



## 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 B: Chronological, 1914-1969, undated.

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General correspondence, AHS's 40th year celebration, 1957.

March 5, 1957

Mr. John Denson, Editor  
Newsweek  
152 West 42nd Street  
New York 36, New York

Dear Mr. Denson:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, internationally known Jewish and Zionist leader, is celebrating this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple in Cleveland. The Cleveland Temple is the largest Jewish congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving, honoring Dr. Silver, will be held on Sunday, March 24th.

A record of forty years of service in a single congregation of this size is a unique one.

It has occurred to me that you might be interested in covering this significant event in the life of our congregation and our beloved Rabbi. We should be pleased to cooperate with your staff for any coverage that you would care to give to this occasion.

We are truly proud to be able to notify you of this event.

Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 5, 1957

Mr. William B. Arthur, Editor  
Look Magazine  
488 Madison Avenue  
New York 22, New York

Dear Mr. Arthur:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, internationally known Jewish and Zionist leader, is celebrating this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple in Cleveland. The Cleveland Temple is the largest Jewish congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving, honoring Dr. Silver, will be held on Sunday, March 24th.

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 5, 1957

Mr. Edward K. Thompson, Editor  
Life Magazine  
9 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York 20, New York

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, internationally known Jewish and Zionist leader, is celebrating this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple in Cleveland. The Cleveland Temple is the largest Jewish congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving, honoring Dr. Silver, will be held on Sunday, March 24th.

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AME:rw



March 5, 1957

Mr. Roy Alexander, Editor  
Time Magazine  
9 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York 20, New York

Dear Mr. Alexander:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, internationally known Jewish and Zionist leader, is celebrating this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple in Cleveland. The Cleveland Temple is the largest Jewish congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving, honoring Dr. Silver, will be held on Sunday, March 24th.

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 5, 1957

Mr. Frank J. Starzel  
Associated Press  
Rockefeller Plaza  
New York 20, New York

Dear Sir:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, internationally known Jewish and Zionist leader, is celebrating this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple in Cleveland. The Cleveland Temple is the largest Jewish congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving, honoring Dr. Silver, will be held on Sunday, March 24th.

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 6, 1957

Mr. Arthur Jacobs  
Jewish Day  
183 East Broadway  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, famed Rabbinic and Zionist leader, will celebrate this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple. The Temple is the largest congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday, March 24th, at 10:30 A. M. Mr. Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, will be guest soloist.

This event is a unique occasion in American Jewry and in the life of our congregation. We are extremely proud of the four decades of service Dr. Silver has rendered to us and to world Jewry. We shall be happy to make available to you, and to your correspondents, any material which will help you to cover adequately this affair.

I am proud to be able to announce this occasion to you.

Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 6, 1957

Mr. Forest Smollar  
Jewish Telegraphic Agency  
660 First Avenue  
New York 16, New York

Dear Mr. Smollar:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, famed Rabbinic and Zionist leader, will celebrate this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple. The Temple is the largest congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday, March 24th, at 10:30 A. M. Mr. Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, will be guest soloist.

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 6, 1957

Program Director  
Station WDOX  
1515 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, famed Rabbinic and Zionist leader, will celebrate this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple. The Temple is the largest congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday, March 24th, at 10:30 A. M. Mr. Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, will be guest soloist.

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 6, 1957

Program Director  
Station WERE  
Bulkley Building  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, famed Rabbinic and Zionist leader, will celebrate this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple. The Temple is the largest congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday, March 24th, at 10:30 A. M. Mr. Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, will be guest soloist.

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 6, 1957

Program Director  
Station WGAR  
Statler Hotel  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, famed Rabbinic and Zionist leader, will celebrate this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple. The Temple is the largest congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday, March 24th, at 10:30 A. M. Mr. Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, will be guest soloist.

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 6, 1957

Program Director  
Station WHK  
6000 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, famed Rabbinic and Zionist leader, will celebrate this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple. The Temple is the largest congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday, March 24th, at 10:30 A. M. Mr. Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, will be guest soloist.

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 6, 1957

Program Director  
Station WJMO  
2157 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, famed Rabbinic and Zionist leader, will celebrate this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple. The Temple is the largest congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday, March 24th, at 10:30 A. M. Mr. Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, will be guest soloist.

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 6, 1957

Program Director  
Station WJW  
1375 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, famed Rabbinic and Zionist leader, will celebrate this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple. The Temple is the largest congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday, March 24th, at 10:30 A. M. Mr. Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, will be guest soloist.

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Cordially,

A. W. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 6, 1957

Program Director  
Station WSRS  
Radio Center Building  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, famed Rabbinic and Zionist leader, will celebrate this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple. The Temple is the largest congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday, March 24th, at 10:30 A. M. Mr. Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, will be guest soloist.

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 6, 1957

Program Director  
Station WTAM  
815 Superior Avenue, N. E.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 6, 1957

Program Director  
K Y W Television Station  
815 Superior Avenue, N. E.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 6, 1957

Program Director  
W E W S Television Station  
W E W S Building  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

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Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AML:rw



March 6, 1957

Program Director  
W J W Television Station  
1630 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, famed Rabbinic and Zionist leader, will celebrate this month the completion of forty years of service at the Temple. The Temple is the largest congregation in the United States. A special Service of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday, March 24th, at 10:30 A. M. Mr. Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, will be guest soloist.

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I am proud to be able to announce this occasion to you.

Cordially,

A. M. Luntz  
President

AM: rw



March 6, 1957

Mr. William Dinwoodie, Church Editor  
Cleveland News  
1801 Superior Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Dinwoodie:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver will celebrate the completion of forty years of service to this congregation on March 24th. The Temple is the largest Jewish congregation in the United States. Dr. Silver's record of service, both to his congregation and to world Jewry and our Cleveland community, is a unique one. We will celebrate this occasion with a special Service of Thanksgiving at 10:30 A.M. on Sunday, March 24th. Mr. Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, will be guest soloist.

I shall be happy to be of any assistance that I can in making it possible for you to give full coverage to this important Temple and Cleveland occasion.

Cordially,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rw



March 6, 1957

Mr. Frank Stewart, Church Editor  
Cleveland Press  
Rockwell and East 9th St.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver will celebrate the completion of forty years of service to this congregation on March 24th. The Temple is the largest Jewish congregation in the United States. Dr. Silver's record of service, both to his congregation and to world Jewry and our Cleveland community, is a unique one. We will celebrate this occasion with a special Service of Thanksgiving at 10:30 A.M. on Sunday, March 24th. Mr. Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, will be guest soloist.

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Cordially,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rw



March 6, 1957

Mr. Richard Wager, Church Editor  
Cleveland Plain Dealer  
East 6th and Superior  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Wager:

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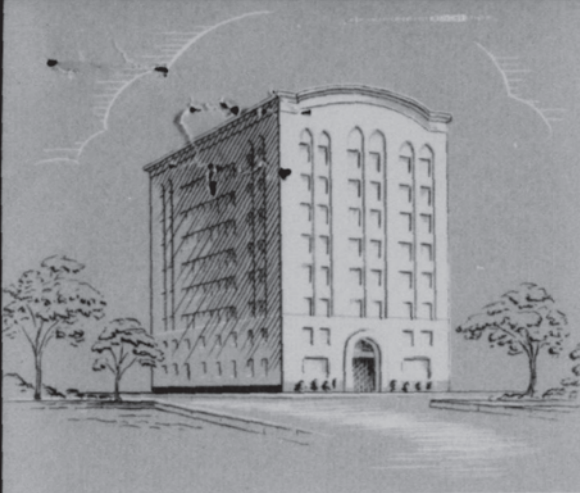
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Cordially,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rw





838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 21, N. Y. • PHONE REGENT 7-8200

APRIL 28 - MAY 2, 1957



44<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
UNION OF AMERICAN  
HEBREW CONGREGATIONS



21<sup>ST</sup> BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY OF NETS  
8<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF NATS

# Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Patron of HEBREW UNION COLLEGE — JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

March 18, 1957

## officers

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JUDGE SOLOMON ELSNER  
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Administrative Secretary: RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON  
Comptroller: LEE RICHMAN

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple  
1855 Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Danny:

I am doing what I can to promote interest in the 40th anniversary service.

With regard to broadcasting the talk that your father will give to our Biennial Convention, it is awkward to make a request for two talks for the same person.

My letter to the Editor-In-Chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was misunderstood by him. He thought that I was going to be on hand and sent me the enclosed letter. I think that you can easily handle this situation from your end. Have someone in your congregation send Mr. Smolar the 300 words on Sunday, March 24th. This will insure nationwide coverage of the anglo-Jewish press.

I hope that some of the other groups we are trying to stir up will respond and that the affair will receive the attention it deserves.

Please convey my own felicitations to your father on this memorable milestone and my thanks to him for all that he has done to promote our sacred cause.

With best wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

*Samuel M. Silver*  
RABBI SAMUEL M. SILVER  
Director  
Public Information

SMS:sbt  
Enclosure

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE BROTHERHOODS  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEMPLE SECRETARIES



## MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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 David M. Levitt, *Great Neck*  
 Sol J. Levy, *Buffalo*  
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 Julian S. Lyons, *Lincoln*  
 D. Arthur Magaziner, *Philadelphia*  
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 Rabbi Jacob P. Rudin, *Great Neck*  
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 Benjamin F. Saltzstein, *Milwaukee*  
 S. H. Scheuer, *New York*  
 Richard Schornstein, *New Orleans*  
 Herbert Schwarz, *New York*  
 Norman A. Shane, *Evansville*  
 Judge Joseph G. Shapiro, *Bridgeport*  
 Irvin M. Shlenker, *Houston*  
 Myer O. Sigal, *Macon*  
 Laurie T. Simonsky, *Toronto*  
 Rudolf G. Sonneborn, *New York*  
 Isaac Stern, *New York*  
 Richard M. Stern, *New York*  
 Eugene B. Strassburger, *Pittsburgh*  
 Benjamin H. Swig, *San Francisco*  
 Louis Tobian, *Dallas*  
 Mrs. Leon L. Watters, *New York*  
 Herschel Weil, *Lexington, Ky.*  
 Walter W. Weismann, *New York*  
 Louis Wellhouse, Jr., *Tampa*  
 Leo Wertgame, *Kansas City*



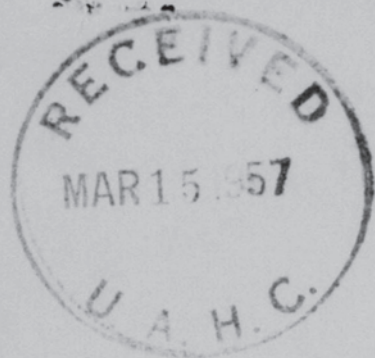
# Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc.

*Established 1917*

Six-Sixty First Avenue  
New York 16, N. Y.

Cable Address: JEWCORRAU  
MUrray Hill 3-2840

March 14, 1957



Rabbi Samuel M. Silver  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Silver,

Thank you for your offer to provide us with coverage on the celebration of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver's 40th anniversary of service in Cleveland. I shall be glad to receive by wire a story of about 300 words on March 24, the day of the celebration. Please mark the wire "DAY PRESS RATE COLLECT" and address it to Jewish Telegraphic Agency via Western Union.

Sincerely yours,

BORIS SMOLAR

Editor-in-Chief

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Boris Smolar", written over the typed name.

BS:cr



March 21, 1957

Mr. Boris Smolar, Editor-in-Chief  
Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc.  
Six-Sixty First Avenue  
New York 16, New York

Dear Mr. Smolar:

Dr. Samuel Silver has forwarded to us a letter from you asking for some copy on the March 24th celebration.

The Service will be a simple Thanksgiving Service upon the completion of Dr. Silver's forty years of service at the Temple. He will preach. Mr. Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, will sing with our choir during the Service. There will be no speeches and no banquets. It is simply an occasion for the congregation to voice their thankfulness for the forty years of service which Dr. Silver has rendered to them.

I am enclosing, herewith, a copy of a mimeographed sheet which we made up for all the press services on Dr. Silver's life. I do not know what other coverage you desire.

Cordially,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rw  
Enc.



The Temple is honoring Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver upon the completion of forty years of service with the congregation. Dr. Silver has made the pulpit of the Temple internationally famous. Under his leadership, the Temple has become an outstanding institution in America's Jewish life.

Dr. Silver was elected to the Temple in the spring of 1917. At that time, the Temple's membership numbered 725 families. By the close of his forty years, the membership of the Temple had almost quadrupled, numbering today 2450. It is the largest Temple in the U. S. A.

The Temple in 1917 was located at 55th Street and Central Avenue. Within five years, a new Temple had been completed at Ansel Road and 105th Street. The present Temple building is considered to be one of the finest synagogue structures in America.

Dr. Silver brought into the life of the Temple a more positive attitude towards religious practices and observances. Hebrew was re-introduced into the services. Reading from the Torah at the Sabbath Services was begun again. Friday Evening Vesper Services were instituted. A Sabbath Morning Service was re-introduced.

Dr. Silver has, during the years, consistently applied himself to the improvement of standards of religious school education. He introduced the study of Hebrew into the curriculum. He brought into the school the best of modern educational philosophy and practice, so much so, that the Temple school has become a model throughout the country. In 1927, a Temple high school was established. It pioneered for the reform movement a three-year program of post-confirmation religious training. A special program of educational mid-week Hebrew instruction was instituted. Mid-week pre-confirmation classes were introduced. These Dr. Silver has personally taught during his four decades of service. Over 4,000 young people have been confirmed by Dr. Silver. Eleven confirmands have chosen the Rabbinate as a profession and have graduated from the Hebrew Union College.



During Dr. Silver's tenure, the Temple Women's Association grew from a few hundred to its present membership of 1900. In 1925, he inaugurated a Temple Men's Club which has made substantial contributions to the cultural and adult education programs of the congregation. In 1949, a Mr. and Mrs. Club of young members of the congregation was organized - a group who pioneered in increasing the interest of the younger members of the congregation in the religious, social, and cultural activities of the congregation.

A War Memorial Alcove was dedicated in 1947. In it were remembered with gratitude, the records of the nigh seven hundred men and women of the Temple who served in the armed forces of the United States in the second World War. The windows for this Alcove and for the adjacent Chapel were executed by the internationally famous artist, Arthur Szyk.

In 1950 as a part of its Centennial celebration, the Temple completed a museum for Jewish religious art and music. It was the first of its type in any congregation in America. It has, today, an unusually fine collection of Jewish ceremonial art and sacred music.

In 1953, the Temple bought the land adjoining to it to the west and dedicated a park to Dr. Silver. When completed, this park will become a fine addition to the Cleveland Cultural Center of which the Temple is a part. Presently, the congregation is completing preparations for a new wing of classrooms and an auditorium.

Dr. Silver's impact on Judaism and on the Jewish communities everywhere cannot be measured only by his congregational activities. He has been actively identified with the great social and education movements of our day. He has been called "the father of unemployment insurance in Ohio". He has been active



in many humanitarian efforts for relief and rehabilitation. He served for seven years as national co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. He headed the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund from 1935-41. In 1956, he received the Eisenman Award from the Jewish Community Federation. He founded the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education and was its first president from 1924-32. His colleagues in the American Rabbinate elected him president of their organization in 1945. He has been the recipient of awards of merit and honored as the man of the year by many national organizations and fraternities.

Dr. Silver is the author of 'Messianic Speculations in Israel' in 1927, 'The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History' in 1928, 'Religion in a Changing World' in 1930, 'World Crisis and Jewish Survival' in 1941, 'Vision and Victory' in 1949, and 'Where Judaism Differed' in 1956. Dr. Silver earned his doctorate at the Hebrew Union College in 1925 and an honorary degree of Hebrew letters in 1946. He is the recipient, also, of honorary degrees from several other American universities. During World War I, Dr. Silver was decorated by the French government for services to the Allied cause. In his book 'Inside U. S. A.', John Gunther called Dr. Silver "the first citizen in Cleveland".

Dr. Silver is especially known as the leader and spokesman of Zionism in America. During the years following the second World War when the issue of Palestine had reached a critical stage, Dr. Silver climaxed years of devotion by serving as president of the Zionist Organization of America, chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, and chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. It was he who directed these organizations in their struggle for the establishment of the State of Israel. He was the representative of world Jewry at the Assembly of the United Nations. He had the honor to present the cause of the Jewish people and to see the triumph of



his position in the favorable resolution of the United Nations on November 29, 1949 and the rpoclamation of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. In honor of his service, a community and agricultural school in Israel have been named <sup>—</sup><sub>^</sub> Kfar Silver. His voice continues to champion the cause and needs of the Jewish people throughout the world.

