



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
78

Box
27

Folder
1716

Wise, Stephen S., 1918-1919.

FREE SYNAGOGUE

NEW YORK

STEPHEN S. WISE

RESIDENCE, 23 WEST 90TH STREET

Sept. 12, 1918

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Silver:

In the first place, I am delighted to think that to you fell the opportunity of seeing something of things in France. I knew from Knecht and Lauzanne that you were going, and it is capital that you had an opportunity to make first-hand observation of things over there. I want you to come and speak in my pulpit and tell my people of what you saw. If I can, I will arrange to exchange with you some time during the winter, but I cannot promise that. It will be easy enough for you to get one of your multitudinous neighbors in or near Cleveland to take your place. Without further consultation with you, I am putting you down on the list of men to speak in the course of the year.

I submitted to Judge Mack last night the statement which you succeeded in securing from Albert Thomas. It is a remarkable, ~~and~~^{and} truly great and eloquent statement. It could not be finer. I suggested to Judge Mack and deHaas that they ask you to give it out in Cleveland, but, with your permission, which we take for granted, we shall give it out here. DeHaas and Fromenson think a wider publicity can be obtained for it, if it be given to the Associated Press here.

By the way, the meeting of the Administrative

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2

STEPHEN S. WISE
RESIDENCE, 23 WEST 90TH STREET

Committee of the Zionist Organization will be held on *Thursday Afternoon*
We hope the Chief and Frankfurter will be there, and *Evening*
Judge Mack and I would like you to attend. Can't you come?

Sincerely yours,

Wise

I have just been asked to go to your town on the 30th, for
the League of Peace in connection with the Liberty Loan. I
don't know if I can manage it, but I shall try.



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STEPHEN S. WISE
RESIDENCE, 23 WEST 90TH STREET

Oct. 23, 1918

Rabbi A.H. Silver, D.D.,
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Silver:

Just a word to send you the enclosure. Let me tell you about the man. He is a lawyer whom the Chief met years ago at Minneapolis before either he or Kanter was a Zionist. The Chief found him very fine and useful in some case of importance in the Northwest. Kanter is become an ardent Zionist and is a splendid fellow. As you will see, he is stationed somewhere in Cleveland. Won't you send for him and let him have the privilege of knowing you, putting him into touch with some people who will make life a little pleasanter and happier for him.

Sincerely yours,

S.S.W.

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STEPHEN S. WISE
RESIDENCE, 23 WEST 90TH STREET

Nov. 9, 1918

Rabbi A.H. Silver,
Cleveland Ohio

My dear Silver:

I hasten to write this line to say to you how greatly I am honored by the invitation of your congregation and the community to deliver the memorial address upon the occasion of the public memorial for Dr. Gries at The Temple on Sunday morning, Nov. 24th. If it were possible for me to accept that invitation I would. I am more loath than I can say to decline the invitation and do so only because I am not free to accept it. You know of course of my deep admiration for Dr. Gries as man and rabbi, an admiration which I tried to convey in the message which I sent to Mrs. Gries and the children. I am to be out of my pulpit on Sunday, the 10th and also Sunday, the 17th, as you will see from the enclosure, so that I shall be out of the pulpit two Sundays in succession, and I cannot absent myself on the third. Moreover, I have a number of other important engagements for the 24th which cannot be changed. If the service had been a little later in the year, I would have been proud and honored to have accepted the invitation. Please understand how deeply I appreciate the honor you do me and how profoundly I sympathize with your congregation and community, which have suffered a great loss. I rejoice in the fine relations which obtained between you and Rabbi Gries and the fact that he felt he could give up

*Copies to
Mrs. Gries
and
A. H. S.*

11/13/18

4. P. M.

his work and place it in your own hands, the hands of one who is destined to achieve high and noble things for Israel and America.

Faithfully yours,

Abraham S. Wise

Could come some other Sunday.



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STEPHEN S. WISE
RESIDENCE, 23 WEST 90TH STREET

Nov. 22, 1918

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Silver:

I must write to tell you what I am afraid I did not quite adequately express,— namely, my deep appreciation of the honor your congregation did me in inviting me to give the Memorial address for friend Gries. It would have been a real satisfaction to have been able to accept the invitation. Dr. Gries and I did not always agree. We had our differences, but there never was a moment which found me wanting in respect for what I knew to have been his high sincerity. Writing in confidence, I may say that I always felt he was much too good for the company with which he was associated. He seemed so straight, so clean, so single-minded, so high-hearted, that I felt the men by whose side he stood in the Conference were unworthy of association with him, more especially seeing that he was not able to lift them up, even though they of course could never have pulled him down.

I write particularly to say that it is good I declined the invitation, for this Sunday will probably be my last Sunday in America for some time to come. I not only shall preach the last sermon before leaving for London and Paris, but the Memorial for my dear Mother is to be dedicated in the afternoon and in the evening I have a farewell address at one of the Branches of the Synagogue. I am going on a

Zionist mission the details of which I cannot discuss at this time. I shall be gone for a month or five weeks, and shall definitely expect you to preach for me some Sunday morning. You must do this, and it would be a great kindness if you would send me a list of a half dozen themes and let me choose one. Also be good enough to indicate what Sunday would suit you best. Could you come Sunday morning, Dec. 1st, or would that be unthinkable? It is just possible that I will not leave until Dec. 1st, but in that event I would telegraph if you found you could give us that date. If you could not come on Dec. 1st, would the 8th, 15th, 22nd or 29th suit you? Please let me know about this at once.

Faithfully yours,

Wise

November 25th, 1918

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,
23 West 90th Street,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Wise,

I was delighted to hear of your coming trip abroad. Although your mission is unknown to me, I feel quite confident that it will result in signal gains for our common cause.

Of course, I shall be happy to occupy your pulpit some Sunday during your absence. I cannot come on Sunday, December 1st, because that is the date set aside for the Gries Memorial.

I have this day written to Kopald, asking him to occupy my pulpit on December 22nd or 29th. As soon as I hear from him, I shall inform you or your Secretary.

If I have no other occasion to write to you before you leave, let me express to you now my best wishes for an enjoyable and a most successful journey.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

May 18th, 1919

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,
23 West 90th Street,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Wise,

I am really very sorry that I was unable to be in the city when you were here. I looked forward to meeting you, but unfortunately I had an engagement in Chicago for that day that I could not cancel.

I shall be in Boston next Tuesday and shall probably remain until Thursday and shall be very happy to participate in the Zionist Mass Meeting.

Do you intend to be present at the Convention? If so, we shall meet.

Brother Maxwell informed me last week that he had been elected to Katsin's pulpit in Brooklyn. I was very much pleased to hear of it, because I know that he was very anxious to be in a large city.

With kindest regards to yourself and Mrs. Wise, I am

Very sincerely yours,