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

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Central Conference of American Rabbis, "T," "U," "V," and "W",
1946-1947.

World Union For Progressive Judaism



President
RABBI DR. LEO BAECK

Honorable Secretary
THE HON. LILY H. MONTAGU, O.B.E., J.P.
The Red Lodge, 51 Palace Court,
London, W. 2

4 Field Secretary for the U.S.A.
RABBI DAVID H. WICE
Temple B'nai Jeshurun
17 Waverly Avenue
Newark 3, N. J.

July 1, 1946

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I was delighted to be at the Conference and to have had the opportunity to share in the experience.

Lily Montagu has asked for the names of four who shall be placed on the Governing Board of the World Union to represent the C.C.A.R. I would appreciate hearing from you as to these appointments prior to my departure for London on the 21st, if this is possible. May I suggest that these four shall be yourself, as President of the Conference and in all likelihood to be renamed Vice-President of the World Union, Alan Green of Houston, "Babe" Glazer of Detroit, and myself.

With fondest personal greetings to you and your dear ones,
I am

Fraternally and faithfully yours,

David

DHW:FC

acknowledged - July 8-46

Affiliates:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Union of American Hebrew Congregations . . . Central Conference of American Rabbis . . . National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods . . . National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods . . . National Federation of Temple Youth.
AUSTRALIA: Temple Beth Israel, Melbourne . . . Temple Emanuel, Sydney.
DANZIG: Vereinigung fur Religios-Liberales Judentum.
ENGLAND: Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues . . . West London Synagogue . . . North Western Reform Synagogue.
FRANCE: Union Liberale Israelite de Paris
GERMANY: Vereinigung fuer das Religios-Liberale Judentum . . . Vereinigung der Liberalen Rabbiner Deutschlands.
HOLLAND: Verbond van Liberaale-religieuze Joden in Nederland . . . The Hague and Amsterdam.
INDIA: Jewish Religious Union, Bombay.
SOUTH AFRICA: South African Union for Progressive Judaism . . . Johannesburg, Cape Town and Springs.
SOUTH AMERICA: Culto Israelita de Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

September 16, 1946

Rabbi David H. Wice
17 Waverly Avenue
Newark, 3, N.J.

Dear Colleague:

I have your memorandum of the 12th, and a copy of your letter to Rabbi Silver.

I am afraid our friend Lily is mistaken about our not having paid our dues. The Auditor's Report shows checks for \$500. each year sent to the World Union. Unless of course Regner drew the checks and Margolis did not send them. However, since they do not appear in the list of outstanding checks in the Auditor's Report, they must have passed through the bank. I think she had better check with the Treasurer of the World Union.

As soon as I get the chance I will make up a bundle of books and send them to her, and send such Yearbooks as we can spare.

With best wishes for a happy New Year, I remain

Cordially yours,

Isaac E. Marcuson
Administrative Secretary

IEH:EM
CC - Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

JACOB J. WEINSTEIN

K. A. M. TEMPLE

CHICAGO

November 5th, 1946

RABBI'S STUDY
920 E. 50TH ST.

Dear Colleague:

Mr. Daniel Fox, a member of our Discussion Group, lately has become much concerned with the fact that Reform Judaism seems to be unwilling to conduct an active campaign for converts. He feels that our attitude is one of discouragement to the gentile who seeks fellowship with us. While he appreciates the fact that we are tolerant enough to believe that there are many pathways to salvation and that the righteous gentile is entitled to a place in the world to come, he believes that this tolerance does not justify our inertness in regard to proselyting. He, a very thoughtful and quite successful business man, believes that an active missionary movement in Reform Judaism would not only win many non-Jews to our faith, but would be a much more effective way of answering our detractors than all the apologetics of the anti-defamation societies.

I would like to have your reaction to his thought. What is the official Reform attitude toward potential converts who come to us and toward active proselyting. I think that this subject deserves a place on the agenda of both the Union and the CCAR. I enclose the statement on this subject given by Mr. Fox in the course of one of our Temple discussion hours.

Very sincerely,

Jacob J. Weinstein

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YMHA's, YWHA's and JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS
MEMBER OF THE UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC. (U. S. O.)



Office of the President

FRANK L. WEIL
60 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N. Y.

November 8, 1946.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple,
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland 6 Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

As the time approaches for the appointment of members to CANRA, I am writing to ask each of the rabbinic bodies represented on the Committee to submit their nominations for appointment. At the same time would you also indicate the names of prospective alternates to be appointed. CANRA is made up of seven members and two alternates from each of the three rabbinic bodies.

I would appreciate receiving the nominations of the Central Conference of American Rabbis at your convenience during the course of this month.

With all good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

FRANK L. WEIL

November 11, 1946

Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein
K.M. Temple
920 E. 50th Street
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Friend:

Thank you for your kind letter of November 5 which I read with a great deal of interest. It may interest you to know that Rabbi David Wice raised this issue at the last meeting of the Executive of the CCAR in Cincinnati and informed us that Dr. Baeck had spoken of this very thing at the recent meeting of the World Union.

You might be interested in corresponding with David Wice, and the two of you, perhaps with Bamberger who is interested in the subject, and who has written on it, might evolve some ideas to present to the next meeting of the Executive. It is certainly a subject deserving of serious thought.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

[February 7, 1947]

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION
WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF REFORM RABBIS

Those Present:

Morton A. Bauman, Hollywood
Samuel Chomsky, Westwood
Jehudah Cohen, Los Angeles
Maxwell Dubin, Los Angeles
Norman Feldhym, San Bernadino
Adolph Fink, Spokane
Iser Freund, San Jose
Joseph Gitin, Berkely
Morris Goldstein, San Francisco
Sidney Goldstein, North Hollywood
Leonard Greenberg, Los Angeles
Jacob Halevi, Los Angeles
Joseph Gumbiner, Tucson
Bernard Harrison, Westwood
Joseph Jasin, Los Angeles
Maurice Kleinberg, Santa Monica
A. L. Krohn, Phoenix
Raphael Levine, Seattle
Edgar Magnin, Los Angeles
Harry Merfeld, Los Angeles
Max Merritt, Los Angeles
Max Nussbaum, Hollywood
Wendell A. Phillips, El Paso
William Rosenblatt, Los Angeles
Solomon Starrels, Albuquerque
William Stern, Oakland
Alfred Wolf, Los Angeles



Cards of regret on inability to attend were received from:

Rudolph I. Coffee, San Francisco
L. Elliot Grafman, Long Beach
David Greenberg, Fresno
Henry Rabin, Los Angeles
Bernard Rosenberg, Tacoma

Letters of regret were received from:

Harvey Franklin, Long Beach
Irving Hausman, Sacramento
J. Aaron Levy, Stockton
Irving F. Reichert, San Francisco
Bernard Zieger, Riverside

The first session of the Second Annual Meeting of the Association was called to order at 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday, December 24, 1946 at the Wilshire Blvd. Temple, Los Angeles. President Raphael Levine presided. Rabbi Iser Freund delivered the invocation.

Minutes of the preceding session were read and approved. Correction was made that William Stern was among the hosts who entertained the visiting rabbis and their wives.

The constitution was read. Joseph Gumbiner moved the amending of the second paragraph of the constitution to include the phrase, "as set forth through the policies of the Central Conference of American Rabbis." Motion carried unanimously.

Max Dubin moved the further admendment of this paragraph to include: "All activities will be correlated with activities and existing committees of the Central Conference." Motion carried unanimously.

By these admendments paragraph two of the constitution now reads as follows:

"II. Purpose: To further cooperation among its members and to advance the program of Reform Judaism as set forth through the policies of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. All activities will be correlated with activities and existing committees of the Central Conference."

Morris Goldstein presented a preliminary committee report on Lectures.

William Stern presented a preliminary committee report on Institutes on Judaism.

A. L. Krohn presented a preliminary committee report on Religious Education.

Detailed discussion of the reports was postponed until the next day.

Alfred Wolf, executive director, Western Regional Office, U.A.H.C., spoke on "The Synagogue Finds Its Place."

The discussion on this presentation evoked the criticism that there were too many individual drives on behalf of Reform Jewish institutions which were confusing to the laity. The chairman appointed Max Dubin and Adolph Fink to frame a statement embracing the sentiments expressed. The following statement was presented to the meeting:

The Western Association of Reform Rabbis in meeting assembled in Los Angeles on December 24, 1946, is of the opinion that the present budgets of the several national agencies of Reform Judaism are

inadequate in meeting the total needs of an expanding Reform Jewish movement, and that the methods of financing these agencies are ineffective, undignified and confusing and result in resistance to contributions on the part of the membership of our congregations.

We therefore recommend that a careful re-study be made of the needs and fund-raising methods of all Reform Jewish bodies, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Hebrew Union College, the C.C.A.R. Pension Fund, the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the Jewish Chautauqua Society, and their capital fund needs and that the required funds be raised annually through a single, well planned national campaign.

To such a national unified campaign we pledge our unqualified support and cooperation in our communities.

The recommendation was passed unanimously and the secretary was instructed to forward same to the President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and to send a carbon copy to the executive director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

All members of the Association were the luncheon guests of the Wilshire Blvd. Temple.

Afternoon Session.

Rabbi Rudolph Lupo, executive director of Release Time Activities, Bureau of Jewish Education, spoke on: "Release Time in the Public Schools: How it Works."

The discussion thereafter dealt fully with all aspects of the release time program in its relation to the Jewish Community.

Rabbi Jehudah Cohen, Pacific Regional Director of B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations spoke on: "What Hillel Offers Temple Youth Who Contemplate University Attendance." He asked that Hillel directors be notified by congregational rabbis when students are coming to a particular campus. In turn it was requested that Hillel directors notify rabbis of congregations when students return to their homes from the university.

Mr. Julius Samson, Assistant executive director, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, spoke on: The B.B.Y.O. Program: Is there Competition with the Synagogue Program?

The address and the discussion brought out the points that there was no spirit of competition between the BBYO and the synagogue program. There was plenty of room for the activities of both.

In the evening all members of the Association and their wives were dinner guests of Dr. and Mrs. Max Nussbaum.

Wednesday, December 25, 1946.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 A.M. at the Chapman Park Hotel. Rabbi Joseph Jasin delivered the invocation.

There was a more detailed discussion of Committee reports.

In discussing Lectures Morris Goldstein pointed out the difficulty of arranging a coordinated program for speakers to move from community to community in order to minimize traveling expenses for all. Furthermore, most good speakers from the East demand much larger honorariums than the congregations are prepared to pay. It was suggested that the idea of bringing out Eastern speakers be abandoned and that the membership depend upon talent both lay and rabbinical which can be found upon the west coast. Alfred Wolf volunteered to line up a series of speakers. Morris Goldstein was appointed as chairman of the Lectures committee for the ensuing year with Alfred Wolf and Joseph Jasin as committee members.

This Committee was instructed to become the clearing house for speakers that might be available, with special reference to the needs of the smaller communities -- especially to include talent which is to be found in our own communities. March 21-22 was set for a rabbinic tour in commemoration of Founder's Day.

William Stern reported in detail his difficulties in making arrangements with the Hebrew Union College for an extended tour for a professor for College Institutes. A similar suggestion was made to utilize West Coast rabbis for community Institutes without resorting necessarily to an HUC professor. It was agreed that these Institutes were to be implemented in April and May of 1947.

There was a detailed discussion of the religious education report given by A. L. Krohn. The group attending expressed the sentiment that not enough time was being devoted to the problems of religious education.

Considerable discussion was devoted to the advisability and the advantages of developing a Jewish Youth Camp along the pattern of the Methodist and other Christian denominational youth camps that have been carried on for the past several years. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that a committee be appointed to explore the possibilities for a site for a youth camp for this

summer (1947). Iser Freund was appointed chairman of this committee. President Levine indicated that he would assume responsibility for implementing this project and enlarging this committee as soon as there was something definite to work on.

The afternoon and evening were free.

Thursday, December 26, 1946.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 A.M. at the Wilshire Blvd. Temple. Rabbi Sol Starrels delivered the invocation. Discussion was continued on the committee reports which had been deliberated upon the preceding day. Max Dubin made the following motion: If we fail to make arrangements for an experimental youth group camp for ourselves this summer, that we seek some arrangement with a Quaker or Methodist group.

The officers of the Association were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year.

It was unanimously agreed that the next conference of the Association was to take place in Los Angeles on December 17, 18, 19 of 1947.

The Conference then heard an address by Mr. Meyer Fichman, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Jewish Community Center Association. He spoke on the subject: "Is there a Relationship or Conflict between the Synagogue and the Community Center?"

The talk and the extended discussion were most illuminating.

The afternoon session commenced with a discussion of the agenda for next year. It was suggested that Leo Gallin, executive secretary of the Los Angeles Jewish Council be invited to discuss the general problem of the Community Council. Max Nussbaum suggested that Gallin speak on the subject: "Is there a Possibility of a Kehila Development on the American Scene?"

It was agreed that an entire day be devoted to the subject of religious education. Morton Bauman, Max Dubin, Iser Freund, and A. L. Krohn are to participate in a symposium on religious education.

There is also to be a discussion on: What can we do to improve the service?

- I. From the point of view of the prayer book
- II. From the point of view of the Festivals

An entire afternoon is to be devoted to this subject. Opinion was expressed that these Conferences should also contain in them

a paper on a scholarly subject. Sol Starrels was invited and accepted the invitation to read the first of such papers. He will discuss, "Judaism and Other Religions."

The Conference adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Morton A. Bauman
Secretary

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Finance Report
as of
February 6, 1947

Receipts:

Dues Received from 32 Members
Total Receipts

\$96.00

96.00

Expenditures:

Stationery - 8/22/46
To Temple Israel for Postage,
Telegrams, etc. - 2/1/47
Stationery - 2/5/47
Total Expenditures

9.01

25.00

13.39

47.40

Balance, Cash on Hand

\$48.60

EMANUEL ★ ★ TEMPLE CENTER

8844 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
BRADSHAW 2-1605

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ERNEST R. TRATTNER, RABBI
RES. 10700 WELLWORTH AVE. TELEPHONE
LOS ANGELES 24 BRIGHTON 0-4659

May 16th, 1947

CHARLES W. BAKER
PRESIDENT
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A. L. LEVIN
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
SAM SPRECHER
TREASURER
HARRY GROMAN
SECRETARY

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
President
Central Conference of American Rabbis

My dear Silver:

Rabbi Isaac Marcuson, Administrative Secretary of the CCAR wrote to me that the reason I was denied admission into the Conference last year was because ~~me~~ because I did not have a semicha from a "recognized authority".

My semicha, dated from June 1925, was given to me by no less an authority than Rabbi Solomon Neches, spiritual Leader of the Western Jewish Institute, a Los Angeles organization. As for Rabbi Neches, I wish to state that he was born in Jerusalem and ordained there in 1910. He is a descendant of Rabbi Elijah Gaon of Vilna. I attach hereto a biographical statement of Rabbi Neches' career taken directly from Vol VIII of the Universal Jewish Ency. Besides being a distinguished Rabbi and Leader of the Western Jewish Institute he is also the author of several books in the field of Bible and Talmud.

Having obtained my semicha from Rabbi Solomon Neches in June 1925, I see no reason why I do not merit the Executive Board's recognition -- unless of course Rabbi Neches is, in the words of Marcuson, "not a sufficient authority",

For your information, I took it upon myself to canvass the opinions of members of the Executive Committee -- Freehof, Mendelsohn, Bloom, Phillips, and Egelson because these are the men I know. I was somewhat surprised, to say the least, to read these varying statements. I asked a very simple question: WHAT DOES or does not "CONSTITUTE A RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY"?

It is obvious that if I am denied admission into the CCAR because Neches is not a recognized authority then I think that as a colleague that has been in the rabbinate for 27 years that I merit an answer to my question. Don't you?

★
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Dr. A H Silver
CCAR p. 2

The purpose of this letter is to ask from the CCAR a clear-cut statement as to what constitutes a recognized authority? Then when I have such a statement I can proceed intelligently. If I need additional qualifications then I will most naturally go after them. But as matters now stand I am in the dark, so to speak, because I don't know what are the laws, rules, and regulations that surround the determination.

With many thanks for your kind attention to this request, believe me to be,

Ever,

Ernest R. Trattner

Ernest R. Trattner
Rabbi

Copy to Marcuson



May 22, 1947

Rabbi Ernest R. Trattner
Emanuel Temple Center
8844 Wilshire Blvd.
Beverly Hills, Calif.

My dear Rabbi Trattner:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of May 16. I shall bring it
to the attention of the Executive when it meets
in Montreal next month.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK