

SERIES I

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
Sub-series A - Alphabetical File

Folder: 1387

Folder title: Temple, Ansel Road project, 1953-1954

Folder code/number: 9-1-37



FINANCE SYSTEM OF CLEVELAND

THE ARCADE BUILDING
ROOM 716
CLEVELAND 14, OHIO

May 14, 1953

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

Dear Rabbi:

I enclose herewith pledge in the amount of \$300.00 with a check for \$100.00 attached, received from Milton P. Altschul.

With regards to Isadore Grossman, be advised that I have made many contacts and the last one on May 7th, at which time he refused to contribute to the Ansel Road Project. Therefore, card is being returned.

The only card I have left for solicitation is that of Edward Arnstein. A pledge card is in his hands, to which he promises to give favorable consideration. As soon as this is received, a report will be made to you.

May I take this opportunity to state that your subject covered in last night's Temple Men's Club meeting was put over in a most interesting manner. My feelings, however, you know are always in your favor, but when everybody immediately around me commented so favorably about your contribution to this excellent gathering it builds up one thought; your audience was unanimous in its favorable reaction. God willing, may you be with us for many, many years, participating in the work that you have such an inherent love for.

With very warmest personal regards, I am

Most cordially yours

FINANCE SYSTEM OF CLEVELAND

Jack
J. E. Rosenthal

JER/mg
Encl.- 3

May 17, 1953

Mr. J. E. Rosenthal
The Arcade Building
Cleveland 14, Ohio

My dear Jack:

Thank you for your letter of May 14th and for the contribution of Milton Altschul. You have been tremendously helpful in our Ansel Road Project. Soon after Confirmation, we shall organize another effort to reach an additional number of people. The response so far has been quite satisfactory.

I enjoyed the meeting of The Temple Men's Club greatly. The Club has certainly made fine progress in recent years.

With warmest regards, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

Temple Israel

Saint Louis

FERDINAND M. ISSERMAN, RABBI

STUDY OF THE RABBI
KINGSHIGHWAY AND WASHINGTON
SAINT LOUIS 8, MO.

October 19, 1953

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Congregation Tifereth Israel
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

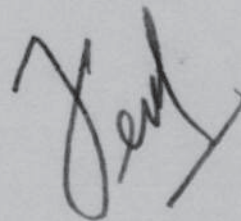
Dear Abba Hillel:

I have heard of a very radical and bold plan of enlarging the facilities of your Temple in its present location which has been undertaken under your leadership.

I am confronted with a problem somewhat similar, and I would appreciate it very much if you would give me any details. Where I am now, I have a very fine physical plant. To duplicate it would cost \$2,000,000.00. I worked so hard getting my congregation debt-free and raising the funds to build Temple Israel House that I shrink from the thought of this building program. Perhaps what you have done would be helpful to our problem here.

Will you please send me full details of your plan?
With all good wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



FMI/sg

Temple Israel

Saint Louis

FERDINAND M. ISSERMAN, RABBI

STUDY OF THE RABBI
KINGSHIGHWAY AND WASHINGTON
SAINT LOUIS 8, MO.

November 17, 1953

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Congregation Tifereth Israel
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Abba Hillel:

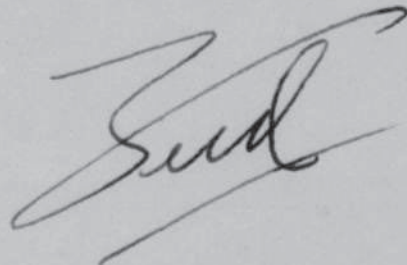
The Director of Education of my Sunday school, Dr. Rosenkranz, who teaches philosophy at Washington University, attended the convention in Pittsburgh of the Religious Education Association.

He told me that your address was the outstanding address, and he believes there is only one man in the world who can stand up with you on a platform, and he is Sir Winston Churchill.

I wrote you some time ago, asking you what the building program of your Temple is. No doubt my letter was pushed aside and is on your desk somewhere. I am confronted with a similar problem and am anxious to know just what you have done.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



FMI/sg

December 4, 1953

Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman
Temple Israel
Kingshighway and Washington
St. Louis, Missouri

My dear Ferd:

Please pardon the long delay in replying to your letters. I have been away a great deal and my correspondence has unfortunately lagged.

I can give you the following facts about what we call the "Ansel Road Project." After a careful canvass of the situation we decided that there is no reason for planning to build a new Temple elsewhere since our present facilities and our present location can be improved in such a way as to make moving unnecessary indefinitely.

The Temple, as you know, is situated upon the periphery of what is known as "The Cultural Heart of Cleveland." Under separate cover I am sending you a booklet which will tell you the story. All the institutions in this neighborhood are now making a concerted effort to protect the whole area from possible deterioration in the future, and some of them have launched important expansion programs.

The Temple is protected on all sides but one. Across the street, on Ansel Road, is a block of shabby houses. The Temple Board decided to buy up all those houses as well as those backing them up on East 101st Street. This will give us a large triangle of land. Part of it will be used for the building of adequate parking facilities for our people and part of it will be put into attractive landscaping.

I'm also sending under separate cover a map of the area which we are in the process of buying up. Part of the property has already been purchased and a fine parking lot has already been built.

The total cost of the project will be about \$500,000. Much of it has already been raised. The membership has reacted enthusiastically to the idea of keeping our beautiful Temple where it is; a landmark in a section of the city which is destined to remain central for generations to come. With traveling facilities available to nearly all of our members, the Temple can be reached by more than ninety per cent of our membership in less than fifteen minutes. We figure that in whatever section of the suburbs a new Temple would be built, most of its members would have to travel by car; no large Temple can ever be

Rabbi Isserman,

December 4, 1953

a neighborhood Temple.

This is the story. If there is any further information you would like, I should be happy to supply it.

With warmest regards, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:dk

ABBA HILLEL SILVER



December 30, 1953

Dr. Samuel S. Cohen
East 100th Street Medical Building
2039 East 100th Street
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My dear Friend:

Thank you for your note of December 28th and for your contribution to the Ansel Road Project. I appreciate your cooperation. We are making steady progress in our campaign to raise the \$500,000 necessary to complete the project which will ensure our present location and beautify the neighborhood.

With all good wishes for a Happy New Year, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:rms

March 16, 1954

Mr. Louis Stearn
725 National City Bank Building
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Friend:

I should like to interest you in the Ansel Road Project in which The Temple is now engaged and upon which depends the future of our great institution.

3/18 // Under separate cover I am sending you a landscape plan for the area as well as a copy of a brochure recently published by the T. W. Grogan Co. called "The Cultural Heart of Cleveland," which will give you an idea of what is planned for the University Circle and in the vicinity of The Temple for the future.

We would like to keep our beautiful temple just where it is - in the heart of this cultural center. It would be folly to think of moving to the suburbs and spending millions of dollars for a new temple structure. The Temple should stay where it is indefinitely. We are and we will be within ten to fifteen minutes of riding time from the overwhelming number of our members.

We need two things: adequate parking space and the removal of the unsightly shacks on Ansel Road to protect our neighborhood. The Ansel Road Project will accomplish both. We have already built a parking space which you have probably seen and which will be enlarged this spring. When it is completed, we will have adequate room for the temple automobile traffic. The remainder of the area we will landscape into a beautiful park.

We have already acquired more than half of the property. We are proceeding to acquire the rest. The total project, when completed, will cost five to six hundred thousand dollars. We have already raised close to three hundred thousand dollars. We are making the effort now to raise the remainder of the funds. I would deeply appreciate if you could see your way clear to make a contribution which can be spread over a period of two or three years since all the money is not now required.

With warmest regards, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:rms

March 16, 1954

Mr. Eli Newberry
Wade Park Manor
East 107th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Friend:

I should like to interest you in the Ansel Road Project in which The Temple is now engaged and upon which depends the future of our great institution.

Under separate cover I am sending you a landscape plan for the area as well as a copy of a brochure recently published by the T. W. Grogan Co. called "The Cultural Heart of Cleveland," which will give you an idea of what is planned for the University Circle and in the vicinity of The Temple for the future.

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AHS:rms