



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

Reel
207

Box
78

Folder
444

Smith College (Northampton, Massachusetts), 1953-1959.

Western Massachusetts

B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations

Rabbi Louis Ruchames, Ph. D., Director
13 Belmont Avenue
Northampton, Mass.

Smith College
University of Massachusetts
Amherst College

*declined by
Hillel*

November 27, 1953

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Cong. Tifereth Israel
E. 105th St., and Ansel Rd.
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Each year the various religious organizations on the Smith College campus sponsor a Religious Forum. The topic this year will be "Search for Meaning." There will be an introductory address on Tuesday, February 2; following which, representatives of the three faiths will speak to the problem from their own standpoints. The Protestant spokesman will speak on Wednesday afternoon, February 3, and the Catholic, on Wednesday evening. The Jewish spokesman will speak on Thursday evening, February 4. We should like to invite you to speak on behalf of Judaism. It will not be necessary for you to be present at the other addresses unless you should wish to do so, but we would like to have you stay for informal discussion with the students after ~~xxxxxx~~ your talk.

The college will provide an honorarium of \$100.00, and we shall be happy to take care of your transportation expenses. We also invite you to spend Thursday night as guest of the college in one of the college guest suites.

We hope that it will be possible for you to accept our invitation and we look forward to a reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Louis Ruchames
Louis Ruchames

● SENDER IS AWAITING A SPEEDY

answer

PLEASE GIVE IT TO THE MESSENGER
OR TELEPHONE

WESTERN
UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=Int'l Letter Telegram

VLT=Int'l Victory Ltr.

(15)

1953 DEC 4

PM 2 17

The 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.

GQ CLA109 PD 1 EXTRA=NORTHAMPTON MASS 4 150PME=

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER, CONGREGATION TIFERETH ISRAEL

EAST 105 ST AND ANSEL RD

PLEASE TELEGRAPH COLLECT WHETHER OR NOT YOU ACCEPT
INVITATION TO SPEAK AT SMITH COLLEGE ON FEB 4TH=

LOUIS RUCHAMES DIRECTOR HILLEL FOUNDATION=

*Byrd cannot accept invitation. Have
other commitments.*

Abba Hillel Silver

RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATION
SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

Carolyn Connors
Tenney House
Smith College
Northampton, Mass.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
1855 Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I hope that this invitation will find you in a position to visit Smith College to share in the annual Religious Forum next February eighth, ninth and tenth. The topic of this year's Forum is to be Church and State and it is quite natural that our minds turned to you. The proposed plan for the Forum is this: on one of the first two evenings we would ask you to discuss this topic in a lecture which would be followed by an informal discussion. The other of the first two evenings would be devoted to another lecture and discussion by a different person, and a third evening would be given over to an open conversation between you and the other speaker. An invitation to the second speaker is now being considered.

RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATION
SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

The purpose of a Forum like this is at least partly apologetic. We would like to contribute something to people's understanding of the responsibility which religious groups have for the health and growth of society. Since there is already some interest in and discussion of this topic on our campus, it seemed well to capitalize on that interest in the Forum. You might be interested to know that a new course on Church and State is being offered jointly by several departments (including Government and Religion)

in the second semester of next year. Our hope in the Forum would be to stress through a discussion of Church and State the responsibility of both the religious individual and the religious community for bringing about a more just society. Thus, our concern will be less with the technical and legal aspects of the problem than with the principles of religious responsibility that we should be called upon to observe.

I sincerely hope you are able to consider this proposal. If you found it possible to come, we would be happy to provide for your hospitality while you were here in Northampton and we have available for you an honorarium

RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATION
SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

of two hundred dollars.

Knowing your long experience, I hope you will be able to share some of it with us at Smith College next February. We would count it a privilege indeed. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours very sincerely,

Carolyn E. Connors



AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
Carolyn E. Connors
President Religious
Association

DS2

October 21, 1959

Miss Carolyn E. Connors
President Religious Association
Smith College
Tenney House
Northampton, Massachusetts

My dear Miss Connors:

I greatly appreciate your gracious invitation to share in the National Religious Forum at Smith College next February. It would give me great pleasure, indeed, to accept your invitation. Unfortunately, my present plans call for my being out of the country during the months of January and February. Please have me in mind for some future time.

With warmest regards, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm