

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
206	77	398

Portland, Oregon, 1928-1953.

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A RECORD OF JEWISH LIFE AND THOUGHT PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY DAVID E. COHEN, Publisher 625 Railway Exchange Building Portland, Oregon

October 15, 1928

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Doctor:

Will you kindly favor us with your photograph for our library, as we desire to use same when you address our Temple Club here. Thanking you and

our kind regards, we remain

Yours sincerely,

THE SCRIBE

un

Oct. 19th, 1928.

Mr. David E. Cohen, 625 Railway Exchange Bldg., Portland, Oregon.

My dear Mr. Cohen:-

In accordance with your request I have today under separate cover mailed you a photograph of Rabbi Silver to be used for publicity purposes in connection with his address before your Temple Club.

As our supply is running short, I would ask that you kindly return the photograph to us after it has served your purpose.

With kindest regards, permit me

to remain

Very truly yours,

Secretary to Rabbi Silver.

November 1, 1928.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple, E. 105th St., at Ansel Rd., Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Abba:

Since I have successfully negotiated for your two appearances in Portland, I want to write a personal word to assure you how anxiously our community is awaiting your coming.

When I first projected the matter of inviting you to our Men's Club I suggested that they have an open meeting for men and women, but they rebelled because they want you all to themselves without the women present. In order therefore to silence the cry of indignation that would naturally arise, I fixed it so there would be a women's meeting in the afternoon, and the credit is to go to the Junior Council. They consider it a great feather in their caps to be presenting you to the Jewish women of the city. By the way, if you do not already know it, the fees have been fixed at \$300.00 for the men and \$150.00 for the women. The date is Thursday, February 21, 1929.

From the personal standpoint Claire and I will be delighted beyond words to have you with us, and hope the chance will be given to get together a little by ourselves. If possible, I would love to have you in my pulpit the following night, which is Friday. You know we have this gorgeous new Temple out here; and surely your agents who arrange your tour have no right to prevent you from performing such a mitzvoh as delivering some sort of a message from the pulpit. I would consider it a high privilege to have you, and I know that the people would storm the gates. If your trip permits it, Abba, please give us this treat in addition to your scheduled platform engagements. After all, you get to this far Northwestern empire so seldom that I feel you ought to give us as much of your marvelous inspiration as you can. Let me hear from you as soon as you can.

With devoted greetings to you and yours in which Claire joins, as ever

Faithfully your friend,

P.S.

My good friend N. M. Ungar, whom you knew on the steamer going across to Europe, will be in Cleveland quite soon and will be looking you up.

Nov. 6th, 1928.

Rabbi Henry J. Berkowitz, Congregation Beth Israel, Portland, Ore.

My dear Henry:-

Thank you very much for your lovely letter of November 1st. I am looking forward with keen pleasure to my Portland visit. I shall be very happy to be with you and the Junior Council on Feb. 21st.

I should like very much to stay over and cocupy your pulpit on Friday, but I am scheduled for Omaha on Monday, February 25th at noon and by looking through the time tables I find that I shall have to leave Portland Friday morning in order to make my engagement. I plan to arrive in Portland from Los Angeles on the morning of February 21st and I shall have a whole day and evening with you and Claire. Please convey to her my heartiest greetings in which Virginia joins me.

With kindest regards, I am as ever

AHS/IR P.S.

Please select two of the following lectures for the two meetings:

- 1. Democracy at the Crossroads.
- 2. The Faith of an Untired Liberal.
- 3. The Four Major Tendencies in Jewish Life.
- 4. The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History.
- 5. What is Happening to the American Home?

Ellison-White Booking Special Celebrity Tours

studio Building Park and taylor streets Portland, Oregon November 8, 1928

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

We have your letter of the 30 ult., addressed to Mr. Crotty, manager of our Los Angeles, and regret very much that it will be impossible for you to accept any engagements after the Portland date, February 21st. We believe that engagements could be sucured in Seattle and other western cities if you could spare the time.

Will you please send us three or four photographs for the committees presenting you in the afternoon and the evening of February 21st. We should also appreciate any press comments or stories regarding your address if they are available.

Thanking you and looking forward to your speaking engagements in our city, we are

Cordially yours,

ELLISON WHITE CELEBRITY BUREAU

c/mm

November 15, 1928.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple, E. 105th St., at Ansel Rd., Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Rabbi Berkowitz has gone to Philadelphia to dedicate the Henry Berkowitz Memorial Chapel. He left last Sunday and will not return until the 23rd of this month, when I am sure that he will give your letter a prompt reply.

Yours very truly,

Grace Larsen

Secretary to Rabbi Berkowitz

November 27, 1928.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple, E. 105th St., at Ansel Rd., Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Abba:

Having just returned from a trip to Philadelphia I haven't had time to submit your subjects to my committee, in order to let them select. For the Men's Club I believe "Democracy at the Crossroads" would be the best. I will get in touch with the women, and then will let you know definitely as to our final selection.

As you will be in San Francisco at the same time I will, we can probably make the trip up here together. It is twenty-four hours on the train, which will enable us to have a long and lovely get-together. Claire and I are certainly keen on seeing you. I naturally understand that it will be impossible for you to speak for me on Friday night.

Faithfully yours,

HJB:GL

December 17, 1928.

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

Dear Abba:

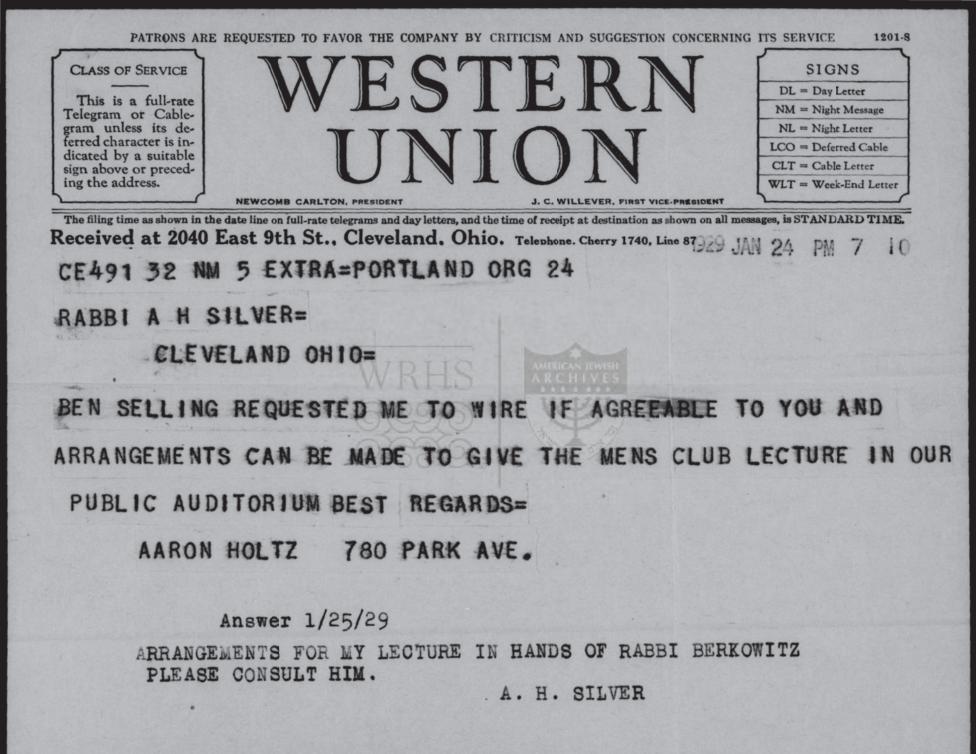
At our Men's Club Board meeting we decided to select as the subject for your address here "Democracy at the Crossroads". I feel that it will give fullest play to your fine powers, and because it is listed first I have a hunch that you yourself like it. That is always important.

I will have the women write to you separately within a few days. Naturally I made them take second choice because our Men's Club is the prime mover in securing you for Portland. I expect a record breaking meeting when you come to town.

With cordial regards to you and Virginia in which Claire joins, I am

Faithfully yours,

HJB:GL



THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

Feb. 6th, 1929.

Abba Hillel Silver D.D., Rabbi, E. 105th & Ansel Rd., Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

Your date in Portland for the afternoon of February 21st is with the Junior Council of Jewish Women; Miss Rose Goodman, Secretary. Her address is the Multnomah Hotel. They have chosen the subject: "What is happening in the American Home?"

The evening date is under the auspices of the Jewish Men's Club, Mr. Milton Kahn, care Oregon Auto Insurance Co. Pittock Block. They have chosen the subject, "DEmocracy at the Crossroads."

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ellison White Bureau

1.

545

L. B. Crotty, Mgr.

or concelle

Feb. 12th, 1929.

Rabbi A. H. Silver, St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Rabbi Silver:-

I am enclosing a letter which mas just received from the Ellison-White Bureau in connection with your Portland engagements. You will note that the Junior Council has chosen the subject "What Is Happening To The American Home?"

I am also enclosing a telegram received from Montreal.

In regard to the Friday Study Group. The assignment for the first meeting after your return, (March Sth) was given to Mr. Henry Marcuson. We assigned him "The Role Which The Jews Played In The Russian Revolution." And the second assignment (March 22d)-"Ahad Ha'am" was given to Mr. Isadore Morris. Mr. Marcuson is ill and in the hospital and will be unable to prepare his paper. Do you wish to assign his subject to someone else or to advise Mr. Morris to have his paper prepared two weeks earlier. The following is a list of members to whom assignments have not yet been made:

Mr.	de	Mrs.	H.Clay Baker	Alex Treuhaft
Mr.	æ	Mrs.	Chas. Barnett	Leon G. Teil
Mr.	&	Mrs.	Raymond Stotter	Ben Michael
				Oscar Michael

The reservations for the Seminar are very slow in coming in. So far we only have five. I called Mr. Friedland yesterday and asked him to speak to the teachers at the Institute. I also called Mrs. Reich in connection with the teachers at the Council. Is there anyone else you would have me call?



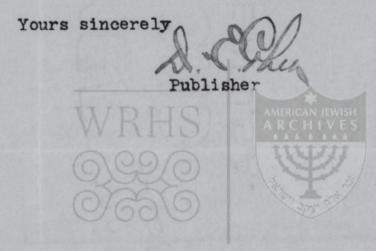
A RECORD OF JEWISH LIFE AND THOUGHT

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY DAVID E. COHEN, Publisher 625 Railway Exchange Building Portland, Oregon Feb 20/29

Rabbi A. H. Silver San Francisco

Dear Dr-

Received your telegram and certainly sorry that I will not have the pleasure in meeting you, and I join Portland Jewry in regretting your inability to be here. I certainly hope that you are convalescing and will soon recover.



Feb. 25th, 1929.

Rabbi Henry J. Berkowitz, Congregation Beth Israel, Portland, Ore.

My dear Henry:-

I am dreadfully sorry that I could not keep my engagement with your organization. I hoped to the last moment that my throat would get in shape so that I could fulfill my engagement. My doctor however, advised me not to deliver any public lectures until my vocal cords became normal again and I thought it wise to abide by his orders.

I am glad to say that my throat is clearing up rapidly and that in another few days all the huskiness will be gone.

I know that my non-appearance in Portland must have caused you considerable embarrassment. But I know that you understand that only an extreme emergency would have compelled me to do what I did.

Hoping that I may be of service to you at some future time and with kindest regards to Claire and to you, I am

As ever yours,

AHS/IR

March 1, 1929.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple, East 105th St. at Ansel Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Abba:

They were, of course, in quite a panic up here when your addresses had to be cancelled; but on my return I spoke about it in the pulpit, and presented your apologies and told how genuinely disappointed and chagrined you were. It would have been extremely foolhardy on your part to have come. It only means that you owe us a visit the very next time you come to the Pacific Coast. The disappointment will only make your future visit all the more intriguing. There was tremendous interest aroused, and this will be just so much pentup steam.

I am planning to come to the Detroit Conference in June, and hope to be able to see you there. I trust your throat cured up quickly. There is nothing more depressing than that voice paralysis. I get it every couple of years and turn mental summersaults until it is over.

Claire joins in sending cordial greetings to you and Virginia.

Faithfully your friend,

HJB:GL

Ellison-White Booking Special Celebrity Tours

STUDIO BUILDING PARK AND TAYLOR STREETS Portland, Gregon March 28, 1929

Miss Irene Rothenberg, Sec'y to Rabbi Silver, The Temple, 105th St. at Ansel Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Miss Rothenberg:-

Please pardon our delay in returning to you the photographs of Rabbi Silver. We regret that we have only one to send you. That is going forward under separate cover. We had given the photographs to the two Portland committees who were to handle Rabbi Silver's engagements in this city and only one has been returned to us. The other was evidently misplaced at the newspaper office.

Our committees and the bureau were greatly disappointed at Rabbi Silver's inability to fill the engagements booked for him, but we trust that he has fully recovered before this time.

Thanking you for sending the photographs at our request, and assuring you that we shall return the other one if it can be located, we are

Yours very truly,

ELLISON WHITE BUREAU

Walter Ricks

1/fw

COUNCIL of JEWISH FEDERATIONS and WELFARE FUNDS, Inc.

including the activities of the Bureau of Jewish Social Research 71 West 47 Street, New York, N. Y.

February 17, 1937

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Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver The Temple E. 105 St. at Ansel Road Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

By this time, you have probably received a letter of invitation from our Western States Region asking you to be a speaker at the Regional Conference to be held in Portland, Oregon in April. I understand that Mr. Fisher of the U.P.A. has seconded our invitation and has also urged you to accept. This letter has a similar purpose.

The Pacific region has been one of the most stimulating and enterprising sections of the Council program. Unlike the East and Middle West, there have been few opportunities in the past for the various Jewish organizations on the Pacific Coast to get together for an exchange of experience and consideration of common problems. They found last year at their first meeting in San Francisco that there was a real interest in the regional organization and such an organization gave them a means of keeping in touch with Jewish welfare developments throughout the country and served as a basis for cooperation between the various cities in their section of the country. The Pacific Coast is beginning to show an increasing response to national and overseas causes and the Regional Conference this year can be used as a means for furthering that interest.

I hope that you will find it possible to accept the invitation. If there are any questions in your mind or if there is any material on the region which you would like sent to you, please let me know.

Very sincerely,

J fame

H.L. LURIE Executive Director

HLL/ed

Executive Director

Associate Director GEORGE W. RABINOFF

H. L. LURIE

February 19, 1937

Mr. H. L. Lurie, Executive Director, Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, Inc., 71 West 47th Street, New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Luriet

Let me thank you for your kind letter of February 17. I had previously heard from the officers of the United Palestine Appeal with reference to my going to Portland, Oregon and accordingly, I notified them that it is altogether impossible for me to go to the Coast during that month. I am heavily booked with engagements both in and out of Cleveland. Furthermore, the annual meeting of our congregation is held around that time. It is quite impossible for me to absent myself for as long a time as is required to go to the Pacific Coast.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK

HENRY J. BERKOWITZ TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL PORTLAND. OREGON

December 16, 1937.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple, E. 105th St. and Ansel Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Abba:

The last week-end in June, namely the 26th, 27th and 28th, will bring to Portland for the first time in many years the Grand Lodge Convention of District Number Four B'nai B'rith. This includes nine states of the entire Pacific Coast region. You probably know that B'nai B'rith in the far west is one of the most important forces in Jewish life. The Lodge means a great deal in our western cities. In Portland Jonah Wise was President of the Lodge and later President of the District. Edgar Magnin was also President of the District. Portland Lodge has had among its leaders for many years all the outstanding Jews whose names are familiar to you. I cite these facts in order to impress you with the significance to us of the Grand Lodge Convention.

The Convention Committee met this week to lay out broad plans, and our first decision was to contact you to see if you could come to Portland to deliver the opening and keynote address. It has been many years since you were in the Pacific Northwest. In fact you have been owing us a visit for a long time, and now the occasion has come which we feel is big enough and important enough to justify this invitation.

Of course it is a long time ahead, but we want to contact you before your summer plans are made. I told the committee that you often go abroad, but perhaps this year you might think of turning your face westward. I need not tell you of the fabulous vacation attractions of this country. Even Californians admit that in the summer nothing can match the Pacific Northwest and Canada. They flock up here by the thousands.

I wish to add one more thought. We are conscious of the attempts being made to compose the differences between B'nai B'rith, the Congress and the Committee. We also know of your close association with the Boycott Committee. Our men feel that you could give us a statesmanlike utterance on these vital questions that would give our Convention national prominence and significance.

Personally it would be a deep joy to me to have you here. You would bring Virginia along, and Flora and I would guarantee you all the fun that this charming city affords. We have more than ample room for you to be our house guests.

Please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience, and with devoted regards from house to house, I am

Faithfully yours,

December 21, 1937

Rabbi Henry J. Berkowitz, Temple Beth Israel, Portland, Oregon.

My dear Henry:

Let me thank you for kind letter and for the invitation to come to Portland to address the District Convention on June 26th. You make the invitation very tempting and I should like to come. I have already accepted an invitation from District Grand Lodge #2 to address its convention in Denver on June 22nd. I must return after this engagement to the East to attend the annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America of which I am an officer. We hope to sail for Europe the first week in July.

Some day I hope to revisit Portland and the whole Pacific Coast. I should like to get to know that part of America better. I shall bear in mind your gracious offer of hospitality.

With all good wishes to you and Flora in which Virginia warmly joins me, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS: BK

Law Offices of Samuel B. Weinstein Public Service Building Portland, Oregon

March 4, 1938.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I am addressing you as President of the B'nai B'rith Center, the Jewish Community House of the City of Portland. This institution serves the entire Jewish community, irrespective of class or religious affiliations. It was founded by Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, the late Ben Selling, Z. Swett and others in 1910.

Recently this Community raised funds to enlarge and remodel the facilities of this institution in light of present day demands. This project is now nearing completion, and we are planning to dedicate this Community House on the evening of April 7th or 9th, 1938.

As a member of the Oregon Jewish Welfare Fund, now engaged in shaping the plans for your visit to Portland, in connection with our drive for J.D.C. and U.P.A. and other institutions, I know that you are scheduled to arrive in the City of Portland about 7:30 P. M. on Thursday, April 7th, and will remain with us until Sunday morning, April 10th, 1938.

The Welfare Fund Committee has consented, if you will accept, that you appear on the dedication program as our honored guest and speaker of the evening. I need not tell you that it will give us the utmost joy to have you accept this invitation. The dedicatory program will include not only the Jewish leadership of the community, but also representative non-Jews who have had a part in the rebuilding of this community house.

May I therefore extend to you a cordial invitation to be our guest and speaker on this, which we hope, will be a most memorable occasion? An early favorably reply will enable us to proceed with shaping the program without further delay.

Page 1.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver Page 2 March 4, 1938.

May I say to you, Rabbi Silver, that we are all most anxiously swaiting your arrival in our community. Many of our people have come to love you merely by reputation. A few of us, including the writer, have had the privilege of hearing you in Portland some twenty years ago. We know that your presence in our community will stimulate and inspire us to greater efforts for all of those causes to which you are giving your very life.

With most cordial personal greetings, as well as the best wishes of the Portland Community, I am

Very cordially yours,

PRESIDENT B'NAI B'RITH CENTER

. W;b

Air Mail

March 8, 1938

Mr. Samuel B. Weinstein, Public Service Building, Portland, Oregon.

My dear Mr. Weinstein:

I deeply appreciate your kind letter inviting me to participate in the Dedicatory Exercises of the Jewish Community House of Portland on April 7th or 9th. I wish I were free to come. I have received similar invitations from other communities on the Coast to address meetings other than those of The United Palestine Appeal and I have had to decline. I must limit myself entirely to the work of the United Palestine Appeal while I am on the Pacific Coast, Altogether, I will spend eight days on the Coast during which time I am to visit the communities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Portland and Seattle. An exceedingly heavy schedule has already been arranged for me. I will have to travel practically all the time by airplane. I must conserve my own health. I am sure that you will understand the reason why I am unable to accept your very lovely and deeply appreciated invitation.

I am looking forward with pleasure to my visit to Portland and to seeing you. With best wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK

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12/5/49 My tear Rabbi Silver : I kan endring a bookur while I hope you will review and then say "yes" to my proport. your presence and mensage here will electriby the bost kneck the an area when you can give aller a more inter menoge and clainfriction - that His means and needed unlestanding of 3. Q. W Smonle like for you to plan to be our y'the speaker on the seminar planet and sreel! for april 1950; this mall close and 1849-50 Actility quick time me higt note. The honorauni is \$3000 which will be April Please give this proposed your painter decision of lot on bear you officitie Jan earlief convenience. Harryon for gone immale to repty. Carlindy Joinly about Brotch Epecotor Inector

December 7, 1949

Mr. A. David Biatch Jewish Community Center 1636 S.W. Thirteenth Ave. Portland 1, Oregon

My dear Mr. Biatch:

I very much appreciate your gracious invitation to come to Portland and to participate in your seminar planned for April 1950. I am not at all sure what my plans will be for April. At the moment I am making none since The Temple is engaged in the planning of quite a number of activities in connection with its Centennial celebration. Should the month of April be free, I might later on consider the invitations which have come to me in recent weeks from quite a number of organizations on the Pacific Coast. At the moment I cannot commit myself to any engagements.

With all good wishes, and again thanking you for your thoughtfulness in inviting me, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er



1636 S. W. 13th Avenue

PORTLAND DISTRICT

Portland 1, Oregon

December 7, 1949.

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Dear Rabbi Silver:

I have been advised that the Institute of Jewish Living of this city have invited you to be their speaker for the final session of this season.

The Zionist group in this community would be very happy if you could see your way clear to accept this invitation, as we feel it would do us a lot of good. Your presence in this community would bring a lot of enthusiasm and inspiration to our people, especially since we are so far away from the center of Jewish activity.

The Zioinst Organization participate in the sponsorship of the Institute of Jewish Learning.

Again hoping that you will accept this invitation, I am,

Sincerely. Mer Sydney Stern, Pres.

December 9, 1949

Mrs. Sydney Stern, President Zionist Organization of America 1636 S.W. 13th Avenue Portland 1, Oregon

My dear Mr. Stern:

Thank you for your kind letter of December 7th. I was unable unfortunately to accept the invitation of the Institute of Jewish Learning in your community. My plans for the spring are quite uncertain, and I cannot commit myself to any engagements on the Pacific Coast. Should I visit your city at any time during the coming year, I shall be very happy to meet with the Ziomists of Portland.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL STLVER

AHSter

RABBI JULIUS J. NODEL TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL 1931 N.W. FLANDERS PORTLAND 9, OREGON

March 30, 1953

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

You may recall that when I visited Cleveland on the occasion of your anniversary celebration, I invited you to be the main speaker and honored guest at the 95th Anniversary Banquet of Temple Beth Israel in Portland, Sunday, May 10th. At that time you were not sure of your plans, and you asked me to communicate with you later on; so may I again have the privilege of extending the invitation to you.

The banquet will be held in the evening, of course, at the Grand Ballroom of the Multnomah Hotel. We expect an attendance of approximately 450, with representatives from the City and State as well as some of our rabbinical colleagues of the West Coast.

The banquet will be the climax of a weekend of celebrationa Friday Evening Service with orchestra and choir presenting the Bloch Service and a Sabbath Morning Service. April 25th we will have had a "Pioneer Party", a social affair for our Temple family. On February 27th we held an anniversary Minister's Institute with Rabbi Morton M. Berman of Chicago as our guest speaker.

Since this year is also the tenth anniversary of my ordination, it would be a great personal favor for me to have you present, and it would be a distinguished privilege for the Jews of Oregon to have you celebrate with us. We cannot offer an honorarium, but all of your expenses would be paid, of course. Won't you let me know very soon so that we can complete our plans? I hope your answer will be favorable.

With sincerest regards to Virginia and the boys for a very happy Pesach, I am,

Sincerely yours, JULIUS J. NODEL

JJN:8

April 2, 1953

Rabbi Julius J. Nodel Temple Beth Israel 1931 N.W. Flanders Portland 9, Oregon

My dear Julius;

Thank you for your letter of April 30th. I wish I could come to address the banquet of your Temple on Sunday, May 10th, especially since this is the 10th anniversary of your ordination. Unfortunately, I cannot leave Cleveland that day. We have scheduled our High School Graduation that morning. Under any circumstances I would hesitate to travel to the coast again this season as I have but just returned from an extensive visit to Los Angeles and San Francisco and to Mexico.

Perhaps at some other time I may be of service to you.

With warmest regards to you, Ollie and Larry, in which Virginia joins me most heartily, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS :er