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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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Hebrew Union College, 1922-1923.

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

DR. JULIAN MORGENSTERN
ACTING PRESIDENT
DR. HENRY ENGLANDER
REGISTRAR

November 21, 1922.

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,
55th St. & Central Av.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

The Teachers' Institute of the Hebrew Union College has been conducting summer courses in Cleveland, as you know, for the last seven or eight years. This work has, therefore, passed beyond the limits of experimentation and has reached that stage where its results and value ought, at least, to be definitely appraised.

I am writing to you to ask you for a frank statement of your opinion whether the work is worthwhile, whether, in your judgment, the returns in benefit to the teachers of the religious schools of Cleveland justify the expenditure of time, energy and money on the part of the Hebrew Union College. If, in your opinion and that of Rabbis Wolsey and Goldman, the effort is not justified by the results, it will probably be best to discontinue the work. If, however, you feel that the work is profitable, it will, of course, be our pleasure to continue it and, if possible, even develop and expand it, and if you have any suggestions at all that you can offer by which the profit of the Institute and the schools and teachers of Cleveland could be increased, we shall, of course, be happy to receive them and to give them the very careful and sympathetic consideration which they will merit.

May I ask you to give this matter your kind and careful consideration and let me hear from you in regard thereto at the earliest possible moment.

With warmest regards and all good wishes,
I am, ever,

Faithfully yours,

Julian Morgenstern
PRESIDENT. ^Δ

JM:DA

December 2nd, 1922.

Dr. Julian Morgenstern,
Hebrew Union College,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Morgenstern,

In reply to your letter of November 21st, permit me to say that the Teachers' Institute of the Hebrew Union College has been a decided help to the teaching staff of both the Religious Schools, and the members of the Normal school. Last year we had the largest enrollment in the history of the Teachers' Institute; close on to one hundred young men and women attended. I am most enthusiastic about the work and possibilities of the Teachers' Institute in Cleveland, and I most strongly urge that the work be continued here. If possible, next year we shall try to have Dr. Freehof and Dr. Slonimsky with us.

With kindest regards, and trusting that you are well, I am

Very sincerely yours,

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

DR. JULIAN MORGENSTERN
ACTING PRESIDENT

DR. HENRY ENGLANDER
REGISTRAR

December 6, 1922.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
c/o The Temple,
E. 55th St. & Central Av.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

I was pleased to receive your kind letter of the 2nd instant and to note your very favorable reaction toward the work of the Teachers' Institute of the College in Cleveland.

The enthusiastic and warm-hearted commendation which you express, naturally, make us more desirous of not only conducting this work but even enlarging its scope and its usefulness. If you could offer any suggestions whereby this might be done, I would be delighted, indeed, to consider them. Rabbi Goldman has suggested that it would be well if a six weeks' course could be conducted. Personally I do not see how this is possible. But if it could be arranged, I would be very glad, indeed, to go through with it. If you have any suggestions, will you let me hear from you.

I note your request that if possible you would like to have Drs. Freehof and Slonimsky for the Institute next summer. You may be sure that I shall keep this in mind.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

JM:DA

Julian Morgenstern
PRESIDENT. *D*

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

Office of the President

December 8, 1922

Dear Fellow Alumnus:-

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College has upon my recommendation voted a subvention of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) to assist Dr. B. Lewin in the task of preparing to publish a monumental work of great historical value entitled : "Otsar Haggaonim."

Dr. Lewin is an eminent Jewish scholar of Jerusalem who comes to America highly recommended by his colleagues and also by his previous scientific work, particularly his recent critical edition of the very important "Letter of R. Sherira Gaon."

Dr. Lewin is seeking to raise in America a fund sufficient to enable him to complete and publish his "Otsar Haggaonim" and it is in support of this work that the Board of Governors of the College has made the above subvention. It took this action partly to assist in this most laudable undertaking in a material way, but even more, to give tangible expression to its endorsement of this undertaking. It hopes that all its alumni will assist in this work, each by endeavoring to raise in his congregation and community a worthy sum for this purpose.

Professor Alexander Marx of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America has kindly consented to act as treasurer of this fund and all contributions should be sent to him directly, care of the Jewish Theological Seminary, 531 W. 123rd Street, New York City.

May I ask you to also kindly let me know what you have been able to accomplish in this matter, so that a record may be preserved of the part played in this work by the Hebrew Union College and its alumni.

With all good wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Julian Morgenstern
PRESIDENT

JM:DA

December 12th, 1922.

Dr. Julian Morgenstern,
Hebrew Union College,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Morgenstern,

I do not believe that
Dr. Goldman's suggestion for a
six weeks course is practical.
The length of the courses of previous
years has proved satisfactory.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

December 29, 1922.

ABRAHAM L. FEINBERG
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
HOWARD FINEBERG
BUSINESS MANAGER

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

It is our intention to devote the February issue of the H. U. C. Monthly to the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of our beloved Professor David Neumark's coming to this institution. The number is to contain estimates of his personality, of his scholarship, and especially of his contribution to the study of Jewish philosophy. We feel that none is more capable than you to appraise his value as a writer in the sacred tongue and as a thinker. On behalf then of the editorial staff I earnestly request that you express for our publication the admiration I know you feel for Dr. Neumark's work. Were I not convinced of the great interest and weight an article from you ^{upon} carries, I would not presume to encroach upon your most precious time.

Or perhaps another subject would be more congenial to you. We would be delighted to receive a contribution on any phase of Jewish life. Whatever theme allures you, we are certain you will bring to it the profound intellectual perspective and deep emotional intensity so characteristic of your yeoman service to Jewry.

Hoping for a favorable response, and with cordial personal greetings, I am,

Sincerely,

Abraham Feinberg

Feb. 22, 1923.

ABRAHAM L. FEINBERG
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
HOWARD FINEBERG
BUSINESS MANAGER

Rabbi A. H. Silver:

As yet I have received no reply to my letter of Dec. 28, '22, in which I requested a contribution to the H. U. C. Monthly (preferably an estimate of Dr. David Neumark's position as thinker and Hebrew writer). This is a reminder.

May I hope to hear from you soon? The Board is very anxious to have the journal serve as a medium for your expression, and feels that thereby it will be of real service to American Jewry.

Sincerely,

A. L. Feinberg



February 27th, 1923.

Mr. A. L. Feinberg,
Hebrew Union College,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Feinberg,

Please pardon the delay in answering your first letter. I was on my wedding trip during the entire month of January and only the mail of primary importance was forwarded to me.

I wish I could comply with your request. I should love to send an article for your special number in honor of Dr. David Neumark. To give a just estimate of Dr. Neumark as a thinker and writer would require quite a bit of careful study on my part, and frankly I have not the time at present to devote to it. As you know we are in the midst of building a new Temple and every spare moment of my time is devoted to this task and my numerous lectures and other interests have compelled me to give up for the time many things which I should like to do.

I do hope that you will be kind enough to remember me at some future time and I shall be very happy to send you some contribution.

With kindest regards and wishing you well, I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

Office of the President

March 28, 1923.

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Silver:-

I am writing to you today in the hope that we can definitely fix upon the date for the next session of the Teachers' Institute in Cleveland. You see I am taking it for granted, because of your recent letters, that it will be desirable to have the Institute in Cleveland again this year.

I propose that the Institute extend from Saturday night, June 16th, to Thursday night, June 28th. Will you let me know whether that meets with your approval and fits in with the schedule of your teachers.

Also let me know if you have any preferences as to the professors you wish to come this year. So far as it is possible to do so, we shall gladly comply with your wishes. It will be well, too, if we can at this time fix upon the place where the meetings shall be held.

Trusting that I may hear from you soon so that arrangements can be completed in ample time and due notice sent out, and with most cordial greetings, I am, ever,

Faithfully yours,

JM:DA

Julius Hagersten
PRESIDENT.

April Second, 1923

Dr. Julian Morgenstern,
Hebrew Union College,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Morgenstern,

I believe that the dates which you propose for the Teachers' Institute, viz: from June 16th to the 28th, are satisfactory.

As far as the Professors are concerned, I would suggest that it might perhaps be advisable this year to give the teachers of Cleveland an opportunity to meet Professors Mann and Slonimsky.

I think, furthermore, that it might be well to continue the sessions of the Institute at the Euclid Avenue Temple. We shall next year be in our new Temple, when we shall be happy to have the sessions there.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

Office of the President

April 16, 1923.

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,
E. 55th St. & Central Ave.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Silver:-

I was pleased to find
your letter of the 2nd instant upon
my desk, upon my return this morning
from a rather prolonged trip east.

I am glad to know that
you think the dates June 16th to 28th
satisfactory for the next session of
the Teachers' Institute in Cleveland,
and also your suggestion that Professors
Mann and Slonimsky conduct the session
this year.

I shall take this matter
up within a short time and let you know
the outcome.

With warmest regards for
yourself and your dear wife, I am,

Yours sincerely,

JM:DA

Julian Morgenstern
PRESIDENT. *S*

April 20th, 1923.

Rabbi Louis Wolsey,
Euclid Avenue Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Wolsey,

I think we ought to begin to plan for the graduation exercises of the Normal School. It occurred to me that it might be well to hold this ceremony in connection with the opening of the Teachers' Institute on June 16th. Let's think about it.

I would appreciate it very much if Miss Now would send me a list of the graduates of last year and of those who are to be graduated this year. To avoid conflict in the selection of some of these graduates for our teaching staffs I would suggest that we adopt one of two methods. (1) That no girl should be asked to join the teaching staff of any Religious School and that they should be advised to send in their applications to whatever Temple they wish. (2) That the Rabbis have priority in the selection of girls Confirmed in his Temple. I should like to have your thought in this matter.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

EUCLID AVENUE TEMPLE

EUCLID AND EAST EIGHTY-SECOND STREET
CLEVELAND, OHIO

*Normal
School*

Apr. 23, 1923

OFFICE HOURS
8:30 A. M. TO 5:00 P. M.
SATURDAYS AND HOLY DAYS EXCEPTED
BELL PHONE, CEDAR 1985

LOUIS WOLSEY, Rabbi
J. H. SKIRBALL, Assistant Rabbi

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple, E 55th & Central,
Cleveland, O.

My dear Silver:---

Your idea of having the graduation exercises of the Normal School on June 16th, at the opening of the Teachers' Institute, might be a good idea if you had in mind as an audience the members of the Teachers' Institute. I do not imagine, however, that you can count on any other audience unless it be the families of the graduates.

Nor can I guarantee that I will be in town on that date, though that is not material. My summer is uncertain and I do not know anything at all about my presence in Cleveland at that time. I am hoping however, to have begun my vacation before that time.

I am herewith enclosing you a list of last year's graduates, as well as this year's.

As to the matter of selecting our teaching staffs from these girls, you can rely upon my cooperation on any basis that is agreeable to you. I probably will not have over one or two vacancies at the most, in my teaching staff next year, and therefore I will not make very much of a draft on these girls' services.

I am perfectly agreeable to your wish that each one of us have priority in selection of girls confirmed in our respective Temples. As to your other suggestion that we ask the girls to make application to us, I am hardly convinced that this is either practical or advisable. What I think we ought to do in the premises is to confer before inviting any of them to be our teachers.

I am sure we can satisfy one another as to girls who are not confirmants of ours or affiliated with our respective Temples. I will be perfectly agreeable to meet with you at any time, to talk over the names of the graduates for prospective positions.

Cordially yours,

Louis Wolsey

LW:HS
Encl.

EUCLID AVENUE TEMPLE

EUCLID AND EAST EIGHTY-SECOND STREET

CLEVELAND, OHIO

OFFICE HOURS

8:30 A. M. TO 5:00 P. M.

SATURDAYS AND HOLY DAYS EXCEPTED

BELL PHONE, CEDAR 1985

Apr. 23, 1923

LOUIS WOLSEY, Rabbi
J. H. SKIRBALL, Assistant Rabbi

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple, E. 55th & Central,
City

My dear Silver:---

I am herewith enclosing you a copy of the diplomas we have been using for our graduations. Do you think that it will be necessary for us to print a new one? Would it not be allright to use this one and write in whatever changes we need? We have quite a number of these.

Cordially yours,

LW:HS

Louis Wolsey

April 25th, 1923.

Rabbi Louis Wolsey,
Euclid Avenue Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Wolsey,

I think that the diploma which we have on hand is sufficient for our purposes. As far as I know the B'nai Jeshurun Temple has never officially joined our Normal School. It was Rabbi Goldman who joined the staff and he is no longer identified with the B'nai Jeshurun Temple. However I have no objection to writing the name of the congregation on the diploma.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

May 3, 1923.

Office of the President

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
55th and Central Avenue,
Cleveland,
Ohio.

Dear Friend:

At the request of Dr. Morgenstern, who is ill at home, but who expects to return to the College very soon, I am writing you to inform you that it is agreed that Dr. Mann and myself are to be the Teachers' Institute representatives in Cleveland this summer.

I asked Rabbi Freehof to go, but he tells me that he will be unable to come this year, and it was felt that one of the older men familiar with the office of the institution ought to be present. Hence the selection of myself.

The detailed announcement of the courses will be sent in the near future. Dr. Mann expects to lecture on the Spanish period of Jewish history and literature and possibly on some other period, and my intention is to take up the material of all the historical books in the Bible, content and interpretation. Should you have other suggestions in regard to Biblical courses to be given, I will be pleased to entertain them.

The sessions this year, it is understood, will take place in the Euclid Avenue Temple.

With kindest greetings to you and yours,
I am

Cordially yours,

Henry Englander
REGISTRAR.

HE/GHG

EUCLID AVENUE TEMPLE

EUCLID AND EAST EIGHTY-SECOND STREET

CLEVELAND, OHIO

May 3, 1923

OFFICE HOURS

8:30 A. M. TO 5:00 P. M.

SATURDAYS AND HOLY DAYS EXCEPTED

BELL PHONE, CEDAR 1985

LOUIS WOLSEY, Rabbi

J. H. SKIRBALL, Assistant Rabbi

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple, E 55th & Central,
City

My dear Silver:

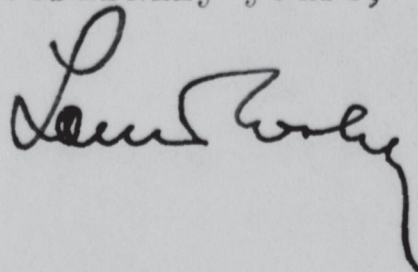
Referring to our correspondence on the subject of the Normal School, I would like you to think further on the subject of providing positions for the teachers. It occurs to me that we could strengthen the Normal School if we made it a rule in the three congregations as well as in the schools of the Council of Jewish Women, that no one would be accepted as a teacher who was not a graduate of our Normal School. Heretofore their qualifications for religious school teaching have not always been considered in our various schools. At your school, I do not believe there are very many who are graduates of the Normal School.

Naturally I would not make the rule retro-active nor would I impose it as a condition for teachers in the higher grades. I have found that very frequently the Normal School has given us but little material for teaching positions in grades from the Eighth upwards, and it becomes necessary to cast about for some capable person who could handle children of this age. I have rarely found such a person in our Normal Class.

I wish you would think this all over and let me have your reaction. I am saying it very largely because we are not going to have a strong Normal Class so long as girls see that they can obtain positions without going to the Normal School.

Cordially yours,

LW:HS



*Re Normal
School
Graduates*

May 9th, 1923.

Rabbi Louis Wolsey,
Euclid Avenue Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Wolsey,

I am thoroughly in agreement with the contents of your letter of May 3rd. Both Miss Schott and myself shall endeavor to give preference to Normal School graduates in filling our vacancies. I think that the plan which we have adopted of giving each Rabbi "first lien" on the graduates who were Confirmed in his Temple ought to work out very satisfactorily.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

The Class of 1923

The Faculty

and the Board of Governors of

The Hebrew Union College

invite you to attend the

Graduation Exercises

and the conferring of the Degree of Rabbi

Saturday June the Second

at half past two o'clock

College Chapel

Cincinnati

Conferring of

Honorary Degrees

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

Office of the Registrar

June 4, 1923.

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Colleague and Friend:-

Under separate cover
I am sending you fifty (50) copies
of the announcement of the Teachers'
Institute courses to be given in
Cleveland this June.

Will you kindly endeavor to get a copy of same in the hands of each one of your teachers as also of such as contemplate teaching. Will appreciate your giving the Institute as much publicity as you possibly can.

With cordial greetings,
I am,

Yours sincerely,

Henry Englander
REGISTRAR. 5

HE: DA

June 7th, 1923.

Dr. Henry Englander,
Hebrew Union College,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Englander,

I just received the prospectus you sent me. Unfortunately there is some confusion. Our sessions in the past have always opened on Saturday evening which this year would be June 16th. There are no sessions on the 16th and 19th these being the two days for the Temple picnics. There are no sessions on Friday evening, June 22nd, but there are sessions on Saturday evening, June 23rd as well as on June 26th. I am therefore not mailing these prospectus to the teachers. I am sending them a letter announcing that the sessions will open for registration on Saturday evening, June 16th at 7:30 at the Euclid Avenue Temple.

We are counting on you to deliver the baccalaureate address the evening preceeding, June 15th. We shall give the Teachers Institute the necessary publicity.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE MONTHLY
ACADEMIC YEAR 1923-1924

July 10, 1923.
304 Meyran Ave.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Rabbi Silver,

The Editorial Board of the HUC Monthly would appreciate your contributing an article or two for the October, November, or December issues of our journal. We would be delighted to print any contribution of yours which you deem in harmony with the policy of our periodical. We would ^{be} especially grateful to you were you to epitomize in a feuilleton your conception of the function and goal of the HUC Monthly, you being one of its earliest editors.

With sincere assurance of our keen appreciation of whatever interest you may take in our paper and whatever ^{aid} you may extend it, and with very kindest wishes for a most healthful and profitable summer, I am,

Most earnestly,

Joseph M. Taxay

July twenty-fourth,
1923

Mr. Joseph M. Taxay,
304 Meyran Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Penna.

My dear Mr. Taxay,

Permit me to thank you for your
kind letter of the tenth instant and for
your invitation to me to contribute an
article to the H.U.C. Monthly. I shall try
to comply with your wishes and send you
something during the early spring months.

With kindest regards and wishing
you well, I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,

Dr/ Henry Englander
Hebrew Union College
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Our Normal School will graduate two
classes on Friday evening, June 15th. Understand
you are to be here for Teachers Institute on the
16th. Will you come and deliver the Baccalaureate
address, Please Wire.

Silver - Wolsey