



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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New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 1929.

REV. J. WALLACE FRASER, D. D.

PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER

NEW BETHLEHEM, PENNA.

December 7, 1929

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver ,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir : -

We have in our community a little "Lecture Foundation" established by one of our citizens for the building of Public Sentiment, and creating a spirit of Good Will among all citizens , regardless of their creed or denomination.

We began this plan over a year ago, through a visit from Rabbi Eugene Hibsman of Altoona. Since that date we have had a number of speakers from Pittsburgh, and a few from outside points.

We would like very much if you could arrange a visit in this vicinity and give us a message? We realize that your services are very greatly in demand, and would leave this matter in your hands.

If you expect to visit the Eastern part of the country in the Spring or middle Winter. Could you arrange to stop off and see our beautiful valley and deliver a message on this Lecture Platform. The subject will be left entirely with you. And the day of your visit. We would like to have you reply and tell us what you would expect for such a visit, and we will see if we can meet these figures.

We have a number of Hebrew folks in the community, and with them, Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholics and Presbyterians. There may be others represented, but these are the principal faiths. We represent a community of 3000. Including three small boroughs that touch one another, making one community solidly built together.

We are on pavement from Pittsburgh, a distance of 52 miles, or on the Low Grade Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad. So we can be easily reached if you are passing this way through Pittsburgh.

Please send to me at your earliest convenience the information when you could arrange a visit here, and what you would expect for an evening address ? Thanking you for this information, I am ,

Respectfully Yours,

J. Wallace Fraser

card ✓

Dec. 10th, 1929.

Rev. J. Wallace Fraser,
New Bethlehem, Penna.

My dear Dr. Fraser:-

I am deeply appreciative of your kind letter of December 7th and of the invitation which you extend to me to address your Lecture Foundation.

I wish I were in a position at the present writing to say that I could avail myself of your invitation. Unfortunately my program is so crowded with lecture engagements for the remainder of the season that I can not in justice to myself commit myself to any additional engagements. It may be that in April or May the pressure of my work will ease up a bit and if I can get away, I shall make an effort to come to you. It would give me a great deal of pleasure to make the acquaintance of yourself and your community.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

REV. J. WALLACE FRASER, D. D.
PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER
NEW BETHLEHEM, PENNA.

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December 13, 1929

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir : -

Your letter of the 10 th received and we are glad that you so favorably considered our invitation. Please excuse us for writing so quickly. But we hear that you would be in Pittsburgh as some meeting on the 19 th of January?

Pittsburgh as you know is only about 50 miles from this town. And if you could arrange to come up here on the following Monday or Tuesday ? We would be pleased ?

If such a proposition is out of the question because of other dates already scheduled. Could you arrange to give us a date as suggested in April or May. Perhaps even on Memorial Day ?

My former charge was at Girard, Pa. and at the Ben Ai Brith Orphanage we heard a great deal about you. And now that I have come to Clarion Co. I have heard a great deal more about you. And if we possible can reach your figure for a lecture we shall certainly try to do so. You did not mention what you would expect for this lecture ? Please do so at your earliest convenience.

This past week I had the local printer send you a copy of our town paper of an early issue giving you an idea of the purpose of the foundation.

The plan started by having the Young Rabbi from Altoona come for Thanksgiving. The Townsman were delighted and a sum was given by one of our men, after whom the foundation has been named The Charles E. Andrews Foundation. For the purpose of bringing in men of all creeds to help build a friendly spirit in our community.

The committee in charge of this work is the local Ministerial Association, as there is no Rabbi here, we have one representing your church. Mr. M.L.Harris, a most remarkable man, he can truly be called a "Prince in Israel" We have about seven Hebrew families here, all of whom are anxious to have you come.

But as far as possible we are trying to forget our creeds and build a friendly , wholesome , happy environment in New Bethlehem.

REV. J. WALLACE FRASER, D. D.

PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER

NEW BETHLEHEM, PENNA.

If you should be in Pittsburgh on the 19 th. you can easily reach our town either by car or by train.

Trains leave Pittsburgh for Kittanning about every two hours during the day. Most of these trains are met by the Bus. Or trains leave less frequently directly for New Bethlehem.

Leaving Pittsburg at 9:20 A.M. 1443 P.M. 5:00 P.M. changing cars at Red Bank Junction and arriving here at 11:59 5:12 and 8:08.

Should you drive follow route 66 right to our door, pavement all the way. Trusting that you consider this invitation again, and give us a date and a figure which you will expect for this service, I beg to remain ,

Respectfully Yours,

J. Wallace Fraser

