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New Year's messages, 1932.

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*New Year's message
Jewish Independent
Aug 1932*

I extend to my fellow Jews of Cleveland the greetings of the season and my best wishes for a very happy New Year.

The past year has been one of strain and tension for all of us and of extreme suffering for many. Many of our brothers and sisters have experienced actual want and privation during the past year. The economic disaster which engulfed our nation has affected severely every department of our communal life. Our institutions have suffered in common with the individual members of our community.

I pray that the New Year may mark the dawn of a new era for America and for American Israel. May the dark clouds vanish from our skies and may a full measure of economic stability return to the dwelling-places of our people.

The economic collapse of the past three years will prove not to have been an unmixed evil if it will restore us to a saner, soberer and more wholesome manner of living, to a lessening of the acquisitive tempo and to a restoration to sovereignty in our personal and collective lives of those spiritual and cultural interests which alone give meaning and worth to human existence.

Surely the events of the past three years must have taught us the grave and bitter lesson that economically we are still in the dark ages. The system under which we live is less than imperfect. It is barbaric. Periodically it pries millions of men loose from their means of livelihood and sends them broken and helpless to knock at the doors of charity. This is not the first instance of mass unemployment within the memory of living men. It is a constantly recurring phenomenon, seemingly inherent in the very nature of our capitalistic society. Prosperity and depression have been the obverse and reverse of our coin of national economy for generations. Our concentrated national wealth has been purchased through a partial or total periodic impoverishment of our working population.

Many of us were beguiled by a few brief years of abnormal prosperity into believing that we had entered upon a broad, new era of economic enlightenment,

progress and justice. We know now that we were fond and foolish optimists; for we had laid none of the foundations for such a new era; - no planned national economy, no central and scientific control of production, no adjustment between the productivity of the machine and hours of labor, no plans for the distribution of all available work among all available workers and no provision for a full measure of insurance against the economic disabilities of unemployment, sickness and old age. We expected a system of ruthless competition, bordering on anarchy, to yield us those advantages which only a socially-minded and socially-organized system can yield.

In the future we shall have to surrender that messianic economic romancing which characterized the pre-depression era, and all the apocalyptic dreams of miracle-working captains of industry who by their acts of mystic financial wizardry would make us all rich.. Painstakingly and aggressively we must apply ourselves in the future to the task of a radical economic reconstruction of society, drawing upon our own best knowledge, courage and enthusiasm.

For the Jewish people throughout the world the past year has been one of great uncertainty and in some portions of the world, of real menace. German Jewry, particularly, has been passing through a vast tribulation. All the reactionary forces of that country have organized themselves in a vicious attack upon our people. German Jewry, however, has not been demoralized and has girded itself for a determined struggle to safeguard its political and economic positions in that country.

A bright spot in the world map of Jewry during the past year was Palestine where our nascent Jewish community ~~XXXX~~ developed steadily and peacefully and where marked progress was made in the establishment of the Jewish homeland.

With our traditional patience and fortitude and with our faith unshaken in Divine Providence we approach the New Year. We know that life

renews itself always and the human spirit, though frequently beaten and humbled, never acknowledges final defeat.

The days ahead will be hard days which will try the souls of men. But they will be also challenging days, calling for the best that is in men, for their strength, their patience and their vision. May we be found equal to the great tasks ahead of us.

Abba Hillel Silver



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I send my New Year's greeting to you, members of the Temple, and to your families.

The past year has been one of strain and tension for all of us and of severe suffering for many. I pray that the coming year may bring a larger measure of peace to us, relief to those who are distressed and restore hope to those who have known loss and want. May the dark clouds vanish from our skies and may prosperity and happiness be restored to the dwelling-places of our people.

Days of depression are days of spiritual stock-taking. Our national economic calamity of the past few years will not have been an unmixed evil if it will help to restore us to a saner and more wholesome manner of living, to a lessening of the acquisitive tempo of our lives and to a restoration to sovereignty of those spiritual and cultural interests which alone give meaning and worth to the lives of individuals as well as of nations.

On this New Years I should like to add this personal note. I shall not be with you during the coming year. Soon after the High Holy Days I shall leave with my family for a year abroad - a sabbatical year which you generously offered me for travel and study. Let me assure you that my thoughts will be with you often during the coming year. I shall keep in touch with you regularly and I shall from time to time send messages to you through the medium of our Temple Bulletin.

I bespeak for the Temple, during the coming year, your enthusiastic support and cooperation. It will give me great joy and peace of mind to know that our beloved Temple is functioning smoothly and effectively during my absence.

I shall return in time for the holidays of 1933. I pray that our Heavenly Father may grant you all a year of health and wellbeing.

Abba Hillel Silver.

*New Years
Booklet
aug-1932*

Unto all members of the Household of Israel in our community, both young and old, I send my warmest greetings for the New Year. May the coming year be one of wellbeing, happiness and peace to all.

As we enter the solemn season our minds naturally turn to the spiritual realities of life and to our religious obligations. May it be given unto all of us to devote more of our time, energy and substance during the coming year to those tasks and institutions which express the noblest aspirations of life, and which contribute to the building of the good society.

Prophetic religion as voiced by the seers and prophets of Judaism still remains the hope of mankind as well as the profound meaning of our own individual destinies. Let us re-dedicate ourselves to work through our synagogues and our schools, our homes and our community organizations for the realization of those ideals in our midst, and thus indeed would this season mark

A Happy New Year.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

9/8/49

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

1956 - 5717

*For Jewish
Newspapers*

32-22

As we enter the New Year 5717, prayerfully and hopefully, the Jewish people are confronted with two compelling responsibilities.

The first is to maintain and strengthen the agencies of Jewish survival, especially schools for the training of our children and academies of Jewish learning. We owe it to ourselves as the heirs of a noble religion which has carved a highway for the civilization of mankind. We owe it to our youth, that their lives might be enriched and guided by the exalted ethical ideals of Judaism. We owe it to America, as our contribution to the spiritual life of this gracious land which has given us, and all other citizens, such rare and precious privileges of freedom, equality and human dignity. Everywhere there seems to be a stirring of new religious interests and a revival of religious loyalties. Our hope is that they will continue with increasing momentum as the years go on.

The second major obligation of our people is to continue uninterruptedly their efforts to maintain and strengthen the new State of Israel which has so magnificently performed the heavy tasks which the Jewish people placed upon it. It has ingathered hundreds of thousands of our refugees for whom the world had no room; it has integrated them into the life of the new State; it is providing a home for tens of thousands who are still coming into it annually; it has built many institutions of culture, health and education of which world Jewry can justly be proud; it is rapidly moving towards economic stability.

Israel is, of course, beset today with many serious political problems. It is surrounded by irreconcilable governments who seek its destruction. The Near East generally is seething with political crises. In all this there is additional challenge to the Jews of America to rally to the economic and political defense of Israel.

The proclamation of a new State is in itself an immensely difficult achievement. The maintenance of a new State through its formative years, the normalizing of its economic life and the attainment of political security in a disturbed region of the world are infinitely more difficult and prolonged. I am sure that our people fully realize this fact and will remain mobilized for the long pull ahead.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

NEW YEAR'S GREETING - 1961

Again it is my privilege and great pleasure to extend to all the members of the Jewish community of Cleveland my best wishes for a Happy New Year. May the coming year bring us all peace and well-being.

These are troubled times for our nation and for mankind. A fearful insecurity has entered the lives of men. In troubled times it is especially important for the individual to become strong within himself, to sink deeper roots into his own convictions and to lay more solid and firm foundations for his loyalties.

When our world seems to be falling apart, our only refuge is the fortress of our soul; our only sanctuary the inner life of the spirit. It is here within ourselves that we must find our strong faith and confidence, the affirmation of life and denial of death. Unless we have faith in the ultimate triumph of good under God, we shall be defenseless and utterly defeated.

Our Holy Day season fans the flames of hope and faith in the heart of every true believer.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Sent to Jewish Independent &

Jewish Review and Observer

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NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS - 1962

I SEND MY WARMEST GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL ON THE OCCASION OF THE NEW YEAR. I PRAY THAT IT WILL BE A GOOD YEAR FOR ALL OF US AND FOR OUR COUNTRY AND MANKIND.

EVERY NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW HOPES. SURELY THE OLD YEAR HAS LEFT US WITH MANY DISAPPOINTMENTS. WE HAD HOPED FOR PEACE AND THERE IS NONE. THERE ARE MANY DARK AND THREATENING CLOUDS ON THE INTERNATIONAL HORIZON AND HERE AT HOME WE HAVE WITNESSED SOME VERY DISAPPOINTING THINGS IN THE FIELD OF RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AND COOPERATION.

BUT JUDAISM IS BUILT ON OPTIMISM, ON FAITH IN GOD AND MAN AND SO WE FACE THE NEW YEAR WITH RENEWED HOPE AND WITH UNSHAKEN FAITH IN THE CAPACITY OF MAN TO OVERCOME ALL MAN-MADE EVIL IN THE WORLD.

MAY THE COMING YEAR BE INDEED A GOOD YEAR!

ABBA HILLEL SILVER