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Folder  
152

Central Conference of American Rabbis, Centennial book project,  
correspondence, 1982-1989.

# אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 684-4990

*Office of the President*  
Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman  
5959 N. Sheridan Road  
Chicago, IL 60660

March 12, 1982

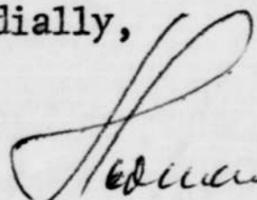
Dear Dan:

Thanks so much for writing. I fully understand how you would like to try your hand in making the statement simpler in language. If you can, by all means, do so. Even though I'm one of the "authors" my blood isn't in it.

If you, in fact, are going to try something, let me have it by April 1. I need to put the matter to the Board later that month and need to have time to work the draft into acceptable form.

Again, many thanks for your interest and whatever help you can give.

Cordially,



Herman E. Schaalman  
Rabbi

HES:sgk

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

#### OFFICERS:

Herman E. Schaalman, *President*  
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New York, NY  
Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

1) IF you want institutional history you must be willing to pay someone to do it - do you want credibility in public

2) THE CONFERENCE IS NOT THE SUM OF ALL IND. NAMES -  
SO INSTITUTIONAL work might include

1) ANNOTATED LIST OF PUBLISHED WORK OF CCNA -  
- ATTENDANCE

2) ANALYSIS OF CHANGE OF CONFERENCE FROM RABBINIC  
SYMBOL TO PROFESSIONAL UNION

3) THE CONFERENCE IS INSTITUTIONAL PATRONAGE (POWER) ON  
LACK OF IT IN US AND HOW JEWISH ~~IS~~ ~~IS~~

4) PROJECTION OF AND RECOGNITION OF CAN RESOLUTIONS

THE ABOVE WOULD HAVE NO COMMERCIAL VALUE

3) MIT WOULD HAVE COMMERCIAL QUALITIES, AS A DISCUSSION OF  
~~USUAL~~ <sup>USUAL</sup> ~~AND~~ <sup>AND</sup> OTHER THAN INSTITUTION - ESSAYS IN HONOR OF CONFERENCE

NEED DOMESTIC CONSULTING

1) HOW DO RABBIS OBTAIN HIGHER STAY - CHANGING  
PATTERNS OF RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP - THE EMERGENCE OF THE  
NON ORTHODOX RABBI  
<sub>NON ORTHODOX</sub>

2) WHAT HOLDS JEWS TOGETHER - WHAT MUST BE  
TRENDS

3) PROBLEMS OF JUDAISM IMPLICATION OF ISRAEL & RELIGION  
PROBLEMS - HOW CAN WE <sup>FOR</sup> FIRST CONFERENCE - WHAT  
AND WHY FOR 2<sup>nd</sup>

4) Festschrift - GIFT ESSAYS BY Distinguished SCHOLARS -  
IN HONOR OF CONFERENCE

March 18, 1982

Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
21 East 40th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Herman:

I had intended simply to suggest that the language might be simplified and that I wouldn't dare be the one to try it. If that is to be done it would have to be somebody who has worked on the project. Keep well.

As always,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

# אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 684-4990

April 26, 1982

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle & Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Dan.

During the meeting of the Executive Board last week, a discussion was held regarding the approaching centennial of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. In conjunction with the centennial, there will undoubtedly be published one or several volumes, that will be recommended by our Publications Committee as well as by a special committee on the centennial, likely to be appointed already within the next year or so.

I am sure that you are aware that an oral history project has already begun, whereby younger colleagues around the country interview some two dozen or so of the oldest rabbis within the CCAR, based on lists and a questionnaire developed primarily by Malcolm Stern. We have already begun to receive these tapes, with the intention that a selection of material will in some form find its way into our centennial publications(s), the rest of the interviews to be our donation to the American Jewish Archives.

Upon recommendation of the Publications Committee at its last meeting, the Executive Board voted that you be appointed editor of the centennial history volume or volumes, and I am pleased to convey that appointment to you now. Assuming that we receive your confirmation, I would like to suggest that we speak by telephone, so that I can fill you in on some of the preliminary discussions which various committees have held on this subject.

Very best wishes, and warm regards.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

ELS: lmn

cc: Rabbi Jordan Pearlson  
Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser  
Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman

#### OFFICERS:

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New York, NY  
Sidney L. Regner, *Executive Vice President Emeritus*  
New York, NY  
Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

May 5, 1982

Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman  
5959 N. Sheridan Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60660

Dear Herman:

I am pleased that the Conference has thought to appoint me as editor of the Centennial publication volume(s). I think it's important that we understand what is involved and how this work will proceed before we move ahead, and so I have drawn together a series of ideas which can be at least a basis for discussion. I would like your reactions to them. Seven years is a long time and the Conference will go through many officers and changes of direction and if the Centennial volume(s) is to be successful it has to be approached with some clear understanding from the beginning of what is wanted and how it is going to be achieved.

I hope to see you soon and will be happy to talk this over with you and anyone you suggest.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

## Thoughts on Centennial Book(s) Project:

Anyone who would undertake this long range and important assignment would want to have guidelines clear ahead of time. I am flattered by the Conference's interest in my undertaking the job and will accept provided the road is clearly marked and all parties are satisfied with the Triptik.

1. Since this project involves devising a concept(s) as well as carrying it to conclusion, it would seem appropriate that there be a small editorial committee who would participate in the various brainstorming sessions and with whom ideas and authors can be discussed. The editor will need people with whom he can usefully exchange ideas.

2. Once the concept of a volume has been framed, there must be a clear understanding of the path through which permission to proceed is achieved. The value of a concept lies in its originality, and this can be diluted by off-the-cuff mandates by committees for whom the volume(s) is not a primary agenda item. Curbstone advice is free, and usually worth just that. My personal preference would be to take a concept directly from the proposed editorial committee to the Board. I would be prepared to see it go through one other step - either the Publication Committee or the Centennial Committee - not both - but no more.

3. As editor, I would want to sit down with the leadership of the Conference to devise an appropriate budget for pre-publication efforts. Funds will be needed for committee meetings and such expenses as long distance calls etc. which may be necessary.

4. The cost of publication funding is a complex matter. Before the project begins the editor would want a guarantee from the Conference that the final allocation will include monies for copy editing and other such important but routine functions. I would assume that the details of the contract for publication will be worked out by the CCAR office and that the copyright and profits, if any, from the publication will rest with the CCAR. However, the editor would want a major say in the matter of the choice of a quality publisher, the look of the book, the use of Hebrew as well as English type, and the use of art work and/or photographs. The editor must also have a say as to how galley and page proofs are handled.

5. The Editorial Board should be informed within a year of the inception of this project how much money the Conference is willing to invest in it. It would be pointless to spend time devising a multi-volume proposal if the Conference is only willing to invest the 20-25 thousand dollars a decent one-volume, hard cover, 3000 copy run requires. Publication is expensive. The Conference must decide whether it intends to offer the Centennial volume(s) gratis to its membership, in which case it would have to absorb the entire cost of the project, or whether it intends to sell all volumes in the open market. If the latter decision is made, editorial decisions must of necessity take into consideration the marketability of a particular product and I would want the Conference to allow me to bring together a small committee of professionals in the New York publishing world who might advise us in this area.

6. The editor would want a policy decision from the CCAR Board within a year of the inauguration of this process in two areas: a) whether contributions must be limited to members of the Conference and b) whether contributions may be paid for. It is assumed in either case that members of the Editorial Board and members of the Conference will, like the senior editor, contribute their services.

7. It is assumed that the senior editor will work closely with the Centennial Committee and that the publication of whatever volumes are produced will be properly featured during the Centennial year. It is too early now to suggest a budget and methods to accomplish this, but part of the *raison d'etre* of the project is that it can be leveraged by the Conference for public relations purposes.

8. It is assumed by the editor that he will be identified on the title page of whatever volume(s) are produced and that the book will contain a proper identification of the Editorial Committee.

If the above outline is acceptable I would suggest the following time frame:  
Confirmation of these recommendations by the CCAR Board by June 1982.

Preliminary suggestions from the Editorial Committee to the Conference Board by January of 1984.

A statement of intent by the Conference Board as to the extent of the project, including an indication of the monies that it is prepared to expend or put at risk - June 1984.

Contact with authors so as to shape the Table of Content(s) for the proposed volume(s) - June of 1985.

Deadline for submission of manuscripts - June of 1986.

A "Daedalus" type conference for the reading and discussion of manuscript(s) in the Fall of 1986.

Revision of manuscript(s) and final submission to editor by June of 1987.

Submission of manuscript(s) to publisher, June 1988, for publication during our Centennial year.

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*Office of the President*  
Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman  
5959 N. Sheridan Road  
Chicago, IL 60660

April 29, 1982

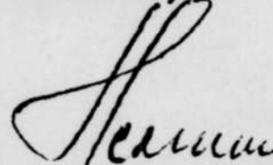
Dear Dan:

At the last meeting of the Executive Board a request was received from our Publications Committee that we appoint an editor for a Centennial volume or volumes to observe the 100th anniversary in 1989 of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

It is my great pleasure to tell you that your name was prominent in the discussion and there was an unanimous vote to appoint you to be the editor of our Centennial volume. I hope that this fits in with your own thinking and schedule and that we will have the pleasure of your acceptance.

Every good wish,

Cordially,



Herman E. Schaalman  
Rabbi

HES:sgk

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple - Tifereth Israel  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

#### OFFICERS:

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Cincinnati, OH

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*Office of the President*  
Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman  
5959 N. Sheridan Road  
Chicago, IL 60660

May 12, 1982

Dear Dan:

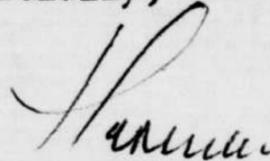
Thank you for accepting the editorship of our Conference's Centennial volume or volumes. It is a matter of profound satisfaction and reassurance to me and I'm sure to my successors to know that you will shepherd this effort.

I was impressed once again by your experience and competence in creating books and seeing them to publication when I read the detailed outline and proposal of procedures, dates, etc., which you sent me.

I will transmit them to Joe Glaser and Elliot Stevens, and fully agree with you that at an early meeting of the CCAR Executive Board the major elements of your proposal need to be discussed and voted upon.

In the meantime, again, my genuine gratitude for shouldering this responsibility. I look forward to seeing you in New York.

Cordially,



Herman E. Schaalman  
Rabbi

HES:sgk

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

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New York, NY

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New York, NY

Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

1) Agreement to project(s) - NATURE - MONEY

1) INSTITUTIONAL STATIONER HAVE TO BE PAID FOR

2) MONEY FOR EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE

2) ONLY APPROVAL OF PROJECT BY <sup>Thematic</sup> ? ONLY ONE GROUP - ALL EDITORIAL DECISIONS LEFT TO EDITOR + SMALL COMMITTEE

3) Thematic approval MUST include approval of budget -

~~3000~~ <sup>3000</sup> vol (300 pages) / PROOF DISTRIBUTION | = 515,000 BOOK PRODUCTION  
8,000 EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE  
5,000 COMMITTEE EXPENSES  
528 (1572 DOLLARS)

IF INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY - Figure out of 1 man working

1 YEAR = ROT - include travel, secretary etc.

4) Editor will have final say as to conditions / acceptance

OR SUBMISSIONS / PUBLIKEN (TYPE) COVER (ART WORK /

Galley's.  
HANDLING OF TAX PROBLEMS

IN WRITING!

1) INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY (PAID FOR)

2) ~~LIST OF~~ ANNOTATED LIST OF COMPANIES / PUBLISHED WORKS BY MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE

3) ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN CONFERENCE FROM ~~PROFESSIONAL~~ <sup>PROFESSIONAL</sup> JULY 77 PROFESSIONAL UNION

4) TRIVIA - ORAL HISTORY

5) THE LONG INSTITUTIONAL PASTORAL PAPER - ON CALL OF IT ON US AND NON-US TOWNS SCENE

6000  
Aury

2) THE 2ND HONORARY ZONE

1) 20 Chapters synopses

2) " " " " " " " "

3) Theological Change - (Lines)

4) THE UNFINISHED TENSION REVISION IS JOURNAL

5) THE EMERGENCE OF THE NON-COMMUNICATIVE NATION -

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*Office of the President*  
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5959 N. Sheridan Road  
Chicago, IL 60660

May 25, 1982

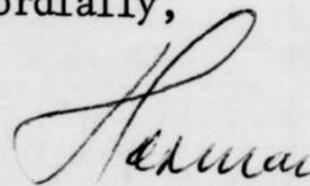
Dear Dan:

After checking with Joe Glaser I just want to confirm to you, one, that I will appoint a Centennial Committee within the next couple of months, and secondly, that our June meeting of the Board is so crowded already that no reasonable amount of time can be found to deal with the matter of the Centennial volumes. It will therefore be put over to the Fall meeting of our Board.

This still leaves us enough time to deal with those issues which you raised and to come to an agreement, hopefully, quickly.

Every good wish,

Cordially,



Herman E. Schaalman  
Rabbi

HES:sgk

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple (Tifereth Israel),  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

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New York, NY  
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New York, NY  
Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

June 15, 1982

Dr. Michael Myer  
Hebrew Union College  
3101 Clifton Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter. It is most helpful.  
Believe me, whoever gets the assignment will have  
a free hand. Hope to see you at the Conference.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

# אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 684-4990

July 28, 1982

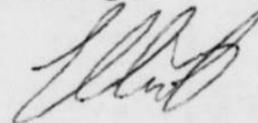
Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
Tifereth Israel  
University Circle and Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Dan:

I now have a note from Herman Schaalman that he would like to meet with you and me over lunch on Thursday, September 1, in order to discuss the Centennial project. I gather that the Patrilineal sub-committee will be finished about noon that day, and we should have at least a couple of hours after that to try to provide some response to the questions you raised in your initial memo last spring. As I suspected, we were not able to get together during the convention, but I hope that a meeting at the beginning of September is still timely.

Your confirmation would be appreciated. I look forward to seeing you then, and hope that the rest of your summer is pleasant.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

ELS/fiu

cc: Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman  
Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

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New York, NY  
Sidney L. Regner, *Executive Vice President Emeritus*  
New York, NY  
Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

August 2, 1982

Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
5959 N. Sheridan Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60660

Dear Herman:

Elliot Stevens wrote me that the three of us might sit down over lunch on Thursday, September 1, to discuss the Centennial book project. I would love to, but I can't be in New York for the meeting of the Patrilineal Committee. My classes at the university will have already begun and I teach on Tuesday and Thursday. Have you any other suggestions as to an appropriate date? I don't know what your time frame is as far as the Conference Board meeting, but I am going to be out of the country for the two weeks immediately following Yom Kippur.

I hope this finds you in good health. With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

October 20, 1982

Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman  
5959 N. Sheridan Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60660

Dear Herman:

I thought we accomplished a lot yesterday and I was appreciative of the way you handled the issue.

Since I am starting a file on the CCAR Centennial Volume, I would like to have a copy of the relevant portion of the minutes of yesterday's Board meeting which can act as our "covenant." As I understood the sense of our conversation, I will produce a Centennial Volume on or before 1989 which will have two parts: a history of the CCAR as an institution, and a series of essays which discuss the major issues our Conference will face in the future.

The CCAR is committed to the project and will find the means of providing the anticipated 40-50 thousand dollar cost of the project. I will do everything I can to keep that cost down. It is understood that various honoraria will be paid and that the Editorial Committee will have final and complete responsibility for content, style, look of the book etc. In order to prevent duplication of efforts I will become an ex-officio member of the Publications Committee for the duration of the project and Sam Karff and Mike Myers will join me as the Editorial Committee with Jacob Marcus as an ex-officio member.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

cc. Joe Glaser

2) Festschrift - Essays in Heaven (Oct 20, 1982)

UP by distinguished scholars (or  
DISTINGUISHED LUKENPAGES - SAFEST!!!)

3) Hannon - Essays by OBR

Fellowship on a Theme -

1) The Future of. { Noble  
Synagogue  
Green Trust  
Lion-Uri

2) AFTER RETURN UNIT -

Now-onward Judaism in the  
Next Decades -

4) RECENT DEBATES

1) Guide - Friedman

2) ~~THE~~ ~~PIRATES~~ - ISRAEL

3) RONLUS - messianists

TO UNPAID DEBATES

1) Now on the Jewish side in a  
post modern age



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE—JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION  
Cincinnati • New York • Los Angeles • Jerusalem

3101 CLIFTON AVENUE • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220  
(513) 221-1875

October 20, 1982

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Congregation Beth Israel  
5600 North Braeswood Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77096

Dear Sam:

It was wonderful talking to you on the telephone yesterday. Let me apologize for disturbing you at home, but I knew that I would be unable to answer your letter by October 22nd. As I mentioned to you, I think that there are really two different ways an issue of the Journal could go if it would devote the entire issue or a majority of the issue to the area of Reform Jewish Education. One way would be to ask various people to deal with the question, "What is the present state of Reform Jewish Education?" and "What is the future of Reform Jewish Education?". Another way would be to choose various questions and ask people to deal with them. Such questions could include "What is a Jewish Religious Education in a Reform context?"; Somebody could write about the history of Reform Jewish Education; Somebody could write related to the new curriculum of the Reform Movement; "The Rabbi as an educational leader"; "Hebrew as a part of a Reform educational program"; and "What is the place of Israel in a Reform Jewish religious educational program?".

As per your conversation, I will be dealing in the area of something related to the rabbi as an educational leader and Jewish Religious Education in a Reform context. As I begin to outline my ideas, I will be more specific to you. I understand that you need the article by January of 1983 in order for it to possibly appear in the Spring issue of the Journal.

Thank you so much in advance for considering this matter. I am quite excited about our possibilities.

Let me wish you a belated happy, healthy, and joyous New Year.

With Shalom, *+ love*

Rabbi Samuel K. Joseph, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Jewish Religious  
Education

SKJ:npb

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October 26, 1982

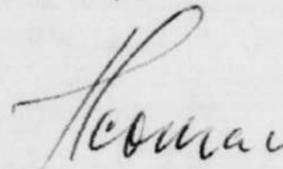
Dear Dan:

Your letter sums up what I understand to be our understanding and I have certainly no objection if the minutes of the CCAR Board meeting, pertaining to this issue, become the actual text of our understanding.

It was really good to be with you and I know that you are the kind of person in whom the CCAR can entrust this job without another thought. This itself is marvelous.

Every good wish to you and yours,

Cordially,



Herman E. Schaalman  
Rabbi

HES:sgk

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

CC: Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

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New York, NY

Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

took it upon ourselves to typeset on our word processor. Unfortunately, there is so much Hebrew in the book that coordinating the Hebrew (which was typeset outside) with its proper place in the text is almost impossible, necessitating outside designers, delays and so forth. In hindsight, I would have preferred normal typesetting, and wish I had been more insistent on this point.

Shaarei Shira will not be out in 1983, although significant progress has been made. The CCAR Board last month resolved formally to enter into a partnership with the UAHC and ACC in the financing and management of Transcontinental Music, which will be the publisher of record. The CCAR is initially paying all development costs; the ACC will pay for production, except for typesetting (engraving of music) which will be picked up by the UAHC. Later, one assumes with proper accounting, all costs and profits will be shared equally.

The Rabbi's Manual is now under the editorship of David Polish and W. Gunther Plaut, respectively for the liturgical and historic/halachic sections. A Combined meeting of the Liturgy and Jewish Practices Committee at the beginning of December will probably receive a fairly full first draft, although we will probably not see finished books before early 1984 at the earliest.

A number of committees are now working on Shaarei Musar, a draft Table of Contents of which is enclosed, under the editorship of Michael Stroh. The committees under whose auspices the various portions of this book will be written have already made changes in the Table of Contents, but the scope of this volume will be just as extensive.

The Publications Committee's proposal of several years ago that the Conference seriously begin to examine children's or family liturgy was approved by the Executive Board and referred to the Liturgy Committee. A sub-committee, under Kenneth Roseman, was appointed; they commissioned Dr. David Elkind of Tufts to study questions relating to children and the worship experience, criteria for children's liturgy, existing works, stages of growth, etc. His report is now in Ken's hands, and will be shared with the Liturgy Committee for review and action. Any publications are still years away.

You will be pleased to learn that the Executive Board approved certain provisions for Dan Silver and an editorial committee to begin working towards a centennial analytic/critical history of the CCAR, to be published in 1988 or 1989. While Dan will be the editor, the authorship of various parts of the book has not yet been determined, and is at the discretion of Dan and his committee, which consists of Michael Meyer and Sam Karff. The Executive Board has granted them editorial autonomy, and guaranteed that the necessary funds will be available (a restricted fund was begun for that purpose in the 1983 CCAR budget).

Sales of GOP and GOR held steady in 1982, and indeed surged somewhat over 1981 levels. Although production costs on so many new works in 1983 will lead to a deficit in the coming year, I am confident that our long-range outlook is positive; several of the above titles may generate considerable sales income.

# אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 684-4990

October 29, 1982

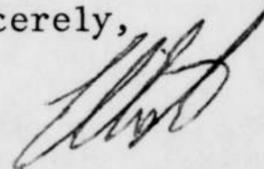
Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
University Circle & Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Dan:

Enclosed is a copy of the Executive Board minutes pertaining to your editorship of the CCAR centennial publication. I am still awaiting confirmation from Herman Schaalman that the minute is accurately recorded, before distributing same to the rest of the Executive Board. If you have any recollection other than the way I have worded it, please let me know right away.

It was a pleasure seeing you, however briefly, and I wish you well.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

ELS;bf

Enc.

**OFFICERS:**

Herman E. Schaalman, *President*  
Chicago, IL

W. Gunther Plaut, *Vice President*  
Toronto, Canada

Joseph B. Glaser, *Executive Vice President*  
New York, NY

Meyer Heller, *Treasurer*  
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Jack Stern, Jr., *Recording Secretary*  
Scarsdale, NY

Sylvan D. Schwartzman, *Financial Secretary*  
Albuquerque, NM

Elliot L. Stevens, *Administrative Secretary*  
New York, NY

Sidney L. Regner, *Executive Vice President Emeritus*  
New York, NY

Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

[Oct 1982]

#### VIII. CENTENNIAL PUBLICATION

Rabbi Schaalman noted that Rabbi Daniel Silver had previously been approved as editor of the CCAR Centennial volume. Rabbi Schaalman announced his appointment of Samuel Karff, Michael Meyer, and Dan Silver to an Editorial Board, with Jacob R. Marcus as an honorary member. It was moved and seconded that the appointments be approved. The motion was adopted. The Board also expressed its consensus approval that the editor and his editorial board would report directly to the Executive Board, with full editorial autonomy provided to the editor and his committee. It was moved and seconded that a restricted fund be created for the Centennial, including the Centennial history, starting in 1983 with an initial allocation of \$5,000. The motion was adopted.

It was suggested that funding be explored by congregations of more than one hundred years' age.

#### IX. TIME & PLACE (Cary D. Yales)

Rabbi Yales circulated, on behalf of his committee, a list of current time and place commitments, as well as proposals for future years (Appendix I). Noting that Israel had previously been approved for the 1988 convention, Rabbi Yales moved that the convention be held in late February in Jerusalem. The motion was seconded and adopted. It was moved and seconded that the 1989 convention be held June 22-27 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The motion was adopted. It was moved and seconded that the 1990 convention be held June 25-28 in Vancouver, British Columbia, with a preference expressed for the Conference Center at the University of British Columbia. The motion was adopted.

*Congregation Beth Israel*

ORGANIZED 1854

*5600 North Braeswood Boulevard*

*Houston, Texas 77096*

SAMUEL EGAL KARFF, D.H.L.

RABBI

November 10, 1982

Dear Member of the Editorial Board:

Enclosed is Sam Joseph's proposal for an entire issue devoted to Jewish Education.

Your thoughts would be appreciated.

Samuel E. Karff

Enclosure

November 18, 1982

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Congregation Beth Israel  
5600 North Braeswood Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Sam:

I am not sure I like the idea of a full issue on Jewish education. I find most articles of this kind incredibly boring. Most educational philosophy is fairly puerile and specific pertinent suggestions are of interest only to those teaching a particular grade or area. I would rather see this material coming out as mimeographed papers from some appropriate CCAR committee or from the Joint Commission.

Hope this finds you in good health. With all good wishes from house to house I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

*Congregation Beth Israel*

ORGANIZED 1854

*5600 North Braeswood Boulevard*

*Houston, Texas 77096*

SAMUEL EGAL KARFF, D.H.L.

RABBI

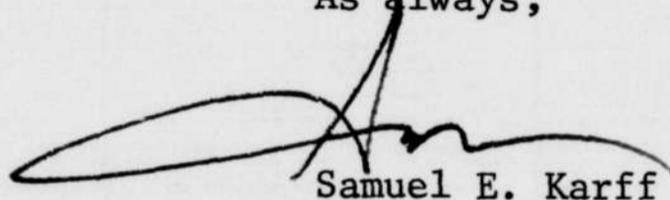
November 16, 1982

Dear Daniel:

Thanks for your letter of November 8th. I shall be pleased to serve on the Editorial Committee for the Centennial Volume and am delighted that you have agreed to write that piece for the Journal.

With every good wish, I am

As always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samuel E. Karff', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44706

**WESTCHESTER REFORM TEMPLE**

255 MAMARONECK ROAD • SCARSDALE, N. Y. 10583

Jack Stern, Jr.  
Rabbi

November 23, 1982

Rabbi Daniel Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle @ Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

I mentioned to you at the Executive Board meeting that I would speak to my brother-in-law, Steve Rudin, concerning any suggestions for the printing of the Centennial volume.

He said that what you are doing, viz shopping from publisher to publisher, is very much on target. Steve offered to help by providing paper at cost, which means at the mill price.

If the offer is helpful, please contact Steve directly:

Stephen Rudin  
Milton Paper Company, Inc.  
100 West 22 Street  
New York, New York  
212-929-6721

Have a good Hanukah.

Sincerely,



Rabbi

JS:es

*Cent Vol*

December 1, 1982

Rabbi Jack Stern, Jr.  
Westchester Reform Temple  
255 Mamaroneck Road  
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583

Dear Jack:

I appreciate your letter about Stephen Rudin and I will file it for a couple of years. At this point the book is only a dim idea in the back of our minds.

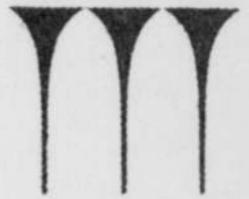
Congratulations on your nomination. The Conference chose well.

As always,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

north shore congregation israel



HERBERT BRONSTEIN  
Rabbi

December 14, 1982  
28 Kislev 5743

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

Thank you for your letter of November 29 regarding both  
the sermon and the Centennial Volume.

I am looking forward to reading your new book and also  
will think very seriously with our committee about your  
coming here to do a talk about it. It is a good idea  
and I will keep in touch on it.

All the best.

Cordially,

Rabbi Herbert Bronstein

ff

March 16, 1983

Dr. Michael Meyer  
HUC - JIR  
3101 Clifton Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Mike:

It's about time we take our first steps toward organizing the CCAR Centennial Volume. Our first task is to find a competent researcher and writer who could do a competent job describing the Conference's record. The person we choose should be able to raise the major issues the Conference has faced both structurally and philosophically and to describe the decisions and their consequences. I will be happy to have any suggestions along this line from you.

With all good wishes from house to house I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

March 16, 1983

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Congregation Beth Israel  
5600 North Braeswood Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Sam:

It's about time we take our first steps toward organizing the CCAR Centennial Volume. Our first task is to find a competent researcher and writer who could do a competent job describing the Conference's record. The person we choose should be able to raise the major issues the Conference has faced both structurally and philosophically and to describe the decisions and their consequences. I will be happy to have any suggestions along this line from you.

With all good wishes from house to house I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp



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(513) 221-1875

מכתב 13 באפריל

March 25, 1983

Rabbi Daniel Jeramy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Danny:

What you need for the centennial volume is someone close enough to see things from the inside, but distant enough to be relatively objective; philosophical enough to see the major issues in depth, but impartial enough not to argue for his own point of view. You need someone who knows the subject but still hasn't had his say on it. No one I can think of fills the bill fully.

You should know, if you don't yet, that the November issue of The American Jewish Archives is devoted to a century of American trained rabbis. It includes an article by David Polish on the History of the American Rabbinate. So he is into the subject, but on the other hand he may have little to add to it. Perhaps our best bet is Malcolm Stern -- a historian, an insider, and a man with time on his hands to do a good job. My suggestion is that we go for him.

I look forward to hearing from you further. Meanwhile best Passover wishes.

Cordially,

אנני שש פד

Michael A. Meyer

MAM:bb

*Congregation Beth Israel*

ORGANIZED 1854

*5600 North Braeswood Boulevard*

*Houston, Texas 77096*

SAMUEL EGAL KARFF, D.H.L.

RABBI

March 25, 1983

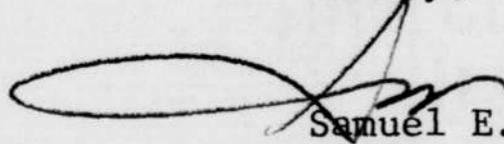
Dear Daniel:

At the moment I have no specific recommendation for a Centennial researcher. Several years ago when I was in residence on the Cincinnati campus I met a young man who was doing some research at the Archives. I don't recall his name but believe he was from Oregon. Perhaps an inquiry to Jake Marcus could produce a few names worthy of consideration.

I shall keep thinking but have nothing more to report at the moment.

Every good wish for a great Pesach.

Warmly,



Samuel E. Karff

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

April 6, 1983

Rabbi Michael A. Meyer  
HUC - JIR  
3101 Clifton Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Michael:

Thanks for your letter. I don't think Malcolm Stern is the right person for this task. He has been too much of an insider and though this obviously isn't going to be an expose -- I'm not sure there's anything to expose -- I do want it to be a serious and tough-minded study. That's its only value. Have you any suggestions?

With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

# From the Desk Of

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens

(212) 684-4990

July 14, 1983

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle & Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Dan,

Leonard Troupp has volunteered to prepare for us a Centennial Index of CCAR Yearbooks, as his gift to the Conference (except for some software, which we purchased for his computer). He is seeking guidelines on what an index might contain. I am letting you know of his work, since it does tie in with the centennial, and indeed if he makes early progress, his indexing might in fact be useful to you in your work as well.

All the best.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

ELS:lmn

cc: Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 East 40 Street, New York, N.Y. 10016

File  
UNDOA  
CCAR  
CENTENNIAL

# אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 684-4990

For Your Information

July 14, 1983

Rabbi Leonard B. Troupp  
240 Hempstead Ave.  
West Hempstead, NY 11552

Dear Leonard,

Ever since our meeting, I have been wrestling with the problem of what to specify for the Yearbook index. You excited me with your proposal that we consider taking this opportunity to make a very master index to every name and event which has ever appeared in any of the Yearbooks. I am frightened by this, however, knowing how many scores or even hundreds of individual names may appear in a single volume, given multiple references, and I feel that your proposal might lead us to an index many hundreds of pages long. On consideration, I think we may have to compromise along the lines I indicated in my earlier letter, that is, to stick more or less to the rubrics used in previous indexes, both to individual volumes as well as the larger indexes issued previously. I can see trying to compile also several particular listings: a list of all rabbis who have ever been a member; a list of every committee which has ever graced our roster and the years of creation and dissolution, perhaps along with their respective chairmen; a list of resolutions by year and/or subject matter; a list of major papers delivered at each convention, again by year and/or subject matter, and certain breakdowns such as lists of charter members, honorary members, Executive Board members or officers. I can see indexing committee reports by subject matter, with subject headings including resolutions, responsa, practica, or position papers, and items in the Report of the Recording Secretary or the annual summary of Executive Board actions. But, again, I cannot see indexing a name just because a chairman thanks and lists the members of his committee, and making reference to the fact that a name appeared in such and such a place, because someone else mentioned it. Also, the early conventions included, in effect, full transcripts of debates, and personally I think it would go too far to list every participant in every debate. It would be nice to know who spoke in favor of or against a position in 1937, but I think it is probably more than we can handle. What do you think?

Perhaps the only way to tell really what is involved is for you to sit down with several typical Yearbooks, and see how the material begins to lay itself out. Perhaps you can do a page in each of several formats, and then we can begin to evaluate them, and have others share in making a critique. In the meantime, I am not sure what further guidance I can provide.

#### OFFICERS:

W. Gunther Plaut, *President*  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Jack Stern, Jr., *Vice President*  
Scarsdale, NY  
Joseph B. Glaser, *Executive Vice President*  
New York, NY

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Nashville, TN  
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Washington, DC

Elliot L. Stevens, *Administrative Secretary*  
New York, NY  
Sidney L. Regner, *Executive Vice President Emeritus*  
New York, NY  
Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

Letter to Rabbi Leonard Troupp, page 2

I think we sent you some Yearbooks not long ago; have you received them?

I hope that the rest of your summer is pleasant, and wish you very well. Again, our gratitude for undertaking this massive project.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

cc: Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

ELS:lmn



The Ohio State University

Department of History

106 Dulles Hall  
230 West 17th Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43210  
Phone 614 422-2674

7 August 1983

Dear Dan:

Thanks for your warm hospitality as well as your patience with the baby. The latter is surely not easy with a 20 month old, whether it belongs to you or a guest. We appreciated it very much, but regret that only one of us could talk to an adult at a time!

I have given a lot of thought to the CCAR history and would suggest the following three names, in order of my preference. Should you want a second "panel" I will do my best.

Professor Jeffrey Gurock, Bernard Revel Graduate School, Yeshiva  
Jeff is an exceptionally fine person and a wonderful historian. His history of the Jews of Harlem (WHEN HARLEM WAS JEWISH, I think) won several awards, deservedly so, and he has written abundantly since that time. I have just read a 100pp.+ paper of his ("Resisters and Accommodators, Varieties of Orthodox Rabbi in America 1886-1983") which will appear in a history of the American synagogue I may have mentioned to you that is jointly being edited (fifteen original essays) by JTS and HUC. It is outstanding. I know Jeff personally and if anyone does not fit into the Yeshiva faculty protrait it is he. (Among his other ~~tasks~~ is that of basketball coach there; he was first-team all city in Manhattan and he went to RaMaZ too!). He has taught at HUC several times; he taught here at OSU once; and he would write a history of the CCAR as professional as anyone in this country. I have no idea, of course, whether he has any interest in doing so. \*

William Toll, 4800 Brookwood Street, Eugene OR 97405

Bill was denied tenure at Oregon, largely, I believe, on grounds of funding cuts and the peripheral importance of what he taught in times of great budget cuts. His recent book for SUNY on the Jews of Portland (THE MAKING OF A MIDDLE CLASS) is excellent; see, for example, Lloyd Gartner's review in the current Journal of American History. He is writing a book now on Horace Kallen (I have heard him speak on Kallen at two conferences this past year) and, if interested, would bring the strength of a first-rate American historian with a strong interest in Jews. Unlike Jeff, who is fluent in Hebrew and Yiddish, I doubt Bill reads either language. Obviously that is not crucial for the project, but I am simply trying to give you a portrait of them.

Edward Shapiro, History, Seton Hall University, South Orange NJ

A first-rate Harvard trained American Jewish historian who has written a wide variety of articles on this subject. I have never met him, though we have corresponded for years, frequently, and I think of him as first-rate. Perhaps, if he interests you, you could ask for his C.V. and read this or that he has done.

Hope this gives you a direction to begin. Fondly,

Maz

*\* I believe David Ruderman plays a lot of basketball with Jeff so you could get a fair evaluation from him.*

August 16, 1983

Rabbi Michael Meyer  
HUC - JIR  
3101 Clifton Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Mike:

It's about time that we begin to consider the person we will invite to write the chronicle of the CCAR for our Centennial history. I spoke of this with Marc Raphael and he sent on the enclosed suggestions. I would like your comments on them and any other nominations that you care to make.

I will then communicate with those people who have been suggested to see if they are interested. We can then proceed to a final selection.

With all good wishes for the holidays, I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

dJS:mp

Encl.

August 16, 1983

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Congregation Beth Israel  
5600 North Braeswood Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Sam:

It's about time that we begin to consider the person we will invite to write the chronicle of the CCAR for our Centennial history. I spoke of this with Marc Raphael and he sent on the enclosed suggestions. I would like your comments on them and any other nominations that you care to make.

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With all good wishes for the holidays, I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.



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(513) 221-1875

August 18, 1983

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
26000 Shaker Blvd.  
Beachwood, OH 44122

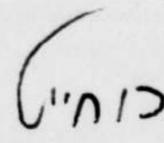
Dear Daniel:

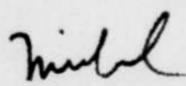
Back in March I wrote to you suggesting candidates for the CCAR Centennial History. But you did not think David Polish or Malcolm Stern appropriate.

Marc Raphael has suggested three individuals who are all outsiders to the CCAR and to the Reform movement. This characteristic obviously has both advantages and disadvantages. Of the three, I think Marc's first suggestion is far and away the best. Jeffrey Gurock is a good scholar, strong on social history, and a fine person. Unlike Marc, I have not yet read his piece on the Orthodox Rabbinate, though as a member of the editorial board for the volume in which it will appear, I expect to see it soon. Perhaps Marc still has the essay and will lend it to you. If you like it, then I am agreeable to going with Gurock. Another advantage Gurock has is being in New York where he will -- I presume -- have access to CCAR files.

Toll seems to me much too distant from the subject. I do not know Shapiro or his work at all.

All good wishes.

Cordially, 



Michael A. Meyer

MAM:bb

*Congregation Beth Israel*

ORGANIZED 1854

*5600 North Braeswood Boulevard*

*Houston, Texas 77096*

SAMUEL EGAL KARFF, D.H.L.

RABBI

August 30, 1983

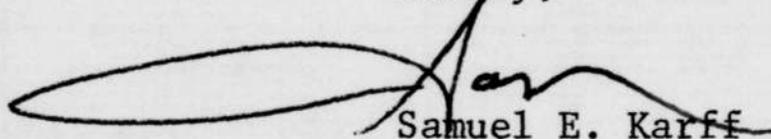
Dear Dan:

Marc Raphael's recommendations for CCAR chronicler seem like worthy possibilities. I don't know the work of any of them, but I recall meeting William Toll (I believe) when he was doing research at the Archives in Cincinnati. He impressed me as a solid, unflashy, but competent guy.

Leon Jick, an alumnus of HUC-JIR, is currently on the faculty at Brandeis. He deals with American Jewish history. There may be an advantage, however, in choosing someone who has no institutional links to our movement.

I hope the Holydays go well and here's wishing you and yours a Shanah Tovah.

Warmly,



Samuel E. Karff

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

September 19, 1983

Dr. Jeffrey Gurock  
Yeshivah University  
500 W. 185th St.  
New York, N.Y. 10033

Dear Dr. Gurock:

I am chairman of a small committee, consisting of myself, Michael Myer and Sam Karff, which is charged with producing a volume which will signal the Centennial of the CCAR. We have decided that the volume will consist of two parts. The first one hundred pages or so would present a competent history of the CCAR written by someone who is not professionally tied to the Conference and who can present a careful and unbiased study of its concerns, activities and achievements. It is our intention that this piece not be a puff which names every committee and committee chairman, but a serious study of the place of the Conference within our movement and as part of the larger American Jewish scene. The second part will be a series of essays by members of the Conference dealing with issues of contemporary concern.

Your name has been suggested as one who would be eminently qualified to write the opening essay. The Conference would make available its facilities and its archives. We are prepared, of course, to pay an appropriate honorarium. As far as the time frame is concerned, we would need the piece in hand by late Fall of 1987. If this project is of interest to you I would like to meet with you some time in the near future. I get to New York fairly frequently although I will be out of the country during the first twenty days of October. I can be reached at (216)831-3233 or at the above address.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and wish you and yours a healthy and happy new year.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

# From the Desk Of

*Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens*

(212) 684-4990

October 3, 1983

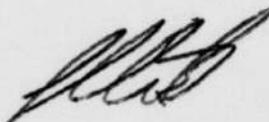
Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Daniel,

Certainly you will have full access to Conference records at this office.

All the best.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

ELS:lmn

cc: Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

**CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS**

21 East 40 Street, New York, N.Y. 10016

November 4, 1983

Rabbi Joseph Glaser  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
21 East Fortieth St.  
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Joe:

I have a feeling that some Centennial responsibilities are being duplicated and confused. Mike Meyers called yesterday and told me a bit about a recent meeting of the Centennial Committee at which ideas were developed for regional programs focused on ongoing concerns of the Conference and the subsequent publication of these papers as a second Centennial volume. He said that the operative assumption at that meeting was that the first volume was to be simply a history of the Conference. This is, emphatically, not the case.

If you will review the Centennial Volume proposal which was accepted at the Board meeting in Cincinnati, you will find that a two-part volume was authorized: an opening historical essay by members of the Conference, followed by essays dealing with the major ongoing concerns of the Conference. You may also remember that there was a great deal of discussion about the funding even of one volume.

I certainly did not think I was undertaking to edit a Conference history, and that if this is to be the content of such a book there is little need for a committee such as the one I have been asked to chair. The Conference can simply find an appropriate scholar and publish whatever he produces.

I am frankly surprised at the absence of coordination between the work I have been asked to do and that of the Centennial Committee. If I had known that such a committee had been appointed I could have talked matters through with Michael Oppenheimer and, at least, no one would have been operating under any misconceptions. Clearly, before we proceed further some clarifications are in order.

I hope this finds you in good health. With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

cc: Gunther Plant

5/12  
CONVERSATION DECEMBER 2, 1983  
between Michael Oppenheimer and Daniel Silver

- I. It was clearly understood by both that the mandate from the Conference Board was that Dan's Committee would be responsible for any and all publications, that the realistic and probable result of that mandate would be one publication which would consist of two parts: an objective yet positive history of the Conference done by an outsider to the Conference (a scholar at Yeshiva University is being considered); a second half consisting of individual essays by members of the Conference on the major issues confronting the American Reform rabbinate. The second half of the volume obviously would preclude the proposed symposia over the 18 months prior to the 1989 Convention since the selection of the authors would be up to Dan's committee not the Centennial Committee, the issues would be delineated by Dan's Committee, symposia at this level would be beyond the realistic ken of the members of the regions and the purpose of regional kalot, and any such symposia which might be scheduled in addition to the centennial publication would prompt participants to try to publish their talks in some periodical and this would detract greatly from its appearance in the Centennial volume.
- II. O request of S: Since the issues confronting the American Reform rabbinate and the viability of the American Reform synagogue are issues of desperate importance to us as Rabbis would there be any way of involving the men and women of the Conference in symposia on these issues prior to and in addition to reading the final papers in the Centennial volume? This is a most important question and hopefully can be resolved positively.
- III. Issue of financing the Centennial volume as well as financing projects and events surrounding the Centennial celebration was discussed. \$25,000 is the ballpark figure for the volume and the Conference has agreed to set aside pro-rated funds from each year's budget that the volume monies would be covered by the time of publication. Question of methods to cover expenses for the Centennial celebration events and projects has not been answered by the

[Dec 2, 1983]

Conference Board, and should be discussed and resolved.

IV. Other projects outlined on MO list should be categorized and prioritized and then assigned both people and a schedule.

V. Additional ideas suggested by S and O through discussion centered around ~~three~~<sup>four</sup> specific areas:

A. Utilize the regional kalot in the 12 to 18 months prior to the 1989 convention to deal with the nuts and bolts of the rabbinate such as rabbinic finances, the practical rabbinate, the efficacy of the sermon, specific areas of rabbinic counselling, rabbinic board relationships, etc. Create for each kallah or float from one to the other highly professional task forces of rabbis and non-rabbis to lead practica and colloquia on these topics.

B. Pick and train a nationally selected group of rabbis which is able either as a group or individuals to travel ~~the~~<sup>to</sup> congregations across the country bringing a highly sophisticated presentation regarding the Rabbi in America. The people should be chosen on the basis of a very positive public demeanor. The presentation should include multi media, diverse presentation techniques, and in terms of content incorporate such issues as the role of the rabbi in the synagogue and the Jewish community, and the general community, CCAR relationship with UAHC, the roles of the synagogue in contemporary American Jewish life, the dimensions of the life of a Rabbi as professional and as human, the roles and responsibilities of congregants vis-a-vis the rabbi, the synagogue and the unaffiliated Jew, etc. Always include the local Rabbis in the extended presentations that their positions might be strengthened.

C. MO to be allocated travel money to explore face to face the important dimensions of the CCAR, the American Reform rabbinate, the Centennial celebration - with those responsible for the religious sections and dimensions of all the media on national and regional and local levels.

[Dec 2, 1983]

Through a combination of presenting ideas to them and soliciting their guidance and involvement, MO can insure that our Centennial be picked up by the media rather than ignored in a plethora of other Centennials. The media ~~contacts~~ would be important not only in 1989 but prior to and after for they will have been sensitized to our agenda, and we would know how to hook into theirs. ~~The~~ <sup>media</sup> packets could be created for use by individual rabbis in their relationship to media.

D. Through correspondence and travel MO should hook into professional and lay heads of our liberal counterparts in other religious denominations. Mutually compatible agendas would be explored and cross participation sketched and effected both at national events including our 1989 Centennial celebration as well as other scheduled and informal national regional and even local events.

V. A definite part of the Centennial celebration should be the formal presentation of the Centennial volume.

X.

Your an accurate number. I'd only add that  
I didn't mention funds for O's Committee - only  
suggest that Bond be appended for them

Thanks

RF

[1983]

# אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 684-4990

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan,

The concerns which you raised in your letter to Joe were also raised in a letter to me from Michael Meyer, so let me try to respond to both.

First, regarding coordination, I think the assumption was that Mike Meyer would accomplish that by virtue of being on both committees and his awareness of the difference between the publication of centennial volume(s) and the celebration of the centennial itself. In that regard, I am sure that he and Sam Karff received a copy of your committee's mandate. The slip, apparently, was that you did not receive direct notice of the other committee on the centennial observance and celebration, although it was described in the Newsletter along with other Board actions when the committee was created.

You are absolutely correct in your recollection, and all aspects of any publications relating to the centennial (with the possible exception of the centennial Yearbook index, which I described to you earlier this year by letter) are to be solely within your purview. The coordination will have to come at such time as the other committee may plan symposia during the year preceding the centennial, because this is where the mandates of the two committees overlap.

At its first meeting, there were no motions or firm decisions, although many proposals were made, mostly having nothing to do with publications. I am enclosing the list of those proposals and recorded actions thereto, on which your own commentary would be very much appreciated. Then, since the other committee will likely not meet for another year, it might very well be in order for you to go over the list with Michael Oppenheimer in order to avoid any further conflict or confusion. In the meantime, please do accept my assurance's and Joe's that we understand and will abide by the mandate given you by our Executive Board.

No  
ENCLOSURE

All good wishes.

Sincerely, Elliot L. Stevens

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Elliot L. Stevens, *Administrative Secretary*  
New York, NY  
Sidney L. Regner, *Executive Vice President Emeritus*  
New York, NY  
Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

CC: Dr. Michael Meyer

# אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 684-4990

10/25/83

### SUGGESTIONS MADE DURING THE MEETING OF THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Use Retrospect and Prospect as a research model.

Suggest Retrospect and Prospect as a model agenda for regional conferences.

Prepare audio-visual history package for congregations, using oral history project and visuals from American Jewish Archives.

Print posters of the early leaders.

Materials should help laity understand CCAR's function, role, activities. There must be tie-in with regional groups.

Prepare regional histories of alliances preceding CCAR (Southern, Eastern Conferences)

Treatment of issues should include secular America, apathy, American Jewish demography, Israel, theology, Reform & Kelal Yisra-el, rabbinate and laity, relations with Conservative and Orthodox, mixed marriage.

Regional symposia should tie-in with the regional kallot in the Fall of 1989 and Spring of 1988; leaders thereof should then constitute the presenting panel(s) at the '89 convention.

Location of regional seminars should relate to the subject if possible. Thus seminar on Israel should be done in Israel during 1988 convention.

A platform or consensus statement would be futile.

Results of symposia would be produced as a volume before the 1989 convention to enable all CCAR members to read prior to attending.

We must have a multi-media presentation during 1989 convention, of professional quality and such that can be duplicated for showing in communities around the country.

Publicity should be extensive, with professional PR person, using Sunday supplements, religion pages, feature stories and interviews to tell the story of the American Reform rabbinate.

Idea of book of CCAR presidential addresses rejected, except for possible excerpts on topical issues.

PR should also emphasize role of CCAR in founding other national organizations.

Work with UAHC to develop mini-courses for older children, and essay contest through NFTY on "Rabbinate". Maybe sermonette contest, with winner speaking at 1989 convention.

Questions: What is to be liaison and prerogatives with 1989 Program Committee? What financial resources are available for multi-media presentations and other expensive celebratory projects? Can foundations be approached for support from now? What Sacred Services are available for use at Shabbat services during the convention, or should a new musical work be commissioned?

Assignments: Eric Hoffman and Michael Meyer on Symposia subjects; Lou Silberman and John Friedman as consultants for centennial index; John Friedman and Lynn Landsberg to flesh out proposal for multi-media presentation; Michael Oppenheimer to explore with American Jewish Archives the extent of their holdings and how they might assist.

The idea of striking a special medal in 1989 was liked.

#### OFFICERS:

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Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
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New York, NY  
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New York, NY  
Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

March 12, 1984

Mr. Edward S. Shapiro  
Director American Studies  
Seton Hall College  
S. Orange, N.J. 07079

Dear Dr. Shapiro:

I am indebted to Marc Raphael for your name.

I have been asked by the CCAR to edit a Centennial Volume. It is our intention to produce a book which will make a scholarly contribution. The proposed volume will have two parts: an approximately 200-page section on the history of the Conference, concentrating on the issues it has faced; and a section of similar length dealing with the issues it continues to face and will face in the future.

I do not propose to edit a puff piece nor one which makes sure that every officer's name is included. In order to accomplish this we have decided to have the history written by someone well-versed in the field of American Jewish history and thought who is not a member of the Conference. We will ask a number of colleagues to write articles for the second section dealing with such issues as the problems of a liberal tradition during an age of religious revival; the relationship of a liberal movement in the diaspora through religious life in Israel; the impact of the decline in popularity of the liberal political tradition on liberal Judaism etc.

I am writing to inquire whether you might be interested in undertaking the historian's task. We would like to have the book in hand by 1987. The Conference would make available its files and we would, of course, undertake to work out an appropriate financial arrangement with you. If you are interested I would be happy to talk with you at length on what we have in mind.

I ought to add that final editorial responsibility rests with the editor, which is to say that the material will not be read by a hundred sets of eyes.

I get to New York fairly frequently so that talking together will not be a problem. If you are interested I would appreciate your dropping me a line.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

April 11, 1984

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Congregation Beth Israel  
5600 North Braeswood Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Sam:

I have been pursuing the issue of the person who is to write a history of the Conference which will be the first half of our Centennial Volume. At Michael's suggestion, I first contacted Jeffrey Gurock. He was interested but had just been approached by Yeshivah to do its centennial history and in the end he turned us down. I saw him Monday in Columbus at a conference where we both spoke and he somewhat wistfully said he somehow wished he had taken up our offer, but he hadn't.

I have made many inquiries and in the course of these queries, Marc Raphael suggested I get in contact with Ed Shapero of Seton Hall University. We had some correspondence and I spent some time with him at the Columbus conference. He seems to be a competent person and is eager to do the work. I have asked for a vita and that he prepare a rough outline of the main topics he feels should be dealt with.

What I propose to do is to set up a meeting for us with him in New York sometime in the late Spring so that we can pursue his and our interests further. I am writing to see if you know anything more about his qualifications and to solicit any other suggestions you may have to add.

One of the issues that came up in our discussion was the possibility of his receiving a Summer Fellowship at the Archives in Cincinnati. Michael, I wonder if you would gather whatever information is available about such fellowships.

I am enclosing copies of a few pieces that Marc Raphael sent me several weeks back of Shapiro's work which he had on file. You will get his full bibliography as soon as I get it.

I would appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp  
Encl.

April 11, 1984

Rabbi Michael Meyer  
HUC - JIR  
3101 Clifton Ave.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Michael:

I have been pursuing the issue of the person who is to write a **history history** of the Conference which will be the first half of our **Centennial Volume**. At Michael's suggestion, I first contacted **Jeffrey Gurock**. He was interested but had just been approached by **Yesihvah** to do its centennial history and in the end he **turned us** down. I saw him Monday in Columbus at a conference where we **both** spoke and he somewhat wistfully said he somehow wished he **had** taken up our offer, but he hadn't.

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I am enclosing copies of a few pieces that **Marc Raphael** sent me **several weeks back** of **Shapiro's work** which he had on file. You will get his full bibliography as soon as I get it.

I would appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp  
Encl.

April 16, 1984

Rabbi Michael Meyer  
HUC - JIR  
3101 Clifton Ave.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Michael:

Here is the Ed Shapiro c.v. It was among the materials he submitted to me for our perusal. Again, I'd be happy to have your comments.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mpE

Encl.

April 16, 1984

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Congregation Beth Israel  
5600 North Braeswood Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Sam:

Here is the Ed Shapiro c.v. It was among the materials  
he submitted to me for our perusal. Again, I'd be  
happy to have your comments.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

VITA OF EDWARD S. SHAPIRO

Personal data: Born January 14, 1938, Washington, D.C.  
Married Daryl L. Goldstein, June 13, 1965  
Children: Marc, Alan, David, Evan  
Residence: 4 Forest Drive, West Orange, New Jersey 07052

Education: Georgetown University, B.A., 1955-1969  
University of North Carolina, 1959-1960  
Harvard University, Ph.D., 1960-1968

Undergraduate honors and graduate scholarships: Morris Historical Medal (1959); Duffy Scholar-Athlete Award (1959); scholarships offered by Harvard University, University of Wisconsin, University of Pennsylvania, University of North Carolina

Employment: University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, 1963-1965, Instructor  
St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, 1965-1969, Instructor and Assistant Professor  
Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey, 1969-Present, Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor  
Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey, 1978, Adjunct Professor of Jewish History  
Midrasha Institute of Jewish Studies, West Caldwell, New Jersey, 1976-1980, Instructor

Membership in professional societies: American Historical Association, American Jewish Historical Society, Organization of American Historians, American Professors for Peace in the Middle East

Research grants: Summer research grants from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, 1967 & 1968  
Summer Research Grants from Seton Hall University, College of Arts and Sciences, 1972.  
Grant from the Zionist Council of the Arts & Sciences for travel and study in Israel, December-January, 1973-1974  
Grant to attend seminar on "Violence and Self-Defense in Jewish History and Modern Life" from Tel Aviv University, Israel, August-September, 1974  
Fellow of the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, Collegeville, Minnesota, summer, 1975  
Grants from the Seton Hall University Faculty Research Council, 1975, 1977, 1982  
Grant from the American Philosophical Society, 1978  
Grant from the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, 1982

Research and teaching interests: American intellectual History  
American Jewish History  
World War II  
Twentieth Century American History

Subjects taught: American Intellectual History  
 Conservative Thought in Modern America  
 Racism in American Thought  
 Survey of American History (both semesters)  
 World War II  
 Historiography  
 Methodology of American Studies  
 Twentieth Century American Diplomacy  
 America in the Twentieth Century  
 American Jewish History  
 Jewish History Since the French Revolution

Publications:

Clio From the Right: Essays of a Conservative Historian  
 (University Press of America, 1983)

- Articles: "The Southern Agrarians and the TVA," American Quarterly, 1970 (reprinted in R. Lositt and J. Wall, eds., Interpreting Twentieth Century America).
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- "Donald Davidson and the Tennessee Valley Authority: the Response of a Southern Conservative," Tennessee Historical Quarterly, 1974 (third place in the Moore Memorial competition for the best article published that year in the THQ).
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- "Jews," in Barbara Cunningham, ed., The New Jersey Ethnic Experience (1977).
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- "German and Russian Jews in America," Midstream, 1979.
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- "The Trials of Alger Hiss," Conservative Historians' Forum, 1980.
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- "Pearl Harbor," Modern Age (in press).
- "The War Among the Jews," Intercollegiate Review, 1982.
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- "Robert Kennedy," St. Croix Review, 1979.
- "George Will and American Conservatism," St. Croix Review, 1982.
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J. Joseph Huthmacher, Senator Robert F. Wagner and the Rise of Urban Liberalism (November, 1968).  
M. T. Mehdi, Kennedy and Sirhan, Why? (January, 1969).  
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- "Gar Alperovitz and the Dropping of the Atomic Bomb," Bloomsburg State College Annual History Conference, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania (April, 1972).
- "Frank L. Owsley and the Defense of Southern Distinctiveness," Bloomsburg State College Annual History Conference, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania (May, 1975).
- "American Jewry and the State of Israel," Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, Collegeville, Minnesota (June, 1975).
- "Catholic Decentralist Thought and the New Deal," American Catholic Historical Association, Dayton, Ohio (March, 1976).
- "Violence and the City in Progressive Thought," Kutztown State College History Conference, Kutztown, Pennsylvania (March, 1977).
- "American German Jews and the Russian Migration," Bloomsburg State College Annual History Conference, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania (April, 1977).
- "The Catholic Rural Life Movement and the New Deal's Farm Program," Western Social Science Association, Denver, Colorado (April, 1977).
- "The Humor of Lincoln," annual dinner of the Lincoln Republican Club of St. Paul, Minnesota (February, 1967).
- "American Jewry at the Bicentennial," Rabbinical Assembly of Northern New Jersey, South Orange, New Jersey (December, 1975).
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- "The 1976 Election," Unity Club of Maplewood, Millburn, New Jersey (October, 1976).
- "Irving Howe's World of Our Fathers," Dorot Zion chapter of Labor Zionists of America, West Orange, New Jersey (November, 1976).
- "America in the 1970s," Essex County chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women, Milburn, New Jersey (September, 1977).
- "Moral Conflicts Between Arabs and Israelis: A Historical Perspective," Seton Hall University Campus Ministry Symposium (April, 1978).
- "American Immigration," to the 14-92 School, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Montclair, (January, 1979); "Freud and His Critics," ibid., (April, 1980); "The Impact of World War I," ibid., (October, 1979); "The Old South," ibid., (March, 1983); "Franklin D. Roosevelt," ibid., (December, 1981).
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- "American Policy in the Middle East," Summit, New Jersey Jewish Center (April, 1980).
- "100 Years of American Jewish History," West Orange, New Jersey Jewish Center (November, 1980).
- Two lectures, July, 1981, for the Young America's Foundation, Marymount College, Arlington, Virginia.
- Two lectures, August, 1982, for the Young America's Foundation, American University, Washington, D. C.
- Three lectures, July, 1981, for the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Claremont College, Claremont, California.

- "A Jewish Centennial," Summit, New Jersey Jewish Center (April, 1983).  
"Congressional Anti-Semitism, 1940-1941," Duquesne History Forum,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (October, 1983).  
"Property in America," Chesterton Forum, New York, New York (November,  
1983).  
"New Jersey's Jews," St. Felician College, Lodi, New Jersey (November,  
1983).  
"Israel and American Foreign Policy," Clifton Jewish Center, Clifton,  
New Jersey (March, 1982).  
"Jacob Timerman," West Orange (New Jersey) Mizrachi, chapter,  
(January, 1982).

Miscellaneous:

Biography listed in Who's Who in the East and Dictionary of American Scholars.

Member of board of editors of Conservative Historians' Forum.

Attended organizational meeting of Conservative Historians organization at Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan (November, 1979).

Moderator of panel on American Jewish music at Symposium on Jewish-American Folklore, April, 1983, YM-YWHA, West Orange, New Jersey.

"Communication," American Jewish History (1982).

Received grant of \$3,000 from the Wilbur Foundation of California to help publish a book entitled Towards a True Past.



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE—JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION  
Cincinnati • New York • Los Angeles • Jerusalem

Stein  
writes Field

Bonus  
(S.A.S.)

Address

3101 CLIFTON AVENUE • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220-2488

April 19, 1984

(513) 221-1875

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Daniel:

I have now had the opportunity of reading through some of the publications of Edward S. Shapero, which you were kind enough to send me. He seems to be quite intelligent and articulate. Though not profound or very original, he writes well. Yet I have grave qualms about asking him to undertake the CCAR history.

First, Shapero is clearly a political person whose proclivities do enter into his historical writing. He is so completely devoted to a conservative stance that he seems unable to deal fairly or dispassionately with issues that involve politics. To ask him to write a history of the CCAR would, I fear, result in something less than sympathy for Prophetic Judaism, the Reform movement's concern with social justice, CCAR opposition to the war in Vietnam, or its support for a nuclear freeze.

Second, he seems to have no background at all in the history of religion. Thus we are likely to get a political history of the CCAR, but very little attention to matters of theology, halakhah, and the like. Shapero has no apparent experience or expertise in this area.

Third, I know of no connection that Shapero has with the Reform movement. His bibliography mentions a couple of reviews in Conservative Judaism, so I presume his affiliation, if any, is with the Conservative movement. While I agree with you that we don't want hagiography, in this instance there is no reason to believe we will have a historian with the empathy for his subject necessary for good history.

Thus, I would strongly urge that we not give the job to Professor Shapero. As I wrote to you last December, my choice is Leon Jick.

I presume your two letters crossed with mine of April 12. I would still like to get a copy of your Columbus lecture. All good wishes for the holiday.

Cordially yours,

אודות רישיון אשכול

Michael A. Meyer

P.S. Do you want me to return the Shapero offprints to you?

*Congregation Beth Israel*

ORGANIZED 1854

*5600 North Braeswood Boulevard*

*Houston, Texas 77096*

SAMUEL EGAL KARFF, D.H.L.

RABBI

April 20, 1984

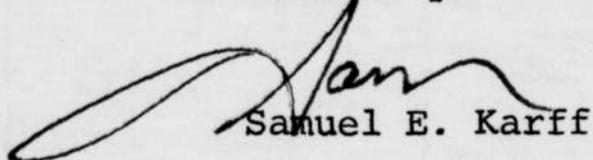
Dear Daniel:

The work of Ed Shapero which you enclosed with your recent letter commends him to us for our project. I reserve further judgment until we have an occasion to meet. The Spring is crowding up. May I suggest that you give us a number of possible dates for the meeting.

I wish I could offer alternatives, but at the moment I have none. You are obviously doing all you can under limiting circumstances.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially,



Samuel E. Karff

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106



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Cincinnati • New York • Los Angeles • Jerusalem

3101 CLIFTON AVENUE • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220-2488  
(513) 221-1875

May 8, 1984

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Daniel:

Benny Kraut may be our best bet to write the CCAR histories. I was very positively impressed by his book on Felix Adler as well as by his later articles. Moreover, being in Cincinnati, he will be able conveniently to use materials from the American Jewish Archives. Benny will remain in Israel through August. His address is:

Rehov Amram Gaon 33  
Kiryat Moshe  
Jerusalem, Israel

If Benny says no, you might talk to Leon Jick. He is currently doing a piece on the Reform Synagogue for a volume being produced by JTS and thus should be very much into the material.

A third possibility, suggested to me by Jonathan Sarna, is Ellen Umansky, whose book on Lilly Montagu has just appeared, published by Mellon. I have not seen it, but I have read samples of her work and been favorably impressed by it. She is a Columbia Ph.D., teaches at Emory in Atlanta, but lives summers in New York where her address is:

23 Waverly Place, Apt. 5P  
New York, NY 10003

I trust the above is helpful. Please keep me informed.

Best wishes.

Cordially,

Michael A. Meyer

MAM:bb

May 14, 1984

Dr. Benny Kraut  
Rehov Amram Gaon 33  
Kiryat Moshe  
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Dr. Kraut:

I am writing to you as Chairman of the CCAR Centennial Volume Committee and at the suggestion of Michael Meyer who serves on our committee. The CCAR will celebrate its centennial in 1989, and decided to publish a volume to mark the occasion. This book will consist of two parts: a history of the Conference (200 pages); and a series of essays by members of the Conference of approximately equal length.

We have decided that the history section should be written by someone who is not a member and who can produce a serious work of institutional self-congratulation. We look for the history to present the major issues which have been central to the concerns of the Conference and the success or lack of success which the Conference and its members have known in dealing with these issues. The essays which pick up and discuss how these issues should be met in the future.

You would bring both professional skill and the necessary distance to this task, so I am writing to see if you would be interested in undertaking this assignment. It is our hope that the historical section can be completed by the end of 1987. All the necessary files will be open to you as well as, I'm sure, the facilities of the American Jewish Archives and the College. We would undertake to defray your expenses and to reach with you whatever financial arrangement we, mutually, deem appropriate.

Michael informs me that you will be back in the country toward the end of the summer. If you are interested we could then sit down and pursue this project in greater detail, but I would like to ascertain at this time whether there is interest on your part.

Incidentally, I read recently from Reform Judaism Ethical Culture and found it most interesting. With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

May 29, 1984

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Congregation Beth Israel  
5600 North Braeswood Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Sam:

I have delayed writing to you because Mike Meyer put up some stiff objections to Ed Shapero. He was afraid that he would not fully appreciate Reform's liberal stance so I am, for the moment, pursuing other sources for our history.

Have a good summer. I'll keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

June 14, 1984

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver,

The mail service being what it is in Israel, I only recently received your letter, so please forgive what may seem to be a tardy reply.

I am honored by the invitation to undertake the CCAR history and by the trust and confidence in my professional ability which it reflects. I also cannot refrain from commending the courage and vision of the Committee in seeking someone who is not a CCAR member to do this project. Your letter has definitely stirred my interest, and I would be glad to meet with you upon my return to the U.S. to pursue this entire subject further.

I remain at my present address in Jerusalem until August 8 and expect to be in Cincinnati by August 20. At your convenience, you can reach me at home:

1828 Crest Hill Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45237  
Tel: 513 - 821-3205

or at work:

Judaic Studies  
University of Cincinnati  
Loc. 169  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221  
Tel: 513 - 475-6774

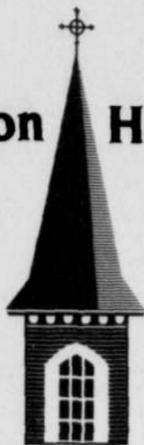
Again, I thank the Committee for having considered me. I look forward to meeting you in the not too distant future.

Sincerely yours,

  
Benny Kraut

**Seton Hall University**

South Orange, New Jersey 07079



June 26, 1984

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver,

I have called Cleveland several times during the past couple of weeks but I was unable to get through to you. I am writing to find out were the centennial history of the CCAR stands. Are you still going to go ahead? Am I still being considered as the author? Has the project been put on the backburner? You can write me at Seton Hall or call me at home (201, 736-5169) or at Seton Hall (201, 761-9385).

Sincerely,

*Edward S. Shapiro*

Edward S. Shapiro

June 29, 1984

Rabbi Michael Meyer  
HUC - JIR  
3101 Clifton Ave.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Mike,

In our continuing search for someone to write the ~~history~~ <sup>history</sup> which will be the first half of the CCAR Centennial Volume, we have vetted a number of people. My most recent contact, at ~~my~~ <sup>your</sup> suggestion, has been with Benny Kraut and the enclosed response is self-explanatory. I will be in contact with Benny at the end of the summer. I hope we can complete arrangements then.

Benny is a seasoned historian who understands our movement, but institutionally is from the outside. I will do everything I can to complete the arrangements and will keep you abreast.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

June 29, 1984

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Congregation Beth Israel  
5600 North Braeswood Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Sam:

In our continuing search for someone to write the history which will be the first half of the CCAR Centennial Volume, we have vetted a number of people. My most recent contact, at Mike's suggestion, has been with Benny Kraut and the enclosed response is self-explanatory. I will be in contact with Benny at the end of the summer. I hope we can complete arrangements then.

Benny is a seasoned historian who understands our movement, but institutionally is from the outside. I will do everything I can to complete the arrangements and will keep you abreast.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

July 2, 1984

Mr. Edward S. Shapiro  
Seton Hall University  
South Orange, New Jersey 07079

Dear Ed:

I ~~have~~ tried to reach you several times but your schedule and mine seem never to match.

Two things have happened. The project has been slowed down a bit and the other two people on the committee have made a number of suggestions of people with whom we are now talking. I will be back to you the end of the summer when some kind of final decision has emerged.

I appreciate your interest and am grateful for your attention. Please forgive our indecision.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

September 10, 1984

Dr. Benny Kraut  
1828 Crest Hill Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45237

Dear Dr. Kraut:

I trust that you are now completely acclimated to Cincinnati and I would like to pursue the issue of the history of the CCAR. Would you be available on Monday, October 8? I have a few things I want to do at the HUC Library and if we could find a couple of hours during the day I think we could complete our business.

With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

9/13/84

Rabbi Silver:

Benny Kraut of Cincinnati called.

You wrote to him in Israel about the  
CCAR project.

He is now at home:

Home No.: 1-513-821-3205

Office: 1-513-475-6774

(He will be there tomorrow from 9 - 11:30  
AM.)

Donna

OCT 22<sup>ND</sup>

2 PM

~~KRAUT~~ HUC US MAN

October 23, 1984

Notes on meeting October 22, 1984, Cincinnati, with Benny Kraut and Mike Meyer

Kraut is interested in the project, but he has a number of problems and questions. One has to do with his own work habits which seem to be slow. Another has to do with the possibility of aliyah in the Fall of '86 - though he has no job to go to. The third is the need he feels to take off a year in order to complete this task.

We described the task to him as the preparation of a 200-page history. He had already done some thinking about it. The notes are enclosed. Both Mike and I felt that his reach was a little too broad, but his approach was an interesting one.

Kraut also has concerns that the book be published in such a way that he has a book out of it, the possibility of publishing a paper back volume. We suggested a Hebrew edition in Israel of the part which was a history. I told him I will talk to Moshe Davis and others.

We made it clear that it was impossible to consider underwriting a year's salary, but we understood the value of a semester together with some summer stipends. His position is uniquely helpful as is the accessibility of Mike Meyer.

Kraut spoke of the need for a lot of xeroxing which seems to be the way he works and I told him I was sure that funds could be provided.

Funds could be easily worked out once we had an agreement we could reduce to writing. He is to get back to me by Thanksgiving and we will proceed from there.

Daniel Jeremy Silver

CCAR (brief outline)

1. Institutional History

- pre-history; how it started; why it started; what is model after which CCAR patterns itself; the status of the rabbi at end of 19th century;
- who joined; who didn't join;
- goals as institution apart from and integrally related to Reform Judaism; evolution of goals and functions of CCAR;
- relationship to HUC, to the UAHC;
- impact on Reform movement and Reform Judaism;
- structure of organization; role of leaders, presidents; permanent functionaries;
- does CCAR have substantive impact on Reform and American Judaism or is it more of a mirror reflecting social trends from below?
- does background of rabbis change over time - E. European vs. German, refugees, religious level of homes, social class;

2. Programs and Activities

- publications
- liturgical and theological formulations; platforms;
- CCAR as professional trade union: instrument to professionalize the rabbinate; help rabbis get jobs, support them vis a vis temples; pensions;
- self-image: great spiritual leaders debating great issues? leaders of American Jewry generally.

## 3. Policy

- nature of policy making;
- constraints (?) on individual rabbinic activities or ideas;
- emergence and evolution of policies on Jewish-related religious and political issues: East European Jews; Zionism and Israel; meaning of Reform; denominations in Judaism - Conservative, Reconstructionist, Orthodoxy; mixed marriages; Holocaust; who is a Jew: the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee; Jewish-Christian relations; who is a Jew; anti-semitism; women in Judaism; on the Jew's position in America.
- on general issues: attitude to Social Reform and other societal issues such as: abortion, disarmament; civil rights; labor rights; Vietnam War, etc.

4. Compare CCAR to other rabbinic organizations;

5. Outstanding personalities in CCAR:

6. Internal strife within CCAR - over issues, policies, and personalities.

7. When is CCAR in leading position, when in a following one?

8. Some overall assessment: significance of CCAR in history of American Reform Judaism and in history of American Jewry; existing strengths and weaknesses; prognosis for its future.

N.B. All of this would be set against the context of trends and events in American Jewish history, American and world history, to lend the vital perspective needed.

History Department  
Seton Hall University  
South Orange, New Jersey

07089

October 23, 1984

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver,

I have called Cleveland several times during the past couple of weeks but I was unable to get through to you. I am writing to see where the centennial history of the CCAR now stands. Are you still considering me as a possible author of the history? If so, when will the decision be made? Has the project been shelved? You can write me at Seton Hall or call me at home (201, 736-5169), or at Seton Hall (201, 761-9000, #5091).

Sincerely,

*Edward S. Shapiro*

Edward S. Shapiro

October 31, 1984

Mr. Edward S. Shapiro  
History Department  
Seton Hall University  
South Orange, New Jersey 07089

Dear Ed:

I tried once or twice to reach you by phone, we seem never to make connections. I apologize for what must seem like undue delay or discourtesy. Neither is intended. We simply have been examining all possibilities and I am discovering that working with committees takes much longer than when you do it yourself. The final decision has not been ~~made~~, but I think it fair to tell you that we have offered this task to another and there is a good possibility he will take it.

It has been a delight to meet you and I hope our paths will cross in the not-too-distant future. Many thanks for your willingness to consider this ~~task~~ responsibility.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp



The Ohio State University

Department of History

106 Dulles Hall  
230 West 17th Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1367

Phone 614-422-2674

11/14

Dear Dan:

I have not heard anything from you in quite some time re: CCAR and Shapiro, Hipstadt, Kraut, but Ed Shapiro's Clio on the Right (University Press of America) is quite fine. He ought to remain a strong candidate who will produce on time.

Sincerely

Marz Lee Raphael

P.S. Silbert and Cohen both gave me fine interviews — AC's was unusually useful and most gracious

November 19, 1984

Dr. Marc Lee Raphael  
Department of History  
The Ohio State University  
108 Dulles Hall  
230 West 17th Ave.  
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1367

Dear Marc:

We have not yet completed our search, but as I wrote to him Shapiro will not be the committee's choice. I was satisfied, but Mike Meyer had some very strong objections - largely ideological.

In any case, why don't you give me a call next time you are in Cleveland. I trust all is well.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

University of Cincinnati



McMicken College of Arts and Sciences

Judaic Studies

50B McMicken Hall  
Mail Location #169  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221  
Phone (513) 475-6774

November 27, 1984

Rabbi David Jeremy Silver  
The Temple - Branch  
26000 Shaker Blvd.  
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Dear Rabbi Silver,

I am very pleased to inform you that I will accept the challenge of writing the CCAR centennial history. Thank you for the invitation and for the confidence in my abilities which it reflects. I look forward to a few years of productive research and writing which I trust will bear good fruit for all concerned.

As discussed at our earlier meeting and over the phone, certain fundamental conditions exist which must be met in order for me to go ahead with the project:

First, I hope that I can count on the full cooperation of the CCAR in terms of advice when solicited and sources made available to me, but that my work will not be subject to outside interference or institutional veto. This must be taken for granted if a "serious work free from institutional self-congratulation" is the desired end-product;

Second, while I understand that this historical essay will be part of a larger volume on the CCAR along with other shorter essays by CCAR members, I nevertheless wish my own work to appear simultaneously as a separate book on its own. The format for this separate entity remains to be worked out, but a separate book apart from the one larger volume must be produced;

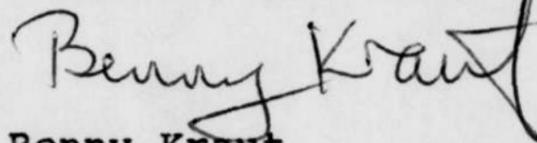
Third, the honorarium or salary for the work will be \$20,000 plus expenses, the method of payment remaining to be worked out (annual equal installments for 3 or 4 years probably will be preferred). Expenses will include xeroxing material, trips to CCAR annual meetings to interview and meet with members, trips to New York to peruse CCAR material, and, if necessary, trip(s) to individual members or to their archival holdings if it is deemed necessary, as well as "miscellaneous" expenses.

[Nov 27, 1984]

These are the basic contours of what I deem to be the crucial stipulations. Many specifics need to be agreed upon, certainly, but if the broad outline presented above is agreeable, no substantive matters or issues remain for which I foresee any potential problems.

Again, I thank you very much for your consideration and I eagerly look forward to working on this project.

Sincerely yours,



Benny Kraut  
Director  
Judaic Studies

BK/dc

# The Temple

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER - RABBI

UNIVERSITY CIRCLE AT SILVER PARK • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106 • 791-7755  
BRANCH: 26000 SHAKER BLVD. • BEACHWOOD, OHIO 44122 • 831-3233

December 10, 1984

Dr. Benny Kraut  
Director, Judaic Studies  
University of Cincinnati  
50B McMicken Hall  
Mail Location #169  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221

Dear Benny:

This letter will confirm our arrangements for the writing of the CCAR Centennial History. It is our understanding that the intended volume shall run around 200 pages and our expectation that the manuscript will be in our hands by June of 1987. This date will allow sufficient time for a careful production schedule.

I have spoken with the officers of the CCAR and they confirm that you will receive full cooperation when you request materials and that you will have access to all relevant files. Our shared intent is to produce "a serious work free from institutional self-congratulations," a competent historical review of the activities of the Conference which concentrates on the issues with which it has occupied itself. It hardly needs being said, but you will not be subject to editorial interference.

We spoke about your desire to have the history published as a separate volume apart from the contemplated single-volume history cum essays. This is agreeable. The manner to accomplish this remains to be determined. One idea which we discussed is the possibility of initially producing a two-volume set. Another is to prepare a Hebrew translation for distribution in Israel. In any case, your desire to have your work appear as a separate piece of work is understood and accepted and the means to accomplish this will be worked out.

Your honorarium will be \$20,000. Half will be paid in installments as the work progresses and the other half will be paid upon completion of the manuscript.

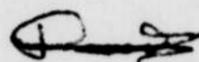
In addition to the honorarium the Conference will reimburse you for necessary expenses in connection with this work. Validation of your expenses should be sent to the CCAR office in New York. I assume that as chairman of this project you will keep me abreast of your progress and that I will have some idea of your schedule and plan of action.

[Dec 10, 1984]

The Conference is delighted you agreed to this project and I look forward to what I am sure will be a successful venture. If you have any questions about these details please raise them now. I would appreciate it if you would confirm the terms of this arrangement by return letter. When you do so we assume this letter will stand as a contract and we will consider the project as active.

With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,



Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

University of Cincinnati



McMicken College of Arts and Sciences

Judaic Studies

50B McMicken Hall  
Mail Location #169  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221  
Phone (513) 475-6774

December 21, 1984

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
26000 Shaker Blvd.  
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Dear Rabbi Silver (or Daniel, if I'm not presumptuous),

Thank you for your letter of December 10. I am very happy that we have come to a meeting of minds and you may assume that the project is active. I would, however, like to receive some clarification on some points and to make a few emendations on others at this stage so that there are no surprises later.

1. I assume the 200 page limit is "approximate," and that it refers to published, type-set pages and not manuscript pages. (About 350-400 MS pages would equal about 200 book pages, depending on the print size.) Further, I assume the issue of notes or no notes is now left to me; if I wish to include notes, do they fall within the existing page restrictions?

2. The expected terminal date for the MS should be the end of the summer of 1987, rather than June, 1987. Obviously, I'll try to do it as soon as possible, but the end of the summer gives me valuable non-teaching time for scholarly work if I need it.

3. At this stage, I'm happy to leave in abeyance the issue of how a simultaneous separately produced volume will come about; the CCAR's acceptance in principle of that request is acknowledged and appreciated. But who will be responsible for this in the future - you and the other two members of the editorial committee or the CCAR administration? I assume and hope that at some mutually agreeable time within the next two years we can discuss a plan of attack on this.

4. The honorarium is fine but I have a request: is it possible to be paid in 3 equal installments over a 3 year period so that I do not get hit with a heavy tax ~~like~~<sup>like</sup> the year I'd be receiving \$10,000 according to the CCAR formula? I appreciate the Conference's desire not to be left holding the bag and only paying fully for something it has received, but how about this as a possible payment

[Dec 21, 1984]

schedule:

- \$6,666 in September/October 1985 (or Nov./Dec. 1985)
- \$6,666 in September/October 1986
- \$6,666 at completion, be it June or September 1987

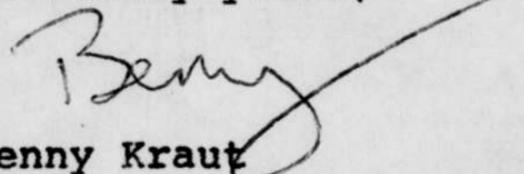
Please advise.

5. To whom in the CCAR would I address my inquiries and forward my expenses? Who is the contact person? I hope to go to New York in March to talk to the officers and see for myself the materials which exist. I've already learned that the AJA/CCAR collection more or less stops after 1977.

6. You can count on me to keep you fully informed as to my progress in the research. I can tell you now that I've spoken with Jacob Marcus who has promised the Archives' cooperation (and perhaps support), and in about two-three weeks I'll commence a three day/wk research schedule at HUC and the AJA. I plan a double attack--on the Year Books and the Executive Minutes.

Again, I'm extremely pleased at the outcome of our deliberations, and I look forward to fruitful and productive labor. Thank you very much. With very best wishes for a happy Chanukah,

Sincerely yours,

  
Benny Kraut

BK/dc

January 3, 1985

Dr. Benny Kraut  
University of Cincinnati  
McMicken College of Arts and Sciences  
50B McMicken Hall  
Mail Location #169  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221

Dear Dr. Kraut:

This will simply acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 21. Rabbi Silver is out of the country and is due back the 17th of the month at which time he will respond.

Sincerely,

Marie Pluth  
Secretary to Rabbi Daniel J. Silver

mp

University of Cincinnati



McMicken College of Arts and Sciences

Judaic Studies

50B McMicken Hall  
Mail Location #169  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221  
Phone (513) 475-6774

January 22, 1985

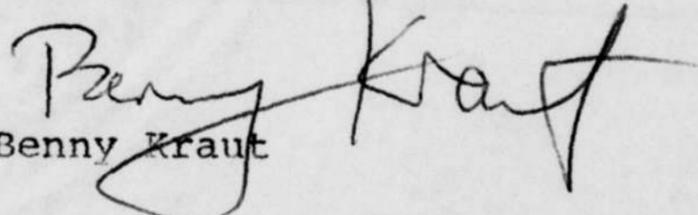
Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver, Ph.D.  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver,

It is with great regret and more than a twinge of sadness that I write to inform you that compelling personal reasons force me to withdraw from the CCAR centenary volume. I know that you have gone to great lengths to make my participation possible, and I can only express my deep appreciation for your consideration and patience. I wish there were some way to make up to you the time that you've lost, but, as you yourself suggested, there is much time left. I have every confidence that you will find the right person for the job; may that process be quick, easy and more fruitful than this last round proved to be. I am truly sorry for any impositions I've caused. May the CCAR volume be a smashing success and the institutional history one of which both scholars and CCAR members will be proud.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

  
Benny Kraut

BK/dc



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3101 CLIFTON AVENUE • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220-2488  
(513) 221-1875

כ"ח שבט תשמ"ב

1/23/85

Dear Dan -

Addresses and phone numbers for Robert  
Shapiro are: 1918 E. 27th St.

Brooklyn, NY 11229

718 376 8773

Failing to find an academic job, he is  
currently teaching at S'N.

One other name crossed my mind  
since we talked on the phone: Bob  
Seltzer - an HUC grad who has a  
Columbia PhD and teaches at Hunter.  
Though his - girlfriend in Eastern  
Europe, he has great breadth, power of  
synthesis, and, I understand, will  
speak on the Pittsburgh Platform  
at the upcoming CARR Conference.  
How does that name strike you?  
with

February 11, 1985

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Congregation Beth Israel  
5600 North Braeswood Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Sam:

The enclosed is self-explanatory though I can't tell you what really lies behind it. Mike Meyer talked with Kraut at some length and I had a brief conversation with him. We both feel that his decision arises from some deep personal uncertainties and that it would be pointless to encourage him to continue; so we're back at square one. I have received some names from Mike and Marc Raphael and the search goes on.

I have been thinking about our brief conversation a few weeks ago and am convinced that it would be a good idea for a few of us to get together to talk over **our** views on shared problems and to report to each other on the prospects and research we have been working on. I would be happy to host such a meeting. ~~Five~~ <sup>or six</sup> ~~perhaps~~ would probably be the right number. Whom would you suggest?

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

February 11, 1985

Rabbi Joseph Glaser  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
21 East 40th St.  
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Joe:

The enclosed is self-explanatory though I can't tell you what really lies behind it. Mike Meyer talked with Kraut at some length and I had a brief conversation with him. We both feel that his decision arises from some deep personal uncertainties and that it would be pointless to encourage him to continue; so we're back at square one. I have received some names from Mike and March Raphael and the search goes on.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

# Temple Beth Sholom

610 Gladys Drive  
Middletown, Ohio 45044

*units*  
*T. Sussman*

Feb. 13, 1985

Dear Rabbi Silver,

Just wanted to say again how thrilled I was that you called about the CCAR project. I will consider it very carefully and very seriously. Hopefully, I'll be able to undertake the writing of the book.

In a few days, you'll receive samples of various articles of mine which will be published in the coming months. For now, please take-a-look at my "Interfaith" piece in American Jewish Archives 34(November, 1982): 35 ff. Also, see the opinion piece I did on "Demograhpy" in Reform Judaism 31(Fall, 1984): 31 ff. Obviously, M. Winer was very unhappy about it but, then, I believe he overstated his case.

Hopefully, we'll have a chance to meet in the near future and discuss things more thoroughly. Till then

Best,

*Lance Sussman*

LANCE J. SUSSMAN, RABBI

*Congregation Beth Israel*

ORGANIZED 1854

*5600 North Braeswood Boulevard*

*Houston, Texas 77096*

**SAMUEL EGAL KARFF, D.H.L.**

**RABBI** February 21, 1985

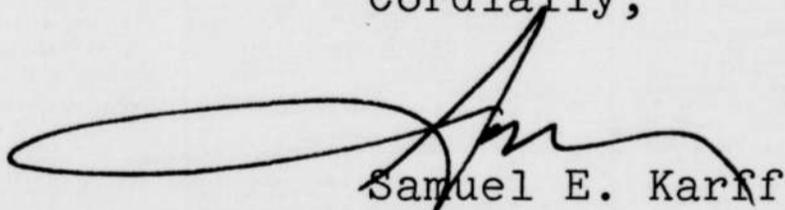
*File*

Dear Daniel:

I was sorry to hear of Kraut's withdrawal from the project. The search for an author has proved more arduous than any of us expected. Good luck on the new prospects.

The idea we spoke of is worth pursuing. At this point in the season we would probably do well targeting a Fall date. Some names that occurred to me are: Walter Jacob, Herb Bronstein and Larry Kushner (that's without going through the CCAR directory). Whom would you suggest?

Cordially,



Samuel E. Karff

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

February 22, 1985

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman  
Temple Beth Shalom  
610 Gladys Drive  
Middletown, Ohio 45044

Dear Lance:

I received your lesser papers and look forward to reading the rest. I will call you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

February 26, 1985

Dr. Robert Shapiro  
1918 E. 27th St.  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229

Dear Dr. Shapiro:

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Mike Meyer. I am chairman of a very small committee charged with publishing a volume which will commemorate the centennial of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. We propose a two-part volume: the first half, approximately 200 pages, will be a scholarly history of the Conference; the second half a series of essays by members of the Conference dealing with ongoing issues. This is not to be a coffee table book and the history is to be a serious evaluation of the issues which the Conference has faced and the effectiveness of its activities.

I write to inquire whether you would be interested in undertaking the history section. We would make available to you the records of the Conference and such other assistance as you might require. An appropriate honorarium would be arranged. We hope to have the essay in hand by early 1987.

If you are interested I would be delighted to hear from you. If you are interested I would appreciate your sending along some published materials. I come to New York rather frequently and would arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

February 27, 1985

Ms. Deborah Lipstadt  
8971 W. 24th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Dear Ms. Lipstadt:

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Marc Raphael. I am chairman of a very small committee charged with publishing a volume which will commemorate the centennial of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. We propose a two-part volume: the first half, approximately 200 pages, will be a scholarly history of the Conference; the second half a series of essays by members of the Conference dealing with ongoing issues. This is not to be a coffee table book and the history is to be a serious evaluation of the issues which the Conference has faced and the effectiveness of its activities.

I write to inquire whether you would be interested in undertaking the history section. We would make available to you the records of the Conference and such other assistance as you might require. An appropriate honorarium would be arranged. We hope to have the essay in hand by early 1987.

If you are interested I would be delighted to hear from you. If you are interested I would appreciate your sending along some published materials.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

# Temple Beth Sholom

610 Gladys Drive  
Middletown, Ohio 45044

LANCE J. SUSSMAN, RABBI

April 12, 1985

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple-Tifereth Israel  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver,

I am writing to formally express my interest in writing A Centennial History of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR). Following our recent telephone conversations and meeting in Cincinnati (March 27), I devoted a considerable amount of time to reading a wide variety of primary and secondary materials on the Conference. At this point, I am able to share some of my "penultimate" thoughts with you as to how I envision the book.

First, I quickly discovered that not only is the data-base for a Centennial History adequate, it is enormous. The logical starting points are the CCAR Yearbook and the papers of the Conference. The collection at the American Jewish Archives exceeds 18,000 items and is properly catalogued. I do not know the scope or condition of the archival materials in the New York office. All the other publications of the CCAR will also have to be carefully reviewed including liturgies, journals, guidebooks, etc. In some cases, the papers and publications of individual CCAR members will have to be consulted. To understand the role and impact of the CCAR in the larger Jewish community, it will be necessary to read broadly in the Jewish press. The general press has also covered the activities of the Conference, especially the annual conventions. The New York Times is indexed. Local papers in the communities which have hosted CCAR meetings might also have important information. The secondary literature, in my opinion, is not highly developed, except in the area of the CCAR and Zionism. In terms of general histories, David Philipson wrote a short history of the CCAR in the American Jewish Yearbook 42(1940-1) p. 179 ff. on the occasion of the Conference's 50th year and Bertram W. Korn edited Retrospect and Prospect in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of its founding. Incidentally, I discovered that Korn had his HUC-JIR students write term papers on the CCAR. The early history of the Conference is briefly reviewed in the Universal Jewish Encyclopaedia. Finally, I believe that Oral History should play a role in my research. Hopefully, arrangements can be made to tape interviews with key members of the CCAR. All things considered, the lack of a general history of the CCAR is but another great lacuna in the literature of American Jewish history. It is also a gap I would be delighted to fill.

In looking around for models for the CCAR volume, three books have been particularly valuable to me so far. In terms of a general history of a professional organization, James G. Burrow's AMA: Voice of American Medicine (1963) is a well-researched and well-crafted study which satisfactorily deals with the role of the AMA in American medical history. Naomi W. Cohen's

[Apr 12, 1955]

Not Free to Desist: The American Jewish Committee, 1906-1966 (1972) is important because it takes both the "American" and the "Jewish" components seriously. Similarly, in a centennial history of the CCAR, I believe the idea of a "Conference," the "American" element, and the rabbinic aspect will all have to be treated in a judicious fashion. Finally, Michael Meyer's "A Centennial History" in HUC-JIR: At One Hundred Years (1976) is a scholarly, lucid institutional history worthy of consideration. In all three cases, the authors were given total freedom to do their work with the object of producing critical, methodologically-sound studies. Of course, you have already assured me of complete academic freedom for this project for which I am grateful.

Although it might be premature to talk about a "Table of Contents" at this point, I have been toying with the idea of following the contours of general and Jewish history after 1900. Within the periods I decide on, topics will be treated thematically. Hopefully, this will ease the burden of blending the diachronic with the synchronic in the CCAR's history. It is also possible that the following scheme will be totally revised after the research has begun in earnest:

I. "Preface" - Overview of the book, list the major questions I "asked" in doing the work, place of the study in American Jewish historiography, acknowledgements.

II. "Pre-History" - General history of the rabbinate, American Jewish religious life in the late 19<sup>th</sup> c, early attempts at organizing rabbinical groups (US & Germany), Pittsburgh Platform, history of professionalization and place of professional organizations in the sociology of work.

III. "President Isaac M. Wise, 1889-1900" - how the CCAR was organized and absorbed other rabbinic organizations, who joined, original goals, early professional activities, standardizing reform liturgy, early role in the organized Jewish community.

IV. "The CCAR During the Progressive Era, 1900-WWI" - General history of the Conference, analysis of leadership (era of great rabbis), topical studies of major issues: Sunday Sabbath, Synod controversies, Mixed Marriage, Social Justice (especially labor-related issues) and Social Gospel, and Zionism.

V. "The Reforming of Reform Judaism, the CCAR from 1917 to 1948" - General history of the Conference, demography and the era of the bifurcated community, Social Justice in the early 1920's, Interfaith, the Synagogue Council of America, World Union, the 1935 Conference, Columbus Platform, revising the UPB I & II, CCAR & the Holocaust, Chaplaincy program during World War II, the ACJ & the Collapse of Anti-Zionism, the State of Israel.

VI. "The Great Revival? The CCAR in the Post-War Era, 1948-1967"- Rapid growth of institutional Judaism, professionalization the CCAR (central office, regional groups, journal, placement), the question of theology, the "Institutes" and the changing role of Social Justice: Peace, Civil Rights, Jewish issues (Soviet Jewry).

VII. "A New Agenda? Religious Pluralism, Neo-Traditionalism and the CCAR, 1967 to the Present" - Jerusalem convention, liturgical developments, mixed marriage controversy (1973), impact of Feminism on CCAR, Centennial Perspective, patrilineal descent and other halachic issues.

VIII. "Epilogue" - Overall assessment, significance of CCAR in history of American Reform Judaism and in history of American Jewry, existing strengths and weaknesses, prognosis for its future.

[Apr 12, 1985]

Again, the above is very tentative and very sketchy. It is only meant to be representative of my current thinking.

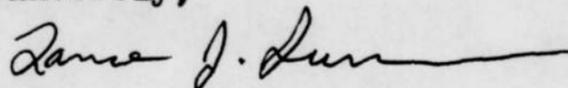
For the record, I want to repeat that I strongly agree with you that the work should primarily be a collective, intellectual biography of the CCAR. This approach will require a panoramic overview of many vital issues such as American Zionism, Social Justice and Reform in American History, and the changing sociology of the American Jewish community. I also believe that the final text should comprehensively detail the social and organizational history of the CCAR. Prof. Benny Kraut's initial "list of ingredients" (encl.) will be helpful in developing the full agenda for the Centennial History. I believe that this volume should emerge as one of the most important studies in the history of modern rabbinate.

A few additional notes . . . because the Centennial History will include other essays, lengthy appendices would be inappropriate. However, I do think it should include several pages of photographs and, perhaps, a "Bibliographical Essay" at the end of the study. I would insist that the entire volume be professionally indexed and that my documentation not be too severely apocopated.

Speaking personally, even the possibility of writing this book has thrilled me. Not only would it be an important contribution to Jewish scholarship (my first concern in undertaking the project) but it would also be of significance to reform rabbis who, hopefully, will be better able to understand their role(s) today by coming to terms with their collective past. Finally, I would view the opportunity to write this book not only as a unique and excellent way to further my research in American Jewish history but as a tremendous honor and responsibility. If you do select me as the author of the Centennial History, I can assure you that I will dedicate myself to the completion of the task as fully as I humanly can.

I look forward to working closely with you and the other members of your committee on A Centennial History of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Sincerely,



Lance J. Sussman

encl.

*I am also working on a Preliminary statement on the problem of "accommodation + resistance" in the CCAR + will mail it to you shortly.*

April 16, 1985

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Congregation Beth Israel  
5600 North Braeswood Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Sam:

The enclosed is self-explanatory. I had a long conversation with Lance several weeks ago and he is eager and willing to do the work. I would like your reactions to this letter, to Lance, and to our formally asking him to undertake the project. With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

April 16, 1985

Rabbi Michael A. Meyer  
HUC - JIR  
3101 Clifton Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Mike:

The enclosed is self-explanatory. I had a long conversation with Lance several weeks ago and he is eager and willing to do the work. I would like your reactions to this letter, to Lance, and to our formally asking him to undertake the project. With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE—JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION  
Cincinnati • New York • Los Angeles • Jerusalem

3101 CLIFTON AVENUE • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220  
(513) 221-1875

למינן ב' טבת תשמ"ה

April 19, 1985

Dear Danny,

I've read through Lance's proposal for the CCAR history which you sent me. It is thorough and indicates that Lance has both done some initial reading on the subject and some reflection. There can be no question about his enthusiasm and eagerness to be chosen for the project. I think the shortcoming of lack of seasoning and experience here is outweighed by Lance's total commitment to the book. While Kraut would probably have done a more profound study, I have no doubt that Lance will produce a creditable one. Also, he will be accepting of criticism which we may offer on a first draft. With Lance remaining in Middletown for at least one more year, he will also have the advantage of being able to conveniently use the American Jewish Archives. So, all things considered, I vote for giving the job to Lance.

All good wishes.

Cordially,

Michael A. Meyer

*Congregation Beth Israel*

ORGANIZED 1854

*5600 North Braeswood Boulevard*

*Houston, Texas 77096*

**SAMUEL EGAL KARFF, D.H.L.**

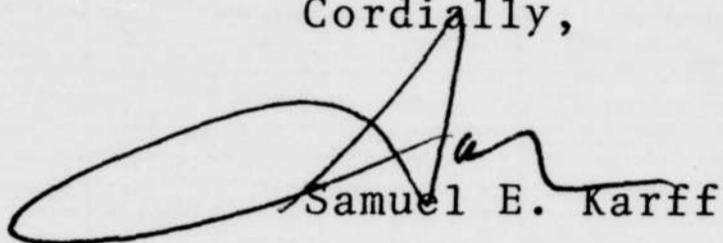
**RABBI**

April 24, 1985

Dear Daniel:

I am glad we are back on course with the CCAR project.  
Lance Sussman's precis looks good. Mazel tov.

Cordially,



Samuel E. Karff

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44122

34-9374

# The Temple

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER - RABBI

UNIVERSITY CIRCLE AT SILVER PARK • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106 • 791-7755  
BRANCH: 26000 SHAKER BLVD. • BEACHWOOD, OHIO 44122 • 831-3233

May 7, 1985

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman  
Temple Beth Sholom  
610 Gladys Drive  
Middletown, Ohio 45042

Dear Lance:

Just a note to let you know that the Karff letter came through and within a week or ten days I will be sending you a detailed confirmation of the project.

I am delighted that the Committee has agreed with me and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:sf

# אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 684-4990

May 8, 1985

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle & Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Dan,

I was just wondering whether there is any news on your pursuit of a historian to work on our Centennial Project.

I have a reference to a Dr. Todd Endelman at Indiana University as someone worth investigating. I didn't know his name before, nor do I know of his work.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

ELS:lmn

cc: Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

ELS:lmn

File

#### OFFICERS:

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New York, NY  
Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

May 16, 1985

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman  
Temple Beth Shalom  
610 Gladys Drive  
Middletown, Ohio 45044

Dear Lance:

This will certify our agreement for you to complete the history section of the CCAR's Centennial Volume. It is our understanding that the intended volume shall run around 200 pages and our expectation that the manuscript will be in our hands by June of 1987. This date will allow sufficient time for a careful production schedule.

I have spoken with the officers of the CCAR and they confirm that you will receive full cooperation when you request materials and that you will have access to all relevant files. Our shared intent is to produce "a serious work free from institutional self-congratulations," a competent historical review of the activities of the Conference which concentrates on the issues with which it has occupied itself. It hardly needs being said, but you will not be subject to editorial interference.

Your honorarium will be \$20,000. Half will be paid in installments as the work progresses and the other half will be paid upon completion of the manuscript.

In addition to the honorarium, the Conference will reimburse you for necessary expenses in connection with this work. Validation of your expenses should be sent to the CCAR office in New York. I assume that as chairman of this project you will keep me abreast of your progress and that I will have some idea of your schedule and plan of action.

The Conference is delighted you agreed to this project and I look forward to what I am sure will be a successful venture. If you have any questions about these details please raise them now. I would appreciate it if you would confirm the terms of this arrangement by return letter. When you do so we assume this letter will stand as a contract and we will consider the project as active.

With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

# Temple Beth Sholom

610 Gladys Drive  
Middletown, Ohio 45044

May 28, 1985

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver,

I was delighted to receive your letter (5/16/85). You ask me to raise "any questions." I have two.

1. The completion date of June, 1987 might be a little bit too tight for me. December, 1987 would be much more comfortable. Let me know.

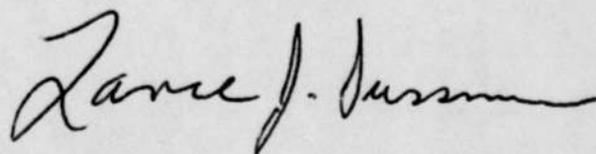
2. I would prefer a "Contract" to be drawn up by the CCAR. Considering the size of the "honorarium," a "Letter of Agreement" is not enough - according to a lawyer-friend.

In the meanwhile, I've begun working and plan to visit the New York office in June (part of a trip already planned to NYC). I'll need to get a complete run of Yearbooks, Monthly Bulletins, Journal of Reform Judaism, etc. as soon as possible.

This promises to be an exciting and worthwhile experience.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,



LANCE J. SUSSMAN, RABBI

SUSSMAN  
604 GLADYS DR.  
MIDDLETOWN, OH 45044

July 1, 1985

Rabbi Daniel Silver  
The Temple Tifereth Israel  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver,

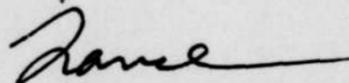
I have not heard from you in quite awhile and was wondering about the status of the CCAR Centennial Project. Is the later "due date" acceptable? Please let me know. Also, I believe a "proper contract" is a mere formality but one worth doing. If there are any problems, again, let me know. Otherwise, I assume everything is OK.

I will be in New York during the week of July 8 at my in-laws and would like to visit the CCAR office to get an idea what their archives-files are like. If everything is in order, I will go there. You can reach me in New York at 914-967-3865 (c/o Zeller).

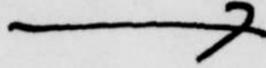
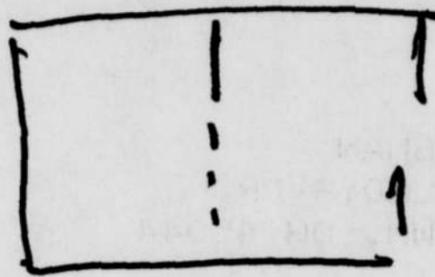
Not much else to report at this time. My article on Leeser came out in Modern Judaism. I've received some (but not a lot) of favorable feedback.

Please get back to me as soon as possible.

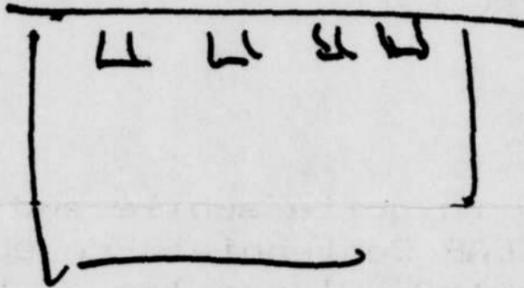
Best,



Lance J. Sussman



-



July 10, 1985

Rabbi Marc Saperstein  
Temple Beth David of the South Shore  
250 Randolph St.  
Canton, MA 02021

Dear Marc:

Lance Sussman has agreed to do the history section which will begin our CCAR Centennial Volume and I am circulating the enclosed, a brief outline of the kinds of questions which ought to be dealt with in the various essays which will become the book's concluding section. These pieces will deal with the major ongoing problems which face the liberal rabbinate. I have not yet put names next to assignments. Before this is done, I would like for you to react to the topics. You may want to suggest other ones. The list of questions under each heading should certainly be broadened.

I would also like to have you indicate which of the topics you would be prepared to do as your own contribution and to do some further thinking on the questions which ought to be raised by that paper.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

July 10, 1985

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Congregation Beth Israel  
5600 N. Braeswood Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Sam:

Lance Sussman has agreed to do the history section which will begin our CCAR Centennial Volume and I am circulating the enclosed, a brief outline of the kinds of questions which ought to be dealt with in the various essays which will become the book's concluding section. These pieces will deal with the major ongoing problems which face the liberal rabbinate. I have not yet put names next to assignments. Before this is done, I would like for you to react to the topics. You may want to suggest other ones. The list of questions under each heading should certainly be broadened.

I would also like to have you indicate which of the topics you would be prepared to do as your own contribution and to do some further thinking on the questions which ought to be raised by that paper.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

July 10, 1985

Rabbi Michael A. Meyer  
HUC-JIR  
3101 Clifton Ave.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Mike:

Lance Sussman has agreed to do the history section which will begin our CCAR Centennial Volume and I am circulating the enclosed, a brief outline of the kinds of questions which ought to be dealt with in the various essays which will become the book's concluding section. These pieces will deal with the major ongoing problems which face the liberal rabbinate. I have not yet put names next to assignments. Before this is done, I would like for you to react to the topics. you may want to suggest other ones. The list of questions under each heading should certainly be broadened.

I would also like to have you indicate which of the topics you would be prepared to do as your own contribution and to do some further thinking on the questions which ought to be raised by that paper.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

July 10, 1985

Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein  
Peninsula Temple Beth El  
1700 Alameda de las Pulgas  
San Mateo, CA 94402

Dear Peter:

Lance Sussman has agreed to do the history section which will begin our CCAR Centennial Volume and I am circulating the enclosed, a brief outline of the kinds of questions which ought to be dealt with in the various essays which will become the book's concluding section. These pieces will deal with the major ongoing problems which face the liberal rabbinate. I have not yet put names next to assignments. Before this is done, I would like for you to react to the topics. You may want to suggest other ones. The list of questions under each heading should certainly be broadened.

I would also like to have you indicate which of the topics you would be prepared to do as your own contribution and to do some further thinking on the questions which ought to be raised by that paper.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE—JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION  
*Cincinnati • New York • Los Angeles • Jerusalem*

3101 CLIFTON AVENUE • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220-2488  
(513) 221-1875

July 17, 1985

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Daniel:

You have done a thoughtful job in compiling topics, with subordinate questions, for the concluding session of the CCAR Centennial volume.

Perhaps you might want, at least initially, to set the topics all up according to one form. That way you can more easily prevent overlap and detect omission. The form I suggest is "The Reform Rabbi as . . . ." This is in fact the form you use in the title of number 1. Number 2 might be "The Diaspora Reform Rabbi and Israel," number 3: "The Reform Rabbi and K'lal Yisrael," etc. Working that way, number 5 comes out as a kind of catch-all which really doesn't fit, even without my suggested structure. I think it can be tucked into the other topics. Number 6 would fit as "The Reform Rabbi as Authority".

Two areas of importance need to be added. One is the relation of the Reform rabbi and Reform Judaism to contemporary thought: To philosophy, to science generally and to the computer revolution in particular. Don't the old issues of science/philosophy and religion bother us any more? Also: What about the Reform rabbi and such issues as sexual morality, homosexuality, the family? Perhaps those questions could be fitted into an expanded number 6.

Since I am still fully absorbed in writing my history of the Reform movement, and expect to be working on it through 1986, I can't give you a commitment to undertake an essay myself. But I'll be glad to comment on your proposed candidates if you like.

All good wishes.

Cordially,

Michael A. Meyer

MAM/ds

July 22, 1965

Dear Daniel,

Pardon the scribble! I am departing for Israel and attempting to clear my desk in the most effective and efficient manner - which includes hand-writing some letters.

I read and reflected upon the "Proposed Table of Contents" for the CCAR Centennial Volume. It is difficult to contemplate the priorities and purposes of the volume without the benefit of proper conversation. I believe that each section targets an important, yet unsettled dilemma presently confronting us, some more unsettling than others.

I would personally look forward to taking aims on Reform & K'vod Yisrad, The Role of the Rabbi in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and even Can Reform Cut Beyond Diversity. Each of these areas raises possibilities for plumbing uncharted areas rather than just to understand present status.

I'm sure I'll be in touch with you upon my return

from Cecil. Till then, Best Wishes -

Cordially,

Ruby

*Congregation Beth Israel*

ORGANIZED 1854

*5600 North Braeswood Boulevard*

*Houston, Texas 77096*

SAMUEL EGAL KARFF, D.H.L.

RABBI

August 14, 1985

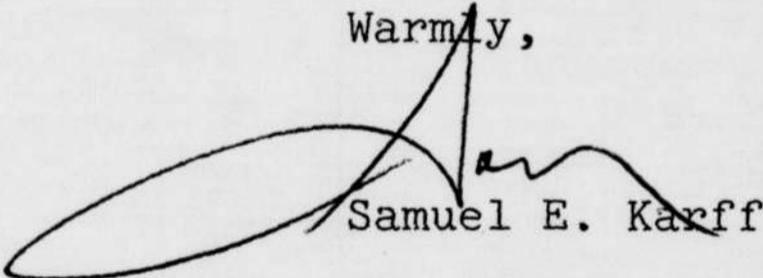
Dear Daniel:

I like your breakdown of the essay themes. It reflects, in part, our discussion at the CCAR Conference in Minneapolis.

I would feel most comfortable tackling #1 or #3 and shall wait to hear from you about the next step.

It is not too early to wish you and yours a good New Year.

Warmly,



Samuel E. Karff

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
THE DIVINITY SCHOOL

45 FRANCIS AVENUE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

October 4, 1985

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
26000 Shaker Blvd.  
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Dear Daniel:

The dust has now cleared somewhat from the Holy Days and the beginning of the academic year, and I am happy to share some initial responses to the proposed Table of Contents for the CCAR Centennial Volume.

The five essay topics are all important and deserving of serious attention. I see some overlap between Topic 1 (The Rabbi as a Religious Figure) and Topic 5 (The Role of the Rabbi in the Twenty-First Century). I guess that the difference was intended to be the focus on the inner as opposed to the outer life of the Rabbi, but I would think that they could well be combined into a single essay on the Reform Rabbi. If they are to be kept separate, some clear guidance for the two writers will have to be given to avoid duplication. In the 5th Essay, it will be important <sup>not</sup> to be locked into the synagogue rabbi but to deal with the rabbi in Jewish communal organizations, the academic world, and so forth.

The two topics that I personally find the most appealing are "Diaspora and Israel," and "Reform and K'lal Yisrael." Your question about the "conflicting claims of Israel and the Diaspora" will be fleshed out through a careful probing of the role of Israel in the creation of American Reform Jewish identity in the next generation. It seems to me that there are two dangers: a) that we rely upon Israel excessively, expecting it to accomplish what we fail to do in our synagogues and educational institutions, thereby making it into a surrogate for a vicarious Jewish experience as well as a touchstone for all policy decisions, and b) that we will begin to get tired of Israel and its seemingly insoluble problems, and turn inward toward a preoccupation with a local Jewish agenda in which Israel is effectively written off as a central concern. Sometimes we seem to oscillate between these two trends under the influence of external events. The work of defining a stable relationship still needs to be done.

Some other questions. What is the responsibility of our movement as a critic of Israeli policies? How might we envision ourselves responding if the status quo on the West Bank continues for another 20 or 40 years? If Kahane should become a minister in the Cabinet and Israeli democracy is seriously compromised? What extent of our resources

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
THE DIVINITY SCHOOL

45 FRANCIS AVENUE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

-2-

should be invested in the building of the Reform movement in Israel in comparison with meeting the needs of Israel as a whole? Should aliyah be emphasized as a serious value in our movement? Why is the American aliyah to Israel so much greater among Orthodox Jews? To what extent should we try to build political alliances with Evangelical Christian supporters of Israel whose vision of Israel and of America is fundamentally different from our own?

The other topic will be the general theme for the CCAR Convention this year in Snowmass (tentatively called "Reform Integrity within K'lal Yisrael"), and I imagine that a lot of relevant material will be generated from these deliberations. One would have to assess how serious is the threat of a permanent split in the Jewish people that leaders such as Irving Greenberg are warning about? What would be the consequences of such a split (e.g. an orthodox decision that their people may not marry Reform Jews without unambiguous proof of pedigree), and what would be our responsibility to prevent it? At a time of diminished anti-Semitism and a resurgence of fundamentalist, intolerant ultra-orthodoxy, what are the foundations for Jewish unity today? How important has such unity been in the past, and how important should it be in the hierarchy of Reform Jewish values?

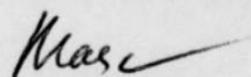
Also, what are the implications of our Outreach Program for the nature of Jewish peoplehood? Is there a danger of our diluting the ethnic component of Jewish identity in favor of the religious component by an active embracing of mixed couples and proselytes?

The question on possible merger between the Reform and Conservative movements entails a discussion of the extent to which institutional divisions reflect the realities of American Jewish life. I.e., if the institutional affiliation were ignored and the behavior and beliefs of American Jews were analysed independently, what natural groupings would be found? Would there be a clear demarcation between mainstream Reform and mainstream Conservative Jews? Are institutional loyalties a source of divisiveness or of strength?

Again, I am sorry for the delay in responding to your original letter (as well as for the unsystematic nature of these reactions). Either the Divinity School or my home address (25 Avon Street, Cambridge 02138) will insure that I receive correspondence without delay.

With all best wishes for a productive year,

Yours sincerely,



Marc Saperstein  
Associate Professor of Jewish Studies

November 15, 1985

Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein  
Peninsula Temple Beth El  
1700 Alameda de las Pulgas  
San Mateo, CA 94402

Dear Peter:

I apologize for not getting back to you sooner, but, as always, in preparation of any project there are unforeseen delays.

The time has come to tie you down to a specific assignment: "The Role of the Rabbi in the Twenty-first Century." You may recall that I listed in the original proposed Table of Contents a series of questions which might seem to fall within your purview. These are not meant to limit you in any way: What does our identification as clergy imply for the future? Do clergy serve or lead? Will the rabbi's role be as Kol Bo of your synagogue? Does the rabbi define the task or the task define the rabbi? What are the long term implications of the degenderization (terrible word) of the rabbinate? Can we be leaders when leadership is vested in Federations?

I can ~~think~~ think of other issues which might be addressed. How will the modern technologies of communication affect the work of the rabbis? Will we see the emergence of para-rabbinic functionaries? Can changes be made in the curriculum of the College-Institute to better prepare rabbis for the problems they will face? What are the implications for the liberal rabbinate of the growing opportunities in community work and in the academic world? Go at it any way you wish.

I am not trying to direct your thoughts so much as to suggest the broad area with which I would like you to deal. I envisage an essay of about 20 to 25 printed pages. Citations of classical sources should be placed in brackets within the text and I hope that there would be a minimum of footnotes. My goal is to publish a series of wise and insightful essays rather than a set of academic research papers. I would like the essays to be in my hands within 18 months - by June of 1987.

(NOV 15, 1985)

Rest assured that no significant editorial revisions will be made. This is to be your essay. My job is simply to get the best possible piece I can from each author and to see that it is presented in an attractive, readable and consistent form.

I will also organize a telephone conference sometime in the spring so that all of us can talk together and make sure that each is plowing his own furrow. I have enclosed an outline of the five essays as I now see them. Each author should revise his title. Incidentally, Lance Sussman is hard at work on the historical portion of the volume.

With best wishes from house to house, I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

November 18, 1985

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Congregation Beth Israel  
5600 North Braeswood Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Sam:

I apologize for this delay in completing our conversation of last June, but things never move as smoothly as one hopes.

In any case, I would like to tie you down to a particular essay for the CCAR Centennial Volume: "Piety and Practice - The Rabbi as a Religious Figure." This was one of the two themes you indicated you would be willing to tackle.

I hesitate to suggest how you should approach the problem, but the issues seem clear. In what sense is the rabbi a religious figure? Can congregational expectations and those of the rabbis be brought into place? Why do many rabbis find little spiritual satisfaction in the religious life of their own synagogue? Can a liberal synagogue be a religious place? Has the celebrated reintroduction of the ceremonial together with prayer book revision accomplished any significant renewal of the spirit? If not, what tack can we take? Go at it any way you wish.

I am not trying to direct your thoughts so much as to suggest the broad area with which I would like you to deal. I envisage an essay of about 20 to 25 printed pages. Citations of classical sources should be placed ~~in brackets with~~ the text and I hope that there would be a minimum of footnotes. My goal is to publish a series of wise and insightful essays rather than a set of academic research papers. I would like the essays to be in my hands within 18 months - by June of 1987.

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[Nov 18, 1985]

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With all good wishes from house to house, I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

November 18, 1985

Rabbi Marc Saperstein  
Associate Professor of Jewish Studies  
Harvard University, Divinity School  
45 Francis Ave.  
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear Marc:

I apologize for the delay in getting back to you, but a trip to Europe and a short trip to the hospital with a bout of pneumonia got in the way and it is only now that I am back at my desk and able to respond to your letter.

For our Centennial Volume, I would like you to deal with the question of "The Reform Rabbinate and Israel." You may recall that in a tentative Table of Contents I suggested a number of questions which might be dealt with under this topic: How should we balance out the conflicting emotional, ideological and financial claims of Israel and the diaspora? How can we handle our delegitimization in Israel? How can we handle the differences in approach to halacha and synagogue structure evidenced by liberal Jews in Israel and the United States? How do we adjust our messianic ethic, the image of Zion, with the brutal realities of Middle Eastern power politics? What do we do or say when our friends are not necessarily Israel's and Israel's friends are not necessarily our friends?

In your letter of October 4 you were kind enough to flesh out this area, suggesting the need for "a careful probing of the role of Israel in the creation of American Reform Jewish identity in the next generation." You also suggested two potential dangers: excessive reliance on Israel to make good our educational and religious failings and emotional lethargy born of Israel's unceasing problems which might lead to a renewal of Jewish isolationism. You also, correctly, add the inevitable identification of the liberal movement in Israel with national parties and interests and the issue of diaspora criticism of Israel's policies. All I can say is go to it in the best way you see fit.

[Nov 18, 1985]

I am not trying to direct your thoughts so much as to suggest the broad area with which I would like you to deal. I envisage an essay of about 20 to 25 printed pages. Citations of classical sources should be placed in brackets within the text and I hope that there would be a minimum of footnotes. My goal is to publish a series of wise and insightful essays rather than a set of academic research papers. I would like the essays to be in my hands within 18 months - by June of 1987.

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With all good wishes from house to house, I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

November 20, 1985

Rabbi Charles Kroloff  
Temple Emanu-El  
756 E. Broad St.  
Westfield, N.J. 07090

Dear Chuck:

I am delighted that you have agreed to write one of the essays for our Centennial Volume. The working title is: "Can the REform Rabbinate Get Beyond Diversity?" I am sure you will retitlle the piece, but at least it suggests the furrow that I want you to plow.

The volume will consist of two parts: an historical review (which is being prepared by Lance Sussman), and several essays by members of the Conference which will deal with the issues which will face the rabbinate during the coming decades. A small editorial committee consisting of Sam Karff, Mike Meyer and myself have decided that there should be essays on the following topics: 1) The Rabbi as a Religious Leader; 2) The Liberal Rabbinate and Israel; 3) The Liberal Rabbinate and K'lal Yisrael; 4) The Role of the Rabbi in the 21st Century, and 5) Can the Reform Rabbinate Bet Beyond Diversity.

There are obviously many ways to approach the issue. The Centennial Perspective glorified diversity and seemed to raise pluralism into the status of an ideology, so much so that many began to wonder whether liberal Judaism, in fact, involved any substantial and definable commitments. The recent set of essays on Gates of Prayer in the Journal suggest a good bit of dissatisfaction with a policy to raise pluralism from a strategy to a doctrine. Should (can) the Reform rabbinate encourage movements toward clearer self-definition? What forms might such movements take? To what do we say 'no' and on what basis? To what do we say 'yes' and on what basis?

The issues here are both theological and practical: How shall we define Liberal Judaism to congregants? The unaffiliated? Those of other Jewish persuasions? Are the "New Jews" satisfied with the idea that their synagogues promote liberal social causes?

[Nov 20, 1985]

I am not trying to direct your thoughts so much as to suggest the broad area with which I would like you to deal. I envisage an essay of about 20 to 25 printed pages. Citations of classical sources should be placed in brackets within the text and I hope that there would be a minimum of footnotes. My goal is to publish a series of wise and insightful essays rather than a set of academic research papers. I would like the essays to be in my hands within 18 months - by June of 1987.

Rest assured that no significant editorial revisions will be made. This is to be your essay. My job is simply to get the best possible piece I can from each author and to see that it is presented in an attractive, readable and consistent form.

I will also organize a telephone conference sometime in the spring so that all of us can talk together and make sure that each is plowing his own furrow. I have enclosed an outline of the five essays as I now see them. Each author should revise his title. Incidentally, Lance Sussman is hard at work on the historical portion of the volume.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call. With all good wishes from house to house, I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

*Congregation Beth Israel*

ORGANIZED 1854

*5600 North Braeswood Boulevard*

*Houston, Texas 77096*

**SAMUEL EGAL KARFF, D.H.L.**

**RABBI**

December 3, 1985

*Can Wal*

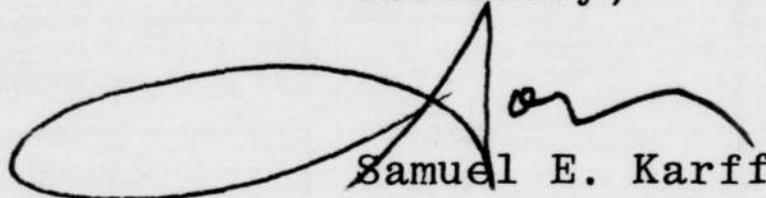
Dear Daniel:

Thanks for your letter of November 18th. I shall be pleased to write the essay on "Piety and Practice - The Rabbi as Religious Figure." Your interpretive questions will be helpful.

Let us hope that the project turns out well. The Conference leadership was wise to entrust it to your hands.

Warm good wishes at this season.

Cordially,



Samuel E. Karff

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

[1985]

PROPOSED TABLE OF CONTENTS - CCAR CENTENNIAL VOLUME

Part I. A Thematic History by Lance Sussman

Part II. Essays on Concerns for Today and Tomorrow.

1) Piety and Practice - The Rabbi as a Religious Figure.

How do the members of our synagogues find spiritual satisfaction? How do we, as rabbis? What lies beyond prayer book revision? The rabbis' role in contemporary worship? Why do many rabbis find little spiritual satisfaction in the worship practices of their synagogues? Is a Kippah a sign of piety?

2) Diaspora and Israel.

How should we balance out the conflicting emotional, ideological and financial claims of Israel and the diaspora? How can we handle our delegitimization in Israel? How do we handle the differences in attitude toward halacha and the synagogue evidenced by liberal Jews in Israel and the United States? How do we adjust our messianic ethic, the image of Zion, with the brutal realities of Middle Eastern power politics? What do we do or say when our friends are not necessarily Israel's and Israel's friends are not necessarily ours?

3) Reform and K'lal Yisrael.

Should our religious positions be circumscribed by the fact the orthodox will not go along (patrilineal descent, conversion, divorce)? Can attempts at halachic accommodation ever satisfy the traditional community? Can we develop and promote symbols which will convey the legitimacy of our efforts and concerns? Can and will Reform and Conservative Judaism merge?

4) Reform and Tikkun Olam.

Has the current emphasis on turning inward led to a pulling away from involvement with the larger community? How do we respond to anti-semitism of the left? How do we respond to Philo-Israelitism on the right? How do we support a liberal agenda to communities which no longer accept uncritically the appropriateness of liberal theories? How do we explain our inconsistencies: support for Day Schools despite the liberal commitment to public education; support of affirmative action and our role as tribunes of our people etc.?

5) The Role of the Rabbi in the Twenty-first Century.

What does our identification as clergy imply for the future? Do clergy serve or lead? Will the rabbi's role be as Kol Bo of the synagogue? Does the rabbi define the task or the task define the rabbi? What are the long term implications of the degenderization of the rabbinate? Can we be leaders when leadership is vested in Federations?

[1985]

6) Can Reform Get Beyond Diversity?

The Centenary Perspective glorified diversity and raised pluralism into the status of an ideology, and many wondered whether there are, in fact, any substantial common commitments. What is inviolate? To what do we say no? Is Liberal Judaism simply the worship of open-mindedness?

513-423-2799



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Cincinnati • New York • Los Angeles • Jerusalem

3101 CLIFTON AVENUE • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220-2488  
(513) 221-1875

ק"י

February 28, 1986

Dear Daniel,

I write to you somewhat in haste having just heard from Jonathan Sarna that it is his belief that the agreement with Rance Susseman to write the CCAH history is not signed and sealed. I thought that it was, and I now fear there may be some misunderstanding. Unless this rumor is definitely wrong, could you get in touch with Rance and make sure there are firm commitments recognized on both sides. I don't see thought of starting all over again.

all good wishes,  
Mihel

March 13, 1986

Dr. Michael A. Meyer  
HUC-JIR  
3101 Clifton Ave.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Michael:

Thank you for your note about Sussman. There is no problem with our agreements. The problem is that he hasn't gotten down to work. He says he ran into some snags on his thesis and his prospective move to SUNY and will get down to the job this summer. I will keep checking. If you know anything more about this I would appreciate knowing.

We are well and I am glad to see the first signs of spring. Thanks for the note.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

RABBI LANCE J. SUSSMAN  
604 Gladys Drive  
Middletown, OH 45044  
(513) 423-2799

April 4, 1986

Rabbi Daniel Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

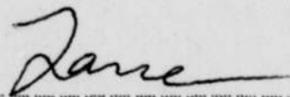
Dear Rabbi Silver,

Just wanted to bring you up-to-date on things. I've accepted a teaching position at SUNY-Binghamton in American Jewish History. We'll be moving in early August. We are expecting another child and will wait to have it here before packing up.

We still need to clarify several items in our negotiations about the work on the CCAR. I am most concerned about the deadline. Please let me know what the due date is. Spring of 1987 is simply too soon for me. Second, I had hoped to receive a contract from the CCAR which would lay out all the details of the project. Will that be possible?

Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,



-----  
Lance J. Sussman

April 29, 1986

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman  
604 Gladys Drive  
Middletown, Ohio 45044

Dear Lance:

I apologize for this delay in answering your letter of April 4, but I have just returned from several weeks out of the country on a study tour to South Africa and we have had some health problems in the family to deal with.

The absolute deadline is September of 1987. I am afraid that if we go through the process of writing up and having the Conference sign a contract it will be August 1987 before all that is completed.

If I have your assurance that your History will be completed by the above date I will write a letter giving you my assurance that you will be paid \$20,000 for the work and that your incidental expenses in preparation of the work will be met.

I don't want us to delay any longer, and so I'd like you to say yea or nay and we will go from there. With all good wishes from house to house and congratulations on your expected new addition, I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

# אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-0501 • (212) 684-4990

May 21, 1986

12 Iyar 5746

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
Tifereth Israel  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

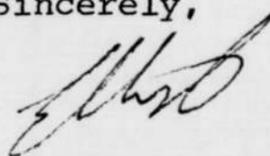
Dear Dan:

I have been going through some files recently, and came across our letter of understanding with Lance Sussman regarding the preparation of a manuscript for the CCAR Centennial. The due date, apparently, is the summer of 1987.

Since this is little more than a year away, and to my knowledge Lance has not been in contact with anyone here regarding use of our files, I wonder whether you can report on his progress or give us any other indication that he is either working actively on this project or not.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

ELS:lmn

cc: Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

#### OFFICERS:

Rabbi Jack Stern, *President*  
Scarsdale, NY

Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, *Vice President*  
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Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens, *Administrative Secretary*  
New York, NY

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New York, NY

Rabbi Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

June 2, 1986

Rabbi Elliott Stevens  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
21 East 40th St.  
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Elliott:

I talked with Lance Sussman last week and he informs me that he spend two days in your office and that one of the secretaries there was most helpful. He hopes once his move to SUNY is complete he intends to get down to the real work. Let's hope. Hope this finds you in good health.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

RABBI LANCE J. SUSSMAN  
604 Gladys Drive  
Middletown, OH 45044  
(513) 423-2799

June 8, 1986

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver,

This is to confirm that I formally accept your offer to work on the history of the CCAR. I have already done a good deal of preliminary work. To move the project along, I would like to organize a collection of CCAR publications (Yearbooks, journal, newsletters, prayerbooks, etc.) as quickly as possible. Perhaps arrangements could be made with the New York office. Of course, I will return all loaned materials. I will be in New York in early August to make more definite arrangements.

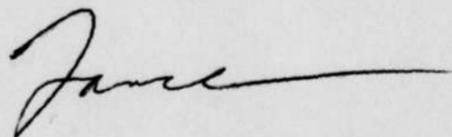
Second, once the project is officially on, I would like to work out an arrangement, perhaps with HUC-JIR (NY), to borrow books for the project. I will be a 3 hour drive from the city.

Finally, I would like to hire a Graduate Assistant to help me with the project. I will check with SUNY-Binghamton to get a suggested price and the names of some of their Jewish studies students. If necessary, I am willing to deduct from some of the money set aside for me. Time is of the essence. I believe we have worked out mutually agreeable goals and we must get to work.

Please make a note that after 8/1 my home mailing address will be: 1005 Baylor Drive, Binghamton NY 13903.

Sorry I won't see you at Snowmass. Enjoy.

Sincerely,



Lance J. Sussman

cc: E. Stevens

607-797-5301

# אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-0501 • (212) 684-4990

June 16, 1986

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
Tifereth Israel  
University Circle & Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Daniel:

I was very glad that Lance Sussman sent me a copy of his recent letter to you, although I was surprised that he was only now confirming his formal acceptance to work on the project, since your letter specifying the agreement to him was sent in May, 1985.

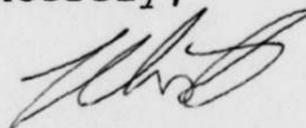
We only have here one reasonably complete set of Journals, Newsletters and Yearbooks, and I don't know if it really would be wise to empty our office of all of these at the same time. Of course, since I will be here in August when Lance intends to come into New York, I can discuss these particulars with him directly. I am sure he will have no problem borrowing books from HUC-JIR in New York.

Regarding the graduate assistant, I think we would need to have a budgetary prediction before we can respond, since this was not part of the original agreement. Since the honorarium of \$20,000 is more than just a token, I think it certainly would be appropriate if at least some portion of that budget were to be deducted from his overall.

Until we get going on direct consultations regarding the project itself, and while we are still discussing finances, I would prefer that these matters be communicated through you.

Thank you, as always, and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

ELS/fiu

cc: Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

#### OFFICERS:

Rabbi Jack Stern, *President*  
Scarsdale, NY

Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, *Vice President*  
Chevy Chase, MD

Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser, *Executive Vice President*  
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Newton, MA

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens, *Administrative Secretary*  
New York, NY

Rabbi Sidney L. Regner, *Executive Vice President Emeritus*  
New York, NY

Rabbi Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

June 23, 1986

*Can Vol*

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
21 East 40th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10016-0501

Dear Elliot:

The enclosed letter to Lance is self-explanatory. I don't know what arrangements you will make within him as far as books are concerned, but I hope you will do everything you can to expedite his work. I don't want him to have any excuse to be dilatory.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

*Can Vol*

June 24, 1986

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman  
604 Gladys Drive  
Middletown, Ohio 45044

Dear Lance:

I am in receipt of your letter of June 8 and am delighted all systems are go. I trust you will find the CCAR office in New York cooperative. They want to expedite this project as much as we all do.

As far as a graduate assistant is concerned, there are no provisions in our financial agreement to provide for the fees which would be involved. You, of course, can try to negotiate directly with New York, but I am afraid that knowing the Conference's labyrinthian ways it would take months, if not years, before you would get an answer, and given their financial condition that answer would most probably be no. Our agreement is predicated on your responsibility to complete the task. Whatever arrangements you make to accomplish that end are, of course, your own.

I am delighted on the basis of your letter and our telephone conversation that I will have the manuscript in hand by the agreed-on date.

With all good wishes and with high expectations for a fine piece of work, I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

File



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE—JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION  
Cincinnati • New York • Los Angeles • Jerusalem

3101 CLIFTON AVE. • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220-2488  
(513) 221-1875

November 24, 1986

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
Yarnton Manor  
2 Church Lane  
Yarnton/Oxford OX5 1PY  
ENGLAND

Dear Daniel:

Yesterday the Centennial Committee of the CCAR met in New York to discuss the various programs that are being planned. One of them is a series of symposia that will be held in 1988/89 in conjunction with regional CCAR conventions. As you suggested on the phone, so we too thought it a good idea to use the writers for the Centennial Volume under your editorship as speakers for the symposia, with local rabbis as commentators. From your secretary I learned of the four assignments that have been made: both the rabbis and their topics. The latter correspond closely to the outline that you had sent me earlier for review, and which I shared with the committee. We were very favorably impressed.

But a question arose. On the outline you had included the topic "Reform and Tikkun Olam," but apparently this topic was not assigned. Will you be dealing with it yourself? Or is there another explanation? The members of the committee feel -- as do I -- that it should not be left out, not left out of the symposia and, with your agreement, also not left out of the volume. Could you therefore let me know what the status of this topic is and how you feel about its inclusion.

I hope you and Adele are enjoying your stay at Yarnton. Please give her my warm regards.

My own time is currently taken up with writing the last chapter of my comprehensive history of the Reform movement. Oxford University Press has recently agreed to publish it.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael A. Meyer".

Michael A. Meyer

MAM/ds

cc: Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman  
Rabbi Michael A. Oppenheimer  
Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens

*Congregation Beth Israel*

ORGANIZED 1854

*5600 North Braeswood Boulevard*

*Houston, Texas 77096*

**SAMUEL EGAL KARFF, D.H.L.**

**RABBI**

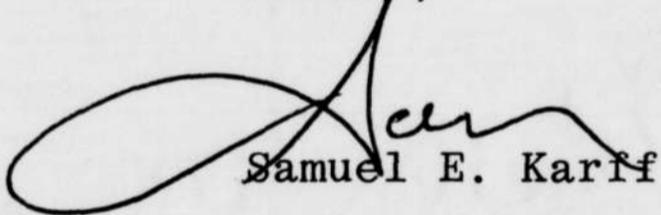
June 5, 1987

Dear Daniel:

I am enclosing the manuscript for the Centennial Volume. Your critical comments are welcome.

I will be in and out of Cleveland briefly for Michael Oppenheimer's 10th. I will call, if possible, just to say "hello."

Warmly,



Samuel E. Karff

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

# אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-0501 • (212) 684-4990

Office of the Executive Vice President

June 8, 1987

MEMORANDUM TO: CHAIRS, DIRECTORS, AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS OF CCAR COMMITTEE,  
JOINT COMMISSIONS, AND TASK FORCES

FROM: JOSEPH B. GLASER

Enclosed is a full list of the body on which you serve. It is the roster for 1987-88 through June of '88.

We have attempted to keep you informed by carbon copy of the changes, and this is now final, except for what may happen in a few individual cases which we cannot anticipate at this time.

Please do not schedule meetings without clearing first with me as to time, place and agenda. In the case of Joint Commissions and Task Forces administered by UAHC personnel, please keep my office informed of attendance response well before the meeting, and be sure to discuss with me housing and travel logistics at the outset when we discuss time, place and agenda. The CCAR is still in tight fiscal circumstances, and we have been "bleeding" largely from Joint Commission meetings. Such costs sometimes escape the concern of UAHC personnel because of the fact that for the most part UAHC delegates pay their own way.

Gene Lipman will be in touch with each of you sometime during the year, hopefully early on, in order to review your work and consult on directions for the future.

If you have an executive committee, please remember that those meetings, too, should be set in consultation with me so that Gene and I can make every effort to be there, so that we may participate in the agenda and time/place setting, and policy evaluation which is the work of executive committees.

Thanks much for your cooperation. All good wishes.

Shalom,



#### OFFICERS:

Rabbi Jack Stern, *President*  
Scarsdale, NY

Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, *Vice President*  
Chevy Chase, MD

Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser, *Executive Vice President*  
New York, NY

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New York, NY

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New York, NY

Rabbi Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

# The Temple

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER - RABBI

UNIVERSITY CIRCLE AT SILVER PARK • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106 • 791-7755  
BRANCH: 26000 SHAKER BLVD. • BEACHWOOD, OHIO 44122 • 831-3233

June 19, 1987

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Congregation Beth Israel  
5600 North Braeswood Blvd.,  
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Sam:

I read with interest and pleasure your piece for the Centennial Volume. It is the first one in and sets a high standard. I will be back to you if any questions arise and we have to adjust style, etc.

Have a good summer and thanks.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver

DJS:mt

June 22, 1987

Rabbi Joseph Glaser  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
21 East 40th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10016-0501

Dear Joe:

Just one brief matter. Lance Sussman is not the editor of the Centennial History. He is writing a history of the Conference as one half of the volume. He has no editorial responsibility for the volume. It would probably be best ~~either~~ not to list him at all or to list him as historian.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

July 24, 1987

Rabbi Marc Saperstein  
7445 Oxford Drive  
St. Louis, Missouri 63104

Dear Marc:

We are in the middle of a heat-wave, which reminds me that fall is not too far away and that the CCAR Centennial is not far behind. How are you coming with your piece? I don't need it until Thanksgiving time, but I expect great things from you, etc.

I had a wonderful year-- on a sabbatical. We were in Oxford for the fall, traveled in Southeast Asia for three months and spent April in Jerusalem.

I hope this finds you in good health.

With all good wishes from house to house, I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:srb

[1988]

WASHINGTON  UNIVERSITY

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63130

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
314 - 889-5450

January 4, 1987

Dear Dan,

Here, finally, is my piece for the CCA R  
Centennial Volume. I came out somewhat different  
from what I originally envisioned, but I think  
it covers most of the bases.

Please let me know what you think.

With heartfelt wishes for a ~~new~~ ~~new~~ and  
a productive 1988,

Marc Saperstein

May 15, 1987

Dr. Michael A. Meyer  
Hebrew Union College  
3101 Clifton Ave.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Michael:

Sometime during our long hejira I got a note from you asking for the Table of Contents for the Centennial Volume. Apparently, you wanted to make some use of our authors for other purposes. I don't know what you received, but the enclosed is the book's Table of Contents.

The project is proceeding apace and should be done before our Bicentennial.

We had a wonderful trip and Oxford, as always, is a haven of quiet in which to write, and Jerusalem in April was absolutely glorious. You could almost forget the political problems.

I hope this finds you in good health. With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

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Marc Saperstein
- 3) The Reform Rabbinate and K'lal Israel  
Daniel Jeremy Silver
- 4) The Role of the Rabbi in the 21st Century  
Peter Rubinstein
- 5) Can The Reform Rabbinate Transcend Diversity?  
Charles Kroloff

**PENINSULA TEMPLE BETH EL**

1700 Alameda De Las Pulgas  
San Mateo, California 94403  
(415) 341-7701

Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein

Rabbi Sanford E. Rosen, D.D., D.H.L.  
*Rabbi Emeritus*

Cantor Herbert I. Epstein, B.S.M., M.A.T.  
*Cantor Emeritus*

August 4, 1987  
9 Av, 5747

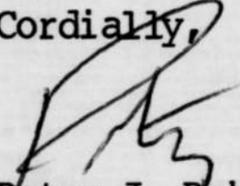
Rabbi Daniel Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Danny,

I returned from the Soviet Union and Israel to find your note and am hastening to respond. I will be hard at work on the project and will assume that it will be in your hands by Thanksgiving. I cannot promise quality since the very mention of it drives me to break out in a rash.

I hope that the end of the summer is a good one for you and that you have much strength for the holidays.

Cordially,

  
Peter J. Rubinstein, Rabbi

PJR:sn

JANUARY 25, 1988

RABBI MARC SAPERSTEIN  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63130

DEAR MARC:

I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUBMISSION TO THE CCAR CENTENNIAL VOLUME. IT IS A WELL-DONE PIECE, BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, MUCH TOO LONG FOR OUR CELEBRATORY PURPOSES. WHAT I NEED IS A PIECE ABOUT 35 PAGES IN LENGTH.

SINCE THIS IS A RABBINIC, NOT AN ACADEMIC, ESSAY IF YOU ARE WILLING, I WOULD CUT OFF THE NOTES. I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU GO THROUGH THE REST OF THE TEXT, TAKING OUT WHAT MIGHT BE EXCISED. I WILL RUN 40 PAGES, BUT I CANNOT TAKE IT ANY LONGER THAN THAT. IT WILL CROWD EVERYBODY ELSE'S WORK AND DISRUPT THE BALANCE OF THE BOOK.

THE PIECE ITSELF IS FIRST-RATE AND RAISES THE ISSUES WHICH WE MUST FACE DURING THE NEXT CENTURY, SO I SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO DO THE EXTRA BIT OF WORK REQUIRED TO BRING THIS PIECE BACK TO SIZE.

[Jan 25, 1988]

I TRUST THIS FINDS YOU IN GOOD HEALTH, AND MANY  
THANKS FOR THE WORK THAT HAS ALREADY GONE INTO  
THIS PROJECT; WITH ALL GOOD WISHES I REMAIN

SINCERELY,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:MP

ENCL.

Monday  
call home

Oct. 7

1889 CCAR Centennial 1989

# אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

192 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-6801

(212) 684-4990

July 18, 1988

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
Temple Tifereth Israel  
Iniversity Circle & Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

LANCE

Dear Dan:

I am writing to let you know that I have just had a long discussion with Lance Sussman regarding the centennial history, and he seems to be virtually on target with the deadline we set for him years ago. Specifically, it is his hope that we will have the completed manuscript by 1 November 1988, which should give us enough time to produce the finished volume before the centennial convention next June.

Lance anticipates that his manuscript will be 225-250 pages long. When assembled together with the five monographs which you had commissioned on behalf of the Centennial Publications Committee, the final volume will probably turn out to be the size of a typical CCAR Yearbook.

According to an old note, the five monograph authors were you, Sam Karff, Marc Saperstein, Peter Rubinstein and Chuck Kroloff. I wonder whether you have these essays all in hand, or on schedule, because it may well be that we can start now in the design and typesetting of the book.

It is also true that the volume does not yet have a history. Although the trade market for such a volume is obviously limited, I would hope that the title that emerges will be more inviting than staid, to encourage those who come across it in a Jewish bookstore to pick up a copy. Toward that end, I think that an attractive while not gaudy jacket might be very appropriate, along with photographs inside. Lance has reviewed a large number of photographs at the American Jewish Archives, and wants to know something about limits, since a photographic section costs money, but I would hope that a modest collection could be included.

Lance has also raised a question about introductory and preferatory materials. He is sending in an introduction to me now, but other remarks by way of preface or foreword may be indicated, and here, too, your guidance would be appreciated, so that the entire package can be completed on time.

In the meantime, I do hope that the balance of your summer is restful and recuperative and I look forward to hearing from you.

Warm good wishes.

Sincerely,  
Elliot L. Stevens

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ELS:sk

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Cincinnati, OH

cc: Rabbis Michael A. Meyer, Joseph B. Glaser, Eugene J. Lipman, Lance J. Sussman

July 24, 1987

Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein  
Peninsula Temple Beth El  
1700 Alameda de las Pulgas  
San Mateo, CA 94402

Dear Peter:

We are in the middle of a heat-wave, which reminds me that fall is not too far away and that the CCAR Centennial is not far behind. How are you coming with your piece? I don't need it until Thanksgiving time, but I expect great things from you, etc.

I had a wonderful year-- on a sabbatical. We were in Oxford for the fall, traveled in Southeast Asia for three months and spent April in Jerusalem.

I hope this finds you in good health.

With all good wishes from house to house, I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:srb

~~458~~.

415 - 341 = 701

1889 CCAR Centennial 1989

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

192 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-6801

(212) 684-4990

July 25, 1988

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman  
75 Beethoven  
Binghamton, New York 13905

Dear Lance:

I have just had a long and very cordial conversation with Abe Peck at the Archives, concerning our mutual hope to mount an exhibition at the Archives on the centenary of the CCAR, in conjunction with our convention next June. Abe told me that the scheduling would be propitious, as a preceding exhibit is set to conclude around May, with the CCAR showing penciled in for June through the summer of 1989.

With regard to a catalogue, Abe said that he had already discussed with you your writing the text and working with him to choose the pictures which would illustrate it. The catalogue would be a minimum of sixteen pages, or more likely twenty four or thirty two, and we would endeavor to solicit sponsors who would be listed at the end of the text. The page size would be 6 inches by 9 inches.

At this time, we agreed that the next necessary step before we commit ourselves is to come up with a realistic budget. Abe and I will work up some sample specifications and get a printing quote, and he will also be sharing with us such financial support as the Archives itself can contribute. In the meantime, I would very much like to know whether you will be doing this as part of your work on the Centennial History, or whether you would need to charge some additional amount; whether you would anticipate additional travel to Cincinnati to work on the selection of photographs, and such other details as you can contribute to the budget making process. I would be very grateful to have this information no later than the end of September, as our own Budget Committee meets the first week of October and we can't wait longer than that to commit ourselves to the project.

I would like to share with you one other thing: I have spoken with the book manufacturer who will likely handle our Centennial History, and am told that camera-ready art really should be in from the typesetter by early March. This means that we must establish an absolute outside deadline of November 1, 1988 for receipt of the completed manuscript - together with any introductory,

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Cincinnati, OH

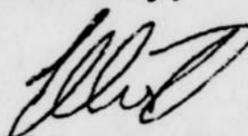
July 25, 1988

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman  
Page two

prefatory, acknowledgements or the material - in order to give us enough time for the keyboarding, proofreading, preparation of mechanicals, etc. I will also need, of course, the five additional monographs by then, or sooner if they are available, but I will be in touch separately with Dan Silver and Michael Meyer in that regard.

If you anticipate any difficulty in meeting these deadlines, I would appreciate hearing from you right away. I do hope the rest of your summer is pleasant, and look forward to seeing the fruit of your labors.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

ELS/s

cc: ✓ Dr. Abraham Peck  
Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
Dr. Michael A. Meyer  
Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

# A Memo From

*Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens*

July 29, 1988

Rabbi Lance Sussman  
Binghamton, New York

Dear Lance,

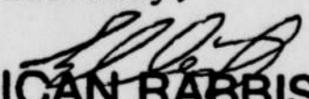
I tried reaching you today by 'phone, but found that you were out.

Dan Silver called to remind me that the deadline which he established for receipt of your manuscript is earlier than the one I mentioned in my letter by two months. Specifically, he indicated that the September 1 deadline which he hopes you can meet is necessary to provide editorial review prior to submission of the manuscript to the typesetter. When I had written November 1, I was thinking of the last outside date for typesetting to begin in order to have the books at our convention, but that excluded the editorial process, and I really should have left the scheduling up to Dan. [Actually, his original letter of appointment, dated May, 1985, asked for submission by June of 1987.]

Given the above, it may be best to hold off on an exhibit catalogue, unless text for that can be pulled from the book after its completion. In any event, Dan Silver reconfirmed that lines of communication should be through him, and I know that he will appreciate your keeping him apprised of your progress.

I hope the rest of your summer is productive and pleasant, and wish you well. Sincerely,

CC: Rabbi Daniel J. Silver

  
**CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS**

192 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016  
(212) 684-4990

1889 CCAR Centennial 1989

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

192 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-6801

(212) 684-4990

August 29, 1988

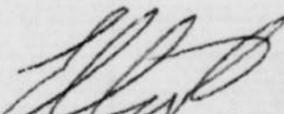
Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
Temple Tifereth Israel  
University Circle & Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

Joe and I have been exchanging memos during our vacations, and one from him suggests that perhaps Malcolm Stern could be asked to review Lance Sussman's historical work before the book goes to the typesetter. If you think this would be a good idea, I'm sure that Malcolm would be most willing, and his work is always efficient.

I hope that your August has been pleasant, and wish you well for 5749.

Sincerely,

  
Elliot L. Stevens

ELS:sk

cc: Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

OFFICERS:

Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, *President*  
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New York, NY  
Rabbi Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

September 2, 1988

Elliot L. Stevens  
192 Lexington Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10016-6801

Dear Elliot:

Malcolm Stern is a good idea for copy editor for Lance Sussman's piece, if and when I get it. You will check with Malcom before hand. I will mail the piece directly to him.

As always,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

# The Temple

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER - RABBI

UNIVERSITY CIRCLE AT SILVER PARK • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106 • 791-7755  
BRANCH: 26000 SHAKER BLVD. • BEACHWOOD, OHIO 44122 • 831-3233

September 2, 1988

Elliot L. Stevens  
192 Lexington Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10016-6801

Dear Elliot:

Malcolm Stern is a good idea for copy editor for Lance Sussman's piece, if and when I get it. You will check with Malcom before hand. I will mail the piece directly to him.

As always,

*Daniel*

Daniel Jeremy Silver

9/14

*Dear Dan -*

*Malcolm agrees.*

*all the best -*

*Elliot*

1889 CCAR Centennial 1989

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

192 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-6801

(212) 684-4990

November 2, 1988

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
Temple Tifereth Israel  
University Circle & Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

I wanted to let you know of a letter which Dr. Abraham Peck recently sent to Lance Sussman, which I received by way of a carbon copy. In this letter, Abe asks Lance to proceed with the writing of a text for the catalogue which will accompany an exhibit on the rabbinate at the Archives, in conjunction with our convention next June.

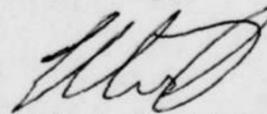
I had told Abe quite explicitly, per my discussion with you, that Lance was not to be asked to do anything else whatsoever until submission of a completed manuscript in fulfillment of his commission from the CCAR. Abe, in his letter, spoke of a mid-February deadline for Lance, and mentioned that this early deadline might help to push him toward completion of the larger work as well.

Rather than my responding to this carbon directly, I thought it best to share the report with you, but I would appreciate knowing how you wish to handle this. Obviously, Lance has not yet submitted his book to you, and we are getting very concerned as to what we might expect.

By the way, given that Malcolm Stern has agreed to be a reviewer of the manuscript, I wonder whether the five thematic essays are all in your hands by now, so that work on at least that portion, including perhaps design and typesetting, might begin.

I wish you well, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

ELS:sk

OFFICERS:

Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, *President*  
Chevy Chase, MD  
Rabbi Samuel E. Karff, *Vice President*  
Houston, TX  
Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser, *Executive Vice President*  
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New York, NY  
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New York, NY  
Rabbi Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

Lance J. Sussman  
75 Beethoven St.  
Binghamton, NY 13905  
(607) 797-0354

11/14/88

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver,

I was unprepared to answer your call Friday and also had some serious local business to attend to. To get my thoughts straight and on record, I am writing this letter to you.

As you probably surmised, I am not making the necessary progress on the CCAR project to have it ready for the approaching deadline. I realize no excuse or reason will satisfy you at this point although I will tell them to you anyway. Meanwhile, an arrangement has been made with Abe Peck at the American Jewish Archives to publish a catalogue with an essay by me on the Conference's history. It will appear, without fail, at the meeting this spring. My essay of 25+ pages will be an epitome of my larger work. The catalogue will be similiar to the Archive's Blacks & Jews. Another article of mine on the CCAR and Church-State matters will appear shortly in a book edited by Kerry Olitzky at HUC-JIR, NY. I have also reworked my original "Preface" to the CCAR project ~~and~~ and am rewriting the "Introduction."

Basically what is happened with the CCAR project is that I do not have not enough uninterrupted time to bring it together in the next two months or so. Between fulltime work at the university, a part-time pulpit (which is not part-time anymore), and a large family, I'm finding it very difficult to work on the CCAR history for more than an hour or two everyday -- plus most of my weekends. Furthermore, I have no secretarial support for any of my activities.

My personal life has also been taking me away from the CCAR project as well. After our fourth child was born (but prior to our departure from Ohio), he became seriously ill and was placed in the Children's Hospital in Cincinnati. Judah was sick for most of that summer. In turn, I was unable to complete my thesis on Leeser before leaving and arrived here ABD. During our first year here, I finished the thesis in the Spring but then collapsed and was hospitalized myself for two weeks. I now have pancreas related problems which are basically under control. Much to our surprise, my wife is pregnant again, compounding our already dangerous financial situation and greatly adding to my responsibilities at home.

I will also tell you that at this point, I am so nervous about the CCAR project that I hardly sleep at night and am always feeling anxious and ill-at-ease.

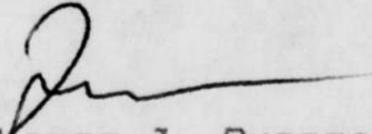
I have spent a considerable amount of time developing and refining an original conceptual framework for the project involving three themes: piety, polity and professionalism. I have also done the basic research, structured the work am writing as fast as I can. However, I am at a loss about how to finish in time for distributing a final product this June. Given the need to edit and publish, I just don't see how it will be done in time and still be a solid piece of scholarship.

I accept full responsibility for the situation and pray that it will not prove fatal or harmful to my career. I now realize that I should have blown the whistle a long time ago. All along I believed that a huge heroic effort would save the day -- but that has been a pipedream from the beginning. I know you are furious with me and probably don't want to continue with me at all but I would like to see this thing through. I can only think of two options. Either separate the publishing of the book from this June's convention and I'll continue, as is, until it is done -- or -- allow me to write a shortened work of fifty-plus pages by the end of the year. Clearly, the former is more desirable. I am willing to sacrifice a great deal of the income involved as well.

I have never been in this type of situation before and, frankly, am not only nervous but fearful of the consequences. The idea that something I've worked on so hard and long and is so important to me will prove to be disastrous -- is tearing me apart. I know that I'm not the first person to ever miss a significant deadline but I also know that I am personally unable to deal with the emotional pressure this situation is putting on me. I feel like I have let the whole world down.

I don't know of anything else to say to you except that I am truly sorry about this whole mess and hope that you will find a little bit of mercy in your heart for me.

Sincerely,



Lance J. Sussman

cc: M. Meyers  
E. Stevens

NOVEMBER 18, 1988

RABBI EUGENE J. LIPMAN  
3512 WOODBINE ST.  
CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815

DEAR GENE:

I CONFESS THAT I AM STYMIED BY LANC SUSSMAN. HE PROMISES TO MEET DEADLINES AND NEVER DOES. HE TAKES ON EXTRA WORK BEFORE THIS WORK IS COMPLETED. YET, HIS TEXT IS THE HEART OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY VOLUME. ELLIOTT STEVENS CAN FILL IN THE DETAILS.

IT IS CLEAR WE WILL NOT HAVE A CENTENNIAL VOLUME FOR OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. DO YOU WANT ME TO PERSEVERE EVEN THOUGH THE VOLUME WILL APPEAR LATE OR DO YOU WANT ME TO SCRATCH THE WHOLE PROJECT? WE DO HAVE THREE VERY GOOD ESSAYS.

I HATE TO THROW THIS IN YOUR LAP, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO TURN FOR A DECISION. HOPING TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON, I REMAIN

SINCERELY,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:MP

P.S. I HAVE NOT YET ANSWERED HIS LAST LETTER, COPY OF WHICH IS ENCLOSED.

*CC. Rabbi Glazer*

1889 CCAR Centennial 1989

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

192 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-6801

(212) 684-4990

January 10, 1989

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman  
75 Beethoven  
Binghamton, New York 13901

Dear Lance:

I tried to reach you by telephone, but there was no answer at any of the three numbers I have for you.

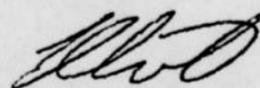
I would like to explore with you, per the suggestion of Dan Silver, what you finally see as the outcome of our hope to publish a critical, analytic history of the CCAR. Rather than have the question hanging over us full of unknowns, it would be better all around to have some conclusions on which we can rely.

Basically, and directly, the questions are these: Do you think that you will be able to complete a manuscript within a year, or would it be more realistic to expect some other time later than a year, on which we can rely with assurance? Or, do you think it would be to our mutual interest to end your participation in the project at this time, and make our own decisions on whether to drop it altogether or proceed with someone else? Since I understand very well the feelings you expressed in your letter to Dan Silver of November 14th, it really seems most fair all around to receive a realistic assessment and act on it, rather than simply drift any further.

Toward that end, a month ago, Joe and I offered to come up for a day to see if together we might share some additional perspectives and insights to help you with your theoretical and organizational framework. Although you expressed hesitations at that idea, you promised to let me know "very shortly," and I've been waiting to hear from you. All of us, therefore, would appreciate your very early reply.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

ELS:sk

cc: Rabbis Joseph B. Glaser, Daniel J. Silver, Eugene J. Lipman, Samuel E. Karff

OFFICERS:

Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, *President*  
Chevy Chase, MD  
Rabbi Samuel E. Karff, *Vice President*  
Houston, TX  
Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser, *Executive Vice President*  
New York, NY

Rabbi Martin S. Weiner, *Treasurer*  
San Francisco, CA  
Rabbi Judea B. Miller, *Recording Secretary*  
Rochester, NY  
Rabbi Murray I. Rothman, *Financial Secretary*  
Newton, MA

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens, *Administrative Secretary*  
New York, NY  
Rabbi Sidney L. Regner, *Executive Vice President Emeritus*  
New York, NY  
Rabbi Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

RABBI LANCE J. SUSSMAN, Ph.D.  
75 Beethoven St.  
Binghamton, NY 13905

Rabbi Elliot Stevens  
CCAR  
192 Lexington Ave.  
New York, NY 10016

1/18/89

Dear Elliot,

Please excuse the brief delay in responding to your letter of 1/10. That same day our daughter, Chana Rachel, was born. I would appreciate you listing a birth announcement in the News Letter. Both Liz and Chana are doing fine. Unfortunately, my mother, who came up to Binghamton [from Baltimore] to help us, fell and broke three bones in her lower back. She is now in a hospital near our house waiting to begin physical therapy. With school starting, Liz and baby and four other kids at home and my mother in the hospital, I was stretched beyond the limit. Hence, the delay in writing.

To briefly respond to your letter: Yes, I intend to stay with the CCAR project and would like approximately one year from this time to complete it. No, I do not need a visit from you and Joe at this time but would like to interview you sometime this Spring, especially once I start on the most recent chapter of the Conference's History.

I have expanded the conceptual framework of the study from two to three themes: piety, polity and professionalism. "Piety" will cover the "religion" of the Conference and its efforts to articulate the principles and practices of Reform Judaism. "Polity" refers to the place of the Conference in the American Reform movement (which I view in denominational terms and essentially congregationalist in character) as well as its own internal governance. Finally, "professionalism" addresses the the changing nature of the Reform rabbinate and its relation to the "agenda" of the Conference. In the context of religion in general, my work is an attempt to understand how the CCAR has sought to meet the challenges of "liberal" religious leadership; "liberal religion" being a technical term in the history of religion.

Please look for my article on the CCAR and Church-State issues in In Celebration, edited by Kerry Olitzky and published jointly by the University Press of America and the AJA. If you would be so kind to informing Joe, Dan Silver, and the others of this letter I would be most appreciative.

Bert!

Lance J. Sussman

1889 CCAR Centennial 1989

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

192 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-6801

(212) 684-4990

February 9, 1989

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman  
1005 Baylor Drive  
Binghamton, New York 13903

Dear Lance:

Since your most recent letter, in which you predicted that you would be able to finish the project in about a year, we have been considering how to formalize what would in effect be an extension of the commission which was made to you to prepare a critical, analytic history of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Since I think it is best for you as well as for us to be absolutely clear about what our revised agreement is to be, I would like to propose a formal deadline of February 1, 1990, for receipt of your completed manuscript by me and my editorial committee.

Since you were unable to complete the original commission, for all of the many reasons cited in your earlier letter, it is my sense that technically the CCAR could be released from its financial obligation to you. Assuming that you agree to this extension, however, the financial commitment would continue in full, but I would propose that the CCAR should be fully released if the work is again not completed in time, in order to be able to make a commission elsewhere, if necessary. It seems to me that your agreement to the above would be the best means of avoiding any possible misunderstanding a year from now.

A second copy of this letter is enclosed. Assuming you agree, I would appreciate your countersigning the enclosed copy signifying this agreement, and returning it to me. If you have some other thoughts on how this matter should be handled, do please let me know.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver

OFFICERS:

Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, *President*  
Chevy Chase, MD  
Rabbi Samuel E. Karff, *Vice President*  
Houston, TX  
Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser, *Executive Vice President*  
New York, NY

Rabbi Martin S. Weiner, *Treasurer*  
San Francisco, CA  
Rabbi Judea B. Miller, *Recording Secretary*  
Rochester, NY  
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Newton, MA

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens, *Administrative Secretary*  
New York, NY  
Rabbi Sidney L. Regner, *Executive Vice President Emeritus*  
New York, NY  
Rabbi Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

# A Memo From

*Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens*

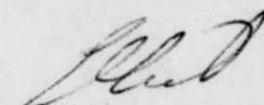
February 9, 1989

Dear Dan:

After discussion with Joe Glaser and Sam Karff, Sam especially thought this would be the best approach. The enclosed is just a sample, of course, should you wish to go about it differently. A copy here of whatever you send would be appreciated.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
Temple Tifereth Israel  
University Circle & Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

DJS  
Called  
2/14/89

ELS:sk

cc: Rabbis Samuel E. Karff, Joseph B. Glaser

**CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS**

192 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016  
(212) 684-4990

1889 CCAR Centennial 1989

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

192 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-6801

(212) 684-4990

February 16, 1989

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman  
~~1005 Baylor Drive~~ 75 Beethoven St.  
~~Binghamton, New York 13903~~ Bing., NY 13905  
(607) 797-0354

Dear Lance:

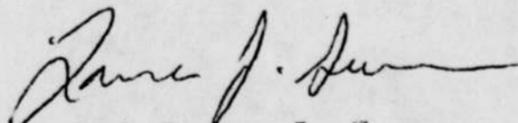
Since your most recent letter, in which you predicted that you would be able to finish the project in about a year, we have been considering how to formalize what would in effect be an extension of the commission which was made to you to prepare a critical, analytic history of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Since I think it is best for you as well as for us to be absolutely clear about what our revised agreement is to be, I would like to propose a formal deadline of February 1, 1990, for receipt of your completed manuscript by me and my editorial committee.

Since you were unable to complete the original commission, for all of the many reasons cited in your earlier letter, it is my sense that technically the CCAR could be released from its financial obligation to you. Assuming that you agree to this extension, however, the financial commitment would continue in full, but I would propose that the CCAR should be fully released if the work is again not completed in time, in order to be able to make a commission elsewhere, if necessary. It seems to me that your agreement to the above would be the best means of avoiding any possible misunderstanding a year from now.

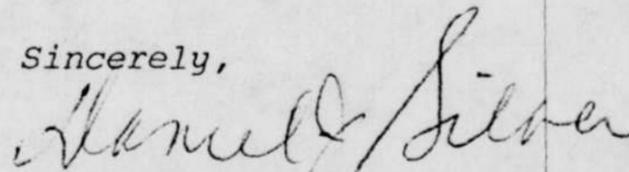
A second copy of this letter is enclosed. Assuming you agree, I would appreciate your countersigning the enclosed copy signifying this agreement, and returning it to me. If you have some other thoughts on how this matter should be handled, do please let me know.

All good wishes.

  
Rabbi Lance J. Sussman

3/6/89

Sincerely,

  
Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver

OFFICERS:

Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, President

Chevy Chase, MD

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff, Vice President

Houston, TX

Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser, Executive Vice President

New York, NY

Rabbi Martin S. Weiner, Treasurer

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Rochester, NY

Rabbi Murray I. Rothman, Financial Secretary

Newton, MA

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens, Administrative Secretary

New York, NY

Rabbi Sidney L. Regner, Executive Vice President Emeritus

New York, NY

Rabbi Jacob R. Marcus, Honorary President

Cincinnati, OH

**Binghamton**

File  
State University of New York at Binghamton  
Binghamton, New York 13901

Department of History  
Telephone (607) 777-2625

3/6/89

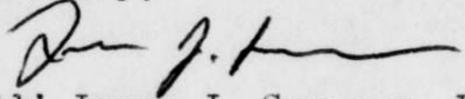
Rabbi Daniel Silver  
c/o CCAR  
192 Lexington Ave.  
New York, NY 10016-6801

Dear Rabbi Silver,

Thank you for granting me the extension on the CCAR history project. I know that you were very disappointed, and rightly so, that I didn't deliver. However, I am remain committed to the project and will deliver this time.

Again, thank you for the extension!

Sincerely,



Rabbi Lance J. Sussman, Ph.D.

cc: E. Stevens

1889 CCAR Centennial 1989

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

192 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-6801

(212) 684-4990

March 16, 1989

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman  
75 Beethoven  
Binghamton, New York 13901

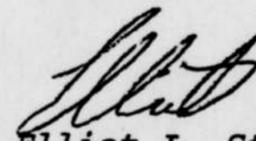
Dear Lance:

I thank you very much for your recent letter to Dan Silver, and am personally very pleased that you are still "with us," and plugging away at this project.

Dan Silver's letter to you did not mention anything about interim payments, so I am not sure where you came up with your formula, but Joe Glaser and I would like to propose the following: That you receive an initial payment of \$5,000. now (if not enclosed herewith, then we will send it along under separate cover shortly); another \$5,000. to be paid when we receive solid evidence that you are making real progress, as in perhaps a first rough draft manuscript, with the final \$10,000. to be paid upon completion of the manuscript you would submit for publication, by February 1st of next year. I hope that this is acceptable to you, but please let me know if you have some other ideas on the subject.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

ELS:sk

cc: Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser  
Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver ✓

OFFICERS:

Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, *President*  
Chevy Chase, MD  
Rabbi Samuel E. Karff, *Vice President*  
Houston, TX  
Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser, *Executive Vice President*  
New York, NY

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Rabbi Judea B. Miller, *Recording Secretary*  
Rochester, NY  
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Newton, MA

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens, *Administrative Secretary*  
New York, NY  
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New York, NY  
Rabbi Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

# The Temple

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER - RABBI

UNIVERSITY CIRCLE AT SILVER PARK • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106 • 791-7755  
BRANCH: 26000 SHAKER BLVD. • BEACHWOOD, OHIO 44122 • 831-3233

MARCH 21, 1989

RABBI ELLIOT L. STEVENS  
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS  
192 LEXINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-6801

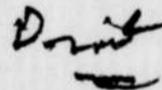
DEAR ELLIOT:

I RECEIVED COPY OF YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 16 TO  
LANCE SUSSMAN AND I AM WONDERING ABOUT THE  
HANDLING OF LANCE.

MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT HE WAS TO FINISH BY  
DECEMBER 1, NOT BY FEBRUARY 1.

KEEP WELL.

SINCERELY,



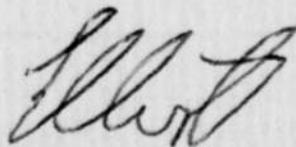
DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:MP

Dear Dan,

We had agreed on "a year's extension," and in fact Lance was not notified of this until late February because his letter was mis-addressed and returned. Now we are awaiting the Archives' receipt of his catalogue manuscript, with an absolute deadline of first week of April. If he fails that, then I believe we all agreed to end his commission, but not the project.

Best wishes,



DJS

1889 CCAR Centennial 1989

# אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

192 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-6801

(212) 684-4990

April 11, 1989

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman  
75 Beethoven  
Binghamton, New York 13901

Dear Lance:

This will not be an easy letter for either of us, but the time has come for us to consider the future of the project which the CCAR commissioned you to do several years ago.

Given the recent history, in which you only informed us of your inability to meet the earlier deadline several weeks after it had elapsed, along with your refusal to let Joe and me review your work to date, and not having had an answer to my letter to you of March 16, we have been watching very carefully your progress with the American Jewish Archives in meeting other deadlines set by them. I understand that you had agreed with Abe Peck to a February 15 deadline for submission of copy for the catalogue to accompany our centennial exhibit there, and you told him in January that it was half done. Apparently, you have had no contact with him at all since then, although upon his inquiry we understand that you promised submission by an extended deadline which he let you know was final - and, without which, the entire exhibit would fall through. That deadline, too, passed, without any word from you to him or to us, and we now find ourselves in the position of having announced a forthcoming exhibit which will not take place.

The worst of it is not the cancellation itself - after all, the CCAR saves all of the money which the exhibit would have cost us - but that you never notified any one of this broken commitment. Indeed, you used this commitment as one of your excuses in not meeting your deadlines set by the CCAR for the book.

Having consulted extensively with Joe, Gene Lipman, Sam Karff and Dan Silver, it now seems to us that a pattern has developed, and that we would be better off ending the project now, which I suspect will also be a great relief and release for you. Very honestly, having missed the centennial the book itself would only be of very limited interest.

Having had some hint during the past year of what you have gone through personally, professionally and with your family, I can only hope that this release will help you to recover some balance in your life, and strengthen your hand for meeting your other obligations.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,

OFFICERS:  
ELS:sk

Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, President  
Chevy Chase, MD  
Rabbi Samuel E. Karff, Vice President  
Houston, TX  
Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser, Executive Vice President  
New York, NY

Rabbi Martin S. Weiner, Treasurer  
San Francisco, CA  
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Rochester, NY  
Rabbi Murray I. Rothman, Financial Secretary  
Newton, MA

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens, Administrative Secretary  
New York, NY  
Rabbi Sidney L. Regner, Executive Vice President Emeritus  
New York, NY  
Rabbi Jacob R. Marcus, Honorary President  
Cincinnati, OH

Elliot L. Stevens

cc: Rabbi Daniel J. Silver, Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser,  
Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, Rabbi Samuel E. Karff

1889 CCAR Centennial 1989

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

192 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-6801

(212) 684-4990

Office of the Executive Vice President

April 17, 1989

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens  
192 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

Dear Elliot:

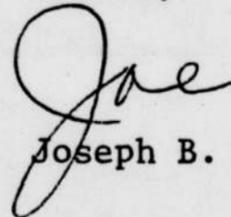
I destroyed the \$5,000 check we were holding for Lance Sussman. That commission is now over and done with.

I got a call from Abe Peck Friday afternoon telling me that he too has cancelled the exhibit project completely with Lance, whom he has been unable to reach all week. He said that he and Dr. Marcus would get together for about an hour and they would be able to set up some kind of exhibit and that it would cost us absolutely nothing.

In spite of the disappointment on both scores, we can console ourselves in the knowledge that we are saving \$30,000 at the outset and much more if we do not publish a Centennial volume, and at this point, I am certainly against it.

I hope this finds you revived and back to good health. I'll see you next week and hope you have a sweet and happy Pesach.

Shalom,



Joseph B. Glaser 

JBG/s

cc: Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman  
Rabbi Samuel E. Karff  
Rabbi Daniel J. Silver

OFFICERS:

Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, *President*  
Chevy Chase, MD  
Rabbi Samuel E. Karff, *Vice President*  
Houston, TX  
Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser, *Executive Vice President*  
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New York, NY  
Rabbi Sidney L. Regner, *Executive Vice President Emeritus*  
New York, NY  
Rabbi Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

APRIL 26, 1989

RABBI SAMUEL E. KARFF  
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL  
5600 N. BRAESWOOD BLVD.  
HOUSTON, TX 77096

DEAR SAM:

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN THE CENTENNIAL PROJECT. UNFORTUNATELY, THE MAN WHOM WE HIRED TO DO THE BASIC HISTORY OF THE FIRST 100 YEARS OF THE CONFERENCE, LANCE SUSSMAN, HAS LET US DOWN TERRIBLY AND WE ARE FORCED TO CANCEL THE PROJECT. I WON'T GO INTO ALL OF THE GORY DETAILS, BUT HE KEPT PROMISING MATERIAL AND NEVER SENT US ANY. WHEN WE PRESSED HIM FOR HIS WORKING PAPERS, HE PLEADED HE HAD A JOB WITH DR. PECK TO PREPARE A DISPLAY FOR THE CONFERENCE'S CENTENNIAL. HE RENEGED ON THAT. THAT PROJECT, I UNDERSTAND, HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

TO PUBLISH THE ESSAYS WITHOUT A HISTORY SEEMS TO US TO BE A MISTAKE, SO WE HAVE DECIDED TO RETURN EACH OF THE PIECES TO THEIR AUTHORS. I CAN ONLY APOLOGIZE FOR THIS RESULT, BUT I DO THINK IT IS THE BEST ONE WE CAN MANAGE NOW. THERE ARE OTHER PLACES THAT YOUR PIECE CAN BE PUBLISHED AND I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO SO. IF I CAN BE OF ANY HELP IN THAT DIRECTION PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO WRITE OR CALL.

AGAIN, MY APOLOGIES. IT IS NOT MY HABIT TO LEAVE WORK  
UNDONE, BUT THIS IS ONE WHERE I COULD NOT PITCH IN AND  
DO IT MYSELF SO THIS IS THE SAD RESULT.

IN ANY CASE, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR PAPER,  
AND I ENCLOSE YOUR ORIGINAL DOCUMENT, PROOF READER'S  
NOTES ETC. MANY THANKS.

SINCERELY,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:MP

ENCL.

APRIL 26, 1989

RABBI PETER J. RUBINSTEIN  
PENINSULA TEMPLE BETH EL  
1700 ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS  
SAN MATEO, CA 94403

DEAR PETER:

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN THE CENTENNIAL PROJECT. UNFORTUNATELY, THE MAN WHOM WE HIRED TO DO THE BASIC HISTORY OF THE FIRST 100 YEARS OF THE CONFERENCE, LANCE SUSSMAN, HAS LET US DOWN TERRIBLY AND WE ARE FORCED TO CANCEL THE PROJECT. I WON'T GO INTO ALL OF THE GORY DETAILS, BUT HE KEPT PROMISING MATERIAL AND NEVER SENT US ANY. WHEN WE PRESSED HIM FOR HIS WORKING PAPERS, HE PLEADED HE HAD A JOB WITH DR. PECK TO PREPARE A DISPLAY FOR THE CONFERENCE'S CENTENNIAL. HE RENEGED ON THAT. THAT PROJECT, I UNDERSTAND, HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

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IN MANY CASE, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR PAPER,  
AND I ENCLOSE YOUR ORIGINAL DOCUMENT, PROOF READER'S  
NOTES ETC. MANY THANKS.

SINCERELY,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:MP

ENCL.

APRIL 26, 1989

RABBI MARC E. SAPERSTEIN  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
11-B ETZEL ST., APT.18  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63130

DEAR MARC:

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN THE CENTENNIAL PROJECT. UNFORTUNATELY, THE MAN WHOM WE HIRED TO DO THE BASIC HISTORY OF THE FIRST 100 YEARS OF THE CONFERENCE, LANCE SUSSMAN, HAS LET US DOWN TERRIBLY AND WE ARE FORCED TO CANCEL THE PROJECT. I WON'T GO INTO ALL OF THE GORY DETAILS, BUT HE KEPT PROMISING MATERIAL AND NEVER SENT US ANY. WHEN WE PRESSED HIM FOR HIS WORKING PAPERS, HE PLEADED HE HAD A JOB WITH DR. PECK TO PREPARE A DISPLAY FOR THE CONFERENCE'S CENTENNIAL. HE RENEGED ON THAT. THAT PROJECT, I UNDERSTAND, HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

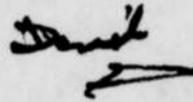
TO PUBLISH THE ESSAYS WITHOUT A HISTORY SEEMS TO US TO BE A MISTAKE, SO WE HAVE DECIDED TO RETURN EACH OF THE PIECES TO THEIR AUTHORS. I CAN ONLY APOLOGIZE FOR THIS RESULT, BUT I DO THINK IT IS THE BEST ONE WE CAN MANAGE NOW. THERE ARE OTHER PLACES THAT YOUR PIECE CAN BE PUBLISHED AND I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO SO. IF I CAN BE OF ANY HELP IN THAT DIRECTION PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO WRITE OR CALL.

[Apr 26, 1989]

AGAIN, MY APOLOGIES. IT IS NOT MY HABIT TO LEAVE WORK  
UNDONE, BUT THIS IS ONE WHERE I COULD NOT PITCH IN AND  
DO IT MYSELF SO THIS IS THE SAD RESULT.

IN ANY CASE, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR PAPER,  
AND I ENCLOSE YOUR ORIGINAL DOCUMENT, PROOF READER'S  
NOTES ETC. MANY THANKS.

SINCERELY,



DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:MP

ENCL.

1889 CCAR Centennial 1989

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

192 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-6801

(212) 684-4990

May, 1989

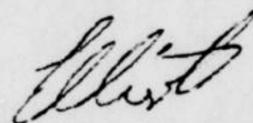
Dear Colleague:

As is my annual custom, I am writing at this time to those who chair CCAR Ad Hoc and Standing Committees, or chair our delegations to Joint CCAR-UAHC Commissions, concerning the collection of materials for the 1989 Yearbook.

Ideally, in the best of all possible worlds, I would receive an annual report from each of you before July 1, 1989. In some cases, especially where committees have recently met, the minutes may suffice, but even where minutes exist new reports are usually much more concise and up-to-date. Even if your committee has not met, a brief summary of current concerns and goals would be deeply appreciated. The last Yearbook was relatively sparse, and this year I would like to have as many reports as possible.

I look forward to seeing most of you in Cincinnati, and extend a Chag-Sameach for Shavuot.

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Stevens

ELS:sk

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Cincinnati, OH

MAY 23, 1989

RABBI ELLIOT L. STEVENS  
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS  
192 LEXINGTON AVE.  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-6801

DEAR ELLIOT:

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY VOLUME COMMITTEE HAS TO REPORT FAILURE. WE TRIED TO GET A NUMBER OF WRITERS FOR THE HISTORICAL PART OF THE TEXT AND FINALLY CHOSE LANCE SUSSMAN TO CARRY THAT OUT. THIS WAS MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO. UNFORTUNATELY, LANCE DID NOT COME UP WITH ANY APPRECIABLE WORK AND WE HAD TO CANCEL THE PROJECT.

AS ALWAYS,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:MP

# THE PENINSULA TEMPLE BETH EL

1700 Alameda De Las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 94403 (415) 341-7701

May 3, 1989  
28 Nisan, 5749

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple  
University Circle at Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Danny,

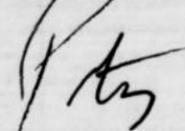
I must admit to you that I was shocked, dismayed and surprised to receive the chapter back. I couldn't imagine what might have been happening in the publication of the book and thought that, perhaps, my chapter was either too late or not considered worthy of publication. I was amazed to read why this project was not able to come to fruition.

I understand that this had been a burden to you in many ways. I hope you are feeling well and that you continue to make good progress in your recuperation.

I have absolutely no idea where I might be able to send this chapter for publication. If you think it would be worthy of sending on, please let me know and I will follow through on it.

I thank you for your understanding and for all that you have done for our conference and our movement.

Cordially,



Peter J. Rubinstein, Rabbi

PJR:sn

Classified

MAY 9, 1989

RABBI PETER J. RUBINSTEIN  
PENINSULA TEMPLE BETH EL  
1700 ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS  
SAN MATEO, CA 98403

DEAR PETER:

I AM IN RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER OF MAY 3 AND I UNDER-  
STAND YOUR FRUSTRATION AND DISMAY. I CAN MATCH YOU  
IN SPADES.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE YOUR PIECE COULD BE USED. IT  
SHOULD BE USED, HOWEVER, EITHER IN ITS PRESENT FORM  
OR IN AN ABBREVIATED ONE. IT IS TOO GOOD NOT TO BE.

I THANK YOU FOR THE SPIRIT OF YOUR LETTER AND WISH  
YOU WELL. I HOPE WE SEE EACH OTHER SOON.

SINCERELY,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:MP

RABBI LANCE J. SUSSMAN, Ph.D.  
75 Beethoven St.  
Binghamton, NY 13905

Rabbi Daniel Silver  
2841 Weybridge Rd.  
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

Dear Rabbi Silver,

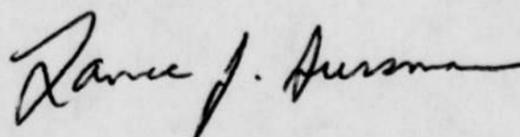
I am writing to you to apologize for all the problems I've caused you during the course of my involvement with the CCAR history project. I take full responsibility for my failure to produce a centennial history of the Conference, for not keeping you adequately posted on my situation and for not having removed myself from the project at an early date.

I'm still not completely sure why I didn't take a proper course of action but fully understand and accept your decision to release me from my contract. I now feel that it was the right project for me at the wrong time. Two moves, a health problem, the serious illness of our fourth child, the unexpected birth of a fifth child, two new jobs, a new career, continuing financial problems and, admittedly, a touch of cowardice -- all combined to delay my work and interfere with my decision-making processes vis-a-vis the project. Most of all, my desire to be a part of such an important undertaking blinded me to reality of my personal situation.

From my perspective, my involvement with the project was not a total loss. I did publish two articles (on the CCAR and the Reform rabbinate) and a third essay of 8,000 words on American Reform Judaism will appear later this year in a forthcoming encyclopedia. I also hope to publish a historical monograph on the Conference based on my research. More importantly, I learned a hard lesson about my personal limits and what I can and cannot reasonably hope to accomplish at this stage of my life.

I am grateful that you considered me worthy of working with you on the original project and am deeply sorry and embarrassed for my many failures. In retrospect, I can now see that I should have either pulled out when I left Middletown in 1986 (as you suggested at the time) or dramatically rearranged my priorities. I wish the project had come to fruition, that I had done a better job and hope, that one day, I will redeem myself in your eyes.

Sincerely,



cc: E. Stevens, J. Glaser and M. Meyer.

JUNE 15, 1989

RABBI LANCE J. SUSSMAN  
75 BEETHOVEN ST.  
BINGHAMTON, N.Y. 13905

DEAR LANCE:

I APPRECIATED YOUR LETTER OF LAST WEEK AND I KNOW  
HOW HARD IT MUST HAVE BEEN TO WRITE. APOLOGIES  
NEVER COME EASILY.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, I WAS SORRY THAT OUR PROJECT HAD  
TO BE SCRAPPED, BUT IT IS GOOD TO KNOW THAT SOME  
GOOD CAME OUT OF IT.

KEEP WELL AND HAVE A SATISFYING RABBINATE.

SINCERELY,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:MP

1889 CCAR Centennial 1989

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(212) 684-4990

Office of the Executive Vice President

July 24, 1989

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
Temple Tifereth Israel  
University Circle & Silver Park  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

I've developed an idea to save the "Centennial Volume" and want to bounce it off you.

Gene Lipman came up with a fascinating approach to his President's Message at the Centennial convention, copy enclosed. I asked him if he couldn't expand the historical data and maybe have that as section one of the Centennial volume.

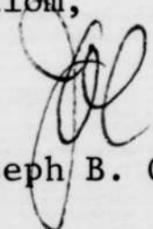
He is game to to this, although his original notion was to drop out the Presidents' Messages, but I have responded to him passionately that that would be losing the whole genius of the thing and we'll see what he says.

In the meantime, we've received the papers of Rubinstein (which he is reworking with some suggestions from me), Saperstein (which is excellent as is) and Sam's. Kroloff's paper has not come in.

Give me your reactions, please.

Warmest good wishes to you as always.

Shalom,

  
Joseph B. Glaser

JBG:sk  
Encl.

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Cincinnati, OH

AUGUST 2, 1989

RABBI JOSEPH B. GLASER  
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS  
192 LEXINGTON AVE.  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-6801

DEAR JOE:

I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE IN SAVING A PROJECT ONCE IT'S GONE SOUR. IT NEVER QUITE WORKS OUT THE WAY IT WAS INTENDED. WE HAD HOPED THAT THIS CENTENNIAL VOLUME WOULD BE HALF, A HISTORY OF THE CENTENNIAL, AND HALF, A SERIES OF PROGRESSIVE PAPERS ABOUT THEMES RAISED BY THE HISTORY. I FEEL THAT WAS THE CORRECT WAY TO GO AND I AM SORRY THAT BECAUSE OF LANCE'S FAILURE IT DID NOT EVENTUATE. IN ANY CASE, I WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THE CENTENNIAL VOLUME IN ANY OTHER FORM.

I TRUST THAT THINGS ARE GOING WELL WITH YOU. WE ARE HAVING THE WEDDING CELEBRATIONS FOR OUR OLDEST SON THIS WEEKEND AND SO ARE BUSY WITH THE SIMCHA.

KEEP WELL.

SINCERELY,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:MP