



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

Reel
75

Box
26

Folder
1650

United Jewish Appeal, United Palestine Appeal,
Stone, Mrs. Bernard, pension, 1942.



1942 — 60th Anniversary of Jewish Colonization in Palestine

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND (KEREN HAYESOD)
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (KEREN KAYEMETH)
For the Defense and Upbuilding of the Jewish National Home in Palestine

41 EAST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK CITY

Telephone: MUrray Hill 2-3320

Cable Address—Palfund

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Honorary Chairmen

Albert Einstein
Herbert H. Lehman
Julian W. Mack
Henry Monsky
Nathan Straus
Henrietta Szold

National Chairman

Abba Hillel Silver

National Co-Chairmen

Stephen S. Wise
*Chairman,
Administrative Committee*
Louis Lipsky
*Chairman,
Executive Committee*
Solomon Goldman
Israel Goldstein
Louis E. Levinthal
Morris Rothenberg

Treasurer

Charles J. Rosenbloom

Associate Treasurers

Abraham L. Liebovitz
Jacob Sincoff

Vice-Chairmen

Barnett R. Brickner
Leon Gellman
James G. Heller
Edmund I. Kaufmann
Charles Ress
Elihu D. Stone
Robert Szold
Joe Weingarten
David Wertheim

Executive Director

Henry Montor

CONFIDENTIAL

March 2, 1942

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Tenth and Ansel Roads
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Attached hereto are copies of two letters sent to me by Rabbi Jack A. Levy of Bakersfield, California, where Bernard Stone died. The letters are self-explanatory.

We shall have to take as prompt action as possible in connection with the widow and son of Bernard Stone. What action do you suggest in the meantime?

Cordially yours,

Henry Montor
Executive Director

HM:JB
Encls. 2

"We in the United States must help strengthen Palestine"

—HON. FRANK KNOX, Secretary of the Navy

HONORARY VICE-CHAIRMEN

Louis Altschul, <i>Mount Vernon</i>	Prof. Mordecai M. Kaplan, <i>New York</i>
Day J. Apte, <i>Miami</i>	Louis E. Kirstein, <i>Boston</i>
George Backer, <i>New York</i>	Prof. Gustave Klausner, <i>St. Louis</i>
Dr. Joseph Bank, <i>Phoenix</i>	Sidney G. Kusworm, <i>Dayton</i>
Rabbi Solomon N. Bazell, <i>Louisville</i>	Milton Kutz, <i>Wilmington</i>
Rabbi Morton M. Berman, <i>Chicago</i>	Monte M. Lemann, <i>New Orleans</i>
Oscar Berman, <i>Cincinnati</i>	Judge Benjamin Lencher, <i>Pittsburgh</i>
Joseph M. Berne, <i>Cleveland</i>	Joseph Leonard, <i>Allentown</i>
Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, <i>Rochester</i>	Maurice Levin, <i>New York</i>
Robert M. Bernstein, <i>Philadelphia</i>	Louis Levine, <i>New York</i>
Dr. Jacob Billikopf, <i>Philadelphia</i>	Rabbi B. L. Levinthal, <i>Philadelphia</i>
Jacob Blaustein, <i>Baltimore</i>	Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal, <i>Brooklyn</i>
Samuel J. Bloomingdale, <i>New York</i>	Rabbi Felix A. Levy, <i>Chicago</i>
Louis J. Borinstein, <i>Indianapolis</i>	Rabbi Joshua L. Liebman, <i>Brookline</i>
Charles Brown, <i>Los Angeles</i>	Julius Livingston, <i>Tulsa</i>
Gedalia Bublick, <i>Brooklyn</i>	Alex Lowenthal, <i>Pittsburgh</i>
Fred M. Butzel, <i>Detroit</i>	Rabbi Max Maccoby, <i>Mount Vernon</i>
Jesse B. Calmenson, <i>St. Paul</i>	Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin, <i>Los Angeles</i>
Hon. Alfred M. Cohen, <i>Cincinnati</i>	Rabbi Julius Mark, <i>Nashville</i>
Rabbi Henry Cohen, <i>Galveston</i>	Samuel Markell, <i>Boston</i>
Isadore Cohen, <i>Bluefield</i>	Israel Matz, <i>Brooklyn</i>
Sol Cohen, <i>New York</i>	Mortimer May, <i>Nashville</i>
Amos S. Deinard, <i>Minneapolis</i>	Millard Mayer, <i>Kansas City</i>
David Diamond, <i>Buffalo</i>	Rabbi Irving Miller, <i>Far Rockaway</i>
Dr. Clarence W. Eftoymsen, <i>Indianapolis</i>	Charles W. Morris, <i>Louisville</i>
S. Mason Ehrman, <i>Portland</i>	Max Moss, <i>Jacksonville</i>
Benjamin Eisenstein, <i>Schenectady</i>	Stanley C. Myers, <i>Miami</i>
Mark Eisner, <i>New York</i>	Morris Neaman, <i>Pittsburgh</i>
Sol Esfeld, <i>Seattle</i>	Max Ogust, <i>New York</i>
Mose M. Feld, <i>Houston</i>	Kurt Peiser, <i>Philadelphia</i>
Rabbi Leon I. Feuer, <i>Toledo</i>	Hardwig Peres, <i>Memphis</i>
Rabbi Louis Finkelstein, <i>New York</i>	Abe Plough, <i>Memphis</i>
Judge Phillip Forman, <i>Trenton</i>	Arthur Ravel, <i>Albuquerque</i>
Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, <i>Pittsburgh</i>	Col. Albert H. Rosenberg, <i>Chicago</i>
Dr. Harry Friedenwald, <i>Baltimore</i>	Michael Schaap, <i>New York</i>
Daniel Frisch, <i>Indianapolis</i>	Edwin J. Schanfarber, <i>Columbus</i>
Herman Gessner, <i>Escanaba</i>	Albert Schiff, <i>Columbus</i>
Leonard Ginsberg, <i>New York</i>	Max J. Schneider, <i>New York</i>
Prof. Louis Ginzberg, <i>New York</i>	Baruch H. Schnur, <i>New York</i>
Abraham Goldberg, <i>New York</i>	William H. Schwarzschild, <i>Richmond</i>
Mrs. Maurice L. Goldman, <i>San Francisco</i>	Simon Shetzer, <i>Washington</i>
Abraham Goldstein, <i>Hartford</i>	Mrs. Archibald Silverman, <i>Providence</i>
Jack A. Goodman, <i>Indianapolis</i>	Eugene M. Solow, <i>Dallas</i>
Joseph Goodman, <i>Troy</i>	Dr. Ferdinand Sonneborn, <i>New York</i>
Rabbi Julius Gordon, <i>St. Louis</i>	Michael A. Stavitsky, <i>Newark</i>
Hayim Greenberg, <i>New York</i>	Judge Horace Stern, <i>Philadelphia</i>
Rabbi Simon Greenberg, <i>Philadelphia</i>	Leon C. Sunstein, <i>Philadelphia</i>
Joseph E. Grosberg, <i>Schenectady</i>	Morris D. Waldman, <i>New York</i>
Dave Grundfest, <i>Little Rock</i>	Eugene Warner, <i>Buffalo</i>
Benjamin R. Harris, <i>Chicago</i>	Lionel Weil, <i>Goldsboro</i>
Isaac S. Heller, <i>New Orleans</i>	I. M. Weinstein, <i>Atlanta</i>
L. Manuel Hendler, <i>Baltimore</i>	Rabbi Saul E. White, <i>San Francisco</i>
Sidney L. Herold, <i>Shreveport</i>	Hon. David T. Wilentz, <i>Perth Amboy</i>
Isidore Hershfield, <i>Washington</i>	Henry Wineman, <i>Detroit</i>
Herman Hoffman, <i>New York</i>	Mrs. Stephen S. Wise, <i>New York</i>
Rabbi Jacob Hoffman, <i>New York</i>	Rabbi Samuel Wohl, <i>Cincinnati</i>
Judge Harry A. Hollzer, <i>Los Angeles</i>	Dr. Alex S. Wolf, <i>St. Louis</i>
Judge Jacob J. Kaplan, <i>Boston</i>	

C
O
P
Y

UNITED JEWISH WELFARE FUND OF KERN COUNTY
P. O. Box 1046
Bakersfield, Calif.

February 26, 1942

Mr. Henry Montor
41 East 42nd St.
New York City

My dear Mr. Montor:

Enclosed please find herewith a statement of expenses advanced by this Fund in the death of Mr. Bernard Stone.

You will notice that the bill for \$624.92 from the Groman Mortuary of Los Angeles, was not included as this bill was handed to me at the time of the funeral, and I did not know what to do in this respect, not that I would advance the money, if you so wish me to do.

I did not receive a bill from the cemetery authorities either as I returned immediately after accompanying the body to Los Angeles, and only returned for the funeral after the arrangements were completed, but I was informed that the charge for the grave is \$370. This bill was not given to me.

In all, advances from my office were in the sum of \$108.58, and we did not include our own trips to Los Angeles with the body and the funeral trip as we deem it an honor to have been able to render these services to a friend, a co-religionist.

There is just one act that I feel should be done, and that is the taxi-driver noticing Stone's condition was responsible for prolonging his life the few hours more that were granted him, and his calling to me perhaps alleviated the mental distress from Stone before his death. His quick thinking and remembering that I had been with Stone was the reason for his actions, and I feel that some compensation should be given this taxi driver for his kindly actions and saving grace. I did not do this without your permission, and if you think that is in order I will see that the man's reward is made. His name is Mr. Howard, driver of the taxi for United Air Lines.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Jack A. Levy (Rabbi)
(Executive Director)

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

41 EAST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

UNITED JEWISH WELFARE FUND OF KERN COUNTY
P. O. Box 1046
Bakersfield, California

February 25, 1942

Mr. Henry Montor
41 East 42nd Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Montor:

It is, I assure you, with a sense of deep regret that I write you on this occasion, and were I to be remiss in conveying to you and your Board my feelings, and those of innumerable persons in regard to the untimely death of Bernard Stone, I think that I would lack both a sense of decency and a failure in what I consider my unbounded duty.

As you know, Bernard spoke here on Friday evening last, to an audience never before as large for any event either of a religious or charitable nature. Both Jew and non-Jew alike assembled together here to hear a scholarly and well delivered fact-stating talk on the future of Palestine. Leaving here in the evening in apparent good health he was seized with a sudden heart attack Saturday morning and rushed to a hospital, where we obtained the services of a heart specialist, whose findings were most amazing, when we learned that his chances for recovery were far removed, with the accompanying result that he passed to his well earned rest Sunday morning.

As you know we summoned his family and contacted the other members on Sunday, and notified his last contacts in the several cities of his last appearance, in order that programs that were pending his return would be able to continue subject to change.

The enclosed statement of the funds expended and bills yet to be attended are, I am sure, self-explanatory.

Like many others, especially the active pro-Palestine friends in this area and southern California, we have long felt that some reason must have been behind the actions of the U.P.A. in their sending out to the small cities a man of Stone's calibre. It seems a gross mismanagement by some arm-chair executives who failed to know that for thirty years, Stone's work and his knowledge of Zionist, Keren Hayesod, JNF and kindred groups was unequalled in this country, and that in his latter years he was nought more than a field worker in small towns where neither his talents or abilities could achieve any measure of success, and where his efforts were unappreciated.

Likewise, it is seemingly strange to understand why a man of his capabilities was sent to gather the chaff from the far off areas, when so much ripe corn could have been gathered at the field nearer home, to wit, where large cities are in the need of aid, and small cities reject the aid, why are men of high educational ability and scholarship sent out to areas where their results would prove their undoing?

If ever a case of Sh'fichas Domoim exists, the death of Stone is a good example.

I have known him for over twenty years, yes, even knew him in England, and know from association and from his work in this country, that nought but some error on the part of some petty incapable executive must have resulted in his being sent out with the title of nothing more than office boy extraordinary doing a job that some kid could have done equally as well while his better talents were allowed to be wasted on unimportant detail work.

Was the JNF, ZOA, UPA so rich in educational directors and program-managers that they could not have used Stone to better advantage, has the work of these groups been so excellent in their programming and educational advancements they could have afforded to pass up the knowledge that Stone possessed, or is the truth to be found in the facts ~~that some one~~ was desirous of placing him out of the reach of competitive leadership.

These and many other questions will have to be answered if the honesty and integrity of the leadership in these groups will want to be maintained.

Why was a man of his age, forced to fly, rush and reach places and destinations on a schedule that would have unnerved the best in the younger field, and why was Stone so scared of the official leadership of the U.P.A. that compelled him in his death agony to tell us that stood by "DO NOT TELL THE UPA THAT I AM DONE FOR. WAIT UNTIL YOU LET THEM KNOW". What was behind these words, and it was no ranting of a dying man, for his talk was coherent to the last moment, and his mental faculties were awake to the last, and every word was one of fear that those in authority would use his illness as a means of ousting him. Who are those who were anxious for his removal, and what was their reason, why was Stone demoted after 30 YEARS OF HONEST AND SINCERE WORK IN THE PALESTINE MOVEMENT, and who were they that hurried his years to an end when his activity at this time, would have been worth its weight in gold.

These questions that I am asking, will I know be asked by many others, and the best interests of all concerned will be served if a truthful answer is given, and such is expected. I met with several leaders in Los Angeles this week, and the self-same questions were being asked, and the accusations were not only directive and pointed, but searching in their directiveness, and I feel that unless a reason is given, our groups will lose some very worthwhile friends, as mismanagement is charged to several officials.

I can recall with ease of memory some twenty years ago or more when Stone first interested me in the ZOA movement, and can also remember as a boy his work as one of the leaders in what was known as the Piche Tsion movement in Great Britain, and over this period of years, have seen his work in the conversion of non-Zionist into active workers in the Zionist movement, and when I consider that his latter end was hastened by an error in placement, I can assure you, that my feelings are shaken, doubt established in the thought that under such management we are expected to have faith.

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

41 EAST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

- 3 -

I can only add this thought, and trust that some measure of security will be vouchsafed to Mrs. Stone and her son, and that the knowledge in that Stone served honestly, faithfully and well, not only as a paid employee but as an ardent believer in the work of his calling, will stand in his grace in seeing that adequate provision is made for the care of his family.

I have not relegated the writing of this letter to my office staff, thus you will pardon the errors etc: as I feel that this should act as a confidential letter between myself and your organization, assuring that unnecessary talk is not forthcoming from those unauthorized, thus I have taken the task of writing to myself, assuring that my own staff will have no cause to deal in idle gossip at this time.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Jack A. Levy
RABBI JACK A. LEVY

COPY



May 14, 1942

Mr. Henry Montor
United Palestine Appeal
41 East 42nd St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Montor:

I am sending you the letter which I received from Mrs. Stone of Los Angeles. Please give me the facts involved in the situation -- when the Committee to take up this matter was appointed, what action was taken and when the action of the Committee was approved of. I am inclined to believe that Mrs. Stone's request for a life pension is quite unreasonable.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.



UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND (KEREN HAYESOD)
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (KEREN KAYEMETH)
For the Defense and Upbuilding of the Jewish National Home in Palestine

41 EAST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK CITY

Telephone: MUrray Hill 2-3320

Cable Address—Palfund

May 19, 1942

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Honorary Chairmen

Albert Einstein
Herbert H. Lehman
Julian W. Mack
Henry Monsky
Nathan Straus
Henrietta Szold

National Chairman

Abba Hillel Silver

National Co-Chairmen

Stephen S. Wise
*Chairman,
Administrative Committee*
Louis Lipsky
*Chairman,
Executive Committee*
Solomon Goldman
Israel Goldstein
Louis E. Levinthal
Morris Rothenberg

Treasurer

Charles J. Rosenbloom

Associate Treasurers

Abraham L. Liebovitz
Jacob Sincoff

Vice-Chairmen

Barnett R. Brickner
Leon Gellman
James G. Heller
Edmund I. Kaufmann
Charles Ress
Elihu D. Stone
Robert Szold
Joe Weingarten
David Wertheim

Executive Director

Henry Montor

Dear Dr. Silver:

This will acknowledge your letter of May 14th, with which was enclosed a letter which you had received from Mrs. Bernard Stone. The same letter was addressed individually to Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Mr. Charles J. Rosenbloom, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Mr. Louis Lipsky and other officers of the United Palestine Appeal.

The facts of the Stone situation are as follows:

February 22nd — Bernard Stone died.

March 11th — I wired to Charles Brown, a member of the Administrative Committee of the UPA in Los Angeles, to send "all available data regarding the financial status Stone family as to insurance, estate and similar items as background for decision to be made" by the Executive Committee of the United Palestine Appeal.

March 12th — Mr. Brown wired: "Request for financial information from Mrs. Stone met with outburst of tears have no means of getting this data."

✓ March 13th — A meeting of the Executive Committee of the UPA was held, and I was directed to write to Mrs. Bernard Stone to ascertain what assets had been left by Mr. Stone as a basis for the decision to be made by the Executive Committee.

March 13th — I wrote to Mrs. Stone advising her of the sympathy of the Executive Committee which had directed me "to inquire of you to make available such information as will assist the Executive Committee in reaching their decision."

March 13th — Mrs. Stone said that she was "very surprised by your inquiry." She added that she felt that a pension, which might otherwise have gone to Bernard Stone during his lifetime, should, in view of his death, go to his widow and family "at least while his widow lived or there were minor children." She added:

"I feel that such provision should be made now. Without going into the facts and figures you request, I think it should suffice

"We in the United States must help strengthen Palestine"

—HON. FRANK KNOX, Secretary of the Navy

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

May 19, 1942

for you to know that of the insurance Bernard left me, that portion of it that comes to me in cash will hardly be sufficient to enable me to hold on to the house in which I live, to pay certain obligations and to enable my boy Harry to complete his education.

"As for the house, it was Bernard's most cherished desire that if anything happened to him, I should above all things continue to live in it. The mortgage on it amounts to over \$6000 and the monthly payments on it are over \$70 and with taxes and insurance on it, the monthly charges involve about \$95.

"The remaining insurance he left me is payable over a long period of time and after paying the above \$95, other living costs of maintaining my household, educating Harry, taking care of my health, enabling me to give some small support to my widowed mother, I am right now without adequate living means.

"A monthly pension is most essential to enable me and Harry to live without greatly reducing our living standard, possibly giving up my home which would literally break my heart, and perhaps necessitate giving up a final education which Bernard had planned for Harry.

"I therefore earnestly hope you will reconsider the idea of giving me a lump sum equivalent to the balance of Bernard's salary for the remainder of the year and that instead you will provide me with a monthly pension along the above lines. It is terribly necessary that you do so."

With reference to the above, it should be noted that Robert Silverman in a private communication to Mrs. Stone had indicated that the UPA was considering giving her a sum equivalent to Mr. Stone's salary for the balance of the year. (It should also be noted that the final decision represents a larger sum.)

✓ March 30th - The Executive Committee of the UPA met again, and after thoroughly considering all aspects of the Stone case, instructed me to advise Mrs. Stone that "In appreciation of the years of service of Mr. Bernard Stone to the United Palestine Appeal, the amount of \$40 per week will be paid to you as his widow for a period of three years. Payments arising out of this decision will begin April 1, 1942."

April 13th - Mrs. Stone wrote: "I have been so disappointed and depressed by your letter of March 31, 1942 that I only now feel equal to the task of replying to it."

April 15th - I wrote to Mrs. Bernard Stone advising her of the receipt of her letter and informing her that the problem was being returned to the officers of the UPA for their consideration.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

May 19, 1942

April 25th - Mrs. Stone wrote again saying that the resources left behind by Mr. Bernard Stone had nothing to do with any decision to be made by the United Palestine Appeal.

✓ April 29th - The Budget Committee of the United Palestine Appeal, with Charles J. Rosenbloom presiding, met. Among those present was Judge Levinthal who was there to discuss points of relationship between the UPA and the ZOA. All present felt that the decision made by the UPA was most fair, pointing out that it was the most considerate action ever taken toward an employee of the UPA in the history of the UPA. ✓ It was further decided by the Budget Committee to pay \$500 towards the funeral expenses incurred in connection with the death of Mr. Stone. It was observed by the members that the funeral expenses seemed excessive, and that \$500 represented, in any event, a maximum share for the UPA. The decision to give Mrs. Stone \$40 a week for three years was considered fair.

May 4th - In response to a letter from Mrs. Stone, Dr. Wise wrote as follows:

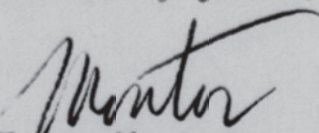
"Your letter of April 25th has had my careful consideration. I must say, however, that whatever was written to you by Mr. Montor did not come from him as an individual, but represented the judgment of the officers of the United Palestine Appeal.

"I deeply regret that I can take no step that can or should alter the decision of the Executive Committee which considered all the factors involved."

✓ May 11th - There was another meeting of the Budget Committee of the UPA, at which several members were present who had not attended the April 29th meeting. The Committee again confirmed the decision previously made, reiterating that it was fair to all concerned. The Committee was particularly emphatic in believing that the UPA should not be called upon to pay a lifetime pension to Mrs. Stone. This seems to be the attitude of all the officers of the UPA who have had the matter brought to their attention either at our meetings or through letters from Mrs. Stone.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,


Henry Montor
Executive Director

HM:FE

May 20, 1942

Mrs. Bernard Stone
118 N. Alta Vista
Los Angeles, California

My dear Mrs. Stone:

I delayed answering your letter because I wished to ascertain all the facts from headquarters. The information conveyed to me is that the Executive Committee of the United Palestine Appeal and the Budget Committee had given the matter serious consideration at three successive meetings on March 30, April 29 and May 11. After a thorough canvassing of the whole situation, the United Palestine Appeal resolved that "In appreciation of the years of service of Mr. Bernard Stone to the United Palestine Appeal, the amount of \$40 per week will be paid to you as his widow for a period of three years. Payments arising out of this decision will begin on April 1, 1942."

It was further decided to pay \$500 towards the funeral expenses. It was the unanimous agreement of all members that the decision was most fair to you and that it was the most generous action which was ever taken towards an employee of the UPA in its history. The Committee was particularly emphatic that the UPA could not, under any consideration, undertake to pay a lifetime pension to you.

The UPA, as you undoubtedly know, is not a profit-making institution but is a campaign organization to raise money for Palestine. I am persuaded that the decision of the Executive Committee was both fair to you and to the Fund which it is called upon to administer in a responsible manner.

We are all mindful of the great services which your dear departed husband rendered to the cause. This financial consideration which is being extended to you is in no way a measure of the worth of his services and his devotion to his people and to Palestine.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK