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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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Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1940-1941.

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

THIRTY-TWO WEST SIXTH STREET • CINCINNATI, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 19, 1940

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
c/o The Temple
E. 105th St. & Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

This year we were invited again by the National Broadcasting Company to sponsor THE CALL TO YOUTH broadcast during the months of June, July, August and September. The broadcast is held every Saturday from 12:30 to 12:45 P.M. Eastern Daylight Saving Time (11:30 A.M. Cleveland time), and is carried from coast to coast over the Red Network of N.B.C.

For our theme this year we have selected the general subject, "Religion and the Social Advance." We have divided this general topic into a number of subjects covering a wide range, as you will note from the enclosed.

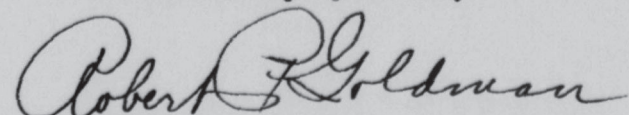
We would be very happy to have you close the series of broadcasts on September 28, speaking on the subject, "Religion and the Brave New World."

The opening and closing of the program take up about $3\frac{1}{2}$ minutes of the 15 minutes allotted to us. This leaves about $11\frac{1}{2}$ minutes for the address.

I would appreciate it very much if you will let me have your prompt reply, which I trust will be in the affirmative. We are very anxious to announce the speakers for September within the next week or so. Further details will be sent to you at a later date.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Robert P. Goldman
President

RPG:RM

CALL TO YOUTH

RELIGION AND THE SOCIAL ADVANCE

- June 1 - Building the World of Tomorrow
- June 8 - Religion and the Good Life
- June 15 - Religion and Personality
- June 22 - Religion and Justice
- June 29 - Religion and Morality
- July 6 - Religion and Our Neighbors
- July 13 - Religion and the Home
- July 20 - Religion and Personal Ideals
- July 27 - Religion and Philanthropy
- Aug. 3 - Religion and Science
- Aug. 10 - Religion and Social Justice
- Aug. 17 - Religion and Civic Righteousness
- Aug. 24 - Religion and Labor
- Aug. 31 - Religion and the Peace of Tomorrow
- Sept. 7 - Religion and International Relations
- Sept. 14 - Religion and the Education of Tomorrow
- Sept. 21 - Religion and the Democratic Ideal
- Sept. 28 - Religion and the Brave New World



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WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

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NT=Overnight Telegram

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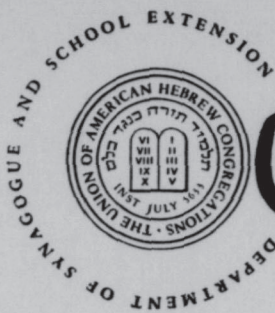
DR A H SILVER, CARE THE TEMPLE=

EAST 105 ST AT ANSEL RD CLEVELAND=

WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF OUR INVITATION IN
AUGUST 19TH LETTER TO BROADCAST IN OUR CALL TO YOUTH
PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 28TH. PLEASE WIRE AT MY EXPENSE. REGARDS=
ROBERT P GOLDMAN.

19 28.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



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Rabbi Jacob D. Schwarz, Director, Cincinnati

October 22, 1940

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

Dear Friend:

I have received several inquiries lately with regard to whether the practice of having the rabbi present at the Board meetings, or even making him an honorary or ex-officio member of the Board, has become more prevalent. I am therefore writing to a number of congregations to get this information which will be made available to our congregations on request.

I shall appreciate it very much if you will let me know what the status of this matter is in your congregation, whether there are any regulations regarding it, and what your own attitude toward the matter has been. Also if you attend Board meetings regularly or only on occasion, etc. etc. I shall be very grateful for any information along these lines.

With many thanks in advance, and with the greetings of the holiday season, I am

Sincerely yours,

Jacob D. Schwarz
Director of Synagogue Activities

JDS:GS

November 1, 1940

Rabbi Jacob D. Schwarz, Director
Commission on Synagogue Activities
Merchants Building
Cincinnati, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Schwarz:

In reply to your kind letter of October 22, permit me to say that it has been a long standing custom of our Temple for the Rabbi to attend regularly the meetings of the Board of Trustees. The Rabbi of The Temple is not an ex-officio member of the Board nor does he occupy any honorary position on the Board. He attends the meetings as Rabbi of The Temple. I found that arrangement most satisfactory. I, of course, do not vote, but that is really not necessary. I have also tried through the years to refrain from injecting myself into the purely business and administrative activities of the Board of Trustees, leaving that field to the laymen, unless such questions involved basic Temple policy.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Chicago Sinai Congregation

4600 SOUTH PARKWAY

Chicago

DR. LOUIS L. MANN
RABBI

December
16th
1940

My dear Abba: I happened to sit in on a Program Committee Meeting of the U.A.H.C. in New York last week in preparation for the Detroit Biennial. My suggestion that they adopt the subject, "Re-thinking the Union — Its Achievements, Its Failures, and Its Future" as the important topic of conversation for the next Biennial was accepted.

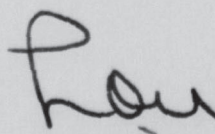
For having "talked too much" they suggested that I take the assignment, "Its Failures". I shall think the matter over for a week or ten days before accepting or rejecting it.

I am writing to you and three or four other of my colleagues and friends who share some of my misgivings about the Union to ask you to list the major failures of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations as we now have it.

I know that you are very busy, but if you could sit down and most informally mention your misgivings I would greatly appreciate it.

With the kindest of greetings and appreciation, I am

Sincerely,



LLM:SB

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

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THIRTY-FOUR W. SIXTH ST. • CINCINNATI, OHIO • Phone PARKway 7345

June 4, 1941

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

You were present at the unusual Council meeting which we had in Detroit. At the post-Convention meeting of the Executive Board I was elected Chairman of the Board. To my way of thinking, things have been happening a little too fast. Had it been possible, I should have preferred to meet with you and a number of the Jewish leaders, to ascertain from them just what the rabbis and the congregations expect of the Union. This method of first electing me to office and then leaving it to me to find out has many shortcomings.

Your own case is an instance of what I have in mind. You are one of the accepted leaders in American Jewish life. You have been observing the Union for many years. And from my own limited experience and from what the members of the staff tell me, you have been helpful on innumerable occasions. I should have prized the opportunity of having a heart to heart talk with you. Perhaps at the Conference in Atlantic City this opportunity may be offered to me.

Now that I have been elected I find myself in possession of a report of the Committee on Survey, advising a considerable expansion of the Union's activities. Coupled with this advice is the suggestion that the Union undertake to raise the money necessary for carrying these plans into execution. I find nothing to criticize in the plans of the Survey Committee, and if the success of this program depended merely upon the time that I can give, the plan would be a success.

More mature consideration, however, leads me to the conclusion that it will take the personal interest and cooperation of many men to carry out even a few of the suggestions contained in the report. I have no illusions about what I can do unaided. Fortunately I have the time to devote to this subject. I believe also that I have the enthusiasm. But what I am looking for just now is the supporting enthusiasm of the religious leaders and their congregations.

Can I count on you in this matter? Will you take me into your confidence as to what the Union should do

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

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in addition to what it is already doing - what it should improve, omit, etc.? And above all, can I count upon the support of the laymen in the City of Cleveland to convert these plans into actual accomplishments?

As I stated above, these things happened very quickly. I should have much preferred to have these assurances of cooperation before accepting office. I am now driven to seek them post facto, my desire being to discharge my duties in such a way as to make the Union a greater instrument of service in Jewish religious life.

I should appreciate your writing me frankly on this subject and to speak both for yourself, and to the extent that you can, for your congregation. I need your good advice, your encouragement.

Awaiting your response, I am, with kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Adolph Rosenberg



Adolph Rosenberg
Chairman Executive Board



AR:GS