



## 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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Jewish Community Council, Cleveland, Ohio, 1943-1944.

## Officers

### President

Philmore J. Haber

### First Vice-President

Ezra Z. Shapiro

### Second Vice-President

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### Third Vice-President

Mrs. A. F. Mellman

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# The Jewish Community Council Cleveland

Chester-Twelfth Bldg. • CHerry 8176

Rabbi A H Silver  
The Temple  
E 105th & Ansel Rd  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I want to express my sincere thanks to you for the loan of Palestinian handcraft to the Jewish alcove at the Intercultural Library. ★ Thanks to you and several other interested members of the community, our committee, with Miss Miriam Leikind as chairman, have assembled an exhibit which I believe reflects real credit upon the Jewish community.

I sincerely hope that you will find it possible to visit the Intercultural Library during the summer and inspect not only our Jewish alcove, but the exhibits of several dozen other cultural groups. The Library is located at E. 55th & St Clair, and may be visited week days from 2:00 to 9:30 P.M., and Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sincerely yours,

*Philmore J Haber*  
Philmore J Haber  
President

June 30, 1943



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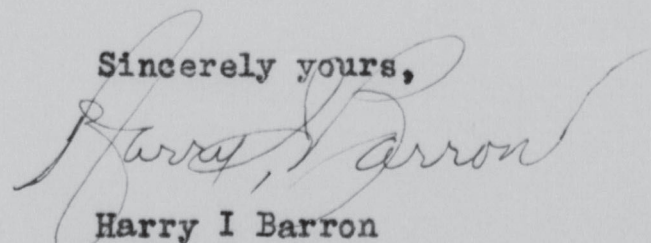
Dear Rabbi Silver:

This is to confirm the date of the special meeting at which the Cleveland delegates will report on the American Jewish Conference. This meeting will take place Wednesday, September 22, 8:30 P.M. in Spira Hall, Temple on the Heights. In addition to the regular representatives to the Council, invitations are going forward to the presidents of all member organizations and to the Conference electors and their alternates. Each has been advised that he may bring a friend. It is expected, therefore, that about 800 persons will be present.

I do hope that you will find it possible to address the meeting for I am sure that those of us who were unable to be present at the Conference are eager to hear from you directly regarding this significant event. Should you find that you are unable to be present, would you be good enough to let us know shortly before the meeting.

With all best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
Harry I Barron  
Secretary

September 16, 1943



## Members of the Jewish Community Council

Achyos Jerusalem Mizrahi  
 Alliance Alumni Association  
 Alliance Mothers Club (Mt. Pleasant)  
 Alliance Mothers Club (E. 105th St.)  
 Alpha Epsilon Pi Alumni Club  
 American Hebrew Benevolent Assoc.  
 American Jewish Committee  
 Anshe Galicia Sisterhood  
 Anshe Grodno Congregation  
 Anshe Marmarish Congregation  
 Anti-Defamation League  
 Anti-Nazi Committee  
 Army and Navy Committee, Jewish Welfare Board  
 Beechmont Club  
 Bellefaire Jewish Orphan Home  
 Beth Hamidrosch Anshe Galicia Congregation  
 Beth Hamidrosch Hagodel Ohave Emmuno Cong.  
 Beth Hamidrosch Hagodel Ohave Emmuno Sisterhood  
 Beth Zion & Cleveland Ladies Aid Society  
 Bichur Cholem (Daughters Group)  
 Bichur Cholem (Men's Group)  
 Bichur Cholem (Mothers Group)  
 B'nai B'rith (Balfour Lodge)  
 B'nai B'rith (Balfour Auxiliary)  
 B'nai B'rith (Cleveland Lodge)  
 B'nai B'rith (Cleveland Auxiliary)  
 B'nai B'rith (Glenville Lodge)  
 B'nai B'rith (Glenville Auxiliary)  
 B'nai B'rith (Heights Lodge)  
 B'nai B'rith (Heights Auxiliary)  
 B'nai B'rith (Kinsman-Shaker Lodge)  
 B'nai B'rith (Kinsman-Shaker Auxiliary)  
 B'nai B'rith (University Heights Lodge)  
 B'nai B'rith Women's Council  
 Brisker & Grodner Benevolent Society  
 Bureau of Jewish Education  
 Bureau on Employment Problems  
 Camp Wise Association  
 Camp Wise Crew  
 Chevas Jerusalem Congregation  
 Child Care Association  
 Cleveland Hebrew Benevolent Association  
 Cleveland Hebrew School & Institute  
 Cleveland Hebrew Vilner Benevolent Society  
 Cleveland Independent Aid Society  
 Cleveland Jewish Singing Society  
 Cleveland Zionist District  
 Cleveland Zionist Society  
 Community Temple Congregation  
 Community Temple Men's Club  
 Community Temple Women  
 Council Educational Alliance

Council Educational Alliance Leaders Group  
 C. E. A. Superior Through Parents' Organization  
 Council of Jewish Juniors  
 Council of Jewish Women  
 Eddy Road Jewish Center  
 Eddy Road Jewish Center Sisterhood  
 Euclid Ave. Temple Alumni Association  
 Euclid Ave. Temple Congregation  
 Euclid Ave. Temple Men's Club  
 Euclid Ave. Temple Sisterhood  
 Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations  
 Forest City Hebrew Benevolent Association  
 Gates of Hope Congregation  
 Hadassah  
 Hamagin Club  
 H. B. S. U.  
 Hebrew Cultural Garden Association  
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 Heights Temple Alumni Association  
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 Heights Temple Zionist District  
 Histadruth Ivrit  
 Hungarian Brotherhood & Ladies Aid Society  
 Immediate Aid Society  
 Independent Mezricher Association  
 Jewish Big Brother Association  
 Jewish Big Sister Association  
 Jewish Carpenters Union L. 1750  
 Jewish Center Alumni Association  
 Jewish Center Congregation  
 Jewish Center Men's Club  
 Jewish Center Sisterhood  
 Jewish Children's Bureau  
 Jewish Consumptive Relief Society  
 Jewish Day Nursery  
 Jewish National Workers Alliance No. 45  
 Jewish National Workers Alliance No. 504  
 Jewish Progressive Association  
 Jewish Recreation Council  
 Jewish Social Agency Representatives  
 Jewish Social Service Bureau  
 Jewish Vocational Service  
 Jewish War Veterans  
 Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary  
 Jewish Welfare Federation  
 Jewish Young Adult Bureau  
 Judea Ladies Auxiliary

Junior Hadassah  
 Keren Hayesod Women's Club  
 Kiever Hebrew Aid Society  
 Kinsman Jewish Center  
 Kneseth Israel Congregation  
 Ladies Free Loan Association  
 Marmorisher B'nai Jacob Sisterhood  
 Marmorisher Young Men's Benev. Assoc.  
 Migdal Zion Society  
 Mizrahi  
 Montefiore Home  
 Montefiore Shelter Home Auxiliary  
 Mothers League for Girl Orphans  
 Mount Pleasant Consumptive Aid Society  
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 National Home for Jewish Children Auxiliary  
 Nivai Zedek Congregation  
 Nivai Zedek Sisterhood  
 Oer Chodesh Anshe Sfarad Congregation  
 Oheb Zedek Congregation  
 Oheb Zedek Sisterhood  
 Ohel Jacob Congregation  
 Ohel Yehvne Congregation  
 Orthodox Jewish Orphan Home  
 Orthodox Jewish Orphan Home—E. 105th St. Auxiliary  
 Orthodox Jewish Orphan Home—Kinsman Auxiliary  
 Orthodox Old Home  
 Orthodox Old Home Auxiliary  
 Phi Lambda Kappa  
 Phi Sigma Delta Graduate Club  
 Pioneer Women's Council  
 Poale Zion—Zeire Zion  
 Poltaver Aid Society  
 Professional League for Labor Palestine  
 Sherith Jacob Sisterhood  
 Shomrei Hadath Congregation  
 Tau Epsilon Rho  
 Temple Alumni Association  
 Temple Congregation  
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 Tetiever Social and Benefit Society  
 United Order of True Sisters  
 Workmen's Circle-District Committee  
 Workmen's Circle Branch 79  
 Workmen's Circle Branch 430  
 Workmen's Circle Branch 559  
 Workmen's Circle Chorus and Orchestra  
 Yeshiva Adath B'nai Israel  
 Yiddish Culture Society  
 Young Israel





CONTINGENT FUND COMMITTEE  
JEWISH WELFARE FUND

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 1943

- I. Present: Rabbi Armond E. Cohen  
Rabbi Emanuel Eckstein  
Rabbi A. H. Silver
- II. Rabbi Cohen opened the meeting by distributing the Secretary's report indicating the Business left unfinished at the last meeting of the committee. The status of the fund to date is as follows:
- |  |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| A. Available to the Contingent Fund Committee for 1943 |         | \$9,000 |
| B. Allocations already granted for 1943                |         | 5,535   |
| a. To 9 institutions in the United States              | \$2,600 |         |
| b. To 35 institutions in Palestine                     | 2,935   |         |
| C. Still available for distribution                    |         | 3,465   |
- III. After some discussion, the following decisions were reached:
- A. Agencies which received funds in 1942
1. General Israel Orphan Home for Girls: The committee was concerned with a communication which pointed out that mail appeals would continue to be conducted within a limited group of people in Cleveland who had been supporting the institution for many years. The committee felt that before any action should be taken, a list of Cleveland contributors should be requested to determine how extensive this solicitation is.
  2. Kolel Shomre Hachamoth: The committee approved a renewal of \$250 for 1943 in view of the fact that the arrangement between the Kolel and the AFPI does not go into effect until 1944.
  3. Vaad Hahatzala : The committee decided not to renew its allocation in view of the fact that the amount requested was far beyond the funds at the disposal of the committee, and there was considerable question as to overlapping of work between the Vaad Hahatzala and the J.D.C.



## B. Institutions previously rejected:

1. American Committee for Relief of Yemenite Jews : \$50 granted
2. Beth Cholim Mitvanim : Rejected because it is a beneficiary of the United Charity Institutions
3. Bicur Cholim Hospital : Rejected because it is a beneficiary of the United Charity Institutions
4. Central Universal Yeshivah : Allocation of \$200 granted on condition that further independent solicitation cease
5. Eliach's Public Kitchen & Shelter Home : Action deferred pending the receipt of more recent information
6. Federated Council of Palestinian Institutions : Rejected because of doubt as to efficiency of operation
7. Relief Committee for Refugee Rabbis : Rejected because of doubt as to efficiency of operation
8. Torah Emeth of Jerusalem : Action deferred pending receipt of more recent information
9. United Charity Institutions : Rejected because of refusal to discontinue independent solicitation
10. Union of Sons of Old City Jerusalem : Action deferred pending receipt of more recent information

## C. New Applications

1. Beney Zion, United Talmud Torahs : Granted \$50
2. Hatamchui Soup Kitchen : Rejected because services are too small to warrant consideration
3. Hebrew Institute of Boro Park : Rejected, not within the scope of the Contingent Fund
4. Jewish Book Council of America : Rejected, not within the scope of the Contingent Fund
5. Palestine Lighthouse : Granted \$50 to be sent directly to the Jewish Institute for the Blind in Jerusalem



IV. The committee reconsidered a number of the allocations which had already been granted and made the following decisions:

1. Academy for Jewish Research : An additional \$100 to be granted and applied to the research work of Dr. Higger.
2. American Fund for Palestinian Institutions : An additional \$250 granted for 1943

V. The committee also decided to investigate if the Public Library has a new Jewish encyclopedia and if it has not, decided to purchase the encyclopedia for the use of the Library.

Rabbi Cohen suggested that a subscription be purchased for Rabbi Meyer Berlin's Talmud and encyclopedia.

VI. The committee agreed that with the description in the work of the European centers of learning, a great many cultural and educational activities had been transferred to the United States. It was felt that many of these might well warrant the support of the Contingent Fund Committee and an effort is to be made by the members of the committee to discover and present for consideration such agencies and institutions. It was agreed that the next meeting of the committee should be held some time during February of 1944 at which time the disposal of the remaining funds will be considered.

Respectfully submitted,

Milton Fromer  
Secretary



# The Jewish Community Council

Chester-Twelfth Building

PHONE, CHERRY 8176

Cleveland

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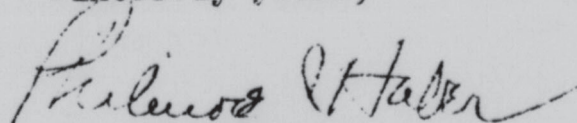
Dear President:

We have not yet been informed as to who will represent your organization in the Jewish Community Council for 1944, although it is more than two months since we requested the information. I am therefore writing to remind you that we must have this information next week, at the latest.

You will remember that organizations may appoint or elect their delegates. And we should like to stress again the necessity of choosing representatives who are the best leadership of our organizations and of the community, and of making sure in advance that every representative will attend Community Council meetings regularly.

May we please hear from you promptly?

Sincerely yours,



Philmore J. Haber  
President

February 10, 1944



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Jewish Young Adult Bureau  
Judea Ladies Auxiliary



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Keren Hayesod Women's Club  
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Ladies Free Loan Association  
League for Human Rights  
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Workmen's Circle Chorus and Orchestra  
Yeshiva Adath B'nai Israel  
Yiddish Culture Society  
Young Israel



R E S O L U T I O N

Adopted by

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF CLEVELAND

February 10, 1944

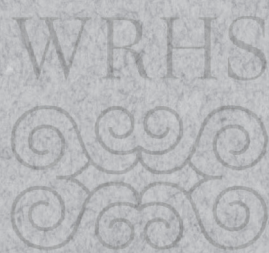
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BE IT RESOLVED that we The Jewish Community Council of Cleveland, Ohio, representing 160 organizations and the entire Jewish Community of one hundred thousand souls, express our approval of House Resolutions 418 - 419 and Senate Resolution 247, and their aims and purposes looking toward the abrogation of the British White Paper and the fulfillment of the Balfour Declaration, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge our Congressmen and Senators to act favorably on these Resolutions in order that Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution be assured a haven of refuge in Palestine where they may live in freedom and in peace, and where ultimately there will be constituted a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth so necessary for the welfare and safety of the Jewish people and for the peace of the world.



REPORT OF THE  
PRESIDENT  
PHILMORE J. HABER



PRESENTED AT THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF CLEVELAND

MARCH 28, 1944



This annual meeting tonight marks the close of eight years of the Jewish Community Council's existence. Eight years in the life of an organization is not a long time; surely in Jewish history it is but a moment. Nevertheless, these eight years of activity have yielded a rich background and experience which, if we examine them well and guide our future course by them, will have profound influence on our further efforts to develop a wholesome, vigorous, and intelligent Jewish community.

I have been privileged to serve as your President for three years. During this period I have from time to time reported on the various activities of the Council. In this, my last report to you as your President, I should like to use a little different approach in commenting on the development of the Council and its significance.

Our Council, despite its youth, is one of the oldest Jewish community councils in America. Since its creation, a number of cities have organized similar agencies and have looked to our Council as a model. This development in Jewish communal organization in America is on the increase. It is part of a trend in the growth and maturity of the American Jewish community which must be understood in order that we may more intelligently utilize these forces for our continued growth and development. Fully one-third of the representatives composing our Council this year have been designated by their organizations for the first time. For these new representatives, as well as for the rest of us, it may be worthwhile to review briefly the conditions which led to the founding of our Council in Cleveland, to recall the Council's primary purposes and underlying principles; and on that basis to chart our course toward the further achievement of those purposes for which our Council was established.

It is entirely proper that we try to gain a deeper insight into the pattern of our Jewish life. We must recognize that knowledge of what we are and what we stand for is no longer a purely intellectual concern, but a weapon in the struggle for survival.

Many of you, I am sure, will remember the intense suspicions and antagonisms that were nurtured among the various groups here in Cleveland before the establishment of the Council. The Jews were divided into a number of isolated groups, with conflict rampant. Obviously, this chaotic state did not permit the best planning and action in behalf of the whole Jewish population. Self-appointed leaders, often well motivated, but inept and irresponsible, without a constituency, or even any contact with the large numbers of the Jewish group, would undertake to speak for and negotiate in the name of the Jewish community. Important phases of Jewish life were left untouched, beyond the pale of community thought and action. We were ineffectual in meeting our internal communal obligations, and seemed incapable of joining together in behalf of our fellow Jews elsewhere.



Our Council was brought into being to make possible united action on those matters in which substantial agreement could be obtained, and at least to secure a better understanding of those items on which no complete agreement could be reached. It was intended that the Council be the responsible voice of the Jewish community, replacing self-appointed and frequently irresponsible spokesmen. It was further intended that the Council develop and broaden the base of community leadership, to help fashion an intelligent and articulate public opinion, and to act in areas beyond the scope of existing agencies.

At the same time, it was clearly understood that the Council could not be expected to provide the solution for every problem besetting the Jewish people. While we hoped that it would be able to solve many of our internal problems, we realized that many of our difficulties are beyond our power as Jews alone to solve. We felt, however, that the Council could assist in providing a better understanding of the causative factors of these difficulties, and that such understanding would prevent many needless frustrations and resentments, and enable Jews, individually and as a group, to function more successfully within the pattern of American life.

It is not my intention this evening to report on the detailed activities of the Council, the barest recital of which would take far more time than I have at my disposal. What I should like to stress, however, is that in the execution of each of these activities, the Council has been motivated by definite principles, which were formulated in the early years of our work, and which all of us in the leadership of the Council have tried to follow. In brief, these are the principles:

1. It is the Council's task to maintain the integrity of the Jewish group and to develop that group as a self-respecting, useful entity in the social order of which we are a part. The future of the Jewish people must be based upon our will to live a life of dignity and decency.

2. We seek an integrated community and unity of action. This is not to be accomplished through the abolition of the various groupings, but through their collaboration and cooperation to the largest extent possible. It is not uniformity which we strive for, for that is the product of mental stagnation. What we seek is the bringing together of groups with different points of view, out of which may come an agreement on a common course of action, with the strength and sanction of all groups behind it. Should this not be possible, it will at least result in crystallized judgments and better mutual understanding, which in itself is a strengthening force.

3. It must be remembered that the Council is a voluntary association, and does not exercise compulsory or coercive powers. Our only power rests on the force of public opinion. We must not, however, underrate the potency of that force. No responsible group will wish to or can long ignore its judgments.



4. Underlying the concept of the Council itself is the principle of democracy in structure and process. The Council must be truly representative of all elements, and its action must be the result of common deliberative procedures in which all must be given an opportunity to be heard in the consideration of any problem. In this process, minorities must have the right to dissent from the majority, and to continue to try to persuade the members of the majority of the soundness of their position. But we must also develop a sense of responsibility and discipline, whereby groups will seek consultation before action is taken in behalf of the Jewish community.

Similarly, the Council must not be wilfully dominated by any single group. It can not be used selfishly by any one element to serve its exclusive interests. Should this happen, the Council's usefulness as originally intended will be at an end, and it will become an empty, meaningless instrument.

The Council must symbolize democracy in action within Jewish life. We can not espouse democracy for our country and eschew it in our internal Jewish life. There must be more than mere lip service to the ideal of democracy. We must be convinced that the combined judgment of all the elements of the Jewish community, when exposed to adequate information and full discussion, will be fundamentally sound and just. This democracy involves compromise, the sharing of responsibility as well as of power, and the readiness to abide by a majority decision with which we may not agree. It is that acceptance, however,—that very readiness to go along even though we seriously disagree with a decision on a particular issue—which provides the test of our professed desires to preserve and strengthen the processes of democracy. These indeed are the tests of our sincerity.

Issues arise on which groups within the Council may dissent from the majority opinion. It would be a grievous mistake for these groups to become silent or withdraw from participation in the deliberations of the Council. They have a duty to present their views for the consideration and judgment of the community. Democracy is a dynamic give-and-take process. Even should minorities not succeed in persuading the majority of the merits of their position, they contribute to the clarification of issues. Moreover, this process frequently leads to the development of greater mutual respect among the participants.

5. Another principle which has guided our Council has been the recognition that its structure must be a flexible and evolving one, based on the needs and desires of the community. As one of the latest additions to the ranks of communal organizations, it must recognize the presence of existing agencies and relate itself realistically to them. It is not to be expected that existing agencies will immediately cease their activities or relinquish their autonomy as soon as the Community Council is created. Indeed, there is room for question whether it would be wise for them to do so. Certainly there is no assurance that a new agency, representative though it may be, can at once improve upon the experience and ability of those who have been giving their full attention to a particular field of activity for a number of



years. Moreover, it has been a principle of the Council to assist rather than supersede well-established and non-conflicting existing bodies operating effectively. There may be special occasions, however, when common sense requires otherwise, and where the will of the community, democratically expressed and properly conceived, makes it necessary to assume responsibility for such work.

One final word about structure and function. There are some who are impatient for the Council to become the overarching agency of the Jewish community in every sphere, and would have us now provide the structure for that eventuality. I believe that would be an unwise course of action. Who can predict the conditions internally or externally which the Jewish community will be called upon to meet? We can agree that the Council must be prepared constantly to change and adjust to new conditions. We should keep our eyes on the horizons immediately ahead, and chart our course accordingly, rather than to anticipate our ultimate needs and organizational structure.

There can be little question that the Council has made real progress in its short period of existence. The Council today is the accepted place for considering important matters of direct concern to the entire Jewish community. It is generally recognized that the Council is and should be the official spokesman for the community. The Council has succeeded in bringing together all the major groups of the community and has in large measure been able to remove the barriers of misunderstanding and suspicion that separated us. In the designation of officers, members of the Executive Committee, and other committees to deal with specific problems, opportunity for leadership has been given to groups and individuals who previously had had no such opportunity.

In its specific activities, the Council can point to concrete accomplishment in seeking to raise the level of our internal life; it has sought the development of a more intelligent public opinion on matters of vital Jewish interest; it has achieved a real measure of coordination among the various segments of the Jewish community on broad Jewish issues and activities; it has established excellent relationships with the general community and with other minority groups in the city; it has dealt with numerous problems involving the protection of our rights and status; it has helped during these war years to mobilize the total resources of the Jewish community behind the various war aid measures sponsored by the local and national government; and it has helped develop a growing responsibility on the part of the Jewish community to do its full share to relieve the plight of our fellow-Jews abroad.

In literally hundreds of situations the Council has functioned—with very little publicity and without seeking credit or making boastful claims. It has won for itself a position of respect and prestige in the community. But withal, I am fully aware that what we have accomplished to date is only the merest beginning. It has been a good beginning, as I see it, one that far exceeds the hopes we harbored for it when it was created. However, we have hardly begun to



explore the possibilities of the Council. Much lies ahead of us to be done. I am confident that it can be accomplished if the principles which I have touched upon this evening--the principles upon which the Council was founded--are faithfully observed.

In this connection, I should like to point out that thus far the Council has had a very modest set-up--too modest to permit it to carry out with full effectiveness the services which the community has come to seek from it. I believe we have now reached the point where it would be helpful to examine thoroughly our work and our structure, to see whether they adequately meet the needs which we are expected to fill. Based on this examination, we can consider such changes in activities, emphases, and organization as appear to be needed better to accomplish our purposes. It is my hope that this will be one of the first tasks which the Council will undertake in the coming year.

I have now reached the point where I may turn over the leadership of the Council to Mr. Shapiro. Before doing so, however, I want to tell you that I have felt it a deep honor and privilege to have been selected to fill this position for these three years. They have been trying years for us as Americans and as Jews. It would have been impossible to perform the duties expected of me had it not been for the splendid cooperation which was given me so conscientiously by the other officers who served with me, by the members of the Executive Committee and other committees, and indeed by every representative on the Council and the groups represented by you. To each of you I want to express my sincere gratitude. Particularly do I want to express my appreciation to my mentor and predecessor, Max Simon, who was always a treasure of wisdom and a tower of strength.

In the final analysis, however, whatever progress has been made is attributable to the cooperation of all of us, and indeed, the active support of the entire Jewish community. To paraphrase Woodrow Wilson's comment about America: "It is not anything if it consists of each of us. It is something only if it consists of all of us; and it can consist of all of us only as our spirits are banded together in a common enterprise."

May I record the deep sense of gratitude which I feel toward Philip Bernstein, former Secretary of the Council, and to his very able successor, Harry I. Barron, its present Secretary. In addition to performing the myriad customary tasks as the active administrative officer of the Council, each of them has been of immeasurable help to me in the many areas of activity in which I have been called upon to serve. It was no easy task for anyone to attempt to fill the shoes of Philip Bernstein. I am happy to record, however, that the Council has been fortunate in that it has found, in Mr. Barron, a most able successor, and one possessed of a rich background of experience, not only in communal work, but in many areas of activity which are of great importance to the Jewish community.



Finally, I regard it as a privilege to extend to Mr. Shapiro and the new officers my congratulations and best wishes, and to congratulate the Council upon its wisdom in their selection.

PHILMORE J. HABER





# JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF CLEVELAND

1943

## Officers

Philmore J. Haber	-	President
Ezra Z. Shapiro	-	First Vice-President
Jerome N. Curtis	-	Second Vice-President
Mrs. A. F. Mellman	-	Third Vice-President
Abraham Stern	-	Treasurer
Philip Bernstein	-	Secretary

## Executive Committee

Edward M. Baker	A. I. Hausman	Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal
Rabbi B. R. Brickner	David Ralph Hertz	Julius Schweid
Mrs. George Burkin	Dr. S. F. M. Hirsch	Judge Joseph H. Silbert
Rabbi Armond E. Cohen	I. L. Kenan	Rabbi A. H. Silver
Rabbi Louis Engelberg	S. L. Kosoff	Max Simon
Rabbi David Genuth	Mrs. Leonard Labowitch	Mrs. Joseph Stashower
Simon J. Green	E. J. Meisel	Philip L. Steinberg
Miss Selma Gressel	Dr. I. Milcoff	Mrs. Joseph Weinberg
Myron Guren	James H. Miller	Julius Weisberg
Mrs. Milton Halle	Rabbi Israel Porath	Albert Woldman

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ARCHIVES

1944

## Officers

Ezra Z. Shapiro	-	President
Jerome N. Curtis	-	First Vice-President
James H. Miller	-	Second Vice-President
Mrs. S. S. Kates	-	Third Vice-President
Julius Schweid	-	Treasurer
Harry I. Barron	-	Secretary

## Executive Committee

Edward M. Baker	Simon J. Green	Alexander Mintz
Louis S. Bing, Jr.	Myron Guren	George Pillersdorf
Edward Braverman	Philmore J. Haber	Rabbi Israel Porath
Rabbi B. R. Brickner	Mrs. Moses Halperin	Aaron Resnick
Rabbi Armond E. Cohen	Miss Patricia Handler	Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal
Saul Danaceau	David Ralph Hertz	Judge Joseph H. Silbert
Robert Felixson	Irving Kane	Rabbi A. H. Silver
Isadore Finesilver	Rabbi Hugo Klein	Max Simon
Mrs. Sam Gerson	Max Kohrman	Philip L. Steinberg
Mrs. Abe Gitson	Ben I. Levine	Abraham Stern
Benjamin Goldish	George Mayer	Julius Weisberg
Mrs. Albert A. Goodman		Albert Woldman



Jewish Community Council  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held May 25, 1944, at 8:30 P.M., at the Bureau of Jewish Education

Attendance There were present: Ezra Z Shapiro, President; H I Barron, Louis S Bing, Jr., Edward Braverman, Jerome N Curtis, Saul Danaceau, Robert J Felixson, Mrs Sam A Gerson, Benjamin Goldish, Mrs Albert J Goodman, Simon J Green, Myron Guren, Mrs Moses P Halperin, Miss Patricia Handler, Irving Kane, Mrs S.S. Kates, Rabbi Hugo Klein, Abraham Kollin, Ben I Levine, James H Miller, Alexander Mintz, George Pillersdorf, Rabbi Israel Porath, Aaron Resnick, Julius Schweid, George J Segal, Max Simon, Philip Steinberg, Abraham Stern, Leo Weidenthal, Julius Weisberg, Albert A Woldman.

Committees Mr Shapiro welcomed the new members of the Committee, and explained the function of the Executive Committee in making decisions on matters not requiring the deliberations of the entire Council. Meetings of the Executive Committee, he stated, have not been held at a definite time or place, but are called approximately once a month.

Mr Shapiro announced that he had made a number of appointments to Committees of the Council (see list attached), and briefly described the function of each Committee. He stated that Committee memberships are by no means closed, and that suggestions as to membership from members of the Executive Committee are welcome.

Mr Shapiro stated that in the future chairmen of the Council's standing committees would be invited to Executive Committee meetings, provided there were no objection from the membership.

Bingo Mr Barron reported that the Council had investigated the sponsorship by Jewish congregations of Bingo games in accordance with a previous expression of policy of the Council to persuade the congregations not to engage in this activity. Recently some publicity had appeared in the press concerning the applications for Bingo licenses of five Jewish congregation. Mr Shapiro appointed a committee, consisting of Judge Hertz, Mr Stern, Mr Goldish, Mr Schweid and Mr Woldman, who met twice with the congregations. All the congregations finally agreed to dissociate themselves from the Bingo games, and have done so. This was reported by Judge Hertz and Mr Barron to the Mayor who had originally brought one of the congregations to the attention of the Council. The Mayor expressed his appreciation, and hoped that other groups would follow this example.

Negro-Jewish Relations Mr George Segal, Chairman of the Committee on Negro-Jewish Relations, reported that the Committee had met, and had made the following recommendations: That the Council write a formal letter of congratulations to Rev. McKinney, Negro, on his election to the presidency of the Ministerial Association of Greater Cleveland; that the Mayor be requested to appoint to the Mayor's Committee on Democratic Practices, and the Inter-racial Panel of the Post War Planning Committee individuals who will, informally, represent the Jewish community; that activity be undertaken to deal with the business practices of Jewish merchants and landlords in the Negro district; and that the Jewish Community Council undertake co-sponsorship, with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of a study of Negro-Jewish relations, to be made under the direction of Professor Donald Marsh of Wayne University, Detroit, who had made a similar study in Detroit, under similar sponsorship. There was considerable discussion of the latter recommendation, in the course of which it was pointed out that such a study might raise an issue of anti-Semitism in the Negro community where it may not at present exist, and that the Committee on Negro-Jewish Relations had not had sufficient opportunity to evaluate the Detroit Study in order to determine whether it was suitable to the needs of the Cleveland community. It was the consensus of the meeting that the Negro-Jewish Relations Committee give further consideration to this matter, examine carefully the study made in Detroit, and submit another and more detailed report to the next meeting of the Executive Committee, before a definite commitment is made.



Kashruth Mr Barron reported that the Community Council had been informed that the Rabbinical Association had submitted a bill concerning inspection of kosher products to the City Council, and the City Council had asked that the Community Council be present at public hearings on the measure, to be held the same day that the information was given. Mr Barron attended the hearings for the Community Council, and stated that since the Council had not had the opportunity to study the bill, it could not recommend for or against it. It was suggested by the City Councilmen that the Community Council and the Rabbinical Association confer and reach an agreement as to the measure. Mr Shapiro had appointed Max Kohrman, Abraham Stern, Julius Schweid, and Rabbi Porath as a committee to meet with the Rabbinical Association, which, after some delay, had finally appointed a committee to meet with them. Arrangements were being made to have the two committees meet.

Defamatory Literature Mr Woldman reported for the Committee on Civic-Protective Unity, that the City Council had recently passed a bill which would require those publishing or distributing defamatory literature about racial or religious groups to append their names and addresses to the literature. A number of groups had been rallied in support of the bill, and only the United Mothers had opposed it. Mr Woldman added that he had received requests from 24 communities for copies of the bill and brief.

Fair Employment Legislation Mr Kollin read a digest of the Scanlon Bill for a permanent Commission on Fair Employment Practice. The matter was referred to the Committee on Legislation for its recommendation.

Warsaw Ghetto Memorial Mr Shapiro reported that the American Jewish Conference had requested the Cleveland community to hold a Memorial Meeting for the Jews killed in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. The nine local delegates to the American Jewish Conference had been polled on this matter, and the majority felt that it was not desirable to have a large memorial meeting at this time, but that the memorial would be observed by individual congregations instead. It was the feeling of some of the members of the Executive Committee that in the future such matters as this should be presented to the Executive Committee before a decision is made.

Political Campaigns Mr Barron stated that the National Community Relations Advisory Council had called the attention of the Council to the fact that in various communities delegates to the major political party conventions were being requested to support the inclusion in their party platform of planks condemning the injection of racial or religious issues into the coming election campaign. It was the sense of the meeting that Mr Barron make the proper contacts to accomplish this purpose locally.

Council Office Mr Barron reported that the Council has a new telephone number, no longer being on the Federation switchboard, and that it is shortly moving to new quarters in the Chester-Twelfth Building.

Mr Barron stated that occasionally the Anglo-Jewish press carries stories on matters with a community relations aspect which are accepted by the papers without correction, and which sometimes give an inaccurate or harmful picture of matters in which the Council has been active, and suggested that the papers clear on such matters with the Council. Mr Bing pointed out that this was a matter which should be handled by a Public Relations staff member of the Council, as suggested in a memorandum from the Army-Navy Committee. In view of the suggestion that this might constitute censorship of the press, Mr Shapiro suggested that member organizations of the Council might clear with the Council before sending in articles to the papers. It was agreed to table this matter until a further meeting.

Membership Application The application for membership to the Council of the Minor Children's Charity Club was discussed, and it was agreed to recommend to the Council that this organization be admitted to membership.

Calendar It was pointed out that there had been several conflicts in dates of meetings of Jewish organizations, and Mr Shapiro suggested that a letter be sent to member organizations of the Council reminding them of the Community Calendar and asking them to send in their meeting dates at the beginning of the calendar year.



Council General Meeting Mr Shapiro stated that the Council committees would all be meeting in the near future, and that he intended to call another meeting of the Executive Committee before the next general meeting of the Council.

American Jewish Conference Rabbi Porath brought up the fact that a meeting of the American Jewish Conference is scheduled for the early part of September and that the delegates to the meeting should be instructed before that time. It was agreed to give this matter early consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry I Barron

Secretary





JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Standing Committees - 1944

SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Rabbi Armond E Cohen, Chairman  
Nathan Brilliant  
Dr Azriel Eisenberg  
Mrs A Gitson  
Mrs Louis Kaufman  
Rabbi Hugo Klein  
Abraham Kollin  
Ben I Levine  
Mrs Saul Stillman

ARBITRATION COMMITTEE

David Ralph Hertz, Chairman  
Charles Auerbach  
Morris Berick  
Lewish Drucker  
Eugene Freedheim  
Suggs Garber  
Max I Kohrman  
Rabbi I Porath  
Henry Rocker  
Judge Joseph H Silbert  
Judge Samuel Silbert  
Eugene Wolf

FICTITIOUS RELIGIOUS POLITICAL  
ISSUES

Rabbi A H Silver, Chairman  
Saul Danaceau  
Max Simon  
Dan Wasserman

NATIONAL CIVIC PROTECTIVE UNITY

Albert A Woldman, Chairman  
E M Baker  
Philmore J Haber  
James Miller  
Leo W Neumark  
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal  
Max Simon  
Julius Weisberg

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Abraham Kollin, Chairman  
Jerome N Curtis  
Saul Danaceau  
Harry Dworkin  
Mrs Albert J Goodman  
Irving Kene  
Mrs Leonard Labowitch  
Edward J Schweid

INTERCULTURAL COMMITTEE

Leo Weidenthal, Chairman  
Moses Benjamin  
Mrs Jack Bloch  
Sigmund Braverman  
Dr Azriel Eisenberg  
Mrs A Gitson  
Myron Guren  
Mrs Moses Halperin  
Miriam Leikind  
Leonard Levy  
Mrs Ezra Shapiro  
Milton Widder

NEGRO-JEWISH RELATIONS

Geo J Segal, Chairman  
Nate Benjamin  
Rabbi B R Brickner  
Robert J Felixson  
Stanley Friedman  
Mrs Ben B Goldman  
Joseph Goldwasser  
Myron Guren  
Leonard Labowitch  
Ben I Levine  
Mrs Benjamin Levine  
Alexander Mintz  
Aaron Resnick  
Abraham Rubin  
Judge Joseph H Silbert  
Myron Stanford  
Philip Steinberg  
Sidney Weitz

WAR AID COMMITTEE

Jack E Rosenthal) co-  
Mrs S S Kates ) chairman  
I Axelrod  
Louis S Bing, Jr.  
Mrs Leonard Bialosky  
Edward Blaugrund  
Mrs Jack Bloch  
Rabbi B R Brickner  
Mrs Joseph Conway  
Harry Fleshin  
Mrs Sam Gerson  
William Goldberg  
Benjamin Goldish  
Ed Goldstein  
Frances Greenberger  
A I Hausman  
Benjamin Karl  
Mrs J E Klein  
Mrs David Kymen  
Leonard Labowitch  
Gabriel Leeb  
Gertrude Mazur  
George Pillersdorf  
Mrs Sam Rose  
Lawrence Sobel  
Mrs Winferd Spiegler  
Mrs A A Woldman  
H M Yager

SCOPE & PLAN SURVEY

Max Simon, Chairman  
Judge Maurice Bernon  
Rabbi Armond Cohen  
Jerome N Curtis  
Robert Felixson  
Philmore J Haber  
David R Hertz  
Mrs S S Kates  
Mrs Louis Kaufman  
Max I Kohrman  
George Mayer  
Mrs A F Mellman  
James H Miller  
Rabbi I Porath  
Aaron Resnick  
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal  
Philip Steinberg  
A A Woldman