

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 Box Folder 204 77 345

Norfolk, Virginia, 1935-1962.

HALPERN & HALPERN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW
LAW BUILDING
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

WILLIAM HALPERN

NORRIS E. HALPERN

23 November 1935

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Sir:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Youth Temple Club of Beth El Temple, of this city, with reference to engaging you to speak in Norfolk sometime during the winter.

Our organization is composed of young Jewish men and women, and has for its purpose, among other things, the promotion of better understanding between Jews and non-Jews.

We desire to engage you to speak to a mixed audience on a subject that will promote such better understanding between the Jews and non-Jews of our community.

We know that there is a great number of people in Norfolk who would like to hear you if you came to this city to speak. We desire, therefore, to fix the admission at a price that would permit the largest number of people to attend in order that we may accomplish the greatest good. This would be the first time our organization had undertaken such a program. We feel, however, that regular activity along this line will prove very fruitful, and for this reason we should like to be able to realize enough profit out of this engagement to set up a reserve for continued work along the same line. For this particular engagement it will be necessary for the organization to go to some of its friends and members and have them underwrite our obligation should we be able to arrange with you for your engagement. For these reasons we ask for most favorable terms under the circumstances. The auditorium which we have in mind will seat about 1,200 people. We intend to charge an admission of 50¢ per person, and to give the program publicity and advertising.

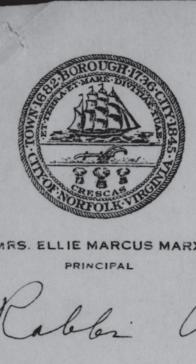
We shall be grateful to receive from you your terms, available dates, and suggested subjects, which we awaittwith interest.

Respectfully yours,

YOUTH TEMPLE CLUB OF BETH EL TEMPLE,

William Halftru, Chairman, Borum Committee.

November 26, 1935 Mr. William Halpern, Law Building, Norfolk, Virginia. My dear Mr. Halpern: Let me thank you for your letter of November 23. Much as I am tempted to accept your invitation, I am unable to do so. My lecture program is very crowded for the remainder of the season and my work here in my own city has been appreciably increased. I must therefore forego the pleasure of meeting with you and your group. Perhaps at some future time I may be of service to you. With all good wishes, I remain Cordially yours, AHS: BK



HENRY CLAY - CHESTERFIELD HEIGHTS SCHOOLS NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

June 15, 1938

Kabbi Abba H. Silnen Clineland, Ofino. Dear Der Silver, For two years me home had a Form called the Smaller of finist Affaira mil a member. slip g 415 at one dreen each. Er you de ne have not very much to Jaan fam Epulus for a ceason. Ameri om prople need a course,

and I am honden ing if gon

coned amange a dale for us. Hyon can, plane gne me Un date stat somed point gor beck, the subject of your most attractue hetere to affine & a cross section of WRHS ARCHIVES Infact Jung can de site minim grunt that you made sceipt. The sums that monday ereming is the hack time for the meeting. Circlinely grann, alli marcus Many Chairman & Speaker Com.

June 17, 1938 Mrs. Ellie Marcus Marx, 641 Redgate Ave., Norfolk, Va. My dear Mrs. Marx: I appreciate deeply your kind invitation and I wish I were free to accept it. Unfortunately my schedule for the coming year will not permit it. As you probably know, I accepted the national chairmanship of the United Palestine Appeal which will keep me extremely occupied in traveling to the various communities. With all good wishes and hoping that I may be of service to you at some future time, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

Congregation Beth El

FIFTEENTH STREET AND COLONIAL AVENUE
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

PAUL REICH RABBI

June 5, 1940.

Dear Dr. Silver.

The Men's Club of Congregation Beth El has just organized a forum which is to present outstanding speakers to the Norfolk public.

We would like to have you initiate this undertaking sometime in the early fall.

Way I ask you for the dates convenient to you as well as your fee? An early reply will be greatly appreciated.

With many thanks for your kind interest,

I am,

Paithfully yours,

Congregation Beth El.

June 26, 1940 Rabbi Paul Reich Congregation Beth El Fifteenth Street and Colonial Avenue Norfolk, Virginia My dear Rabbi Reich: Please pardon the delay in answering your kind letter. I have been away from Cleveland and my correspondence has lagged. I wish I could come to you next Fall. Unfortunately I have undertaken so many responsibilities in connection with the war and overseas relief that I have been compelled to decline many tempting invitations which have come to me. I am sure that you will understand. With all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

September 12, 1941 Mr. Morton Cushner 46 Nusbaum Bldg. Norfolk, Va. My dear Mr. Cushner: Please pardon the delay in answering your kind letter. I have been away from the city and my correspondence has lagged. Mr. Montor spoke to me about visiting Norfolk and I told him that I had received a communication from you. Under normal conditions I would have been delighted to come to you, but my work here is so heavy, and I have made so many commitments for the next few months that I can not in justice to my own health, accept any further engagements. I hope that you will keep me in mind for some future campaign. I should like to visit your city as I have never been there. I wish you every success in the great work in which you are engaged. With all good wishes, I remain Most cordially yours, AHS: BK

Dear Friends, mes joine in thanking you for your heartfelt words of sympathy. They were in deed

apprecialité will be tack in Cliviland next such With fest melio Elga Conhime august trouby think

OFFICERS

. . SECRETARY BERTRAM S. NUSBAUM . LEROY MARGOLIUS . . . TREASURER LEMUEL ALTSCHUL AUDITOR DR. LEWIS BERLIN . CHAIRMAN, BUDGET COM.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLICITY

ARCHIE J. HARRIS . CO-ORDINATING OFFICER

MRS. BEN PAUL SNYDER

August 28, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I shall probably have difficulty in recalling myself to you, but I have met you on a number of occasions, both at Zionist and United Palestine Appeal conventions, and I hope to see you in Cincinnati on September 6.

As one of the national co-chairmen of the United Jewish Appeal, you probably know that Norfolk has not yet had its 1941 U.J.A. campaign. We have now decided to have it in the fall. I am one of the co-chairmen, together with Mr. David Friedman, whom you may remember, and Mr. Alan Nordlinger. A meeting of the executive committee voted unanimously to have you for our principal speaker at the banquet which will open our 1941 campaign. Last year we had your colleague, Dr. Stephen Wise. This year we have chosen you and you only.

Please consider this an invitation to be with us as principal speaker at the opening of our drive, the date to be chosen for your convenience any time from Sunday, September 28 through October 15, excluding Friday evenings, Saturdays, and all holidays. We desire to have you with us for two reasons: first, you are the only man who can awaken the community to the necessity of giving; and second, your connection with the Zionist organization. As you know, Norfolk has always been a Zionist city, and we feel that your coming to us this year may increase the interest in Zionism.

United Jewish Fund Norfolk, Virginia

OFFICERS

RICHARD D. HOFHEIMER

VICE-PRESIDENTS

SYLVAN ALTSCHUL A. J. LEGUM MORTON CUSHNER MRS. PHILIP KROSKIN

DAVID FRIEDMAN MRS. ALVIN MARGOLIUS

BERTRAM S. NUSBAUM . LEROY MARGOLIUS LEMUEL ALTSCHUL AUDITOR DR. LEWIS BERLIN . CHAIRMAN, BUDGET COM.

MRS. BEN PAUL SNYDER DIRECTOR OF PUBLICITY

ARCHIE J. HARRIS . CO-ORDINATING OFFICER

-2-

We are anxious to set a definite date for our campaign and will appreciate your early advices as to your acceptance and the date most convenient for you. We all realize that the need today is greater than ever before, and want to make this year the greatest campaign ever conducted in Norfolk. We are convinced that you can give us the necessary enthusiasm and start us off to a successful drive.

With kindest personal greetings I wish to remain

Yours very truly,

MC:T

46 Nusbaum Bldg. Norfolk, Va.

Morton Cushnet, Co-Chairman



TEMPLE

Congregation Beth El

FIFTEENTH STREET AND COLONIAL AVENUE NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

PAUL REICH, PH.D.



Wheel have

October 22, 1941.

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

My dear Dr. Silver,

The Beth El Mens Club extends to you a cordial invitation to head its list of speakers for the coming season. We shall be happy to pay your fee as well as your travelling expenses.

We prefer a date in the latter part of November or in the early part of December, preferably on a Sunday evening.

May I hear from you soon about this matter? I would also appreciate your mentioning your fee in your answer.

With highest esteem and with the hope that you will be with us this year, I remain,

P.S. December 2 is taken for our annual Synagogue banquet.

Congregation Beth El Fifteenth near Colonial Norfolk, Virginia

Paul Reich, Ph.D. Rabbi

July 11, 1944.

Dear Dr. Silver,

The Beth El Mens Club Forum of Norfolk extends to you a cordial invitation to inaugurate the 1944-45 series of lectures. For many years we have wanted to include you among our speakers and we are hopeful that you will be able to accept this invitation.

We are aware of your very busy schedule of activity and are not therefore suggesting any particular date. Any date before the first of the year that is convenient for you is agreeable to us. Incidentally, Norfolk is less than an hour by plane from Washington, D.C. and there are about twelve planes daily between the two cities. I mention this because you undoubtedly come to Mashington very often.

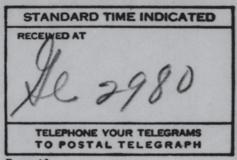
May I hear from you in the very near future? Of course, we shall be pleased to pay your fee and expenses.

With kindest regards and with the highest regard, I remain,

Faithfully yours,

Paul Reich

July 14, 1944 Dr. Paul Reich Congregation Beth El Fifteenth near Colonial Norfolk, Va. My dear Dr. Reich: Thank you so much for your kind letter and for your invitation to address the Beth El Men's Club next season. I feel highly honored that you have invited me and I wish I were free to avail myself of the opportunity to come to your group. Unfortunately I am so heavily committed for next season that I cannot, in justice to myself, take on any additional responsibilities. I have had to forego many invitations which in normal times I would have been most happy to accept. Perhaps at some future time I may be able to be of service to you. With all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS : BK





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Form 16

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DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE TEMPLE CLEVELAND OH 10=

R C H I V E S

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PLEASE WIRE COLLECT ANSWER INVITATION SPEAK BETH EL FORUM

NORFOLK=

RABBI PAUL REICH 741 SHIRLEY AVE NORFOLK VIRGINIA

BETH EL FORUM 74100

NO 11-3-4/ TO DE LUI DE CALLS Relaw.

Rabbi Paul Reich, Ph. D. 741 Shirley Avenue Norfolk, Virginia

Congregation Beth El

June 27, 1945

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver,

Once again I am writing you to extend an invitation to open the Beth El Men's Club forum for the 1945-46 season. I trust that this time I will have an affirmative reply.

Rabbi Nathan Kollin of Congregation Beth El of Richmond, Virginia is very anxious in presenting you to his forum and it may be possible to arrange these lectures for successive nights. In this way it will not be necessary for you to make two separate trips to this part of the country.

Both of us would prefer that you come either the latter part of November or the early part of December. As for me, I would prefer a Sunday evening to any other.

May I please ask that you give this request your earliest attention. I hope that your answer will be a favorable one.

With kindest personal regards and with

every good wish, I remain,

Faithfully yours,

Paul Reich

June 29, 1945 Rabbi Paul Reich Congregation Beth El 741 Shirley Avenue Norfolk, Va. My dear Friend: I deeply appreciate your invitation to address the Beth El Men's Club Forum next season. I would really like to come because you were gracious enough to invite me once before. Unfortunately I am involved in so many duties and I am so heavily committed for the coming season that I cannot in justice to myself take on any additional obligations. Some day I hope to visit your community. With all good wishes, and hoping that you will have a pleasant and restful summer, I remain Most cordially yours. AHS:BK



TEMPLE

Congregation Beth El

FIFTEENTH STREET AND COLONIAL AVENUE NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

PAUL REICH, PH.D. RABBI

SAMUEL SEIDELMAN CANTOR



CENTRE

August 17, 1949

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver,

Congregation Beth El will celebrate its centennial during the coming year. Beth El was organized in 1850 and is the oldest congregation in the community.

As part of our centennial celebration, we are planning a forum which will present outstanding personalities in American and Jewish life. We would very much like to include you among the speakers.

We know that you are very busy, and that there are many claims upon your time. Yet we feel that we have a 'claim' upon you for several reasons:

- 1. There are few congregations that can boast of 100 years of existence
- 2. During your incumbency, as president of the Z.O.A., the entire congregation joined the Z.O.A. Every Beth El member is a Zionist
- 3. Norfolk played an important role in the work of the Zionist Emergency Committee. There are few communities in the country that aroused as much public opinion about Zionism as Norfolk
- 4. We feel that the large Jewish community of Norfolk should see and hear the man who played a capital role in the achievement of the Jewish state.
- 5. In a letter to our Rabbi, Dr. Paul Reich, dated June 29, 1945, you expressed the hope to visit Norfolk some day. We feel that this day is now here.

May we urge you to give this invitation your kind consideration. We leave the date open for your convenience. We shall be happy to pay your fee, and if you are not inclined to accept a fee, we shall be happy to set aside a reasonable sum of money to any cause that is near to you.

Please write to our Rabbi, Dr. Paul Reich. We hope you will accept our invitation.

With kindest personal regards and with every good wish, we remain

David Friedman President Seaboard Zionist Region

Maxwell Zedd, President Congregation Beth El

Morton Cheshner President

Beth El Men's Club

August 18, 1949 Rabbi Paul Reich Congregation Beth El Fifteenth St. & Colonial Ave. Norfolk, Virginia Dear Rabbi Reich: Dr. Silver is at present out of the country enjoying a brief vacation, and I am therefore taking the liberty of replying to the letter of August 17th inviting him to address the forum which you are planning to commemorate your centennial year. Dr. Silver will return to Cleveland early next month at which time I am sure that you will hear from him. You may be interested to know that The Temple is also celebrating its centernial this year, and we, too, are planning many programs and activities of community-wide interest. Sincerely yours, Secretary to Dr. Silver er

September 6, 1949 Rabbi Paul Reich Congregation Beth El Fifteenth St. & Colonial Ave. Norfolk, Virginia My dear Friend: Upon my return to the city I found your kind invitation to address the forum of Congregation Beth El in commemoration of your centennial. It would give me great pleasure indeed to participate in your program. Unfortunately, my schedule of commitments is already overcrowded, and as my secretary indicated, this is also the centennial year of The Temple and we are planning many outstanding events to celebrate the occasion. I should like to extend to you and the members of your congregation my heartiest congratulations and my best wishes for many more years of fruitful and satisfying achievement for Congregation Beth El. Most cordially yours, ARBA HILLEL SILVER AHS:er



JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL, INC.

ADAMS BUILDING - NORFOLK 10, VIRGINIA - TELEPHONE 22705

April 27, 1951

HARRY ELSON
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VICE-PRESIDENT
LEWIS ZENO
SECRETARY

LEMUEL ALTSCHUL
TREASURER

MORTON J. GABA

JOACHIM HAMMER
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver 19810 Shaker Heights Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi:

I have been asked by the Women's Club of Norfolk to write you to inquire whether you would be able to speak before a conference of women's organizations in Norfolk the afternoon of October 26th this year.

The Women's Club of Norfolk is sponsoring an Institute on Human Relations, in cooperation with all of the women's organizations in the city, under the title of "The Hand that Rocks the Cradle."

A number of prominent nationally known figures have been asked to participate in this event. Your name has been suggested (incidentally by Christian women leaders) as the one representative from the religious field, and one who could best present the role of religion in contemporary social living.

It is difficult to estimate the size of this function, but the Planning Committee is anticipating that approximately 1,000 women women will be in attendance.

I was not given information regarding financial commitments, but traveling expenses plus a small honorarium would certainly be made available to out of town speakers.

I certainly trust that your travel schedule will permit you to participate in this event and I trust you will favor us with an early reply.

MORTON J. GABA

Executive Director

May 18, 1951 Mr. Morton J. Gaba Jewish Community Council Adams Building Norfolk 10, Virginia My dear Mr. Gaba: Upon my return from Israel, I found your kind letter of April 27th and your gracious invitation to address a meeting of the women's organisations in Norfolk on Cetaber 26th. It would have given me great pleasure indeed to accept, but unfortunately, I find my schedule will not permit it. Please extend my thanks to the Women's Club of Norfolk for their thoughtfulness in inviting me, and my regrets at my inability to accept. With best wishes, I remain Most cordially yours, ABBA HILLEL SILVER AHS:er

February 19, 1953 Mr. Morton J. Caba, Executive Director Norfolk Jewish Community Council 700 Spotewood Avenue Norfolk, Virginia Dear Mr. Gaba: Dr. Silver is at present spending a few weeks on the Pacific coast and is expected back in about two weeks. In the meantime I have transmitted to him your kind invitation to open your United Jewish Fund campaign on March 17th or 19th, and I am sure that he will consider the matter although his cal-ender for March is very crowded with out-of-town speaking engagements. Dr. gilver is traveling about in California and I do not know whether you will hear from him before his return to Cleveland, However, immediately upon his return, I shall bring your invitation to his attention once again. Sincerely yours, Elizabeth Rice Secretary to Dr. Silver

(Telegram received by phone 1:15 p.m.)

EEBRUARY 19, 1953

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
THE TEMPLE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

UNDERSTAND THAT YOU SPEAKING NEWPORT NEWS MARCH EIGHTEENTH. INVITE
YOU TO OPEN OUR UNITED JEWISH FUND CAMPAIGN MARCH SEVENTEENTH OR
MARCH NINETEENTH. PREFER LATER DATE. WILL MEET HONORARIUM. NORFOLK
ONE HOUR FROM NEWPORT NEWS. YOUR APPEARANCE WOULD ASSURE SUCCESS
DRIVE.

MORTON J. GABR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NORFOLK JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL 700 SPOTSWOOD AVENUE NORFOLK, VIRGINIA







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MRS. HY KROSKIN
CO-CHAIRMAN
CASEWORK COMMITTEE

MISS SUSAN KRAMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

ADAMS BUILDING

PHONE 23315

NORFOLK 10, VIRGINIA

March 3, 1953

Dr. Aba Hillel Silver, Congregation Tifereth Israel, E. 105th Street and Ansel Road, Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

The Jewish Family Service of Norfolk would like to make this year's Annual Meeting a memorable and eventful one. We are, therefore, writing to you with the hope that you will accept our invitation to be our guest speaker on this occasion.

Norfolk, as you know, has a Jewish community that is most responsive to all matters tied up with Jewish life. What greater experience could we give them than to have the privilege and good fortune to have you with us?

Should you find that a visit to Norfolk is possible, there are two dates, which are available, one of which is Sunday, May 10th and the other is Sunday, May 17th, at 8 P.M.

We do hope that you will honor us with your presence.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.)Susan Kramer

SK: GA

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cable-gram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

1201

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NL=Night Letter

LT=Int'l Letter Telegram

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1953 MAR 5 PM 3 40

DR ABA HILLEL SILVER, CONGREGATION TIFERETH ISRAEL=
EAST 105 ST & ANSEL RD=

ARCHIVES

FORGOT TO MENTION THAT ALL EXPENSES WILL BE PAID PLEASE
PERMIT ME TO URGE YOU TO COME=

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE=

March 5, 1953 Mrs. Sugan Kramer Jewish Femily Service Adams Building Norfolk 10, Virginia Dear Mrs. Kramekt Dr. Silver has just returned from Mexico and has asked me to reply to your kind invitation of March 3rd and your telegram, inviting him to address your Annual Meeting on a Sunday in May. It would give him great pleasure to do so, but our principal religious service is on Sunday morning and he must be in his pulpit at that time. With many thanks for thinking of him, I am Sincerely yours, AT 87.85 glisabeth Rice Secretary to Dr. Silver

March 6, 1953 Mr. Morton J. Gaba Norfolk Jewish Community Council 700 Spotswood Avenus Norfolk, Virginia My dear Mr. Gaba: Upon my return to the city, I found your telegram of February 19th, inviting me to address the United Jewish Fund campaign of your city on March 17th or 19th. I wish I were free to accept, but unfortunately, I must be in Washington on Merch 17th and I must return to Cleveland on the 19th. I trust that I may be of service to you at mine future time. With best wishes for a successful campaign, I remain Mostmebudielly yours, ABBA HILLEL SILVER AHSter



OHEF SHOLOM TEMPLE

RALEIGH AVENUE AT STOCKLEY GARDENS
NORFOLK 7, VIRGINIA

MALCOLM H. STERN, RABBI 116 ELWOOD AVENUE NORFOLK 5, VIRGINIA OFFICE: MADISON 2-7900 HOME: MADISON 7-2415

October 26, 1962

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver University Circle & Silver Park Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I was delighted to learn from Mike Lazaron of your willingness to consider our invitation to deliver our annual Mendoza Lecture this season.

Mike indicated that a March date would fit your calendar and I assure you that any Friday in March would be most agreeable for us. We await your decision.

The Mendoza lecture was instituted at my suggestion. As a tribute to the gifted orator who was my predecessor, we bring to our pulpit the outstanding members of our Conference. Your acceptance of our invitation represents the pinnacle of our lectureship, and I look forward eagerly to the privilege of presenting you to our Congregation.

As Mike may have mentioned, the lectureship carries a stipend of two hundred and fifty dollars to cover travel expenses and honorarium.

May I please hear from you at your earliest convenience as to your decision in this matter. For a number of reasons, it would be most helpful to us to know as soon as possible whether you will come and the date of your coming.

The subject of your lecture we leave to you, suggesting only that it be inspirational (theological, philosophical, a positive approach to Reform Judaism, etc.) in nature.

Assuring you of my personal gratitude for any consideration given this invitation, and hoping to have the pleasure of welcoming you at Ohef Sholom, I am

Most cordially,

Malcolm H. Stern

25.

November 5, 1962

My dear Rabbi Stern:

Thank you for your letter of October 26th. Since speaking to Mike Lazaron, my plans for March have changed. In all probability, I shall be in Israel for the major part of the month of March and I must, therefore, forego the pleasure of delivering the Mendoza Lecture at your congregation this season. Because of the uncertainty of my schedule, I have, in recent years, refrained from accepting definite lecture engagements.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

Rabbi Malcom H. Stern 116 Elwood Avenue Norfolk 5, Virginia