



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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Democratic Impulse in Jewish History and "Role of Religion in a
Changing World" (book and article by AHS), correspondence,
1928-1930.

Dec. 12th, 1928.

Rabbi Bernard Heller,
Scranton, Pa.

My dear Rabbi Heller:-

I want you to know that I deeply appreciated the many courtesies which you extended to me during my visit to Scranton. It was good to spend a few hours with you.

I am this day writing to Dr. Morgenstern. When I hear from him I shall let you know.

Under separate cover I am sending you 25 copies of "The Democratic Impulse In Jewish History" and 6 copies of "Messianic Speculations In Israel." If after two months you will not have distributed all of them, please send back to me as many as remain. The price of the first volume is 75¢ and of the second \$3.50.

With kindest regards, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

Dec. 19th, 1928.

Rabbi Bernard Heller,
Madison Ave. Temple,
Scranton, Pa.

My dear Bernard:-

As per your request I am forwarding to you ten autographed copies of my "Messianic Speculations in Israel." Please return the unautographed copies to me.

I have just finished reading your article on Spinoza. It is splendid - incisive and straightforward. The intellectual leaders of the Synagogue like Mendelssohn, Luzzato, etc. were always aware of the irreconcilability of Spinozism and Judaism.

I have written to Dr. Morgenstern and I shall forward his reply to you as soon as I receive it.

With kindest regards, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

Dec. Jan. 3d, 1929.

Rabbi Bernard Heller,
Madison Ave. Temple,
Scranton, Pa.

My dear Rabbi Heller:-

Permit me to acknowledge
receipt of your letter requesting ten
additional copies of Rabbi Silver's "Messianic
Speculations In Israel."

As you have not yet returned
to us the ten unautographed copies which we
forwarded to you, we would appreciate it if
you would return them to us and Rabbi Silver
will autograph them and send them back to you.

With kindest regards, permit
me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Rabbi Silver

MADISON AVENUE TEMPLE

SCRANTON, PA.

BERNARD HELLER, RABBI

January 7th, 1929

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

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Rabbi Heller is ill and has been removed to a hospital. I therefore wish to ask that you kindly wait until I am informed by him as to the disposition of the books and the collection of the money.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Wilda Ouslander

Secretary to Rabbi Heller.

The New York Public Library

Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

NEW YORK, January 10, 1929

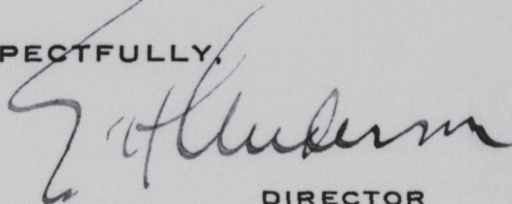
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

I AM INSTRUCTED BY THE TRUSTEES TO
ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS THE RECEIPT OF
YOUR GIFT NOTED BELOW, WHICH YOU HAVE
BEEN SO KIND AS TO PRESENT TO THIS
LIBRARY.

VERY RESPECTFULLY,



DIRECTOR

The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History,
by Abba Hillel Silver [c.1929] New York.

MADISON AVENUE TEMPLE

SCRANTON, PA.

BERNARD HELLER, RABBI

January 16th, 1929.

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

Dear Abba:

The "flu" got me and prevented me from replying to your recent letter sooner. I am not well yet, but I hope to leave for Atlantic City or Lakewood where I hope to regain my health.

I am enclosing a check for \$21.00 which represents the sale of six books. When I return, I will dispose of the other four books and will remit to you the sum thereof.

I am returning the other books. My people were indisposed to purchase them because most of them claimed to have read the article in the New York Jewish Weekly.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Heller.
Per. H.O.

25 Copies "Dew Drop"
20 " " "Miss Spec"

Jan. 17th, 1929.

Rabbi Bernard Heller,
Madison Ave. Temple,
Scranton, Pa.

My dear Bernard:-

Thanks very much for your letter
of January 16th and for the check of \$21.00
covering the sale of six books, which you en-
closed.

If I am correctly informed by my
secretary, she sent you twenty copies of "Messianic
Speculations In Israel" - ten autographed copies
and ten unautographed. I assume that you would
like to return the ten unautographed, as well as
the twenty-five copies of "Democratic Impulse In
Jewish History."

I trust that you have fully recovered
from the "flu" and that your stay in Lakewood or
Atlantic City will do you a world of good.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IE

1/21/29
6 Mess Specs Retd ✓
25 Dem Imps "

MADISON AVENUE TEMPLE

SCRANTON, PA.

BERNARD HELLER, RABBI

January 19th, 1929.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th St.,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I wish to reply to your letter of the 17th. Rabbi Heller is spending some time in Atlantic City, where I hope he restores his health.

As requested by Rabbi Heller, I mailed to you the copies of "Democratic Impulses in Jewish History", together with the six unautographed copies of "Messianic Speculations in Israel."

Your letters of the 17th and the 3rd confused Rabbi Heller. I, however, am quite sure that only six unautographed copies of "Messianic Speculations" were received. Will you kindly refer to your letter of December 12th, which was no doubt written when the books were mailed from your office? I do hope that this matter will be adjusted satisfactorily.

Regarding the remaining four autographed books, Rabbi Heller informed me that after his return he will dispose of them and dispatch you a check for the sum collected.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

*Hilda Ouslander,
Secy. to Rabbi Heller.*

Jan. 23d, 1929.

Miss Hilda Ouslander,
Sec'y. to Rabbi Heller,
Madison Ave. Temple,
Scranton, Pa.

My dear Miss Ouslander:-

Permit me to acknowledge receipt
of your kind letter of January 19th.

I am sorry that my letter confused
you in regard to the copies of "Messianic Speculations
In Israel." In referring to my letter of December
12th I find that you are correct and that six copies
were sent to you instead of ten as I stated in my
letter of January 17th.

With kindest regards and trusting
that the misunderstanding has caused you no incon-
venience, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Rabbi Silver

RABBI HARRY S. DAVIDOWITZ

CLEVELAND, OHIO

December 4th, 1929.

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

Please don't ascribe my failure to acknowledge the receipt of your book to sheer rudeness or neglect. It was due entirely to my desire to read it first, so as to be able to write you a more intimate letter than a mere acknowledgement.

Let me say this to you. Oratory is a gift of God, primarily, and imitations or even emulations in that respect are futile and undesirable. But the acquisition of the knowledge of Jewish literature, and the Jewish soul that goes with such knowledge, could be brought within the power of most rabbis. Imitation in this respect is more than praiseworthy. It is a sad desideratum in the whole field of the Rabbinate of this country.

May your imitators be as numerous as our pulpit incumbents plus our future ministerial aspirants.

Faithfully yours,

Harry S. D.
Greetings to Mrs. S. from Mrs. D.
and myself

STUDY OF
NORMAN M. WEYRICK, PASTOR
The Methodist Episcopal Church
North-East Ohio Conference

Strongsville, Ohio: Jan. 21, 1930.

~~STRONGSVILLE, OHIO~~

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My Dear Mr. Silver:

Thanks very much for the Complimentary
Copy of "The Democratic Impulse in Jewish
History."

I read the Essay carefully and prayerfully
and it gave me a new impulse to search the Old
Testament writings. It certainly enriched my
mind in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

N. M. Weyrick

BOOK

Cleveland, Ohio

Jan. 23, 1930.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
10311 Lake Shore Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I listened with keen delight to your marvelous
essay, read before the Methodist Ministers on Monday
morning of this week. I noted that it was a brand
copy from which you read, so I take it the essay is in
print. May I inquire who is the publisher? I consider
it well worth further study.

Yours truly,

Jas. W. Seward.

Pastor

West Park M. E. Church.

"Dinner Supp"
sent 1/27/30

Saint Alban's Church

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

The Rev. Herman S. Sidener

Rector

Res. 2585 Euclid Heights Blvd.

February 5, 1930

0 1/2
2/6/30
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
10311 Lake Shore Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I was one of those clergymen ^{who} ~~of~~ were
privileged to hear your most interesting and
instructive address last Monday morning at the
meeting of the Cleveland Clericus at Trinity
Cathedral.

I enjoyed your address very much and am
writing to ask if I could secure a copy of your
book from which you read. I should be pleased
to remit for the same.

Thanking you, and with every good wish,

I am

Yours very sincerely,

Herman S. Sidener

Herman S. Sidener

K
THE RECTORY
13216 DETROIT AVENUE
LAKEWOOD, OHIO

February 6th, 1930.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th and Ansel Ave.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

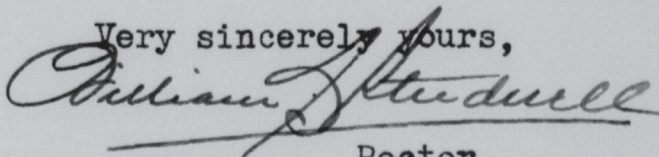
My dear Rabbi Silver:

I do want to express my thanks and appreciation this morning, not only for the little volume "The Democracy Impulse in Jewish History", but also for the presentation of the whole subject, which you so ably brought before us at the meeting of the clericus on Monday, last.

It was indeed thoughtful and generous of you to provide this volume for the members of the clericus of Greater Cleveland, and I want you to know I do appreciate it.

Wishing you every success in your great work as a leader of God's people, and with kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,



Rector
(Church of the Ascension)

K
Emmanuel Church
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
8614 EUCLID AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

TELEPHONE
GARFIELD 0524

February 8th, 1930.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
CLEVELAND, OHIO.

Dear Rabbi Silver,

Thank you very much indeed for sending me a copy
of your book The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History.
It was a pleasure to hear your recent address before
the Cleveland Clericus and I shall always prize this
copy of your book.

Sincerely yours,

W. Ralph Higgins

P.S. I was a member of the graduating class of the
John Marshall School of Law of 1925 to which
class you delivered the baccalaureate address.
I thoroughly enjoyed your address on that
occasion but was never able to put your good
advice into practice as I decided to take
Orders.

X

Calvary Episcopal Church

Cor. Meigs and First Streets

Gates E. M. Young, Rector
Residence 612 Meigs Street

Sandusky, Ohio Feb 12-30

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver D.D.
The Temple
E. 105-2 Ardel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

The book on The
Democratic Impulse in Jewish
History which you were so kind
as to send me, has been received.
I assure you that I appreciate
this and I shall read the book
with a great deal of interest.

I have just been reading The
Real Jew edited by H. Newman. You
may have read it. Your book will be
a valuable addition to this.

Again thanking you

Very cordially yours

Gates E. M. Young.

Saint Alban's Church

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

The Rev. Herman S. Sidener

Rector

Res. 2585 Euclid Heights Blvd.

February 12, 1930

Rabbi Abba Hillil Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Doctor Silver:

I wish to acknowledge with many thanks
the receipt of your book - "The Democratic Impulse
in Jewish History."

I am glad to have it, and appreciate your
giving me a copy.

Yours sincerely,

Herman S. Sidener

K

Miles Park Methodist Episcopal Church

LAWRENCE E. ROTHROCK, PASTOR

9111 MILES PARK AVENUE

Cleveland, Ohio

WRHS



15 February 1930.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I want to confess my delinquency in thanking you for your gift. I value it not just as a book but as a great message as well and am most happy that I can have it in my possession. I thank you heartily and wish you great success in your field.

Cordially yours,

L. E. Rothrock

The First Congregational Church
Chardon, Ohio

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REV. ROSS B. HARTMAN
204 SOUTH HAMBDEN ST.
PHONE 222

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MRS. MAYME CANFIELD
102 EAST PARK STREET

February 24th, 1930.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Ansel Road Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Silver:

Let me give you my
most hearty thanks for sending me your
book, "The Democratic Impulse in Jewish
History." I have been making a study of
Old Testament history and this book will
be a great help to me.

Cordially yours,

Ross Hartman

St. Mark's Church

WEST 48TH ST. AND FRANKLIN BLVD.

CLEVELAND, OHIO

Feb. 25-30

My dear Rabbi Silver. -

It was most gracious of
you to send me your book - something I would like to
have your autograph in it. - I have enjoyed it

immensely. - Most sincerely and affectionately
& say. Many Thanks -

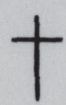
Fraternally

(Rm.) Walter T. Hinzman

K

Personal

The Church of the Incarnation
East 105th Street and Marlome Ave.
Cleveland, O



Office of the Rector

April 17, 1930

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

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I feel very much ashamed of myself for not having written to thank you for the little book you sent me way back in February. I have enjoyed reading it very much and have passed it on to other members of my congregation.

May I take this occasion to tell you how much I appreciate the inspiration you have given to me on many occasions. I have discovered few men in positions of leadership in the religious world who are genuinely fearless in their utterances on social and economic questions. You are one of the few who belong to this group. The Christian world needs fewer "Priestlets" who assume the sole authority of turning on and off the spigots of Divine Grace, and more men of your type who are inspired by a prophetic zeal for the welfare of the human race.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Cordially yours,

William C. Minds

WM:RN

June 18th, 1930

Mr. J. F. Wright,
Pathfinders of America, Inc.,
Lincoln Bldg.,
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Mr. Wright:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of June 14th and for the very nice things which you say about my article on "The Role of Religion in a Changing World." I need not say that I appreciate very much your thoughtfulness in writing to me.

I am grateful to you for the statements about the Pathfinders of America which you enclosed with your letter. I read them with keen interest and they have increased my respect for the fine work which you are doing.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

LAW OFFICES OF
BUTZEL, LEVIN & WINSTON
19TH FLOOR FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
DETROIT

July 11, 1930.

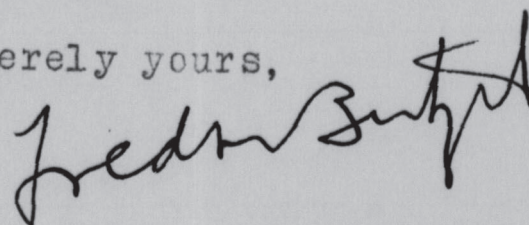
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
c/o The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

In "The Reflex" of July, I have read, with more than ordinary interest, your article on "The Role of Religion in a Changing World". So much has been written, of course, on this subject that anything new is hardly to be expected. However, I think you have written the most readable, comprehensive and interesting, as well as reassuring, article that it has been my pleasure to see. I wish to thank you for it.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



FMB:ET.

Dear Sir

4211 E. 211, Str.
Cleveland, O. July 17, 1930

Sub

Rabbi ABBA Hillel Silver, D.D. LTT. D.
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Friend:

Your book-"The democratic impulse in Jewish history," was received on the 15, of this month; and I want to thank you heartily for it. I do appreciate it very much; and while other authors have mentioned that the O.T. form of government was the most ideal one among all nations, up to our time, I have not yet found any treatise on the Old Testament which did set forth the democratic mind of the Jewish nation as you have brought it out in your estimatable book.

Again thanking you for this gift,

I am sincerely Yours,

J. G. Schaal

5280 Washington B.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Though it
reached me only yesterday,
I have read and re-read
"The Role of Religion in a
Changing World."

I cannot resist thanking
you for having given me this
opportunity. Your deep thought,
your sanity, your understanding
and your justice bring a
sense of security, - of answer
beyond anything I have
read bearing on this subject.
For me, the message will
serve, not only as a haven
in this storm-tossed world,

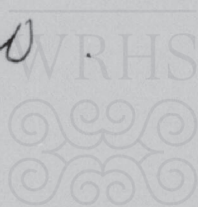
but also as a court of final
appeal. Again, I thank you.

With hearty greetings to
both you and Mrs. Silver,
I am

Sincerely yours,

Marelia S. Steinfeld.
(Mrs. Maurice Steinfeld)

July 22, 1930



P.
HORACE STERN
258 CITY HALL
PHILADELPHIA

July 26, 1930.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Even with the lassitude produced by a temperature of nearly a hundred degrees, I cannot forbear from expressing to you my great pleasure in reading your article on "The Role of Religion in a Changing World." You have thought the thing through so clearly, and have expressed your thoughts so vividly and in such simple and limpid phraseology, that it is a joy to read it.

With kindest regards,
Sincerely,

Horace Stern.

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Publishers

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CABLE ADDRESS PACHAMAC NEW YORK

TELEPHONE ALGONQUIN 2100

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July 29, 1930

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Dear Sir:

We beg to send you enclosed herewith a statement of account of the book which we have the pleasure of publishing for you, in accordance with our agreement.

The sum shown by the statement to your credit is by the terms of the contract due in November next.

Kindly examine the account with the view of ascertaining its correctness and should there be any error please return statement to us without delay so that we may make correction.

Respectfully yours,

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History

By ABBA HILLER SILVER, D.D., LITT.D.

IN this compact, attractively printed volume, Dr. Silver, Rabbi of The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio, traces in luminous outline the manifestations of a dominant democratic impulse in Jewish history. He regards this democratic motif as the essential characteristic of many of the great movements in Jewish thought through the ages.

Prophecy, Pharisaism, the Synagogue, Jewish Mysticism, Chassidism and other significant expressions of the genius of Israel are re-stated here in terms of an invincible democratic urge which seems to determine the vital spiritual processes of the race.

Very challenging indeed is Dr. Silver's analysis and defense of the ideal of the Mission of Israel and his redefinition of Liberal Judaism as a renewed Pharisaism which he declares to be grounded in the democratic religious philosophy of Judaism, free from any anti-nationalistic and anti-nomistic bias, in which the three major concepts of the Faith of Israel, the People of Israel and the Land of Israel are merged.

Dr. Silver's essay will prove a valuable guide to many modern Jews who are in quest of a philosophy of Jewish life consistent with Jewish experience and capable of motivating and enriching their lives.

CLOTH BOUND - - 75 cts.

BLOCH PUBLISHING COMPANY

"The Jewish Book Concern"

31 W. 31st Street

New York

October 23d, 1930

Mr. Adolph S. Ochs,
The New York Times,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Ochs:-

Within the next few weeks my new book "Religion in a Changing World" will be published. It is a collection of essays on some of the outstanding problems of modern life viewed from the point of view of a religious man.

The book will contain essays on "Religion and Social Justice," "Religion and World Peace," "What is Happening to the American Home," "Science and Religion," "Liberalism at the Crossroads," "Education and the Good Life" and other essays of a similar social and ethical import.

While the non-Jewish ministry has produced a number of books dealing with these subjects, I know of none so far produced by a member of the Jewish ministry.

I am desirous to have this book adequately reviewed in the book review section of the New York Times. I rather feel that the book is deserving of such a review and that it might give to the non-Jewish world a more enlightened view of what is the attitude of modern progressive Judaism on many of the crucial problems of our day.

I have always been impressed with the understanding and well-informed reviews of religious books written for the New York Times by Mr. P. W. Wilson. Knowing his general outlook on religious problems, I am inclined to believe that he would like to review my book. The book will be published by Richard R. Smith, Inc. of New York City.

Trusting that I have not imposed upon you by this suggestion and with best wishes for your continued good health and your great services, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR



Sunset Limited

Dear Rabbi Silver —

Your book reached me just as I was leaving for my trip through Texas where I filled several engagements. This will account for the delay in writing to you. Besides, I was anxious to read the book before acknowledging its receipt. I am now speeding toward home and it will be the first reading matter I'll take up. My wife has read it in the meantime and she says that seldom has a book given her so much pleasure and such wealth of information as your volume.

them. I a rare opportunity to hear
you in our Temple. I hope your
vocal indisposition was entirely
cured before you reached your
community.

I can't tell you what pleasure
it was to see you and as regard your
future visit to San Francisco it has
swiftly become a fervent prayer—
but "schteil" I don't want to give
a "straps"

With greetings to you and your
wife and, of course, Jeremy is which
my wife joins me from the distant
San Francisco (I'm writing this somewhere
in Arizona) I am,
 cordially,
Reuben R. Rider

It was most kind of you to send it
true and I appreciate it and
treasure it beyond words.

I was forced to cancel my engage-
ments East and North of Texas on
account of the terrible strain the
tour would have placed on me
had I followed the itinerary
as arranged for me by Mr
Zederman. I would have been
forced to appear almost every
second and third night and to
rehearse with an accompanist in each
city. I am going next winter ~~to~~
but I shall allow more time for
the tour to avoid the strain.

The people ^{in San Francisco} ~~here~~ will grumble
over their bad luck which deprived