



## 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 VIII: Scrapbooks, 1902-1964, undated.

Sub-series A: Clippings Scrapbooks, 1902-1964, undated.

---

Reel  
232

Box  
118

Folder  
81

Clippings, eulogies, and tributes on the death of Abba Hillel Silver,  
1963 November - 1964 March.



Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

January 28, 1893 - November 28, 1963

His mortal body is laid to rest,  
but his immortal soul will  
live in the hearts and memories  
of all who knew him.

Max S. Gladstone









# THE PLAIN DEALER

Ohio's Largest Morning and Sunday Newspaper

HERMAN L. VAIL,

President

F. WILLIAM DUGAN,

Vice President and General Manager

THOMAS VAIL,

Publisher and Editor

PHILIP W. PORTER,

Executive Editor

Daily 328,314

Net Paid Circulation for 6 months ending Sept. 30, 1963  
as filed with the Audit Bureau of Circulations, subject to audit.

Sunday 485,237

Page 12

Friday, Nov. 29, 1963

## A Great Leader Passes

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver is dead.

And with his untimely passing, the world loses one of its most distinguished and forceful spiritual leaders.

Rabbi Silver was Cleveland's own, and Cleveland is the better for his years of inspiration and challenge. He was also of America, and of the world, and all peoples are the better for his unswerving championship of the causes of good.

Honors flowed to Dr. Silver as a great teacher, a great leader, a great statesman. He was revered especially as one of the founders of the state of Israel. In testimony to him, it was said that there would be no Israel today had it not been for the crucial service he gave in the trying times before its birth.

But his interests and his influence spread far beyond the particular concerns of his own faith. He was dedicated to the liberal creed by which he lived. He preached

and he fought for the things in which he believed. He was unafraid in advocacy of the principles of morality which he felt must govern all people.

The citation which accompanied the presentation to Dr. Silver of the Charles Eisenman Award of the Jewish Community Federation said of him:

"Spiritual leader, eloquent spokesman for centuries-old aspirations of the Jewish people, profound student of Jewish lore, religion and history; author, advocate of progressive social movements without restrictive regard of race, creed or nationality."

This was Abba Hillel Silver, the man who gave the world guidance as he passed through, the man who gave of his wisdom and his heart to make this world a better place for all humankind.

Cleveland had the great fortune to possess him and to know him well. Cleveland leads the world in mourning his loss.

# Rabbi Silver Dies; Led Fight for Israel



Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

Dead at 70

Plain Dealer Photo (Richard J. Meehan)



# Stricken as He and Family Sit Down for Dinner

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, a towering spirit and force in world Jewry and a leader in the Zionist movement for almost half a century, died suddenly yesterday.

Rabbi Silver, who was 70, apparently suffered a heart attack just as he and his family were sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner in his home at 19810 Shaker Boulevard, Shaker Heights.

He was rushed to Lakeside Hospital of University Hospitals, where the end came at 3:40 p.m. He had had no previous history of heart trouble.

**RABBI SILVER** was taken to the hospital in the family car after complaining of a shortness of breath and a tightening in his chest. Accompanying him were his wife, Virginia H., and his two sons, Rabbi Daniel J. and Raphael D.

"He was conscious," said Raphael Silver, "and he even chatted with us. This was totally unexpected. He had been in the best of health."

Ironically, Rabbi Silver was to have delivered a eulogy Sunday for the late President John F. Kennedy. It was to have been given at The Temple, E. 105th Street and Ansel Road N.E., where he had been spiritual leader for more than 45 years.

**FUNERAL SERVICES** for Rabbi Silver will be held Sunday at 11 a.m. in The Temple—a place of worship that is considered one of the esthetic masterpieces of 20th century architecture. It was built under his guidance, and its congregation is one of the most influential in America.

Burial will be in Mayfield Cemetery. The Cleveland

Leaders mourn death of  
Rabbi Silver. Page 11

Temple Memorial funeral home, 8937 Euclid Avenue, is in charge of arrangements.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Abba Hillel Silver Educational and Charitable Foundation. The family also requests that friends refrain from telephoning or visiting the home until after the funeral.

**RABBI SILVER'S** honors and accomplishments were endless, but he was perhaps best known as one of the principal architects and shapers of the modern state of Israel. In appearance, he had the manner and bearing of an Old Testament prophet, and his enormous rolling voice was overpowering.

Rabbi Silver was born in Neinstadt, Schirwindt, Lithuania, on Jan. 28, 1893. He was the son of Rabbi Moses Silver, who represented the family's third consecutive generation of ordained rabbis.

In June 1902, the Silver family came to this country and settled in New York, where Moses Silver became a teacher in a Hebrew school. In 1904, when he was 11, Abba Silver and a group of friends established the Herzl Zion Club, a group that espoused the Zionist beliefs of Dr. Theodore Herzl.

**THIS WAS AMERICA'S** first Hebrew-speaking Zionist organization.

In 1911, Abba Silver was graduated from Townsend



# Rabbi Silver, Pillar of Jewry and a Founder of Israel, Dies

★ From First Page

Harris High School. He then entered Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. At the same time he attended the University of Cincinnati. He was graduated from both in 1915, completing the nine-year rabbinical program in just four years.

From 1915 to 1917, Rabbi Silver was spiritual leader of the Eoff Street Temple (Congregation L'Shem Shamayim) in Wheeling, W. Va. In 1917 he served with American troops in France and won the French decoration, Officer de l'Instruction Publique.

In 1917 Rabbi Silver was appointed rabbi of The Temple (Congregation Tifereth Israel), and began the leadership of this congregation that was terminated only by his death. His son, Daniel J., has been associate rabbi since 1956.

**IN THE 1920's**, Rabbi Silver's stature as a spiritual and moral figure in American life began to grow. His liberal views gave him national prominence, and his unrelenting Zionism made him an influence in world affairs.

In 1925, Rabbi Silver received the degree of doctor of divinity from Hebrew Union College. This was just a year after the present Temple was dedicated. Built at a cost of \$1.3 million, it has become one of Cleveland's best-known landmarks.

Rabbi Silver's liberal views in the 1920s involved him in a number of controversies in Cleveland. Perhaps the most noted was his resignation from the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce over what he called its "anti-union" policies. Later, as a member of a special state commission, he helped draft Ohio's first unemployment insurance law.

His break with the Chamber of Commerce came because of what he called its espousal of the open shop. His consistency on this matter was illustrated more than 30 years later, when he vehemently opposed the "right-to-work" constitutional amendment defeated by Ohio voters in 1958.

**THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT**, which sought the establishment of independent Israel, had one of its most eloquent spokesmen and persistent activists in Rabbi Silver. In 1920, he addressed the international Zionist conference in London, sharing the platform with such notables as Lord Balfour, author of the 1917 Balfour declaration for an Israeli nation, and Dr. Chaim Weizmann, first president of Israel. Later, he was identified with an American Zionist movement led by Louis D. Brandeis, the late Supreme Court justice.

From 1924 through 1932, Rabbi Silver was president of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education, and from 1935 through 1941 he headed the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Federation.

With the advent of the 1930s, Rabbi Silver devoted much of his energy to the formation of

## 'Father Hillel'

The late Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver's given names mean "Father Hillel." He was named after a revered teacher who lived at about the time of the birth of Christ and spoke Judaism's version of the Golden Rule.

It reads: "That which is hateful to you, do not do unto your fellow man. That is the whole of the law. All else is commentary."

anti-Nazi groups. He organized a boycott of German goods at a time when some Jewish leaders feared such a move was extreme.

**IN 1942**, Rabbi Silver took part in a historic conference of American Jewry in New York City. At this conference, a definite program was adopted, defining for once and for all the establishment of an independent Israel as the principal aim of Zionism.

In 1943, Rabbi Silver and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise formed the American Zionist Emergency Council, which brought the Israel statehood question before the U. S. Congress. Although resolutions favoring Israel statehood failed to pass Congress, they were included

in the 1944 platforms of both major parties.

Late in 1944, the American Zionist Emergency Council was split into two camps called the "Silver activists" and the "Wise moderates," and Rabbi Silver resigned. But in July, 1945, he was recalled to chairmanship of this group, and in 1945-46 he headed the Zionist Organization of America.

**IN DECEMBER, 1945**, Congress finally passed a resolution favoring a "Jewish national home" and a "democratic commonwealth" in Palestine.

In 1946, at the 22d world Zionist congress in Basel, Switzerland, Rabbi Silver led an activist faction against a group of moderates headed by Weizmann. The congress upheld Rabbi Silver's position, and this has been commonly given as the reason for Great Britain's decision to bring the issue before the United Nations in 1947. The British were at that time the administrators of Palestine.

Rabbi Silver presented the Zionists case before the UN in 1947 and 1948, and on May 14, 1948, the state of Israel was officially proclaimed.

**IN THE LAST YEARS** of his life, Rabbi Silver received hundreds of honors, awards and citations. He received honorary degrees from Western Reserve University (1928), Hebrew Union College (1941), the University of Tampa (1951), and Dropsie College, a Jewish institution in Philadelphia (1957).

His awards include the National Service Award of Phi Epsilon Pi (1948), the B'rith Shalom Award (1948), the Cardozo Memoria Award of Tau Epsilon Rho (1949), the Award of Merit of the Jewish War Veterans (1951), the award of Merit of Zeta Beta Tau (1953), the Charles Eisenman Award of the Jewish Community Federation (1957), and the Human Relations Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (1958).

**IN 1953**, he was one of three religious leaders chosen to deliver prayers at the first inauguration of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. In the 1960 presidential campaign, the Republican vice presidential nominee, Henry Cabot Lodge, was Rabbi Silver's house guest on a Cleveland visit.

On Jan. 20, 1963, more than 2,000 persons gathered in Hotel Sheraton-Cleveland to honor Rabbi Silver on his 70th birthday. "It's good to grow old among the people I love," he told them.

Rabbi Silver wrote a number of books. They were: "A History of Messianic Speculation in Israel From the First Through the Seventeenth Centuries" (1927), "The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History" (1928), "The World Crisis and Jewish Survival" (1941), "Vision and Victory" (1949), "Where Judaism Differed: An Inquiry into the Distinctiveness of Judaism" (1956), and "Moses and the Original Torah" (1961).

Besides his wife (the former Virginia Horkheimer, whom he married in 1923) and the two sons, Rabbi Silver is survived by a brother, Maxwell, of New York; two sisters, Mrs. Rose Matlow and Mrs. Bessie Liebow, both of New York, and six grandchildren.



# Leaders Mourn

## Passing of Rabbi Silver

Leaders in government, religious and business life in Cleveland and the nation mourned the death of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, yesterday.

Below are some of their comments:

**AVRAHAM HARMAN**, Israeli ambassador to the United States — "The death of Rabbi Silver is a grievous blow. Only a few months ago he and Mrs. Silver were in Israel where his 70th birthday was celebrated by the whole country.

"For many decades he was the outstanding spokesman of the ideal of the Jewish renaissance in Israel. He was the spokesman of this ideal before the United Nations in 1947. We in Israel count him as one of the architects of our freedom. His death is an incalculable loss which everyone in Israel will mourn."

**ARCHBISHOP EDWARD F. HOBAN** of the Cleveland Roman Catholic Diocese — "In my own name and on behalf of the entire Catholic diocese of Cleveland, I express deep and sincere grief over the death of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver. God's law has ever been a lantern to his feet and a light to his path. He walked in His way. His love for God was reflected in word and example so that in every good sense he was a true teacher of Israel who drew others to God.

"We are confident that the heavenly father waits expectantly to reward him for his goodness. All of us will miss his inspiring leadership; his charity was the bond of brotherhood, the foundation of peace, the mainstay in security of unity which will abide with us always, eternal with God in the kingdom of heaven."

**U.S. REP. CHARLES A. VANIK**, D-21 — "Rabbi Silver has been a dedicated leader in the religious and civic community, a leader who has made an invaluable contribution to Cleveland and the nation. His loss will be grieved by men of all faiths."

**RT. REV. NELSON M. BURROUGHS**, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio — "In Dr. Silver's death the nation has lost a giant of a spirit. He stood nobly in the prophetic tradition of his race. He could be counted on in every crisis to speak to the conscience of the nation and his words conveyed truth in the ultimate sense. He inspired nobility of character in others by his example. He was the patriarch of our religious community and a beloved companion. He walked beside us and yet he was always ahead of us."

**THOMAS VAIL**, publisher and editor of The Plain Dealer — "It was my good fortune to exchange thoughts with Rabbi Silver on numerous occasions. Rabbi Silver was one of the great liberal figures of his time. His mind and his presence were guiding forces in the establishment of the state of Israel.

"His deep and far reaching thought were important not only to the Jewish world in which he was a major figure, but were equally important to thinking men everywhere. He was a great humanitarian and lent worldwide distinction to the city of Cleveland where he made his home and to which he contributed so much. Cleveland and the world will miss him."

**ANTHONY J. CELEBREZZE**, U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare — "Rabbi Silver devoted his life to the cause of justice. He fought bias and prejudice at every turn, consistently championing the cause of all men to be free from poverty and deprivation. I have lost a devoted friend, Cleveland a noted citizen, the world a great spiritual leader."

**U.S. REP. WILLIAM A. MINSHALL JR.**, R-23 — "Rabbi Silver was one of the world's outstanding spiritual leaders and his loss is not only Cleveland's but the world's."

**U.S. REP. FRANCES P. BOLTON**, R-22 — "I don't know how to express my very deep regret and shock. For Rabbi Silver's family I offer my utmost sympathy."

**RABBI PHILIP HOROWITZ**, spiritual leader of the B'rith Emeth Congregation — "Rabbi Silver was the truly great leader of this generation, who took the mantle of Stephen Wise and carried it proudly. He was truly the ranking clergyman of the world." (Stephen Wise was the founder of the American Jewish Congress, an early force in world Zionism and Jewish affairs.)

**REV. B. BRUCE WHITEMORE**, executive director, Cleveland Area Church Federation — "Rabbi Silver has been greatly admired by the Protestant clergy and much respected for his leadership in the community. He was admired for his great intellectual ability as an author and a speaker, and for the leadership he provided for the Zionist movement in America. Unquestionably he was one of the great preachers of America."

**U.S. SEN. FRANK J. LAUSCHE**, D-Ohio — "Rabbi Silver was a spiritual and civic leader of tremendous influence. I know of no one who had a greater impact on the ethical, cultural and civic life of both the local and national community. I am saddened by his death. Throughout my whole private and public life he inspired and influenced me extraordinarily."

**RALPH S. LOCHER**, mayor of Cleveland — "Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver was a great world leader in areas that were spiritual and civic in nature. He fought for the causes which have benefited humanity; he was the great leader of Zionism. His loss will be felt throughout the world by men of good will."

**CYRUS S. EATON**, Cleveland industrialist — "I am profoundly saddened to lose Rabbi Silver. He and I have been friends since he first came to Cleveland 46 years ago. He has been a great citizen of the world. He encouraged tolerance and forbearance among people of different languages, races and faiths and has been a friend to the whole family of mankind."

**I. E. FREIBERGER**, board chairman of the Forest City Publishing Co. and retired chairman of the board of the Cleveland Trust Co. — "I always had a tremendous admiration for Rabbi Silver. He was a man of international stature, participating in all undertakings for the good of the city and for the good of humanity. He was a great leader extending beyond the question of religion. I am very saddened by this shocking loss."

**SAMUEL H. SILBERT**, chief justice emeritus, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas court — "Rabbi Silver was one of the great men of this world. I have had the privilege of listening to him many, many times and I have seen him many, many times and I have seen him in many stress conditions. He was always a master of thought and eloquence. He always said something extremely useful to humanity. America has lost one of its greatest citizens."

**DR. JOHN S. MILLIS**, president, Western Reserve University — "Rabbi Silver was one of the great spiritual leaders of Cleveland, of America and of the world. His deep scholarship and great spiritual leadership served as an example to men of all faiths."

**REV. JOHN BRUERE**, pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church — "Rabbi Silver spoke to the social problems of his day as did the Old Testament prophets to theirs. He applied the eternal principles of religion to the ever-changing modern scene. He had the gift of the winged word that reached men's minds and hearts. He was courageous, indefatigable, blessed with a rare sense of humor, and never at a loss to give an honest answer to a question."

**CURTIS LEE SMITH**, president of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce — "Rabbi Silver was a great spiritual leader in his own city and also a respected prophet throughout the free world. He carried a double burden with his skillful interpretation of Israel's problems and needs, in addition to his heavy schedule in Cleveland. His voice was one of the greatest of our time and will be sorely missed in counsel around the world as well as in Greater Cleveland."



# Editor Seltzer—A Man in Love With His Home Town

In 37 exciting and fruitful years as editor of The Press, Louis Benson Seltzer has served the city of Cleveland. His role has been varied: reformer, watchdog, press agent, spark plug of Ohio's largest daily newspaper, friend of all the people.

He has, in his own words, "walked with the people in their hour of problems and their hour of happiness," and perforce has shared their dreams, their frustrations and their not-infrequent disappointments.



**BOYISH - LOOKING** Louis B. Seltzer smoked a pipe (long since discarded) when he became editor of The Press on July 9, 1928.

offers to edit papers in larger cities, including New York and Chicago.

His stature as a citizen is suggested by the fact he was offered appointment to the U. S. Senate in 1952 to fill out the term of the late Robert A. Taft. He declined that, too.

Seltzer rejected these offers, and many more, because he was in love with Cleveland and never considered leaving it. Twenty years ago he wrote:

"This is my town. I love it. Some men adopt a place and stay. This is where I was born; this is where I stay."



NEWTON D. BAKER (left) represented Seltzer at the famous contempt trial in 1929 which projected The Press editor into the national spotlight.

## BOB SELTZER

### Bachelor Hails Work of the Big Brothers

Blond, stocky Frank X. Nugent, 37, and a bachelor, said: "I admit bachelorhood is a selfish way of life, yet if I accomplish nothing but rehabilitation of one human being I will justify my existence."

Nugent is a member of the Don Bosco Guild of the Catholic Big Brothers, a group of men who serve as volunteers in helping delinquent boys when they are released from correctional institutions.

Big Brother organizations are sponsored by the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish religions. Sunday dinners in Big Brother Week in this movement which is dedicated to strengthening the youth of the community and the nation through guidance and friendship of adult males for boys lacking normal father-son relationships.



NUGENT

"I have been a Big Brother to 10 boys since 1960," said Nugent. "The boys' troubles stemmed from the six D's—death, divorce, desertion, disease, detention and disinterest. Some parents lack understanding. Sometimes both parents

work and neglect boys in idle hours.

"Trouble generally starts with poor grades, truancy, scrapes with the law, lack of religious motivation and a moral code. Our guild was named after St. John Bosco, the patron saint of errant youth. We befriend boys paroled from Fairfield Boys School at Lancaster.

"We aid Catholic parolees in returning to school, obtaining jobs and overcoming their hostility and suspicion by working with regular parole officers. Some enter military service, others marry. It is frustrating to realize a few will commit more serious crimes.

Many Cleveland men living only for self-gratification could become Big Brothers. There are 600 boys awaiting a Big Brother, and it is estimated more than 5000 Greater Cleveland boys are without a father or positive male influence in their lives.

"Men seeking a purpose or a goal could work with pre-delinquents or delinquents. Catholic and Protestant Big Brothers serve boys in fatherless homes. Jewish Big Brothers are assigned here to emo-

tionally disturbed boys at Belle-faire."

All Big Brothers are given a training course. Financial support comes from the United Appeal. The Big Brother and boy relationship spans six months to four years or longer. Chief gift of a Big Brother is himself.

Big Brothers aid boys 6 to 18 with friendship and guidance in striving to attain proper physical and emotional growth and good citizenship. Big Brothers visit boys three and four times monthly. They ride, swim, talk, dine out, visit cultural centers, theaters, sports events.

Nugent heads Nugent Enterprises, distributors of coin-operated auto wash equipment in a four-county area. He lives at 1741 Wayside Rd. Born in Brooklyn, N. Y., he attended Brooklyn Preparatory School.

After service in the Merchant Marine, Nugent came to Cleveland in 1947. He took a pre-law course at John Carroll University, attended Western Reserve University Law School and Cleveland-Marshall Law School, then forsook law to sell such items as insurance, advertising and encyclopedias.

in Cleveland next December, by the way.

I called Connie Macomber in New York the other morning, eager to discover what she was doing about the transportation problem, especially as Mrs. M. is not a woman who would walk a step if she could avoid it. Well, she is walking.

Bicycles, as you might suspect, are selling at a high premium and are almost impossible to come by at any price.

Roller skates have also come into high fashion and there is a rumor even Garbo has a pair. BUT, all those cycles and skates are creating new, undreamed-of hazards. Novices are forever falling, cracking their skulls, skinning their shins and so on.

Mike Quill must be a beloved man.



**BROTHERHOOD AWARD** winners pose with commemorative plaque in 1958. From left: Former Treasury Secretary George Humphrey, the late Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver and Louis Seltzer.

To me, Cleveland is the greatest place on earth. There is no other like it."

On another occasion, Seltzer justified his decision to stay in his home town with the words, "I like people more than I like money."

The monetary rewards of being editor of The Press were not inconsiderable, of course, but it was the contact with people — people he grew up with and solitously cultivated — that kept Seltzer in Cleveland. He could not possibly have established the same contacts anywhere else.

Ninth in the line of Press editors, Seltzer harnessed a unique mixture of sentimentality and toughness to the helm of a newspaper which long before had built a reputation for crusading in the people's interest.

Seltzer's Alger-esque rise to editor began, really, with his birth in a three-room house on Seymour Ave., at Fulton Rd., on Sept. 19, 1897.

His childhood was spent in poverty — so extreme sometimes that small loans tided the family over while father Charles Alden Seltzer, a carpenter by trade, hunched over a writing table turning out western tales that weren't to sell until much later.

Knowing his family's desperate need, and possessed of uncommon ambition to rise above the neighborhood, Seltzer obtained his father's reluctant permission to quit school at 13 and take an office boy job with the old Cleveland Leader.

One day, on a message pickup, Louis saw something that looked like a news story. He wrote it up and it landed on Page 1. Seltzer's writing career was launched.

He became a reporter at \$15 a week for the Leader at 15, but was soon fired by a city editor who advised him to "get out of the newspaper business; you're not cut out for it."

Eventually, after service with an ad agency and after

a short hitch in the Army, young Seltzer approached the late Victor Morgan, then editor of The Press, and asked for a job.

"I want more than anything in the world to be on The Press," he pleaded. Morgan gave him the job on Oct. 31, 1916.

Shortly thereafter, Seltzer had his only encounter with the late E. W. Scripps, founder of The Press and the Scripps-Howard newspaper group. Dashing out of the building to cover a story, the young reporter ran into the massive publisher, just coming in for a visit.

"Let me go, sir! Let me go, sir!" Seltzer exclaimed. "I'm covering a story!"

Apparently his eagerness to get at the job impressed Scripps. In any event, when Seltzer was just 19 he was made city editor. Three months later, he started Editor Morgan by asking to be restored to reporting. "I need more experience," he said.

Seltzer became a general assignment reporter, City Hall reporter and then city editor again. At one stage, during the rise of the Van Sweringen brothers, Seltzer became a sort of vice president in charge of the Vans for The Press.

In 1924 Seltzer became politics editor — one who didn't hesitate to get Gov. Harry Davis, former mayor of Cleveland, out of bed at 6:30 and give him a rough questioning.

Soon Seltzer was chief editorial writer and in line, everyone thought, for next editor of The Press.

Seltzer's first big disappointment came, in 1926, when Ted O. Thackrey, the paper's boyish managing editor, was named editor. Another newspaper offered Seltzer the job of editor at 50% increase in salary but he decided to stick with The Press.

The decision was wise, for two years later — on July 9, 1928 — Seltzer was named editor.

A year later, Editor Seltzer and his chief editorial writer, Carlton Matson, were charged with contempt of court and fined for a Press editorial criticizing a judge. Their fines were set aside by a higher court but Seltzer was well on the way to recognition as a controversial public figure.

Under Seltzer's leadership, The Press quickly won an international reputation for courageous crusading and fearless reporting. It also added a major new dimension — public service.

Its achievements in that journalistic area were described by Richard L. Williams in a Life article on Seltzer — entitled "Mr. Cleveland" — in 1950. He wrote:

"The Press is the world's most solicitous paper. It registers Clevelanders in a cradle roll at birth, sends their mothers bulletins on their care and feeding, polices their government for them during their taxpaying years, throws parties for them in their old age and prints a knowledgeable obituary when they die.

"From there on, it reluctantly leaves them on their own."

As editor, Seltzer was the spark plug behind almost every major step The Press made either to endear itself to its readers or to impress upon them the fact of its indispensability to them.

Under Seltzer, The Press has sparked drives that cost many thousands of dollars for worthy causes. In 1956, at the time of the Hungarian revolt, it dispatched a relief plane to the aid of refugees pouring over the Austrian border.

Even now, it has underway Hong Kong Reunion, a Press-sponsored and financed visit of three Cleveland families with their servicemen from Vietnam.

These feats, and others, won many professional honors for The Press over the years. A little over a year ago it received Time magazine's accolade as one of the 10 best newspapers in America.

Over the years, Seltzer has written hundreds of personal editorial page essays signed only "LBS." Mostly these were warm tributes to people who otherwise might never be singled out for newspaper mention.

Not all of Seltzer's campaigns have been successful. One of the first pieces he wrote after becoming editor was addressed to City Hall and asked:

"How long are we going to continue to erect neck-twisting traffic signals at street intersections? If so, why?"

Thirty-seven years later, the traffic lights are still twisting people's necks.

Under Seltzer's editorship, The Press has been primarily a local newspaper featuring local news. He feels strongly about the priority of such news, expressing himself thusly in an article in 1956 in the Saturday Review:

"Local situations are the conversation pieces for nine-tenths of the talk among newspaper readers. Most papers, however, give nine-tenths of Page 1 to news from remote and less controversial areas. . . .

"Nobody's going to do the local digging-reporting if the newspapers don't. Some of the good magazines may do the job in national or international situations but they probably won't come into the smaller towns for obvious reasons. Nor will radio and TV do it. Their field has settled down to be mostly entertainment."

A dapper man who once possessed 61 suits at one time, each flaunting an overblown silk handkerchief from the breast pocket, Seltzer long ago became a conspicuous figure at functions where an adroit toastmaster was needed.

His participation in community affairs, of course, has gone far beyond that. He has headed numerous local organizations — the Welfare Federation, Cleveland Convention and Visitors Bureau, Greater Cleveland Society



**SELTZER THE SPEAKER**, an image familiar to most Clevelanders, gets set to perform at the microphone.



**GOLDEN WEDDING COUPLE**, Louis Seltzer and the late Mrs. Seltzer, were a happy pair at The Press Golden Wedding banquet last June 7.

Council, among others — and, on the national scene he is a member of the Pulitzer Prize Advisory Board and a founder of the American Press Institute.

One of his most prized possessions is the Brotherhood Award given him in 1951 by the National Conference of Christians and Jews in appreciation of his long labor in that vineyard.

Because of his commitments as editor, involving speeches and personal appearances by the dozens every week, Seltzer's family life has necessarily been of a special sort.

Away from home much of the time at night, he nevertheless tried to have an early dinner with Mrs. Seltzer at home before setting out on his evening itinerary. Often Mrs. Seltzer accompanied him — even in the last months of her life — and his solicitude for her was often commented upon by persons in the audience.

Seltzer met his bride-to-be by the simple and direct process of writing her a note while she played piano in a movie theater. This began a courtship that ended in their marriage at 17. Their marriage of almost 51 years — blessed with two children — came to an end a month ago when Mrs. Seltzer died of cancer.

Their two children are Mrs. Shirley (Arthur E.) Cooper of Cleveland and Chester, a newspaperman in Bakersfield, Calif. Seltzer's lone surviving brother, Robert, is a columnist for The Press.

There are also five grandchildren, Chester's two sons in California, and the Coopers' three children, Ted, at Indiana University, Laura at Rocky River High, and Mrs. John (Leigh Cooper) Eastman whose one-year-old daughter was named Marion Elizabeth Eastman II to honor her grandmother.

## MILT WIDDER

### Owner of Car France Will Spend \$100,000



**"BRIGHTER CORNER:"** Almost \$100,000 will be spent by the new owner of Car France at Chester and E. 18th to brighten those corners. The auto agency, in business eight years, was sold by Lee Seidman to Jack Ensey, who has been a foreign car dealer in Lakewood for 11 years. Marvin Licht stays as general manager. Seidman has the Jaguar agency on Mayfield Rd. in Cleveland Heights.

"We Don't Give a Damn for the Whole State of Michigan" will be the title of the Ohio State football saga, being written by Cleveland Bill Levy for World Publishing. This title (as the "Return to Glory" about the Browns) was created by Bill's relative, lawyer Charles Neuger.

"Funny Girl," coming to the Hanna this month, broke all house records in Chicago's Schubert Theater last week, grossing \$83,550. . . . Law professor M. G. Shanker of WRU will teach at the University of California, in Berkeley, this spring semester as a visiting professor.

**GIVE AWAY:** A Kodak Verifax copying machine, in good working order, to a charitable institution. Call James Dominick of the Micro Photo division of Bell & Howell at 761-3758.

**EMERGENCY:** Two hours before showing of "Every Hour—Every Day," the dramatic color film about police work, the \$2000 sound projector owned by Downtown Rotary Club went on the fritz at the Statler Ballroom. Expert tinkering could not get things started. Ten minutes before the film was run a small Bell & Howell camera was rushed over to run the reel.

The single Cleveland scene in the story, narrated by Danny Thomas, was taken off W. 28th St. It was about a family quarrel. The performers included Patrolmen Nick Petrus and Edward Hayes of the Third District. Actors Barbara Pavele, Patrick Foley and Al Stebley came from the studios of Cinecraft.

The 28-minute documentary was produced by the International Police Chiefs' Assn. The Rotary Club bought eight copies for \$1600 for Greater Cleveland showings.

One of the door prizes at the Rotary meeting was won by veteran realtor Raymond T. Cragin, back from a three-month tour of the Orient. . . . Sherwin-Williams, marking its 100th anniversary, furnished the dessert for the lunch: ice cream with a "Cover the Earth" slogan.

**ADD ENDERS:** Bea Neufeld, Heights and WRU grad (onetime Press reporter and teen-age writer), back from a 15-month around-the-world trip. She did it on \$10 a day—for everything. . . . Dick Murway, editor of the Locomotive Engineer, labor publication, this week hailed the 100th year the weekly has been in print.

Capt. Severn Nelson, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, in Lakewood Hospital; also there, as a patient, is Dr. E. J. O'Malley, who is a surgeon on the staff. Editor LBS, retiring today, dropped a happy hint: he'll be a great-grandfather for the second time later this year. . . . Dave Dietz Jr., son of the science editor, welcomed No. 2—a girl.

When the Food Service Executives dine at the Charterhouse in Euclid tomorrow night, they will get a "honeymoon package" bargain: \$30 a couple for the dinner, a room overnight and brunch Sunday.

## WINSOR FRENCH

### In N. Y., Even People Who Don't Walk Do

The Princeton Triangle Club may have had the Cleveland field to itself during its recent holiday tour, but other groups will be coming along with the customary fanfare. Penn's Mask and Wig, for one, is beginning to feel its oats, already has a production in the works and will take to the road this spring. Cleveland is on the itinerary and once the boys hit the town down will go the red carpet.



Among other things being planned to protect the club from boredom and dull moments is a full-dress subscription ball. And by full dress I mean the ladies will go all out and the men in their lives will get into dinner jackets and black ties. Just like the old days.

This year the celebrated Yale Glee Club bypassed us, stuck to the Eastern Seaboard and limited their concerts to New York City, Baltimore, Richmond, Newport News and Norfolk.

According to Thomas G. Stafford of Rocky River, who is a member of the group, all performances were sold out. Stafford also had a few words to say about the world tour: the club made last summer which was in the nature of a triumph.

They sang to packed houses in Japan, the Philippines; Malaysia, Thailand, India, Russia and Sweden and everywhere they touched ground they turned out to be ambassadors with music scores rather than portfolios.

This hegira, by the way, cost a mere \$80,000 and the club earned every cent of it. They will be back





Rabbi Silver and a son, Daniel J., associate rabbi of The Temple.  
Plain Dealer Photo (William A. Ashbolt)

## Rabbi Silver Dies; Pillar of World Jewry



Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
 Dead at 70  
Plain Dealer Photo (Richard J. Misch)



Rabbi Silver chats with Soviet Delegate Andrei Gromyko at a United Nations meeting in 1948—the year of the birth of the state of Israel. Rabbi Silver was one of the chief American proponents of the new nation.  
AP Photo



# Rabbi Silver

## Spoke Out Plainly on Top Issues

For 45 years, on nearly 1,000 Sundays, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver spoke his mind in sermons delivered at The Temple.

There would be no announcement. Suddenly, a somber, white-haired man in formal dress would walk slowly to the rostrum, seize it, not look at anyone and, as silence became heavy, begin to talk.

**AT FIRST** it was whispered: "As I look about me and see what is happening to our proud and lofty civilization . . ." Then, in a crescendo: "I wonder whether the terror and judgment of God have not finally come upon (us) . . ." And finally, the peroration, in an anguished, shattering voice: "The idols which we have worshiped, the idols of silver and gold, of power and greed, of pride and prestige, of weapons and armaments, are finally driving us, cowering, into the holes of the earth, like primitive man into his cave."

Rabbi Silver delivered that sermon two autumns ago, at the time of the build-a-shelter boom. The sermon is one of dozens collected in "In the Time of Harvest," a book dedicated to Rabbi Silver on the occasion of his 70th birthday last January. He delivered 980 Sunday sermons.

**THE SETTING** for the sermons was perfect. Above him was the high Byzantine dome of The Temple. In front of him were the austere walls, copiously embellished — and his listeners, often including

many Gentiles. By their coming they said something enduring about the speaker.

He roamed the desert and the seas; he never ducked an issue or bandied words.

Why was he a Zionist? "... simply, just simply, because I am a Jew" (1920). Why was he opposed to religion in the public schools? "There are other agencies which can, which ought to assume this responsibility. Millions of dollars have been spent by churches upon their Sabbath schools. Why have these Sabbath schools failed to do their duty? And if they have failed, why should the public school now be saddled with their failure?" (1924).

**A CATHOLIC** President in the White House? "It occurs to me that the simplest answer . . . might well be: 'Why not?'" (1959).

Red scare? "I refuse to be stampeded . . . If (capitalism) cannot or does not wish to solve (its) problems, it will be superceded by socialism. There is no particular calamity involved in that" (1931).

Always at the core of Rabbi Silver's beliefs was the idea that "we do the important things in life, not because we ought to do them . . . but because we have to do them. It is not our fine logic that determines our major attitudes. It is our background, our emotions and our sentiments."

**HE ONCE DEFINED** the liberal's creed as follows: "We believe in man, in his slow ascendant progress; in the autonomy of his spirit and in the primacy of his claims . . ."

He opposed the so-called right-to-work laws because the principle behind them would weaken a "strong labor movement (which) not only protects workers against exploitation but, at the same time, will save capitalism and free enterprise from those very abuses which ultimately destroy it" (1958).

The rabbi opposed McCarthyism because it swung wildly, without regard for individual rights. "We must ask ourselves what it is that we want to suppress, and why we want to suppress it, and whether the suppressor will ultimately serve the best interests of our free and democratic America" (1950).

The common weal and mankind's betterment were two of his chief concerns.

# Rabbi Silver, Jewish Leader

CLEVELAND, Nov. 28 (AP) — Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, a leader in world Jewry for almost half a century, died today of an apparent heart attack. He was 70.

The rabbi was stricken at his suburban Shaker Heights home. He was taken to Lakeside Hospital, where he died.

He had waged an untiring battle for the establishment of the state of Israel in the 1940s and won an international reputation for his lifelong leadership in the world Zionist movement.

He was a dynamic speaker, a scholar, author and spiritual leader of The Temple, one of the Nation's largest liberal Jewish congregation.

Last January he was honored at a testimonial dinner here by state and national welfare officials, including Anthony J. Celebrezze, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, one time Cleveland mayor. The late President John F. Kennedy, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion of Israel were among scores of world leaders who sent messages then.

Rabbi Silver was born at Neinstadt-Schirwindt, Lithuania, the son, grandson, great-grandson and great-great-grandson of rabbis. His father, Moses, brought him to New York's east side in 1901 and he attended public schools there.

Dr. Silver was graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1915, the same year also received his doctor of divinity degree from Hebrew Union College in the same city, completing a nine-year course in four years.

His first ministry was at the

L'Shem Shamayin Congregation in Wheeling, W. Va., from 1915 to 1917. In 1917, he took over the spiritual leadership of the Temple on Cleveland's east side, and guided it to its present position of the Nation's largest liberal Jewish congregation.

Within a comparatively short time, Rabbi Silver's liberal creed and intellect made him nationally known. He devoted his time to the Community Fund, Associated Charities, Consumers League and the League for Human Rights.

He frequently was called upon to arbitrate industrial disputes and is credited with being the father of unemployment insurance in Ohio. He was so well regarded as a student of unemployment problems that President Hoover in 1931 appointed him to membership on the Unemployment Relief Commission.

Dr. Silver was made chairman of the United Palestine Appeal in 1938-1943, which raised \$20 million for the rehabilitation of the Holy Land. In the same years he was co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal.

But it was in the cause of Zionism that Dr. Silver is best remembered. He represented a militant point of view, a departure from the compromise in negotiations with government leaders for establishment of Jewish rights in Palestine.

The rabbi was married in 1924 to Virginia Horkheimer of Wheeling, W. Va. He became the father of two sons, Daniel J. and Raphael D.





## RABBI SILVER DIES; A LEADING ZIONIST

Advocate of a Jewish State  
Headed Reform Temple

By The Associated Press

CLEVELAND, Nov. 28—Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, a leader in Jewish affairs for almost half a century, died of a heart attack today. He was 70 years old.

Rabbi Silver had waged an untiring battle for the establishment of the state of Israel for many years and won an international reputation for his lifelong leadership in the world Zionist movement.

Last January he was honored at a dinner here by state and national welfare officials, including Anthony J. Celebrezze, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, President Kennedy, former President Eisenhower and Premier David Ben-Gurion of Israel were among many world leaders who sent messages.

The bespectacled rabbi had dark, piercing eyes, a lively sense of humor and an almost incredible grasp of facts.

His sermons were prepared with painstaking care and research and his New Year's sermon on the state of the nation and the world were almost civic institutions.

Rabbi Silver was born in Lithuania, the son of a rabbi. He came to this country at the age of 8 and grew up on New York's Lower East Side.

Surviving are his widow, Virginia, and two sons, Daniel, a rabbi, and Raphael.

A funeral service will be held at The Temple, the Reform congregation he led for 45 years, at 11 A.M. Sunday.

Burial will be in Mayfield Cemetery.

### People Listened

When Rabbi Silver climbed into the pulpit to speak about Jewish needs and the Zionist cause, he was a dominant and magnetic figure. His deep, booming voice filled large synagogues and small temples, and when he stood erect, he was more than 6 feet tall and his gray hair, flecked with black, glistened in the candlelight as he shook his head for emphasis.

He had a reputation as a brilliant orator and a keen administrator and negotiator, but his main attribute, many said, was the fact that when he spoke people listened.

His ardent adherence to Zionism dated to early childhood. As a teen-ager, he became a member of the Herzl Zion Club in New York's Lower East Side, one of the earliest boys' groups in the American Zionist movement. The club was named after Dr. Theodor Herzl, the founder of political Zionism who devoted his life to the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine.

It was in these early surroundings, marked by the presentation of plays in Hebrew and animated debates on the role of Zionism, that he first began exhibiting his oratorical gifts. As a young man, he began attending Zionist meetings and came into contact with many Zionist leaders.

Dr. Silver was a controversial and highly feared figure in the field of political Zionism, differing sharply with Zionist leaders on ideology and methods in relationship to the goal of Jewish statehood.

### Champion of Zionism

Time and again—with an almost around-the-clock unswerving perseverance—he championed the cause of Zionism. He lashed out at the British Administration in Palestine for its policies concerning the Jews. He played one of the major roles in getting resolutions favoring the new state of Israel through both houses of Congress.

His efforts in behalf of the Zionist cause reached a climax on May 4, 1947, when, as chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine he presented the case before a committee of inquiry of the United Nations for the establishment of Israel as a nation. And when, in the late afternoon of Nov. 29, 1947, the partition plan was voted by the United Nations, he broke down and cried in the United Nations waiting room and uttered a Hebrew prayer of gratitude.

Over the years, he had served as president of the Zionist Organization of America, chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, and headed other Zionist groups. He played a dominant role in the fund-raising activities of the United Jewish Appeal, and served as chairman of the board of the Israel Bond Organization.

Apart from his Zionist activities, he was an early champion of the rights of organized labor, and was one of the first advocates in this country of unemployment insurance. He framed the first unemployment insurance legislation in Ohio, and served as a member of the board of directors of the American Civil Liberties Union.

He helped found in Cleveland the first Community Fund in the country and mediated many labor-management disputes.

Rabbi Silver derived immense pleasure from companionship, enjoyed good food, and laughed long and heartily at a good joke. He was an omnivorous reader who managed to crowd reading into his journeys in behalf of Jewish needs.

Among his many friends in high public office were the late Senator Robert A. Taft and President Eisenhower. Rabbi Silver was a member of the Republican Party, and delivered a special prayer at the inauguration of President Eisenhower.

Colleagues gave him the name of "Jewish Atlas" because of his untiring efforts in behalf of Zionism and because he bore what they described as "his people's woes on his shoulders."

### Headed Reform Organization

He also was recognized as a spiritual leader—as rabbi of The Temple in Cleveland, one of the largest Reform congregations in the country, a post he held for more than 40 years—and for his scholarly religious writings.

Rabbi Silver, who was born in Neinstadt, Lithuania, came to this country with his family in 1902. He attended the Hebrew Union College and the University of Cincinnati simultaneously. He graduated from both institutions in 1915, and was ordained a rabbi that year. His first pulpit was the Eff Street Temple, Wheeling, W. Va. In 1917 he was called to Cleveland as rabbi of The Temple.

In World War I, the United States sent him to France on a special mission for which he was decorated with the title Officer de l'Instruction Publique by the French Government.

The publication of his book, "Messianic Speculations in Israel," in 1927 earned for him high recognition as a theological scholar. This book was followed by "Democratic Impulse in Jewish History," "Religion in a Changing World," "World Crisis and Jewish Survival" and "Vision and Victory." He was also the recipient of several honorary degrees in recognition of his scholarship.

Rabbi Silver received many honors during his long career, the most recent being the Louis D. Brandeis Award of the American Zionist Council.

He was a leading figure in the work of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and Hebrew Union College—the main centers of American Reform Judaism.







# The Cleveland Press

*A Scripps-Howard Newspaper*

LOUIS B. SELTZER, Editor

GEORGE E. CARTER, Business Manager

Net Paid Circulation for the year ending Sept. 30, 1962

OHIO'S LARGEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

351,065

Friday, November 29, 1963

PAGE B 6

## Abba Hillel Silver

In the great history of the Jewish people, 1948 A.D. will shine as the year of the return to the homeland. More than 2000 years of wandering, of homelessness and of unimaginable persecution ended May 14, 1948, when the state of Israel was proclaimed once more.

In the centuries of Jewish history, many great prophets and patriarchs arose to lead the children of Israel. One of these died yesterday in Cleveland—Abba Hillel Silver.

Only history can ultimately determine the proper place for Abba Hillel Silver in the pantheon of Jewish leaders from Biblical days to modern times.

But on this first day after death one can begin to assess the measure of this rabbi from Cleveland who helped lead the children of Israel back to the Promised Land.

The Zionist honor roll must begin with four names: Theodore Herzl, the founder of the Zionist ideal; Chaim Weitzmann, the first president of Israel; David Ben-Gurion, the white-maned premier of the infant state; Abba Hillel Silver, prime mover during the Jewish holocaust of World War II.

Had Abba Hillel Silver elected to confine his spiritual life to his Cleveland congregation, the city would be mourning today the profound loss of this majestic scholar.

But Abba Hillel Silver belonged not only to the Temple and to Cleveland, he belonged to the world—and particularly to world Jewry—a world whose tragic dimensions are still incomprehensible two decades after the Nazi genocide.

It is no exaggeration to write that Abba Hillel Silver helped save a people from extinction, helped form a nation literally from the ashes of the Nazi death camps.

Great as he was internationally, Rabbi Silver was a citizen of Cleveland. Those who were privileged to receive his spiritual leadership firsthand, will remember more than the great deeds and the great events.

They will remember the wise scholar, the gentle humanitarian and the rich, ringing voice of inspiration. The death of Abba Hillel Silver was a world loss. To Greater Cleveland it was also a personal loss.

This community will forever glow in his memory.



# Rabbi Silver, Statesman, Is Dead at 70

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, who became a world statesman without portfolio in his 70 years, is dead today and leaves the world without one of its wise men.

For decades he had had the esteem of world leaders, had carried a liberal and effective banner in much of man's social progress, and had praised and scolded with a voice that was heard and heeded in the highest places.

Dr. Silver was with his family at his home, 19810 Shaker Blvd., Shaker Heights, yesterday for the Thanksgiving holiday. Just before dinner he became ill, with pains in his chest.

The family rushed him to Lakeside Hospital where he died at 3:40 p. m. of heart disease which had never manifested itself before.

HE HAD BEEN working on a commemorative sermon on President John F. Kennedy to deliver Sunday at The Temple. On Wednesday evening he was apparently in fine spirits and good health at a gathering of the Temple Men's Club.

Funeral services will be Sunday at 11 a. m. at the Temple and burial will be in Mayfield Cemetery.

Rabbi Silver was both a man of high ideals and a man of action. He was a major leader in establishing Israel, for he remained firm when other Zionists and whole governments appeared to be faint-hearted.

HE WAS CALLED to the leadership of the Zionist movement in America in 1943 at age 50. He and Rabbi

Stephen S. Wise formed the American Zionist Emergency Council, of which he was chairman.

In the midst of a great war, nations were compromising past pledges if those promises seemed to stand in the way of victory. The Allied powers did not agree on Palestine policy. Some leaders of Zionism were themselves unsure.

It was into a great political struggle on a world stage that Dr. Silver launched himself. He argued his cause before the heads of state and in the highest councils of war. The concept of a Jewish homeland did not become a casualty of war. On May 8, 1948, he addressed the United Nations Assembly on the justice of Zionism. And on May 14, 1948, the state of Israel was proclaimed.

Dr. Silver had prepared for that momentous battle by many field engagements before. One of his earliest was that to bring unemployment insurance to Ohio.

HE ARGUED then that the unemployed workingman should have the dignity of insurance due him, and not have to rely on charity. He began this fight in 1928 by enlisting the support of the Consumer's League.

His leadership was recognized by the late Gov. George White and later on, when the fight had reached a national stage, his leadership was recognized by President Hoover, who appointed him to the Unemployment Relief Commission in 1931.

Dr. Silver was far-sighted in detecting and sure in selecting the important issues of his day. In 1925, for instance, he resigned his membership in the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce when it espoused an open shop policy.

Dr. Silver declared that such a policy would bring slow death to the labor unions, and he remained a liberal friend of organized labor through his life.

HE WAS JUST as vigorous in helping defeat the so-called Right-to-work legislation a few years ago as he was in defeating the Open Shop policy in the 1920's.

Dr. Silver was one of the earliest to warn against Hitler, detecting and speaking out against anti-Semitism. In this he joined with Samuel Untermyer, New York attorney, in organizing the anti-Nazi boycott movement.

Three months after World War I was declared he came to The Temple as rabbi. He was a great admirer of President Woodrow Wilson and believed in the Allied cause.

But he excoriated the peace treaty, which he said was without ideals, and began a lifelong fight for real peace. He deplored the enfeeblement of the League of Nations, and welcomed the United Nations with all his support.

IN 1961 he said: "The collapse of the United Nations would be followed, I am afraid, by a third world war."

He went on to chastise the neutralist nations, who, he said hold the balance of power but are misusing it.

"I'm afraid they've done very little to strengthen the United Nations, their greatest friend in this world when they are in need. They go after temporary advantages and overlook the great underpinning which this organization provides them, if its prestige grows."

In 1961 he also expressed his great impatience with world leaders relative to the cause of peace by suggesting that they "should be confined in a fall-out shelter in the bowels of the earth where the air is stifling and not be permitted to leave until a peace treaty banning nuclear wars is signed."



**DR. SILVER** was born Jan. 28, 1893 in Neinstadt, Lithuania. His father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather had been rabbis.

The family came to New York in 1901 and Dr. Silver attended New York public schools. He then went to Cincinnati, and simultaneously entered the University of Cincinnati and Hebrew Union College.

In less than the usual time he received a bachelor of arts degree from the university and a doctor of divinity degree from the college.

His first pastorate was the L'Shem Shamayin congregation in Wheeling, W. Va., and from there he came to The Temple, at age 24.

In his first 30 years at The Temple the membership grew from 750 to 1700 and it became the largest reform Jewish congregation in America.

**HE WAS ONE** of the prime movers in creating the Community Fund here, and at the same time became a leader in the parallel Jewish Community Federation, and became general chairman of the Jewish Welfare Fund, for both of which he performed heroic deeds.

Rabbi Silver's intellectual labors produced several books. In 1927 it was "A History of Messianic Speculation in Israel From the First Through the Seventeenth Centuries;" 1928, "The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History;" 1941, "The World Crisis and Jewish Survival;" 1949, "Vision and Victory;" 1956, "An Inquiry Into the Distinctiveness of Judaism;" and 1961, "Moses and the Original Torah."

**HIS ACTIVITIES** on behalf of his fellow man brought many awards and honors to him. Among them were honorary degrees from Western Reserve University, in 1928; the Hebrew Union College, his alma mater, in 1941; the University of Tampa in 1951; and Dropsie College, Philadelphia, a Jewish school, in 1957.

The National Service Award of Phil Epsilon Pi came to him in 1948; the B'Rith Shalom Award the same year; the Cardozo Memorial Award of Tau Epsilon Rho a year later; the Award of Merit of the Jewish War Veterans in 1951; and the Award of Merit of Zeta Beta Tau in 1953.

In 1957 he received the Charles Eisenman Award of the Jewish Community Federation, and in 1958 the Human Relations Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

**DR. SILVER'S** Zionist activities were performed from many organizational points of vantage. He was national chairman of the board of governors for State of Israel Bonds; former president of the Zionist Organization of America and honorary president; former chairman of the American Section, Jewish Agency for Palestine, and chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council.

He was co-chairman and chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, 1938 to '43 and was a director of the American Friends of Hebrew University.

The extent of his other activities can be glimpsed by a list of memberships and other responsibilities: member of the advisory committee of the American Birth Control League; charter member of the Ohio Race Betterment Assn.; National Child Labor Commission; member of Board, Cleveland Chapter, American Red Cross.

**HE ALSO WAS** a member of the Ohio Commission on Unemployment; he served as university preacher for Cornell, University of Chicago, Syracuse, Purdue and New York Universities and Harvard, where he also was Duddleian lecturer in 1940.

He was president of the Central Conference American Rabbis 1945-47 and Alumni Association of Hebrew Union College president 1945-47. He also was a member of the board of governors of Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and Israel Institute of Technology, Haifi, Israel.

He also was national chaplain of the Jewish War Veterans and a member of the board of the Jewish Publishing Society of America.

In 1924 he married Miss Virginia Horkheimer of Wheeling. She and their two sons, Rabbi Daniel J., of the Temple, and Raphael D., survive him.

He also is survived by a brother, Maxwell; sisters, Mrs. Rose Matlow and Mrs. Bessie Liebow, all of New York, and six grandchildren.

## Jewish Federation Postpones Dinner

Because of Rabbi Silver's death, the 60th annual meeting of the Cleveland Jewish Community Federation, scheduled for Sunday, has been postponed.

Rabbi Silver was to have made the presentation speech announcing the winner of the Charles Eisenman Award for distinguished community service.

A "People and Places in Israel" exhibit of six paintings and 43 drawings, which was to have opened Sunday in the Temple's museum, has been postponed because of Rabbi Silver's death.

The body of Rabbi Silver will lie in state at the Temple between 7 and 9 p. m. tomorrow.

The Silver family will be at home to the immediate family and to out-of-town guests on Sunday. They will be at home to friends from 7 to 9 p. m. Monday through Thursday.



# Rabbi Silver's First—and Last—Sermons

By LOUIS B. SELTZER

At three o'clock Wednesday afternoon Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver called me.

"Louis, I am just finishing my sermon for the Temple Sunday morning," the world-famed rabbi said. "It is a tribute to President Kennedy. I wonder if you would do me the courtesy of reading it and then calling me. I will have it in your hands surely by Friday morning."

The sermon of one of this world's great thinkers, orators and religious leaders,

and a foremost and courageous commentator upon the unique social, economic, political and international problems with which our times have been continuously beset, was delivered in my hands, as Rabbi Silver wished. This last sermon of the rabbi's will appear in full in *The Cleveland Press*.

This incident would not now be related except for a quite remarkable coincidence. This is it:

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver arrived in Cleveland from Wheeling, W. Va., one day

in 1917. He had served with the American troops in France. Newton D. Baker, former mayor of Cleveland, and secretary of war in President Woodrow Wilson's cabinet, had told me about the young rabbi from Wheeling who was to take over one of America's foremost temples.

"He is a very remarkable young man," Mr. Baker had told me. "He will be a great man some day."

On the day that Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver arrived at the railroad station from Wheeling I met and interviewed him, a tall, piercing-eyed, black-haired man with bushy eyebrows and a twinkle in his eyes and a warmth around his lips.

Several days later I received a call—and this, of course, is the coincidence—from the new Temple rabbi.

"When we met upon my arrival in Cleveland you suggested that I might call upon you at any time for any reason," the rabbi said.

"I am doing so now. In my hands I have the draft of my first sermon from my new pulpit this coming Sunday. May I bring it or send it down to you? I wonder if you will do me the courtesy of reading it and then calling me."

It was, as might be divined, an unusually good, perceptive, and, for his first sermon, both a tactful and yet a courageous one.



**ONE OF COUNTLESS HONORS** to Rabbi Silver, this album of new developments in Israel, was presented to Dr. Silver at Jerusalem in 1956 by Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett in recognition of the great Clevelanders leadership in world Jewry.

I called the rabbi. He was pleased.

Many times throughout the intervening years between Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver's first day in Cleveland and his unexpected death on Thanksgiving Day—in those 46 years—the rabbi called. Not always to read a sermon, but not infrequently, in his friendly but forthright way, to “deliver” a sermon to me.

Rabbi Silver did not retreat. Rabbi Silver was always in the front line. He was a great student, a philosopher, a historian, an analyst of international trends and tides. He was a builder of a nation (Israel) to which he gave much of himself, in the pioneering days of courageously bringing about the partitioning from which Israel came into being.

It was my good fortune to spend many hours with Rabbi Silver, hours during which I listened to a very great and good man speak freely about this deeply distressed world and whence it might be going, and what was essential to put it on the right course when it seemed to be going off on a detour.

To have been privileged to read his very first sermon in 1917 and then to be invited by him to read his very last sermon in 1963 is a circumstance upon which I shall forever speculate—but also a circumstance which will forever bind me spiritually to one of the greatest men I have ever known.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver was a great Cleveland leader. He was a great American. He was, also, one of the truly great citizens of our world in the 70 years he graced mankind with his presence, mind and spirit.





**A REFLECTIVE** Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver sits beneath portrait of another Rabbi Silver — his father. Picture was taken in 1954.



**IN JERUSALEM** in 1956 Rabbi Silver conferred with his long-time friend, then Premier David Ben-Gurion of Israel.





**"TRULY GREAT CITIZEN,"** is the way Louis B. Seltzer, editor of The Press, described Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver (left). With the late religious leader are Carlos P. Romulo, Philippine statesman, and Seltzer (right), in this photo taken at a National Conference of Christians and Jews meeting here in 1959.



**FATHER AND SON** who worked devotedly together as spiritual leaders of the Temple—Rabbis Abba Hillel and Daniel Jeremy Silver.





**AT OFFICIAL EVENTS** Rabbi Silver was a familiar figure sitting with former Mayor Anthony Celebrezze, now U. S. welfare secretary.

# The Legacy of a President

## — Rabbi Silver's Sermon

This is the text of a sermon Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver drafted for delivery this coming Sunday from the pulpit of the Temple. It was placed in the hands of Louis B. Seltzer, editor of The Press, following a telephone call Wednesday afternoon from Rabbi Silver. He asked the editor to read it, and to call him for his reactions. The editor's reaction is experienced in the publication here of the entire sermon.

I have reflected much these last few days on the nature of the universal sorrow which the whole world manifested at the tragic death of President Kennedy.

It was clearly neither formal nor perfunctory. At home and in faraway lands men mourned for him as for a lost brother, as if he were part of their own personal lives, who shared their innermost hopes and felt their deepest needs.

People of all ages grieved for him, but especially the young. The personality of President Kennedy appealed especially to the youth of the world.

He was a young president and he spoke to the heart of young America and to all who had the hopeful heart of youth everywhere in the world. He was like a young eagle soaring high.

HE DID NOT belong to the category of the tired old statesmen who were caught and held fast in their weary routines, dreaming of worlds forever gone, the helpless agents of recurrent world disasters.

He was different. There was dawn in his outlook and spring in his call. His was the torch of a new vision.

### "Too Many of Us Have Lost Our Way"

In his acceptance speech as the Democratic nominee for the presidency, he declared: "Too many Americans have lost their way, their will and their sense of historic purposes. It is time for a new generation of leadership—new men to cope with new problems and new opportunities."

And in his inaugural address, less than three years ago, he sounded a clarion call:

"LET THE WORD go forth from this time and place to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans."

The new generation responded to his summons and challenge. Here, at last, was their true leader, their eloquent spokesman young in years and young in heart, ready to lead them in a new crusade and by the fire of a new faith build a new Jerusalem.

Where did President Kennedy find the torch which he declared would now be passed to a new generation of Americans, "a generation born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage?"

What was this ancient heritage? It was the heritage of the founding fathers and the torch was first kindled by them. To use the words of another martyred president, Abraham Lincoln, President Kennedy "returned to the fountain whose waters spring close by the blood of the revolution."

He invoked the spirit which grows in the Declaration of Independence and in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States. He called upon his generation time and again as did Lincoln, whose loving and faithful disciple he proved to be, "to come back to the great landmarks of the Declaration of Independence."

### Applied Old Ideals to Our New Age

He applied the old ideals of our country to the grave problems and the menacing conditions of our new age, and they became even more luminous and more urgently relevant than when they were first promulgated.

AN UNBROKEN chain of fervent human aspirations binds the age of Washington, the age of Lincoln and the age of Kennedy—the unremitting struggles of men for larger freedom, for their basic human rights, for the dignity of man—"the self-evident truths"—"the unalienable rights."

If you lift up your eyes from the fresh grave where President Kennedy now lies at rest, you will see not far away the stately Lincoln Memorial and beyond that the towering Washington Monument. More than mere optical vision embraces these oldest and newest of our national shrines.

A chord of sacred memory, of bounden faith and promise binds them indissolubly together. They represent our nation's unbroken covenant which time and again is renewed for us by the blood of our martyrs.



Rabbi Silver

I SAID a moment ago, that President Kennedy was young and that he appealed to the heart of young America, but he was also wise with the wisdom which men, not altogether wisely, associate with age. He had the ardor and enthusiasm of youth but not its inexperience.

### He Had Vision and Faced Reality

He had vision but he was not a visionary. He was an urbane, thoughtful, cultured, well-informed human being, forceful in action but tactful and moderate in speech and manner.

HE FACED reality. He understood his world—its dangers, its knotted domestic and international problems, some often almost too difficult to unravel. He understood full well the limitations of his high office and his own personal powers to set all things aright.

He realized too that the powers and resources of our country, great as they were, were not unlimited, and that we could neither dictate to the world nor go it alone.



"Absolute sovereignty no longer assures us of absolute security." He understood also the limits of military power. "The basic problems facing the world today are not susceptible of a final military solution."

But these inevitable limitations and their attendant frustrations did not cause him to seek refuge in inaction. The wisdom of our sages seems to have guided him. "Thine is not the duty to complete the task but neither art thou free to desist from it."

**IN A DANGEROUSLY** poised world and with an awesome responsibility resting upon his shoulders, he moved cautiously, but he moved, he acted with deliberateness and circumspection but he acted. He failed—but he tried again. He would not permit himself to be angered, or disheartened, or goaded into quick reprisals but neither was he ever deflected from his main purpose.

## He Understood Art of Compromise

He understood that the art of government was the art of compromise, but never on principles. He stood immovable as a rock when the basic principles of our Constitution or the basic rights of man were involved.

He was not a doctrinaire. He knew how to bend as a tree bends before strong winds, but his roots always remained firmly set in the earth. He profited from his mistakes and those of his predecessors, as he did in the case of the Cuban fiasco early in his administration.

**HE SAW CLEARLY** the five besetting dangers of our age. He had been summoned to lead our nation in an hour of maximum danger, but with open eyes and a stout heart he confronted them.

"However close we sometimes seem to that dark and final abyss, let no man of peace and freedom despair. . . . If we can all persevere, if we can in every land . . . look beyond our own shores and ambitions, then surely the age will dawn in which the strong are just and the weak secure and the peace preserved."

He faced the danger of the nuclear age. He, more than any of us understood, because all sources of information were available to him, what a nuclear war would mean to mankind.

He built up the military strength of our nation so that it might act as a deterrent to aggression and war. But while so engaged, he explored every avenue to discover some basis of agreement whereby the dangers of a nuclear war might be lessened.

## Nuclear Test Ban Great Achievement

After many repeated trials and failures, he succeeded in arriving at an agreement with the Soviet Union on a nuclear test ban which banned nuclear tests everywhere except underground. It was an important achievement even though it was not a guarantee against nuclear war.

The next step and the next and the final step still remained; but the first step "back from the shadow of war" had to be taken and he took it.

**HE WAS OPPOSED** to an arms race with the Soviet Union though in the few brief years in office, he unfortunately could make no headway.

"It is . . . our intention to challenge the Soviet Union, not to an arms race, but to a peace race; to advance step by step, stage by stage, until general and complete disarmament has actually been achieved." He ardently pursued peace. In the speech which he was to deliver in Dallas the day he was assassinated, he declared:

"Our strength will never be used in pursuit of aggressive ambitions—it will always be used in pursuit of peace. It will never be used to promote provocations—it will always be used to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes."

President Kennedy tried to mitigate the bitterness of the cold war. He did not hate. In this he was far ahead of most of our people in whose midst hate now stalks like a dark apparition, like "a pestilence that walketh in darkness, or a destruction that wasteth at noon-day."

## Urged Both Sides to Seek Peace

He summed up his attitude in his inaugural address:



President Kennedy

dress:

"To those nations who would make themselves our adversary, we offer not a pledge but a request; that both sides begin anew the quest for peace, before the dark powers of destruction unleashed by science engulf all humanity in planned or accidental self-destruction. . . .

**"SO LET US** begin anew — remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate."

But he would not be imposed upon. When he saw a clear and present danger to the security of America he acted with a firmness and despatch which astounded the world — as when he forced the Soviet Union to dismantle the long-range missile bases in Cuba.

When he felt that an unfair advantage was being taken of the American people, he again acted with startling forcefulness, as when he compelled the powerful steel companies of the United States to rescind their price increases after he had persuaded American labor to accept lower wage terms in order to avert national inflation.

He was not afraid to incur the momentary displeasure of his own people. He had courage and he admired courage. In his book, "Profiles in Courage", he showed how the courage of certain

men in public life served America, even though at times it wrecked their own political careers.

## Looked Deeply Into His Soul

"In whatever arena of life one may meet the challenge of courage, whatever may be the sacrifices he faces if he follows his conscience—the loss of his friends, his fortune, his contentment, even the esteem of his fellow men — each man must decide for himself the course he will follow.

The stories of past courage can define that ingredient — they can teach, they can offer hope, they can provide inspiration. But they cannot supply courage itself. For each man must look into his own soul.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy looked deeply into his own soul.

**HE SAW** the danger to the free world in the condition of misery, impoverishment and backwardness of the underdeveloped countries of the world. Freedom, he knew, cannot thrive in an explosive resentful world which can find its relief from intolerable economic conditions only in revolution.

And so he developed an extensive program of aid to the depressed areas of the earth. He called into being the "Alliance for Progress" to help the peoples of Central and South America, to mobilize their own resources and energies to raise the standard of living of their people.

He created the Peace Corps, the most noble and beautiful act of his career. He inspired our youth to go to the far corners of the earth to serve without any expectation of monetary reward in order to bring help, guidance and healing to the desperately needy of the world.

## He Saw Danger in Bigotry Here

He saw the danger to our domestic peace and our free institutions in the indurate, century-old discrimination to which the Negro citizens of our country were being subjected and he acted with energy and courage in the face of violent resistance, calumny and personal abuse.



**HE WAS COMPELLED** to resort to action which was very distasteful to him when bigotry-blinded state governors in Mississippi and Alabama defied the authority of the Supreme Court of the United States and by their shameless defiance sparked riots and acts of bombing and murder which shamed America in the eyes of the world.

But he was determined that full justice shall be done to the Negro and that the dark ages of segregation, franchisement and discrimination in employment shall end for them. He recommended a comprehensive bill on civil rights to the Congress of the United States. He declared:

### **Civil Rights Bill Seen as Tribute**

"A rising tide of discontent . . . threatens the public safety . . . the events in Birmingham and elsewhere have so increased the cries for equality that no city or state or legislative body can prudently choose to ignore them.

"The result of continued federal legislative inaction will continue, if not increase, racial strife—causing the leadership of both sides to pass from the hands of reasonable and responsible men to the purveyors of hate and violence."

**THE SINCEREST** tribute which the Congress of the United States can pay to the martyred president is to pass the civil rights bill now pending. It will be an everlasting memorial to him, even as the Emancipation Proclamation has been to Abraham Lincoln.

He saw the danger of inadequate education and training for the youth of our nation for the new world into which they are moving. Our nation needed more schools, colleges and teachers. "Nearly half of our high school graduates," he declared, "lack either the funds or the facilities to attend college. The nation cannot afford to maintain its military establishment and neglect its brain-power."

He recommended bills to improve educational quality, and at the college level, to provide federal loans for the construction of academic facilities and federally financed scholarships.

One can readily point to many other notable programs and activities of his presidency. In all of them, he was whole, entire, of one piece, a dedicated servant of justice, fairness, freedom and peace. He was not always successful. Success is not always the measure of greatness. He was not always in the right. What leader of men ever is?

### **Life Was Full of Noble Purpose**

Most of his work remains uncompleted, even as his life was uncompleted. At the close of every worthy career, much unfinished business remains. He dealt in national and world issues of such wide dimensions that they could not be settled even in a lifetime much longer than was granted him.

But the value of a masterpiece is not the size of the canvas and the glory of a song is not the length of its stanzas. A small pool of clear water may often reflect all the glories of the heavens.

**HERE WAS** a life replete with the beauty of noble purposes and aspirations, which set in motion great enterprises rich in promise for our nation and for the world. Here was the American tradition "of malice towards none and charity for all" embodied in an intrepid young leader who was tragically brought down in the soaring midflight of his resplendent career.

Here is high sorrow for all of us—but also high hope, hope that his life will inspire other lives—that our people will look to his example, his message and his mission, and, in a chastened spirit, will forego the hate which turns brother against brother, and people against people, hope that they will resolutely persevere in the ways of progress and peace.

*"Jonathan upon thy high  
places is slain."*

*"I am distressed for thee,  
my brother Jonathan."*

*"How are the mighty  
fallen!"*



# Rabbi Silver's Stature Shown in Comments

Clergymen, political, city and civic leaders joined sadly today in statements grieving the death of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.

In their very words of sorrow they marked the stature of the great spiritual leader in the community and in the world:

**ARCHBISHOP** Edward F. Hoban of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese expressed "deep and sincere grief over the death of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver."

He added, "God's law has ever been a lantern to his feet and a light to his path. He walked in His way. His love for God was reflected in word and example so that in every good sense he was a true teacher of Israel who drew others to God."

"We are confident that the heavenly father waits expectantly to reward him for his goodness. All of us will miss his inspiring leadership. His charity was the bond of brotherhood, the foundation of peace, the mainstay in security of unity which will abide with us always, eternal with God in the kingdom of heaven."

**OHIO SEN.** Stephen M. Young said: "His death is a great loss to people of all faiths. He has been a moral and spiritual force for many years."

"Our friendship dates back to the time when we both served on the same committee while formulating the Ohio State Unemployment Compensation Law."

"He was a tower of strength in the drive for social justice . . ."

**BISHOP** Nelson M. Burroughs, Episcopal Diocese of Ohio: "We have all been shocked by Rabbi Silver's death coming so quickly after all our other shocks. We in the Episcopal Diocese feel very badly for he honored us last January at our convention and did us the unusual

honor of giving us the invocation. Rabbi Silver was in the prophetic tradition of his race and religion. He always spoke clearly to the conscience of the nation and the world. I shall miss him as a friend and companion."

**THE REV. B. BRUCE WHITTEMORE**, executive director of Cleveland Area Church Federation: "He certainly was the giant among religious leaders of Cleveland, in terms of national and international influence. And as such he was much respected and will be much missed by the Protestant community. We extend our sympathy to the family of Rabbi Silver."

**MAYOR LOCHER:** "Rabbi Silver was a giant among the spiritual leaders of the world. Humanity has lost an intelligent, articulate and compassionate spokesman for all men of good will everywhere. His death is mourned throughout the world, but especially here in Cleveland, where we feel the loss of his spiritual leadership and great warmth of personality."

**L. THURSTON PENDLETON**, president of Family Service Assn.: "Rabbi Silver served the Family Service Association of Cleveland continuously since 1918. He was a member of the board from 1918 to 1940, and has been a member of the advisory board since 1940. He was re-elected for another year on Wednesday."

"As a board member he helped guide the agency through its days of greatest change, from counseling limited to relief clients to counseling for all in the community with problems too difficult for ordinary solution, no matter what their financial status."

"He gave of himself to Family Service Association as generously as he did to so many other causes."

**WELFARE SECRETARY**

**Anthony J. Celebrezze:** "Rabbi Silver devoted his life to the cause of freedom and justice. He fought at every turn bias and prejudice, constantly championing the cause of all men to be free from poverty and deprivation. I have lost a devoted friend, Cleveland a noted citizen and the world a great spiritual leader."

**SEN. FRANK J. LAUSCHE:** "Rabbi Silver was a spiritual and civic leader of tremendous influence. I know of no one who had greater impact on the ethical, cultural and civic life of both the local and national community. I am saddened and stunned by his death. Throughout my private and public life he impressed and influenced me extraordinarily."

**APPELLATE JUDGE** Daniel H. Wasserman said, "The loss to world Jewry and to this community by the untimely death of Rabbi Silver is incalculable. To those of us who knew him well we have lost an irreplaceable friend. The memory of his good deeds stands like a monument for generations to come."

**PATRICK J. O'MALLEY**, president, and **SEBASTIAN LUPICA**, executive secretary of the Cleveland AFL-CIO Federation of Labor: "The labor movement of Cleveland mourns the passing of a great spiritual leader, outstanding in his field as a clergyman and a staunch supporter of human rights. He was an unselfish worker in civic and community affairs and a staunch friend of labor. The city, state, country and world have lost a great man."

**CONG. CHARLES A. VANIK:** "In the passing of Rabbi Silver, Cleveland loses one of its most distinguished citizens. His great, wise mind was one of our finest community resources—laboring for humanity, the community and his faith. The tragic events of a difficult week

are sadly compounded."

**CONG. WILLIAM E. MINSHALL:** "We have lost a great spiritual leader. He was a great American. His loss will be felt everywhere."



# Tributes to Rabbi Silver Come From Far and Near

Tributes to Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, described as "an outstanding voice of American Jewry," who died unexpectedly Thanksgiving Day, reached here yesterday from persons and organizations at home and afar.

The World Zionist Organization, from its American headquarters in New York, described Rabbi Silver as a "great American and a great Jew."

"Dr. Silver was the major architect of the struggle to rally the support of American public opinion and to galvanize the Jewish community around the demand for Jewish statehood. We will miss his trenchant thinking, his lifelong dedication to the cause of Zion reborn."

The statement was signed by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization; Moshe Sharett, former prime minister of Israel, who is now chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, and Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency.

**A MEMORIAL SERVICE** for Dr. Silver will be held at the office of the American section, 515 Park Avenue, New York, Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

Participants will be Dr. Goldmann, Dr. Neumann and Sharett who will arrive from Israel on Monday evening. Leaders of all Zionist groups in the United States have been invited to participate.

**DR. STERLING W. BROWN**, executive vice president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, sent a message.

"Few men have given so much of themselves to so many, and Rabbi Silver was a towering figure of strength and courage amidst the most respected and loved," the statement said. "From his counsel we reaped guidance; from his wisdom we gathered knowledge and from his concern we received encouragement."

"World Jewry is rightly conscious of the debt of gratitude it owes its beloved rabbi, the world of Christianity should be no less profound in its tribute to his memory."

NCCJ's president, Dr. Lewis Webster Jones, is attending the ecumenical council in Rome, Brown said.

Brown added: "We are particularly proud that the conference bestowed its highest brotherhood award on this great gentleman during his lifetime."

**ABRAHAM FEINBERG**, president of the State of Israel Bonds organization; Samuel Rothbert, national campaign chairman, and Joseph J. Schwartz, vice president, all of New York, said in a statement:

"In the pulpit, in the community, in the nation, in Israel and in the world, his (Rabbi Silver's) vision, his scholarship, his uncompromising perseverance, his incomparable oratorical powers, his love of Zion, which was the very core

## Body to Lie in State Today

The body of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver will lie in state at The Temple, E. 101st Street at Silver Park, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. today in the main sanctuary.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

The family will be at home, 39810 Shaker Boulevard, Shaker Heights, to the immediate family and out-of-town guests tomorrow after the funeral. They will be at home to friends on Monday through Thursday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

of his life—these were the ingredients of great and statesmanlike leadership which won for him a special place in the hearts of American Jewry.

**M. E. GLASS**, president of the Jewish Community Federation, announced that a city-wide memorial tribute to Dr. Silver, under sponsorship of the Federation, is being planned to be in January.

"Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver was a national figure and a world figure," Glass said, "but Cleveland was his home and it is here he will be most profoundly missed. . . . He demonstrated through deeds as well as words the importance of community obligation."

**RABBI ALAN S. GREEN** of Temple Emanu El, 2200 South Green Road, South Euclid, said:

"Rabbi Silver intimately touched the course of life of two generations of Jewish youth who grew up, as I did, in Cleveland."

"His eloquent moral demands on our current society, always willing up out of the whole swell of Jewish history," Rabbi Green said,

"gave us a profound pride in our heritage and its relevance."

**LOUIS L. SCHAFER**, chairman of the Israel Bond dinner, scheduled for next Wednesday at Fairmount Temple, said: "There is a reluctance on the part of our members to participate in what is generally a joyous occasion following the two great tragedies that have occurred the past week."

The dinner, he said, has been indefinitely canceled.

The Temple, on E. 101st Street at Silver Park, will have special parking arrangements for Rabbi Silver's funeral, which will be tomorrow at 11 a.m.

Parking areas that will be available include: Mount Sinai Hospital lot on the west side of Ansel Road N.E. only; parking lot at E. 105th Street Market between E. 105th Street; a lot behind the Central National Bank from E. 101st Street to E. 97th Street; Woman's Hospital lot north of Chester Avenue N.E. only, and the Severance Hall parking lot. A shuttle bus will operate between Severance Hall and the Temple.

**RABBI SILVER** had planned to deliver a eulogy to the late President Kennedy Sunday at The Temple.

His prepared text is long and philosophical. Of the slain president, he planned to say:

"He was a young president and he spoke to the heart of young America and to all who had the hopeful heart of youth. . . . He was like a young eagle, soaring high."

"He did not belong to the category of the tired old statesmen . . . caught and held fast in their weary routines, dreaming of worlds forever gone the helpless agents of recurrent world disasters. "He was different. There was dawn in his outlook and spring in his call. He was the torch of a new vision."

" . . . Here is a sorrow for all of us—but also high hope that his life will inspire other lives—that our people will look to his example, his message and his mission, and, in a chastened spirit, will forego the hate which turns brother against brother, and people against people, hope that they will resolutely preserve in the ways of progress and peace."



# Rabbi Silver Often Stood Firm on Unpopular Issues in Temple

By JULIAN KRAWCHECK

A legendary figure while he was still alive, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver left his imprint in little behind-the-scenes vignettes as well as in his eloquent discourses from the pulpit.

He was not a man to be challenged easily. When a member of the Temple complained to Abe M. Luntz, then president of the congregation, on certain minor policies of the Temple, Luntz turned tiredly and said:

"I've been complaining about the same things for years—and getting nowhere. You don't know Rabbi Silver!"

HE WAS NOT a man to

duck an issue because his position ran counter to that of wealthy members of his congregation, who naturally were large contributors to the Temple.

One such incident, among many, occurred in the 1920's when the rabbi resigned from the Chamber of Commerce because of what he called its antiunion policies. Rabbi Silver took a firm stand from the pulpit on issues notwithstanding the fact many members were heads of industrial and business concerns not known for their love of organized labor.

Conversely, he remained a firm friend of the late Sen. Robert Taft when Taft's foreign policy views conflict-

ed with the sentiments of the majority of Rabbi Silver's congregation.

THE RABBI, a massive figure on the pulpit and an overpowering intellect in private conversation, had rare diplomatic gifts. But he also had a formidable temper when it was aroused.

Once, when a newspaper reporter asked him to verify and comment on the fact that a Negro family had joined the Temple, Rabbi Silver expressed himself in thunderous disapproval.

"I can't see that this is anything to write about," he snapped. "Good day, sir!" He wanted to shield the Negro family from publicity

and possible crank calls.

With all his eloquence, Rabbi Silver was once caught short for words from a totally unexpected source.

HE HAD JUST made a talk before the youngest members of the Temple's religious school. He spoke of Jewish heroes of olden times, and the whys and wherefores of certain Jewish customs, and at the conclusion he invited questions from his pint-sized listeners.

One cherub, who had been gazing intently at a light fixture high up in the dome of the Temple sanctuary, asked:

"Rabbi, how do they get up there to change the light bulb when it burns out?"

The good rabbi hemmed and hawed, and sparred for time.

"You know," he finally answered, "I've often wondered about that myself."

## Parking Plans Arranged for Silver Rites

Arrangements were completed today to accommodate more than 4000 persons in the halls and rooms of the Temple for funeral services at 11 a.m. tomorrow for Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.

The services will be amplified to all rooms and also

outdoors to an expected overflow crowd paying last respects to the world renowned Jewish leader.

Additional parking will be available at Mt. Sinai Hospital, on the west side of Ansel Rd. only; E. 105th St. Market's lot; between E. 105th and 101st St.

Lot behind the Central National Bank branch from E. 101st to E. 97th Sts.; Women's Hospital lot, north of Chester Ave. only, and the Severance Hall lot.

Shuttle bus service between Severance and the Temple will be available.

Participants in the funeral services will be Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Fairmount Temple, Rabbi Solomon Freehof of Pittsburgh, Dr. Emanuel Neuman of New York, Sen. Frank J. Lausche, Rabbi Milton Matz of the Temple and Rabbi Leon Feuer of Toledo.

## Johnson Sends Condolences to Silver's Family

A telegram of sympathy came from President Lyndon B. Johnson to Mrs. Abba Hillel Silver today.

The text is as follows: "I join with all Americans in mourning the death of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver. His pulpit and his personal influence made him a leader in American thought as well as a vital force in world Jewry.

"He brought distinction to all of the many causes which he served in Cleveland, in the nation and in the world. On behalf of Mrs. Johnson and myself I extend deep sympathy to you and to your sons."

## Brotherhood Group Praises Rabbi Silver

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver "epitomized our every ideal, our every hope and our every desire for the present and the future of our nation and its citizenry."

This tribute was paid the late spiritual leader of the Temple in a statement by the National Conference of Christians and Jews in New York.

"Few men have given so much of themselves to so many," the statement said, adding, "The world was his congregation."

## Jewish Meeting Is Re-Scheduled

The Jewish Community Federation has re-scheduled its 60th annual dinner meeting for Sunday, Jan. 12, in the Temple. Originally set for tomorrow night, the event was postponed because of the death of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.

A city-wide memorial trib-

ute to Rabbi Silver is being planned for January by the federation.

All health and physical education activities of Jewish Community Center will be canceled between 11 a. m. and 1 p. m. tomorrow, because of the funeral of Rabbi Silver.





The coffin of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver is carried from The Temple.  
Plain Dealer Photo (Marvin M. Greene)

## 4,000 Attend Rabbi Silver Rites

# Rabbi Silver, Leader of Zionism, Is Eulogized as 'Natural Hero'

By GEORGE J. BARMANN

Whenever a great rabbi dies, those of the Jewish faith say, "He has bequeathed us the heritage of life."

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of The Temple, servant of the Lord, teacher and friend, whose words and ideals spread in a radiance from here to beyond the seas, was laid to rest yesterday, and what he bequeathed was not only life, but a courage and a name already written in the history of his generation.

Under the great Byzantine dome of The Temple, with the pale light from the sky and the golden lamps joining to cast a warm reflection on the bronze coffin before the main altar, more than 4,000 persons listened to eulogies and pray-

ers and, in their own special ways, remembered this man.

"HIS PRESENCE will be here always," said U.S. Sen. Frank J. Lausche, D-O.

"No one will replace you," said Dr. Emanuel Neumann of New York.

"What we witnessed was a natural hero," said Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof of Pittsburgh.

They gave the eulogies in the hour-long service for Rabbi Silver, leader in world Zionism and a mighty religious figure for almost half a century, who died at Lakeside Hospital on Thanksgiving Day. He was 70.

Every seat in The Temple was filled as the funeral service began. Others crowded into Luntz Auditorium and the

Social Hall, where loudspeakers brought the music and the voices of the speakers. There were loudspeakers also in classrooms and outside, facing Silver Park.

**MANY DISTINGUISHED** persons attended, including Anthony J. Celebrezze, U.S. secretary of health, education and welfare; Israel's ambassador to the United States, Avraham Harman; Mrs. Lausche and Mayor and Mrs. Ralph S. Locher. Richard Tucker of New York, Metropolitan Opera Company tenor, sang the traditional Hebrew memorial prayer at the close.

Sen. Lausche recalled that he first heard Rabbi Silver at the City Club 40 years ago, "and, to me, he became a model."



DR. NEUMANN, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency for Israel, head of the Theodore Herzl Institute of New York and one of the world's leading Zionists, said that "at a moment like this, one stands speechless."

"His was the voice that called us to action," said Dr. Neumann, speaking of the late rabbi's Zionist role, which he took up many years back. "Those were the unforgettable days. This towering figure has left his indelible mark not only upon his generation but upon the history of his people."

"He was my boyhood

friend, my comrade, my teacher, my leader. Farewell, dear friend, dear master. May the prayers of all Israel accompany you to eternal rest."

After the service, Dr. Neumann felt faint and was helped from The Temple.

"RABBI SILVER was primarily a rabbi," said Rabbi Freehof, prominent leader in the American reform rabbinate, scholar and life-long friend. "Whatever else he did in the world was an outgrowth of his rabbinical ideals."

"When he spoke, he spoke to a purpose; when he stopped, he was silent. Abba was a remarkable preacher. It wasn't his eloquence. Eloquence was only the vehicle for his thought. He was a fighter for a cause. He spoke for a cause and not against people. Hate was never involved. He was a natural hero."

Rabbi Freehof is affiliated with the Rodeph Sholom Congregation of Pittsburgh.

The only decoration at the casket was a pair of candles on tall standards, which stood at either end. In the first row of pews was the family of the late rabbi, including his wife, Mrs. Virginia H. Silver, and his sons, Rabbi Daniel J. Silver and Raphael D. Silver.

OPENING PRAYER at the service was by Rabbi Leon I. Feuer of Toledo, formerly an assistant at The Temple. The psalms were read by Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Fairmount Temple. Closing prayers were said by Rabbi Milton M. Matz. of The Temple.

Special music for the service was written by Klaus George Roy, director of publications of the Cleveland Orchestra and composer. The organist at The Temple, David Gooding, who also is musical director there, played some of his own music.

When the service ended, the funeral procession went to Mayfield Cemetery, where Rabbi Feuer read the mourner's kaddish (prayer).

As Rabbi Freehof said, a great life has ended and a great memory now begins.

"Rabbi Silver, to me, radiated justice, strength, trust and wisdom and the struggle for peace throughout the world," he said. "He had a glow of inner radiance. He was tenderly merciful, but realistic, firm but just in the condemnation of wrong. He respected ideas and words, but he realized ideas meant nothing unless translated into reality."

"I have lost a long-time firends. The world has lost a great leader. When the trumpet blew, Rabbi Silver was ready. His works will live with us," he said.

WRHS  
COPY  
1950





# 4000 at Rabbi Silver Rites

The rich tenor of Richard Tucker, singing the traditional Hebrew memorial prayer, sounded the requiem yesterday for Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver before more than 4000 persons in the Temple, where he had served as spiritual leader for 46 years.

In the crowd which filled the Temple's sanctuary, Luntz Auditorium, Social Hall and classrooms and congregated outside in Silver Park there were many distinguished mourners.

These included Welfare Secretary Anthony J. Celebrezze, Sen. Frank J. Lausche and Mrs. Lausche; Israel's Ambassador Avraham Harman; Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency for Israel and head of Theodore Herzl Institute; Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof of Pittsburgh, and Mayor and Mrs. Ralph Locher.

Dr. Neumann and Rabbi Freehof are old friends of Rabbi Silver, and they combined with Sen. Lausche to pay tribute to his services to both Judaism and mankind.

"HIS WAS THE VOICE that called us to action," said Dr. Neumann, alluding to the Cleveland's major role in the Zionist cause which led to the founding of the state of Israel.

"This towering figure has left his indelible mark not only upon his generation but upon the history of his people. No one will replace you."

Rabbi Freehof, a classmate

of Rabbi Silver's at Hebrew Union Seminary, said:

"When he spoke, he spoke to a purpose; when he stopped, he was silent. He spoke for cause and not against people. Hate was never involved. He was a natural hero."

SEN. LAUSCHE said Rabbi Silver "became a model to me" after he first heard him at the City Club 40 years ago.

"The world has lost a great leader," Lausche said. "When the trumpet blew, Rabbi Silver was ready. His works will live with us."

Others participating in the service were Rabbi Leon I. Feuer of Toledo, formerly an assistant at the Temple; Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Fairmount Temple and Rabbi Milton M. Matz, assistant at the Temple.

IN THE FIRST ROW of the sanctuary were Mrs. Virginia H. Silver, widow of the rabbi, and their two sons, Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver, associate at the Temple, and Raphael D. Silver.

Rabbi Silver, who died at 70 Thanksgiving Day, was buried in Mayfield Cemetery.





## ***Citizen of World***

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver was in a very real sense a citizen of the world, and the world is mourning his tragic and untimely death.

Endowed with a powerful intellect, a commanding personality and oratorical mastery, and prominent as a leader, he was a dynamo of energy. His tremendous integrity and his compassionate humanity earned for him the respect and affection of all who came in contact with him. He was a warm-hearted, vigorous, keen-witted and loveable man, who gave infinitely more than he received and who has left behind an inspiring legacy of humanitarian accomplishment.

To those who enjoyed the rare privilege of association with him, there will ever abide the previous memory, not alone of the work of a great spiritual leader, but of companionship with a beautiful spirit—an extraordinary composite of grace and power.

ALFRED A. BENESCH, Citizens Bldg.

## ***More Praise for Silver***

Rabbi Silver was an interesting speaker and a man capable of thinking beyond the confines of his own group. He had a sense of fairness, as well as a sense of humor plus the dignity and spiritual depth equal to his calling.

It is significant that he passed away on Thanksgiving, for himself as a person, and also to those who looked to him for leadership.

MISS ELIZABETH ASKUE (a Protestant),  
1620 Oakmont Rd., South Euclid







Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, described at his 70th anniversary celebration as a "giant of our times" for his role in shaping international, national and local affairs, paused in a busy day last January before his birthday to give an interview to the Sun Papers and pose for this camera portrait by Photographer Perry Cragg.



# Building Israel His Greatest Task, Rabbi Silver Believed

In January a relaxed and gracious Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver reviewed the 70 fruitful years of his life in an interview for the Sun-Papers. With his usual charm he greeted his old friend Photographer Perry Cragg and posed for pictures.

He knew immediately upon being asked what he considered the greatest accomplishments of his life.

"In my private life my greatest accomplishment was winning the good lady who is my wife. In my public life it was the part I had in establishing the State of Israel."

## Same People Present

He was looking forward to the service marking his 70th birthday the following Sunday morn-

ing, and the banquet Sunday evening, because so many of his friends and fellow clergymen were to be present.

Most of those same friends and fellow clergymen were present last Sunday when funeral services were held at The Temple for Dr. Silver, who died suddenly on Thanksgiving Day.

Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof of Pittsburgh, a classmate of Dr. Silver at Hebrew Union College and a friend of many years, gave a eulogy Sunday as he had spoken words of appreciation and praise at the service in January.

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Fairmount Temple, who had represented the rabbinate of Cleveland at the January service, read the funeral Psalms. A former member of the staff at The Temple, Rabbi Leon I. Feuer of Toledo, who had taken part in the anniversary service, gave the opening prayer at the funeral.

What Rabbi Silver said about Israel in the interview in January may well now be applied to his life. He said, "Probably the greatest strength of the State of Israel is the example it serves to the rest of the world." Certainly the same can be said of Dr. Silver.



## MILESTONES

Died, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, 70, ardent Zionist, since 1917 leader of The Temple in Cleveland, one of the nation's largest Reformed Jewish congregations, a fifth-generation rabbi who with Rabbi Stephen Wise in 1943 organized the lobby that was instrumental in persuading Congress in 1945 to declare in favor of a Jewish national home; later presented the case for Palestinian partition before the U.N., in 1948 was pleased to see the creation of Israel itself; of a heart attack; in Cleveland.





December 6, 1963

# THE JEWISH REVIEW AND OBSERVER

## TO THE MEMORY OF A LEADER

Chanuka comes this year within the mourning period for Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, and coincident circumstances give this fact the imprint and impact of history itself.

The tradition of the miracle which is the basis of the Feast of Lights found expression in the personality of the man whom world Jewry regards as its giant of the century. Like the eight days of light that grew out of the one day's supply of oil, Rabbi Silver illumined his generation with many facets of service, any one of which would have been sufficient to merit honor and distinction. His contributions to the entrenchment of faith, the establishment of the State of Israel, the enactment of social justice legislation, the advancement of culture and the appreciation of the good in humanity—all these now stand as monuments to the great spirit which has gone from our midst.

Like flags at half-mast, the Chanuka lights this year will be dimmed by the grievous loss, but every year henceforth they will serve to remind us not merely of the Maccabean triumph but also of the inspiration that we must draw from the life and works of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.



# OVER 4,000 ATTEND FINAL RITES FOR RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Thousands of mourners, including world and national leaders and high Washington, state and local officials, attended funeral services for Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, 70, on Sunday.



RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Eulogies lauding Dr. Silver as a Jewish leader, orator and great American, were delivered before an assemblage of 4,000 in The Temple and at the graveside at Mayfield Cemetery. Many thousands, unable to get into the overcrowded synagogue, listened to the services outside the

building over loudspeakers.

The eulogies were delivered by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel-American Section; U. S. Senator Frank J. Lausche of Ohio; Rabbi Solomon Freehof of Pittsburgh; and Rabbi Milton M. Matz, associate rabbi of The Temple. The services were conducted by Rabbi Leon Feuer of Toledo and Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Fairmount Temple.

El Moleh Rachmin, the traditional prayer for the departed, was chanted by Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera Company.

Messages of condolence were received from President Zalman Shazar of Israel; Israel's Prime Minister, Levi Eshkol; members of Israel's

Cabinet; and leaders of Israel's political parties, left, center and right. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, hailed Dr. Silver as "a great American and a great Jew."

The pallbearers were: Bertram Krohngold, Max Eisner, Leo Neumark, Edward D. Friedman, William Bassichis, A. M. Luntz, Sidney N. Weitz, and Alfred A. Benesch.

The honorary pallbearers included Anthony Celebrezze, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; Dr. T. Keith Glennan, president of Case Institute of Technology; Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; Ambassador Avraham Harman, Israel's envoy to Washington; Mayor Ralph J. Locher; Dr. John S. Millis, president of Western Reserve University; Rabbi Earl Stone, Rabbi Julius Nodel, Rabbi Jay Kaufman and other prominent rabbis.

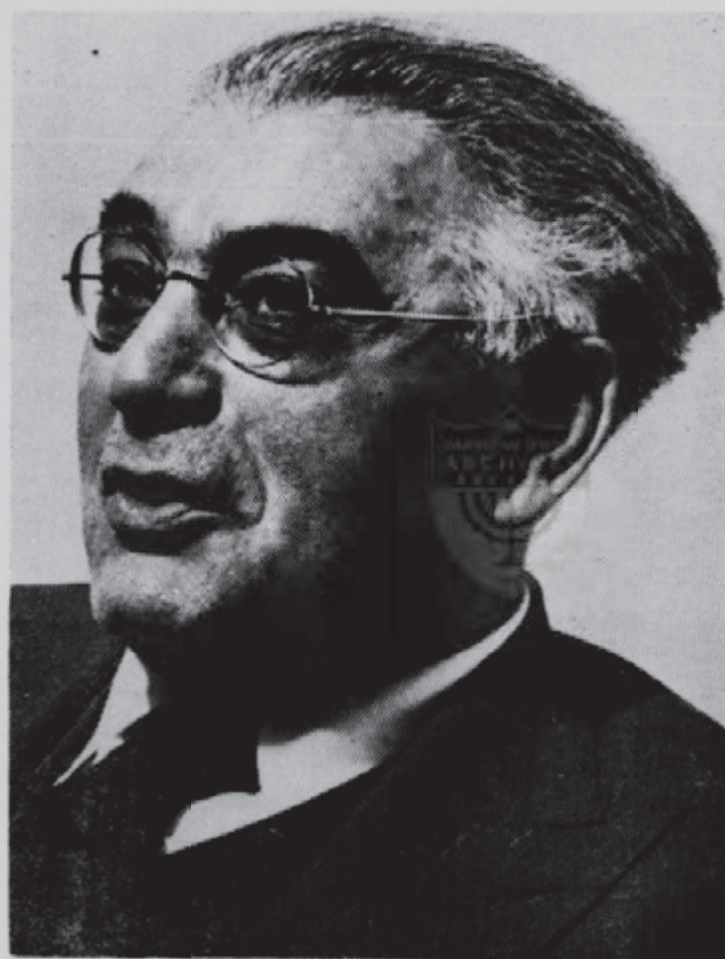
Also Rabbi Max Nussbaum of Hollywood, president of the Zionist Organization of America; Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, executive vice president of the Israel Bond Organization; Louis E. Seltzer, editor of the Cleveland Press; Thomas Vail, editor-publisher of the Cleveland Plain Dealer; Max Bressler, president of the Jewish National Fund of America; Harry L. Shapiro, representing the United Jewish Appeal; Dr. J. Teichman, representing the Liberal Party of Israel as well as the executive council of Kfar Silver, an Israel youth settlement named after Abba Hillel Silver; Dr. Sidney Marks, executive director of the Zionist Organization of America; Harold Manson of New York; Edgar Hahn, and Nathan Dauby.

Among the many tributes paid to Dr. Silver's memory were messages of condolence and statements from Moshe Sharett, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel; Joseph Meyerhoff, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal; Abraham A. Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization; Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council; Dr. Israel Goldstein and Mrs. Rose E. Halprin, co-chairmen of the World Federation of General Zionists; Lael A. Katz, national president of B'nai B'rith.

Also from Dewey D. Stone and Gottlieb Hammer, national chairman and secretary of the United Israel Appeal; Mrs. Siegfried Kramarsky, national president of Hadassah; Samuel H. Daroff, president of the American Jewish League for Israel; the American Technion Society; and the American Friends of the Hebrew University.



# In Memoriam



*Dr. Abba Hillel Silver*

*May his memory be a blessing*



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

CLEVELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

GESU PARISH

OHIO CONFERENCE OF THE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

GREATER CLEVELAND FEDERATION  
OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES, INC.

FATHER VINCENT P. HAAS  
The Catholic Inter-racial Council  
of Greater Cleveland

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

BLESSED SACRAMENT FATHERS

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
OF AMERICA

EPIPHANY CATHOLIC CHURCH

NEW YORK BAKERY, INC.

WEST SHORE UNITARIAN CHURCH

CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK



BEECHMONT COUNTRY CLUB

THE CLEVELAND BANK

SOLLIES DELICATESSEN

THE CLEVELAND TRUST COMPANY

JONAS ABRAMS

THE CONTINENTAL BANK

MR. AND MRS. WM. LIPMAN, SR.

THE METHODIST UNION  
OF CLEVELAND

NU-GRAIN CORP.

UNION COMMERCE BANK

BRUCE MORRIS

SOCIETY NATIONAL BANK

MR. AND MRS. ALBERT E. HORN

THE CAPITAL BANK

STOUFFERS SHAKER SQUARE



## A TRIBUTE TO RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

By Rabbi Samuel M. Silver,  
Former Assistant Rabbi, Euclid  
Avenue Temple and Presently  
Spiritual Leader of Temple  
Sinai, Stamford, Conn.

In the last column I wrote for the Jewish Review and Observer, I asked that the Abba Hillel Silver bandwagon be stopped so that I could come aboard.

In other words, I asked for the privilege of joining the world to salute Dr. Silver on his 70th birthday.

Now, alas, we are all saluting him again—in retrospect.

Less than a week after the martyrdom of President Kennedy our hearts were further dented by the removal of the Great Tribune of our people.

Just as we find it difficult to believe that President Kennedy is no more, so we find it strange to live in a world without Dr. Silver. He was to us a constant in our existence, someone who sustained us and our faith, someone we could always rely on to come through when we needed him, someone to turn to for guidance and light. He was sturdy, stalwart, and strong despite what seemed to us minor ailments. His departure orphaned us and leaves us reeling.

Last summer he appeared in all his glory at the national gathering of the Reform rabbis. Joining his contemporary and classmate, Rabbi Solomon Freehof of Pittsburgh, in an informal but informative colloquy, he told his colleagues in the Central Conference of American Rabbis that he regarded his greatest achievement the aid he gave towards the formation of the State of Israel. The rabbis spontaneously applauded (the way Congress did when President Lyndon Johnson asked for action in civil rights).

In that dialogue Dr. Silver displayed a quality which some of his listeners found surprising in so great a man. Everyone knows what Dr. Silver possessed in the way of attributes; if a few didn't, the obituaries throughout the world are notifying them. He was eloquent and erudite, forceful and faithful, vibrant and impressive. He was, in a sense, the world's most successful rabbi: with one of the largest congregations in the world, one of the largest followings in the world, one of the richest sets of accomplishments in history. In the volume which honored him on his 70th birthday the leading scholars of our time paid homage to him. In the festivities in connection with his birthday the foremost statesmen and opinion-molders of our age saluted him.

Yet, in that dialogue, this titanic man exhibited admiration and humility in the presence of Dr. Freehof. He made it clear that he looked up to his classmate because of his prowess as speaker and scholar. And in answer to a question he admitted to a number of mistakes in the course of his career.

If Dr. Silver could admit to weaknesses we certainly can. And one that we can admit to, in the wake of our colossal loss, is that we did not heed him sufficiently in his importunities to us to enjoy our Jewishness, to learn more about our faith and to stand up bravely for crucial causes, such as the rights of our people, the rights of the State of Israel, the rights of the downtrodden.

We lost him on Thanksgiving Day, which fell on Nov. 28. Let our tears mingle with our appreciation to God for the gift of his life. We lost him one day before the sixteenth anniversary of the fateful endorsement of the State of Israel by the United Nations. November 29 was the date of that historic vote and, as all the eulogists tell us, no man was more responsible for the years of the nations for an independent Jewish republic than Dr. Silver. His passion and his oratory were the deciding factors in a terrifyingly close decision.

We shall honor him, therefore, by emulating that which was noblest in his career: learning, loyalty and courage, the fearless championship of the causes of Judaism and equity. We rejoice that his wife saw so many honors accorded him, that his son now stands in his sacred pulpit, that his family has been so much blessed by his influence, that his community has enjoyed such reflected glory because of his fame, that his life was so replete with memorable deeds, that so many of his dreams were fulfilled. He did his work excellently. His life—and his death—challenge us to do likewise.



# THE OBSERVER

by ISRAEL TASLITT

## HEREAFTER FOR A LEADER

In a generation not devoid of great men Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver achieved eminence as unique as it is significant. For even now that he is gone he remains indispensable to the future of his people, the Jewish community worldwide and specifically in this land.

To understand this evaluation one must consider one of the chief causes for the depletion of content within Jewish life today.

This cause is the diminution of Judaism as a working faith, not in the sense of tradition losing ground to liberalism, but in that within both camps religious faith is becoming less of a creative force and decisive influence, perhaps because, in the extension of the church-state concept in our society to the thinking of the individual, religion is being relegated to the abstract realm of the spirit.

But like the masters of the spirit of ancient Israel, Rabbi Silver believed that the place of the pulpit is in the market, where the ideals of social justice are under constant challenge by the encroachment of the jungle. He held that the opportunity to strive for social justice is granted to man not only to hold out hope for life's travail, but that it is the role of religious faith to instruct man how to make the most of this opportunity. More than any clergyman in his generation Rabbi Silver gave this concept both form and substance. On local, national and global levels he exemplified this fusion of faith and function, as it stands promulgated in the Torah which he loved so deeply and whose universal vision he applied so consistently to the problems besetting his generation. His is the example, therefore, which his people must preserve, concretize and build into the future.

Many memorials will be fashioned and erected to perpetuate his name and deeds. This is as it should be, for it is a desire of man's heart to preserve that testimony which endows him with standard and stature. These memorials must not be mere symbols. They must be able to carry forward the essence of the man to the generations that will follow, to mold their character and enhance their fortitude. For the young people of our religious schools, in their study of this century, we might provide a history text, "Abba Hillel Silver—Life of a Leader," unfolding the story of our times as inspired by a great teacher, whose genius encompassed both the broad horizons which he staked out for the spiritual experience of man as well as the instrumentality of his own being, which gave this experience direction, example, love and hope.

His is the lesson of living Judaism of which the prophets spoke. His is the lesson which we must impart to our children. This is the hereafter which we, the privileged generation, can bestow on Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, and therein will his memory be forever blessed.



# THE JEWISH INDEPENDENT

CLEVELAND, OHIO, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1963

## IN HIS PASSING

Many years before the eventful half hour in which his clear voice sounded a plea for justice that moved the United Nations to action for statehood for Israel, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver had won world-wide recognition as a Jewish leader, strong, forceful and brave.

His death has brought even fuller realization of the power which through the years, has charted the way for many, uncertain in their course and seeking his guiding hand.

The cause of Israel statehood in the years of his early manhood, had turned his ability to Zionism and the power of his genius for organization was manifested by his zeal for the expansion of Zionist influence.

It was in the first period of the advance of Hitlerism in Germany that he recognized the menace long before the Western powers had determined to wage war on a Germany engaged in a Europe-wide massacre of Jews as an opening chapter of an assault on democracy and its seizure of world-wide mastery. England, with its insistence on a policy of doing nothing that would antagonize Hitler came to the minds of all of Rabbi Silver's hearers at a sunrise gathering in Gordon Park many years ago at the statue of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, when as speaker, he warned in reference to Britain's attitude: "Appeasement does not mean peace."

A constructive, resourceful guide in many fields, including the area of public policy, his duties as spiritual leader of the Temple from the year 1917 to the hour of his death were close to his heart.

In his passing, Jews of America have lost a devoted spokesman; the Nation, a far-seeing exponent of democratic teachings; humanity, a lover of all its inherent goodness, its striving for world justice and its undying trust in the final dawn of an age of universal peace.



# Thousands Attend Funeral Services For Rabbi Silver; Mourning Nationwide For Leader Who Died Nov. 28 Following Heart Attack

Thousands of mourners, including world and national leaders of the Zionist movement and high Washington, state and local officials, attended funeral services Sunday for Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Zionist leader, who died on Thanksgiving Day from a heart attack at the age of 70.

Eulogies lauding Dr. Silver as a Jewish leader, great orator and great American, were delivered before a hushed assemblage of 2,500 in the Temple in which he served as rabbi for many years, and at the graveside at Mayfield Cemetery. Many thousands, unable to get into the overcrowded synagogue, listened to the services outside the building over loudspeakers.

The eulogies were delivered by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel-American Section; U.S. Senator Frank J. Lausche, of Ohio; Rabbi Solomon Freehof, of Pittsburgh; and Rabbi Milton M. Matz, associate rabbi of the Temple. The services were conducted by Rabbi Leon Feuer, of Toledo; and Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, of Fairmount Temple, Cleveland. El Moleh Rachmin, the traditional prayer for the departed, was chanted by Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera Company.

Messages of condolence were received from President Zalman Shazar, of Israel; Israel's Prime Minister, Levi Eshkol; members of Israel's Cabinet; and leaders of Israel's political parties, left, center and right. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, hailed Dr. Silver as "an outstanding voice of American Jewry—a great American and a great Jew."

The honorary pallbearers included civic and communal leaders, non-Jewish and Jewish, Zionist and non-Zionist. Among them were Anthony Celebrezze, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; Dr. T. Keith Glennan, president of Case Institute of Technology, here; Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; Ambassador Avraham Harman, Israel's envoy to Washington; Cleveland Mayor Ralph J. Locher; Dr. John S. Millis, president of Western Reserve University.

Also Rabbi Max Nussbaum, of Hollywood, president of the Zionist Organization of America; Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, executive vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization; Max Bressler, president of the Jewish National Fund of America; Harry L. Shapiro, representing the United Jewish



Appeal; Dr. J. Teichman, representing the Liberal Party of Israel as well as the executive council of Kfar Silver, an Israel youth settlement named after Abba Hillel Silver; Dr. Sidney Marks, executive director of the Zionist Organization of America; Harold Mannon of New York; and many prominent rabbis from various cities.

Among the many tributes paid to Dr. Silver's memory were messages of condolence and statements laudatory of his long career as rabbi, Zionist, Jew and American; from Moshe Sharett, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel; Joseph Meyerhoff, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal; Abraham A. Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization; Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council; Dr. Israel Goldstein and Mrs. Rose E. Halprin, co-chairman of the World Federation of General Zionists; the World Union of General Zionists; the world executive of the Herut-Hatzoar movement in Israel; the executive committee of the Zionists-Revisionists in America. Label A. Katz, national president of B'nai B'rith.

Abba Hillel Silver was born in the Lithuanian town of Neistadt, the son of Rabbi Moses Silver. He was of the fifth generation of rabbis in his family—and one of his sons, Daniel, is also a rabbi. Young Abba Silver was brought by his parents to the United States at the age of eight, and grew up on New York's lower East Side. He studied at the University of Cincinnati and at the Hebrew Union College, being ordained a Reform rabbi at HUC in 1915.

His first congregation was the Eoff Street Temple, at Wheeling, W.Va. In 1917, he came here as spiritual leader of the Temple in this city. In World War I, he served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army in France, and later received a high decoration for his service from the French Government.

Rabbi Silver, building his congregation in Cleveland to one of the outstanding religious institutions in the country, with a membership of more than 2,500 families, attracted wide attention early in his ministry through his theological writing, his vigorous and powerful oratory, and his advocacy of civil rights, the right of labor, and his activities toward ending unemployment.

Meanwhile, he had become one of America's most impassioned and most effective spokesmen for the rebirth of the Jewish Homeland in Palestine. He was chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council in 1933-34 and again from 1945 to 1948. During the latter period, he was one of the leading fighters for world Zionism at the new United Nations, and was one of the most prominent participants in the UN debates that led to the UN's adoption of the Palestine Partition Plan in 1947.

He had also served as president of the Zionist Organization of America; chairman of the American Section of the then Jewish Agency for Palestine in 1946-48; and as co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. At his death he was chairman of the board of governors of the Israel Bond Organization.

He had been president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; director of the American Friends of the Hebrew University; a member of the board of trustees of the American Civil Liberties Union; and active in the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education; the Jewish Welfare Federation and the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland; the Jewish Academy of Arts and Sciences; the Jewish Publication Society; the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds; the Council of Democracy; the American Birth Control League; the American Red Cross; and a member of the board of governors of the Hebrew Union College.

Rabbi Silver was honored at many outstanding events during the last year upon reaching the age of 70.



## Flags Are Lowered At Kfar Silver In Israel

Jerusalem, Dec. 1. (JTA)—The sudden death of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver in Cleveland, came as a shock to many in Israel, who consider the late Zionist leader as one of the most outstanding figures in American life. At Kfar Silver, the youth village near Ashkelon, named after the American Zionist leader, 10 years ago, flags were flown at half-mast. A condolence book was opened in the Village Hall, and many thousands of Israelis came to sign their names in the book. The village declared a week of mourning.

Israel's Liberal Party held a special memorial service in honor of the late Rabbi Silver. The entire Israeli press carried long articles expressing appreciation of Dr. Silver's career. At ZOA House, in Tel Aviv, which already had its Israeli and American flags at half-mast in tribute to the late President Kennedy, banners were lowered and then raised again to half-mast in honor of Dr. Silver. Inside ZOA House, a large portrait of Rabbi Silver was hanged, draped in black and flanked by candles.

Israel's highest Government officials today voiced highest praises for the personality and career of Rabbi Silver. President Zalman Shazar, in a telegram to Mrs. Silver, spoke of the deceased as "this great figure in American Jewry," whom he viewed as "the most esteemed and illustrious of the spiritual and political leaders of America's Zionist movement."

Messages of condolence to Mrs. Silver were also cabled by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, Deputy Premier Abba Eban, and Moshe Sharet, chairman of the Jewish Agency who said that the World Zionist Executive "deeply laments" the passing of Dr. Silver who was "a most dynamic and powerful figure" in the world Zionist movement.

## Tribute To Memory Of Rabbi Silver Paid By M. E. Glass, President Of Federation

Following is the statement made by M. E. Glass, president of the Jewish Community Federation, on the death of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver:

"Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver was a national figure and a world figure, but Cleveland was his home and it is here he will be most poignantly missed.

"The Jewish community of Cleveland and its Federation are particularly bereft, for there is no phase of our communal life that he did not immeasurably enrich. For more than four decades, he not only taught and inspired us, but by accepting many posts of responsibility, he demonstrated through deeds as well as words the importance of community obligation.

"We were blessed to have him in our midst, and the most fitting tribute to him would be a rededication to those Jewish and American ideals which he so fearlessly and inspiringly represented."

## Histadrut Ivrit Meeting To Honor Memory Of Rabbi A. H. Silver

The next scheduled all-Hebrew meeting of the Cleveland Chapter of Histadrut Ivrit of America, which will take place Sunday evening, Dec. 8, at 8 o'clock at the Bureau of Jewish Education building, 2030 South Taylor Road, will have a two-fold program.

The first part will be dedicated to the memory of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, who had a life-long interest in the renaissance of the Hebrew language. Rabbi Israel Porath, honorary president of Histadrut Ivrit, will deliver the eulogy; Cantor Isaac Goodfriend of Community Temple, will chant the Memorial prayer and Yosef Levi, director of B'nai Akiva, will read selections.



## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## Rabbi Abba Silver, Crusader for Justice

By REY L. GILLESPIE

The death of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of The Temple removed from the ranks of our religious leaders a great crusader for justice at a time when the world is filled with hatred and fear.

Some historians no doubt will describe the life and achievements of Rabbi Silver for he lived through a turbulent period in the history of his people in Europe and became one of the great leaders in the establishment of Israel as a homeland for them.

For many years I accepted an invitation from a fellow member of the Churchman's League to attend the annual Brotherhood Dinner at The Temple. On these occasions I had the opportunity to talk briefly about race relations with Rabbi Silver and to meet some members of the congregation and their guests.

ONE STATEMENT he made to me impressed me strongly. It was: "The history of oppression is an old and ugly one. Even the concomitants of religion and its moral values have failed to create a society of brotherhood."

The statement made me wonder how the institution of slavery was ever given religious sanction in this country. For as a freedom-loving nation with a national creed of "In God We Trust" it would seem to have been a damnable way of life.

Even today when our nation has become a leader in

world affairs we are surrounded by fellow Americans who are filled with race prejudice and religious intolerance. Let no one be deceived into believing that the social behavior of our young people is not being strongly influenced by these persons.

THE CHURCH or synagogue, beyond all else, must be considered a place of education in the practice of human relations. Our religious leaders must set the pace in the public acceptance of the ability of all people to work together and achieve their potentials as individuals.

MY GREAT RESPECT for Rabbi Silver has been shared by many other men in the service of God. Here is a statement by Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Fairmount Temple, who served as co-chairman of the membership drive of the Cleveland Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people:

"There is a statement in the Talmud that tells us that when a great sage passes away everyone in his kinsman, for everyone is directly bereaved in his passing. When we say that everyone is expendable we are simply stating an untruth, for men of wisdom and dedication are irreplaceable."

"Abba Hillel Silver was such a man. He was a towering figure. He was not only a world leader who shored up the spirits of the Jewish people during the years of the Nazi destruction and was their tribune and spokesman in their struggle to establish the Jewish state in Palestine, but he was also a prophet in his own

community and honored as such.

"He spoke with unparalleled effectiveness for justice and for human brotherhood. His wisdom, his eloquence and his commanding dignity all had the quality of greatness. In the pulpit he had both the mien and wisdom of a biblical prophet. We are all of us somewhat diminished by his death."

DR. KENNETH W. CLEMENT had some warm words of praise for Rabbi Silver. He is the president of the National Medical Association, past president of the Cleveland Baptist Association and a vice president of the Cleveland NAACP.

Dr. Clement said: "There are few ways that men can achieve immortality. Extraordinary concern for mankind is demonstrated by countless acts of benevolence—defense of the weak, protection of the poor or consummate and self-sacrificing devotion to one's own country; or in meaningful pursuit of great principles, justice and freedom, that lead to world peace and understanding."

"It is enough that men stand apart in one of these, but Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver will live forever in the hearts of countless millions because he excelled in all these."

"He was the foremost among religious leaders of the world to bring great ethical and moral conviction to the solution of social and political problems of our time."

"In crisis or normalcy, his was a life of total commitment to improving society through personal involvement."

"He will be missed, but never forgotten."

HERE IS ANOTHER fine statement from the Rev. Dr. Harry B. Taylor, pastor of the Church of the Covenant. We have served together for many years on the board of world-famous Karamu House.

Dr. Taylor said: "Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver was the greatest man in any profession whom I have had the privilege of knowing as a close personal friend. Not only did we enjoy and appreciate personally the privilege of being fellow leaders of two major religious institutions in metropolitan Cleveland, and more especially in the University Circle community, but we led our congregations into a rich fellowship in common spiritual heritage."

"This was typical of Rabbi Silver's irenic, inclusive spirit. He never compromised his integrity as a strong and faithful Jewish leader, but his heart was great enough to respect and appreciate the heritage of others."

"In public Rabbi Silver appeared as a majestic prophetic figure, and so he was in the classic tradition of our common Old Testament faith—one who speaks fearlessly for God and clearly interprets His will to man."

"IN PRIVATE fellowship he appeared as a strong but warm and gentle companion who loved to join in the common quest for truth. Others better qualified than I will assess his greatness as a spiritual and political leader, but I shall think of him always as my dear friend and comrade and hope that a portion of his mantle may rest upon my shoulders."

"As I stood praying in The Temple for a few moments before the altar and the coffin of Rabbi Silver, I experienced a deep sense of personal communion with him, and I found myself saying, 'Good-bye, dear and great friend. Be with God, the Father of all our spirits.'"

"He was a wondrous work of God and a mighty worker for God in our time for whom we give profound thanks."



REY L. GILLESPIE



## College Chief From Jerusalem Praises Silver

The president of Jerusalem's Hebrew University, Dr. Eliahu Elath, opened his guest sermon at The Temple yesterday morning with a brief eulogy to the congregation's late leader, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.

Dr. Elath, former Israeli ambassador both to the United States and Great Britain, cited the late rabbi's key role in the founding of his nation.

The major portion of Dr. Elath's address was devoted to an outline of his university's growth.

"The thirst for higher education and, even more, the need for higher education in Israel are as strong, as compelling, as they always have been, and we have made the greatest effort to satisfy both," he said.

Keeping up with the rapid advances of knowledge is a must if a country is to survive, he added. For Israel, a high proportion of "well educated, well-trained professionals in every sphere . . . is imperative," he said.

Newsweek, December 9, 1963

►Rabbi ABBA HILLEL SILVER, 70, Lithuanian-born, Manhattan-reared Zionist whose silver-tongued advocacy of a Jewish state reached listeners far from his congregation in Cleveland, Ohio, and helped persuade the U.N. to put through the 1947 partition plan that established Israel as a nation; of a heart attack, in Cleveland, Nov. 28.

THE JEWISH INDEPENDENT Friday, December 20, 1963

## Zionist Leader Urges Naming Of Streets And Public Institutions In Israel In Memory Of Rabbi Silver

New York (Special)—General Zionist organizations in over 50 countries affiliated with the World Union of General Zionists will hold memorial meetings at the end of this month marking the end of the Shloshim, the traditional 30 day period of mourning for the late Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, according to reports made public at a special meeting of the Head Office of the World Union of General Zionists. The Head Office is comprised of all American members of the World Union Executive.

The meeting, which was pre-

sided over by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, President of the World Union of General Zionists, unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the Government of Israel, on the Jewish Agency Executive and on the municipalities in Israel to commemorate the memory of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, as the political architect of the State of Israel, by naming streets and public institutions in his memory which would serve "as everlasting living testimonials to his monumental achievements in bringing into fruition the 2,000-year old strivings of the Jewish people."

Another resolution unanimously adopted called upon General Zionist organizations throughout the world to commemorate the memory of Dr. Silver through the establishment of new projects in Kfar Silver, the only institution in Israel bearing the name of Dr. Silver, established and financed by the ZOA.

Kfar Silver, Agricultural Training Institute, near Ashkelon, now numbers 260 students.

## Proposes Eternal Light In Israel In Memory Of Rabbi Silver

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver's great contribution to the cause of Israel as well as to great causes in America, should be recognized by an Eternal Light burning constantly in Israel, in the opinion of Mr. A. M. Bleich, 13995 Superior Road, who states in proposing this memorial, that it was suggested by the Memorial to the late President Kennedy placed in Arlington Cemetery, following the wishes of Mrs. Kennedy.

Describing Rabbi Silver's part in the Zionist movement, Mrs. Bleich says in part: "His leadership in our darkest hour gave Jews the courage to go on."

DECEMBER 11, 1963  
THE PLAIN DEALER,

## Award Goes to Rabbi Silver

The 1963 Civil Liberties Award of the Cleveland Civil Liberties Union will be given posthumously Sunday night to the late Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.

Occasion at Hotel Sheraton-Cleveland is the annual CCLU meeting in observance of Bill of Rights Day. Speaker will be Sen. Clifford P. Case, R-N.J., who will talk on "Our Unpaid Bill of Rights."

Elections will be held after the 6:30 dinner meeting.





# AROUND CITY HALL

By ETHEL KENNEDY

America is more than millions  
of people. America is all that the  
races of the world wishes it to  
be. America is the realization of  
what the ages have hoped and lab-  
ored for. God built him a conti-  
nent of glory and filled it with  
treasures untold. He carpeted it  
with soft rolling prairies and  
columned it with thundering  
mountains and traced it with long-  
winding streams. He planted it  
with deep shadowed forests and

Filled them with song  
Then He called unto a thousand  
peoples  
And summoned the bravest  
among them  
They came from the ends of the  
earth each  
bearing a gift and a hope  
And out of the county of earth  
And the labor of men  
Out of the longing of hearts and the  
Prayer of souls  
Out of the memory of ages and the  
Hopes of the world  
God fashioned a nation in love  
Blessed it with a purpose sublime  
And called it America

—Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver



(Editor's note—Above is the wording as it appears on the plaque adjacent to the Mohawk St. entrance to City Hall.)

The late Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver composed this beautiful verse "America". The words have deep meaning and it seems appropriate at this time to bring them to you. This plaque was placed on the front facade of the City Hall by Mayor Daniel J. Cosgro during his term of office, 1922-27. Friends of the late Mayor Cosgro state that he took great pride in this admirable writing.

How often we pass by the beautiful things of life, the smile of a child, a church steeple looking heavenward, a budding flower, a historic plaque, a patriotic honor-roll, and a plaque such as this one, so meaningful.





**RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER (1893-1963)**



## **Funeral Service for Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver**

### **RABBI LEON FEUER**

Tzur Yisroel, Rock of Israel, in whom our fathers put their trust, we turn to Thee in our hour of need, knowing that Thou wilt not forsake us. Our sadness is depthless, our loss immeasurable. Bound together by our grief in the passing of our beloved one, our Rabbi, teacher, leader, friend, our prayers soar upward unto Thee. Hear our cry and answer us. Thou who art the comforter of the sorrow-laden, in whom the lonely and afflicted find strength, we thank Thee for the precious life of Thy devoted servant now committed to Thy care, for the full measure of years Thou didst grant unto him.

We are humbly grateful that he was permitted to live in this time, we so urgently needed his wisdom and courage, so that he might, under Thy providence, lead Thy people Israel from darkness to light, from oppression to freedom. How wondrous Thy ways that all his matchless gifts of mind and heart and tongue were dedicated to Thy service, that it was given to him, as to few of Thy children, to bring to completion so many holy tasks.

Grant eternal peace, O Father, to the mortal remains of him who served Thee so well, so faithfully, so single-heartedly. With the kiss of Thy consolation, bring renewed strength to his beloved life's companion, his sons, his dear ones. Be with this congregation and this community, which he loved so deeply, and in whose behalf he labored so arduously. Comfort all Israel whose cause he championed so bravely, so tirelessly, so triumphantly. Comfort Israel in the loss of one of its noblest sons. May his indomitable spirit live on in all of us whom he influenced, challenging us, as he did in life, to confront our tasks unflinchingly, to overcome every difficulty, to surmount every obstacle, that Thy kingdom may come when the knowledge of Thee shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Amen.

### **RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD** ..... Psalms and II Kings 2:1-12

#### **The Honorable FRANK LAUSCHE**

The task that is mine, I confess to you, seems light and yet heavy. Somberly in this period of national sorrow, we come to this Temple to pay tribute to a noble man. Rightly, in the words of the Old Testament Scripture, we can say, "Know ye that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel." Fallen, yes. That is the judgment of tear-drowned eyes and of broken spirits burdened by the sadness of a sudden farewell, unexpected, given by the worthy man.

Ladies and gentlemen, we bow, in this beautiful Temple of worship, vividly conscious of the empty place at which our surprised eyes are staring, staring stunned and bewildered, and strangely moved. There is a vacant place in the sky of our national religious life, a vacant place in the sky of friendships, a vacant place in the pulpit of this temple, and among the true worshippers and workers for decency and justice. The lights of the candle will shine more mystically, the footsteps of the Rabbi will not fall upon the floors of this Temple. His voice is silenced, his hands are motionless, but just as surely as we are here, his presence will always be here.

It is with a deep sense of tragic loss that we are gazing in this hour with changed eyes upon a changed world. Our lonely and wondering hearts cry out in sorrow and surprise. I have been asked to speak of Rabbi Silver's dedicated life and dedicated service to his people and his service to the people of the world. Manifestly, Rabbi Silver's strength and inspired leadership strikes dumb any poor foggy words of appraisal or appreciation that I might speak. Rabbi Silver to me radiated trust, sympathy, justice, strength, wisdom, and the struggle for peace throughout the world. He had a glow of inner radiance and wherever he worked he created a climate of dedicated public service without meanness, baseness, or duplicity. He was tenderly merciful, but realistic. He was firm in the utterance of approval, but he was not effusive. He was firm, but just, in the condemnation of wrong. Rabbi Silver believed in conciliation, but not in the sacrifice of principle. He respected ideas and words, but he did realize that ideas and words meant nothing unless they were translated into reality. He encouraged action eternally, but not unless that action was founded in reason.

To me Rabbi Silver was a model. I met him forty years ago. I was a young lawyer and went to hear his address at the City Club of Cleveland. I was seeking guidance. I listened to him and when the meeting was over I felt spiritually cleansed. I felt that I was better equipped to enter my life.

Rabbi Silver, in addition to the tender and ever just ministries to his own flock, and by his great power to mold and inspire others, was recognized as a leader in the establishment of Israel as a nation. His resonant voice was heard wherever he could strike a blow for the restoration of the Homeland of the Jews. Again and again when other men, who did not share his views, attacked and criticized him, he remained firm and persevering. I felt at times that he found solace in the words of the poet who said: "Men may misjudge thy aim, think they have cause for blame and say thou art wrong; yet hold on thy quiet way. God is the Judge, not they; yes, fear not, be strong." He was strong; he was strong in the interests of decency, justice and peace.

I lost a dear friend, the world has lost a great leader; but I know that when the trumpet blew, Rabbi Silver was ready. He is gone, but his works will live with us. They will forever be an example of the ideal moral and patriotic life.



## DR. EMANUEL NEUMANN

At a moment like this, one who has been close to our great departed friend and leader stands almost speechless before the mystery of death, which is the mystery of life itself. On this day, fellow-Jews throughout the world, particularly in the land of Israel, join with us in mourning the passing of one of the greatest and noblest figures of contemporary Jewish history. I am authorized to convey the respects and profound sorrow of the organized Zionist movement—the Zionist Organization of America, which he headed, the American Zionist Council, representing all of organized Zionism in this country, and of the World Zionist Organizations. But beyond that, I know I speak for the people of Israel and for its leadership, who have sent their own messages of condolence and sympathy to the family and to The Temple. It is a high privilege to say a word on this occasion; it is also an almost, to me, intolerable burden.

Fifty-seven years ago, when I was a boy, I joined a boy's club in New York, the Herzl Zion Club, on the very evening that they were celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of their president, Abba, Abba Silver. A few short months ago, I was privileged to preside in Tel-Aviv at a great manifestation of honor, respect and devotion of the citizens of Israel to Dr. Silver. In the intervening period, we, his friends and colleagues, observed with growing admiration and with a sense of amazement and of awe the rise, the growth of this towering figure, who has left his indelible imprint, not only upon his generation, but upon the history of his people.

As a youth, dedicated to the Zionist idea and Zionist cause, he displayed extraordinary qualities of leadership, which came to full fruition later in life. He went to Cincinnati, to the Hebrew Union College, at that time reputed to be a hot-bed of anti-Zionist thought and ideology. We were disturbed. He was not affected—on the contrary, it was he who was largely instrumental in converting the Reform Movement, the Reform Rabbinate in this country, to a pro-Zionist position and increasingly with the years, his colleagues and disciples bore testimony to the influence which he wielded.

From his earliest days he was active in all phases of the Zionist Movement, in an effort to restore the Jewish National Home. It was not until 1943, at the age of fifty, at the height of his powers, that he assumed the leadership, the command of the Zionist forces—indeed, of the Jewish community of America. In those elastic years, the fate of Israel and its political future were to be decided. Despite all that we knew of his past and of his rich endowments of mind and spirit and physique, we were all astonished at the new Silver, the new man revealed to us in the hour of need and of anguish. It was after the revelation of all the horrors of the Hitler years, after Auschwitz and Buchenwald—he bore in his heart the pain and the suffering that his fellow-Jews experienced—that the burden fell upon his shoulders of carrying on the fateful struggle to establish, at long last, a home for the homeless, a center for a renewed Hebraic civilization. It was not only his sense of adherence to his people and his sense of justice—a burning sense of justice—that demanded this of him and of us, but also his sense of pride, and his rebellion against the indignities that had been heaped upon his people through the centuries.

This is not the time nor the place to evaluate his leadership, to trace the various steps that led from the depths of despair and gloom in the early forties, to that dazzling victory at the United Nations, in November, 1947, and the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. His was the voice that called us to action. His was the call that marshalled our forces. His the eloquence that presented to the United Nations in couniled assembly the historic claim of the Jewish people for national restoration and national dignity. Those were unforgettable days. Abba Hillel Silver's name is already writ large upon the pages of our history. It will be written still larger as the years go by. We in this generation, this fateful generation of which we have been part, will appraise more fully and more truly the historic achievement of Dr. Silver, and the truly heroic role that he played.

Last July, in Israel, we were all happy to see the outpouring of feeling of love and of gratitude of the masses of Israel and its leaders, its President, its Prime Minister, its former Prime Minister. May I add one last word for myself? He was my boyhood friend, my comrade, my teacher, my leader. Abba, Abba, why did you leave us, too soon, too early, too suddenly. No one to replace you, no one to play the great trumpet to mobilize our people in hours of danger. The philosopher said: "Children are our immortality. In them we see the story of our lives. We hope to see the story of our lives rewritten in a fairer hand." So be it.

Abba has achieved an immortality given to few. Superlatives are banal at a time like this. Farewell, dear friend, dear master, dear leader. May the prayers of all Israel accompany you to your eternal rest.

## RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF

Fellow mourners, Abba Hillel Silver was primarily a Rabbi, and whatever else he did in the world was the outgrowth of his rabbinical ideas. I am certain that as a Rabbi and preacher, in health and in sickness, he was constantly aware of the pageant of the weekly portions as they succeeded each other through Scripture and through the calendar, and I am rather certain that in the last few weeks he was aware of the Scriptural saga of Jacob—Jacob, whose glory name was Israel, and who is the symbol of all our highest emulation. I wonder if he thought of the words "Vayetzeh Yaakov." "Jacob departed." The Rabbis say about that seemingly overplayed verse that it is told us in order that we should never forget that when a great man is in the city, before he departs there is a glory and a radiance, and when he has departed the glory fades and the radiance is dimmed. This is our life these days—a glory has faded, a radiance has dimmed. One almost feels like using Shakespeare's pagan words, "The bright day is done and we are for the dark."



Friends, we certainly should not attempt to evaluate his achievements. There are too many of them. They are too monumental. There will be hundreds of meetings, scores of articles weighing this great man. It's only because it's so hard to imagine him not here, that we should try to visualize his presence and understand what was back of all his great achievements—his personality. It was not a personality easy to love, except by his closest and his dearest, because he was one of those unusual men who did not need to pour out their hearts in order to find release of doubts. When he spoke, he spoke to a purpose, and when he stopped speaking, he was silent and had a certain monumental immobility—he never poured out his heart. He had an immense reserve. Yet we know when you hear a great Rabbi speak, he becomes unconcealed, you learn all about him. The very cadence of his sentences, his very choice of words, the music of his utterance, and the selection of themes week after week are a revelation of his personality. So, in a sense, if we take the trouble we can know him. Abba was a remarkable creature, and it wasn't only his eloquence—that God-given talent which he worked upon and refined so magnificently during his professional years—it wasn't his eloquence. His eloquence was only the vehicle for his thoughts, the stream on which his ideas sailed through life. It was his thought, his thought was unusual, and there's a secret to knowing what it was—the way he quoted Scriptures! No one quoted Scripture the way Abba Hillel Silver did. He didn't quote over-frequently; he didn't quote, as most of us are inclined to do, as an accretion, or an ornament of the text of the service. When he quoted Scripture it was interwoven into the tapestry of his words and the text modified to its need. The words of ancient days became living words. How can I describe it to you, dear friends? Only a fellow-Rabbi might sense it. He was so deep in Scripture, that it was as if the centuries, the past had faded away, and he was still one of its inspired organs. The Bible was his and it wove itself into his text because it was part of his heart. Some of us know the traditions; many of us use the traditions. Abba was the living tradition! That's why he's unforgettable.

People think of him as a fighter. He was! A fighter for a cause. But the very nature of his battles, the psychological nature, revealed the uniqueness of this exceptional personality. People will say he was fearless. Yes, he was fearless; other people are fearless. But this fearlessness was unique and you can see it this way. Many people fought with him and he fought with many. He had to rebuild movements, change moods of whole nations, change the attitude of legislative bodies—to do that he fought. He fought against certain people and certain people resented his victory, and there were certain people who disliked him. But I venture he never bothered to dislike anybody, not for any length of time. It just didn't matter to him. He spoke for a cause, not against people. He spoke without fear. The reason for the difference is this. Anybody can be brave under special circumstances. Many people in an argument or in a public debate can be almost heroic, but they have to work themselves up, in emotion, against their opponents. To Abba, there never were opponents. There was only a right side and a wrong side. Therefore, hate was never involved and resentment never maintained. He fought the battle, and when it was ended, that was that. Other people had to make themselves courageous. This man—I've watched him for years—never had to work up his courage. He was like one of those legendary creations in the Book of Job who are created without fears. I think we have written of it, but we rarely see it—a natural hero.

Shakespeare said in "Anthony and Cleopatra," "A great bright day is gone and we are for the dark." The bright day has gone, but we are not for the dark. We keep in mind, rather, the great Rabbinic saying when a very great Rabbi dies. They don't say "Jacob has departed," they say: "He has bequeathed to us the heritage of life." That is what Abba has done for us. He has bequeathed to us a heritage. The living tradition merges better with our life today because of him. Because of him, in his own unforgettable phrase, "The timeless irradiates the timely," many of us are less hesitant; many of us will face life with greater courage, because this natural hero lived about us.

May God give strength to his dear wife, to his boys, to his brother, to his sisters—he had a strong family sense—and may God help us all. Let us say a great life has ended, a great memory now begins. Amen.

## RABBI MILTON MATZ

*Our God and God of our fathers, thou hast commanded Thy child'ren: Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath to be hallowed unto the Lord, thy God. For fruitful years our revered spiritual leader, teacher, friend, and beloved one labored in Thy vineyard, O Lord. He planted noble vines and reaped great harvests—a benevolent harvest of human betterment and growth. Now his Sabbath has come, hallowed is he in the hearts of men, as he is unto Thee, O Lord, our God.*

*As the faithful of Israel have preserved the Sabbath, so the Sabbath of our teacher will preserve the faith of Israel and mankind. The memory of our Rabbi shall ever be part of our beings. The remembrance of his silver words and golden silences—he was a man who knew the power of both speech and silence—will remain alive within us and, through us, to all who respond to our influence. As we preserve his memory, his memory shall preserve us—giving us the inspiration of example, the depth of wisdom, the heroism of dedication, the commitment of faith. In mutual tenderness, his memory and our affections shall preserve each other throughout the years. Amen.*

Mr. RICHARD TUCKER.....EL MOLEI RACHAMIM



## Silver Memorial Drive Opening in Youngstown

Plain Dealer Special

YOUNGSTOWN—A drive to build a memorial in Israel to the late Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland got under way here yesterday.

Joseph Berkowitz, chairman of the Youngstown Zionist District, announced at a memorial service honoring Rabbi Silver that the Youngstown group would build a dormitory at Kfar Silver Agricultural School in Israel. Berkowitz said names of contributors would be inscribed on the building which would be a part of the campus of the school named for the prominent Cleveland rabbi.

Rabbi Harold Silver, nephew of the late Rabbi Silver, gave the eulogy at the memorial service in Anshe Emeth Temple here. He is the Rabbi at Temple Emanuel in Pittsburgh.

THE CLEVELAND PRESS, Monday, Jan. 6, 1964

## Plan Dormitory to Honor Silver

By Press State Service

YOUNGSTOWN— Friends of the late Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver are planning a dormitory at Kfar Silver Agricultural School in Israel as a memorial to the world-renowned Cleveland Zionist leader who died last month.

Plans were revealed at a memorial service for Rabbi Silver in Anshe Emeth Temple here yesterday. The eulogy was delivered by the rabbi's nephew, Rabbi Harold Silver of Pittsburgh.

## Federation To Honor Memory Of Dr. Abba H. Silver Sunday

Rabbi Armond Cohen Will Deliver Tribute

### PLANS ANNOUNCED

Presentation Of Eisenman Award Will Also Take Place At Federation Annual Dinner-Meeting, Jan. 12

At the Jewish Community Federation 60th Annual Dinner-Meeting on Sunday evening, Jan. 12, at the Temple, Rabbi Armond E.



M. E. GLASS

Cohen of Park Synagogue will pay memorial tribute to the late Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver. The meeting, originally set for Dec. 1, was rescheduled because of the death of Rabbi Silver, according to M. E. Glass, Federation president.

A feature of the meeting will be the presentation of the Charles Eisenman Award for 1963. The award which honors the memory of Charles Eisenman, first president of the Federation from 1903 until his death in 1923, is granted on a non-sectarian basis in recognition of outstanding contribution to Cleveland's civic betterment. The presentation will be made by Rabbi Daniel Jeremey Silver of the Temple.

A highlight of the meeting will be the first presentation of a special slide-film, "The First 60 Years," covering six decades of the Federation's service to the community. The film was produced by Jim Jaffe, Federation director of public relations, and Bud Wendell, of the advertising agency of Wendell and Getz. Narrating the film is Ken Goodman, of KYW-TV.

Mayor Ralph S. Locher will express Cleveland's greetings to the Federation.

The meeting will elect trustees of the Federation Board and delegates-at-large to the Delegate Assembly, as proposed by the Nominating Committee headed by Max Simon. L. W. Neumark, former president of the Federation, is slated to be elected an honorary trustee for life.

The Invocation is to be delivered by Rabbi Sol Landau, co-rabbi of Park Synagogue. Lloyd S. Schwenger heads the 60th Annual Meeting Committee.



## MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

The Board of Trustees of The Jewish Community Federation notes with profound sorrow and a deep sense of loss the passing of its beloved and revered leader and colleague, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.

Spiritual leader of The Temple for almost fifty years, he ministered also to the larger congregation of his community and his people. For almost all of these years, he was continuously associated with The Jewish Community Federation, serving as an Honorary Trustee, a Vice-President, and General Chairman of several of its Jewish Welfare Fund Appeals.

Rabbi, teacher, scholar, and statesman, he was an eloquent spokesman for and a dynamic protagonist of vital causes in American and Jewish life. His interests and activities spanned space and time, traversing continents and centuries, and invigorating the prophecies of old in the setting of his own era. Steeped in Jewish learning and history, he had an abiding faith in the triumph of social justice and a free Israel. With indomitable and unfaltering courage, he led the victorious struggle for the re-birth of the Jewish State in its ancient homeland and the reconstruction of overseas Jewry from the ruins of World War II. He helped shape the pattern of Jewish life in one of the most crucial periods in its millennial history.


He was forceful, fearless, and forthright in charting new approaches to social problems and issues. He was in the vanguard of progressive forces seeking to promote the well-being of people, without restrictive regard of race, creed or color. With him, thought was linked with deeds, scholarship with teaching, and social vision with a program of action. He combined dignity of bearing with a warm and magnetic personality. He enjoyed companionship, enlivening any assembly of friends with his sense of humor and keen wit.

His passing leaves a great void in the life of the Jewish people everywhere. His dedicated service and his historic achievements constitute an enduring legacy and memorial to his people. We deeply mourn his death. We are profoundly grateful for the years he spent in our midst and shall cherish the memory of our association with him.

The Board of Trustees directs that this Resolution be made a part of the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be presented to his bereaved family, to whom it expresses its heartfelt sympathy.

Henry L. Zucker  
*Executive Director*

M. E. Glass  
*President*



**RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER**  
1893 — 1963





**PORTRAIT OF RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER**, painted by Laszlo Krausz since the spiritual leader's death in November, was unveiled yesterday at the Temple Museum, where the artist is showing his recent works. The portrait has been donated to the Temple Museum by Krausz. His one-man show of six paintings and 43 drawings is the result of a visit to Israel two years ago. Krausz is a Cleveland Orchestra violinist.



EMANUEL NEUMAN  
Eulogy delivered at Opening Session  
of the Zionist Actions Committee in Jerusalem  
March 16, 1964

לא קל לי, מבחינה אישית, לגשת לדוכן כדי להספיד אחד מגדולי  
עמנו, מנהיג דגול רב חושיה - והוא חבר יקר ורע, וידיד נעורים, אשר  
זכיתי לעבוד במחיצתו וגם נמנית על נושאי כליו - אבא הלל סילבר.  
פתאום, בין יום כרע, נפל - ואיננו. ושוב העמדנו בפני תעלומת  
המוות, והיא גם תעלומת החיים.

הלא רק לפני חדשים אחדים עמדו רגליו פה, בירושלים הבירה; פה  
נשא את דברו, וכאילו סכם פרק במפעל חייו - הפרשה הדרמטית והמרתקת  
ביותר, פרשת המאבק אשר נהל בזירה המדינית בעוז, במרץ, ובהצלחה כה  
מזהירה.

"יש קונה עולמו בשעה אחת". ואמנם נוהגים לקשור את שמו של אבא  
הלל בעיקר בהופעתו ההיסטורית בפני האומות המאוחדות בשעה גורלית, שעת  
הרת-עולם, כשעמד במלא קומתו הזקופה ונתן בטוי שנון ונמרץ לדרישותיו  
של העם היהודי - עם נרדף ונדרס ונרצח בהמוניו - עם הקם לתחיה וחובע  
את זכותו הלאומית והבין-לאומית, לחירות ולעצמאות בארץ מולדתו.  
אולם לא בשעה ההיא ולא בשעה אחרת קנה את עולמו; לא בקפיצה נחשונה  
אחת ולא במעשה גבורה חד פעמית. כי משחר ילדותו הקדיש את חייו, את כל  
תכונות הנפש וסגולות הרוח הצפונות בו - לתנועת התחיה, למפעל הציוני.  
עוד בהיותו נער הקסימה לו אישיותו המרהיבה של הרצל וחזונו של מדינת  
היהודים. ובמותו של הרצל היה סילבר ממיסדי אגודת נערים ציוניים, דוברי  
עברית, על שמו של המנהיג הנערץ. כבר אז גלה את כשרונו המובהק להנהגה.  
הוא נהל את עניני האגודה ביד רמה, ואנחנו חבריו הצעירים קבלנו את שלטונו  
החקיף ברצון. מאז ועד זקנה ושיבה נשא את חזון הגאולה בלבו, לא סטה מתורת  
הציונות הצרופה ימינה או שמאלה, לא נסח אותה לרגע, ושמר לה אמונים עד  
יום אחרון.

היה בעיקר וקודם כל איש הרוח, הוגה דעות, חלמיד חכם, דור רביעי  
למשפחת רבנים. היה רב בישראל - אמנם רב רפורמי. אולם הוא לא נכנע לקו



האנטי-ציוני אשר רווח שנים רבות בתנועה הריפורמית. הוא האציל עליה מרוחו, כבש אותה מבפנים והדריך אותה בכיוון ציוני. ומעל הבמה של היכלו המפואר הטיף לציונות לבני עדתו ולקהל הרחב.

כידוע היה סילבר נואם בחסד עליון. עוד בצעירותו יצאו לו מוניטין

כאחד הנואמים הגדולים והמזהירים ביותר בארצות הכרית ומקובל מאד על הגויים. מכל רחבי המדינה הזמינו אותו לנאום באספות עם ולהרצות באו-ניברסיטאות, והוא נענה. אבל את מיטב כחותיו שמר לנו. הוא היה הדבר שלנו, הטריבון המהולל ורב ההשפעה של הציבור היהודי.

פעילותו בתנועה הציונית התרחבה. הוא היה אחד הכוכבים בפמליה

המפוארת שהתרכזה סביב השופט העליון ברנדייס בשעתו. בפולמוס שהפך למאבק גלוי בין ברנדייס ובין ווייצמן - בין האסכולה האמריקנית לאסכולה האירופאית - עמד על צידו של ברנדייס וחבריו, ויחד אתם פרש מההנהגה כשהכריעה הועידה הציונית הארצית נגדם. אך לא לאורך ימים, כי לא היה מסוגל לעמוד מנגד, וחזר אחרי זמן קצר.

פרק מבורך ביותר הייתה פעילותו בראש המגבית המאוחדת במשך אותן השנים האכזריות. שנות המשבר הבין-לאומי אשר פקד את העולם כולו ואת העולם היהודי במיוחד. מצוקת עמו לא נתנה לו מנוח. הוא נחלץ לתפקידי המגבית, ראשית כענין של הצלת אחים ויחד עם זה כצורך חיוני להמשכת העליה לארץ ולבנינה. אך הוא לא גרס ולא קבל את הגישה הפילנטרופית גרידה. הוא חרד חרדה גדולה לגורל הציונות, לשקיעתה המדינית עקב הספר הלבן ומדיניות בריטניה. המגבית הפכה בידו למכשיר בעל ערך חנוכי-מדיני.

לבסוף העלתה את חמתו גם המדיניות של ארצות-הברית, אשר ממשלתה היתה מחלקת מחמאות אין סוף לאזרחיה היהודיים ומכריזה הכרזות פרו-ציוניות אך נטולות כל ערך ממשי - ויחד עם זה התכחשה התכחשות גמורה לחובתה המוסרית כלפי העם היהודי הסובע בדמו בעוד שערי הצלה נעולים בפניו על מסגר. הוא לא יכול עוד לכבוש את זעמו. בכנס הגדול של המגבית המאוחדת



בשנת 1943 החפרץ ויצא בנאום ציוני גדול ובהתקפה גלויה ומרה על ממשלות ארצות הברית.

דבריו העזים הדהימו מנהיגים רבים, ויחד עם זה הסעירו את המחנה הציוני והכשירו אותו לפעולה פוליטית נמרצת. היה זה מפנה. שמעו נימה חדשה, ראו קו חדש, קמה בהם רוח חדשה - רוח מלחמתית ונועזת. לא עבר זמן רב וסילבר נקרא להתייצב בראש "הועד הציוני לשעת חרום" ולנהל את המאבק המדיני. התחילה תקופה חדשה.

שש שנים רצופות, בהפסקה קצרה, עמד במערכה ובראש המחנה. הוא חולל מהפכה - ליתר דיוק: מהפכות. ראשית, מהפכה רעיונית בתפיסת המצב המדיני. הוא ראה בבהירות יתר שנקודת הכובד עוברת מאנגליה לארצות הברית, מלונדון לווינגטון, עם כניסתה של אמריקה למלחמה העולם השנייה. הוא חדל להאמין שבריטניה חשנה את עמדתה האנטי-ציונית - לא על ידי שכנוע - ולא על ידי שידול, ולא על ידי דיפלומטיה, אלא אם כן תהיה נאלצת על ידי כוחות ממשיים ולחץ אשר לא תוכל לעמוד בפניו. הלחץ הפוליטי האפקטיבי המסוגל להיות גורם מכריע, יכול היה לבוא רק מצד ארצות-הברית אשר בריטניה היתה תלויה בעזרתה הכלכלית והצבאית במידה גוברת והולכת. לא נשאת איפוא אלא דרך אחת: לפתוח בחזית שניה בווינגטון ולהתרכז במאמץ כביר בחזית זו.

לא היו לו אשליות. ידע להעריך את כל קושי המשימה. באחד הכינוסים אשר כנס עשה חשבון קר, וציין בזה אחר זה את כל הכוחות והגורמים רבי ההשפעה בארצות-הברית שעמדו נגדנו במערכה - רשימה מבהילה. אך הוא לא נפחד ולא נרתע - וקרא לאופנסיבה ציונית ויהודית, לגיוס כללי. צריך היה להפוך את התנועה למכשיר יותר יעיל, דינמי ומלחמתי. צריך היה להפעים בה רוח אמיצה ו**אמונה** בנצחון הסופי. צריך היה להשליט משמעת במחנה ונכונות להענות לכל פקודה, לציית.

רק אישיות גדולה וחזקה ומקובלת היתה מסוגלת לחולל מהפכה כזו - רק מנהיג עשוי לבלי חת, נועז וחקיף. וקשה היה המאבק, נחוץ לתנודות,



לנצחונות ולכשלונות, לעליות וירידות. עם כל זה הצליח ללכד קודם אא כל את הציבור היהודי, לכוד מקסימלי. מהציבור היהודי עבר לציבור הלא יהודי ועל ידי תעמולה רחבה ואינטנסיבית גייס רבבות של אוהדים מכל השכבות והפך אותם לבני-ברית נאמנים ופעילים. עורר את דעת הקהל בשורה של צעדים נועזים ודרמטיים, ולבסוף הפעיל על הממשלה האמריקנית, כולל משרד ההוץ והבית הלבן, לחץ עצום אשר נשא את פריו בעתו.

בקונגרס הציוני הגורלי שהתכנס בבזל בסוף שנת 1946, שמש סילבר בתור יושב ראש הועדה המדינית. הוא היה בן בריתם של המנהיגים האקטיביסטים של הישוב בארץ ישראל, וחזר מהקונגרס בתור יושב ראש החסיבה האמריקנית של ההנהלה הציונית העולמית בראשותו של בן-גוריון.

התחיל פרק חדש - המערכה באומות המאוחדות. ושוב גיוס כל הכוחות, ושוב מאבק קשה, גורלי וכמעט מאבק נואש. היה הוא המדריך והמצביא, האחראי ויחד עם ראש המחלקה המדינית, משה שרת, כוון את הפעולות. היה זה אחד הפרקים המזהירים ביותר בתולדות הציונות. רק על ידי מאמץ עליון ובעזרת כל טובי עמנו בעולם כולו קצרנו את הנצחון הנכסף.

סילבר זכה לראות בהקיץ את חלום נעוריו שנגשם. הוא זכה לבשר לאומות המאוחדות את הברזת העצמאות של העם בציון ויסודה של מדינת ישראל. כאשר פרש מההנהלה הציונית חזר לקהילתו בקליבלנד ולעבודתו החינוכית, המדעית והספרותית. (בגודל פעילותו, כן גם ידע לפרוש בכבוד ולשתוק שתיקה מונומנטלית). אבל גם אז, בתקופה האחרונה, שרת את התנועה והמדינה כאשר נדרש, ושמש עד יומו האחרון כיושב ראש חבר המנהלים של מפעל אגרות-החוב בארצות הברית.

פילוסופים והיסטוריונים נוהגים להתווכח אם המצב יוצר את המנהיגים הדרושים בשעת חירום, או המנהיגים יוצרים את המצב - והווכוח למשך. אך ברור שהדור והשעה בחיי עמנו מצא את המנהיגים הדרושים. ביניהם יתנוסס ויזהיר שמו של אבא הלל סילבר, אשר נתן את כל כוחותיו וסגולותיו המופלאים,



בכל נפשו ובכל מאודו כדי להשלים את אשר התחיל גבור נעוריו, תיאודור הרצל.

אמרו חכמינו: "אין אדם מת וחצי תאוותו בידו". עוד חכנית אחת לא השלים. בבקורו האחרון בארץ עשה את כל הסידורים לרכוש לו מגרש להקים עליו את ביתו, פה בירושלים, עיר מולדתו הרוחנית - ולא זכה.

"היה איש: ראו, איננו עוד"

השם נתן והשם לקח. יתגדל ויחקדש שמה רבא!

