



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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1354

The Temple, German rabbi, 1938-1939.

RABBI JONAH B. WISE
35 EAST 62ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

October 28, 1938

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

Dear Ab:

I think I have found the answer to the maiden's prayer: Cantor Max Sheuerman, married, with two children, a very good looking young man, who was cantor in the chief synagogue in Nuremberg.

He is eager to find a position. I believe that you could ask him to come to Cleveland on trial, paying his expenses and an honorarium, and he would be willing to do so. I also believe that he would do the work, certainly at the beginning, very reasonably.

I can assure you of his appearance, character and ability.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Jonah

Jonah B. Wise

JBW:HF

THE RESETTLEMENT DIVISION
of the
NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
165 WEST 46th STREET NEW YORK CITY

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March 8, 1939

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
c/o The Temple
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver,

I am writing to make a request. The request I have to make is that you would very much help to promote the work of our committee if you could exert the influence and prestige of your office on your congregation to engage one of our unfortunate colleagues who must get out of Germany, as your assistant or co-worker in the religious school, pastoral work, or center activities.

For, the situation in Germany has grown worse and worse. The German government in its diabolic efforts to destroy all organized Jewish life, seems to have centered all the horror of its fury and cruelty upon them. Messages from Germany tell intensely moving stories of the terrible plight of some of our colleagues, and it does not require much imagination to shudder at the unutterable pang and tragedy that they are made to bear.. Some of our colleagues here have displayed astonishing generosity in helping to secure contracts from their congregations and in place-findings. Could not your most influential congregation do a similar thing? I am led to believe that action on the part of your group would serve as an example and as a source of inspiration to others.

I hope you will pardon the liberty I have taken in addressing this letter to you, but I cannot sufficiently emphasize how urgently necessary it is for us to act quickly here, if we are to save the lives of some of our colleagues who had devoted years of loyal service to their congregations and who are now faced, in some cases, with destitution, death and annihilation.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Alexander J. Burnstein
ALEXANDER J. BURNSTEIN, Rabbi
Secretary to the Committee on Refugee
Jewish Ministers

AB/egb

March 15, 1939

Rabbi Alexander J. Burnstein
Secretary to the Committee on Refugee Jewish Ministers
National Coordinating Committee
165 West 46th Street
New York, N.Y.

My dear Rabbi Burnstein:

I presented the request contained in your letter to my Board, last evening. The Board is inclined to extend a call to a refugee Rabbi from Germany on the basis of a two-year contract and at a salary of \$1500.00 a year. This, the Board understands, is the requirement.

The Board would like to know whether you have on file applications of German Rabbis who would fit into the program of a Reform congregation like the Temple - someone who belongs to the liberal school, who has had a modern education and who can perhaps speak a bit of English. I would appreciate an early response.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

- C O P Y -

THE RESETTLEMENT DIVISION
of the
NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

165 West 46th St.

New York City

March 16, 1939

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

Dear Rabbi Silver,

Pursuant to your kind letter of March 15th, for which I much thank you, I take the liberty of recommending to your notice the cases of a few outstanding personalities, of a liberal bent of mind, in the German rabbinate who would, I believe, fit into the program of your congregation splendidly.

The first one who comes to my mind is RABBI DR. HEIMANN AUERBACH of STUTTGART. He is a man in the early fifties, a graduate of the Rabbinical Seminary of Breslau, and holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of Heidelberg. He has during the last twenty-five years filled one of the largest liberal positions in Germany, that of the liberal Synagogue of Stuttgart. He is a scholar of note, speaks Hebrew fluently, and from his letter I could see that he has a fair command of the English language. Rabbi Auerbach is married, but has no children of minor age who would immigrate with them.

I also wish to recommend to your attention Rabbi DR. JULIUS VOOS of GUBEN. He is a man in the late thirties, a graduate of the Lehranstalt fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums, and received his doctorate from the University of Bonn. He has during the last six or seven years practised as rabbi and cantor and teacher in the community of Guben, a very liberal community. Rabbi Voos is a man of high integrity and ability, and would be extremely useful to any community. He is married but has no children.

While writing, I cannot help but make mention of the distressful situation of RABBI DR. HERMAN SCHREIBER OF POTSDAM. Rabbi Schreiber is a graduate of the Rabbinical Seminary of Breslau, and received his doctorate from the University of Breslau. He is a scholar of note, a man of great literary ability and eminent achievement, who had at the same time devoted years of loyal service to his community, one of the most coveted and cultured Jewish communities in Germany. He wrote on Schopenhauer and Aristotle and also contributed excellent articles to Jewish religious journals. He also collaborated in the new German translation of the Bible,

and has a fair knowledge of English. Every one who knows him respects and loves him. Rabbi Schreiber is married, but only his wife may come in with him.

I need not say how urgently necessary it is for any of the above-mentioned rabbis to escape from Germany. I leave the choice of a candidate entirely to your judgment, and I shall greatly appreciate if you would let me know at your earliest possible convenience of your congregation's decision.

If you desire any further information concerning any of the men, I would refer you to Professor Ismar Elbogen, the noted historian, whom you can address at 434 West 120th Street, Apt. 6B, New York City.

I conclude, thanking you from the bottom of my heart for your kind interest and co-operation and if there is any assistance or additional information you desire, do not hesitate to call on me.

Appreciating the great Mitzvah you are performing, and with many kind regards personally, I am,

Very sincerely,

ALEXANDER J. BURNSTEIN, Rabbi
Secretary to the Committee on Refugee
Jewish Ministers

AB/egb

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of the
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165 WEST 46th STREET

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(Board and Committee
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Oscar Littlefield

March 16, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, D.D.
c/o The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver,

Pursuant to your kind letter of March/5th, for which I much thank you, I take the liberty of recommending to your notice the cases of a few outstanding personalities, of a liberal bent of mind, in the German rabbinate who would, I believe, fit into the program of your congregation splendidly.

The first one who comes to my mind is RABBI DR. HEIMANN AUERBACH of STUTTGART. He is a man in the early fifties, a graduate of the Rabbinical Seminary of Breslau, and holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of Heidelberg. He has during the last twenty-five years filled one of the largest liberal positions in Germany, that of the liberal Synagogue of Stuttgart. He is a scholar of note, speaks Hebrew fluently, and from his letter I could see that he has a fair command of the English language. Rabbi Auerbach is married, but has no children of minor age who would immigrate with them.

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the same time devoted years of loyal service to his community, one of the most coveted and cultured Jewish communities in Germany. He wrote on Schopenhauer and Aristotle and also contributed excellent articles to Jewish religious journals. He also collaborated in the new German translation of the Bible, and has a fair knowledge of English. Every one who knows him respects and loves him. Rabbi Schreiber is married, but only his wife may come in with him.

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Appreciating the great Mitzvah you are performing, and with many kind regards personally, I am,

Very sincerely,

Alexander J. Burnstein

ALEXANDER J. BURNSTEIN, Rabbi
Secretary to the Committee on Refugee
Jewish Ministers

AB/egb

March 17, 1939

Mr. Eugene E. Wolf
Union Commerce Building
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Gene:

This morning I received the enclosed letter from Rabbi Vogelstein of Breslau who is now in the United States. He is the brother of Ludwig Vogelstein who, you will recall, was president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

As you will note from its contents, Dr. Vogelstein recommends a young educated and cultured Rabbi to us and requests our congregation to extend a call to him so as to enable him to come in under the non-quota immigration schedule. Perhaps this is the man we want. In the meantime, I wrote to Rabbi Burstein whose communication to us from the National Co-Ordinating Committee I brought to your attention last Tuesday evening. As soon as I hear from him, I will again communicate with you.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



THE GLEN SPRINGS

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y.

den 9. Juni 1939.

Herrn Rabbiner Dr. Silver
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio.

Sehr geehrter Herr Kollege!

Von meinem jungen Freunde Hans Zucker erhalte ich aus London die erfreuliche Nachricht, daß der dortige amerikanische Konsul anscheinend keinerlei Schwierigkeiten macht. Doch habe er erklärt, daß die endgültige Entscheidung über die Erteilung eines non quota Visums von einer Prüfung des Immigration Department in Washington abhängt, ob die Gemeinde einen zweiten Assistant Rabbi braucht.

Ich nehme zwar an, daß Sie und Ihre Trustees hierüber bereits informiert sind, aber ich möchte nicht unterlassen Sie zu bitten, auf eine solche Auskunft hinzuwirken, daß seitens des Immigration Department keine Schwierigkeiten gemacht werden. Übrigens bin ich überzeugt, daß Sie selbst und die Gemeinde an Zucker eine sehr wertvolle Kraft gewinnen werden.

Mit kollegialem Gruße
Ihr sehr ergebener

Hermann Vogelstein
Hermann Vogelstein.

March 17, 1939

Dr. Hermann Vogelstein
The Croydon
12 E. 86th St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Vogelstein:

Let me thank you for your kind letter of March 13. I am bringing your communication to the attention of the Board of The Temple. If the Board decides to do anything in the matter, it will do it in the very near future, and I will again communicate with you.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

March 17, 1939

Mr. Eugene E. Wolf
Union Commerce Building
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Wolf:

Rabbi Silver has requested me to send you the enclosed copy of a letter which he received from Rabbi Alexander J. Burnstein of the National Coordinating Committee of New York.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

Secretary to Rabbi Silver.

March 23, 1939

Mr. Eugene E. Wolf
Union Commerce Building
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Gene:

I am enclosing herewith another letter which I received from Rabbi Alexander Burnstein. I would suggest that our small committee get together in the near future to decide what action we should take.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

April 17, 1939

Dr. Hermann Vogelstein
The Croydon
12 E. 86th St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Vogelstein:

I am pleased to notify you that the Board of The Temple has decided to extend a call to Rabbi Hans Zucker and that the necessary papers are being forwarded this week.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

The Croydon

12 EAST 86TH STREET

NEW YORK, April 19th 1939.

Rabbi Dr. H. A. Silver

East 105th Street and Ansel Road

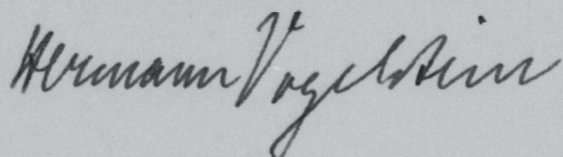
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver!

I thank you very much for your kind communication about Hans Zucker. I am happy, that he will come over, and I am convinced, that this decision of the Board of your congregation will be good and fortunate not only for him, but also for you and your congregation.

With heartiest thanks to you and to your congregation for this help for a German rabbi

Very sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hermann Vogelstein". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Hermann Vogelstein".

COMMITTEE ON REFUGEE JEWISH MINISTERS

165 WEST 46th STREET

NEW YORK CITY

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Central Conference of
American Rabbis
Rabbinical Assembly of the
Jewish Theological
Seminary of America
Rabbinical Council of America
Union of American Hebrew
Congregations
Union of Orthodox Jewish
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National Coordinating Committee
Resettlement Division

Executive Committee

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Rabbi Gustave Falk
Rabbi B. Benedict Glazer
Rabbi Samuel Grinstein
Dr. S. C. Kohs
Miss Cecilia Razovsky
Rabbi Alexander J. Burnstein,
Executive Secretary

April 19, 1939

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

Dear Dr. Silver,

I was delighted to learn from Dr. Vogelstein with whom I am in constant touch, that your congregation has elected Rabbi Hans Zucker as one of your assistants. Dr. Vogelstein also asked me to forward to you Rabbi Zucker's address, which I now eagerly and gladly do. Rabbi Zucker has found temporary shelter in England and his address is: 10, Lancaster Grove, London N.W.3 c/o Ernest Hawkins.

You may be interested to know that we have a sheaf of correspondence concerning him. He is a brilliant and high minded young rabbi, and it is a comfort to me to know that you have helped to alleviate his plight. I want to thank you and your good people for the great and wonderful thing which you have done in helping to restore this young rabbi to a life of promising and useful activity.

Should you wish any other information or assistance, do not hesitate to call on me.

With cordial greetings, I am,

Yours Sincerely,

Alexander J. Burnstein

ALEXANDER J. BURNSTEIN, Rabbi
Executive Secretary

AB/egb

April 21, 1939

Mr. Eugene E. Wolf
Union Commerce Building
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Wolf:

Rabbi Silver has requested me to send
you the enclosed letter from Rabbi Burnstein.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK
Enc.

Secretary to Rabbi Silver

April 24, 1939

Rabbi Alexander J. Burnstein
Resettlement Division
National Co-Ordinating Division
165 W. 46th St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Rabbi Burnstein:

There is a young German Rabbi who has served in a Berlin congregation, Rabbi Gerhard Graf, at present on a temporary vise in England, whom friends of ours here are eager to bring to the United States, outside of the quota. I understand that Rabbi Graf is an exceptionally brilliant and gifted man and that his coming to a congregation in the United States would be a service to that congregation. Had I known of this Rabbi before The Temple engaged Rabbi Zucker, we would have considered him for The Temple. I would greatly appreciate anything you can do for him. Rabbi Graf's address at present is 30 Zelfield Road, Didsbury, Manchester, England.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Dr. Hans Zucker

10, Lancaster Grove,
London N.W.3.,
28th April 39.

Rabbi Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Silver;

Dr. Hermann Vogelstein cabled me a week ago and now confirmed his cable by a letter that you informed him of my being called as a Rabbi to the Temple, Cleveland.

This call meets with my deepest wishes: to go on working in a career I closely am attached to.

I suppose that you, dear Dr. Silver, have endeavoured to get this call for me and I wish to thank you very sincerely for your bounty.

As soon as I have direct news from the congregation I shall take up connexion with the U.S.-Consulate here.

With heartiest thanks,

yours very sincerely,

Hans Zucker.

[April 1939]

HAYSMAR
10305 LAKE SHORE BOULEVARD
CLEVELAND, OHIO

My dear Rabbi Silver,
The address as I
made it out is
Rabbi Gerhard Graf
30 Zelfield Road
Didsbury
Manchester
England.

Yours
Florence.

May 17, 1939

Mrs. Herman Moss
10305 Lake Shore Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Florence:

I am enclosing herewith a letter which I received from Rabbi Alexander Burnstein which concerns Rabbi Gerhard Graf. If there is anything further that I can do in the matter, please let me know.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.



May 19, 1939

Rabbi Alexander J. Burnstein
Committee on Refugee Jewish Ministers
165 West 46th St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Rabbi Burnstein:

Rabbi Silver has requested me to send you
the enclosed letter.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

