



## 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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Meadville, Pennsylvania, 1925-1942.



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MEADVILLE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

INCORPORATED 1947

MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FRANKLIN C. SOUTHWORTH, A.M., D.D., LL.D.  
PRESIDENT AND DEAN OF FACULTY.

WALTER C. GREEN, A.M., S.T.B.,  
LIBRARIAN AND SECRETARY OF FACULTY.

January 16, 1925.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,

Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Silver:

We are in the habit of inviting, from time to time, some of our liberal ministers in this part of the world to address our little company of students at Meadville. Dr. Lyttle and Mr. Lupton, of our Board of Trustees, have expressed the opinion that you might be willing to make a trip to Meadville for this purpose. Would it be possible for you to come at some time in January or February and give such an address, and if so, on what financial conditions would you be willing to come?

Hoping that you will be good enough to give this invitation favorable consideration, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

*F. C. Southworth*

FCS:L



January Seventeenth  
1925

Dr. F. C. Southworth,  
Meadville Theological School,  
Meadville, Pennsylvania.

My dear Dr. Southworth,

Permit me to thank you for your kind invitation to address the student body of the Meadville Theological School. I shall be very pleased to avail myself of the opportunity. I could come on Monday, February 25th. Are your assemblies held during the day or in the evening?

The matter of honorarium I would leave entirely to you.

With kindest regards, I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,



MEADVILLE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL  
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

January 23, 1925.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Silver:

I am delighted to hear that you will be able to give us the desired lecture, and have been looking into the matter of an available date. You name Monday, February 25, as a date which would be possible for you. I am wondering whether you do not mean Monday, February 23? It happens that that date is one of the most difficult dates for us during the month. Would it be possible for you to make it Monday the 16th in the early evening? If so, the Meadville Chapter of the Unitarian Laymen's League would like to invite you to dinner at the Unitarian Parish House, and to invite the students of the School also. It would give you a somewhat better hearing than our Chapel would afford, and gratify the Laymen's League at the same time. I hope, therefore, that this may be possible for you.

The School can pay an honorarium of \$50.00 for the lecture, if this will be satisfactory to you.

The lecture would be announced as on the Adin Ballou foundation, which covers the general field of the social problem in its numerous ramifications, - moral, political, international, etc. Perhaps you will name two or three topics on which you are prepared to speak which would be of interest not only to our little group of students but also to the people who might come in from outside.

Awaiting your pleasure, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

*F. C. Sanborn*

FCS:L



January 27th, 1925.

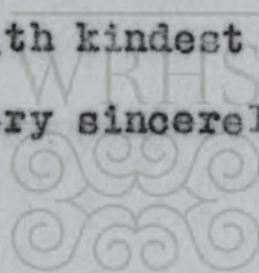
Dr. F. C. Southworth,  
Meadville Theological School,  
Meadville, Pa.

My dear Dr. Southworth,

Permit me to acknowledge your letter of January 23rd. I am sorry that I cannot come on February 16th in as much as I have another engagement that evening. I could come to you some time in March, say March 23rd if that is convenient for you.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,





MEADVILLE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL  
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

January 31, 1925.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
East 105th St.at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland, O.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have yours of January 27, saying that you cannot come on February 16, but will be available sometime in March. Unfortunately March 23d falls within our Spring recess. Would it not be possible for you to come on March 9? That seems to be, on the whole, the most convenient time for us.

Thanking you for an early reply, and with cordial greetings, I remain,

FCS:L

Sincerely yours,

*F. C. Southworth*



February 3rd, 1925.

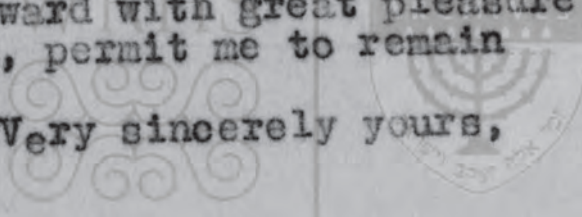
Dr. F. C. Southworth,  
Meadville Theological School,  
Meadville, Pa.

My dear Dr. Southworth,

I should be very happy to  
be with you on March 9th. Please let  
me know whether this is to be an afternoon  
or an evening meeting so that I may arrange  
my train time accordingly.

With kindest regards and  
looking forward with great pleasure to  
meeting you, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,





MEADVILLE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL  
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

February 5, 1925.

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

My dear Dr. Silver:

I am very much pleased to hear that you can be with us on the 9th of March. Our plan for the meeting is that it shall be preceded by a dinner of the Laymen's League down town, the lecture to follow the dinner. The meeting will be called at 6:30.

There is a train from Cleveland leaving at 10:05 A.M. and arriving in Meadville at 3:12 P.M. You can get a train to Cleveland leaving Meadville at 10:03 A.M. and arriving in Cleveland at 1:45 P.M. We shall be very glad to have you occupy the guest room at the School over night, since I take it that it will be hardly practicable for you to return to Cleveland after the lecture.

Will you be kind enough to indicate two or three, or more, subjects on which you are prepared to speak, giving us, if possible, the privilege of selecting from among them?

Sincerely yours,

*J. C. Southworth*

FCS:L



February 12th, 1925.

Dr. F.C. Southworth,  
Headville Theological School,  
Headville, Pa.

My dear Dr. Southworth,

I am submitting a few  
lecture subjects from which please  
select the one which you think would  
be most appropriate for the occasion.

1. Church and World Peace. (The  
address which I delivered before a con-  
ference of Religious Liberals held in  
New York last October.

2. Is Progress a Myth.

3. The Fundamental Needs of  
Human Life.

With kindest regards, permit  
me to remain

Very sincerely yours,



MEADVILLE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL  
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

February 16, 1925.

Ranni Abba Hillel Silver,  
East 105th St. at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Silver:

I have your letter of February 12 and would say in reply that the first topic, namely, The Church and World Peace, seems to us on the whole to be the theme that we would most like to have you treat. There has been a desire on the part of a number of us to have that subject treated during the present Winter, and I think that a lecture from you on that subject would be useful to the community as well as to our School.

Shall we look for you on train number eight, arriving in Meadville at 3:05 P.M., and will you not accept the hospitality of our guest room for March 9th?

Sincerely yours,

*F.C. Southworth*

FCS:L

P.S. You will probably receive an invitation from our Laymen's League to be their guest at dinner at 6:30 preceding the hour for your lecture.

F.C.S.



February 18th, 1925.

Dr. F.C. Southworth,  
Meadville Theological School,  
Meadville, Pa.

Myndear Dr. Southworth,

I shall arrive in  
Meadville on the 3:05 train.  
I shall be very happy to avail  
myself of your kind hospitality.

With kindest regards,

I am

Very sincerely yours,

WRHS  






Meadville, Penna.,  
February 21, 1925.

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am writing you as the Secretary of the Unitarian Laymen's League chapter of Meadville for certain information which we need in connection with the publicity we desire to give to the address you are to make on March 9th in this city. You are to be the guest of the Meadville Theological School, of course, since your coming to Meadville is made possible thru the Ballou Lecturship but the meeting at which you are to appear is being handled under the auspices of the League chapter. It is hoped that a cooperative effort of this kind will enable us to extend to more of the citizens of Meadville than would otherwise be possible the privilege of hearing you. I take this opportunity, therefore, of inviting you to be the guest of the men and women of the Unitarian church at a dinner which will precede your address and will be held at 6:30 P. M. at the church on the evening of March 9th.

In connection with your address I am naturally anxious to get as much local publicity as possible. If, therefore, it is possible for you to send me a few of the facts of interest in your past experience, a cut of yourself for the local newspapers, and any other material you may care to enclose I shall very much appreciate it. We want the occasion to be a success - both for you and for Meadville. We feel certain we can fill the church where you are to speak if we give your appearance the advance notice which it deserves. We hear the finest things about you and the subject upon which you are to speak is



certainly one to arouse attention. Will you, therefore, send me the facts I need at your earliest convenience and let me know if you will find it convenient to be the guest of the League chapter for supper on the evening of your appearance here in Meadville.

Very truly yours,

*Robert B. Day*

Theological School,  
Meadville, Penna.





February 24th, 1925.

Mr. Robert B. Day,  
Meadville Theological School,  
Meadville, Pa.

My dear Mr. Day,

Permit me to thank  
you for your kind letter of  
February 21st. I shall be very  
pleased to be with the members  
of the Unitarian Church at dinner  
on the evening of March 9th. Under  
separate cover I am sending you a  
photograph.

With kindest regards  
permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,





MEADVILLE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

C O P Y

March 3, 1925.

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

My dear Dr. Silver:

It has been our custom to print, in the course of each year, two or three of the best of our Ballou lectures. I am wondering whether, by any chance, the lecture which you are to give on Monday night is in manuscript, and, if not, whether you would be willing to dictate it to a stenographer to be provided by us while you are here? If so, it would please us very much to be permitted to print it in the Meadville Quarterly Bulletin.

FCS:L

Cordially yours,

(Signed) F.C.Southworth



MEADVILLE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL  
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

March 3, 1925.

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

My dear Dr. Silver:

It has been our custom to print, in the course of each year, two or three of the best of our Ballou lectures. I am wondering whether, by any chance, the lecture which you are to give on Monday night is in manuscript, and, if not, whether you would be willing to dictate it to a stenographer to be provided by us while you are here? If so, it would please us very much to be permitted to print it in the Meadville Quarterly Bulletin.

FCS:L

Cordially yours,

G. C. Southworth



MEADVILLE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL  
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

March 11, 1925.

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

My dear Dr. Silver:

I am enclosing a carbon copy of a letter to you on March 3d, which I fear did not reach you. It was my intention to speak to you about it while you were here but other matters seem to have driven it from my mind, and our Bulletin Committee is now asking me whether I secured your manuscript. If your lecture is not in manuscript and you would be willing to dictate it to a stenographer and send it to us, the School will be glad to reimburse you for the expense incurred. The Committee is desirous of getting the material for our next Bulletin into the hands of the printer at once, and is particularly eager to be able to print your lecture, now that we have had the great pleasure of hearing it.

Hoping that you will be able to do us this additional favor, and with cordial greetings, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

*J. C. Southworth*

FCS:L



WRHS



2756 Hampshire  
Rd

F. 5587



March Sixteenth  
1925

Dr. F. C. Southworth,  
P r e s i d e n t,  
Meadville Theological Seminary,  
Meadville, Pennsylvania.

My dear Dr. Southworth,

Enclosed please find a copy of the address which I delivered before your community last week. I have been somewhat delayed in sending it to you, on account of my absence from the city. I trust that it is not too late.

I need not tell you how much I enjoyed my visit to Meadville. I am grateful to you for the privilege of meeting the fine men on your faculty and in your student body. It was an experience which I shall long treasure.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,



MEADVILLE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

March 18, 1925.

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am very much indebted to you for sending me so promptly the typewritten copy of your address. It arrives in time to be printed in our bulletin and the Bulletin Committee is much pleased to receive it.

Thanking you again, and with grateful remembrance of your addresses in Meadville, I remain,

FCS:L

Cordially yours,

B. C. Southworth



✓\*

Meadville, Penna.,  
Jan. 23, 1926.

My dear Rabbi Silva:

The annual meeting of the Meadville District Unitarian Conference will be held in Youngstown, Ohio, March 21-23 of this year. Numerous requests from the members of our student-body and the faculty have been received by me, as Secretary, to have you appear as one of the speakers of that Conference. I know you are an exceedingly busy man but I am writing nevertheless, in the hope that you may be able to address a Sunday evening meeting on March 21st at 8:00 P. M. Personally I should delight in hearing you once more.

The Conference is made up of some twelve of our churches of which Cleveland is one. Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Dayton and Youngstown are others. We meet this year in a new church building in Youngstown and because the Theological School is moving to Chicago in the Fall this is the last time that the students and faculty will be in attendance at a meeting of this Conference. In view of all these facts we are anxious that our program should be a success.

The funds of the Conference amount to almost nothing and we are able, therefore, to offer you your expenses and your entertainment only. We wish it were otherwise. But you may be sure it would be a pleasure for us not merely to hear you but to have among us at a time of reunion and inspiration like that a personality so radiant as your own.

I still remember most cordially our visit in Meadville and the impression upon the students of your address was so great that they frequently mention it today.

Yours very cordially,

*Robert B. May*  
Secretary.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.

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January Twenty-seventh  
1926

Dr. Robert B. Day,  
Secretary, Meadville District  
Unitarian Conference,  
Meadville, Pennsylvania.

My dear Dr. Day,

I should be very happy indeed if I were in a position to avail myself of your very kind invitation to speak at the Unitarian Conference to be held in Youngstown on the evening of March 21st. I have,, however, another important engagement for that date.

I hope that there will be an occasion at some future time for me to serve your organization.

With kindest regards, I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,



## THE STONE CHURCH

*Methodist Episcopal*

CHESTNUT at SOUTH MAIN  
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

January 15, 1931

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

Would it be possible for you to come to Meadville on Wednesday February 11th and speak at Allegheny College Chapel at 11:45 a. m. and at the Meadville Open Forum at 8:15 that evening?

Meadville is about 85 miles from Cleveland by auto by way of Chardon and Linesville, or you can get a train out of Cleveland at 5:45 and leave here at 9:25 p. m.

Our funds are very limited, but we could pay an honorarium of \$50.00.

Would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

*G. S. Lackland*  
G. S. Lackland

GSL:FT



card ✓

Jan. 16th, 1931

Dr. G. S. Lackland,  
The Stone Church,  
Meadville, Pa.

My dear Dr. Lackland:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter and for the invitation which you extend to me to address the Allegheny College group and the Meadville Open Forum on February 11th.

I wish I were free to accept. Unfortunately I have an engagement scheduled for that evening.

My lecture program for this season is overcrowded and I must forego the pleasure of accepting any additional engagements until next season.

Trusting that I may be of service to you at some future time and with best wishes, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR



MILDRED R. BRUNNER, *Secretary*  
RUTH L. UNDERWOOD  
*Director of Religious Education and Visitation*

G. S. LACKLAND, D. D., *Minister*

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## THE STONE CHURCH

*Methodist Episcopal*

CHESTNUT at SOUTH MAIN  
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

5

September 22, 1931.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
Euclid Avenue Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Last year you were kind enough to suggest that we write you early in the year for a date for you to speak at the Chapel of Allegheny College, and address the Meadville Open Forum.

We have the following dates open: October 28th; November 4th, 11th; December 2nd, 9th, and 16th. We pay an Honarium of Fifty Dollars. It is a ninety mile drive from Cleveland, coming by way of Chardon and Linesville. May I not hear from you at your earliest convenience?

Expressing my personal obligation to you for your marvelous book, I am

Cordially yours,

*G. S. Lackland*  
G. S. Lackland.

GSL:MB



*care*

Sept. 23d, 1931

Dr. G. S. Lackland,  
The Stone Church,  
Meadville, Penna.

My dear Dr. Lackland:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter  
of Sept. 22d.

I have undertaken numerous responsibilities  
both local and national for the coming year which make it  
impossible for me to accept any more out-of-town lecture  
engagements. I am therefore constrained to forego the  
pleasure of addressing the Allegheny College and the Meadville  
Open Forum this season.

Perhaps you will be kind enough to keep me in  
mind for another year.

With kindest regards and best wishes, permit  
me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/TR



THE MEADVILLE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

*Founded in Pennsylvania in 1844*

5701 WOODLAWN AVENUE, CHICAGO

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 16th 1934

My dear Rabbi Silver:-

Our students, noticing that you are to preach in the University chapel on December second, have asked if there is any possibility of their being able to meet you while you are in Chicago. Would it be possible for you to lunch at Meadville House quite informally on Monday or Tuesday, or later, if you are to stay in Chicago during the week? After luncheon there would be an opportunity for you to speak, and for our students to engage in some discussion with you. Our lecture funds, like all funds, are sadly depleted just now, so we can offer in the way of a fee only a small token of our appreciation, namely, \$15.00.

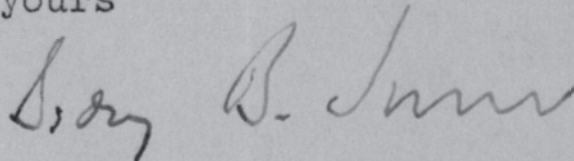
We are a small group (twenty students all told) but our young men are alert and interesting. I know they would greatly benefit by meeting you, and I think you would enjoy them.

Dilworth Lupton is a graduate of our School, and has served us in the past as trustee.

Hoping that you can accept this invitation, and looking forward to the pleasure of meeting you,

I am,

Faithfully yours



Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio



November 27, 1934.

President, Meadville Theological School,  
5701 Woodlawn Ave.,  
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Sir:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of November 16th and for your invitation to meet with the student body of the Meadville Theological School on the occasion of my visit to Chicago on December 2nd. I wish I were free to come as I should be most happy to have this opportunity. Unfortunately I am already scheduled to deliver three addresses in Chicago on December 2nd and I must leave that same night for Cleveland to keep important engagements on Monday and Tuesday. Perhaps on the occasion of some future visit to Chicago I may have the pleasure and privilege of meeting with your student body.

With all good wishes, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours.

AHS:BK



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January 15, 1942

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

At a meeting of the Inter Faith Brotherhood Week Committee, it was suggested and unanimously approved that we try to obtain your service as the speaker at our Interfaith Banquet.

Dr. Glenn Crawford, a member of the Ministerial Association and Chairman of the Speakers Committee, asked me to write you concerning the possibility of having you address the group on this occasion. The date is Tuesday, February 17. It will probably be held at Brooks Hall, at Allegheny College, and the expected attendance is approximately four hundred people.

Kindly advise me if it would be possible for you to accept an engagement for February 17 and also what your fee would be for an engagement of this nature.

May I hear from you soon on this matter?

Respectfully yours,

*David Gold.*

David Gold

P. O. Box 85,  
Meadville, Pa.



January 16, 1942

Mr. David Gold  
P. O. Box 85  
Meadville, Pa.

My dear Mr. Gold:

I deeply appreciate your kindness in inviting me to address your Interfaith Banquet on February 17. I wish I were free to accept your invitation. Unfortunately I am so overwhelmed with work that I cannot in justice to myself take on any additional out-of-town lecture commitments. The work of the United Jewish Appeal and the United Palestine Appeal is more than absorbing all the time which I can spare from my own rather crowded schedule here at The Temple. I am sure that you will understand.

With all good wishes, and thanking you again for your invitation, I remain

Most cordially,

AHS:BK