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Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

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# WESTERN UNION



# TELEGRAM

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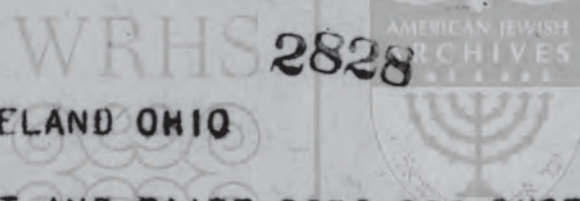
BRIDGEPORT CONN 14

RABBI AKIBA SILVER

CLEVELAND OHIO

CONNECTICUT WILL ACCEPT AND RAISE \$250,000 QUOTA IF YOU SPEAK AT  
DINNER FOR ONE THOUSAND PEOPLE AT HOTEL TAFT NEWHAVEN NEXT SUNDAY  
EVENING OUR COMMITTEE WILL DEFRAY TRAVELING EXPENSES PLEASE WIRE  
ACCEPTANCE

CHARLES H SHAPIRO CHAIRMAN FOR CONNECTICUT JUDGE JACOB CAPLAN STATE  
SECRETARY ISAAC M ULLMAN STATE TREASURER NEWHAVEN HEADQUARTERS  
1162 TEMPLE ST NEWHAVEN CONN.





Bridgeport, Conn. B

✓ \*

SHAPIRO, GOLDSTEIN & BRODY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JOSEPH G. SHAPIRO  
HARRY ALLISON GOLDSTEIN  
CHARLES S. BRODY

February 12, 1927

945 MAIN STREET  
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.  
PHONE NOBLE 147

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
c/o The Temple,  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

NO  
Sunday

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

I am writing to you on behalf of the Bridgeport Sunday Evening Community Forum which meets every Sunday evening at the United Congregational Church, in this City. The Forum is a non-sectarian association which has extended to it the courtesies of the church auditorium, its choir and all necessary details which enter into making the programs effective and influential in the City.

From time to time we have had among our speakers friends of yours such as Dr. Stephen Wise, Maurice Harris and Dr. Krass and Louis K. Anspacher. I have an impression that you come to the East and I have been requested by Dr. Day, Minister of the Church and the real guiding genius behind this movement to invite you to address the Forum in March or April, having open at present the following dates. March 6th, March 13th and April 3rd.

Bridgeport is a short distance from New York City and can be made by train in one hour and twenty minutes, and the speakers usually leave after the Forum at 9:37 arriving in New York about eleven o'clock.

While our funds, of course, are limited, the Forum does express its willingness to pay some of its speakers for their time and expense.

Would you be good enough to wire to me, sending your message collect, advising whether you plan to be in the vicinity of New York on the dates indicated, or whether it would be possible for you to arrange to be with us at our Forum on any one of those three Sundays, Forum being from seven until nine, with a short question period after it. If it is possible for you to be with us, will you also be good enough to advise me what charge you would consider so that we can immediately take it up with our Committee and make the necessary arrangements.



SHAPIRO, GOLDSTEIN & BRODY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

(2)

2/12/27

I might further advise you that we broadcast the services.

A number of our friends have urged upon us the advisability of endeavoring to have you here and Dr. Day, himself, suggested that it would be very appropriate if you could arrange to be with us to speak on the subject of Passover, or some topic akin to it.

If you wish to have any further information concerning us or particularly about me, I will be very happy to refer you to my very dear friend, Judge Mary B. Grossman of your City.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Joseph G. Shapiro*

JGS:IB



February Seventeenth  
1927

Mr. Joseph G. Shapiro,  
Attorney-at-Law,  
945 Main Street,  
Bridgeport, Connecticut.

My dear Mr. Shapiro,

I am sorry indeed that I cannot see my way clear to come to Bridgeport during March or April, or at any time, in fact, during the present season. My speaking schedule is so heavily over-crowded and my congregational duties so insistent as the season advances, that I am forced, in fairness to myself to refrain from adding to my obligations to speak.

Perhaps another season may afford me an opportunity to serve you and the Bridgeport community.

With kindest regards and best wishes for the continued success of your interesting Forum, I am

Very sincerely yours,



*Sunday Eve.*

**BRIDGEPORT, CONN.,**

WRHS



**Bridgeport Community Sunday Evening**

**Cor. Joseph G. Shapiro**

**945 Main Street**

**Bridgeport, Conn.**



CAV

Bridgeport, Conn.

B

\*  
1927-28

SHAPIRO, GOLDSTEIN & BRODY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JOSEPH G. SHAPIRO  
HARRY ALLISON GOLDSTEIN  
CHARLES S. BRODY

July 8, 1927.

945 MAIN STREET  
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.  
PHONE NOBLE 147

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
c/o The Temple,  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

You will recall that last spring, on behalf of the Bridgeport Community Sunday Evening Forum held under the auspices of the United Church of this City, you were invited to be one of its speakers on some subject as you yourself would designate. At that time you were unable to be with us.

A few days ago one of the officers of the Forum stated that she met you in the middle west and that you had suggested that you were planning an eastern trip in the fall and that you would be able to be in Bridgeport during that tour.

I am, therefore, again on behalf of the Forum, and as its President, extending to you a very cordial invitation to be with us in the fall and would ask if you would be good enough to advise me what date will be convenient for you so that we can make the necessary arrangements and give it proper publicity.

We have a number of dates already taken, the first one by Doctor Cadman, but if you will let us know when you can be with us, we will promptly make the necessary arrangements.

With kind personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Joseph G. Shapiro

JGS :B



July Twelfth  
1927

Mr. Joseph J. Shapiro,  
945 Main Street,  
Bridgeport, Connecticut.

My dear Mr. Shapiro,

Your letter of July eighth has been opened by me in the absence of Dr. Silver, who left Cleveland in June to spend the summer in Europe and Palestine. He will not return until September fifteenth. If it will not then be too late for your purpose I shall be glad to bring your invitation to his notice as soon as he reaches his office. Will you kindly let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary



B  
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1927-28

SHAPIRO, GOLDSTEIN & BRODY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JOSEPH G. SHAPIRO  
HARRY ALLISON GOLDSTEIN  
CHARLES S. BRODY

July 19, 1927.

945 MAIN STREET  
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.  
PHONE NOBLE 147

Miss Frances H. Jones,  
c/o The Temple,  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Miss Jones:-

I am in receipt of your letter of  
July 12th advising that my invitation, as President  
to the Forum, to Dr. Silver will be brought to his  
attention on his return.

Will you please be good enough to  
give this your consideration and advise as soon as you  
can concerning it?

Very truly yours,

*Joseph G. Shapiro*

JGS:B



# JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

836 FAIRFIELD AVE. ::: BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

TELEPHONE: 5-6031

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Feb. 15, 1935

Sidney Simon  
~~Harry L. Simon~~, *Executive Director*

Rabbi Silver  
The Temple  
Ansel Road E. 105th  
Cleveland, Ohio

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Mrs. Fred Stern  
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Arthur B. Weiss

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Since our last meeting at Camp Wigman, I have become the Executive Director of this Jewish Center.

Although this Center is nine years old this is its first year with professional supervision; its first year as more than a meeting house.

One of the many projects that I am trying to establish is a forum for the Jewish Community.

I am writing to you in the hope that you might be in the East during the next few months and have the time to speak here.

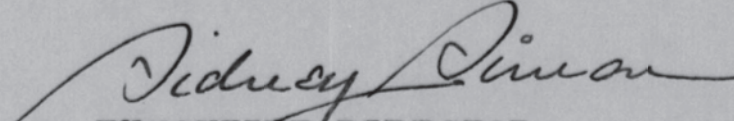
This Jewish Community numbers about 13,000.

It is very consciously Jewish and although it has its share of movements, auxiliaries, and arguments it is a closely knit community without any real internal disturbances.

I am most anxious to get my forum started well and trust that I might be able to have you here.

With best wishes from the lady (Ruth Adler) you married me to, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



February 26, 1935.

Mr. Sidney Simon, Executive Director,  
Jewish Community Center,  
836 Fairfield Ave.,  
Bridgeport, Conn.

My dear Mr. Simon:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of February 15. I am glad to know that you have become Executive Director of the Bridgeport Jewish Community Center and I hope that you are enjoying your work.

I wish I were free to come to you for your Forum meeting. Unfortunately I will not be in New England again this season. I was in Boston and at Harvard two weeks ago and my schedule will not permit me to take on any additional out of town lecture engagements this season.

Hoping that I may be of service to you at some future time and with all good wishes to you and your dear lady, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE TEMPLE EAST 105 ST AND ANSEL RD=

PLEASE WIRE VIA POSTAL IF AVAILABLE NOVEMBER TWENTIETH  
BRIDGEPORT TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS=

JANET G WEISMAN 220 5 AVE.

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Janet Weisman  
New York, N.Y.

- collect -

Regret cannot accept the invitation for Nov. 20.  
Am scheduled elsewhere

Leba Hilsh Silver





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PARENT ORGANIZATION OF

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220 FIFTH AVENUE  
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*Executive Director*

IRVING LEHMAN, *Honorary President*

June 18, 1940

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I regret that you were not available for November 20th for the Bridgeport Jewish Community Center. They are now offering the date of December 18th.

I shall appreciate your letting me know if this date is available.

With good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Janet G. Weisman*  
JANET G. WEISMAN

Director  
Jewish Center Lecture Bureau



June 25, 1940

Miss Janet G. Weisman, Director  
Jewish Center Lecture Bureau  
220 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

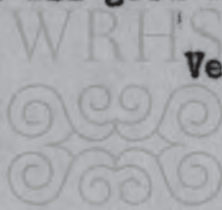
My dear Miss Weisman:

I regret that I will not be able to take  
on any additional engagements for next season as my  
program is already very crowded.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK





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of the NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

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JANET G. WEISMAN, Director

June 25, 1940

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

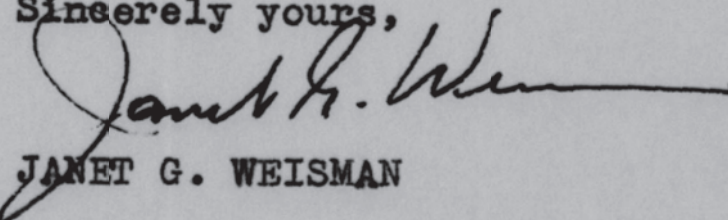
Dear Rabbi Silver:

I should very much appreciate hearing from you  
as to whether or not the date of December 18th will be con-  
venient for you to speak in Bridgeport.

The group is planning their forum course early  
and would like to make final arrangements soon.

With good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
JANET G. WEISMAN

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DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

EAST 105TH ST ANSEL RD CLEVE=

THE BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITY FORUM WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU AS ITS  
SPEAKER SUNDAY NIGHT MARCH 7 IF YOU PLAN TO BE IN THE EAST AT  
THAT TIME COULD YOU ARRANGE TO BE HERE? PLEASE WIRE REPLY  
COLLECT IF THIS DATE IS OPEN FOR YOU AND WE CAN DISCUSS  
DETAILS FURTHER BY CORRESPONDENCE:

: JOSEPH G SHAPIRO PRESIDENT.

7.1



Collect

10-15-42

Jos. Shapiro  
Bridgeport, Conn.

Regret exceedingly can not be with  
you & on March 7. Kindest regards.



A. H. Silver



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
THE TEMPLE  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
CLEVELAND 6, OHIO

April 11, 1946

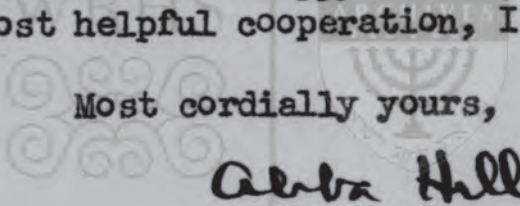
Dr. Samuel Wurzel  
73 John Street  
Bridgeport 3, Conn.

My dear Dr. Wurzel:

Thank you so much for your kind letter of April 19.  
I have since heard from Rabbi Felman and I have  
written to him suggesting that Mr. Carp meet me in  
New York, when I next visit the city next Thursday  
or Friday.

With all good wishes for a happy Pesach, and thanking  
you for your most helpful cooperation, I remain

Most cordially yours,

  
Abba Hillel Silver

AHS:GR



LEO NIEDELMAN  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
83 FAIRFIELD AVENUE  
BRIDGEPORT 3, CONNECTICUT

SUITE 412

TEL. 6-3509

December 12, 1950

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
Cleveland Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am writing to you as President of the Bridgeport Zionist District because of a serious membership problem in our city. Our district at its height, had a total membership of over one thousand. During the last two years this membership has fallen rather alarmingly and we closed our books last year with a total of 596. Even more disturbing than the fallen membership, is the complete apathy of our local membership and more particularly the officers and former leaders of the movement here.

Accordingly, Mr. Jack Rothenburg, a member of the National Administrative Council and myself went to New York last August to discuss the situation with Dr. Marks. We explained to him that, with the usual type of meetings, whether social or educational, we can only bring out a hand full of members, which further discourages the few workers we still have. He agreed with us, that a top name speaker, of our own organization, who could give us a talk with real substance, could help us back to a firmer footing.

The purpose of my letter is to ask whether it is at all possible for you to address one of our meetings some time in January, February, or March, provided, of course, that you intend to be in the east during these months. There is no question that your name, would bring out the members of our district, and we have been assured of the cooperation of the Community Council in publicizing your meeting throughout the rest of the Jewish community, as well.



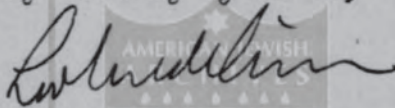
Leo Niedelman

December 12, 1950

-2-

Normally, of course, I would not address myself directly to you, nor even ask you to appear at the usual district meeting. However, I feel the situation here is very serious and unless a person of your calibre can be persuaded to appear and give the needed impetus to the district and its leaders, which a large attendance and (without intending any flattery) a good, authoritative, meaningful speech would do, I am very pessimistic about the future of the district.

Very truly yours,

  
Leo Niedelman

LN:MC



December 27, 1950

Mr. Leo Niedelman  
83 Fairfield Avenue  
Bridgeport 3, Connecticut

My dear Mr. Niedelman:

Please pardon the delay in answering your kind letter. I have been away from the city a good deal of the time.

I greatly appreciate your kind invitation to visit your community and to address the Zionists there. I wish I were free to come. However, I am already so heavily burdened with lecture engagements in all parts of the country that I cannot, in justice to myself, take on any additional responsibilities. Perhaps at some future time I may be free to come.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er



77

## Golden Jubilee Celebration

# BRIDGEPORT JEWISH NATIONAL FUND COUNCIL

Office of President

73 JOHN ST.  
BRIDGEPORT 3, CONN.

Phone 4-1275

February 20, 1951

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**Hon. President**

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Mrs. Joseph Lazare

**Recording Secretary**

Harold Zeidel

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

The Temple

East 105th St. at Ansel Road

Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

באמי אמונה ואלהימיות אלה קראתי את דבריך ואת חזונו

These holy words came to my mind while writing to you, inviting you to be the honored guest of Bridgeport Jewry at its Golden Jubilee celebration, to be held the end of April or beginning of May.

As president of the local Jewish National Fund Council, I was asked to write to you, and I am happy to do this. Nothing would make me happier than to have you accept this invitation. I must confess somehow, whenever important Zionist issues came up, I always lined up with you, so you see I consider myself a devoted ר' זא of yours as far as Zionism is concerned.

One of the most outstanding memories in my mind is an incident that took place a number of years ago at a Zionist convention in Atlantic City when some delegates challenged you and your delegation to represent Cleveland Zionists, because you organized a Cleveland Zionist Organization independent of the local Zionist District. Ezra Shapiro and others challenged your legality. ✓

This question caused quite an uproar at the Convention, delegates were divided into pro and con. I remember this question also came up at a caucus meeting of the Conn. region and I had a fight on my hands to line them up in your favor. This question finally came up before the Convention with Morris Rothenberg מ' ר in the chair, and by an overwhelming vote the delegates voted that you and your delegation be seated as accredited delegates.

Many, many times during my thirty-four years with the Z.O.A. important issues have come up and somehow I always found myself in your tent. Not long ago when the so-called progressive Zionists started their revolt, I was with you and Dr. Emanuel Neuman at that special conference at the Astor Hotel Conference.

In fact, Dr. Neuman remembers me well, going back to the olden days when he was the Executive Secretary of the Keren Hayesod and I served then as Secretary for the Keren Hayesod in Bridgeport.



My dear Dr. Silver, the reason I make this long introduction is because I don't want you to consider me one of the cranks who make many requests of you. I fully understand your high position and dignity, and that your time is very valuable, and yet in spite of all that, I dare make this request of you, because my love for Zion, Bridgeport Jewry and Zionists are determined to make this Jubilee celebration the most outstanding event in our city, and with your presence we can do it very successfully. Will you help us?

Bridgeport Jewry never had the pleasure of greeting you, and although we have had the privilege of welcoming many of the outstanding Zionist leaders in our movement. May Bridgeport Jewry have the great privilege of greeting its outstanding leader who did so much for the Independence of the State of Israel?

We have in mind that the celebration should take place sometime during the last days of April or the first days of May. Of course, we would gladly adjust the date to suit your own convenience in every respect.

May I, therefore, hope that and receive a favorable reply from you. Thank you very kindly for whatever consideration you may give me.

Very respectfully yours,

*Samuel Wurzel*

היום נא לידי ארצנו



February 26, 1951

Dr. Samuel Wurzel  
73 John Street  
Bridgeport 3, Connecticut

My dear Dr. Wurzel:

I deeply appreciate your letter and your gracious invitation. It would have given me great pleasure indeed if I were free to come to participate in the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Jewish National Fund, especially since you extend the invitation. Unfortunately, I cannot come, not because my time is too valuable, but because I have no time. I am so heavily booked up for the rest of the season with local and out-of-town engagements that I am afraid I have over-extended myself already. There is also a possibility of my going abroad this spring.

With all good wishes and hoping that I may have the pleasure some day of coming to Bridgeport and of seeing you again, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABRA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er