



## 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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353

Oakland, California, 1929-1959.



# Alamār Hotel

BROADWAY AT SEVENTY-FIRST STREET

NEW YORK, U. S. A.



TELEPHONE: ENDICOTT 5000  
CABLE ADDRESS "ALAMACOTEL"

7 January 1929

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Cleveland  
Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver,-

The Sisterhood of Temple Sinai, Oakland California, will celebrate its thirty fifth anniversary on Wednesday February 12th with a luncheon at the Hotel Oakland. This day has been set aside for Oakland during the week of the bi-ennial and the big event of the day will be the Sisterhood luncheon in our city.

This morning's mail brings me a very earnest and unanimous request to offer you the invitation to be our guest speaker. You have never spoken in Oakland - so far as I know - and nothing will please me more than to learn that you can accept this invitation.

Mrs Coffee and I shall be in New York for another ten days so will you please send your reply to Mrs Nat Kessler, President of Temple Sinai Sisterhood, 1051 Excelsior Ave., Oakland California with carbon to this hotel? I do hope you will reply in the affirmative.

With kindest personal regards,  
believe me to be

Your friend and colleague,

*Isidore I. Coffee*



*Card*

Jan. 8th, 1929.

Mrs. Nat Kessler,  
Temple Sinai Sisterhood,  
1051 Excelsior Ave.,  
Oakland, Calif.

My dear Mrs. Kessler:-

I received today a letter from Dr. Coffee requesting me to address the thirty-fifth anniversary of your Sisterhood on Wednesday, February 12th. I assume that your meeting will not conflict with anything which the Convention has planned for that time. If that is so I shall be very pleased to be with you. Please indicate to me more fully the nature of your program.

With kindest regards and looking forward with pleasure to meeting your people, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR



# Sisterhood of Temple Sinai

Twenty-eighth and Webster Sts.

Oakland, California

15 January 1929

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I am extending to you the very sincere thanks of our Sisterhood for your willingness to address our Anniversary Luncheon on Wednesday, February 13. I assure you that we deeply appreciate the honor you are conferring upon us.

In reply to your inquiry, I would explain that Wednesday, February 13, has been set aside as Oakland Day, so that there will be no meetings in San Francisco to conflict. On this day those Union of American Hebrew Congregations Convention delegates who wish to come will be received in Oakland and driven in automobiles to the various points of interest in the Eastbay district in the morning. At noon they will assemble at the Hotel Oakland where they will be the guests of the Sisterhood at our luncheon.

In view of the fact that our thirty-fifth anniversary fell so near the Convention dates, we chose to make a joint celebration of our anniversary and the entertainment of the visiting delegates. This is one of the biggest things we have ever undertaken and naturally we are making every effort to make the affair a tremendous success.

You will, of course, be the principal speaker. As we shall soon be drafting our program for the printers, may I ask that you send me at your earliest convenience the subject of your address? In replying, will you be so kind as to address me at the address given below? Again I thank you for your kind acceptance of our invitation. With kindest regards, I am

Affiliated With



1051 Excelsior Ave.  
Oakland, California

Very cordially yours,

*Mrs. Nat Kessler*  
President.





La Salle at Madison St.  
Telephone Franklin 0700

# Hotel La Salle

Chicago 20 January 1929

Dear Colleague,-

Thank you a thousand times for your acceptance of the invitation to speak in Oakland on February 12th. There will be no conflict as that day has been set aside for Oakland to care for the visiting delegates.

The Sisterhood luncheon will admit men as well as women and I need not tell you how indebted our people will be for a message of inspiration and instruction. This will be your first visit to Oakland - so far as I know - but our people have long wished for this happy opportunity.

Mrs Coffee and I are leaving to-morrow for home and we know that our Temple and Sisterhood members will evince the greatest interest in your visit and addresss to us.

If there is any way in which I can return this courtesy you are extending to our people do let me know. If Mrs Silver is accompanying you Mrs Coffee will be delighted to show her every attention.

Sincerely your friend,

*Russell I Coffee*



Jan. 22d, 1929

Mrs. Nat Kessler,  
Temple Sinai Sisterhood,  
1051 Excelsior Ave.,  
Oakland, Calif.

My dear Mrs. Kessler:-

Permit me to thank you for your  
letter of January 15th.

Rabbi Coffee's letter led me to  
think that the meeting would be held on Tuesday,  
February 12th. Your letter speaks of the meeting  
on Wednesday, February 13th, which is correct?

I have not as yet had time to  
think of my address before your body so that I  
am unable to give you the subject. Just announce  
an address by me.

With kindest regards and looking  
forward to my visit to your organization and to  
the pleasure of meeting you, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR



MRS. JOS. FRISCH  
Cor. Secretary

MRS. NAT. KESSLER  
President

MRS. ALEX. FRIEDMAN  
Fin. Secretary

# Sisterhood of Temple Sinai

Twenty-eighth and Webster Sts.

Oakland, California

29 January, 1929

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Replying to your inquiry, the date of our  
Thirty-fifth Anniversary Luncheon is Wednesday, February  
13.

Let me again assure you how very much we  
appreciate your willingness to speak at the Luncheon.  
Everyone is looking forward with eager anticipation to  
the pleasure of hearing you.

Very sincerely yours,

*Mrs. Nat Kessler*

Mrs. Nat Kessler, President  
1051 Excelsior Ave.  
Oakland, California.

Affiliated With







# FIRST HEBREW CONGREGATION OF OAKLAND

## TEMPLE SINAI

*Twenty Eighth and Webster Streets*

OAKLAND, CAL.

Rabbi Rudolph I. Coffee, Ph. D.  
Minister

February  
21  
1929

Rev Dr Abba Hillel Silver  
Cleveland  
Ohio

My dear Friend:

You have placed Temple Sinai and its Sisterhood greatly in your debt. Oakland Jews are still discussing the wonderful address you delivered in our midst on "Oakland Day." Please remember that in California we frequently practice the recall in politics. I hope that in the near future it will be possible for us to recall you for another engagement in our very appreciative community.

Mrs. Coffee joins me in sending greetings of love and kindness to you. May you return home completely restored to your normal vigor. It is too bad that California, which has strengthened so many thousands, should have contributed to your recent indisposition.

We trust that you found your beloved family in the very best of health.

Sincerely your friend,

*Rudolph I. Coffee*

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\*  
C



Congregation Beth Abraham

327 Perry Street  
Oakland, California

PHONE HOLLIDAY 8890

December 28th: 1932.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland. Ohio.

My Dear Rabbi Silver:

I have accepted the chairmanship of the Board of Publication, for a Jewish Year Book for Northern California, which is now in preparation.

Through the generosity of advertisers this book will be published at no cost to the various Jewish communities and will be circulated gratis, by the same token.

In addition to the general information that the book will contain, we are including a few articles on subjects pertaining to outstanding events in Jewish history during the past year, by leaders of American Jewry, whose contribution will enhance the value of the book to the reader.

My Board are most desirous of having you contribute such an article, and have requested me to ask you to be so generous as to aid the cause of this book.

May I therefore presume on your generosity and ask you to be so kind as to give us an article of the kind mentioned, also a cut if possible, which we will use at your discretion.

We are hoping to go to press on January 15th: and would appreciate the favour of your early acceptance.

With cordial and Chanukah greetings,

Sincerely yours.

  
Rabbi J.A. Levy

Chairman.

JAL:SLF.



January 3rd, 1933.

Rabbi J. A. Levy  
Congregation Beth Abraham,  
327 Perry St.  
Oakland, California.

My dear Rabbi Levy:-

Your letter of December 28th to Rabbi Silver  
has been referred to the writer.

Rabbi Silver is now in Europe on a sabbatical  
year and will not return until September. Therefore, he will be  
unable to comply with your request.

Very sincerely yours,

FS

Assistant Sec'y.



## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

## SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International  
Letter Telegram

1201

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

ctb 934-2

1955 SEP 23 AM 12 14

WITH POSSITIVE JEWISH VALUES THE FORUM WILL OFFER YOU  
A SIZEABLE AUDIENCE AND WIDE SPREAD PUBLICITY IN THE  
METROPOLITAN SAN FRANCISCO-EASTBAY AREA WE CANNOT OVER  
EMPHASIZE OUR EAGERNESS FOR YOUR PRESENCE AND WILL BUILD  
OUR PROGRAM AROUND ANY AVAILABLE DATE DURING NOVEMBER OR  
DECEMBER WE SHOULD BE MOST PLEASED IF MRS SILVER WOULD  
ACCOMPANY YOU AND WE OFFER YOU THE VERY BEST OF WESTERN  
HOSPITALITY OUR ADDRESS 2301 VINE STREET BERKELEY 8  
CALIFORNIA=

LEONARD HESTERMAN CHAIRMAN JEWISH COMMUNITY  
CENTER OF BERKELEY BOARD OF DIRECTORS=

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING THE SERVICE



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# WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

FX-1201

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DL=Day Letter  
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LT=Int'l Letter Telegram  
VLT=Int'l Victory Ltr.

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1955 SEP 23 AM 12 14

O LLB685 LONG NL PD=AR=OAKLAND CALIF 22=

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE TEMPLE AT EAST 105TH AND ANSEL ROAD CLEVE=

WILL YOU BE OUR GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER INTRODUCING  
OUR 1955-56 JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER PUBLIC FORUM SERIES  
ON JEWISH TRADITIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE? OF ALL THE MEN  
IN MODERN JEWISH LIFE WE BELIEVE YOU ARE THE ONE BEST  
ABLE TO PRESENT THIS SUBJECT IN ITS PROPER HISTORICAL AND  
CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVE BERKELEY HAS A RAPIDLY GROWING  
AND ACTIVE JEWISH COMMUNITY ANXIOUS TO IDENTIFY ITSELF



82 to 7.2.

COLLECT  
TELEGRAM

9-23-55 3:10 PM  
Phoned

TO: LEONARD HESTERMAN, CHAIRMAN  
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF BERKELEY BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2301 VINE STREET  
BERKELEY 8, CALIFORNIA

DEEPLY REGRET MY INABILITY TO ACCEPT YOUR GRACIOUS  
INVITATION. BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER





## CLASS OF SERVICE

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

# WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

FX-1201

## SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

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LT=Int'l Letter Telegram

VLT=Int'l Victory Ltr.

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

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1955 OCT 13 PM 11 04

O LLA512 NL PD=AR=OAKLAND CALIF 13=

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

TEMPLE EAST 105 AND ANSEL ROAD CLEVE=

OAKLAND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER BLDG FUND KICKOFF  
CAMPAIGN DINNER SET FOR LATE NOVEMBER WOULD YOU BE  
AVAILABLE AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER IF AVAILABLE KINDLY  
INFORM FEE SPECIFIC DATES OF AVAILABILITY COMMUNITY  
CONSIDERS YOUR PRESENCE WOULD GREATLY AID IN  
SUCCESSFULLY REACHING OUR GOAL CONSIDERING NOV 20 22  
OR 27TH EXPECT 500 ATTENDANCE= ~~SW 17755~~

IRA J COLEMAN CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR 740 OAKLAND  
AVE OAKLAND CALIF.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



*re: Oakland Jewish Comm. Center  
Bldg Fund Kickoff. Shoued  
SL to EL  
2:15*

October 14, 1955

COLLECT TELEGRAM

TO: IRA J. COLEMAN, CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR  
740 OAKLAND AVENUE  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

APPRECIATE YOUR GRACIOUS INVITATION. DEEPLY REGRET MY INABILITY  
TO ACCEPT DUE TO PRESSURE OF WORK

ABBA HILLEL SILVER







# First Hebrew Congregation of Oakland

## Temple Sinai

2808 Summit Street Oakland 9, California

William M. Stern, Rabbi

Sheldon F. Merel, Cantor

GLencourt 1-3263  
GLencourt 1-3264

November 12, 1958

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President, Temple Sisterhood

CLIFFORD W. GRODIN  
President, Temple Brotherhood

MORRIS HENERSON  
Executive Director

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
1855 Ansel Road,  
Cleveland 6, Calif.

Dear Abba:

The Synagogue Council of the East Bay, comprizing all the Temples in our area, orthodox, conservative and reform, sponsors each year an Annual Lectureship. We have had as our guests, thus far, Prof. Mordecai Kaplan, Dr. Robert Gordis and Prof. Harry M. Orlinsky. The format followed is for the Lecturer to speak in our Temple on Friday evening and Saturday in another Temple and Sunday in still another, thus giving three lectures. This year, the San Francisco Board of Rabbis asked if their community might not have the privilege of hearing our guest and so it was agreed that we would ask him to speak to us twice and once in San Francisco.

All this is perlimentary to the purpose of this letter which is to invite you to be our Lecturer this year. We leave open the dates, having in mind any week end between February and May. We pay the traveling expenses and an honorarium of \$500. Of course, we also take care of our guest during his stay with us.

The Committee would consider it an honor and a privilege to have you with us and we hope that you can find the time to come to us anytime during the period indicated. Our suggestion for your lectures would be the basic theme of your book "Where Judaism Differed." However if if you prefer some other topic please feel free to choose it.

I hope that you will say 'yes' to our invitation and I can assure you of a most hearty and warm welcome from all of us in the Bay area.





*First Hebrew Congregation of Oakland*  
*Temple Sinai*

*2808 Summit Street Oakland 9, California*

*William M. Stern, Rabbi*

*Sheldon F. Merel, Cantor*

GLencourt 1-3263  
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*President, Temple Brotherhood*

MORRIS HENERSON  
*Executive Director*

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, 2.

Eagerly awaiting your reply and assuring you again that your acceptance of our invitation would make us all very happy, I am, with warmest greetings,

Sincerely,

*Bill*

Rabbi William M. Stern





November 19, 1958

Rabbi William M. Stern  
Temple Sinai  
2808 Summit Street  
Oakland 9, California

My dear Bill:

I deeply appreciate your letter of November 12th and your gracious invitation to address your Annual Lectureship. I should have been most happy to avail myself of your invitation; however, Mrs. Silver and I are leaving in December for a two months' visit abroad.

We shall be coming back by way of San Francisco on February 14th. If your meetings were scheduled for the evening of the 14th and for Sunday, the 15th, and Monday, the 16th, I might perhaps be able to arrange it; otherwise, it would mean that I would have to stay over a week which, of course, is out of the question.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm





*First Hebrew Congregation of Oakland*  
*Temple Sinai*

*2808 Summit Street Oakland 9, California*

*William M. Stern, Rabbi*

*Sheldon F. Merel, Cantor*

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*Executive Director*

December 1, 1958

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Dear Abba:

I hasten to acknowledge your letter of November 19th and to say that we would be most happy to have you on the evenings of February 14th, 15th and 16th for our East Bay Synagogue Lectureship and hope that you will accept our most cordial invitation to be with us.

When I read your letter to our East Bay Board of Rabbis they were thrilled with the possibility of your coming to us and the change of one day will certainly not be difficult to make. As I wrote you, the San Francisco community wants you for one evening and they will arrange a large meeting for the 16th.

I will be grateful to you if you will wire me collect or drop me just a note to say that you will come. Then we can go to work and make all the preparations for your reception.

I can assure you that you will make all of us happy if you accept.

With warmest greetings, I am,

Sincerely,

*Bill*

William M. Stern

6 !C.



December 3, 1958

My dear Bill:

I received your letter of December 1st. I have made arrangements so that I will be able to be with you for February 14th, 15th and 16th. It will give me great pleasure to see you again and all my good friends in the East Bay area.

I should be very pleased to use my book, "Where Judaism Differs", as the basic theme for my three lectures. I would appreciate if you would arrange to have my book on sale at the places where I will lecture. You may procure copies of the book directly from The Macmillan Company - 60 Fifth Avenue, New York City. I should like to see a few hundred copies of the book placed in as many homes.

With all good wishes and looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

Rabbi William M. Stern  
Temple Sinai  
2808 Summit Street  
Oakland 9, California



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2808 SUMMIT STREET • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA • TELEPHONE: GLENCOURT 1-3263



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January 13, 1959

Rabbi Daniel Silver  
The Temple  
Ansel Road & East 105th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Daniel:

As you probably know, your father will speak in Oakland on February 14th and 15th in meetings, sponsored by the Synagogue Council of the East Bay.

We need publicity pictures of your father for the local and San Francisco newspapers and would deeply appreciate it if you could forward seven copies of a photograph of your father as soon as possible.

Please address them to the office of the Chairman of the Committee on Annual Lectureship, Rabbi William Stern, 2808 Summit Street, Oakland 9, California.

With friendly regards,

Yours most sincerely,

*John J. Zucker*  
Rabbi John J. Zucker  
Secretary  
Synagogue Council of the  
East Bay

JJZ/gb  
via airmail

*1 photo  
mailed 1/30/59*

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES