



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

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Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 1924-1950.

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352 FOURTH AVE.

NEW YORK CITY



Madison Square 6415

April

17

1924

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Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
c/o The Temple,
E. 55th St. & Central,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We have been asked by the Brith Sholom Community Center of Bethlehem, Pa., to extend to you their invitation to be the principal speaker at the laying of the cornerstone of their synagogue center on June 15th. This event is one of the greatest importance to the Jewish community of Bethlehem. The Jews of this town, numbering a little over a thousand, raised over \$100,000. for a synagogue center, which is estimated to cost in the neighborhood of \$150,000. This structure will provide a common meeting ground for all the elements in the community, and will include the necessary facilities for a religious, educational and recreational program.

May I add that the Jewish Welfare Board has been interested in the project from the start by conducting the campaign for the community and, subsequently, assisting them in connection with the building plans and the engagement of a worker.

Your acceptance of the invitation will be most deeply appreciated by the local community and by us. May I ask you to be good enough to let me hear from you at your earliest convenience? The committee is, of course, willing to pay the usual fee and travel expenses.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

L. Kraft
LOUIS KRAFT
Director

Jewish Center Activities

April 21st, 1924.

Mr. Louis Kraft,
Jewish Welfare Board,
352 Fourth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Kraft,

Permit me to acknowledge your letter of April 17th. I regret exceedingly that I shall be unable to accept the kind invitation of the Jewish Community of Bethlehem. I am so heavily dated up for the next few months and the work of my new Temple has been so heavy that I cannot in justice to myself accept any more engagements this year.

Hoping that I may be of service to you at some future time, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

Brith Sholom Community Center

BRODHEAD AND PACKER AVENUES

BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

ISADOR SIGNER, RABBI

TELEPHONE 1671

B ✓
Bethlehem

October 11, 1926

Rabbi Abba Hilel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I have been requested by the Board of Directors of the Brith Sholom Community Center to extend to you the invitation to be our guest speaker at the Dedication Exercises and Banquet, Sunday afternoon and evening, December 5th.

The Directors would be very grateful, indeed, if you could so arrange your affairs as to make it possible to be with us that day. Your expenses, of course, would be taken care of.

Hoping to hear of your acceptance of this, our invitation, at your early convenience. I am

Believe me

Very sincerely yours,

Isador Signer
RABBI ISADOR SIGNER

IS/G

10/20/26

Rabbi Silver:

Quote October 11th asking you to be guest speaker
at dedication Brith Sholom, Community Center December 5th. Will
pay expenses. Kindly reply collect definitely whether you will
come.

Rabbi Isador E. Signer
Bethlehem, Pa.

WRHS



Regret Exceeding & cannot
accept Your kind
invitation —

B *

Collect Day Message

October 24th, 1926

Rabbi Isadore E. Singer

Bethlehem, Penna.

Regret exceedingly cannot accept your kind invitation.

Abba Hillel Silver



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BRODHEAD AND PACKER AVENUES
BETHLEHEM, PENNA.

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Executive Secretary

September 11, 1936

Rabbi A. H. Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We have a community consisting of 150 members, and we have a fine taste for good lectures. We therefore would like very much to have the honor of your presence on any evening that is convenient for you during the months of November or December. However, we are not in a position to pay the full remuneration required by you. May we therefore appeal to your generosity to accept a fee of about \$100 plus expenses. This I feel would be the maximum we can afford to pay.

Hoping to receive a favorable reply and wishing you a HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS YEAR, I am, believe me

Sincerely yours,

A. Weissman

A. WEISSMAN
Executive Secretary

AW:CM

September 18, 1936

Mr. A. Weissman, Executive Secretary,
Brith Sholom Community Center,
Brodhead and Packer Avenues,
Bethlehem, Pa.

My dear Mr. Weissman:

I am deeply appreciative of your kind invitation to address the Brith Sholom Community Center during the months of November or December. I wish I were free to come. Unfortunately the amount of work facing me during the next few months as well as the number of out of town lectures engagements to which I have already committed myself make it quite impossible for me to accept any more this season. Perhaps at some future time I may be of service to you.

With best wishes for a very happy new year, permit me to remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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A. WEISSMAN
Executive Secretary



Brith Sholom
Community Center

BRODHEAD and PACKER AVES.
BETHLEHEM, PENNA.

June 1, 1937

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio



Dear Rabbi Silver:

On September 18, 1936 I received a communication from you which indicated that our hopes to have you speak in Bethlehem were not lost.

I also know that the remuneration of one hundred dollars which I offered in my communication to you is ridiculously low. Our members are very anxious to listen to Rabbi Silver and would go to the limits of our financial means. We are willing to accept any date you have available. We, however, plan four major programs which should take place during October, November, 1937 and March, May 1938.

Praying to receive a favorable reply, I am

Sincerely yours,

A. Weissman

A. WEISSMAN
Executive Secretary

m

June 7, 1937

Mr. A. Weissman, Executive Secretary,
Brith Sholom Community Center,
Brodhead and Packer Avenues,
Bethlehem, Pa.

My dear Mr. Weissman:

It may be possible for Rabbi Silver to
come to the Brith Sholom Community Center some week
night in March of 1938. His honorarium would be
\$200.

If you are interested, please let me
know.

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Rabbi Silver.

TELEPHONE
7-5143

PHILIP FRISHBERG

1716 W. UNION Bld.
~~527 SIXTH AVENUE~~
BETHLEHEM, PA.

August 22, 1950

Dr. ABA Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My Dear Dr. Silver:

After considerable thought and hesitation, giving due consideration to the many duties imposed upon you, I have decided to write you regarding a matter that is surely as vital to you as it is to us, The Eastern Pennsylvania Zionist region, in whose behalf this letter is written.

Permit me first to introduce myself. I am a brother to Mollie Goodman of Miami Beach. I have had the pleasure of meeting you on one or two occasions in the past, but I wouldn't expect you to remember me considering the number of people you have met through the years.

My purpose in writing you is to invite you to address our convention which is to be held at the Galen Hall Hotel in Wernersville, Pa. during the weekend beginning Friday October thirteenth ending with our banquet on Sunday night. We would be most delighted and honored to have you and Mrs. Silver spend the entire weekend with us at this beautiful vacation spot. We know you will enjoy it.

Our reasons in asking for your presence at our convention does not stem alone from a natural desire to have Dr. Silver add the grace and prestige that all such gatherings aspire to. They have rather more profound implications.

Our region as you might know is a little over two years old. It was born at a time when the enthusiasm for Zionism was at its height. It was not too difficult at that time to enlist the support of most of our people and communities no matter how backward they had been in their Zionist thinking. Today unfortunately, our region finds itself in a position where many former members and some entire communities are fast losing that interest, let alone the enthusiasm that was prevalent only two years ago.

TELEPHONE
7-5143

PHILIP FRISHBERG

527 SIXTH AVENUE
BETHLEHEM, PA.

This complacency and disinterest is gripping our people at such an alarming rate that if it is allowed to continue, the life of our region and all that it implies will definitely be endangered.

This must not and need not come to pass. A few experiences have shown us that the potential is still there. We have in our region communities that have become outstanding in their U.J.A. effort and have had not long ago a fairly active Zionist organization. Today these same communities are becoming weak in their giving and almost extinct in their thinking. I recall very vividly your words to the effect that one without the other will not work. Sadly enough we are now beginning to feel the effects.

Our hope is that if you can find the time to be with us, we can bring certain leaders to our convention who would otherwise not come. We could then look forward to living together two or three days in a Zionist atmosphere, the result of which may mean a new determination to do the job that still must be done.

If time will not allow you to spend the entire weekend with us, would it be possible for you to address us at our banquet Sunday night, or any of the other two nights that precede it. We shall be happy to meet you at the airport in Reading which is but seven miles away or anywhere else that will best facilitate your arrival. May I express the feeling of our regional leadership by telling you that if our region is to remain alive and active, we must have the support of the leadership that only Dr. Silver is capable of. We beg you to come.

Respectfully Yours,

Philip Frishberg
Philip Frishberg

P.S. May we hear from you soon, as our publicity is waiting for your reply.

September 7, 1950

Mr. Philip Frishberg
1716 W. Union Bld.
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

My dear Mr. Frishberg:

Permit me to acknowledge your kind letter of August 22nd which I found upon my return from Europe. I very much appreciate your gracious invitation that I address the Eastern Pennsylvania Zionist Region Convention the weekend of October 13th. It would give me great pleasure indeed to do so. Unfortunately, that weekend I am to deliver the principal address at the opening rally of the Cleveland Community Fund, and must officiate at several weddings of members of my congregation. It is, therefore, with regret that I must decline.

With all good wishes to you for a very successful convention, and hoping that I may be of service to you at some future time, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er