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Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated. Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1935-1936.

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THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

MERCHANTS BUILDING - CINCINNATI, O.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin September 16, 1935

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver 10311 Lake Shore Blvd. Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I was not able to attend the Washington Convention but I received word that a resolution had been passed, urging the Planning Commission to hand in a report "before the next Council meeting."

The only reason that the Planning Commission has not handed in a definite report is because the several departments of the Union to whom inquiries were addressed have not presented individual reports. I am now writing again to the head of each department, asking them to submit a report in which they will tell us briefly the individual projects in which they are engaged, and their plans for the immediate or remote future. When the members of the Planning Commission have these before them, they will have a basis for preparing a round-out plan for presentation to the Union.

The purpose of the Commission, I take it, is to evolve a plan for united action in the cause to which the Union is dedicated, namely, the advancement of Judaism in this country. I believe that the letters I have written to the heads of each department will be effective, and I hope to have in the hands of the Planning Commission a series of reports which may become the basis of their future action.

I am always open to suggestions, and if you have any will be very glad to hear from you.

Sincerely

With kindest regards,

ALS

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"HYMNS OF ALL CHURCHES"

ROOM 4511, CAREW TOWER CINCINNATI, OHIO

September 16, 1935

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Perhaps you have heard of the program of "Hymns of All Churches", broad-cast at 9A.M. over Station WLW, Cincinnati.

This is not a religious service, but a program of inspirational music. It also unobtrusively promotes tolerance and good feeling by acquainting listeners with the beauty of the hymns of other creeds than their own. Every known religious faith is included.

We have been singing these hymns every week-day morning over WLW, Cincinnati, for more than a year. Our program has been warmly endorsed by many religious leaders of all faiths, and because of its tremendous popularity was recently expanded so that it is now welcomed in several million American homes from coast to coast.

We believe a very pleasant added touch would be given to the program if we could include the favorite hymns of some of the most distinguished figures in American public life; and it is for this reason I am taking the liberty of writing to you.

Would you be willing to tell me the name of your own favorite hymn, with a brief letter with which I might introduce it; possibly telling of some special association the hymn has for you? If you would like to have it sung on some particular occasion, it would be a pleasure to comply.

Our program, I should explain to make the situation entirely clear, is sponsored by General Mills, Inc., but the hymn program is kept completely distinct from any preceding commercial announcements, and your name would be in no way associated with the sponsorship.

Perhaps you will be interested to know the names of a few of the people who have already been kind enough to comply with my request. I have received very gracious letters from Vice-President Garner, J. Edgar Hoover, Lorado Taft, Ruth Bryan Owen, Governor Hoffman of New Jersey, Judge John C. Knox of the New York Federal Court, Dr. John Haynes Holmes, Lowell Thomas, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Walter Damrosch, James Truslow Adams, Helen Keller, Daniel C. Roper, and many others.

I would be very proud to sing your best-loved hymn for you in this program and I am sure our huge audience would welcome this cordial gesture from you.

Sincerely, Emerson

JE:en

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HARRY L. COMINS Director, Youth Activities JOINT AUSPICES

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS MERCHANTS BUILDING, CINCINNATI, O.

November 5, 1935

Dr. Abba H. Silver Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am herewith calling a special meeting of the Commission on Jewish Education for Tuesday, November 19th at 10 A.M., at the Cincinnati Club, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The principal subject for presentation to the Commission and the first order of business will be the report of a joint committee of our Commission and of the Department of Pedagogy of the Hebrew Union College. The appointment of this joint committee was authorized at the meeting of our Commission held in Chicago in June. There is a serious difference of opinion between Dr. Abraham N. Franzblau of the Hebrew Union College, on the one hand, and the Board of Managers of the Synagogue and School Extension, on the other hand.

It is imperative that the Commission deliberate on the critical situation which has arisen. As the situation now stands, it is bound to result in confusion and in contradiction of aims and purposes. In the opinion of the officers of your Commission, there is hardly room for two bureaus of Jewish Education in our small field.

Our meeting is scheduled to take place on the day preceding the meeting of the Board of Managers of Synagogue and School Extension, whose officers have requested us for an expression of opinion on this important matter.

As stated above, a number of other matters of business will be presented,

This meeting is of the utmost importance, and I' am urgently requesting you to be present.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely

DP: JA

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THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS MERCHANTS BUILDING, CINCINNATI, O.

November Thirteenth 1 9 3 5

Dr. A. H. Silver E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd. Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friend:

I am writing you because I notice that your response as to whether you are coming to the meeting of the Commission or not has not been received. I am very eager that if it is at all possible, you should come. The reason is this.

After more than a decade of work in which, against odds, we have succeeded in creating a textbook literature for the Jewish schools, and at a time when it appears that we are making progress along that line, internal difficulties have arisen that threaten the very existence of our Educational Department. I am referring to the attempt on the part of the College to create another national bureau of Jewish education that will publish books and sell them to our own congregations. It is important that the ethical question involved should be gone into at this meeting, as well as the practical question, which, in my opinion, challenges the very existence of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

For your personal information, I am sending you a copy of a letter which I have written to Dr. Philipson as Chairman of a Committee of Six that was supposed to iron out this difficulty. This letter will throw light on the problem. I should greatly appreciate it if you can come to the meeting. If not, would you be good enough to send an expression of opinion on this subject to me. The meeting is, as you recall, Tuesday, November 19th.

With all good wishes from house to house, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Emanuel Gamoran

EG:RS

November 18, 1935

Dr. David Philips on,
congregation Bene I snall
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cumunati, O his

I regret that it will not be possible for me to attend the sessions of the Commission on Jewish Education on November 19. I must remain in Cleveland on that day in connection with the Community Chest Campaign which is now going on.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK

COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION

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George Zepin Director Synagogue and School Extension

Louis I. Egelson
Assistant Director
Synagogue and School Extension

EMANUEL GAMORAN Educational Director

ISAAC RABINOWITZ
Director, Youth Activities

JOINT AUSPICES

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS MERCHANTS BUILDING, CINCINNATI, O.

December Seventeenth 1 9 3 5

Dr. Abba H. Silver, The Temple, E. 105th St. at Ansel Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I take pleasure in sending you under separate cover the minutes of the Commission on Jewish Education.

We all regretted your absence from the meeting.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

GZ:SG

Secretary

Simon Lazarus Columbus, Chio

Dr. Abba H. Silver, Cleveland, Ohio.

March 2, 1936

Dear Dr. Silver:

Your Executive Board recently passed several important forward looking measures which in its judgment will be of material benefit to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. It was unanimously decided to entrust the financing of the Union to a Finance Committee, to create a Department of Finance and to secure a Director of Finance.

As the newly appointed chairman of the Finance Committee, and in accordance with the unanimous action of the Executive Board, I take great pleasure in announcing the selection of Elkan C. Voorsanger of Chicago, Illinois as Director of Finance.

Educated in San Francisco, and Cincinnati, Mr. Voorsanger holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati and the Hebrew Union College. Resigning his pulpit in St. Louis he joined the American Expeditionary Forces, and was among the first American soldiers to arrive in France. He rose from private to captain and served as Senior Chaplain of the 77th Division and as first Assistant to Bishop Brent, Senior Chaplain of the forces. For distinguished services he received the Croix de Guerre from France and was decorated by our Government.

At the close of the war he remained in France as Overseas Director of the Jewish Welfare Board. After liquidating the affairs of the Jewish Welfare Board he returned to the United States and was immediately requested to go to Poland as co-director of the work for the Joint Distribution Committee. He organized, outfitted, trained and took to Poland the first and second relief units and served as co-director in charge of field, personnel and general organization and executive work. Upon his return to the United States he was active in the organization of Relief Drives throughout the United States.

For the last fifteen years Mr. Voorsanger has been actively engaged in business in the city of Chicago and has in addition been Commissioner of Compensation of the City of Chicago, which appointment he is now resigning to undertake his new duties.

Because of his many years of professional, business and congregational experience, his widespread knowledge of national and community affairs, Mr. Voorsanger possesses unusual qualifications which make him admirably fitted for this important new post. The Union of American Hebrew Congregations feels most fortunate in securing his services and I bespeak for our new Director your most hearty cooperation and aid.

Very sincerely yours,

Chairman, Finance Committee



COMMISSION ON SYNAGOGUE ACTIVITIES

MERCHANTS BUILDING · CINCINNATI, OHIO

March 30th, 1 9 3 6

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Director of Synagogue Activities
RABBI JACOB D. SCHWARZ, CINCINNATI, OHIO

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

Dear Friend:

A few years ago, if I remember correctly, you published an article in which you set forth your position in favor of a Synagogue Center devoted wholly to Jewish activities for its own members as contrasted with another type of Center embracing a large number of secular activities. I do not remember where this article was published and should very much like to have a copy of it.

If you have a copy to spare will you kindly send it to me, or if not, please inform me where I can get it.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness and with cordial personal greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Director of Synagogue Activities

JDS:JW

April 3, 196 Rabbi Jacob D. Schwarz, Merchants Building. Cincinnati, Ohio. My dear Rabbi Schwarz: In reply to your letter of March 30, permit me to say that the article on Synagogue Center which you probably had in mind appeared in the American Hebrew of June 28, 1929. I am sure that you will be able to procure a copy of it at the Labrary of the Hebrew Union College. With best wishes, I remain Very sincerely yours. AHS: BK

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TELEPHONE: PARKWAY 7345 « MERCHANTS BUILDING » CINCINNATI

May 1, 1936

Dr. A. H. Silver, The Temple, E. 105th St. & Ansel Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am planning the publicity schedule for graduation at the Hebrew Union College and will be very grateful if you can send me the title of your Baccalaureate address. In order to release this story to the press at the proper time I should have a copy of your speech in its entirety or any pertinent excerpts you care to give me no later than Wednesday, May 20. This information, of course, will be kept confidential and will not be released to the press until after the speech is delivered.

I shall appreciate it very much if you will advise me at your first convenience just what material you will be able to send me.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Publicity

LWA:BG

May 15, 1936 Miss Louis W. Antick, Director of Publicity. Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Merchants Bldg. . Cincinnati, Ohio. My dear Miss Antick: I am sorry that I haven't my Baccalaureate address written. I shall probably not get to it until the latter part of next week. I have been traveling all over the country in connection with various foreign relief campaigns. I have also been immersed in the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund Campaign of which I am General Chairman. You will have to let the publicity of my address go until after I have delivered it at the Hebrew Union College. With best wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

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TELEPHONE: PARKWAY 7345 « MERCHANTS BUILDING » CINCINNATI

May 12, 1936

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

On May 1st I wrote you asking for information regarding the speech you will deliver at the Hebrew Union College graduation. So far I have not heard from you in regard to this matter, and I shall appreciate it very much if you will advise me when that material will be ready. It will not be released until after the speech is given but I must have it no later than Wednesday, May 20th, in order to prepare my story.

I assure you I shall be deeply appreciative of your prompt attention to this.

Very truly yours,

Director of Publicity

LWA:BG

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TELEPHONE: PARKWAY 7345 « MERCHANTS BUILDING » CINCINNATI

May 28, 1936

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

LWA: BG

I am herewith enclosing copy of the Baccalaureate address you gave at the Hebrew Union College last Saturday which was turned over to me for publicity purposes by Mr. Schmidt of the Every Friday.

I had hoped to send you in this letter the snapshots which were taken of you and your brother, but the young man who took the pictures has already left for his home in Philadelphia. However, I am writing to him for them and if he sends them to me I shall forward a set to you.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Publicity