



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series III: Personal Correspondence, 1914-1964, undated.

Sub-series B: Alphabetical, 1915-1963, undated.

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Sharlin, Cantor William, 1957.

484 S. San Vicente Blvd  
LA 48 Cal.

CANTOR WILLIAM SHARLIN

January 8, 1957

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver

I am sorry that I am unable to convey to you a clear decision with regard to the position offered me during my recent visit with you.

Frankly, I am in conflict. The position from the musical side is a most challenging one and I feel both ready and eager to take up such a challenge. And when you informed me in Los Angeles of certain non-musical assistance needed in the Confirmation dept. I was inclined to accept such responsibilities, realizing that teaching a few hours a week would alone not interfere with the development of the enormous musical potential of The Temple. But when you emphasized so strongly the purely educational responsibilities during our last meeting I began to doubt whether I was the person for the position.

I feel that to function in a temple of such magnitude with almost equal emphasis on both musical and educational programs would invite frustration. I fear that both programs would suffer. I realize well the difficulties which you face and would like to be of help in your entire program but my inner self restrains me.

I therefore ask you to reconsider the conditions as outlined to me in Cleveland - perhaps modify them according to our original discussion, for unless the position is considered primarily a musical one I regret to say that I would have to refuse your offer.

Hoping to hear from you soon and trusting that all is well with you and your family, I am,

Very sincerely,

*William Sharlin*  
William Sharlin



January 24, 1957

Cantor William Sharlin  
484 S. San Vicente Blvd.  
Los Angeles 48, California

My dear Friend:

Thank you for your kind letter of January 8th. I need not tell you that we enjoyed the few days that you spent with us tremendously, as well as your participation in our services.

As you will recall, I tried to explain to you the position and the needs of the Temple. It is not possible for us at this time to add to our staff two people in the higher salary bracket. We need an assistant rabbi, or someone who would perform most of the functions which an assistant rabbi would be expected to do, and a director of music.

By your training you are qualified to perform both of these functions, and were you prepared to do so, we would be delighted to have you come to us. In due time it would perhaps be possible for the Temple to permit you to spend most of your time and to lay principal emphasis on your musical activities — but not for a few years. For the next few years, along with your musical activities, you would be expected to teach some classes, conduct study groups and seminars and engage in the planning and execution of cultural programs, principally among the young people of the congregation. Until such time as we add another rabbi to the staff, these activities cannot be regarded as secondary or incidental. There is, of course, as you say, a great musical potential at the Temple which can be developed, but then there is no urgency in developing it all within a year or two.

If you feel that you can whole-heartedly cooperate in this two-fold program of the Temple, I shall be very happy to receive an affirmative reply from you.

With kind regards and all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:sl

ABBA HILLEL SILVER



CANTOR WILLIAM SHARLIN

February 1. 1957

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you for your very early reply. I thank you as well for the clarity with which you state your position. It enabled me to reach a decision with greater ease.

Unfortunately my reply to you must be in the negative. I sympathize very much with the problem you have at hand, and would have liked to be of help. My inner self keeps me from wandering from my 'chosen' profession. As a matter of fact I was urged quite often to remain at H.U.C. for one additional year in order to be ordained, and this I turned down.

I am very grateful, however, for the wonderful opportunity of visiting with you, Rabbi Daniel, your family and your congregation. I look forward to meeting with you once more and should conditions at the Temple alter so that my services might be desirable then I would be more than happy to discuss matters once again.

My warmest wishes to your entire family and the many kind members of The Temple.

Cordially yours,

Bill

William Sharlin



## LEO BAECK TEMPLE

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February 10, 1957

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Danny:

I was looking forward to some communication from you. I gather that you are extremely tied up. I do hope that you and your family are in good health.

I am quite sorry that I was unable to accept the position with The Temple. There is no need to review once more the problems involved. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a Cantor, with whom I became acquainted recently, and who may be of considerable interest to you as a candidate for the position you offer - if the offer remains. This man seems ideal for the rather unusual responsibilities the position demands.

The gentleman's name is Max Warse. Originally of Germany he spent many years in Australia as Cantor-Minister. In addition to holding a Phd degree he is also the master of a fine Judaic background. He is a fine Hazzan and musician who at the same time enjoys and desires to participate in some of the Rabbinic functions such as teaching, ceremonials and even preaching when necessary.

Cantor Warse served recently as Cantor at Sherith Israel of San Francisco and will surly receive special recommendations from Dr. Golstein. I described the Cleveland situation to Cantor Warse as I saw it and he showed considerable interest asking me to communicate with you as soon as possible because of his involvement in negotiations with another temple.

If you are interested you may write him at:

6212 La Mirada  
Los Angeles 38, Cal.

Cantor Warse is approximately 45 years of age.

With warmest regards to your charming wife, I remain  
cordially yours,

*Bill*

William Sharlin



K. B. - <sup>do a box</sup> not get decision ~~don't want~~ clear Ministry  
 - no penalty - big deal = =  
 = extremely helpful ~~to~~ breach / pass  
 - aggression

3.30 P.M. P.M. - Shiraz

not get decision - leave don't know Shiraz  
is flying back - extremely helpful to state

U.N. is delayed till Monday

3.45 P.M. = arrivals Monday Adams = Lodge



(copy)

Rabbi William Sharlin,  
Leo Beck Temple,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Rabbi Sharlin:-

Rabbi Daniel Silver showed me your letter to him yesterday, and asked me to answer it. I find this a little difficult, as we have a rather different service from the usual Temple service. In the first place our main service is on Sunday, so we use the Service for Week-days, the first one being on page 312 of the Prayer Book (if my memory is correct). So we do not have the usual beautiful and elaborate music around the opening of the Ark, and the service is generally simpler than a regular Sabbath service. Then also Rabbi Silver is very anxious to have a singing congregation, so the responses are those in the Union Hymn Book, pages 461 to 463. The Choir sings the opening Psalm, the Kedusha, the Silent Devotion, and before and after the address a number, usually a solo before and a choral number afterwards.

So I hope you won't mind if I suggest that you consider a more or less extended solo before the address, either with or without the choir. I am sure that it would provide you with a more grateful chance vocally. However, to go along with your thinking I am enclosing on a separate sheet what we used last year in the matter of services and opening numbers. If you see anything you would like, I shall be glad to lay it away for you and not use it until you do.

The service I really like is the Friday Evening one in the Chapel, sung by a quartette, and with a repertory of some fifteen services. I don't know if you are expected for this service or not, but believe that you plan to be here for Sunday only. If this is not the case please let me know, for you can depend on my doing everything possible to fit in with your work and your plans.

If there is anything more I can tell you, do not fail to ask.

Very sincerely,