



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.

Reel
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Box
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Folder
1431

Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1927-1928.

[1927?]

BORD S.S. "FRANCE"

LE

192



FRENCH LINE

Oct. 4/1924

Dear Abba Hillel:
 We will proceed in
 an hour and I want to —
 chat with you a moment
 before the ~~departure~~ ^{departure} of
 New York Express —
 before we begin, to my
 own delight on a book of
 Our Act. Plays for Young
 Jewish People for Sunday
 Dramatic School ~~and~~
 Clubs. Young People's League
 etc. The plays are
 essentially Jewish in

Tom & Juliet & I have
+ left. They are dependent and
act as. I'm ready to
follow your advice which
will, in any way. 4 -
pedible their publication -
They run for about
30 numbers each and
are simple & pro-
duction. I loved writing
them. There are 6

+ I want to call the
book - "Heritage"

- (1) "Heritage" (Palestine)
- (2) "The Proclayte" (Austria)
- (3) "Half-Edo" (France)
- (4) "The Fringe" (England)
- (5) "Borderlands" (Alsace-Lorraine)
- (6) "Let's Be Honest" (America)

you know far better than I what-
needed by the most needed of
publications. I feel there should
be a permanent demand for
them, all over the country. If
you think it is - perhaps one
could publish oneself in pamphlet-
form - first. Let hear the ad-
vice to effect.

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Gutheil have
been on board, and we have had
long "party-boss" about Palestine.

I'm going to learn some more
about the KKK & I've good form
them - & to do some definite
work for my little orphans
in Palestine. Can't you
ever spare a minute when you
are free? - (Virginia, of course
included) - I can always
promise you peace & quiet

at 29 - Fifth Ave. (marvellous
cooling). (When Hanna happens
to be there) Meet, honestly, up
chance to rest and beguile. I'm
happy to get to Pitts-
burgh, Oct 25 - but so far, nothing

in Ohio - Fondly & with
love to Virginia (Pamela)
29-5th Ave. N.Y.C. Truman

November 2, 1927.

Miss Irma Kraft,
29 Fifth Ave.
New York City

My dear Irma:

Please pardon the long delay in answering your kind letter. I have been so busy with congregational activities incidental to the opening of the new year that I have not been able to attend to much of my correspondence.

I would be very happy to receive your set of plays and to refer them to the Commission on Jewish Education of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. I believe that we may interest them in publishing your plays. If not, I think that Mr. Bloch of the Bloch Publishing Company is on the lookout for short Jewish plays.

With kindest regards, in which Virginia joins me, I am

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:NEB

IRMA KRAFT
29 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

Nov. 4, 1927

Rabbi Abba H. Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. & Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Abba:-

Your kind letter has just arrived and I wish to thank you for it. I shall forward to you the six modern one act plays shortly, and if you desire me to write to of the any publications or to help you in any way, I am at your service.

I am constantly being told that such a book is in demand, especially by your friend Rabbi Silberfeld in Newark, who sends you his regards.

I do hope that you will be kind enough to look me up when you, alone, or you and Virginia come East. I should be so happy to entertain you.

Love to both,

Fondly
Irma A.

Nov. 15/1927

29. Fifth Ave.
N. Y. C.

Dear Abba:

I am sending

you under separate cover
5 - one-act plays -

"Heritage" "Half-Gods"
"The Fringe" - "The Point of View"
"Broken Friends".

I think that
this will be enough to

Constitute a small book.

See case if it not -
I can do. as a ~~to~~ more.

Thank you so much
for your interest. Let
me know if there is
any thing you want
me to do.

Love to Virginia -

G. E. S.
Anna

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods

2

Telephone Canal 7345
28 WEST SIXTH STREET
CINCINNATI

November
Eighteenth,
1927.

MRS. ABRAHAM SIMON,
Hon. Pres., Washington, D. C.
MRS. J. WALTER FREIBERG,
Pres., Cincinnati, O.
MRS. JACOB WERTHEIM,
1st Vice-Pres., New York, N. Y.
MRS. MAURICE STEINFELD,
2nd Vice-Pres., St. Louis, Mo.
MRS. CHARLES COHN,
3rd Vice-Pres., Nashville, Tenn.
MRS. HENRY NATHAN,
4th Vice-Pres., Buffalo, N. Y.
MRS. ADOLPH ROSENBERG,
Rec. Sec'y., Cincinnati, O.
MRS. JOSEPH M. HERMAN,
Treas., Boston, Mass.

2

RABBI GEORGE ZEPIN,
Executive Secretary
HELEN L. STRAUS,
Assistant Executive Secretary

Dr. Abba H. Silver,
1486 E. 106th St.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

The contents of the enclosed letter will, I think, interest you in view of inquiries which you made some time ago. I flattered myself that I had made the matter clear but I presume that the information divided over a number of letters arriving at different times was not as convincing as the enclosed table.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Guy Zepin
Executive Secretary.

GZ:RG



November
Eighteenth,
1927.

Mrs. H. Auerbach, Scholarship Chairman,
Temple Women's Association,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mrs. Auerbach:

The delegates from the recent Convention have returned to Cincinnati with glowing reports about the meeting but ~~with~~ one report ~~which~~ has been a source of considerable worry to me. I am told that you are not pleased with the method of publicly acknowledging gifts received from your Sisterhood for Scholarship purposes. I think this is due to a misunderstanding and I want to do my best to make clear just how we handle these matters. A misunderstanding, if not corrected, is apt to lead to all sorts of difficulties. As I have supervision of the bookkeeping, I feel the responsibility and trust you will have patience with the following explanation.

Gifts of the Sisterhood for Scholarship purposes are acknowledged in many ways. The first acknowledgment, of course, is by letter to the party from whom the gift is received. Checks received from yourself are naturally acknowledged to yourself.

The second acknowledgment consists of including the same in our weekly news letter to the Jewish press. This, however, is a method of acknowledgment that does not usually "get across". The Jewish papers receive a great many news items but they choose for publication only such as they think important for their readers.

The third method of acknowledgment is in the Year Book of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations at the end of the annual report of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College. This appears once a year, about January (except in a Convention year when the book appears in March). This list contains all gifts that were intended for use during the year that ended on the preceding October 31st. Sometimes a great many gifts are received between November 1st and the time of publication. However, as these are to appear in the succeeding year's report, it would only be confusing if they were mentioned

twice.

These gifts are publicly acknowledged in the Year Book of the N.F.T.S. This, however, is published only once in two years and contains two reports. The same possibility of misunderstanding refers to this publication as to the Year Book of the Union. I think, however, if you will give this matter some consideration, you will realize that it is impossible for us to do otherwise. Every department of the Union (according to our Constitution) must close its books on October 31st and must prepare a report dealing with the year that closed October 31st for presentation to the Executive Board. The Executive Board meets in the middle of January and as the Year Book is a large book, it usually takes thirty days before it is printed and distributed. That is why a Year Book, that for example would be dated February, 1926, would contain a report of the donations received only until October 31st, 1925. There seems to be no way of escaping this.

On a separate sheet I have had a list of the donations received from your Sisterhood as far back as April 4, 1921, listed in a table. I think that you will find in this table every gift that was received from your Sisterhood. You will also find the volume and page on each Sisterhood Year Book where this gift is acknowledged and what is more to the point, I hope you will find that with the best of intentions we could not list these gifts in any other way. A long acquaintanceship with the practice of other organizations confirms me in the opinion that this is a universal practice of organizations that print Year Books.

Some

There were rumors reported by delegates to the Convention that your Sisterhood proposed to reduce the amount of its contribution because of our method of making announcements long after the gifts were received. I sincerely hope that you are not going to let the Hebrew Union College suffer because it is impossible for us to get out our Year Book in any other way. Of course, you might say that the Sisterhood, instead of getting out a Year Book once in two years, could get out a Year Book every year. I am sure, however, you realize that this merely means that instead of spending our money for Union Museum and Scholarships and Dormitory, etc., we would be spending it on printing a Year Book every year instead of one Year Book in two years.

Nevertheless the above may be a suggestion for overcoming the difficulty. I would be pleased to receive a frank expression of opinion from you regarding this matter.

With kindest regards and trusting that the pleasant relationship between your Sisterhood and the Hebrew Union College may not be interrupted, I beg to remain,

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) George Zepin,
Executive Secretary

GZ:RG

November 28th, 1927.

Mr. Emanuel Gamoran,
Director Bureau of Public Education,
Merchants Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Gamoran:-

Miss Irma Kraft, whose name is probably known to you, has sent me the enclosed plays, based on Jewish themes. She thought that the Commission might be interested in publishing them.

I have not read the plays, but Miss Kraft's reputation prompts me to send these plays to you and the Commission.

You will recall that Miss Kraft has had one or two books published.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

November 29th, 1927.

Rabbi George Zepin,
28 West 6th St.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Zepin:-

Just another indication of the confusion which exists in your Finance Department.

I am enclosing a statement which you sent me as of November 18th, in which you say that no contribution has as yet been received from the Temple and a letter which you sent us as of October 27th, in which you acknowledge receipt of check for \$500. from the Temple Women's Association.

This sort of thing I'm afraid has been going on for some years in your organization.

With kindest regards permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

IRMA KRAFT
TWENTY NINE FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

29.5.64

Dec. 7/27

My Dear Abba:

Thanks so much for
your nice letter. I shall write
direct to the great house in
question. I feel that too long
to decide. I'll submit them
to the board. as I know there is
a need for them. Thanks so
much for all your trouble.
Truly
Irma Kraft

December 5th, 1927.

Miss Irma Craft,
29 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Miss Craft:-

I am enclosing herewith a letter
which I received from Dr. Emanuel Gameron.

It might be well to get in touch
with him directly.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

The Tract Commission

Under the Joint Auspices of

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS



MERCHANTS BUILDING

Cincinnati

December
Twenty-first,
1927.

Leo M. Franklin, Detroit
Chairman
Solomon B. Freehof, Chicago
Vice-Chairman
Louis I. Egelson, Cincinnati
Secretary
Milton M. Alexander, Detroit
Israel Bettan, Cincinnati
Morris M. Feuerlicht, Indianapolis
Samuel Hirshberg, Milwaukee

Committee Chairmen

Editorial
Solomon B. Freehof
Distribution
Milton M. Alexander
Sabbath Sermon Pamphlet
Israel Bettan
Holiday Sermon Pamphlet
Samuel Hirshberg
Holiday Press Notices
Louis I. Egelson

Dr. A. H. Silver,
10303 Lake Shore Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Sometime ago the Tract Commission extended an invitation to you to write a tract on "Judaism and Christian Science" in the series of "Judaism and Other Modern Religions", and also "The Messianic Hope" in the Theology Series. We have not heard from you in reply to this invitation.

Will you be good enough to let me know whether we can count on you to write these tracts? We have already received acceptances for about 25 tracts. It will therefore not be necessary for you to send us the tracts in the near future. Sometime within the next year or two will be perfectly acceptable. I will appreciate it if you will let me have a line in reply.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Louis I. Egelson
Secretary.

LE:SD

Dec. 23d, 1927.

Rabbi Louis I. Egelson,
Merchants Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Egelson:-

Permit me to thank you for your
letter of December 21st.

I shall be very happy to comply
with the request of The Tract Commission to write
the two pamphlets indicated in your letter - on
one condition; that my articles be not mauled
over, revised or otherwise abused, by members of
The Commission.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

AHS,IR

December 30th, 1927.

Rabbi George Zepin,
28 West 6th St.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Zepin:-

I have not yet received a
check either from Baltimore or Cincinnati
to cover my expenses to Baltimore on December
1st in behalf of The Union of American Hebrew
Congregations. My traveling expenses, etc.
were \$25.00.

With kindest regards, permit
me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

ANS/IR

DAVID A. BROWN, Chairman

EDWIN B. MEISSNER, Vice-Chairman

BOARD OF FINANCE

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

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Connecticut,
Rhode Island.

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Leo Loeb—West Virginia
A. L. Saltzstein—Wisconsin

RABBI GEORGE ZEPIN,
Secretary, Board of Finance
Merchants Bldg.
CINCINNATI

32 West Sixth Street
CINCINNATI, O.

January
Fourth,
1927.

Dr. A. H. Silver,
10303 Lake Shore Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 30th and in response to say that the Union has been paying the expenses of the trips in the November Tour.

I take pleasure in sending you enclosed a check for \$25.00 in accordance with your statement.

With kindest personal greetings, I am

Very sincerely yours,

George Zepin
Secretary.

GZ:VH

The Tract Commission

Under the Joint Auspices of

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

Leo M. Franklin, Detroit
Chairman

Solomon B. Freehof, Chicago
Vice-Chairman

Louis I. Egelson, Cincinnati
Secretary

Milton M. Alexander, Detroit

Israel Bettan, Cincinnati

Morris M. Feuerlicht, Indianapolis

Samuel Hirshberg, Milwaukee



MERCHANTS BUILDING

Cincinnati

January,
Fourth,
1928.

Committee Chairmen

Editorial
Solomon B. Freehof

Distribution
Milton M. Alexander

Sabbath Sermon Pamphlet
Israel Bettan

Holiday Sermon Pamphlet
Samuel Hirshberg

Holiday Press Notices
Louis I. Egelson

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have your letter of recent date with reference to the invitation extended to you by the Tract Commission to write two tracts in the series that have been outlined by the Commission.

The Editorial Committee of the Tract Commission is composed of Dr. Solomon B. Freehof, Chairman, Rabbi Morris M. Feuerlicht and myself. All manuscripts submitted are examined by the Editorial Committee. No changes in manuscripts are made without consultation with the author. Furthermore, each author is given the opportunity of reading his manuscript in galley form as well as in page proof. I presume that you were unaware of this procedure. Otherwise, I feel sure that you would not have made the condition contained in your last letter. The writing of your splendid and scholarly book on: "Messianic Speculations" has made you an authority on the Messianic Ideal. Why then should you say to us *למה לא לכתוב?* The fact that all manuscripts are subject to revision by the Editorial Committee of the Commission does not make it mandatory to revise every manuscript.

I shall appreciate a line from you withdrawing the reservation made in your previous letter.

With cordial regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

LE:SE

Secretary.

WAHC

January 12, 1928.

Name etc
filled in

Dear Member:-

The Union is dependent upon affiliated Congregations for the major part of its current maintenance funds and our Congregations are obligated to furnish annually an established proportion of same. But for years the local support has not accorded with this obligation, has been in fact deplorably inadequate, chiefly due to the limited number of regular contributors.

The cumulative effect is, that for 1928 the Union is confronted with a grave financial condition which--unless immediately improved--threatens to arrest, or at best, greatly curtail activities admittedly vital to the Unity, Welfare and Progress of American Jewry. The sum to which the Union is entitled from Cleveland is at least 60% more than combined local 1927 collections for this Cause. Since the situation concerns every member of both Congregations and mindful of this mutual responsibility, concerted action has been adopted--hence the Joint Cleveland Committee.

It is the plan and purpose of the Committee to enlist all members of our respective Congregations in this joint effort to afford proper relief. Requirements have therefore been so apportioned as to permit each member to share without hardship upon any one. Your "apportionment" bill for 1928 is enclosed. By promptly remitting, you assure (1) the essential increase in Cleveland contributions (2) the immediate remittance of same to Cincinnati and (3) the moral encouragement, to the Staffs of both Union and College, second only in importance to financial aid.

We need your co-operation--do not fail us. Write your answer--NOW.

Cordially yours,

THE JOINT CLEVELAND COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS.

- Enclosures:-
1. Stamped return envelope
 2. Apportionment bill

BHS:ML

(Sig plate)

CHAIRMAN.

*Joint Cleveland Committee for
The Union of American Hebrew Congregations*

B. H. SINKS, Chairman
JESSE SOLOMON, Vice Chairman
ARTHUR W. FOX
SOL FEIGENBAUM
MAURICE GUSMAN
SAM HARTMAN
DAVID S. KOHN
IRWIN N. LOESER
A. I. NEWMAN
E. E. SCHWARTZ
WALTER M. WEIL
EUGENE E. WOLF

EUCLID AVENUE TEMPLE
Euclid Avenue at East 82nd Street

and

THE TEMPLE
Ansel Road at 105th Street
Cleveland, O.

Thursday
January 12, 1928.

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

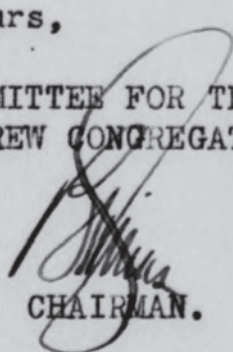
Dear Rabbi Silver:-

It has been suggested that a few words from you would be very helpful in the Campaign about to be inaugurated by the Joint Cleveland Committee in behalf of the Union. Therefore if it is agreeable to you to mention the present (1928) effort at your Service next Sunday, it will be greatly appreciated. A like request is by same mail going forward to Rabbi Brickner.

Thanking you in advance for your kind
co-operation,

Cordially yours,

JOINT CLEVELAND COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS.


CHAIRMAN.

BHS:ML

Note:-

For your information, booklet like enclosed mailed to all Congregants direct from Cincinnati due in Cleveland mail delivery January 10-11-12. Letter (form enclosed) with accompanying material for mail delivery January 17-18-19. Independent and Review publicity January 20. Follow up due in mail January 26. Organized personal soliciting due to begin last of this or early next month.

*Joint Cleveland Committee for
The Union of American Hebrew Congregations*

EUCLID AVENUE TEMPLE
Euclid Avenue at East 82nd Street

and

THE TEMPLE
Ansel Road at 105th Street
Cleveland, O.

January 27, 1928.

B. H. SINKS, Chairman
JESSE SOLOMON, Vice Chairman
ARTHUR W. FOX
SOL FEIGENBAUM
MAURICE GUSMAN
SAM HARTMAN
DAVID S. KOHN
IRWIN N. LOESER
A. I. NEWMAN
E. E. SCHWARTZ
WALTER M. WEIL
EUGENE E. WOLF

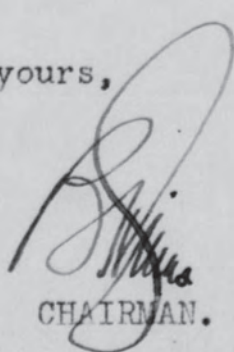
Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
105th & Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

At today's meeting of the Joint Cleveland Committee it was resolved to suspend all activities in behalf of the Union until after the conclusion of the impending Campaign for the Orphan Home, with the exception of the follow letter (sample enclosed) which according to original schedule is dated for mailing today and being ready, is going forward.

The release of this mail, the Committee felt can in no wise conflict with or detract from individual^y organized effort for the Home, with which conclusion we hope you are in accord.

Cordially yours,


CHAIRMAN.

BHS:ML
ENCL.

*Joint Cleveland Committee for
The Union of American Hebrew Congregations*

EUCLID AVENUE TEMPLE
Euclid Avenue at East 82nd Street

and

THE TEMPLE
Ansel Road at 105th Street
Cleveland, O.

January 28th, 1928.

B. H. SINKS, Chairman
JESSE SOLOMON, Vice Chairman
ARTHUR W. FOX
SOL FEIGENBAUM
MAURICE GUSMAN
SAM HARTMAN
DAVID S. KOHN
IRWIN N. LOESER
A. I. NEWMAN
E. E. SCHWARTZ
WALTER M. WEIL
EUGENE E. WOLF

Dear Member:

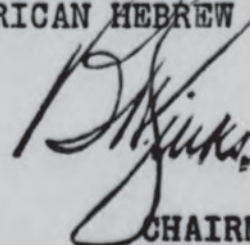
If you have already complied with our recent request to co-operate in the present effort to meet in full our obligation to the Union for the current (1928) year, please disregard this.

But if you have not, then we respectfully urge serious consideration of existing facts:—(1) both local Congregations as responsible and responsive organizations, must and do agree in good faith to pay each year a proportion of the Union's current maintenance Budget; (2) neither Temple Treasury has ever been placed in an enabling position to so do; therefore (3) the only recourse has been, and still is, to attempt to raise the necessary amount through voluntary contributions; (4) to this appeal certain members have responded promptly and generously each year, but (5) the aggregate received has been inadequate--due chiefly to the limited number of contributors--and consequently (6) these repeated deficiencies have created a critical financial condition for the Union which it is imperative to correct for the sake of Reform Judaism.

This Committee is convinced that unfamiliarity with the facts largely accounts for the disproportion of annual contributors to total membership. And that as now informed--our Congregants will not permit the few to discharge the legal and moral obligation which concerns all. Many evidences vindicating the Committee's conclusion are already in hand and this encourages us to re-submit to you the opportunity for participating to the extent of the "apportionment bill" enclosed. It will greatly accelerate the sending of the funds to Cincinnati if you respond promptly and--correspondingly relieve a condition incompatible with our obligation to the Union and our Faith.

Cordially yours,

THE JOINT CLEVELAND COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS.


CHAIRMAN.

DEPARTMENT OF SYNAGOG AND SCHOOL EXTENSION
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

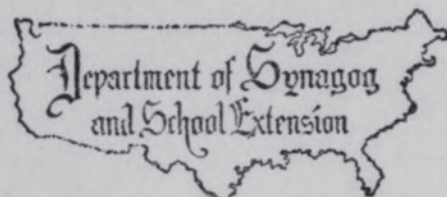


MERCHANTS BUILDING
CINCINNATI, O.

February
Tenth,
1928.

Honorary Members of the
Board of Managers

IRVING LEHMAN, NEW YORK, N. Y.
WILLIAM ORNSTEIN, CINCINNATI, O.
CHARLES SHOHL, CINCINNATI, O.



BOARD OF MANAGERS

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HONORARY CHAIRMAN

JULIUS W. FREIBERG
CHAIRMAN

JACOB W. MACK
VICE-CHAIRMAN

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BENJ. M. ENGELHARD, CHICAGO, ILL.
JULIUS W. FREIBERG, CINCINNATI, O.
DR. LEO M. FRANKLIN, DETROIT, MICH.
RABBI MORRIS M. FEUERLICHT,
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
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DR. EPHRAIM FRISCH, SAN ANTONIO, TEX.
GEORGE A. GERSHON, ATLANTA, GA.
MORTON J. HELDMAN, CINCINNATI, O.
SIMEON M. JOHNSON, CINCINNATI, O.
LEON JUDA, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
SOL. S. KISER, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
RABBI SAMUEL KOCH, SEATTLE, WASH.
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ABRAHAM LEWENTHAL, CLEVELAND, O.
JACOB W. MACK, CINCINNATI, O.
RABBI EUGENE MANNHEIMER,
DES MOINES, IOWA.
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J. ROBERT ORTON, CINCINNATI, O.
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AL. A. ROSENBUSH, BOSTON, MASS.
S. LEO RUSLANDER, PITTSBURGH, PA.
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ALBERT STEINDLER, CHICAGO, ILL.
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HENRY M. TOCH, NEW YORK, N. Y.
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Dr. A. H. Silver,
10303 Lake Shore Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

We have had no reply to
our letter of January 17th, in which we
asked whether you would take charge of
Prize Oration Contest in your district.
A copy of the circular is enclosed.

I would appreciate hear-
ing from you in the near future. Please
let me know at the same time how many
copies of the circular you desire.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

George Zepin
Director.

GZ:RH

P.S: Copy of this letter was sent to
Rabbi Brickner.

RABBI GEORGE ZEPIN
DIRECTOR

RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

DR. EMANUEL GAMORAN
EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR

RABBI MICHAEL AARONSOHN
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

RABBI B. BENEDICT GLAZER
REGIONAL RABBI OF PENNSYLVANIA

February 22d, 1928.

Rabbi George Zepin,
Union of American
Hebrew Congregations,
Merchants Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Zepin:-

In reply to your letter of February 10th, permit me to say that I shall be glad to take charge of the Prize Oration Contest again this year, although I doubt its value.

The response last year was so meager that I just wonder whether the outlay in effort and money is warranted.

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

HEBREW BENEVOLENT CONGREGATION

Atlanta, Ga.

February 22-1928

Dr. Emanuel Gamoran
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Gamoran:

Excuse delay in reviewing the Kraft mms. I have not been able to get to the work sooner. I find the plays without any special merit. I agree with you in your view of "Borderlands". I regret that I can not concur in your appraisal of the other plays. I do not think that they should be published-at least by us.

I find that the "Fringe" is the best of the plays but even that fails to present a true picture of the life it would portray. The situation is melodramatic, the conversation of Lionel and his wife stilted; the boldness of Lilly and the condescension of Gerry unreal. The Theme is good but requires more thorough treatment even for a one act play.

"The Point of View", "The Heritage" and "Half Gods" are foreign in theme and of small interest to American Youth. Why the German dialogue in the language of the characters? If the play is supposed to be written in the language of the characters-then the English is meaningless. The play is unconvincing.

"The Heritage"..Again a mixing of languages. Direct preaching, little action and too sudden a transition on the part of Eli.

"Half Gods"..an unreal play with a Jewish theme dragged in. Situation exaggerated. Theme ghastly and foreign..Why not use Ash or Peretz for the American Stage?

These plays would hardly appeal to student groups. They awaken neither sympathy or resentment. To me they are colorless. Moreover for the most part the plots are foreign to the life of the American Jewish child and are poorly developed and tend towards the tragic.

Sorry that I cannot recommend our printing.

Best wishes,

Cordially yours,

(Signed) David Marx

March 1st, 1928.

Rabbi George Zepin,
Merchants Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Zepin:-

Rabbi Silver has asked me to inquire if the exact dates of the Convention of The Union of American Hebrew Congregations to be held in San Francisco in January, 1929, have been fixed and if so, will you kindly advise me what they are.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain

Very truly yours,

Secretary to Rabbi Silver

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

SYNAGOGUE & SCHOOL EXTENSION
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE BROTHERHOODS

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March
Fifth
1928

Miss Irene Rothenberg
Secretary to Rabbi Silver
c/o The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Miss Rothenberg:

In response to your inquiry,
I beg to state that the biennial convention of the Union will take place in San Francisco, not in January but in February. The date has been tentatively set as Sunday, February 10th and the few days following.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

GZ:PF

DEPARTMENT OF SYNAGOGUE AND SCHOOL EXTENSION
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

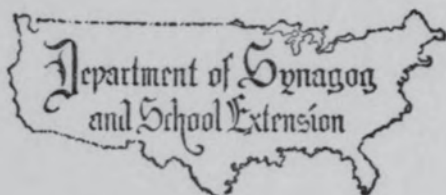


MERCHANTS BUILDING
CINCINNATI, O.

March
Fourteenth,
1928.

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EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR

RABBI MICHAEL AARONSOHN
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Silver:

I would like to make a suggestion with regard to the Prize Oration Contest that I trust will be agreeable to you. I should like to divide the universities between yourself and Rabbi Brickner, giving you charge of the contest at the Western Reserve University and at the Case School of Applied Science. I would have Rabbi Brickner take charge of the contest at Ohio Northern University and at Oberlin College.

If this division meets with your approval, please let me know and I shall send you a sufficient number of circulars to be distributed at the two universities mentioned above. I would also like to suggest that it might create greater interest if the boys were asked to hold their oratorical contest at your Temple in connection with some student affair.

With cordial regards and best wishes,
I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director

GZ:SD

XXXI COUNCIL

Congregations - Sisterhoods - Brotherhoods
SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY, 1929

March 16th, 1928.

Rabbi George Zepin,
Union of American Hebrew Congregations,
Merchants Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Zepin:-

In reply to your letter of March 14th, your suggestion that I take charge of the Oratorical Contest at Western Reserve University and at Case School of Applied Science, is perfectly acceptable to me. I am afraid however, that very few of the students will participate in it.

I shall be pleased to hold a contest in connection with some Temple activity if you think that it may create greater interest.

With kindest regards, permit
me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

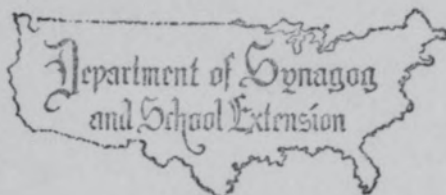
AHS/IR

DEPARTMENT OF SYNAGOGUE AND SCHOOL EXTENSION
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS



MERCHANTS BUILDING
CINCINNATI, O.

March,
Twenty-Sixth,
1928.



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Dr. A. H. Silver,
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I want to thank you very
much for your letter of recent date
in which you so kindly offer to cooperate
with us in the Prize Oration Contest.

I am sending you, under
separate cover, about 30 copies of the
Prize Oration Contest folder. If it is
not too much trouble, will you kindly
see to it that these notices are dis-
played at the Western Reserve University
and at the Case School where they will
come to the attention of the Jewish students.

Thanking you, and with kind
regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director.

GZ:SE

XXXI COUNCIL

Congregations • Sisterhoods • Brotherhoods
SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY, 1929

DEPARTMENT OF SYNAGOGUE AND SCHOOL EXTENSION

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

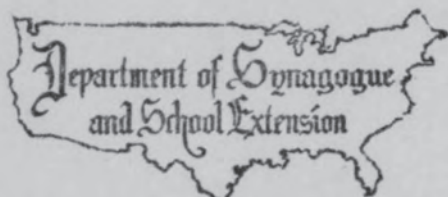


MERCHANTS BUILDING
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April
Seventeenth,
1928

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RABBI MICHAEL AARONSOHN
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. A. H. Silver,
10303 Lake Shore Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I heard today that you are to broadcast your Sunday morning service for the next few weeks. I would appreciate it very much if you would let me have the requisite information on the enclosed cards, so that I may in turn transmit ~~these~~ to the Jewish press in our weekly announcement of the broadcast of Jewish services.

If at all possible, I would like to have the subject of your address reach me about ten days in advance of the broadcast. For example if you can let me have, before this Friday, the subject of your address on the 29th, I will be able to use the information this Friday when we send out our letter.

With cordial regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Irving Lehman
Assistant Director.

LE:IG

XXXI COUNCIL

Congregations - Sisterhoods - Brotherhoods
SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY, 1929

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Pittsburgh, Pa.

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OF THE

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

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A. N. FRANZBLAU
Director
New York City

2 EAST 76th STREET · New York City

TELEPHONE: BUTTERFIELD 4564

May 23rd, 1928

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
Temple Tifereth Israel,
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver,

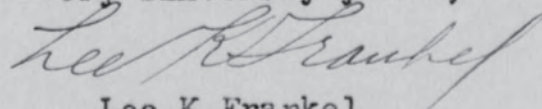
The Commission on Research, which has recently been established by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and of which I have the honor to be Chairman, has selected as the subject of its investigation for this year "A study of certain aspects of the homes of members of Reform congregations in the ten cities in the United States with a Jewish population of over 50,000".

Your congregation is one of those included in the range of our study. Our method of approach will be through the use of a questionnaire which will be mailed to various members of the congregations to be studied.

You can assist us immeasurably by sending us a copy of your congregational membership list, so that we may forward questionnaires to those of your congregation whom we select.

I trust that we may have your cooperation in this matter.

Very sincerely yours,



Lee K. Frankel
CHAIRMAN

LKF:B

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Cincinnati, Ohio

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Philadelphia, Pa.

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New York City

2 EAST 76th STREET · New York City

TELEPHONE: BUTTERFIELD 4564

July 2nd, 1928

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver,

I should like to request your opinion on a very important problem which has arisen in connection with the work of the newly established Commission on Research of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. You have been chosen as one of six Rabbis whom we are consulting in this matter.

The Commission on Research was established to conduct scientific investigations into various problems connected with Jewish life and its institutions in this country with a view to the presentation of facts and information which may prove helpful to our Jewish leadership. For the work of the current year the Commission proposes to study the homes of members of Reform Congregations affiliated with the Union in the ten cities of this country which have a Jewish population of over 50,000.

To achieve this object a questionnaire has been formulated, a copy of which is herewith enclosed. You will note that the various schedules of this questionnaire are planned to secure a picture of the elements which constitute the Jewishness of our constituency so that scientific study may reveal the actual importance of those elements and their relationship to each other.

A group of prominent and highly-respected laymen on the Executive Board of the Union have objected vigorously to certain parts of the questionnaire and have expressed serious doubts as to its efficacy and desirability taken as a whole. Certain of the objections have already been conceded, as you will note, and parts of the questionnaire have been stricken out. On other points there still remain serious disagreements.

The large questions around which the disagreement hinges are:-

- I - Can the Union, as the official organization of Reform Judaism in this country, sponsor the raising of such issues as are contained in this questionnaire without either injuring its status with its constituency or opening itself to serious criticism or attack by hostile Jewish or non-Jewish bodies?
- 2 - Is the response of those to whom this questionnaire is to be sent apt to be honest, sympathetic and cooperative enough to make the results valuable?

Rabbi Abba Hillen Silver

July 2nd, 1928

- 3 - Are the items of the questionnaire (especially pages 5 and 7) so phrased as to afford the proper alternatives and secure responses which are truly indicative of the individuals beliefs and opinions; and if not what omissions, rewordings or rearrangements would be more apt to secure such responses?
- 4 - Is the entire project, even if responded to by a sufficiently large number of people, if studied with the proper scientific procedures and if published with the proper caution and reserve to protect Jewish interests from hostile groups, apt to produce results sufficiently worthwhile to justify itself?

On all of these questions we are desirous of having your frank and impartial opinion as a Rabbi. We would greatly appreciate your detailed reactions to page five, the schedule on religious beliefs.

It is imperative that this matter be finally decided by July 15th and I would therefore urge that you give the enclosed questionnaire careful consideration and communicate your reactions to me by that date. You may address me in care of the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Please feel free to respond with perfect assurance that your comments will be regarded as absolutely confidential by the Commission on Research and will be used for no purpose other than to help us decide this very important matter.

Assuring you that your assistance will be of invaluable service to us and with many thanks and warmest regards, I am

Very faithfully yours,

Director

ANF:B

COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION

*Under the Joint Auspices of
The Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis*

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LOUIS WOLSEY, CLEVELAND

MERCHANTS BUILDING
CINCINNATI

July 6th, 1928

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
1486 E. 106th Street,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friend:

I just thought for curiosity's sake that I would look up my correspondence with you on the subject of the Kraft plays. I am enclosing herewith a copy of your letter of November 28th and my answer to you of December 1st. You will note that in the letter I say that I shall not be able to get to the plays for sometime to come. It would have been a surprise to me if I had said that I would not be able to get to them "for six months". As a matter of fact, I read them and sent a report on them, recommending the publication of four of the five plays.

I am sorry that the members of the committee did not agree with me. As you are a member of the Commission and as you have taken a special interest in these plays, I am sending you Rabbi Max Heller's letter of February 9th and Dr. Marx's letter of February 22nd, both of which will explain to you the reason for the rejection of these manuscripts. By the end of February the entire matter had been disposed of. You see, therefore, that while I may be a bad fellow, I am not as bad as you thought I was.

With best wishes to Mrs. Silver, yourself and especially to Danny Boy, in which the family joins, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Emanuel Gamoran

P.S. The manuscript together with explanatory letter was sent to Miss Kraft about three months ago.

Educational Director

EG:B

Encl.

COPY PF

THE TEMPLE
E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio
Abba Hillel Silver, D.D.
Rabbi

November 28, 1927.

Dr. Emanuel Gamoran
Director Bureau of Public Education
Merchants Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio

My dear Mr. Gamoran:-

Miss Irma Kraft, whose name is probably known to you, has sent me the enclosed plays, based on Jewish themes. She thought that the Commission might be interested in publishing them.

I have not read the plays, but Miss Kraft's reputation prompts me to send these plays to you and the Commission.

You will recall that Miss Kraft has had one or two books published.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:IR

(Signed) Abba Hillel Silver

December
First
1927

COMMISSION ON JEWISH
EDUCATION

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
1486 E. 106th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have your note of November 28th, together with five plays submitted by Miss Kraft. I shall be pleased to read them at the first opportunity.

May I say, however, that I have quite a number of manuscripts on hand at present and I shall not be able to get to these plays for some time to come.

Do you wish me to make acknowledgment directly to Miss Kraft of the receipt of these? Please let me know.

I have seen a copy of your book although I have not yet received the one which you so kindly promised to send me. I want to congratulate you on its appearance. I shall read it with a great deal of interest at the first opportunity.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes to Mrs. Silver and yourself, I am

Very sincerely yours,

EG:SE

EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR

MAX HELLER
RABBI OF CONGREGATION TEMPLE SINAI
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Feb. 9, 1928.

Dr. Emanuel Gamoran,
Educational Director,

Dear Dr. Gamoran:

I have almost immediately upon receipt, given a careful reading to these 5 plays of Miss Krafft. I regret to report that not one of them seems to me worthy of publication. They all have a certain crudeness which is evidence of hasty writing, as is also the incredibly defective German. There is more or less on all of them, a good deal of quick unnecessary or poorly managed dialect. There are elementary errors such as using "Marks" in Vienna; there is much improbability about characters and situations; two of them the "Point of View" and "Heritage" and in electric-speed conversions; the former of these has an annoyingly ambiguous ending. "Borderlands" is disfigured by an unreasonable and unfair Anti-Germanism; in "Half-Gods" the question "a Christian"? conveys a sneer which is in poor taste. The several pro-Jewish arguments are flabby feeble and childishly over simple.

In 2 plays the beauty of a girl is the one argument to which all error surrenders. I regret I cannot see any merit in these plays.

Very glad to learn that you are reading those extracts from my Palestine letters; they represent about 1/3 of the articles (15) I published here. I am trying to get a publisher to put them in Book-form, but fear I shall not succeed.

Am happy to report myself in good health and most contented state of mind. Am looking forward with great pleasure to spending a month or so in Cincinnati in the Spring. Hope we'll see a good deal of one another. With warm greetings
I am

Cordially yours,

Max Heller.

July 6th, 1928.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations,
Merchants Building,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Gentlemen:-

Will you please advise me by return mail the exact dates of the Convention to be held on the West Coast in February.

Rabbi Silver has had several invitations to speak both previous and following the Convention and should like to plan his itinerary.

Thanking you in advance for your prompt reply, and with kindest regards, permit me to remain

Very truly yours,

Secretary to Rabbi Silver

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

SYNAGOGUE & SCHOOL EXTENSION
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1928

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Miss Irene Rothenberg, Secy.
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Miss Rothenberg:

In reply to your letter of July 6th, I wish to advise you that the XXXI Convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations will be held in San Francisco, Calif., February 10-15, 1929.

Sincerely yours,

GZ:PF

Secretary

XXXI COUNCIL

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SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY, 10-15, 1929