



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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Waterbury, Connecticut, 1928-1950.

OPEN FORUM SPEAKERS BUREAU

THE ACCREDITED AGENCY OF THE OPEN FORUM NATIONAL COUNCIL

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
TELEPHONE HANCOCK 8239

LITTLE BUILDING, ROOM 1243
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MASS

April 30, 1928.

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

My dear Rabbi Silver:

In addition to the forum invitations from Ford Hall Forum, Boston, for November 4th and from Brooklyn, New York, on November 5th, the forum in Waterbury, Conn., is now begging for a Sunday evening. Could you plan to stay East long enough to give them Sunday evening, November 11th, and what would be your minimum charge? They have not ordinarily paid beyond \$100, and while I think they might increase to \$150 it would be most difficult for them to go beyond that figure.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred C. Smith

Executive Secretary.

MCS/L

card ✓

May 4th, 1928.

Mildred C. Smith, Exec. Sec'y.,
Open Forum Speakers Bureau,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Miss Smith:-

I shall not be able to accept any
invitations for Sunday evenings and I must
therefore forego the pleasure of addressing
the Forum in Waterbury, Conn.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain

Very sincerely yours,

ABS/IR

THE SECOND
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
10 HOLMES AVENUE
WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT

JOHN CURRY WALKER
MINISTER
JOHN RUSSELL COOMBS
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

REV. AND MRS. RAYMOND A. DUDLEY
FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES
ARUPPUKOTTAI, SO. INDIA
MURIEL S. CROFT
CHURCH SECRETARY

January 15, 1944.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
E. 105th St. and Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

We have a rather remarkable Forum in connection with our church and we have a great many good friends beyond the borders of our own parish. I am particularly happy to work with some of the local Rabbis from time to time and we have in mind at the moment the possibility of a Forum at which the Zionist cause might be brought to the fore. This seems a particularly opportune time to present the future status of Palestine and to draw attention to the plight of our Jewish friends in eastern Europe.

I am writing in the hope that you might be in New York or Boston sometime in the next two or three months and that you could speak for us on a Sunday evening. We are willing to pay any reasonable honorarium you might care to mention. As a matter of fact if you could not come on a Sunday evening - and it might be difficult for us to make the necessary shift or change - I see no reason why we could not arrange to have you speak on a Sunday afternoon or perhaps some evening during the week.

We are desperately concerned to bring you to Waterbury if at all possible. If there is the slightest hope of your being able to speak under our auspices, may we have a word to that effect?

With all good wishes, I am

Yours very cordially,

John C. Walker

JCW/MC

January 17, 1944

Dr. John Curry Walker
The Second Congregational Church
10 Holmes Avenue
Waterbury, Conn.

My dear Dr. Walker:

I profoundly appreciate your kind letter and your invitation to address your Forum. I wish I were free to come. It would indeed have given me great pleasure to meet with your group. Unfortunately I am so crowded with work that I have been compelled to decline many invitations which normally I should be most happy to accept. In fact I have had to cancel some already scheduled.

Perhaps at some future time when life becomes a little more normal, I will be able to be of service to you.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

THE SECOND
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
10 HOLMES AVENUE
WATERBURY 11, CONNECTICUT

REV. JOHN CURRY WALKER, D. D.
MINISTER

REV. HENRY F. LIEBECK
ASSISTANT MINISTER

March 23, 1948.

REV. AND MRS. HAROLD W. HECKMAN
FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES
SOUTH INDIA

MRS. JAMES S. CROFT
CHURCH SECRETARY

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 10th St. and Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

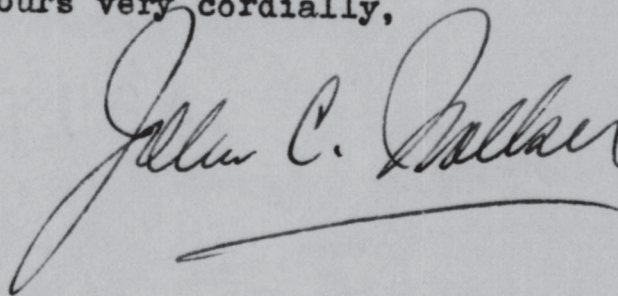
Dear Dr. Silver:

Even at this early date and this critical juncture, I am writing to see if there is any possibility of your speaking on our World Affairs Series in connection with the Second Church Forum on Sunday evening, November 14? A friend of ours, Robert Stanton, does a very fine illustrated lecture on "Flight Into Egypt" and he will bring that film here on November 14. He does not talk politically but he does give a bit of background from the Arab point of view. We should like you to present your side of the case. We have had Rabbi Stephen S. Wise here on numerous occasions and we should like the very high honor of having you appear on our Sunday Evening program.

We have the backing of the local newspapers and some prominent citizens for this World Affairs Series and we try to do a competent piece of work. If there is any possibility of your being available on that date, I wish you would have the kindness to write to that effect and suggest an honorarium. I hope you may be able to tie in with some other business here in the East.

Please give us all possible consideration.

Yours very cordially,



JCW/MC

April 12, 1948

Rev. John Curry Walker, D.D.
The Second Congregational Church
10 Holmes Avenue
Waterbury 11, Connecticut

My dear Dr. Walker:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter and your invitation to speak at your World Affairs Series on November 14th. I regret very much that I am unable to avail myself of your gracious invitation. I cannot, at the present writing, make plans for next November.

I trust that I may be able to be of service to you at some future time.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:lmk

THE SECOND
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
238 WEST MAIN STREET
WATERBURY 2, CONNECTICUT

BROWNE BARR
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MISSIONARY REPRESENTATIVES
MRS. JAMES S. CROFT
CHURCH SECRETARY

March 8, 1950.

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The Second Church Forum which is held every Sunday evening is considered one of the finest of its kind in this part of the country. I can brag shamelessly about it because I have only recently inherited it from my predecessor, Dr. John C. Walker now of Toledo, Ohio.

In the past our community has been honored by many outstanding men who have been guest lecturers at the Forum. They have included Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Dr. John Haynes Holmes, Dr. Hans Kohn, Carl Sandburg, Lowell Thomas, Ralph Sockman and so forth.

As you can guess, I am writing to invite you to be our guest at the Forum on Sunday evening, February 11, 1951. We know that the matter of the fee is not important to you and as our Forum is supported entirely by the free will offering received each Sunday evening, we cannot promise an honorarium at all in line with the privilege of having you here. However, we would be happy to send you \$150 to cover your expenses.

If it is not possible for you to come on the date I suggested perhaps you can come on some other Sunday evening between October 1 and May 1. I would be happy to have you suggest another date or dates.

The Second Church Forum is not a parochial affair. It is widely supported in the community and brings together people of all races and creeds and social backgrounds. It has been instrumental in promoting harmonious relationships in the community and we would beam with delight to be able to present you to this audience.

May I thank you in advance for your courteous consideration of this invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Browne Barr

March 27, 1950

Dr. Browne Barr
238 West Main Street
Waterbury 2, Conn.

My dear Dr. Barr:

Please pardon the delay in answering your kind letter. I have been away from the city most of the time and my correspondence has accordingly lagged.

I deeply appreciate your kind invitation to address the Second Church Forum on Sunday evening, February 11, 1951. It would give me great pleasure indeed if I were free to come to you, but I am unable to leave my own church and pulpit on any Sunday. I preach on Sunday morning and there are quite a number of congregational activities which take place over the weekend which require my attendance.

I trust that I may be able to be of service to you at some future time.

With all good wishes and again thanking you for your thoughtfulness and the honor of your invitation, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er