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**MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**  
Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

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Hammond, Indiana, 1924-1934.

Max Bretton  
Rabbi Beth El Congregation  
9 W. Highland St.  
Hammond, Indiana

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

We are preparing an Open Forum Course in Hammond, Ind., similar to that conducted by Mr. Schwartz of the Sinai Social Center.

We desire very much to have you as one of our lecturers. Our course is to be given on Wednesday evenings, November to February or March, inclusive. Hammond is just a few miles out of Chicago, and if you are to be in the Chicago vicinity, it will be an easy matter for you to reach us.

Hoping for a speedy reply stating whether you are available, date, and price,

Very sincerely yours,

Max Bretton

July Fourteenth  
1924

Rabbi Max Bretton,  
916 Hohman Street,  
Hammond, Indiana.

My dear Rabbi Bretton,

I cannot, at the present writing, say whether I can come to you for a lecture next year. My plans are very uncertain. We shall be opening our new building in the Fall and I may be extremely busy for the rest of the year. If I am free, I shall be very pleased to get in touch with you.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,



\* ?

1000 Keogh St.,  
Greensboro, N.C.  
Sept. 23, 1925.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Last Spring I wrote to you concerning a possible visit by you to Greensboro and an address to our community. You asked me to take up the matter with you in the Fall.

The community as a whole has been conducting an open forum which this year is having difficulty in maintaining itself. In order to put the forum on its feet a group of prominent Jews have offered to bring a distinguished Jewish speaker to Greensboro and present his address to the open forum. You have never spoken in Greensboro, and the members of my congregation who are back of this plan have asked me to tell you that you will be rendering the cause of Judaism a great service by coming to us. It is planned to present you, should you come, in the largest hall in the city and to make an event of your coming.

Our community is unique in that, tho small, it numbers among its members some of the most distinguished families of the south and some of the most successful in a material way.

Greensboro is an overnight ride from New York. An extra fare train makes the run in excellent time.

I am hoping that you will be able to come to us. With cordial regards and holyday greetings, I am,

Sincerely,  
*Milton Ellis*

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

October First  
1925

Rabbi Milton Ellis,  
1000 Keogh Street,  
Greensboro, North Carolina.

My dear Rabbi Ellis,

I want to thank you for your kind letter of September twenty-third. I have tried very hard to figure out how I could arrange to come to Greensboro. So far I have been unable to do it. It would take three or four days to make the round trip and I am not in a position now to say when I shall be able to spare three or four days out of my busy year. I am planning to be away a week or ten days in January or February. If I can manage it at that time, I shall get in touch with you.

With kindest regards and wishing you a very happy and pleasant year, I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,

Greensboro, N.C.\*

RABBI MILTON ELLIS  
GREENSBORO  
N. C.

Oct. 7, 1925.

My dear Rabbi Silver;

I have your letter of the 1st. in which you say you will be unable to tell me definitely if you will be able to come to Greensboro to speak to an open meeting of the open forum, until January or February. We shall make no other arrangements until we receive word from you within a month or two. I feel that you would enjoy visiting this community, and I am hoping that you will be able to include Greensboro in your speaking itinerary. Will you be good enough to let me hear from you at your earliest possible opportunity.

With cordial regards, I am,

Very sincerely,

*Milton Ellis*

Greensboro is an over night trip from New York.

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,  
Cleveland,  
Ohio.

\*✓

RABBI MILTON ELLIS  
GREENSBORO  
N. C.

Nov. 4, 1925.

My dear Rabbi Silver;

Rabbi Rypins of Wilmington told me that he spoke to you during the conference with regard to the possibility of a speaking tour thru North Carolina. I am hoping that you will be able to visit the communities about which he spoke to you, but in the event that you are unable to include them in your itinerary I want to remind you of my previous correspondence with you on behalf of Greensboro, and to recall to you that Greensboro is but an overnight trip from Atlanta and from New York and that it is our hope that we shall be able to present you before our local community open forum. I shall ask you to be good enough to let me know your plans as soon as possible, for our Jewish community has pledged itself to secure one speaker of the forum.

I trust that we shall be given the opportunity of welcoming you in Greensboro.

With cordial regards, I am

Sincerely,

*Milton Ellis*

*copy for letter*

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HAMMOND, INDIANA

May 21st, 1934.

Rabbi Abba Hellel Silver,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

The Hammond Open Forum, sponsored by Temple Beth El, is outlining its program for the Season of 1934 and 1935. We begin in October and hold sixteen lectures on Tuesdays Evenings, with a vaction of four or five weeks over the Christ-man and New Year period.

Ohr Forum, last year, was very successful in point of attendance and in fact, it was necessary to move to larger quarters than our Temple Building.

Enclose you will find a program which will give you an idea of the type program we conduct. However, there is one correction, to which I call to your attention and that is Dr. Stephen Wise was unable to fill his engagement with us last year.

Would you be interested in appearing on our platform next season? This Forum has developed into a civic activity and our attendance is 75% or more non Jewish. Will you be good enough to let me know whether you are interested; what dates on Tuesday Evenings you have available and the amount of honorarium.

Awaiting your reply, I am,

Yours very truly,

*Arthur J. Weiss*  
Chairman

AJW/c

May 24, 1934.

Mr. Arthur J. Weiss,  
Second Floor -- First Trust Building,  
Hammond, Indiana.

My dear Mr. Weiss:

It may be possible for me to come to your  
Open Forum some Tuesday evening next winter.

My honorarium is \$250. If the terms are  
acceptable, please let me know and I will indicate  
some of the evenings when I shall be free to come.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK