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Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

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North Carolina, University of (Chapel Hill, North Carolina),
1938-1944.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

HARRY F. COMER
GENERAL SECRETARY

EDWIN S. LANIER
SELF-HELP SECRETARY

October 28, 1938.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

We have long wanted you on our broad, free and very busy platform of speakers at the University of North Carolina, and now that we are building the program of our fifth Institute of Human Relations we are extremely anxious to lead off with you on the opening night, Sunday, April 2nd. In all we will have some twenty or more distinguished guest speakers during that week. For that opening meeting we would like you to speak on some topic under the general theme of the Religio-Ethical Background for Solution of Social Problems.

The Institute of Human Relations is the most popular and influential movement in the life of this University, and is the one thing that gets the united interest and support of the total faculty and student body. I am enclosing a program of the last Institute which will make clearer to you the nature and purpose than I can get into the space of a letter.

This program is financed out of funds raised on the campus, almost entirely, which means that we suffer some from budget limitations. In general, we are not able to pay honorarium to so long a list of guest speakers, but we do, of course, take care of all expenses of those participating in the program. Our local Hillel Club, under the direction of Rabbi Zeiger, like all other campus organizations, is helping with the program in general. The Hillel therefore is turning its financial assistance towards getting you on the program. Our Committee will cover all your expenses, and Hillel is providing \$75.00 in addition which is the best they can do from their very small budget. We and they realize that this is not a decent honorarium but they do want to express as best they can their interest in bringing you to Chapel Hill.

We are awaiting your reply and hoping for an acceptance of our invitation.

Sincerely yours,

H. F. Comer
Harry F. Comer, Executive Secretary,
Institute of Human Relations.

HFC:s

November 11, 1938

Mr. Harry H. Comer, Executive Secretary,
Institute of Human Relations,
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, N.C.

My dear Mr. Comer:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of October 28 inviting me to participate in your Institute of Human Relations and to speak on Sunday, April 2nd. I am flattered by the invitation and I wish I were free to accept it. Unfortunately, I find it almost impossible to leave my own pulpit on a Sunday, and that week-end, but a week prior to our Passover Holidays, is an unusually crowded one.

Please keep me in mind for some future time as I shall be very happy to be of service to you. With best wishes, permit me to remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

MEMBER GROUPS

Baptist Student Union
 Canterbury Club (Episcopal)
 Catholic Club
 Chapel Hill Ministerial Association
 Hillel Foundation (Jewish)
 Lutheran Student Association
 Pilgrim Fellowship (Congregational)
 "Snuffbuckets" (Presbyterian)
 Society of Friends (Quaker)
 Wesleyan Foundation (Methodist)
 Y.M.C.A.
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COUNCIL FOR RELIGION IN LIFE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Y. M. C. A. BUILDING

TELEPHONE 6761

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

August 26, 1944

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
 The Temple,
 East 105th Street and Ansel Rd.,
 Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

The Council For Religion In Life is inaugurating a series of addresses on "Religion in the World". We are inviting representatives from each of the three major faiths, both ministers and laymen, to address an all-campus audience. We feel that the religious interpretation of life is a unique approach to the problems of our time, and that, though there are profound differences in particular religious groups, all faiths are at one in believing that mankind has a divine source of values. We would request that our speakers make this emphasis in their addresses, drawing on their own personal religious experience as much as they care to, but giving their remarks a world-wide reference whenever possible. In short, we wish to have each man speak his heart and mind on the significance and challenge of Religion in the modern world.

These addresses will certainly give rise to an interest in campus discussion groups. Our hope is to be able to focus and direct this interest so that the stimulus given each speaker will have the most far-reaching effect possible.

We cordially invite you to deliver an address in this series.

In order to meet the difficulty of arranging dates suitable to our speakers, all of whom are extremely busy, we are making our schedule as flexible as possible. We are requesting our speakers to suggest two or three alternative dates which are convenient to them from the following list, after which the council will settle with them upon one: November 19, January 14-21-28, March 18-25, May 6-13-20, July 22-29, and September 16-23-30.

The Council will be happy to pay your full expenses for the trip and any honorarium you may require.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Rolnik

Robert Rolnik

Corresponding Secretary

WE SEEK

- ... TO INCREASE THE CONSCIOUSNESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF RELIGIOUS IDEALS ON THE CAMPUS.
- ... TO PROVIDE AVENUES FOR THEIR EFFECTIVE EXPRESSION.
- ... TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN RELIGIOUS GROUPS.

September 20, 1944

Dr. Robert Rolnik, Secretary
Council for Religion in Life
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, N.C.

My dear Dr. Rolnik:

Please pardon the long delay in answering your very kind letter. I have been traveling about considerably and my correspondence has unfortunately lagged.

I profoundly appreciate your kind invitation to address your campus group in a series of addresses which you have planned on "Religion in the World." I would have been most happy to come. Unfortunately my commitments during these war years to national and international activities, principally of a relief character, have forced me to decline nearly all out-of-town lecture engagements which in normal times I should have been most happy to accept. I am away from Cleveland three or four days each week and I feel obligated to remain with my own congregation over the weekends. I know that you will understand. Please keep me in mind for some future time.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Temple Cleveland
Cleveland, Ohio

P.O. Box #1078
Chapel Hill, N.C.

October 5, 1944

Dear Dr. Silver:

As a high point of its program for this winter, the Hillel Foundation of the University of North Carolina would like to feature a Zionist speaker well enough known to interest a large portion of the student body and of the faculty. Since we feel that a Zionist speaker of only your caliber could do this, we would like to invite you to speak before the University. We, of course, will take care of all financial obligations if you should decide to accept.

Will you honor us by agreeing to speak here at the University?

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain,

Respectfully yours,
Leonard Goodman
Zionist Chairman

October 11, 1944

Mr. Leonard Goodman
P. O. Box #1078
Chapel Hill, N.C.

My dear Mr. Goodman:

I deeply appreciate your kind letter of October 5 and your invitation to address the Hillel Foundation at the University of North Carolina. Under normal conditions it would have given my great pleasure indeed to accept your invitation. Unfortunately pressure of work makes it impossible. I was compelled to decline another invitation from the University of North Carolina this season for the same reason. Perhaps some future time I may be able to be of service to you.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK