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National Conference of Christians and Jews, 1959.



RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER AWARD DINNER

59-3

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February 17, 1959

The citizens of Ohio and Cleveland are banding together to do honor to Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver upon the occasion of the presentation to him of the National Human Relations Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The Award will be conferred upon Rabbi Silver at a civic dinner, Sunday, March 8, 1959 at the Carter Hotel, Cleveland.

Carlos P. Romulo, Phillipine Delegate to the United Nations will head the roster of speakers. Also taking part in the evening will be Ambassador Abba Eban of Israel; A. J. Hayes, Chairman of the Ethical Practices Commission of the AFL-CIO and International President of the I.A.M.; Dr. Lewis Webster Jones, President of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; Senators Frank J. Lausche and Stephen M. Young; Governor Michael V. DiSalle and Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze.

The honor to Rabbi Silver marks his life-long efforts in working toward the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God, not only in this community, but all over the world. He has sought justice and amity for all people, nationalities and religions wherever the dignity of man has been threatened.

Because this is to be a major civic function, we feel the occasion would be further enhanced if you would serve as a sponsor and lend your name and support. Sponsorship implies that you endorse the award to Rabbi Silver and the work of the National Conference in the attainment of the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. Of course, we would like to have all sponsors attend the dinner if possible. Formal dinner invitations have been mailed and sponsors will be given the first opportunity to make reservations. We hope you will join with us as the community honors Rabbi Silver, one of our First Citizens.

Louis B. Seltzer	Alfred A. Benesch	Senator Thomas A. Burke
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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AWARD DINNER

PARTICIPATING

Carlos P. Romulo Albert J. Hayes Philip Sporn

Sunday, March 8, 1959

Hotel Carter

Cleveland, Ohio

The National Conference of Christians and Jews

59-3

The National Conference of Christians and Jews

This Is Our Purpose

Founded in 1928 by Newton D. Baker, Charles Evans Hughes, S. Parks Cadman, Roger W. Straus and Carlton J. H. Hayes "... to promote justice, amity, understanding and cooperation among Protestants, Catholics and Jews, and to analyze, moderate and finally eliminate intergroup prejudices which disfigure and distort religious, business, social and political relations with a view to the establishment of a social order in which the religious ideals of brotherhood and justice shall become the standards of human relationships." (NCCJ By-Laws).

This Is What We Do

Through a coast-to-coast, nation-wide program of education NCCJ changes undemocratic attitudes into attitudes that harmonize with American principles.

In the field of education NCCJ assists public school systems, private and parochial schools, colleges and universities with workshops, institutes, conferences, films,

books and services of specialists. Thousands of teachers and millions of students are influenced each year by these direct methods.

In the field of religion NCCJ works with the 300,000 churches and synagogues in the United States in emphasizing the religious basis of the brotherhood of man without minimizing differences or compromising beliefs.

In our communities NCCJ works with 2,500 women groups, 1,650 service clubs, 1,500 youth groups with hundreds of fraternal, labor, veteran and farm groups in educating Americans to a program of good will.

In business and industry the NCCJ program reaches business, industrial groups and labor unions with speakers, films, panels, printed materials.

In the field of media NCCJ reaches millions of Americans each year through the cooperation of newspapers, radio, television, motion pictures, advertising, magazines, books, pamphlets and speakers. Brotherhood Week, now observed in over 10,000 communities and cities, is sponsored annually by the National Conference.

The Northern Ohio Region

Newton D. Baker and a group of his Cleveland friends began the Northern Ohio Regional Office early in 1933. One of the first Conference offices it has grown to be a leader in the NCCJ network. Headquartered in Cleveland, in the Union Commerce Bldg., it serves all of Ohio south to Route 40, including the state capitol of Columbus. Local chapters, directed by the Regional Office, are located in Cleveland, Canton, Toledo, Columbus and Ashtabula. Inspired lay leadership and

unexcelled cooperation with civic, educational, religious, labor, business and media groups have developed projects of national importance such as the annual graduate workshops at Western Reserve University, Kent State University, the University of Toledo, and Ohio State University. Steady and effective growth has been the hallmark of the Regional operation and its strength for the demanding tasks of the future.



Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

1917 . . .

On April 6 the nation plunged into that seething cauldron of hatred called World War I.

Cleveland, too, was gripped with all the excitement and patriotic fervor that attends war's madness.

May 4—The city planted its first official "War Garden." Society leaders quickly followed suit, tricking themselves out in white bloomers to tend back-yard vegetable plots. A velvet Euclid Ave. lawn suddenly found itself a potato bed.

May 8—Lakeside Unit, Base Hospital No. 4, entrained for the East Coast, Europe and perpetual fame.

In June a tall, black-haired young man, a somberly dressed rabbi, arrived in town to establish a home and career.

His name was Abba Hillel Silver.

* * *

The boy was only 8 when he was brought to the United States from his native Lithuania. He was reared in New York's lower east side, unacquainted with luxury.

But he was a searching student. By 1915 he had graduated from the University of Cincinnati and Hebrew Union College. The young rabbi found his first flock in Wheeling, W. Va.

Then—June, 1917—and Cleveland. At the age of 24 he became spiritual head of the Temple.

* * *

And here, in Cleveland, Virginia, the girl he met as a young, Wheeling rabbi, became his bride in 1934. And here, in Cleveland, his family grew, his two fine sons Daniel and Raphael, flowered in his image—and here, in Cleveland, he has been a spiritual mainspring for the world.

* * *

How often does a Rabbi Silver "happen" to a community? Once in a generation? Once in a hundred years?

Once in a forever.

This young rabbi lost no time in making his presence felt. Here was an orator. Here was a man whose words had wings—and meaning, too.

Here was one who believed in man as individually important, who believed in visions and dreams and better things

to come. And here was one with all the physical and mental strength and courage to translate dreams into reality.

His congregation grew and grew. Non-Jews as well as Jews flocked to hear him.

Yes, Rabbi Silver made his mark in Cleveland with explosive force, and he sustained this force of influence for good through-out the years, in many different ways.

How many times has his strong voice in prayer opened a Community Fund campaign? How many times did he lead the Jewish Welfare Fund to new accomplishments? How many times? . . . How many places? For how many causes?

His voice sounded out beyond his Temple. Out into the whole, wide world. He fought for unemployment insurance, for social security, for free speech, free assembly, educational rights.

He spoke hard and fluently against communism, the while lashing Red-baiters with scathing words. He spoke constantly and earnestly, above all, for ultimate brotherhood and understanding among men.

As his great, unboundaried mind reached out beyond the city and the nation, he saw another World War coming, for fascism and nazism were spreading their poison, turning Europe into a new madhouse of anti-Semitism and human enslavement.

No appeasement in crisis tumbled from the lips of this man. He branded Hitler and gang for what they were.

Rabbi Silver as a militant world leader in the Zionist movement, which finally saw triumphant birth of the brave little state of Israel, is a story in itself which assures his unending international fame.

* * *

Honors almost beyond count have been bestowed upon Cleveland's Abba Hillel Silver over the years. A recent one—three years ago—was the Charles Eisenman Award for "dedicated and tenacious loyalty to worthwhile causes."

And now tonight . . .

L. B. S.

Program

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LOUIS B. SELTZER

PHILIP SPORN

ALBERT J. HAYES

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Benediction

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