



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 V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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174

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Bellefaire, Cleveland Jewish orphanage, 1929.

Rev. Mr. Millett G. - ye shall not affect any ^{Dedication}
for this less child.

D. Q u n t a n d h i s - , He executes the judgment of
the orphan resident.

P₂. $\gamma \text{Sto } \underset{T}{\Delta}'' \rightarrow \text{Ni}_T - \text{Thom ant the helper, the F.}$

~~Sum~~ 176 -
C M 177 - In the F. find the mercy

Oppress not the stranger, the ^{foreigner} F, the widow -

1. When you reflect the same - what do you observe?

1- a beautiful group, bleg - simply & artistically
built, in spacious & attractive grounds, perfectly
equipped and tastefully decorated. Both competence
and love have gone into the planning, construction
and furnishings, this bleg. There is ^{in it} ~~at~~
every turn the hand, the good craftsman, and the
the prudent manager and the individuals
those who wish that the good things shall also
be beautiful. Our funds here ^{are} ~~are~~ ^{not only} ~~adequate~~ provision
for the care, ~~and~~ comfort and well-being of those
who will live here but an atmosphere of grace
and charm ^{and a touch of loveliness, subtle} in which these lives can unfold
beautifully. When you dedicate these blegs - you
~~place~~ ^{place} the seal of accomplishment upon a ^{valuable} ~~task~~
which ^{you} ~~have~~ ^{undoubtedly} ~~been~~ ^{very} ~~accomplished~~ ^{performed} ~~well~~ ~~and~~ in a
most satisfactory manner.

2. Don't you dedicate something more. You have added ~~to our~~ something significant and outstanding to the life of our city. The quarters and character of a city are determined

not only by its size, wealth and prosperity, but by
the character, its public institutions, its public
buildings, its cultural and social agencies, by the
~~balance~~ ^{balance} which is maintained bet. ~~things~~ ^{things} self-
interest and ~~public~~ ^{things} interest, ~~the~~ ^{city} coming
to me fine, progressive, would ~~confront~~ ^{confront} no doubt
upon our business & industrial sections, upon
our factories & mercantile establishments, upon
our extensive industrial & commercial plants.
But he would not stop there. If he wished
really to know our city, he would acquaint himself
with our public buildings, our ~~schools~~ ^{schools} & colleges,
our museum & art center, our churches & temples,
and all our numerous public institutions.
These, more than the other, would ~~give~~ ^{give} him an in-
sight into the mind & soul, ~~the~~ ^{to which its culture} ~~city~~. They
reflect what our people aspire to be, rather
than what they aspire to have. You have
now added another splendid public institution
~~which will be an~~ ^{to our city} and which will be another index to
the high tone & quality of our comm. life. We
are not unmindful of ~~the~~ ^{the} fact that
this is not a exclu. Cl. achievement. It has
~~many~~ ^{many} ~~apostles~~ ^{apostles} ~~few~~ ^{few} ~~agencies~~ ^{agencies}. has a school share in it.
But our feeling of pride in it is not lessened
by the fact that other cities, too, ~~well~~ ^{may} ~~pride~~ ^{pride} ~~it~~ ^{pride} ~~it~~ ^{it}.
pride to it, ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~part~~ ^{part} a share in it. It is not
exclusion, & yet not by ~~dis~~ ^{dis} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ. Cl. has always
~~had~~ ^{had} a particular pride in this Bldg. - looked at
as its own - and now ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~it~~ ^{it} has rewarded us
by ~~this~~ ^{this} ~~planning~~ ^{planning} ~~these~~ ^{these} ~~beautiful~~ ^{beautiful} ~~edifices~~ ^{edifices}, ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~the~~ ^{the}
symbol of the best best & most advanced ~~thought~~ ^{thought}
in this ~~field~~ ^{field}, ~~social~~ ^{social} ~~service~~ ^{service}. You are

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Knowledge who demand from direct contact
with children, not ~~from~~ on academic theories
evolved in the swivel chair. You are
~~educating~~ a ~~new~~ idea to-day. The re-
lating care of unprotected childhood - the
most inspiring ~~discovery~~ ^{discovery} of that man is capable of. (The

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4- You are doing something more.
Love of children is the tenderest & most un-
derstood, the most human-kind - and the more
helpless they are, the more we love them.
The very sight of children gladdens the human
heart. When you are seated with a crowded
street-car, and watched the faces, the men pensive
there - mostly set, absorbed, shutting out the
rest of the world; each ~~passenger~~ ^{passenger} bent on his own
and have you seen what happens when a
little child is put in the car, or even a babe
in arms. When that baby smiles the whole
car smiles. When the baby chuckles the
whole lot of hard-borne passengers will
laugh ^{with} ~~at~~ ^{the child's voice} ~~happily~~ ^{what happened!} ~~childhood~~ The human
note was ~~renewed~~ ^{renewed}, the basic quality of
all human life was laid bare by that the
men right of him. There are many things
which divide men - race, creed, peer
ambitions. None is the strongest tie which
binds them together - the love of children. And
the more helpless they are the more we love
them - you are ^{indeed} the eternal children, the
human heart - the love of children.

4- You are doing something more. Your ^{ancient} faith.
Our ed. expresses itself in eternal mandates.
The greatest, which was the protection of souls. I
pray for all of you - ye shall not offend it -
our God = Mr. Colver. Expresses perhaps that
Mr. Colver 22 -

1. A beautiful group of bldgs -
- Both competence and love
- There is evident
- One finds
- Seal

2. You are adding something
- The greatness -
- An enlightened visitor
- You are adding another splendid
- index
- not unkindful -

3. A great inst. is never built -
- Bec. it is so - it is progressive
- " " " " - Stagnated
- " " " " - You will do better -
- You are re-dedicating the noble

4. You are ^{idea} needed. the noblest devotion -
- the love of children - tenderest -
- the more helpless, light -
- Sheet can -
- There are many thing which
children -

5. Your ancient Faith

① Am Rel. Express Co. - Mandate
11/11/22, 1/11/23, 1/11/24, 1/11/25

14: If I did despise the cause of my man-servant, or of my maid-servant, when they contended with me - what then shall I do when God riseth up? and when He remembereth, what shall I answer Him? did not He that made me in the womb make him? ~~and did not One fashion us in the womb?~~ If I have withheld aught that the poor desired, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail; or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof - ~~Nay, for my youth he grew up with me as with a father, and I have been her guide from my mother's womb.~~ If I have seen any wanderer in want of clothing, or that the needy had no covering; if his loins have not blessed me, and if he were not warmed with the fleece of my sheep; if I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless, ~~because I saw my help in the gate (at court);~~ then let my shoulder fall from the shoulder-blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone. ~~For calamity from God was a terror to me, and by reason of His majesty I could do nothing.~~ If I have made gold my hope, and have said to the fine gold: 'thou art my confidence'; if I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because my hand had gotten much; if I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or exulted when evil found him - ~~Yea, I suffered not my mouth to sin by asking his life with a curse.~~ The stranger did not lodge in the street; my doors I opened to the roadside. If after the manner of men I covered my transgressions, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom - If my land cry out against me, and the furrows thereof weep together; if I have eaten the fruits thereof without money, or have caused the tillers thereof to be disappointed - let thistles grow instead of wheat, and noisome weeds instead of barley.

Job XXXI 13-25, 29,30,32,33,38-40.

Orphanage
Drive

1. Let us have clearly in mind what is being contemplated.
It is not contemplated to establish a new institution.
Now this the case there would be some merit to the
argument that we should wait until the new exper-
iments in child placement will have reached a point
of fuller development, when we shall be in position
to decide more intelligently as to whether a new insti-
tution is necessary or not. But no such new institution
is being contemplated. What is intended in this
campaign is the securing of new physical quarters
for an institution already in existence - and which
has been in existence for 60 years. - ~~physic. quarters~~
~~to these children already in the institution, and~~
It is generally known that the present quarters
are not only antiquated & inadequate but actually
menacing the security and well-being of the
children in it; what we are wish to do is to
give these children better opportunities for health
and recreation, a new wholesome & stimulating
environment, a lot of fresh open spaces, clean
air and clean surroundings, a lot of the charm
& grace of surrounding in which their lives ^{will} ~~shall~~
unfold. It is to ^{with better quarters} ~~continue~~ a work which
has been creditably & meritoriously performed for
decades, to carry on a tradition of child care
which has been exemplary in the records of
Am. Social Service - that ^{we are} ~~not~~ ^{are} ~~have~~ ^{are} ~~keeping~~ ^{are} ~~appealing~~

to in this instance. Who is two - who is willing to
let these children - these unwanted ones whom we have
wished to protect and to love - remain in that de-
~~graded~~ ^{degraded} structure overlooking a ^{city} dump heap and
in the midst, that menacing environment until
such time as our senior experts will have
unanimously determined that the orphanage
has or has not a place in a complete child
care program? Are we to jeopardize the health
and lives of children for the sake of theories
which may in a few years be utterly discred-
ited or radically modified? Be assuming that in
10 or 15 or 20 years it will become manifest to
all that the day, the orphanage is gone, an ~~assumed~~ ^{unwar-}
anted assumption to my mind, ^{the} ~~an~~ investment which
we are called upon to make will have been amply
returned to us in the improved service which ^{we} ~~will~~
will have rendered during that decade or two
to hundreds of children made happier and
healthier by the new ~~at~~ better homes where we
will have provided them - not to speak of the probable
increase in land values which during that period
which may not only safeguard our financial
investment but even increase it.

2. But I look forward to no such eventuality.
I am not an expert in the subject of child care or
placement. I have never conducted an orphanage
or supervised a child-placement organization -
and only such people as really are repelled

as authorities on the subject - and strangely enough -
and this notwithstanding the heated announcements
of self constituted boards, lay experts - there is
among the real experts no unanimity, that
at all about this subject. I am a layman
interested for years in problems, for I know and
I have read and am reading what is being said
and written on the subject - and my reading and
reflections are I have no eyes to print and no
partnership to champions, has led me to the
conviction that in any well-considered, intelli-
gent child-planning program for many years to
come there will be need for a collection of
~~board~~ ~~short~~ ~~not a~~ ~~and~~ ~~not a~~ ~~was~~
- especially for one which like ours seems not
merely ~~national~~ locally but nationally.

3. No one for a moment believes that all dependent children should be placed in institutions. — as we ~~institutions~~ — no do the men members in this organization claim that. No one here but who is eager to see ^{adequately} ~~such~~ provisions, whenever possible, for a ^{for relatives properly qualified to take care} ~~unhappy~~ ^{throughout independent} ~~and~~ ^{that} ~~we~~ ^{can} ~~have~~ ^{our} ~~and~~ ^{our} ~~return~~ ^{our} ~~her own~~ ^{our} ~~children~~ ^{our} ~~that~~ ^{our} ~~is~~ ^{our} ~~almost~~ ^{our} ~~an~~ ^{our} ~~axiom~~ ^{our} ~~in~~ ^{our} ~~child-placing~~ ^{our} ~~service~~ ^{our} ~~to-day~~ ^{our} ~~no~~ ^{our} ~~is~~ ^{our} ~~there~~ ^{our} ~~objection~~ ^{our} ~~to~~ ^{our} ~~placing~~ ^{our} ~~children~~ ^{our} ~~in~~ ^{our} ~~foster~~ ^{our} ~~homes~~ ^{our} ~~whereas~~ ^{our} ~~it is~~ ^{our} ~~deserved~~ ^{our} ~~that~~ ^{our} ~~the~~ ^{our} ~~child~~ ^{our} ~~will~~ ^{our} ~~best~~ ^{our} ~~fit~~ ^{our} ~~into~~ ^{our} ~~a~~ ^{our} ~~foster~~ ^{our} ~~home~~ ^{our} ~~and~~ ^{our} ~~that~~ ^{our} ~~the~~ ^{our} ~~foster~~ ^{our} ~~home~~ ^{our} ~~will~~ ^{our} ~~provide~~ ^{our} ~~with~~ ^{our} ~~at~~ ^{our} ~~least~~ ^{our} ~~the~~ ^{our} ~~same~~ ^{our} ~~phys. care~~ ^{our} ~~, healthy~~ ^{our} ~~environment~~ ^{our}

and cultural richness that a modern, well-
run ~~group of people~~ ^{group of people} ~~has~~ ^{has} ~~does~~ ^{does}

4. But we maintain ^{first} that there are children whose
best interests are served in ~~group~~ collective homes
rather than in private foster homes. - (Quote)

(b) We maintain that there ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~cases~~ ^{are} instances
of some children in ~~any~~ ^{every} family who ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~excluded~~ ^{excluded}
foster home programs would separate brother & sister
and destroy the ~~value~~ ^{value} of family ties.

(c) We further maintain that in most instances
paid foster homes are ~~to~~ ^{to} be found among the
lower middle or the poor classes who are in
need of the extra 5 or 6 dollars a week which the
child brings in to ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~not~~ ^{not} their budget. We
maintain on ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} that ~~good~~ ^{good} ~~foster~~ ^{foster} ~~home~~ ^{home}
are ~~more~~ ^{and becoming scarcer} (Quote). We are for homes
to open their doors to dependent children - the
home of culture & refinement - I would be the
first to urge the ~~employment~~ ^{employment} of our institutions.
But they do not - there are many in this city

- etc. but they do not. I have been ~~said~~ ^{said}
that in ~~ancient~~ ^{ancient} ~~Israel~~ ^{Israel} ~~etc~~ ^{etc}
- In ancient Israel no orphans

(d) We further maintain that there are children
from smaller communities - where there
are 2 or 3 families - for whom foster
homes are almost impossible to procure

(e) We furthermore maintain that there are

Special behaviorists should be put in permanent
homes cannot be found - & who are best
served in an institution. such as Mrs. -

(c) and lastly we maintain that the home is needed for the
temporary care of such children as may finally be placed in
private boarding homes. The period may vary - but the
home is required

5. For these & many other reasons we feel warranted in meeting
the appeal. We do not underestimate the value, the ^{importance} ~~importance~~
home - on the other hand we do not overestimate it. It has
not yet been re. demonstrated that the average product
of the foster home becomes a better citizen of the nation
than graduates of a well-run modern intell. admin. orphan
home. Only one survey, to my know. has been made
of the products, the Foster Home - that of 10 years ago
funded theirs for the N.Y. State Charities Association.
in 1924.
A survey was made of some 910 children who
were placed in F. H. from 1898 on and who are now
18 yrs. and over. The results are not at all as
flattering ~~and~~ as would have been expected from the ^{importance} ~~importance~~
the extreme of favorable enthusiasts, the F. H. of that
time. only 72% were found to have turned out about
what could call satisfactory. members, etc. 11% were found to
be negative characters, of no possible asset to
Cm. & 12% actually harmful, criminal
& in custodial institution. We have no way of
properly having this compared with graduates of Orp.

better care, supervision & attention, phys. mental & cultural
than most of the children in their station in life outside,
side, the J. O. H. and was it not for the natural
most parent love problem as they can be substituted,
these J. O. H. may be well be envied by others.

The modern Orphan Home gives children what a poor
camp or boarding-school gives: not only material
care, but a sense of at-homeness, of belonging, & sense
of self-respect, contacts with the culture and and
with community life. Their mental growth is watched,
their ^{then} ~~psychological~~ ^{then} ~~problems~~ ^{problems} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hidden~~ ^{hidden}
O. H. is a continuation school, play-ground, library,
church, dormitory and club. If you find these
~~children~~ - you are wasting your time. These children are
not to be pitied - except as any ^{child} ~~one~~ who has
lost a parent by death or the misfortune, or who
cannot live in his parents' home for an reason or
another - is to be pitied. Read William S.

Whitman's article in the Jan. issue, the American
Way - "I am Proud that I was an Orphan"
and you will get a diff. picture altogether from the
one which you may be entertaining - and when
you read that article recall that it is an old
fashioned, orph. ref. or what may be called a military
basis that the writer is speaking. —

So much for polemics: I have tried during the past few
weeks to avoid the heat of controversy which envelops

our community - I find hard to avert the conflict which
arises. I cancelled a meeting of friends on a basis
of a compromise upon the rate of community harmony -
years as I had for years cancelled the invitation, the
Wholesome ~~and~~ Org. in our Fed. for the rate of Comm. Unity.
My Council this time did not prevail. So be it.
I feel no resentment. I have everybody in my
mind for every one championed cause which was
endorsed by asking me - I refer but to two -
Palestine and Jewish Education. - But opposition
was just to a worthy cause. If any body agreed
with me - I would give respect. - Per. T. P. Stein
I am happy to know that the diff. of opinion which
developed has not hurt the J.O.H. Rather it has made
our friends more determined & enthusiastic. Our
Camp is going on - in a major fashion.
I have been in many Camps - I know of none that
has been received with such joy and by ~~the rank~~ ^{the army}
& which will succeed as easily as this.

8. I wish to you well, my friends in your coming
campaign.

Friends: There is nothing so sad in the world as a
helpless child and there is no perhaps so great in the
world as that of making a child's heart ring with happiness.
There is nothing as ^{precious} wonderful as the inexhaustible beauty
of a child's soul - and there is nothing as noble as the act
which lets heaven stream in upon a child's soul.

Think what it means to be summoned to hold a
life as it was in the hollow of your hand - to shield
it - to unfold it - to nurture its ever present ^{emotions} ~~thoughts~~, to

MR. MAURICE ROHRHEIMER, *Chairman*
and Members of the Executive Committee
of the

Cleveland
Jewish Orphan Home Campaign

Request your company at a Dinner for Workers
and for the formal launching of the Campaign
at the

EXCELSIOR CLUB

SUNDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY TWELFTH,
AT SIX-THIRTY O'CLOCK

Speaker - - Rabbi A. H. Silver

R.S.V.P.

INFORMAL

Husbands and Wives of Invitees are cordially invited to be present

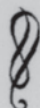
29-25
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Bellefaire

Bellefaire

The Cleveland Jewish Orphan Home

Districts Nos. 2 and 6 I. O. B. B.

Dedication Program



Saturday, November 2, 1929

3:00 O'clock

Dedication of Chapel
Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner

Sundown

Dedication of Flags
Raising of Flags—Veterans and Bugler

Speakers:

William J. Van Aken, Mayor of Shaker Heights
Robert Roehm, representing John J. Howard,
Mayor of University Heights
Patriotic Songs led by Children's Choir

6:30 O'clock

Alumni Dinner—Alumni Hall

Sunday, November 3, 1929

9:30 to 12 O'clock

Meetings of Trustees and Board of Trustees and Directors

12:30 O'clock

Luncheon

2:00 O'clock

Inspection of Buildings and Grounds

3:00 O'clock

Dedicatory exercises in Alumni Hall
Music by Choirs of Temples

Speakers:

Opening Prayer—Rabbi Abraham Nowak, Cleveland
Hon. William R. Hopkins, City Manager, Cleveland
Hon. Alfred M. Cohen, President I. O. B. B., Cincinnati
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Cleveland
Closing Prayer—Rabbi Harry S. Davidowitz, Cleveland