We also have our regular load to carry in connection with relief to rabbis who are old or ill and to the widows and orphans of our colleagues who have passed away.

Here in Baltimore I plan to send a letter either to 100 or more of the congregation who can well afford to make contributions or possibly to the entire membership of the congregation. If Lazaron and Shaw will join with me, we will send letters to members of all three of our congregations. I already have written to them asking them to make this appeal jointly.

I prepared a letter which can be printed on the stationery of our committee and which can be sent to members of all our congregations over the signature of the local rabbi. At your request I will be very glad to have Marcuson print as many as you desire to send. If you feel that you should not send this letter to your members, I will be very glad to send letters in the name of our committee to any number of members of your congregation whose names you care to send me. I would only request that you permit me to mention the fact that this cause has your approval and that you are the vice-president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis which is making the appeal.

In the event that you would rather have this request come from Mel, I would be very happy to work with him.

Warmest personal greetings.

Faithfully yours,

*Ab*  
Abraham Shusterman



December 29, 1943

Rabbi Abraham Shusterman  
6300 Park Heights Avenue  
Baltimore 15, Md.

My dear Friend:

I hope that you will pardon the long delay in answering your kind letter of December 8. But I have been knocking about the country a good deal of the time and my correspondence has lagged.

I should like to send out the kind of a letter which you suggest over my signature, but we are preparing locally for a campaign in behalf of the Union which ought to be launched in the next few weeks. I rather think that making an appeal at this time for the Central Conference of American Rabbis might confuse the people and might interfere with the success of the Union campaign. However, I shall be very happy to send you a list of names to whom you may send letters, but I would suggest that these letters be not sent much before the middle of March. You can, of course, mention in the letter the fact that I heartily approve of the solicitation.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS: Q

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE JUSTICE  
AND PEACE COMMISSION OF THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS HELD  
AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, ON MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1944

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m., Rabbi Isserman presiding. Present also were Rabbis Fram, Goodman and Eisendrath. Excuses for not being able to attend were received from Rabbis Jacob Weinstein, Julian Feibelman, Julius Mark and Arthur Lelyveld. The Chairman reported that the second edition of the statement on Judaism and a Just and Enduring Peace has been almost exhausted which means that approximately 20,000 copies of the statement have been put into circulation. Regularly calls are coming in from libraries of communities, of colleges and of universities. Occasionally, too, Rabbis and laymen order copies for study groups.

The Chairman reported that while in Jerusalem last summer he conferred with Professor Glueck and Dr. Magnes about translation of the statement into Hebrew. Dr. Magnes agreed to look after it and he was authorized by the Chairman to spend up to \$200. Dr. Magnes stated that the Jerusalem Reform Congregation would serve as the agency for distributing it. The Chairman reported that he believed this translation had been completed although no copy had been yet received by anyone in this Country. Professor Glueck paid Dr. Magnes about \$100 for the printing and translation and Professor Glueck has been reimbursed out of Conference funds.

As recommended by the Conference, the Committee this year resolved to work through the following subcommittees: 1) the Committee on Post-War Reconstruction. 2) the Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations. 3) the Committee on Race Relations. 4) the Committee on Civil Liberties. 5) the Committee on Agriculture. All other Committees will not function this year. The Chairman was authorized to appoint these Committees. These appointments will be appended to this report.

The Administrative Committee expressed wholehearted approval of the statement on the Moral Bases of Peace issued under the auspices of the Synagogue Council of America, the Federation of Churches of Christ, and the National Catholic Welfare Council. It regrets, however, that the Commission on Justice and Peace which represents the Central Conference of American Rabbis was not called into consultation by the Synagogue Council about the statement. Inasmuch as the Central Conference of American Rabbis is a constituent of the Synagogue Council and Central Conference of American Rabbis approval is needed for the actions of the Synagogue Council, it was the consensus of the meeting that the Commission should have been consulted. It was moved and carried that the Chairman of the Commission request the President of the Conference to write to the President of the Synagogue Council informing him that all matters on Peace and Justice brought before the Synagogue Council on which action is to be taken should be referred to the Justice and Peace Commission for consideration and cooperation.

The Alton Levy Case was discussed and the recommendation of Rabbi Lelyveld that nothing be done about it was accepted. Alton Levy has now been released from confinement and wants no personal vindication. He wants his case to be dropped unless it can serve as the medium of ending Jim Crowism in the Army.

The Administrative Committee went on record in accordance with declarations of the Conference in favor of the elimination of Jim Crowism in the Armed Forces. It supports the Lynn Case and urges cooperation with the appeal which eventually will be made to the Supreme Court.

The matter of feeding Europe's hungry children in occupied lands was brought up on communication from the organization sponsoring the Gillette-Taft Resolution. It was decided to ask the Joint Distribution Committee for information on the whole situation. No commitment was to be made until such information was forthcoming.

The Chairman proposed that a series of lectures by Jewish Scholars to implement the statement of principles of the American Institute be sponsored by the Justice and Peace Commission and that these lectures be given in a number of communities and subsequently be published in book form as a contribution of the Commission to the thinking on a just and enduring peace. This

proposal was unanimously approved. The following subjects and tentative speakers were suggested:

The Religious Basis of Peace — A. H. Silver  
The Inter-Faith Basis — S. B. Freehof  
The Political Basis  
    1) World Organization — Max Lerner  
    2) Colonies and Empires — M. J. Pfeffer  
    3) Universal Bill of Rights — Paul Freund  
The Economic Basis — Mordecai Ezekiel  
Labor in the Post-War World — Sidney Hillman  
The Racial Basis — Waldo Frank  
The Jew in the World Scene — J. R. Marcus  
The Jew in Europe — Jacob Robinson  
Palestine — James G. Heller

These names were tentative. It was suggested that the lecturer invited read the Institute Statement on his particular subject and make a presentation in agreement with the principles enunciated by the Institute.

It was suggested that these lectures be held in the following places or communities: 1) New York City -- the Jewish Institute of Religion, 2) Brooklyn, 3) Boston, 4) Rochester (as a tribute to Horace Wolf), 5) Baltimore (as a tribute to Ed Israel), 6) Detroit, 7) St. Louis, 8) Cincinnati — Hebrew Union College, 9) Dallas, 10) Chicago, and 11) San Francisco or Los Angeles.

It was likewise suggested that where feasible these lectures be given at a religious service and that some representative of the Commission be on hand to explain the statement and the purpose of the lecture. The Chairman was authorized to proceed with the arrangement of the lecture series.

The Administrative Committee discussed the need for materials on Education for Justice and Peace in the religious schools. The Committee resolved to sponsor the publication of two books, one on American Jews who have made contributions to social justice and peace. This could be used in the lower grades of the religious schools. Among the names mentioned for inclusion in such a book were: Sabbata Morais, S.O. Levenson, Samuel Gompers, Murray Seasongood, Nathan Strauss, Lillian Wald, Epstein (the old age security man), Julius Rosenwald (Negro Education), Filene (cooperatives), Uriah P. Levy (flogging in the Navy), Lubin, Henry Cohen, Lewis D. Brandeis, Frankfurter (Sacco and Vanzetti), Stephen S. Wise (twelve-hour week), etc., etc.

In addition it was also moved that another textbook on moral principles and the problems of labor, industry, agriculture and world peace be written for use in the higher grades. The Committee expressed the hope that the Commission on Education of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations will sponsor these publications in cooperation and consultation with the Justice and Peace Commission.

At the noon luncheon ministers of the city met with the Commission. In the evening a dinner was held to which were invited five Board Members of each one of the four Reform Congregations of the city. Thirty-three attended this dinner. All the members of the Conference in St. Louis were present and every Temple in the city was represented. The members of the Administrative Committee presented the work of the Commission to the laymen present, and interesting discussion followed. The Rabbis were unanimous in upholding the work of the Commission. Lay opinion was divided. Some representative laymen expressed themselves in complete support with the work of the Commission, one even volunteered to make a contribution to it. Other laymen urged caution, agreed with the principles but not with the practice.

Before the Committee adjourned a message on race relations was discussed and unanimously approved. The Chairman was authorized after securing permission from the Board of the Conference to arrange for its publication.

Please send me your comments and suggestions about these minutes.

F.M. ISSERMAN  
Chairman,  
Justice and Peace Commission

APPOINTMENTS TO SUBCOMMITTEES

1) Committee on Post-War Reconstruction

F. M. Isserman, Chairman  
Philip S. Bernstein  
Abraham Cronbach  
Maurice N. Eisendrath  
Eric Friedland  
Samuel Goldenson

2) Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Leon Fram, Chairman  
Elmer Berger  
David Fichman  
Edward E. Klein

3) Committee on Race Relations

Abram V. Goodman, Chairman  
Julian B. Feibelman  
Sidney E. Goldstein  
James A. Wax

4) Committee on Civil Liberties

Jacob J. Weinstein, Chairman  
Morris Goldstein  
William B. Silverman  
Henry Slonimsky

5) Committee on Agriculture

Arthur J. Lelyveld, Chairman  
Rudolph I. Coffee  
Adolph Fink  
G. George Fox

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING OF ADMINISTRATIVE  
COMMITTEE OF THE JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION OF  
THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS HELD AT  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI ON MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1944.

"The Chairman proposed that a series of lectures by Jewish Scholars to implement the statement of principles of the American Institute be sponsored by the Justice and Peace Commission and that these lectures be given in a number of communities and subsequently be published in book form as a contribution of the Commission to the thinking on a just and enduring peace. This proposal was unanimously approved. The following subjects and tentative speakers were suggested:

The Religious Basis of Peace -- A. H. Silver  
The Inter-Faith Basis -- S. B. Freehof  
The Political Basis  
    1) World Organization -- Max Werner  
    2) Colonies and Empire -- M. J. Pfeffer  
    3) Universal Bill of Rights -- Paul Freund  
The Economic Basis -- Mordecai Ezekiel  
Labor in the Post-War World -- Sidney Hillman  
The Racial Basis -- Waldo Frank  
The Jew in the World Scene -- J. R. Marcus  
The Jew in Europe -- Jacob Robinson  
Palestine -- James G. Heller

These names were tentative. It was suggested that the lecturers invited read the Institute Statement on his particular subject and make a presentation in agreement with the principles enunciated by the Institute.

It was suggested that these lectures be held in the following places or communities: 1) New York City -- the Jewish Institute of Religion, 2) Brooklyn, 3) Boston, 4) Rochester (as a tribute to Horace Wolf), 5) Baltimore (as a tribute to Ed Israel), 6) Detroit, 7) St. Louis, 8) Cincinnati -- Hebrew Union College 9) Dallas, 10) Chicago, and 11) San Francisco or Los Angeles.

It was likewise suggested that where feasible these lectures be given at a religious service and that some representative of the Commission be on hand to explain the statement and the purpose of the lecture. The Chairman was authorized to proceed with the arrangement of the lecture series.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1942-43

JAMES G. HELLER, President  
Cincinnati, Ohio

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, Vice-President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

LOUIS BINSTOCK, Treasurer  
Chicago, Ill.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Recording Secretary  
Macon, Ga.

SIDNEY L. REGNER, Corresponding Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
BARNETT R. BRICKNER, Cleveland, Ohio  
FERDINAND M. ISSERMAN, St. Louis, Mo.  
EMIL W. LEIPZIGER, New Orleans, La.  
HARRY S. MARGOLIS, St. Paul, Minn.  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
AHRON OPHER, New York City  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHKE, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
LOUIS WOLSEY, Philadelphia, Pa.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN  
5017 WASHINGTON AVE.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

January 27, 1944

COMMISSION ON JUSTICE AND PEACE

FERDINAND M. ISSERMAN, CHAIRMAN  
JOSEPH RAUCH, VICE-CHAIRMAN

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN  
WILLIAM H. FINESHRIBER  
ABRAM B. GOODMAN  
JULIUS MARK

GENERAL COMMISSION

BARNETT R. BRICKNER  
MAX C. CURRICK  
MAURICE N. EISENDRATH  
LEON FRAM  
ADOLPH FINK  
ERIC FRIEDLAND  
EPHRAIM FRISCH  
SAMUEL H. GOLDENSON  
ALBERT GOLDSTEIN  
SIDNEY E. GOLDSTEIN  
ROBERT I. KAHN  
ARTHUR J. LELYVELD  
LEE J. LEVINGER  
EUGENE J. SACK  
SAMUEL TEITELBAUM

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

Dear Abba Hillel:

I know that you are very busy and the Administrative Committee of the Justice and Peace Commission hesitated to ask you to do another job. We, however, felt that you were the only man to do it for us.

The enclosed extract is taken from the minutes. As you will note, it calls for the holding of a series of lectures subsequently to be published, implementing our Statement on Judaism and a Just and Enduring Peace. We should very much like to have you initiate that series of lectures by giving one on the religious basis of a just and enduring peace. The lecture could be given some time in the month of April. Inasmuch as I am chairman of the Commission on Justice and Peace and you are to be the first speaker, I should like to arrange to have your lecture given in St. Louis where I would like to launch the series. I would let you name the date.

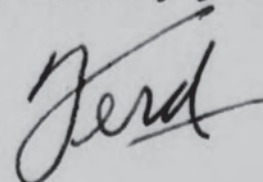
We suggested that these lectures might be given at a religious service, if feasible. Perhaps you could give it at a service on a Friday evening.

The details are unimportant. The important thing is to receive your assurance that you will prepare this lecture and thus inaugurate our series on the highest level.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

FMI:AN



C O P Y

CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1943-1944

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Vice-President  
Cleveland, Ohio  
HARRY S. MARGOLIS, Treasurer  
St. Paul, Minn.  
ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary  
Macon, Ga.  
SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
MAURICE J. BLOOM, Newburgh, N. Y.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE, Providence, R. I.  
JAMES G. HELLER, Cincinnati, Ohio  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
ALBERT G. MINDA, Minneapolis, Minn.  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
PHINEAS SMOLLER, Joplin, Mo.  
HARRY J. STERN, Montreal, Canada  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHKE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN  
5017 WASHINGTON AVE.  
ST. LOUIS, (8) MO.

COMMISSION ON  
JUSTICE AND PEACE

FERDINAND M. ISSERMAN, CHAIRMAN  
JULIUS MARK, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
ABRAM V. GOODMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

MAURICE N. EISENDRATH  
LEON FRAM  
LEE J. LEVINGER  
SAMUEL TEITELBAUM

GENERAL COMMISSION

ELMER BERGER  
PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN  
RUDOLPH I. COFFEE  
ABRAHAM CRONBACH  
JULIAN B. FEIBELMAN  
DAVID FICHMAN  
ADOLPH H. FINK  
G. GEORGE FOX  
ERIC FREIDLAND  
SAMUEL GOLDENSON  
ALBERT S. GOLDSTEIN  
MORRIS GOLDSTEIN  
SIDNEY E. GOLDSTEIN  
ROBERT I. KAHN  
EDWARD E. KLEIN  
AARON H. LEFKOWITZ  
ARTHUR J. LELYVELD  
JACOB K. SHANKMAN  
WM. B. SILVERMAN  
HENRY SLONIMSKY  
JAMES A. WAX  
JACOB J. WEINSTEIN

January 27, 1944

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

Dear Abba Hillel:

I know that you are very busy and the Administrative Committee of the Justice and Peace Commission hesitated to ask you to do another job. We, however, felt that you were the only man to do it for us.

The enclosed extract is taken from the minutes. As you will note, it calls for the holding of a series of lectures subsequently to be published, implementing our Statement on Judaism and a Just and Enduring Peace. We should very much like to have you initiate that series of lectures by giving one on the religious basis of a just and enduring peace. The lecture could be given some time in the month of April. Inasmuch as I am chairman of the Commission on Justice and Peace and you are to be the first speaker, I should like to arrange to have your lecture given in St. Louis where I would like to launch the series. I would let you name the date.

We suggested that these lectures might be given at a religious service, if feasible. Perhaps you could give it at a service on a Friday evening.

The details are unimportant. The important thing is to receive your assurance that you will prepare this lecture and thus inaugurate our series on the highest level.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Ferdinand M. Isserman

copied 4/4/44

CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1943-1944

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Vice-President  
Cleveland, Ohio

HARRY S. MARGOLIS, Treasurer  
St. Paul, Minn.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary  
Macon, Ga.

SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT  
4905 FIFTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
MAURICE J. BLOOM, Newburgh, N. Y.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE, Providence, R. I.  
JAMES G. HELLER, Cincinnati, Ohio  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
ALBERT G. MINDA, Minneapolis, Minn.  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
PHINEAS SMOLLER, Joplin, Mo.  
HARRY J. STERN, Montreal, Canada  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHKE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

February 9, 1944

Dear Abba:

When I heard, a month or so ago, that Beth Israel Congregation of Houston, Texas, had prepared a resolution of protest--really a "bill of complaint"--against the Central Conference of American Rabbis, I decided to wait until I received an official copy from the Congregation and then to answer in behalf of the Conference in a letter addressed to the Congregation.

A week or so ago I received the "bill of complaint" (in the form of a set of resolutions), but I also discovered, to my surprise, that the Congregation, simultaneously with sending the resolution to me, sent it to every Board member of every Reform congregation. This is clearly an act of discourtesy to the Conference. Since the "bill of complaint" was addressed to the Conference, surely it should have been sent first to the Conference and an opportunity given us to answer it before it was publicized by the Congregation. I wrote to the president of the Congregation and asked him why he did not give us the courtesy of an opportunity to answer the "bill of complaint" before he published it. I received no response to this question.

I am now writing to you for your advice as a member of the Executive Board. I did not and I still do not intend to aggravate the dispute. The Congregation may be brought to a more balanced point of view if we are patient; but it seems to me, now that the Congregation has broadcast an attack on the Central Conference, that it is my duty not only to answer the Congregation, but to publish my answer.

Will you check your opinion on the enclosed postal-card and send it to me at once? I am enclosing a copy of the answer which I am going to send the Congregation. If you wish to write to me more fully about it, I shall be happy to hear from you.

Please answer at once because I do not wish to delay this matter. I shall not even send the response to Houston until I hear from you.

Sincerely,

*Shimon B. Freehof*

PRESIDENT;  
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS



COMMITTEE ON ARMY AND NAVY RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

of the

# National Jewish Welfare Board

220 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, I, N. Y.

OFFICERS

Frank L. Weil, *President*  
Major Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel, *Vice-President*  
Mrs. Walter E. Heller, *Vice-President*  
Carl M. Loeb, Jr., *Vice-President*  
Walter Rothschild, *Vice-President*  
Mrs. Felix M. Warburg, *Vice-President*  
Max Wilner, *Treasurer*  
Merwin R. Haskel, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Joseph Rosenzweig, *Secretary*  
Ralph K. Guinzburg, *Assistant Secretary*  
Louis Kraft, *Executive Director*

ARMY and NAVY COMMITTEE

Walter Rothschild, *Chairman*  
Col. Max R. Wainer, *Vice-Chairman*  
Benjamin Rabinowitz, *Director*

Committee on Army and Navy  
Religious Activities

Rabbi David de Sola Pool, *Chairman*  
Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner,  
*Administrative Chairman*  
Rabbi Louis M. Levitsky, *Vice-Chairman*  
*and Chairman Executive Committee*  
Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, *Vice-Chairman*  
Chaplain Max A. Braude  
Rabbi Max D. Davidson  
Rabbi William Drazin  
Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof  
Chaplain Joshua L. Goldberg, USNR  
Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein  
Rabbi Robert Gordis  
Rabbi Abram M. Granison  
Rabbi James G. Heller  
Rabbi Leo Jung  
Rabbi Simon G. Kramer  
Rabbi Leon S. Lang  
Chaplain Aryeh Lev  
Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman  
Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin  
Rabbi Elias Margolis  
Lt. Col. A. A. Melnick  
Chaplain Bernard Segal  
Lt. Col. Morton A. Seidenfeld  
Chaplain Charles E. Shulman, USNR  
Rabbi Milton Steinberg  
Rabbi Elkan C. Voorsanger

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein  
*Executive Director*



Irving Lehman, *Honorary President*

February 18, 1944

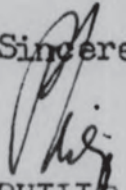
Dr. Solomon B. Freehof  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sol:

I presume that you are already engaged in giving thought to the program of the next CCAR conference. May I take the liberty of suggesting that you give adequate opportunity for a presentation BY the chaplains of their work. You will recall that last year there was some confusion in the arrangements which prevented the chaplains from receiving the necessary time and consideration. I would suggest that this year the program be given over entirely to the chaplains, themselves, and also that the effort be made to lift it above the recounting of experiences. Perhaps a discussion might be centered around the actual spiritual and ethical values emerging from the war - and their opposites - which will affect the lives of Jews and the work of rabbis in the post war era. This will give the chaplains an opportunity to tell of their experiences and observations but will direct them toward some deeper thinking for which, perhaps, now we are beginning to be ready.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

  
PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN

CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1943-1944

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Vice-President  
Cleveland, Ohio

HARRY S. MARGOLIS, Treasurer  
St. Paul, Minn.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary  
Macon, Ga.

SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT  
4905 FIFTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
MAURICE J. BLOOM, Newburgh, N. Y.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE, Providence, R. I.  
JAMES G. HELLER, Cincinnati, Ohio  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
ALBERT G. MINDA, Minneapolis, Minn.  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
PHINEAS SMOLLER, Joplin, Mo.  
HARRY J. STERN, Montreal, Canada  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHKE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

February 22, 1944

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

Dear Abba:

Enclosed is a letter from Philip Bernstein. If you approve of it (and if we haven't already arranged something like this) we might very well do what he suggests. What do you think about it?

As ever,

Solomon B. Freehof

sbfls



February 25, 1944

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof,  
4905 Fifth Avenue,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

Bernstein's suggestion is a good one, but where in the conference program can you put in another session devoted to the work of the Chaplains? It seems to me that the program is already crowded.

With all good wishes, I remain, as ever

Yours,

AHS:NEK

CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1943-1944

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Vice-President  
Cleveland, Ohio

HARRY S. MARGOLIS, Treasurer  
St. Paul, Minn.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary  
Macon, Ga.

SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT  
4905 FIFTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
MAURICE J. BLOOM, Newburgh, N. Y.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE, Providence, R. I.  
JAMES G. HELLER, Cincinnati, Ohio  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
ALBERT G. MINDA, Minneapolis, Minn.  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
PHINEAS SMOLLER, Joplin, Mo.  
HARRY J. STERN, Montreal, Canada  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHKE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

March 15, 1944

Dear Colleague:

As you undoubtedly know, the Beth Israel Congregation of Houston drew up resolutions of protest against the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Instead of sending these resolutions first to me as President of the Conference, and thus giving me a chance to answer them, they sent them to all the Board members of all the Reform Congregations simultaneously with or even before sending them to me.

Had the resolutions been sent to me, I would have answered them in a private letter to the Houston Congregation, and thus would have been able to avoid further disturbance of the peace in American Reform Judaism by public disputations.

However, since the Beth Israel Congregation made a public manifesto of their resolutions against the Conference, I counselled with the Executive Board, and the Board voted seventeen to two that I should send our answer to the same Board members to whom the Houston Congregation sent its protests. This is now being done. I am also sending you a copy of my response in behalf of the Conference.

I hope that this exchange of open letters will end the controversy, at least for the present.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

*Solomon B. Freehof*

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, President  
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

SBF:GS  
Enc.



CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1943-1944

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Vice-President  
Cleveland, Ohio

HARRY S. MARGOLIS, Treasurer  
St. Paul, Minn.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary  
Macon, Ga.

SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT  
4905 FIFTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
MAURICE J. BLOOM, Newburgh, N. Y.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE, Providence, R. I.  
JAMES G. HELLER, Cincinnati, Ohio  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
ALBERT G. MINDA, Minneapolis, Minn.  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
PHINEAS SMOLLER, Joplin, Mo.  
HARRY J. STERN, Montreal, Canada  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHKE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

March 31, 1944

Dear Colleague:

Last year the Conference paid the railroad expenses to the conference sessions of those members of the Conference who were chaplains.

It would be nice if we could do it again, but unfortunately the Conference is, for the first time in many years, an indigent institution. We have given away all of our Relief Fund (\$125,000.00) to the Pension Fund. For a number of years we shall have to be extremely economical and avoid unnecessary committee meetings, etc.

Before deciding about paying the railroad fare of the chaplains, I asked Margolis, our Treasurer, and Egelson, the Secretary of our Chaplaincy Committee, to estimate how much it would cost if we contributed \$50.00 to the traveling expenses of each chaplain member of the Conference who is still in the United States. The report which I received is that it will cost about \$3,500.00. I am afraid the Conference can't afford it.

I thought of having the Conference make a gesture of friendship by contributing \$25.00 to each chaplain's traveling expenses, but that looks like a gratuity. It might be better simply to tell the chaplains that we regret not being able to pay their expenses this year.

At all events, I should like you to vote by return mail on the enclosed card.

Sincerely,

*Solomon B. Freehof*  
Solomon B. Freehof

SBF:LS



CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1943-1944

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Vice-President  
Cleveland, Ohio  
HARRY S. MARGOLIS, Treasurer  
St. Paul, Minn.  
ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary  
Macon, Ga.  
SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
MAURICE J. BLOOM, Newburgh, N. Y.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE, Providence, R. I.  
JAMES G. HELLER, Cincinnati, Ohio  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
ALBERT G. MINDA, Minneapolis, Minn.  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
PHINEAS SMOLLER, Joplin, Mo.  
HARRY J. STERN, Montreal, Canada  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHKE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN  
5017 WASHINGTON AVE.  
ST. LOUIS, (8) MO.

COMMISSION ON  
JUSTICE AND PEACE

FERDINAND M. ISSERMAN, CHAIRMAN  
JULIUS MARK, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
ABRAM V. GOODMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

MAURICE N. EISENDRATH  
LEON FRAM  
LEE J. LEVINGER  
SAMUEL TEITELBAUM

GENERAL COMMISSION

ELMER BERGER  
PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN  
RUDOLPH I. COFFEE  
ABRAHAM CRONBACH  
JULIAN B. FEIBELMAN  
DAVID FICHMAN  
ADOLPH H. FINK  
G. GEORGE FOX  
ERIC FREIDLAND  
SAMUEL GOLDENSON  
ALBERT S. GOLDSTEIN  
MORRIS GOLDSTEIN  
SIDNEY E. GOLDSTEIN  
ROBERT I. KAHN  
EDWARD E. KLEIN  
AARON H. LEFKOWITZ  
ARTHUR J. LELYVELD  
JACOB K. SHANKMAN  
WM. B. SILVERMAN  
HENRY SLONIMSKY  
JAMES A. WAX  
JACOB J. WEINSTEIN

April 4, 1944

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105th Street & Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba Hillel:

On January 27 I sent you the enclosed letter and I have not heard from you about this. I should like very much to receive your affirmative answer so that I can plan for the lectures.

Thus far I have received acceptances from Mordecai Ezekiel, Jacob Marcus, James Heller and Solomon Freehof, and Nathaniel Pfeffer.

With all good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Ferd.*  
F. M. Isserman, Chairman  
Justice and Peace Commission

tm  
Enc.

*3. 10. 1944*

# UNION OF AMERICAN

## HEBREW CONGREGATIONS / RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH, DIRECTOR

THIRTY-FOUR WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

April 7, 1944

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

Dear Friend:

I want to thank you so very much for your cordiality yesterday and for your own conspicuous part in giving us so splendid a start in reaching the quota which your men so spontaneously accepted. I was especially appreciative of the truly generous words of introduction which you accorded me, and I want you always to know that I warmly reciprocate your good will and friendship. I feel likewise that you served as a splendid example by your own personal contribution, as this is one aspect of our campaign which I think we must bring to the attention of our colleagues, in view of the fact that laymen do look to us for leadership in this direction likewise. I hope that others will emulate your generous example.

I heard so very much from your leaders yesterday regarding the most gratifying response that greeted your several lectures on Zionism given at the Temple. I am very eager to read these and would appreciate it very much if you would have your secretary mail them to me.

Once again thanking you for your deeply appreciated cooperation, and with warm personal *Passover* greetings, I am,

Yours most sincerely,

*Maurice*

MNE:SG

*sent  
4-11-44*

April 13, 1944

Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman  
5017 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis 8, Mo.

My dear Ferd:

Please pardon the long delay in answering your letter. I have been under terrific pressure all through the winter months. I have been away from Cleveland most of every week since the beginning of the season.

I wish I could comply with your gracious request to participate in the series of lectures under the auspices of the Commission on Justice and Peace, and to deliver an address in St. Louis sometime during the month of April. It would have given me great pleasure indeed if I were able to come. Unfortunately it is physically impossible for me to take on any additional responsibilities for the remainder of the season. I am compelled to spend most of my time in New York and in Washington, and the few days that I am able to return to Cleveland I must devote to the work of my own congregation. I am sure that you will understand.

With all good wishes for success in your fine project, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

April 20, 1944

Rabbi Solomon B. Freeoff,  
Rodef Shalom Temple,  
4905 Fifth Avenue,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

I am enclosing, herewith, some correspondence from the Jewish Chautauqua Society. My own suggestion is that we do nothing about it. What do you think?

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:NEK

April 21, 1944

Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner  
Euclid Avenue Temple  
8206 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Brickner:

I have attended two of the meetings of our CCAR Chaplaincy Committee since I have been President of the CCAR, and in both meetings it was clear to me that there is a definite divergence of views between the Committee and myself on basic principles with regard to the work of the Committee. I am writing now to state the nature of the divergences as clearly as I can, and to put my point of view before you. This disagreement is so fundamental that it may have to be decided by the conference, unless, of course, we can come to an agreement before the conference.

The matter concerns the procurement work of the Committee. I asked the Committee definitely and I asked you again after the meeting was over, whether it is possible for the Committee to inform me for the Conference how far they intend to go in the further procurement of chaplains. In other words, when the Committee would say that it has gotten as many as it intends to get.

The civilian rabbinate is now so reduced in number that there may be as many as forty congregations which cannot even get temporary replacements. (I heard that figure; I do not know how near exact it is.) We are now compelled to ask the Hebrew Union College to license juniors, and even to urge the College to license lower classmen; and the Hebrew Union College itself is proposing to license laymen to marry, to bury, and to preach. It is clear that the civilian rabbinate is in a precarious condition already, and the condition bids fair to become more critical as the procurement continues.

It is the duty of your Committee to procure chaplains. It is the duty of the entire Conference not only to procure chaplains, but to safeguard civilian Judaism in America. Already our Jewish rabbinate has fulfilled all chaplaincy quotas placed upon it by the government. We lead all denominations in this regard, or certainly are not behind any denomination in the fulfillment of our

duty to the armed forces; but we owe a duty both to civilian and military Jewish communities, and it is my responsibility as President of the Conference to see to it that the civilian work in Reform Judaism is not endangered. That is why I asked you whether you would set a limit to the amount of procurement for the army. This you have refused to do.

I understand well the reason for your refusal. It is based upon a sense of duty to the army and navy, and loyalty to the task of the Committee which has been so well fulfilled hitherto. But I should like to call your attention to certain considerations which must lead us to reconsider the tasks incumbent upon the Chaplaincy Committee of the CCAR from now on (and also, of course, of the entire CANRA insofar as we are a part of it).

I. It is a fact that we have more than filled the quotas imposed upon us by the armed forces. In fact, we have protested against what we considered was the inadequacy of the quotas imposed upon us. We asked the army on more than one occasion to make greater demands upon us than they did. I do not say we were wrong in so doing. We were impelled by the desire to serve the men, but now, due to this desire on our part, the whole chaplaincy quota system has radically changed. It is now no longer a fulfillment of quotas imposed by the military but a fulfillment of quotas which we are setting ourselves. Therefore, it is important to ask ourselves how far do we intend to go, since it depends upon us and not upon the army and navy whose demands have long ago been met.

II. It is important for the Conference to be informed that all the chaplains who have been asked to serve after a certain date, were asked not in response to a military demand, but to our demand. It is a question whether the Conference did not mean that our Committee should fulfill the demands of army and navy, and not create its own demands. We can, of course, justify our going beyond the military requests hitherto, but how long in the future can we continue to justify it?

III. There is a moral question involved. It is an awful responsibility for a government to decide that so many men have to endanger their lives for the safety of the country. There are some who question even the government's right to do it. Certainly a private group dare not take that responsibility upon itself, particularly in a small rabbinate such as ours where it amounts to this: We declare that you, Rabbi so and so, must enter the war.

IV. If it is the intention of the Committee to keep on asking for chaplains until the need of the armed forces be completely met, then it must be stated that this need will never be completely met. A general statistical analysis of the situation will reveal that we can never hope to meet the need completely. There are eleven million men in army and navy now. That means about four-hundred ~~thousand~~ Jewish men. The optimum ratio is one chaplain to every thousand men of each denomination. This would mean four-hundred Jewish chaplains. Even these four-hundred would not be enough for geographical reasons. Jewish men are scattered in small numbers over many camps. We really would need more than one chaplain for every thousand Jewish men if we hope to fill the need. Four-hundred chaplains are, therefore, a minimum. We have now about two-hundred chaplains, of which more than one-hundred are from the CCAR. That means we would

Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner

-3-

need just as many again as we now have. That would mean one-hundred more from the CCAR. You can see that this is impossible. What then can we do?

We can declare that we have more than met all the quotas which the army has imposed upon us; we have even persuaded the army and navy to increase the quotas. Our civilian rabbinate is now in a precarious condition. We must decide that we will do no more procurement, except of course, in the case of those men who volunteer for chaplaincy service.

Let me have your reaction to the above analysis of the situation.

Sincerely,

Solomon B. Freehof

sbf/lb

CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1943-1944

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Vice-President  
Cleveland, Ohio

HARRY S. MARGOLIS, Treasurer  
St. Paul, Minn.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary  
Macon, Ga.

SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT  
4905 FIFTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
MAURICE J. BLOOM, Newburgh, N. Y.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE, Providence, R. I.  
JAMES G. HELLER, Cincinnati, Ohio  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
ALBERT G. MINDA, Minneapolis, Minn.  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
PHINEAS SMOLLER, Joplin, Mo.  
HARRY J. STERN, Montreal, Canada  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHKE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

April 24, 1944

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

Dear Abba:

With regard to the Jewish Chautauqua Society, I believe I told Reinhart that we should do nothing about it this year. Why don't you write him that we are too crowded this year for any Chautauqua business but we will consider it next year when we expect to have a more extensive Conference?

I am enclosing a letter which I have just written to Brickner. This is an extremely important matter, and I would like you to study it and give me your reaction. You and I may have to wage a battle for the point of view which I express; that is, of course, if you agree with it.

As ever,

*Sol*

Solomon B. Freehof

sbfls  
enc.



April 25, 1944

Rabbi Arthur L. Reinhart  
Merchants Bldg.  
Cincinnati, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Reinhart:

I have taken up the matter of your request with Freehof. We both are of the opinion that due to the briefer conference which we are having this year, and the consequently crowded program, it would be advisable to postpone action on your request until next year.

With all good wishes, and trusting that you are well, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

April 25, 1944

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the letter which you wrote to Brickner with reference to the chaplaincies. I agree with you entirely. It is good to remind our over-zealous friends of the Biblical injunction

With all good wishes, I remain

As ever yours,

AHS:BK

# UNION OF AMERICAN

## HEBREW CONGREGATIONS / RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH, DIRECTOR

THIRTY-FOUR WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

May 8, 1944

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

Dear Friend:

Your secretary was good enough to send me your two very excellent addresses on "Zionism - What It Is and What It Is Not." I have enjoyed greatly the perusal of both these fine analyses of the Zionist question, and I must say that you have dealt with the subject in a most comprehensive and objective manner. I feel that you have considered virtually all the arguments against the Zionist position in an exceedingly effective manner. I hope that your addresses have been given wide distribution.

I trust that you will be at the Interim Committee meeting of the American Jewish Conference this Friday. I cannot but feel that the Conference itself is pretty much in the doldrums and that the confusion is becoming more confounded. I hope that this meeting of the Interim Committee may be able to effect some clear line of action.

You will be interested to know that our campaign is moving along quite satisfactorily. We have just begun to make a dent in New York, where our progress, I fear, will be slow but, I hope, certain. I trust that some one of these days you may be able to be helpful to us, especially in New York, where so much work needs to be done in behalf of our Reform cause.

I imagine that by this time your Cleveland Federation campaign is about over and that your men will soon be able to implement the commitment which they made when I was last in Cleveland. They may need a little reminder from yourself.

Hoping to see you in New York this week, and with warmest personal greetings, I am, as ever,

Yours most sincerely,

MNE:SG

*Maurice*

May 10, 1944

Mr. Louis Kraft  
The National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare  
67 West 47th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Kraft:

I notice that the Vice-President of our Conference will speak at your opening session. There is no reason why Dr. Silver cannot also serve as delegate of the Central Conference to your Convention.

With best wishes for a successful Convention,  
I am

Sincerely yours,

Solomon B. Freehof

SBF:LS

Copy to Dr. Silver

CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1943-1944

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Vice-President  
Cleveland, Ohio

HARRY S. MARGOLIS, Treasurer  
St. Paul, Minn.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary  
Macon, Ga.

SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON, SECRETARY  
MERCHANTS BUILDING  
CINCINNATI, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS

IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS  
AND THE  
COMMITTEE ON ARMY AND NAVY RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES  
OF THE JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

RABBI BARNETT R. BRICKNER, CHAIRMAN  
8206 EUCLID AVENUE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
MAURICE J. BLOOM, Newburgh, N. Y.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE, Providence, R. I.  
JAMES G. HELLER, Cincinnati, Ohio  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
ALBERT G. MINDA, Minneapolis, Minn.  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
PHINEAS SMOLLER, Joplin, Mo.  
HARRY J. STERN, Montreal, Canada  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHKE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

May 17, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
c/o The Temple  
E. 105th St. at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

When we had a meeting of the CCAR Committee on Chaplains here in Cincinnati on April 12, the matter of assignment of time to the chaplain program at the Conference was discussed, as well as the type of program.

Rabbi Freehof was present at the meeting and suggested that on Saturday afternoon after lunch at the Rockdale Avenue Temple the chaplain program be given, and that after that the members of the Conference will proceed to the Hebrew Union College for the balance of the afternoon's program.

At Rabbi Freehof's suggestion, I have transmitted this information to Rabbi Marcuson, and am also informing you, as Chairman of the Program Committee.

The chaplain program will consist of a report of the Committee on Chaplains and a Round Table, in which a number of chaplains will participate. Our Committee was given the privilege of selecting the chaplains and arranging for the program, which we are now proceeding to do.

I need not tell you that if I can be of any assistance in helping in the local arrangements, I shall be very happy to be at the call of the Conference.

With kind regards and looking forward to seeing you here at the end of June, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Louis I. Egelson*  
Secretary

CCAR COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS

LE:RM

# UNION OF AMERICAN

## HEBREW CONGREGATIONS / RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH, DIRECTOR

---

THIRTY-FOUR WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

June 1, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friend:

The next Biennial Council of the Union will undoubtedly be one of the most critical and decisive in its history. For this reason, the questions of time, place and program for this 39th Council assume an unusual significance. Both our President, Mr. Rosenberg and I are most anxious that we should have the benefit of your counsel with regard to these vital considerations, and consequently we would like very much for you to serve as a member of the important Committee on Time and Place and Program of the Thirty-Ninth Council.

In view of the fact that these matters must be planned well in advance, the first meeting of this committee will be held on Tuesday, June 27, at the Hotel Gibson, in Cincinnati, at 2:00 p.m.

I trust that you will be able to accept the appointment on this committee and that you will let nothing prevent your being present at its initial meeting on the 27th.

Trusting that I may have an affirmative reply from you at your earliest convenience, I am,

Yours most cordially,

*Maurice*

MNE:SG

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

## SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC=Deferred Cable

NLT=Cable Night Letter

### Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

WMA 557-554

DL=OMAHA NEBR 16

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

EAST 105 AND ANSEL RD= CLEVE=.

CALLING SMALL GROUP OF COAR MEN TO CONSIDER UNITY FOR  
PALESTINE PROGRAM AT MEETING NETHERLAND PLAZA CINCINNATI  
930 PM JUNE 22ND COUNT ON YOU TO ATTEND PLEASE ADVISE  
THAT YOU WILL= SK3740 *SK 3740*

FELIX LEVY:

6-7224

Put in preferred 819PDE

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1943-1944

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Vice-President  
Cleveland, Ohio

HARRY S. MARGOLIS, Treasurer  
St. Paul, Minn.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary  
Macon, Ga.

SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT  
4905 FIFTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
MAURICE J. BLOOM, Newburgh, N. Y.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE, Providence, R. I.  
JAMES G. HELLER, Cincinnati, Ohio  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
ALBERT G. MINDA, Minneapolis, Minn.  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
PHINEAS SMOLLER, Joplin, Mo.  
HARRY J. STERN, Montreal, Canada  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

June 19, 1944

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

Dear Abba:

Please read this before you get to the Conference. You may want to discuss it with me. First, I received a furious letter from Stephen Wise denouncing what he considered the inadequate representation of the J.I.R. on our Conference program. Enclosed is my answer.

I spoke to Felix Levy. Evidently he is an emissary of a group who assigned the task to him. I urged him to call the meeting off and he promised to try, although he assured me it has absolutely nothing to do with the Conference. If he calls the meeting off, all the better. The fact that we have warned him will help even if he doesn't call the meeting off.

I will bring up the matter of the Houston letter at the Executive Board meeting on Thursday, and then we can decide perhaps at that time what we ought to do about Houston and perhaps about the American Council. Perhaps a decision at the Executive Board meeting may save an unpredictable Conference fight.

I count on your bringing Virginia along. We are bound to have time for a little fun together, even though the Conference is short.

As ever,

Sol

SBF:LS  
enc.



PRE\*CONFERENCE MEETING OF

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF AMERICAN RABBIS

CINCINNATI, OHIO JUNE 22, 1944

The pre-Conference meeting of the Executive Board was held at Hotel Gibson, Cincinnati, Ohio Thursday, October 22nd, 1944, the President, Solomon B. Freehof in the Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT . The following members attended:

Solomon B. Freehof, Harry S. Margolis, Sidney L. Regner, Isaac E. Marcuson, Phillip D. Bookstaber, Lawrence W. Schwartz, Abraham Shusterman, Maurice J. Bloom, William G. Braude, James G. Heller, Albert G. Minda, Phineas Smoller, Harry J. Stern .

ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP . The following were elected to membership:

the election subject to payment of dues: Frankd Minsker, Naphtali Frischberg, Willaim Mordecai Kramer, Sidney E. Nathanson, Harold Rosenman, Louis Rachames, Herbert A. Friedman, Harry Z. Gutstein Abraham H. Goldberg.

Joseph Garfinkle and Jacob Tarshish were re-elected to membership.

The application of Ernest Grey was referred to the Refugee Committee.

No action was taken on the application of Ernest Trattner since no formal application was before the Board.

It was moved and adopted that Sidney Strumpf who was previously elected but had failed to pay his dues must re-apply for membership.

The application of Adolf Philippsborn which was based on a Semicha given by three members of the Conference was a referred to a Committee to study this applacation as well as the general principle of Semicha and who shall be qualified to grant it.

*Licensed* ~~STUDENTS~~ STUDENTS . It was moved and adopted that students licensed by the Seminaries are not eligible to membership since the Constitution specifically states that membe ship shall be

limited to ordained Rabbis.

For the same reason the Board decided that Ferdinand Hirsch was not eligible for membership.

COMMISSION ON JUSTICE AND PEACE. The report of the Commission on Justice and Peace was presented and referred to the Committee on Condensation, consisting of Rabbis Minda, Shusterman and Stern, to pick out the essential items which are to be read before the Convention.

RELIEF AND SUBVENTION. Rabbi Margolis <sup>recommended</sup> reported that the aid given to Abraham Fried be increased from \$40.00 to \$70.00 a month retroactive from last August and to continue until November first. Rabbi Margolis also reported in regard to the money expended by Rabbi Israel I. Mattuck in London for refugees and stated that the matter had been satisfactorily settled. It was moved and adopted that the matter be considered closed.

YEARBOOK. Rabbi Marcuson was reelected Editor of the Yearbook, with compensation of \$600.00 and expenses. It was moved and adopted that a notation be put into the Volume calling attention to the fact that this is the thirtieth volume edited by Rabbi Marcuson.

COMMITTEE ON CEREMONIES. Rabbi Heller reported that an arrangement has been made with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations on behalf of the Conference whereby ten per cent of the gross sales of the Committee on Ceremonies shall go into a revolving fund for future expenses of the Committee, and if there is a surplus, it shall go to the Relief and Subvention Fund of the Conference; that a joint committee of the Conference and the Union shall take up the question as to the limits of authority of the Committee on Ceremonies in publishing liturgical material.

TREASURER'S REPORT. The Treasurer's report was presented by Rabbi Margolis.

**PUBLICATIONS.** Rabbi Marcuson reported for the Committee on Publications. It was moved and adopted that when the Newly Revised Volume II of the Union Prayer Book appears, the Chairman of the Publications Committee should <sup>be</sup> authorized to issue the volume in pulpit size, to be sold at \$5.00 a copy.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT.** Rabbi Regner presented the Report of the Financial Secretary, as well as the budget for the coming year. The Finance Committee was authorized to borrow money, if necessary, to carry on the activities of the Conference.

**HOUSTON CONGREGATION.** The following resolution was adopted by the Executive Board:

The Executive Board heartily commends its president for his very able and comprehensive reply to Congregation Beth Israel of Houston. We feel that he has forcefully expressed the present viewpoint of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and of Reform Judaism on the question raised by the Houston Congregation and we would recommend that the reply made by the President, constitute the official response of our Conference to Congregation Beth Israel.

**RESOLUTIONS AT CONFERENCE.** It was moved and adopted that resolutions must be handed in before noon on Saturday, June 24.

**ARBITRATION COMMITTEE.** Rabbi Leipziger reported for the Arbitration Committee. It was moved and adopted that the report of the Committee be accepted. In connection with the Report of the Arbitration Committee the following resolution was adopted by the Executive Board:

The Central Conference of American Rabbis at its 1940 session adopted a Code of Ethics whose purpose was stated

in the preamble: "In keeping with the high traditions of the rabbinate and in order to promote relationships of dignity and esteem among rabbis."

In matters involving different interpretations of Judaism upon which colleagues feel keenly and sincerely, the spirit of this Code may at times be overlooked, and thus may result in serious deviation from the spirit of this Code.

The attention of the Arbitration Committee has within the past year been called to one such deviation involving the writing of letters to members of congregations in support of one interpretation of Judaism, by drawing invidious distinctions between between the teachings of the incumbent and those of a predecessor.

The Executive Board concurs in the decision of the Committee on Arbitration in considering this contrary to the spirit of the Code of the C.C.A.R. and not conducive to the promotion of relationships of dignity and esteem amongst rabbinical colleagues.

PENSION PLAN. It was moved and adopted that a committee of the Conference shall meet with the joint Union-Conference Pension Board to ascertain just ~~what~~ how much money is needed immediately and how payments from the Conference Fund should be made.

PRAYER BOOKS . The President presented a letter from three Chaplains urging that Union Prayer Books be made available for use in Army Camps, The Secretary was instructed to notify the Chaplains that upon proper application through the representative of the Jewish Welfare Board, Union Prayer Books, volume one and two, will be provided.

COMMITTEE ON SOLICITATION OF FUNDS . Rabbi Shusterman reported that this Committee had secured \$

that this Committee had secured \$9500.00 to date, and he hoped by the time of the final report that the Committee would be able to raise between \$11,000 and \$12,000 for relief and subventions.

LUNCHEON ENTERTAINMENT . Rabbi Eisendrath announced that the Conference would be guests of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations at luncheon on Sunday at the Hotel Gibson Roof Garden.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTES. Rabbi Eisendrath recommended the expansion of the Institute on Religion through the formation of a joint committee of the Union and the Conference. It was moved and adopted that Rabbi Eisendrath present his suggestion to the Chairman of the Committee on Public Affairs for presentation to the Conference.

ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac E. Marcuson

Administrative Secretary



POST CONFERENCE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD,  
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS,  
CINCINNATI, OHIO, JUNE 26, 1944

The Post Conference meeting of the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis was held at Hotel Gibson, Monday, June 26, 1944 with the President, Solomon B. Freehof in the Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT. Solomon B. Freehof, Harry S. Margolis, Sidney L. Regner, Isaac E. Marcuson, Maurice J. Bloom, William G. Braude, Albert G. Minda, Harry J. Stern, Stanley R. Brav, Abraham Feinstein, Alan G. Green, Aryeh Lev, Jacob R. Marcus, Louis Witt.

CHILD'S PRAYER BOOK. The chairman was authorized to appoint two members of the Liturgy Committee who with two members of the Committee on Jewish Education shall consider the advisability of publishing a child's book of prayers.

CHAPLAIN'S EXPENSES. It was moved and adopted that the expenses of the Chaplains who participated in the Chaplain's Program shall be paid.

DUES TO WORLD UNION. The treasurer was authorized to pay \$500.00 as dues to the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP. Alexander Feinsilver and Ernest Grey were elected to membership.

Action was postponed on the application of Karl Weiner and the secretary was instructed to put his name in the next bulletin as an applicant for membership.

REQUESTS. It was moved and adopted that all requests to the Conference whose use is not specified shall be credited to the Relief and Subvention Fund.

UNION REPRESENTATIVES. It was moved and adopted that the President and Executive Director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations shall serve as Union Representatives on the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

ROUND TABLE PAPERS. It was moved and adopted that the papers presented at the Round Table shall be published in pamphlet form.

CONTEMPORANEOUS HISTORY REPORT. It was moved and adopted that the report of the Committee on Contemporaneous History with list of anniversaries shall be mimeographed and sent to the members.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES. Rabbis Minda, Brav and Bloom were appointed to serve as a Committee on Committees to prepare and submit to the October meeting of the Executive Board names for service on the various Standing Committees of the Conference.

COMMISSIONS WITH THE UNION. Rabbis Freehof, Marcus and Witt were named as a committee to meet with a similar committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to suggest names of members to serve on the various joint Commissions with the Union.

MUSIC. The Chairman of the Publications Committee was authorized to turn over to some suitable music publishing firm part of our stock of music for the Sabbath and Festivals to be sold by them on a commission basis.

LITURGY. Rabbis Freehof and Silver were named Conference Representatives on a joint committee with the Union to discuss the limits of authority of the Committee on Ceremonies in publishing Ceremonial and Liturgical material.

PRESIDENT'S ANSWER TO HOUSTON. The secretary was instructed to publish the action of the Conference on the President's answer to Houston Congregation in the Bulletin.

MANPOWER OF CONFERENCE. The President was authorized to appoint a committee to study the manpower of the Conference as to Chaplains and Congregations as suggested in President's Message.

RELIEF AND SUBVENTION. A committee consisting of Rabbis Braude (Chairman), Margolis, Regner, Shusterman and Gerstenfeld was appointed to study and report to the Executive Board on ways and means of building up the Relief and Subvention Fund.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT CONVENTION. Rabbi Margolis was named chairman of the Committee on Time and Place of next Convention, and Margolis to name other members of the Committee.

PROGRAM. Rabbi Silver was named chairman of Committee on Program for next Convention with authority to name the other members of the Committee, the Committee to report to the October meeting of the Executive Board.

It was moved and adopted that a letter be sent to Rabbi Silver asking whether the members of the Conference should be invited to offer suggestions as to the type of program desired.

VOTE OF THANKS TO PRESIDENT. A vote of thanks was tendered to the President of the Conference for the masterly manner in which he presided at the Convention.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. It was moved and adopted that the October meeting of the Executive Board shall be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, Tuesday, October 17th.

The meeting adjourned.



AMERICAN JEWISH  
Respectfully submitted,

*Isaac E. Marcuson*  
Isaac E. Marcuson

Administrative Secretary

COMMITTEE ON ARMY AND NAVY RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

of the

# National Jewish Welfare Board

145 EAST 32nd STREET

NEW YORK, I, N. Y.

OFFICERS

Frank L. Weil, *President*  
Major Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel, *Vice-President*  
Mrs. Walter E. Heller, *Vice-President*  
Carl M. Loeb, Jr., *Vice-President*  
Walter Rothschild, *Vice-President*  
Mrs. Felix M. Warburg, *Vice-President*  
Max Wilner, *Treasurer*  
Merwin R. Haskell, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Joseph Rosenzweig, *Secretary*  
Ralph K. Guinzburg, *Assistant Secretary*  
Louis Kraft, *Executive Director*

ARMY and NAVY COMMITTEE

Walter Rothschild, *Chairman*  
Col. Max R. Wainer, *Vice-Chairman*  
Benjamin Rabinowitz, *Director*

Committee on Army and Navy  
Religious Activities

Rabbi David de Sola Pool, *Chairman*  
Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner,  
*Administrative Chairman*  
Rabbi Louis M. Levitsky, *Vice-Chairman*  
*and Chairman Executive Committee*  
Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, *Vice-Chairman*  
Chaplain Max A. Braude  
Rabbi Max D. Davidson  
Rabbi William Drazin  
Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof  
Chaplain Joshua L. Goldberg, USNR  
Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein  
Rabbi Robert Gordis  
Rabbi Abram M. Granison  
Rabbi James G. Heller  
Rabbi Leo Jung  
Rabbi Simon G. Kramer  
Rabbi Leon S. Lang  
Chaplain Aryeh Lev  
Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman  
Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin  
Rabbi Elias Margolis  
Lt. Col. A. A. Melnick  
Chaplain Bernard Segal  
Lt. Col. Morton A. Seidenfeld  
Chaplain Charles E. Shulman, USNR  
Rabbi Milton Steinberg  
Rabbi Elkan C. Voorsanger

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein  
*Executive Director*



Irving Lehman, *Honorary President*

June 29, 1944

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

Following the conference at Cincinnati, I went to Camp Breckinridge, Ky., and have just returned to my desk. I write this note to put in writing what Rabbis Maccoby, Braunstein and I said to you on Sunday, so that it may be part of the record.

It is the opinion of the J.I.R. graduates who were present at the Cincinnati conference that the alumni and faculty of the Institute had not been adequately recognized in the program for the CCAR Convention. In the 1944 program they were given an insignificant role. Not a single important paper, lecture or sermon was presented by anyone associated with the Jewish Institute of Religion. To the best of my knowledge no alumnus of that institution has ever been invited to deliver the Conference Sermon or the Conference Lecture in the 18 years of the Institute's existence.

It is my personal opinion that this does not grow out of willful intent. In the very nature of things the programs are arranged by those who are more familiar with the HUC graduates and have little contact with the JIR alumni. For that very reason it is incumbent on program committees as well as on the officers of the Conference to take conscious cognizance of the necessity for adequate participation by JIR alumni and faculty. Certainly we do not want the development of blocs within the Conference. But in my opinion the best way to prevent this is by the deliberate efforts of the official representatives of the majority to give not excessive but just recognition to those associated with the younger institution.

You acknowledged in person the justice of this position when we presented it to you in Cincinnati. I take for granted that it will be implemented in the programs to come.

With cordial personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN

July 28, 1944

Rabbi George Zepin, Secretary  
Rabbinical Pension Board  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
34 West Sixth Street  
Cincinnati 2, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Zepin:

In your letter of July 19 to Dr. Silver you say that you are sending for Dr. Silver's signature the official copy of the acceptance of appointment on the Rabbinical Pension Board. We did not receive that document for Dr. Silver's signature and I am wondering whether it was sent to him or whether, perhaps, it was misdirected. Our instructions are to send the signed document on to Dr. Heller and we did not wish to delay the procedure unnecessarily.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Dr. Silver

August 28, 1944

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof  
Congregation Rodef Shalom  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

I am enclosing herewith a letter  
from Baruch Braunstein concerning a meeting  
place for next year's C.C.A.R. You might  
want to look into it.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1943-1944

SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, President  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Vice-President  
Cleveland, Ohio

HARRY S. MARGOLIS, Treasurer  
St. Paul, Minn.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary  
Macon, Ga.

SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT  
4905 FIFTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SOLOMON N. BAZELL, Louisville, Ky.  
MAURICE J. BLOOM, Newburgh, N. Y.  
PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER, Harrisburg, Pa.  
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE, Providence, R. I.  
JAMES G. HELLER, Cincinnati, Ohio  
JULIUS MARK, Nashville, Tenn.  
ALBERT G. MINDA, Minneapolis, Minn.  
LAWRENCE W. SCHWARTZ, White Plains, N. Y.  
ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, Baltimore, Md.  
PHINEAS SMOLLER, Joplin, Mo.  
HARRY J. STERN, Montreal, Canada  
SIDNEY S. TEDESCHKE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

August 28, 1944

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

Dear Abba:

Even though the two enclosed resolutions were adopted by all the rabbinical assemblies, I still do not want to sign this second one without at least your looking at it. Would you please return it in the enclosed envelope? If I do not hear anything to the contrary, I shall take it for granted that you have no objection to my signing it.

With best wishes, I am

As ever,

Sol

Solomon B. Freehof

SBF:LS  
Enclosure

P. S. Joe Taxay has just been elected rabbi in Akron, Ohio.



[undated]

Mr. Leopold L. Meyer, President  
Congregation Beth Israel  
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Meyer:

The essence of your protest against the Central Conference of American Rabbis is that it has departed from the "classic" pattern of Reform Judaism, as laid down in earlier rabbinical meetings of Reform Rabbis (Philadelphia, 1869, Pittsburgh, 1885, etc.). Without considering for the moment the specifications of the charge, the general case can well be admitted, namely, that Reform Judaism as expressed in ideas and utterances of most members of the Central Conference does indeed represent a departure from some of the ideas and practices laid down by Reform Jewish leaders in past generations.

It is only an Orthodoxy which dares not depart from "classic" patterns laid down by past generations. It is the principle of Orthodoxy that all laws authentically deduced from past laws are sacred and represent the will of God, and that customs which have been widely accepted in the past have the force of law and may not be abolished even when circumstances change. But Reform Judaism is a liberal Judaism. It proclaims the right of each generation to change customs and rituals and even to restate doctrines, provided the essential principles of Judaism are preserved and strengthened by such changes. The same liberal principles which gave the Reform pioneers the right to change the venerable customs and prayer texts of Orthodoxy give us the right to change practices and modify doctrines of the pioneers.

Dr. Kaufmann Kohler, one of the great leaders of early Reform Judaism in America, convoker and leading spirit of the Pittsburgh Conference of 1885, made a statement which no Reform Jew should ever forget:--

"In order to form a just estimate of such Reform-Pioneers as were Geiger, Holdheim, Einhorn, Hirsch and others in Germany, we must guard against conferring upon them the claim of infallibility which they themselves have wrested for us from the authorities of old. We would sin against the very spirit of progress which made them leaders and prophets of their age, should we attempt to canonize their every word. We would, therefore, do them injustice, were we to weigh all their utterances and opinions in

the scale of modern research and by the standard of recent investigations. Truth grows, and many a thing which seemed true fifty years ago is no longer considered so today." (Hebrew Union College and Other Addresses, page 75.) Dr. Kohler spoke as a true reformer and liberal. Geiger and Holdheim would have rejected any suggestion that later generations of rabbis and laymen should be compelled to keep unchanged and sacrosanct the pattern of ideas and customs which they had constructed. All the early reformers were great liberals.

Any attempt, such as your congregation seems to be making, to fix Reform Judaism at the pattern of one hundred years ago or of fifty years ago petrifies it into Reformed Judaism, a form of Judaism which had at one time been Reformed and then remained forever fixed. It is the resolve of the Central Conference of American Rabbis to keep Reform Judaism liberal and alive to the realities of the age. It is our hope that in so doing we are strengthening both the Reform movement and Judaism itself.

You will not mind, I am sure, if I include in our discussion the question of the by-laws which your congregation has recently drawn up, since these by-laws are the result of the same mood which led you to draw up your resolutions against the Conference and to spread them broadcast.

The clear purpose of your by-laws is to keep from membership in the congregation those individuals who believe in a Jewish state in Palestine, who believe that Kashrus is an essential practice in Judaism, and that the Hebrew language is indispensable in school and in worship. It is true that if a man cannot subscribe to your by-laws he may become a non-voting member; but of course no self-respecting Jew will join your congregation if he knows that his convictions will disfranchise him and make him a second-class member. Your object is definite; you wish to exclude those who disagree with you on any one of the above points.

Most of these by-laws were, of course, taken from the Pittsburgh Platform. I note, however, that you have reworked the Pittsburgh Platform. You speak in your Principle #1 of the Mission of Israel, but you avoid the Platform's great phrase: "Jewish people" and "priesthood." You also omit from your program Part 8 of the Pittsburgh Platform, namely, that: "In accordance with the spirit of Mosaic legislation, we deem it our duty to participate in the great task of modern times, to solve on the basis of justice and righteousness the problems presented by the contrasts and evils of the present organization of society." For these two elements in the great classic pronouncement of American Reform Judaism you substitute your carefully worded caution (not found in the Pittsburgh Platform) against the use of too much Hebrew in the Service. As a disciple of Dr. Kohler, I assure you that your omission of the hallowed and meaningful words "Jewish people" and "priesthood," which you consciously passed over in your borrowing from the Pittsburgh Platform, would have shocked him severely. Dr. Emil G. Hirsch (who proposed plank #8) would certainly have protested

against your omission of the avowal of Israel's dedication to social justice. By what right do you vary the classic pattern of Reform Judaism?

The only right you have must be based upon the premise that Reform Judaism is liberal Judaism. You do have the right to change, as you have seriously changed, the Pittsburgh Platform. You have also the right to publish and declare that these are the principles of your congregation. But you have no right, as a liberal congregation, either to protest against the right of the Conference to vary the older patterns or have you the right to exclude from your congregation those who do not agree with the ideas which you have selected.

What you have done is not only to transform, by omission of essentials, a great classic statement of Reform, but you have, I fear, misunderstood the intention of the framers of the Pittsburgh Platform. These men well knew that there were many men and women in their congregations who did not agree with the new ideas which they proclaimed in Pittsburgh. They certainly did not intend that those who did not accept the Pittsburgh Platform be deprived of the right to vote or, in case of new applicants, not be admitted into the congregation as full members. They understood that there were many in their congregations who did not understand or even agree. But they hoped to influence their congregations. They themselves called it a "platform," as a party platform. They did not mean it to be a test of admission into the congregation. It was a curriculum, not a creed.

You, as a liberal congregation, have the same right. You may say to all who wish to join: "This is what we will teach in our school and from our pulpit. It is for each prospective member to decide whether he will join or not." But you have no right to propose a credal test of conscience, to say to any Jew who wishes to join: "Make a confession of faith. If you cannot accept our creed, you may not be a full member." You have no right to examine the conscience of any child of Israel in order to decide whether his beliefs are acceptable to you. You have the right to influence him once he joins. You have the right to a platform, to a curriculum, but not to a creed.

Official creeds as tests for admission into a congregation are frequent in the Christian Church; there are none such known in Judaism. Jewish congregations and groups of congregations have often suspended or even expelled members (by use of the ban) and even whole groups of Jews have been placed under the ban. Jewish Orthodox law also classifies certain violators of traditional practice as apostates, yet it was scrupulously careful to safeguard all the basic religio-legal rights of apostates (as inheritance, marriage, etc.). As for the ban of exclusion, it is to be noted that even so solemn a ban as that imposed by the great Elijah of Vilna against the sect of Chasidim had almost no effect on Jewish life. It was completely nullified by the deep-rooted sense of comradeship of the Jewish communities. At all events, the policy and

practice of exclusion is a logical and even a justifiable instrument in the hands of an Orthodox religious body which claims divine validity for all its creeds and rituals; but it makes no sense in a liberal congregation.

Returning to your complaints against the Central Conference of American Rabbis, your premise is that we have departed from the classical pattern of Reform. Of course we have, and so have you, and so may every liberal religionist depart from older patterns, provided the essentials are thereby strengthened. The only question is whether the changes which have occurred have violated the essential (not necessarily the classical) principles of Reform Judaism. An examination of the specifications in your resolution indicates that they all concern Zionism in one way or another.

The simplest way to discuss them is to put them together into the one charge which you clearly mean to make: "The Central Conference has become Zionistic and has thereby abandoned the essentials of Reform Judaism."

The answer to this implied charge can be made unequivocally. The Conference has not become Zionistic. It has, however, ceased to be anti-Zionistic. In past years the Conference, in a number of resolutions, expressed its anti-Zionism. There were few Zionists in the Conference in those years. By the way, the anti-Zionist majority would have been appalled if anyone during all these years had ever made the un-Jewish suggestion that Zionist Reform Rabbis, disagreeing as they did with the avowed principles of the Conference, should not have the right to vote. As the years went by the number of Zionists in the Conference increased. By this time it may well be that the majority of our members are Zionists. We do not seek to know. We do not submit our members to a credal test.

The manifest fact now is that there are many, perhaps even a majority, of our members who are both convinced Zionists and convinced Reform Jews. These rabbis do not find their Reform Judaism and their Zionism to be mutually incompatible. It is obvious, then, that there has been a definite change of mood in our Conference. Therefore, in harmony with liberal principles, this new mood was acknowledged in our 1943 Resolution. We recognized the fact, plainly observable in the life of hundreds of our Reform Rabbis, that Reform and Zionism are quite compatible. Each member of our Conference may decide for himself whether to accept or reject Zionism. Whichever way he decides will not affect his status or his moral right to be part of our Conference.

Whether we are justified in thus changing a past emphasis, or whether what we have changed is an essential, indispensable doctrine, may well be debated. All I can say to you is that the majority of the Rabbis of the Conference believe that it is a justified and liberal change to permit each member to have his own opinion on Zionism without considering this opinion a violation of Reform. If the judgment of the majority of the Reform Rabbis

on this question is not acceptable to you, whose judgment will you accept?

Since it is the responsibility of a rabbi to counsel his congregation, may I, as President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, take the liberty of offering a word of counsel to you? Please do not be so nervous about the future of Reform Judaism. Reform Judaism is strong. Its influence in America extends far beyond those institutions which are avowedly Reform. All the American Jewish congregations which are departing from strict Orthodoxy have been influenced by the example of our Reform Jewish institutions. Our leaders are giving guidance to many Jewish and general movements in America. You do not need to build a fence around a Reform congregation to protect it against attack. Reform is of the future; it is a dynamic movement in American Judaism. Let us be bold, confident, and friendly with all of Israel.

(Signed) SOLOMON B. FREEHOF  
President,  
Central Conference of  
American Rabbis

SBF:LSF

