



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

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

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

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Central Conference of American Rabbis, "S", 1945-1946.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF CANADA

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MONTREAL

June 29, 1945.

My dear Abba:

I was quite thrilled to read in to-day's press that you were elected president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. No one will gainsay that you deserve the honour.

My best wishes and warmest congratulations to you.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

*Jesse Schwartz*

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

*Chaplain H. E. Snyder*

POST CHAPEL

CAMP JOSEPH H. PENDLETON

10 July 1945

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
E.105 Street & Ansel Road,  
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver,

This is just a note to congratulate ourselves as members of the CCAR on your selection as President of our body.

If there is any way by which I may be of help, just command me.

With kindest personal regards and good wishes,

Faithfully yours,

*Herman Snyder*

July 23, 1945

Chaplain H. E. Snyder  
Post Chapel  
Camp Joseph H. Pendleton  
Oceanside, California

My dear friend:

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness in sending me your congratulations upon my election as president of the C.C.A.R. I hope that I may be in a position to do a fairly decent job.

I trust that you are well and with all good wishes, I remain,

Most cordially yours,

B/s

# HAR SINAI CONGREGATION

FOUNDED 1842 AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

DR. ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, RABBI

SYNAGOGUE: BOLTON AND WILSON STS.

OFFICES: HAR SINAI CENTER  
6300 PARK HEIGHTS AVENUE

15

August 13, 1945

Dear Dr. Silver:

What disturbs us about the enclosed letter is the last paragraph - "the board

questioned the value of the program, your agency in the light of information supplied and verified

by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds."

It seems to me that the Executive Board should look into the

matter - .

Springfield itself hasn't given us very

much money - \$50 in 1944 - \$125 in 1943,

Snyder is in the chaplaincy - Foster is his

replacement. As soon as Snyder returns I

am sure Springfield will continue to con-

Amintz. What disturbs me is the report  
of the Council of Federations:

I hope you are having a nice Summer.  
Regards —————

Yours,

Abz

WRHS



AS

August 28, 1945

Dear Dr. Silver:

In compliance with your request I have written to the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds, asking for an explanation of the paragraph in the letter from Springfield, Illinois. I hope to have a report, which I will submit in written form, for the executive board of the CCAR.

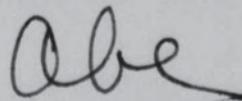
Duke Margolis is optimistic about the work of my committee. I am greatly disturbed. I tried to express my point of view in a letter which I asked Marcuson to read to the executive board at its pre-Conference session.

Just for your information I will send you a copy of the report of collections I expect to prepare for the forthcoming Yearbook. It should be in your hands within a week.

Thus far I have not seen Morris Lazaron since his marriage. He probably is still in North Carolina. Meanwhile we are busily engaged in holyday preparations. I wonder if there is any rabbi who will not mention the atomic bomb and its implications.

Happy New Year to you and your dear/ones from the four of us.

Faithfully yours,



Abraham Shusterman

# HAR SINAI CONGREGATION

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DR. ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, RABBI

SYNAGOGUE: BOLTON AND WILSON STS.

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September 4, 1945

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

Dear Doctor:

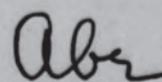
I enclose herewith a copy of the report I sent to Marcuson for publication in the Yearbook. I also enclose the report on Conference activities I received from the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. There is nothing in it particularly disturbing. I only hope that the action of the Springfield, Illinois Federation is not symptomatic of the attitude of our entire constituency.

I hope you will not object to my making a suggestion. A couple of years ago Sol appointed a committee, headed by Braude, to make a study of the solicitations program and to bring in recommendations. Braude presented a report which quite obviously missed the point. I would suggest that, in advance of the next executive board meeting, you ask a member of the board to study this material which I enclose. ~~He~~ He should study the contributions made in 1944-45 in comparison with those published in the most recent Yearbooks of the Conference. On the basis of this study he will be able to point out the trends. Then the executive board will be able to make suggestions in advance of our sending out the solicitations letter which should be sent out within the next six weeks.

It is easy to do the work of the solicitations committee. It really is a routine job but unfortunately I have a conscience and I am troubled by trends in the wrong direction. Duke Margolis is unduly optimistic. He talks about the fine job we have done. I am worried about our failure to do as good a job as we should have done in the year when money is so plentiful.

Happy New Year and fondest good wishes.

Faithfully yours,



Abraham Shusterman

September 18, 1945

Dr. Abraham Shusterman  
Har Sinai Congregation  
6300 Park Heights Avenue  
Baltimore 15, Md.

My dear Abe:

Thank you for your letter of September 4. Following up your suggestion, I have written to Feldman and suggested to him to make a study of your report as well as of the preceding report and contact, if necessary, you, Duke Margolis and Braude. He may have some recommendations to bring in to the next meeting of the Board.

With all good wishes for a happy new year, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

ROGER W. STRAUS  
120 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK

Sept. 24th, 1945.

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

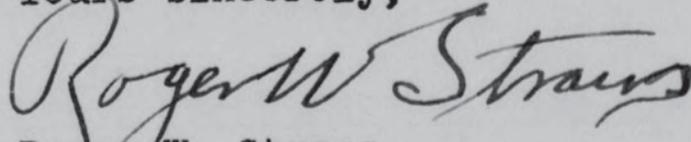
In my recent communication I neglected to extend to you my congratulations upon your elevation to the office of President of the "Central Conference of American Rabbis." I am sure you will enjoy an active and effective administration.

During the coming year you will no doubt make a number of visits to important communities on official Conference business. I am writing to ask if you will be good enough to assist our combined campaign in some of these communities under the proper auspices and upon advice of our campaign office.

Your cooperation in this direction will be a source of much encouragement to the officers of the combined campaign as well as to myself.

An early reply will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

  
Roger W. Straus

10-10-45

Bernard Sang

see

Nat'l Fed. of Temple  
Youth

CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

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DAVID POLISH, Waterbury, Conn.  
DAVID WICE, Newark, N. J.  
LOUIS WITT, Dayton, Ohio  
BERNARD ZEIGER, Roanoke, Va.

October 26, 1945

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My dear Abba:

As per your suggestion I wrote to Sol Freehof and asked him who selects the preachers for the noontime services at the Conference, and also who designates those who write the memorial resolutions.

I enclose a copy of his letter.

If there is anything you want me to do, please let me know.

With best wishes, I am,

As ever,

*Abbe*

AJF:B  
Enc.

RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D.D.  
Rodef Shalom Temple  
Fifth and Morewood Avenues  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

October 23, 1945

Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington Avenue  
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Abe:

The chairman of the Program Committee, namely yourself, sends a list of suggestions to the President, who selects the preachers for the neantime services.

As for the Memorial Resolutions for the men who died during the past year, the Secretary, Marcuson, who usually knows the classmates and the old friendships, etc., will make the suggestions to the President if Abba wants him to. He was of great help in this regard.

With best wishes, I am,

As ever,

(S) Sol

SBF:LS

November 1, 1945

Dr. Abraham Shusterman  
Har Sinai Temple  
6300 Park Heights Ave.  
Baltimore 15, Md.

My dear Shusterman:

At the last meeting of the Executive Board of the CCAR, Rabbi Feldman reported that he had received a report from you as Chairman of the Committee on Solicitation of Funds for Relief and Subventions. The trend which had developed in recent years in securing some of these funds from Welfare Funds instead of from congregations was discussed by the members of the Executive Board and by Rabbi Feldman who had made a study of our solicitation during the past ten years.

It was decided, first of all, to request you to serve again as Chairman of this Committee, and secondly, to convey to you the suggestion of the Executive Board that the Conference would like to concentrate, in the solicitation of funds, on congregations and their members rather than on Welfare Funds and Federations. While we do not preclude the support which may come from Welfare Funds, and while we recognize that in some communities that is already the established practice, which we have no desire to change, nevertheless, it was the consensus of opinion that our major approach should be to members of congregations. It was also felt that a more detailed explanation should be given to members of the Conference when writing to them on the subject of solicitation of funds as to the specific uses to which these funds are being put.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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15

November 1, 1945

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

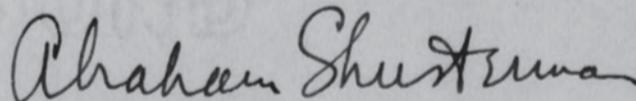
Dear Doctor:

Marcuson has just notified me that I am to continue to serve as Chairman of the Committee on Solicitation of Funds of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. I am very eager to send out our letter as soon as possible. Abe Feldman wrote me that you would send me instructions or recommendations by the Executive Board. Will you please give this your immediate consideration?

I do not want any of our colleagues to feel that the appeal is coming too late in the season.

Warmest personal greetings.

Faithfully yours,



ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN

AS:MK

# HAR SINAI CONGREGATION

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DR. ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN, RABBI

SYNAGOGUE: BOLTON AND WILSON STS.

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6300 PARK HEIGHTS AVENUE  
15

November 6, 1945

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
Cleveland  
Ohio

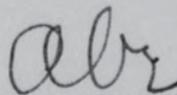
Dear Doctor:

Apparently our letters crossed in the mail. On Saturday I received your letter, bringing me the instructions of the Executive Board. Yesterday I composed and sent to Marcuson a letter to be sent out to all the members of the C.C.A.R. I tried to incorporate into this letter the recommendations you sent me.

Contributions always come in, even before a letter is sent out. This year these contributions are coming in very nicely, and I hope that my Committee will be able to do an even better job this year than we have been able to do in the past.

Warmest personal greetings.

Faithfully yours,



ABRAHAM SHUSTERMAN

AS:MK

*Shusterman*

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LOUIS WITT, Dayton, Ohio  
BERNARD ZEIGER, Roanoke, Va.

November 6, 1945

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My dear Abba:

I have your letter of November 1 asking me to head up the committee that will make a study of the existing commissions and committees of the Conference. I am happy to accept the assignment and will let you know of what progress I am making.

May I hear from you about the program of the next meeting of the Conference, concerning which I had written you some time ago? Marcuson is pressing me for it. He wants to incorporate it in his minutes and, of course, it would be only fair to inform the men who are to prepare papers, as early as possible.

With every good wish, I am,

Faithfully yours,

*Abbe*

AJF:B

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON

November 6, 1945

Rabbi James G. Heller  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Merchants Building  
Cincinnati, Ohio

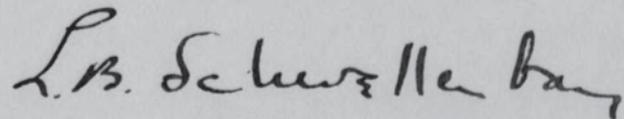
Dear Rabbi Heller:

The Twelfth National Conference on Labor Legislation will meet this year in Washington on December 5 and 6 at the Interdepartmental Auditorium, 14th and Constitution Avenue. The sudden termination of the war poses many peacetime problems in the field of labor legislation and administration.

As in previous years, the Governors of the various States will send delegates consisting of labor commissioners and representatives of organized labor. I am asking a few persons who have special knowledge and interest in labor legislation to meet with these delegates. I sincerely hope you can plan to be with us on this occasion.

Registration will be at 9 a.m. on December 5 and the conference will convene at 10 a.m.

Yours very truly,



L. B. Schwellenbach

December 3, 1945

The Honorable L. B. Schwellenbach  
Department of Labor  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of November 6 to Rabbi James Heller of Cincinnati has just been received by Dr. Silver with a note from Rabbi Heller stating that he thought your letter was intended for Dr. Silver.

As Dr. Silver is at present in Palestine it will not be possible for him to attend your Conference on Labor Legislation on December 5 and 6.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Dr. Silver

DR. JACOB SINGER  
RABBI  
TEMPLE MIZPAH  
1615 MORSE AVENUE  
CHICAGO 26

December 10, 1945

Reverend Dr. Abraham Feldman  
701 Farmington Ave.  
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Abe:

I find it necessary to call a committee meeting on Synagogue music to attend to two vital projects.

One - the arrangement for our Oneg Shabbat for our Conference. It so happens that we are planning an Institute on the Jewish liturgical music at the College, the end of this month. By calling our committee meeting at the same time we might find the two meetings mutually helpful.

Rabbi Marcuson urges the publication of music for volume two (for choirs) to supply the need created by additions to the Union Prayer book, volume two, for the High Holidays.

In calling this committee meeting and negotiating with an editor to look after the supplementary material for the High Holidays, would involve a financial outlay. I cannot give you the exact figure now but I shall be as economical as I can. I need the authorization for such a project and expenditure to provide for the transportation of our committee men and also an honorarium for the editor of the music. Will you be good enough to authorize me for this project and in addition to get up a program for our Oneg Shabbat and to engage the required organist and singers ?

I feel that it is not too early to complete plans for the Conference. I can assure you

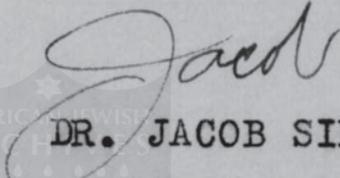
DR. JACOB SINGER  
RABBI  
TEMPLE MIZPAH  
1615 MORSE AVENUE  
CHICAGO 26

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that with the expenses guaranteed our committee  
will lose no time in completing arrangements.

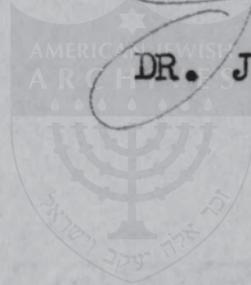
With best wishes.

Fraternally yours,

  
DR. JACOB SINGER

JS:FT

WRHS



STRATFORD BOND

MAG. CONTENT U.S.A.

C  
O  
P  
Y

December 13, 1945  
(Dictated 12-12)

Dr. Jacob Singer  
1615 Morse Avenue  
Chicago 26, Ill.

My dear Jacob:

I am forwarding your letter of December 10 to Dr. Silver who, I understand, has returned to this country this week. I would suggest that you write to him also and ask him for the necessary authorization. I would be glad to give the matter consideration, but it is not my prerogative to do so.

With warm personal greetings, I am,

Sincerely yours,

AJF:B

C: Dr. Silver

C  
O  
P  
Y

December 13, 1945  
(Dictated 12-12)

Dr. Robert Gordis  
The Rabbinical Assembly of America  
Broadway and 122nd St.  
New York 27, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Gordis:

Thank you for sending me the matter which you did under date of December 3. I would not hesitate to give you a judgment on the matter except that I understand Dr. Silver has returned to this country, and that it is his prerogative to speak for the Conference if he so chooses. I shall, therefore, forward your letter and statement to Dr. Silver with a copy of this letter and hope that you may hear from him shortly.

Fraternally yours,

AJF:B

C  
O  
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Y

December 13, 1945

Dr. Stephen S. Wise  
40 W. 68th St.  
New York 23, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Wise:

As I promised you, I took up the matter of assistance to Mrs. Aptowitz with the Chairman of the Committee on Relief of the C.C.A.R., and I am informed by him that by a previous vote of the Executive Board of the Conference several years ago, all assistance for non-Conference members has been stopped. The present position of the Board is that the relief funds were to be used exclusively for members of the Conference and their families. The reason for this action was that the relief rolls of the C.C.A.R. became overburdened to the extent of an annual expenditure of \$20,000 a year, mostly to non-Conference members.

In the second place, I am informed, that the action of curtailing the list was made necessary by the Pension program which, as you know, involved an expenditure of \$150,000 of the funds of the Conference.

Inasmuch as the Committee has to work under the instructions of the Board, they cannot consider this application favorably unless the Board reconsiders its previous action. The next meeting of the Executive Board is scheduled for June 24 in Atlantic City.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Silver and am returning to you the letters you enclosed in your previous communication to me.

It was a great joy to see you last Saturday in Cincinnati and to be there on the occasion of your admission to the ranks of the honorary alumni of H.U.C. May we long enjoy the privilege and satisfaction of your comradeship.

Faithfully yours,

P.S. You may not know it, but the records of the Relief Fund of the Conference indicate that Dr. Aptowitz was a beneficiary of those funds for probably fifteen years, and that after his death his widow continued on that roll for at least two additional years before the Executive Board changed the allocations of that fund. A.J.F.

AJF:B  
Enc.

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DAVID POLISH, Waterbury, Conn.  
DAVID WICE, Newark, N. J.  
LOUIS WITT, Dayton, Ohio  
BERNARD ZEIGER, Roanoke, Va.

December 17, 1945

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My dear Abba:

For your records and information, I am writing this so that you may find it upon your return to your desk. When I was in Cincinnati over a week ago, I heard that Harry Margolis was very sick but that he was improving. This morning I received a long distance call from Herbert Mayer, who is our Accountant in Chicago, telling me that he was called to St. Paul over the weekend and found that Duke Margolis was critically ill and it is questionable as to when he may be able to resume his work. In the meantime vouchers and bills are accumulating which required attention, and Mayer suggested that there be designated immediately either an Assistant or Acting Treasurer who could handle the business of the Conference. After telephonic consultation it seemed wise to designate Louis Binstock, who is a former Treasurer of the C.C.A.R. to take over the Acting Treasurership, until such time as Duke can resume his work.

We contacted your office and were informed that you were not likely to be back until the end of the week. In the meantime the Accountant was telling me that confusion was developing in the books of the C.C.A.R.

Accordingly, I have issued the authority to designate Binstock as Acting or Assitant Treasurer and am having the necessary Resolutions drawn so that all may be working smoothly by tomorrow or the day after. Binstock, on his part, was a good sport and was willing to undertake it.

I trust that the above will have your approval. The emergency was here and we had to act quickly.

Faithfully yours,

AJF:B



December 19, 1945

Dr. Jacob Singer  
Temple Mizpah  
1615 Morse Avenue  
Chicago 26, Ill.

My dear Singer:

Feldman forwarded to me your letter of December 10th.  
By all means proceed with the meeting of your Committee and with the  
program for the Oneg Shabbat. The Conference will meet all reasonable  
expenses.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

DR. JACOB SINGER

RABBI  
TEMPLE MIZPAH  
1615 MORSE AVENUE  
CHICAGO 26

December 19, 1945.

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple, E 105th St. & Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, 6, Ohio

Dear Colleague:-

The report that Dr. Morgenstern is grooming Dr. Nelson Glueck to assist him as President of the Hebrew Union College has disturbed a number of our Alumni. It is feared that the assistant might become the successor.

Dr. Louis L. Mann and Dr. Felix A. Levy (to name but two) have indicated that an archeologist has not the requirements for a teacher of rabbis who must be outstanding as theologian, Jewish scholar and exponent of a liberal Judaism for Jews and non-Jews alike.

The Board of Governors of the H.U.C. is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 16th, 1946. It was felt that the officers and trustees of the Alumni should get together prior to that date (i.e. January 13 or 14th), and that Chicago would be the most suitable place. We would like to have you and Dr. Freehof attend. Would that be possible? In any case let me have your views. I feel that the Alumni is vitally concerned about the selection of a President for our Alma Mater.

Awaiting an early reply,

Fraternally,

*Jacob Singer*

DR. JACOB SINGER

JS:MG

December 20, 1945

Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington Avenue  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Abe:

Thank you for your letter of September 17.  
I am glad that you appointed Binstock as Acting  
Treasurer. I hope that Margolis will soon recover  
and resume his active work as Treasurer.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK

January 3, 1946

Dr. Jacob Singer  
Temple Mizpah  
1615 Morse Avenue  
Chicago 26, Ill.

My dear Singer:

Thank you for your kind letter of December 19. I am sorry that I delayed answering it, but I have been confined to my home with a severe cold during the last week and I have not attended to my correspondence.

I am sorry that I will not be able to come to a meeting on January 13 or 14 inasmuch as I am scheduled to be in New York over that weekend. I am sure that there is no urgency in the matter, that we will have occasion to discuss the subject of the H.U.C. Presidency at some other time in the near future, perhaps during the meeting of the Biennial of the Union.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS: BK

DR. JACOB SINGER

RABBI  
TEMPLE MIZPAH  
1615 MORSE AVENUE  
CHICAGO 26

February 4th, 1946.

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
President. C. C. A. R.  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, 6, Ohio

Dear Colleague:-

I'm writing you at the suggestion of Rabbi Feldman with reference to a conference on Jewish Liturgical Music called by Dr. Eric Werner of the H. U. C. This meeting will take place in New York on March 11th. I believe that the Conference should encourage the Jewish musicians in the project designed to improve the artistic character of our music and in strengthening our traditional values.

While I'm extremely busy, I would attend the meeting providing that you authorize me to represent the C. C. A. R. and that the conference would defray my expenses.

Please give this matter your consideration and advise me of your decision.

With best wishes,

Fraternally,

*Jacob Singer*  
DR. JACOB SINGER

JS:MG

February 6, 1946

Dr. Jacob Singer  
Temple Mizpah  
1615 Morse Avenue  
Chicago 26, Illinois

My dear Dr. Singer:

Let me thank you for your kind letter of February 4.

I believe that you should attend the conference on Jewish Liturgical Music, which is to be held in New York on March 11, and represent the C.C.A.R. The Conference will, of course, be pleased to defray your expenses.

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

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

**Temple Emanu-El**  
4128 SHERBROOKE STREET WEST  
WESTMOUNT MONTREAL

March 12, 1946

Rev. Dr. Abba H. Silver,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to you at this time to remind you of our conversation in Cincinnati regarding two important matters.

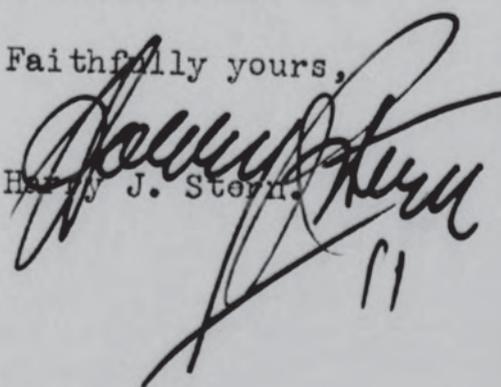
The first has to do with the new Nationality Act of 1940 which has been postponed and comes due October next. I am anxious that the Conference be on guard and see to it that the Union takes action in safeguarding the citizenship of non-native born U.S. citizens ministering in foreign lands. The Legislation might be amended so that it will not affect clergy and educators. I am writing to you as President of the C.C.A.R. on this vital subject that you may look into the matter or appoint a Committee to examine what can be done.

The second matter has to do with the wish that the C.C.A.R. might hold its annual convention in 1947 in Montreal. It is interesting to record that in 1897 the C.C.A.R. met here in Montreal under the chairmanship of Isaac M. Wise. It would be helpful to the cause of Liberal Judaism in the Dominion ~~and~~ if the Conference could meet here marking the half century since it met for the first time on foreign soil.

It was good to have seen and spoken with you and have heard you at the Union Biennial.

With Purim greetings from house to house, I am

Faithfully yours,

  
Harry J. Stern

HJS/mh

6531 N. Seventh Street  
Philadelphia 26, Pa.

March 21, 1946

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Ansel Road & 105th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

May I congratulate you on your inspired address at the Banquet of the recent UAHC Convention. You must have been aware of the tribute to you implied in the attendance and the attentiveness of that large audience after so long a day and evening of speech-making.

You must have been aware, also, of the dissatisfaction of the Chaplains present with their part of the program. It seemed so insignificant when the Banquet had been announced in their honor and those no longer in the Service had been instructed to bring their uniforms.

May I, therefore, suggest respectfully to you, as President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, that should the CCAR be planning any programs involving the Chaplains qua Chaplains, that Chaplains plan the program. And if any tributes are to be made, by all means let some mention be made of the sacrifice contributed by the Chaplains' wives.

With all good wishes for a very successful Conference, and with warmest regards to you and Mrs. Silver, in all of which my wife joins, I am

Most sincerely yours,

*Malcolm H. Stern*  
MALCOLM H. STERN  
Chaplain (Capt.) USA

March 25, 1946

Chaplain Malcolm H. Stern  
6531 N. Seventh Street  
Philadelphia 26, Pa.

My dear Chaplain Stern:

Thank you so much for your kind note and for your pleasing comments on the address which I delivered at the U.A.H.C. Convention. It was a good Convention and I enjoyed being there and participating in the program.

I know exactly how the Chaplains felt that evening, and others have spoken to me about it.

While there is no special program for the Chaplains as I understand it at the next convention of the CCAR, all the noon-day services as well as the Friday Evening and Saturday Morning services will be conducted by Chaplains. Undoubtedly, in connection with resolutions, the Chaplains will be heard from at the convention.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

March 26, 1946

Dr. Harry J. Stern  
Temple Emanu-El  
4128 Sherbrooke Street West  
Westmount Montreal  
Canada

My dear Stern:

I received your letter of March 12. I will present both matters to the next meeting of the Executive Board of the CCAR -- exploring the matter of the Nationality Act of 1940 to learn what the Union or the CCAR can do in the matter, and the place of the CCAR convention in 1947.

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

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

*Please Return  
to Dr. Silber*

RABBI DR. A. KOBER  
214 WEST 92ND STREET  
NEW YORK 25, N. Y.

March 28, 1946.

Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof  
President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Pittsburg, Pa.

Dear President :

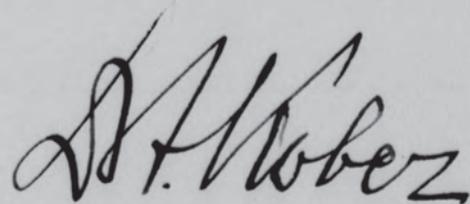
Permit me to send you the enclosed letter of Dr. Emil Silberstein, Shanghai 772/7 Ward Road, formerly Rabbi in Preussisch-Stargard (Germany) who has been helped by the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Dr. Max Wiener who was rabbi of the Jewish Community and Professor at the Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums in Berlin received letters from Dr. Silberstein. As Dr. Wiener has been sick he has asked me, his friend, to forward this letter.

I do not know any better way than to send this letter to the President of the Central Conference and to request you to grant further help to Dr. E. Silberstein, Shanghai.

Thanking you in advance for your kind endeavors,  
I remain

Yours very sincerely



1 encl. (kindly return)

# COMMITTEE ON CEREMONIES

*Joint Auspices:* THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS  
and the CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

*Merchants Building · Cincinnati, Ohio*

April 2, 1946

Rabbi Abba H. Silver, President  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Colleague:

You will recollect that Rabbi William B. Silverman of Gastonia, N. C., suggested a religious observance to commemorate the great deliverance from Nazism. The original suggestion was sent to Rabbi Freehof who transmitted it to the Committee on Ceremonies. At the time, the Committee felt that some form of dignified observance would be justified because of its historical importance and as a warning to future tyrants. The Committee felt that this would not necessarily be conceived, as Rabbi Silverman conceived it, as a second Purim, but rather as a thanksgiving and memorial. The Committee offered to prepare the necessary material if the C.C.A.R. should wish to assign it to us.

This matter came up at your Executive Board meeting and action was taken to request the Committee on Ceremonies to prepare a detailed outline of what it proposes to do, for resubmission to the C.C.A.R. Executive Board.

At the last meeting of the Committee on Ceremonies, when the request of the Conference was presented, the entire matter was reconsidered and a long discussion took place. It was pointed out that in view of the fact that notwithstanding the outcome of the war in favor of the United Nations, the defeat of Hitler was not a victory for the Jews, since it is known that six million Jews perished. Consequently, it was considered ill-advised and inappropriate to arrange a celebration based on the same idea of deliverance as underlies the celebration of Purim.

It was suggested that what might be more appropriate is a necrology or a memorial book; this, however, would not be within the scope of the Committee on Ceremonies but would be the prerogative of the C.C.A.R. It was also suggested that the C.C.A.R. might want to institute a memorial day instead and that, in our opinion, such a day should be on a K'lal Yisroel basis. As an alternative for the Committee on Ceremonies, it was decided to add a paragraph to our present Megillah Ritual to cover the so-called Hitler incident.

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| LOUIS WITT          | Dayton       |
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MEMBERS ON LEAVE  
IN U. S. ARMED FORCES  
CHAPLAIN JACOB P. RUDIN  
CHAPLAIN HENRY TAVEL 1119

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,

2.

To summarize the above, I was instructed to inform you that the Committee on Ceremonies does not favor the institution of a celebration or holiday, that, as an alternative suggestion, a paragraph should be added to our present Megillah Ritual to cover the so-called Hitler incident, and that the President of the C.C.A.R. should be so advised, including the contemplated addition of a paragraph to the Purim Ritual, and that the idea of a memorial day on a K'lal Yisroel basis be transmitted to you.

Our Committee will be very much interested in learning what further action will be taken by the C.C.A.R. Executive Board.

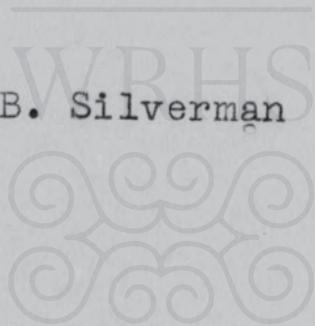
With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Jacob H. Schwarz*  
Secretary

JDS:JW

CC Rabbi William B. Silverman



April 4, 1946

Rabbi Jacob D. Schwarz, Secretary  
Committee on Ceremonies  
Merchants Building  
Cincinnati, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Schwarz:

Thank you for your kind letter of April 2.

I have taken note of the action of the Committee on Ceremonies. I should be very happy to bring it to the attention of the Executives of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

TEMPLE EMANUEL

SOUTH AND WEST THIRD  
GASTONIA, N. C.

WILLIAM B. SILVERMAN, Rabbi

RABBI'S STUDY: PHONE 83

April 4, 1946.

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I have before me a copy of the letter that Rabbi Schwarz sent to you relative to a project that I suggested to the C.C.A.R. As I read through the letter dated April 2, it seemed to me that the Committee on Ceremonies did not quite grasp or will not implement the basic idea of this project. To convert it into a Yizcor service alone would be to defeat one of the original purposes intended. The suggestion was primarily directed to create something similar to a Purim observance, not necessarily a second Purim. There is so much sorrow and tragedy to Jewish life, don't you think that perhaps a dignified and lofty affirmation of some of the positive aspects of our survival might be in order? Is it a reflection upon our martyred dead to declare triumphantly that "the people of Israel lives"?

I don't agree with the committee when it states that the defeat of Hitler was not a victory for the Jews. In view of Hitler's well-known intent to make the whole world "Judenrein", and considering his effort to exterminate not only Israel, but the ideals of Israel, the victory of the United Nations WAS a victory for Israel, even though at a horrible cost of six million casualties. And if Israel has again triumphed over and outlived its persecutors, then it is a victory, and we not only mourn over our losses, but we humbly commemorate that victory. Jacob was wounded on his thigh, - he limped forward, but he still advanced to fulfil his destiny. So, the Jewish people, grievously hurt, wounded, even though limping, must yet go forward in harmony with destiny and its sacred mission to the realization of its exalted ideals.

If this is the greatest tragedy that has befallen our people, and if we have survived to witness even a partial vindication of Israel's ideals, then we should observe and commemorate this historic period through a new ceremonial and liturgy. Not only with Yizcor for our brethern who have perished, but also with a living religious observance for those who have survived. It is not enough to declare our grief for those who have died. We must also proclaim our understanding of why they died, and for what they died -- so that we, and the entire world, may learn from their martyrdom the lessons of moral law. There must be some meaning to our survival, so let us affirm that meaning and offer a prophetic warning to those who would ally themselves with dictators to exterminate the teachers and the teachings of God's laws.

## TEMPLE EMANUEL

SOUTH AND WEST THIRD  
GASTONIA, N. C.

WILLIAM B. SILVERMAN, Rabbi

RABBI'S STUDY: PHONE 88

-2- Rabbi Silver

Especially should we, who are affiliated with Reform Judaism and who profess the dynamic, progressive and prophetic nature of Israel, record this period with ceremony, liturgy and every form of appropriate religious observance.

I can see where the C.C.A.R., along with other Rabbinical organizations, might initiate a Joint Commission to prepare and plan such an observance with the purpose of stimulating our best Jewish writers to create a NEW MEGILLAH describing the suffering of our people, the martyrdom of our people, but also the meaning of the survival of Israel in the face of the greatest extermination effort in all history; to probax the soul of Israel and reaffirm our adherence to God's law despite any persecution or any persecutor. Our liturgists would work on appropriate liturgy; our Jewish artists would appropriately adorn this new Megillah; our Jewish educators would work on related educational projects for children and adults; our Jewish musicians would compose appropriate music and songs of praise, a melody of hope, and a chant of life. What better proof that Israel has not only survived, but survived with hope and a determination to go forward? What better proof that our destiny is with life - not death?

Rabbi, am I mistaken in my belief that we are over-emphasizing a Kaddish Judaism and identifying ourselves and our religion with death, mourning and suffering? Isn't it possible for us to mourn and pay tribute to our fallen, but at the same time emphasize and re-emphasize the most positive aspects of a living Judaism? Must our little children think that every Jewish song is a dirge, and every combination of Hebrew letters a Kaddish prayer? Can't we do something to place words of thanksgiving on the lips of our children, to indicate the joy and nobility and privilege of being Jewish? to give them hope and faith for the future, and an inner pride predicated on the knowledge that through their religion they have something, something that is strong, healthy, living, precious in the sight of God and before man? We say "Blessed be the righteous Judge", but we also declare an emphasis upon life, the future. It seems to me that the heroism of a Warsaw ghetto, the workers in Palestine, the "prisoners of hope" in concentration camps - the many heroic acts of resistance and courage might well be embodied in a new Megillah that will fill the hearts of all who read it with pride of Judaism, Jewish courage and Jewish resistance to evil.

I know this letter is long-winded and I hope that you will not be too impatient, but I do want to give you my own

TEMPLE EMANUEL

SOUTH AND WEST THIRD  
GASTONIA, N. C.

WILLIAM B. SILVERMAN, Rabbi

RABBI'S STUDY: PHONE 83

-3- Rabbi Silver

reactions since I was the one who submitted the project originally to Rabbi Freehof.

Rabbi Witt told me that he thought this was too big a project for the C.C.A.R. I quite agree. But I do think that the C.C.A.R. should organize and initiate it. Phooey on defeatism. My own opinion is that if the strongest Rabbinical organization in the world cannot initiate this project, who can?

With kindest personal regards and all good wishes for your health and happiness,

Cordially,

*Billy*  
William B. Silverman



April 8, 1946

Rabbi Emil Silberstein  
c/o Hicem (HIAS) POB 1425  
Shanghai, China

Dear Rabbi Silberstein:

I submitted your appeal, presented through Chaplain Alvin I. Fine, to our Relief Committee at its meeting held on last Thursday, April 4. The Conference rules make it impossible, I regret to say, to extend you any help whatsoever. These rules strictly confine our assistance to the members of the Conference or their widows. They were adopted three years ago by the Conference Board as a result of the near exhaustion of our funds for this purpose.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Samuel M. Gup

SMG:el

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Y

Please return  
to Dr. Silver

CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

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April 12, 1946

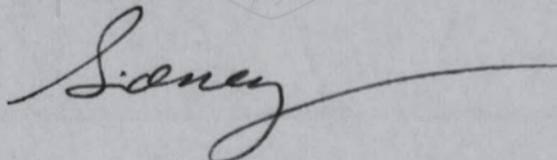
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

We did have a Rabbi Silberstein on our list for several months in 1941. At that time and for several years we were aiding a number of refugee rabbis here and abroad. We discontinued this kind of aid about two years ago.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



SLR:r  
enc.

p.s. Sam Gup is chairman of the committee on relief grants and also on subvention grants - If there is anything further on this you might get in touch with him - S.

cc: Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver ✓

Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman

May 23, 1946

Rabbi Isaac E. Marcuson  
Box 722  
Macon, Georgia

Dear Ike:

I am glad that I heard today from Henry Levy, Publicity Director of the Union, that in all likelihood he will be handling the publicity for the SCAR convention.

I assume that you have made the arrangements with him, hence I shall do nothing further about it. Please let me know definitely. It happens that I am in connection with two offices on this subject, and if Levy is going to handle it there is no need for me to proceed further.

With cordial personal greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

Phineas Smoller

ls

cc: Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver ✓  
Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman

May 23, 1946

Rabbi Isaac E. Marcuson  
Box 722  
Macon, Georgia

Dear Ike:

Please let me know if you intend to send out another mailing to the members of the Conference announcing the meeting dates, place, etc. Do you intend to include a return reply card so that the men can indicate to us whether or not they will want home hospitality for Shabbos (Friday evening only)?

If so, the return reply card must reach us not later than June 12th so that the local people may issue the invitations and be adequately prepared for their guests.

If you do not intend to ascertain this information for us, we will drop this aspect of our contemplated arrangements.

Cordially yours,

Is

Phineas Smoller

P.S. Please also inquire in this letter which of the men will desire courtesy cards for local country clubs. The same deadline applies to this as to the home hospitality question.

cc: Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver ✓  
Rabbi Isaac E. Marcuson

May 23, 1946

Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington Street  
Hartford 7, Connecticut

Dear Abe:

I am sure that you are familiar with the Yiddish expression: "Fin Omer bis osay falt men ziben mol korim". The preliminary discussions with regard to the arrangements for the Conference were enthusiastically indulged in by a number of individuals, but when it comes to tashlis there is no one there. The whole thing has resolved itself into an attempt by me to implement previous decisions and it is quite a burden upon me and of the office. I am going to go through with it, however, insofar as it will be personally possible.

Our plans now are as follows:

- a) Public reception after the opening session of the Conference, Tuesday night at the Covenant Club;
- b) A dinner for the members of the CCAR and their wives, Wednesday evening at the Sherman Hotel;
- c) Home hospitality for Friday evening for those men who desire it if Marcuson will make arrangements so that the information can reach us before June 12th;
- d) Reception by Temple Shalom for the members of the Conference and the congregation following services Friday evening. The enclosures are self-explanatory.

This is official: Greetings on behalf of the Reform Jewish community and in the name of the Chicago Federation of Reform Synagogues will be brought to the Conference by Mr. Samuel Kassel, president.

George Fox suggested that I ask Sam Blumenfield, president of the Chicago Rabbinical Association, to bring greetings to the Conference from that body. I told George that I had nothing to do with making arrangements for the program of the Conference; that the Federation was asked to designate a spokesman on its behalf and this has been done. I told George, however, that I will pass the suggestion on to you and urged him to communicate with you directly.

I rather suppose, and this is for your information, that George must have already said something about this to Blumenfield. He pressed the point that the president of the Rabbinical Association brought greetings to the convention of the Conservative rabbis when it was held in Chicago.

With cordial personal greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

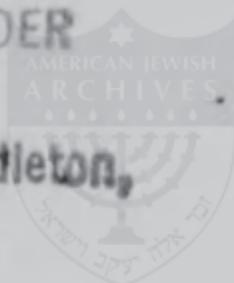
Phineas Smoller

Is  
encl.

P.S. You may be interested to know that the manager of the Sherman Hotel estimated that they already have between 200 and 250 reservations for the CCAR convention. This, of course, does not include the Chicago men.

*Chaplain H. E. Snyder*  
Office of the Chaplain

CHAPLAIN H. E. SNYDER  
Post Chapel  
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Oceanside, California



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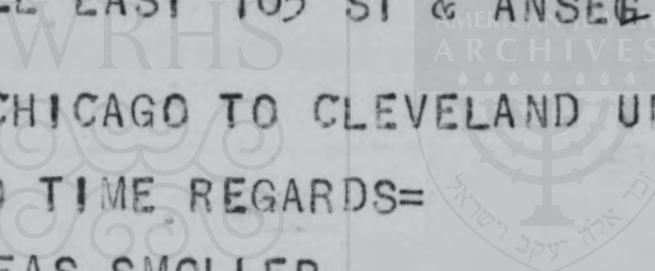
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