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MS-4842: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, Series II, 1894-1985, undated.

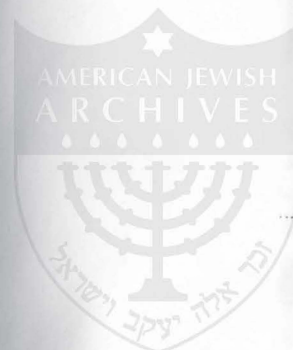
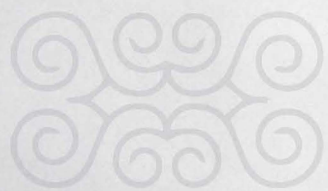
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Folder
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Biographical information, memorial tribute book,
Abba Hillel Silver, 1963.



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Memorial Tribute

to

Abba Hillel Silver

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Temple Tifereth Israel records, with deepest sorrow, the tragic and untimely passing of its spiritual guide and leader; who for almost half a century graced its pulpit with unexampled dignity and power.

Abba Hillel Silver was "an intellectual ocean whose waves touched every shore of thought." With prophetic utterance he articulated the hopes of generation after generation that had been condemned to hopelessness in silence. The spirit of Israel, that extraordinary phenomenon of human history which challenged thinkers



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throughout the ages, manifested itself in him in all its strength and glory, fusing the "Shechina," the godly inspiration of the people, with the magic of its leader's personality. ❁ ❁

There was in him a harmonious blending of political vision and practical exertions. His every thought and action sprang from deep roots which closely intertwined with those of the Jewish people on the one hand, and with science and practical wisdom on the other. That was the secret of his greatness, his historic achievement, his wide-spread influence, and his international renown.

Abbā Hillel Silver was the ministering pastor who achieved extraordinary stature through sheer strength of character, soundness of judgment, innate gentleness, and an unfaltering sense of responsibility as God's servant on earth. ❁ ❁

He was a mighty warrior for his convictions and in his expert hands, word and pen became flaming swords which he wielded with devastating power. ❁



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His was a life of many facets of interest, in each of which he shone with the brilliance of learning, wit and talent that constituted his unique individuality. His were always the deft touch, the masterful presentation, the skillful performance. His was ever the alert and logical mind. Wherever he went, integrity, honor, understanding and fidelity went with him. He was the true advocate, never advancing on ill-reasoned argument, but always sound in learning, colorful in speech, forceful in debate, and armed with a sparkling vocabulary, incisive delivery, and a never failing air of dignity.

What was human, always sought and found Jewish expression in him, and thus, what was Jewish in him could always speak in terms of humanity.

Abba Hillel Silver loathed sham and pretense. He could not abide compromise and expediency. He battled mercilessly for the right as God gave him to see the right. He was a stranger to the world in which men turn habitually to expediency and compromise as substitutes for statesmanship.

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He found joy and exaltation in his work. He had an abiding belief in man's essential power for good. His life-long dedication to the cause of the under-privileged, of whatever color or creed, was a translation of faith into deeds. Ardent love, profound faith, and a unique spirit of dedication were the qualities which characterized the blessed life of this towering Colossus in Jewry. His inspiration became a supreme national asset which enabled him to become Israel's advocate in the cruel days when a new world was about to be born. At a critical period in the history of our people, when it became necessary to go forward, not with trumpet and compass but rather with tact and compassion, God called for duty and sacrifice, and Abba, his servant, like Abraham of old, courageously and unhesitatingly responded to the call -- "Hinem" -- "Here am I."

Abba Hillel Silver has sown seeds that will flourish in many hearts. He has helped to shape lives that will never lose the noble imprint he has given them. He has kindled the torch of ideals that will never be extinguished.



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We offer thanks, therefore, for the heritage of Jewish conviction to which he was born, for the many and large gifts of mind and heart with which he was endowed and for the dedication of them all to his ministry, for the grace and charm of his presence, for his contagious enthusiasm, for his outgoing nature, his readiness to spend and be spent in ministering to human sorrow and bewilderment for his civic conscience and his boldness in combatting social injustice. We offer thanks too, for the devotion, regardless of cost to his own strength, with which he poured out himself for our congregation, over which God had set him as a shepherd and for the vision and unflagging industry which characterized his ministry.

He will be remembered among the exceptional personalities, whose mortal and transitory life is impressed with immortality -- men who are chosen to leave their mark upon history during their own life-time and in full view of their contemporaries.

He has made us aware of our heritage, and mindful of our opportunities, and inspired us to realize our dreams.



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Abba Hillel Silver, the mortal man, is no longer with us, but the glow of the life of Abba Hillel Silver, the man of destiny, will never be dimmed.

Resolved, therefore, that this tribute to our beloved Rabbi be spread upon the permanent records of the Congregation and an engrossed copy transmitted to his sorrowing family.

Temple Tifereth Israel



Moses H. Ronesch
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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Engel Esner
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Leo S. Samberg
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December 10, 1963