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World's Fair, Palestine pavilion, 1938-1939.

To discuss plans for a Palestine
Pavilion at the New York World's Fair

[1938]

The President
of the New York World's Fair 1939

requests the pleasure of

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver's
company for Luncheon

on Thursday, January twenty seventh
at one o'clock

R.P.D.
350-5 Ave.

Administration Building
New York World's Fair

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DATE FEB 13 1938

The Palestine Exhibit
at the
New York World's Fair—1939

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
NEW YORK CITY

February 11th, 1938

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[Incomplete]

Dr. A. H. Silver, Chairman
United Palestine Appeal
111 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

In preparation for Jewish Palestine participation in the New York World's Fair, a National Committee is being formed, representative of every organized element in American Jewry, both national and local. The provisional committee begs leave to extend an invitation to your organization to affiliate itself with our work and select three members to represent your organization on the National Committee.

The Pavilion which we purpose to erect at the World's Fair, will, we hope, reflect the essential spirit and the extensive achievements of the Jewish people in the rebuilding of the Jewish National Home. Moreover, we hope that our Exhibit at the World's Fair, and the activities incident to it, will be a source of pride to American Jewry as a whole.

After the National Committee shall have been formed, we plan to convene a conference in New York of the representatives of affiliated organizations. At this conference, the provisional committee will render a report of its activities; present for the approval of the conference a complete program of our contemplated plans and activities at the World's Fair; and elect a permanent Executive Committee, representative of the affiliated organizations.

In view of the importance of the task in hand, may we ask you to please let us have your reply at the earliest possible opportunity.

Very cordially yours,

George Backer
George Backer
Harold Jacobi
Harold Jacobi

Co-Chairmen



AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR JEWISH PALESTINE PARTICIPATION
AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR - 1939
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING • NEW YORK CITY • CHICKERING 4-7361 • CABLE ADDRESS: PALEXHIBIT

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September 8th,
1938

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

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My dear Rabbi Silver:

I am sending you herewith a copy of a letter addressed to the Jewish Welfare Federation of Cleveland with regard to the Palestine Pavilion.

I hope this matter will have your support when it comes before the Budget Committee of the Welfare Federation.

We have sent similar letters to other Welfare Communities.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Meyer W. Weisgal
Meyer W. Weisgal
Director.

MWW:nz

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AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR JEWISH PALESTINE PARTICIPATION
AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR - 1939
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING • NEW YORK CITY • CHICKERING 4-7361 • CABLE ADDRESS: PALEXHIBIT

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September 23rd, 1938

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

At our last meeting, at which it was decided to enlarge our Board of Directors, I took the liberty of suggesting your name as a member of the Board.

I am happy to advise you that the suggestion was endorsed unanimously.

Please let me know whether I may report to the Board that you have agreed to serve with us. We would greatly value your acceptance of a place on the Board.

Very sincerely yours,

George Backer
George Backer
President.

GB:rl

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September 27, 1938

Mr. George Backer, President
American Committee for Jewish Palestine Participation
Empire State Building
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Backer:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of September 23. I regret that I cannot accept membership on your Board of Directors. As you probably know, I strongly opposed the use of public funds raised for Palestine to build a pavilion even if such funds are only "borrowed".

Wishing you a very happy new year,
I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR JEWISH PALESTINE PARTICIPATION

AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR - 1939

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING • NEW YORK CITY • CHICKERING 4-7361 • CABLE ADDRESS: PALEXHIBIT

March 17, 1939

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HON. ELIHU D. STONE
ROBERT SZOLD
DR. ISRAEL WECHSLER
DR. ALEXANDER WOLF
(INCOMPLETE)

Dear Rabbi Silver:

With the scheduled opening date of the Jewish Palestine Pavilion at the New York World's Fair only a few weeks away, it is necessary at this time to make a final effort to obtain increased support for this project from American Jewry.

The Board of Directors of the Jewish Palestine Pavilion has therefore designated Passover Week as JEWISH PALESTINE PAVILION WEEK. The spiritual leaders of the American Jewish community are being asked to bring the Pavilion to the attention of their congregations during this week, and to incorporate in one of their sermons during this holiday season an appeal for immediate and active support of this endeavor to present to the general American public an accurate picture of what Jewish settlers are doing in the Holy Land.

A non-commercial undertaking dedicated solely to the presentation of Jewish achievements and aims in the building of a new home for our persecuted European brethren, the Jewish Palestine Pavilion will enable the millions of World's Fair visitors to gain a better understanding of the character and ideals of the Jew.

To ensure the successful realization of the Jewish Palestine Pavilion, now nearing completion in the World's Fair grounds, additional funds are needed within the next few weeks.

May we hope that you will cooperate in the nation-wide effort to create a broader basis of support for this project, which is of such deep significance in these days of Jewish tragedy? You would also be doing a great service to the cause of the Pavilion if you would release excerpts from your sermon on this subject to the general press of your city.

Please let me assure you that the Board of Directors of the Jewish Palestine Pavilion does not wish to add to your already numerous burdens, and is making this request only because the present occasion is unique and non-recurrent.

With deep gratitude for your cooperation, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

George Backer

George Backer, President

P. S. Some descriptive material on the Jewish Palestine Pavilion is enclosed, as you may want to use it as a background for your remarks.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE JEWISH PALESTINE PAVILION

Material for "Jewish Palestine Pavilion Week"

At this critical period of modern Jewish history, when hundreds of thousands of our co-religionists in Central and Eastern Europe are subject to the intolerance and persecution of totalitarian regimes, when virulent anti-Semitic propaganda is being spread throughout the world, when the glorious constructive achievements of the Jewish people in Palestine are being threatened, American Jewry is rallying all its moral and material forces to supply a conclusive and irrefutable answer to the lying accusations which have been flung at the Jews.

The answer has taken shape in steel and concrete in the Jewish Palestine Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. Covering 21,000 square feet of space on John Jay Street in the Fair grounds, the Jewish Palestine Pavilion convincingly presents, for all the world to see and admire, a saga of Jewish achievements in a land where Jews are free to retain their identity and to guide their own cultural and national destinies.

Here the world will for the first time be able to see and understand the Jew's aims and aspirations, his courage and his ability as a pioneering colonizer and trail-blazer. The American public will for the first time see a compelling manifestation of the Jew's ideals of social progress, peace and human brotherhood. The Jewish Palestine Pavilion is the most powerful answer conceivable to the anti-Semitic challenge of today.

The ten exhibition halls which comprise the Jewish Palestine Pavilion vividly depict the tremendous achievements of Palestine Jewry during the past two decades. They graphically unfold the epic story of the transformation of the rocky and barren wilderness that Palestine was for many centuries into a fertile and flowering country, truly "flowing with milk and honey". Thrillingly they portray the phenomenal development of Palestine from a sleepy, backward country into a dynamic center of culture, social progress, commerce and industry. As the visitor walks through the halls of the Palestine Pavilion he sees the ancient prophecies being fulfilled in the modern glories of the Holy Land.

In the Hall of Transformation the evidence of the Jewish pioneering spirit is presented in the epic of the reclamation of a wasteland.

The Hall of Agriculture and Resettlement vividly portrays the mass return of a persecuted people to the soil of their ancestors, to become once again farmers, plowing and sowing and harvesting the varied and abundant fruits of their toil.

The Jew's ability as an architect and engineer, carpenter and mechanic, town-planner and potential nation-builder is forcibly depicted in the rapid growth of the modern cities of the Holy Land: Tel-Aviv, the all-Jewish city which has sprung up on the sand dunes of the Mediterranean

Material for "Jewish Palestine Pavilion Week" - 2

coast; the new Jerusalem which is gradually surrounding the moss-covered, crenellated walls of the Old City; modern Haifa, slowly crawling up the slopes of Mount Carmel to its summit; and the countless flourishing colonies and towns which Jewish hands and labors have created. These facts will be presented in the Hall of Town Planning.

The Hall of Culture and Education tells the inspiring story of the birth of a new culture and the revival of the ancient Biblical Hebrew tongue as a modern means of expression in every walk of life. This evolution, which in the normal course of human events takes centuries, has been successfully accomplished by Palestine Jewry in a single generation, in the face of great odds.

The Halls of Industry, Commerce, Labor and Social Forms, Health and Science, the Gallery of Arts and Crafts and the special section entitled "The Holy Land of Yesterday and Tomorrow" - these halls and their exhibits demonstrate in unmistakable fashion that the Jew is a powerful force for constructive achievement in the world of today and that he can contribute much toward building a better civilization for the world of tomorrow.

The gigantic task of organizing and producing all this evidence of Jewish enterprise has been undertaken by the leaders of American Jewry. Men like Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Councilman George Backer of New York City, Dr. Israel Goldstein and the late Harold Jacobi, realizing the urgent necessity of a Jewish exhibit at the New York World's Fair, unanimously decided that it should take the form of a Jewish Palestine Pavilion, as the greatest and most conclusive proof of Jewish productive capacity.

The list of the members of the Advisory Council of the Palestine Pavilion reads like a Blue Book of American Jewry. The staunch support and able assistance of these men and women have helped make possible the successful realization of this first Jewish representation at an international exposition in America.

Over seventy national Jewish organizations have affiliated themselves with the Palestine Pavilion and have given their financial as well as their moral support to the project.

Under the guidance of Meyer W. Weisgal the Jewish Palestine Pavilion has taken form and is rapidly nearing completion in the Fair grounds. Arieh El-Hanani, chief architect of the Pavilion and designer of the exhibits, Norvin R. Lindheim, his associate, Lee Simonson, internationally famous scenic designer, and J. J. Levison, noted arboriculturist, have combined their artistic wizardry to make the Pavilion a beautiful creation as well as a complete and realistic portrayal of the modern renaissance of Jewish Palestine.

* * * * *



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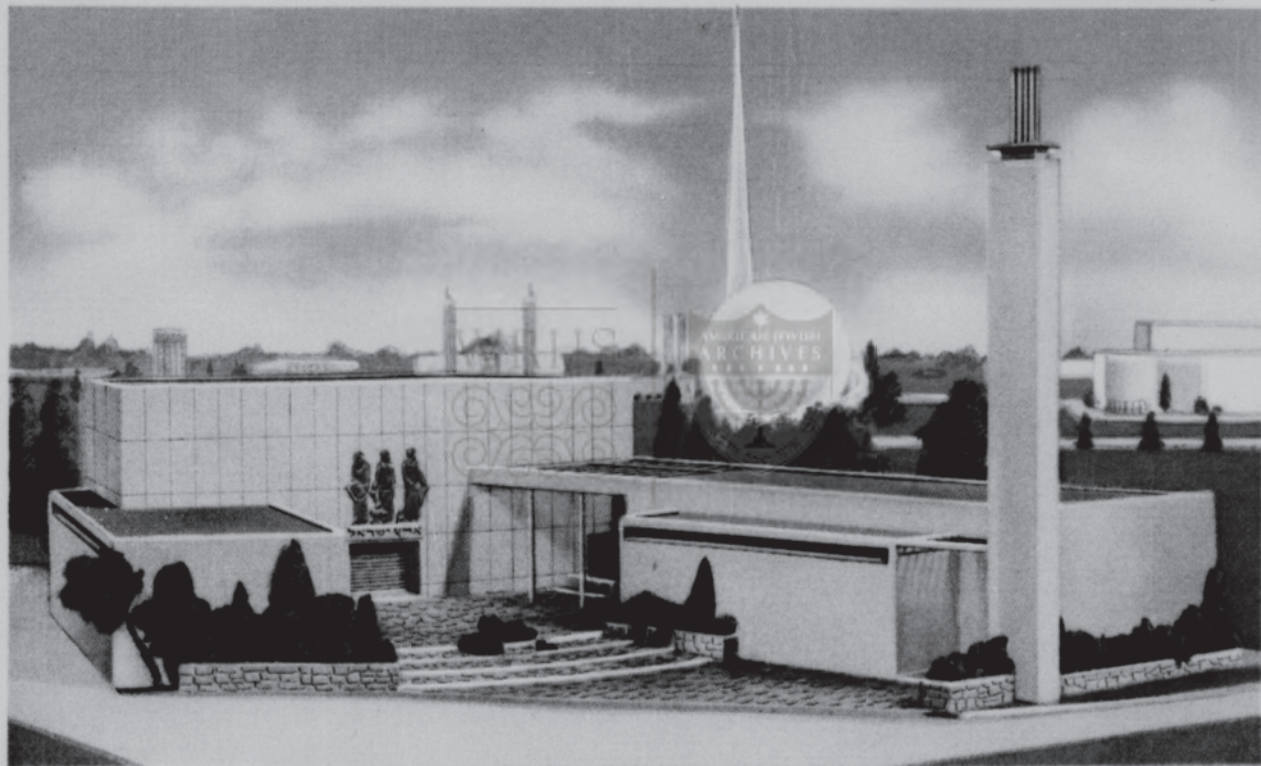
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EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

ROOM 2804

NEW YORK CITY





New York World's Fair 1939

Mr. George Backer, President,
Jewish Palestine Pavilion,
Empire State Building,
New York City

Dear Mr. Backer:

I will cooperate with you in the nation-wide observance of JEWISH PALESTINE PAVILION WEEK by delivering a sermon on the significance of the Jewish Palestine Pavilion at the New York World's Fair during Passover Week.

I will send you some excerpts from my remarks on the Pavilion, and give you permission to use them for publicity purposes.

Name

Congregation.....

City and State.....