



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

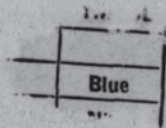
Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

Reel
200

Box
75

Folder
275

McKeesport, Pennsylvania, 1918-1952.



March 1st, 1918.

Mr. Murray Alstet,
603 Petty St.,
McKeesport, Pa.

Paid telegram - 2 P. M.

Sorry cannot come. Burden of work too great.

Rabbi A. H. Silver.



CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION



TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT 5516 EUCLID AVE., CLEVELAND, OHIO

88HU 20 7 EXA

MCKEESPORT PA 1120A MAR 1 1918

RABBI A SILVER

CLEVELAND OHIO

DINNER COMMITTEE PLANS HELD UP WIRE REPLY IMMEDIATELY TO TELLER OF 20

MURRAY ALSTET

603 PETTY ST MCK ESPORT PA

133P



ARMIN H. FRIEDMAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
211 PEOPLES BANK BLDG.
McKEESPORT, PA.

McKeesport, Pa.
June 14, 1920

Rabbi A. H. Silver
E. 55th and Central Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friend:-

Ere another week or so has passed by you will be on your way across the water. I trust that you will be able to fulfill the various undertakings which you are contemplating and that your contact with the big men of Israel will bring you back to us, re-inspired to do even bigger things, if that might be possible, for your people and your faith.

Hoping that you have a pleasant voyage and with many thanks for your hospitable attentions to me while in your midst, believe me to be

Sincerely yours

Armin H. Friedman

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

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RECEIVED AT 5516 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO

B56H RF 14-

MCKEESPORT PENN 232P AUG 30 1922

OF
SECY/RABBI SILVER

226

THE TEMPLE 55 ST CLEVELAND OHIO

WIRE IMMEDIATELY COLLECT ADDRESS OF RABBI SILVER THAT IMPORTANT
MESSAGE REACH HIM THIS FRIDAY

RABBI M A ALSTET

256P

9/17/22

Ans 4:10 PM 8/31/22

Mr. J. C. ...
23834 ...

CI

Collect Telegram

4 p.m.

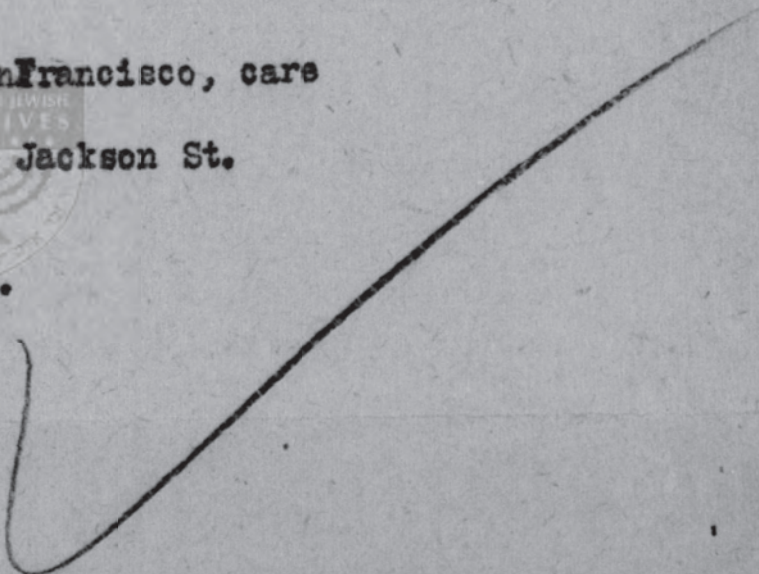
8/30/22

Rabbi M.A. Alstet
McKeesport, Pa.

Address Rabbi Silver, San Francisco, care

Rabbi Martin Meyer, 3108 Jackson St.

The Temple.

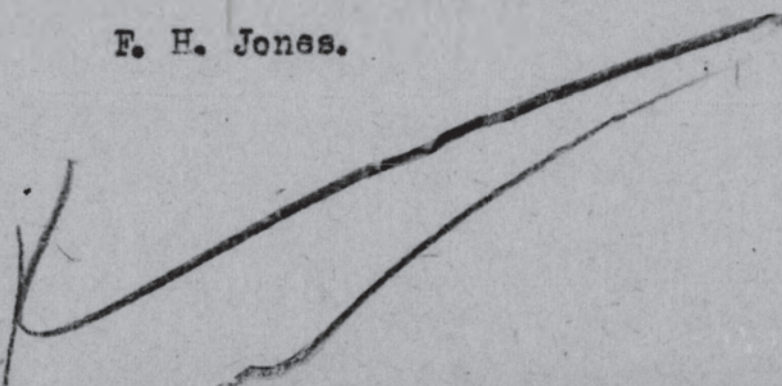


Paid Day Letter

Rabbi M. A. Alstet
McKeesport, Pa.

Rabbi Silver passed through Cleveland yesterday and I placed before him your invitation for September 17th. He regrets exceedingly that it will be utterly impossible for him to make any other out of town engagements for September or October.

F. H. Jones.



McKEESPORT, PA.

JUNE 7TH. 1923.

RABBI A. H. SILVER.
THE TEMPLE
CLEVELAND, OHIO.

DEAR COLLEAGUE:-

PERMIT ME AT THE OUTSET TO EXTEND YOU AND MRS. SILVER MAZOL TOVE GREETINGS AND PERSONAL BEST WISHES FOR THE HAPPINESS OF THE NUPTIAL UNION.

YOU NO DOUBT REMEMBER OUR CONVERSATION LAST SUMMER AND THE SUBSEQUENT CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO COMING OVER TO McKEESPORT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CORNER STONE LAYING CEREMONIES OF OUR NEW TEMPLE.

IN REPLY TO OUR INVITATION, YOU EXPRESSED REGRET AT YOUR INABILITY TO MAKE THE TRIP TO OUR CITY, OWING TO PREVIOUS LECTURE ENGAGEMENTS OUT WEST, BUT YOU EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF TAKING PART IN THE DEDICATION PROGRAM LATER.

WITH THE EDIFICE NEARING COMPLETION AND THE PROGRAM OF DEDICATION ABOUT TO BE DRAWN UP, I THOUGHT OF WRITING YOU AGAIN, AS A GENTLE REMINDER, OF THE OPPORTUNITY THAT IS YOURS TO HAVE YOUR EXPRESSED WISHES FULLFILLED

WE NOT ONLY DESIRE YOUR PRESENCE ~~ON THE DAY~~ ^{at} THE DEDICATION, BUT PLAN TO HAVE YOU BE THE FESTIVE SPEAKER OF THE OCCASION. I NEED NOT COUNT FOR YOU THE HOST OF ADMIRERS AND FRIENDS OF YOURS THAT WILL BE THERE TO MEET AND GREET YOU FROM PITTSBURGH AND VICINITY.

THAT DAY WILL BE A GALA DAY IN LOCAL JEWERY, INASMUCH AS THE TEMPLE IS A COMMUNITY MOVEMENT, IN WHICH ORTHODOX AS WELL AS REFORMED JEWS ARE KEENLY INTERESTED, AND THESE ARE EXPECTED TO TURN OUT IN NUMBERS TO ATTEND THE CELEBRATION. THERE WILL ALSO BE IN ATTENDANCE MANY NOTABLE MEN AND WOMEN, JEW ~~AND~~ AND NON-JEW ~~AND~~ AS WELL, FROM THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH.

IN THE EVENING, WE SHALL HAVE A BANQUET THAT WILL ALSO SERVE AS A CONGREGATIONAL REUNION. IT IS OUR PLAN TO HAVE YOU DELIVER THE MAIN ADDRESS OF THE EVENING AND CLOSE IT WITH AN APPEAL FOR FUNDS TO HELP THE TEMPLE REDUCE ITS BUILDING INDEBTEDNESS.

IF YOU DECIDE TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION, AS I HOPE YOU WILL, YOU CAN SUIT YOURSELF - EITHER DELIVER TWO ADDRESSES, ONE IN THE AFTERNOON AND ANOTHER IN THE EVENING, OR SPEAK VERY BRIEFLY FOR A FEW MINUTES IN

(2)

THE AFTERNOON AND ~~THE~~ DELIVER THE MAIN ADDRESS AT THE BANQUET.
DO NOT HESITATE TO WRITE ME WHAT YOUR FEES FOR SERVICES ~~WOULD~~ BE.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, LET ME STATE THAT THE CONGREGATION
IS A CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATION, USING THE JASTROW PRAYER BOOK AND
CONDUCTING SERVICES WITH ORGAN AND CHOIR. THERE IS NO OTHER LIBERAL
CONGREGATION IN THE CITY. THE NEW BUILDING WILL COST ABOUT \$135,000.00
WE EXPECT ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED PEOPLE TO ATTEND THE BANQUET.

ONCE MORE EXTENDING YOU FELICITATIONS AND WITH BEST
WISHES FOR THE ULTIMATE SUCCESS OF YOUR OWN BUILDING PROJECT, AND
TRUSTING TO HEAR FROM YOU EARLY NEXT WEEK, I REMAIN,

FAITHFULLY AND CORDIALLY YOURS,

Murray Adstet

P.S.

invol 2/16

*The date set for
the dedication is
Aug 26. If Sep 2nd
suits you better,
I can have it postponed
for a week later.*



June 14th, 1923.

Rabbi H. A. Alstet,
McKeesport, Pa.

My dear Rabbi Alstet,

Please pardon the delay in replying to your letter of June 7th. I have been so busy with our own Temple project that my correspondence has lagged a bit. I shall try to be with you on the occasion of the dedication of your new Temple. I will come if nothing of serious import detains me here, for the evening meeting. I will not make an appeal for funds, but I will lead up to it. I could come during the month of August. I will not be able to get away in September as that is the holiday month. Let me know what date you definitely fix for your dedication service and I will try to set that day aside for you if at all possible.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Murray A. Alstet

RABBI
TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

RESIDENCE
603 PETTY STREET
BELL PHONE 2966-J

McKEESPORT, PA. 6/20/23/

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

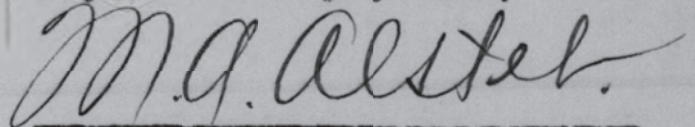
My Dear Rabbi Silver=

Received your letter and
transmitted its contents to my committee. I need
not tell you how delighted its members were to
hear of your acceptance.

The date set for the dedication
is August 26th.

Wishing you in the interim a
delightful summer with lots of rest and recreation.

Very cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "M. A. Alstet".

RABBI TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL.

Temple B'nai Israel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FRANK R. S. KAPLAN, PRESIDENT
EUGENE KROW, VICE PRESIDENT
SIMON KALKSTONE, TREASURER
HENRY FRIEDMAN, CHAIRMAN
ABE M. SIMON
JOSEPH A. SIMON
JACOB L. NAYHOUSE
DR. NOAH SUNSTEIN
CHAS. H. ROSENBLEET
JOSEPH KALKSTONE
DAVID SAMUELS

MAX D. GREENFIELD, SECRETARY

COR. LINCOLN AND SHAW AVES.

MURRAY A. ALSTET, RABBI

McKeesport, Pa., August 2nd. 1923

Rabbi A.H. Silver,
c/o The Temple,
East 55th. St.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Colleague:-

Just a gentle reminder of the gala day coming in McKeesport Jewery, the dedication of the new Temple on August 26th., and the big banquet following in the evening at which you will be the festive speaker.

The building itself is nearing completion and the people are eagerly looking forward to the opening of its doors.

Trusting that you and yours are spending an enjoyable summer, with personal regards,
cordially yours,

Rabbi Murray A. Alstet.

P.S. - A few days before the 26th. I shall write you again advising on the trip you are to make, railroad schedules and meeting at the stations etc.

5/26/24

B. W. Grills,
Chamber of Commerce,
McKeesport, Pa.

Regret cannot come on June third
or any day that week.



CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N L

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WESTERN UNION



TELEGRAM

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NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 5604 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. Randolph 11

14H RF 548 EXTRA NL DUPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAM

MCKEESPORT PENN MAY 25 1924

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

11

TEMPLE 55 AND CENTRAL CLEVELAND OHIO

BOARD DIRECTORS MCKEESPORT COMMERCIAL COMMERCE VERY MUCH DESIRE THAT
YOU ADDRESS OUR ANNUAL MEETING EVENING JUNE THIRD ON ORGANIZING FOR
SERVICE BRINGING OUT NEED FOR CHAMBER COMMERCE IN COMMUNITY STOP
PLEASE WIRE COLLECT BY WESTERN UNION STATING HONORARIUM AND OFFERING
OTHER DATES THAT WEEK IF THIRD POSSIBLE

B W GRILLS SEC MCKEESPORT
CHAMBER COMMERCE

830A MAY 26 1924

~~J. R. Nichols - Kivania -~~

~~Reverna, Ohio~~

~~July - 815 - 7.21.29 -~~

~~12-1 - ending~~

WRHS



ARMIN H. FRIEDMAN
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
211 PEOPLES BANK BLDG.
McKEESPORT, PA.

April 10th
1925

Rabbi Abba H. Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi:-

McKeesport Lodge, No. 573, I.O.B.B., of which I am still the executive head is planning an affair to celebrate its 21st anniversary and is to take place either towards the latter part of May or the first part of June, preferably on a Sunday evening. The date, however, is being left open with a view of having you with us on that occasion to deliver the chief address.

I quite realize that you are a very busy man and I am quite sure that the response which you will receive will more than recompense for the sacrifice of your coming.

Of course, you realize, that we are in no position to pay as large an honorarium as Pittsburgh could but will be able, I am sure, to take care of you satisfactorily on that score.

I am greatly indebted to you for the success of the affair of last year when you were good enough to suggest to me Rabbi Wm. H. Fineshriber who came here and who, I am sure, was greatly impressed with the occasion. I am enclosing a newspaper report of Rabbi Fineshriber's visit, so that, you can see for yourself that the affairs which we are putting on here are quite noteworthy.

I trust that I will hear from you soon in the affirmative in which you shall give us the date when you can come here, so that we can go ahead with the necessary arrangements to make your coming an epochal event in the history of the Jewry in this section.

Trusting this letter finds you in the best of health,
I am,

Sincerely yours,

Armin H. Friedman

AHF:ES
ENCL-1

→ Come

April Fourteenth
1925

Mr. Armin H. Friedman,
211 Peoples Bank Building,
McKeesport, Penna.

My dear Mr. Friedman,

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of April tenth containing the invitation to address the McKeesport Lodge, No. 573, I.O.B.B. I wish I were in a position to accept, but my schedule for the entire month of May is very full and I am sailing for Europe during the first week in June.

Perhaps at some future time I may be in a position to serve you.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,



THE TEMPLE BROTHERHOOD

Temple B'nai Israel

OFFICERS:

WM. P. BRODER	PRESIDENT
PHILLIP KESSLER	VICE-PRESIDENT
ISAAC BROWN	TREASURER
SIDNEY A. KAPLAN	SECRETARY
BEN BROWN	Rep. TEMPLE BOARD
Dr. J. D. FARKAS	EX-OFFICIO
OSCAR FEINBERG	DIRECTOR

affiliated with



ADVISORY BOARD:

SAM. H. HIRSHBERG	DIRECTOR
JOSEPH ODLE	DIRECTOR
JOSEPH KAPLAN	DIRECTOR
ARMIN H. FRIEDMAN	DIRECTOR
Dr. ALLEN SAFIER	DIRECTOR
RALPH KAMINSKY	DIRECTOR
JOEL HARRIS	DIRECTOR

McKEESPORT, PENNA.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

523 Walnut Street, McKeesport, Penna.

Jan. 22, 1934

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E 105th at Ansell Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We have been in touch with Mr. Harry Randall of the Temple Brotherhood of Johnstown, Penna., and he informs us that you are to speak in Johnstown on February 15th.

If such be the case we would like to know if you by any chance could arrange your schedule so that you might stop in McKeesport either the day before or the day after the 15th.

Awaiting your early reply with appreciation, we are

Sincerely Yours

TEMPLE BROTHERHOOD.

Sidney A. Kaplan
Secretary

613 Fifth Ave
McKeesport, Penna.

Meets first and third Wednesday, 8:30 o'clock, at Temple B'nai Israel

January 26, 1934.

Mr. Sidney A. Kaplan,
613 Fifth Ave.,
McKeesport, Penna.

My dear Mr. Kaplan:

I regret very much that it will not be possible for me to come to McKeesport the day before or after my visit to Johnstown on February 15th. I am to be in New York on February 14th and I must be back in Cleveland on the 16th. Perhaps at some future time I may be of service to you.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

TELEPHONES
2-3632 • 3-8322

536 SHAW AVENUE

McKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

July 29, 1952

G. J. SELKOWITZ
EXEC. SECRETARY

WOLLI KAEALTER
RABBI
PHONE 8-2783

ISRAEL TABATSKY
CANTOR
PHONE 8-4345

The Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

The week-end of September 5 - 7 will be observed by Temple B'Nai Israel of McKeesport to celebrate three joyous occasions: 1. the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the congregation; 2. the thirtieth anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the present Temple; 3. the dedication of a new school building.

Dr. Freehof has been asked to preach the sermon at the anniversary service Friday night and your nephew, Harold, will speak at the youth service Saturday morning. Former rabbis of the congregation will share the honors at the dedication exercises Sunday.

On behalf of the committee, I should like to extend to you an invitation to be the speaker at the banquet at the Ankara Sunday night, which will climax the entire program.

May I add that I would consider it a personal favor if you would find it possible to accept this invitation. Temple B'Nai Israel is a relatively recent affiliate of the Union and constitutes an island of liberalism in a community which has three orthodox congregations. The message of a vital, living Judaism, as it comes from your inspired personality, is sorely needed here. Besides, I cannot think of anyone who could dramatize more significantly the challenge of Jewish education which the new school facilities fling at our Temple family.

Connections between Pittsburgh and Cleveland are relatively good and we could see to it that you could return there the same evening if you should wish.

I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience so that our committee may plan accordingly.

With best wishes for a pleasant and restful summer, and kindest regards,
I am

Sincerely,

Wolli Kaelter

Rabbi Wolli Kaelter

July 30, 1952

Rabbi Wolli Kaelter
Temple B'nai Israel
536 Shaw Avenue
McKeesport, Pennsylvania

Dear Rabbi Kaelter:

In answer to your letter of July 29 inviting Rabbi Silver to speak, I am sorry to inform you that he is vacationing in Europe and is not expected to return until the first week of September.

Although his secretary is now also on vacation, upon checking Rabbi Silver's date book I find that he has several congregational weddings scheduled for the evening of September 7th. I, therefore, sincerely think that Rabbi Silver will be unable to accept your kind invitation.

Very truly yours,

Ruth L. Hirsch
Secretary to Rabbi Stone

(RLH)

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

TELEPHONES
2-3632 • 3-8322

536 SHAW AVENUE

McKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

August 11, 1952

G. J. SELKOWITZ
EXEC. SECRETARY

WOLLI KAEALTER
RABBI
PHONE 8-2783

ISRAEL TABATSKY
CANTOR
PHONE 8-4345

The Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you for the prompt response to our letter of July 29, through the medium of your efficient office staff, indicating that you would be unable to celebrate with us on Sunday evening, September 7th, as guest speaker.

In view of your commitments at that time, we have changed the date to the weekend of October 3 through the 5th, in anticipation of your joining with us, Temple B'Nai Israel, on October 5th as speaker at the banquet which will climax the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the congregation, the thirtieth anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone and the dedication of a new school building.

Upon return from your vacation, will you please inform us at once whether this date is convenient for you.

Sincerely,

Wolli Kaelter

Rabbi Wolli Kaelter

September 5, 1952

Rabbi Wolli Kaelter
Temple B'nai Israel
536 Shaw Avenue
McKeesport, Pennsylvania

My dear Rabbi Kaelter:

Upon my return from Europe this morning, I found your communications of July 29th and August 11th, inviting me to address a banquet celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of your congregation. It would have given me great pleasure indeed to be with you. Unfortunately, my schedule of congregational activities during the month of October is so full that it is impossible for me to leave the city. I want to extend to you and the members of Temple B'nai Israel my heartiest felicitations and best wishes for many years of service in your community.

With all good wishes for a very happy New Year, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er