

Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

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Series II: Subject Files, 1956-1993, undated.

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

Western Reserve Historical Society 10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106 (216) 721-5722 wrhs.org American Jewish Archives 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220 (513) 487-3000 AmericanJewishArchives.org

21 EAST 40th STREET

 NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

March 12, 1982

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

(212) 684 - 4990

Dear Dan:

Thanks so much for writing. I fully understand how you would like to try your hand in making the statement simplier 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.

Cordially

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

House

Herman E. Schaalman Rabbi

HES:sgk

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

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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

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 cf the preliminary discussions which various committees have held on this subject.

Very best wishes, and warm regards.

Sincerely,

Elliot L. Stevens

ELS: 1mn

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

OFFICERS:

Herman E. Schaalman, President Chicago, II, W. Gunther Plaut, Vice President Toronto, Canada Joseph B. Glaser, Executive Vice President New York, NY

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May 5, 1982

Ciarte:

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 Jereny Silver



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-thecuff 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 publica-

tion 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.

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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.

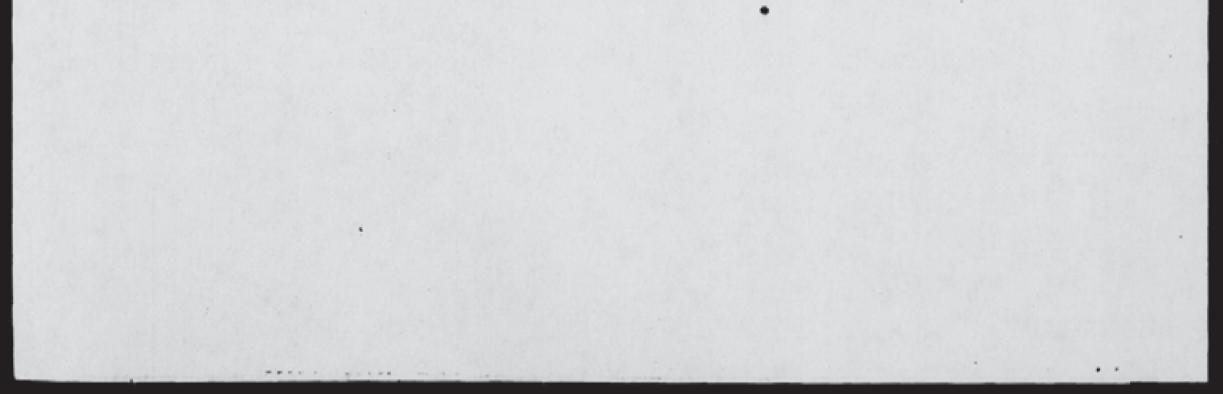
Contact with authors so as to shape the Table of Content(s) for the proposed volume(s) - June of 1985.

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.





NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

(212) 684-4990

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

April 29, 1982

Dear Dan:

21 EAST 40th STREET

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,

Chuna

Herman E. Schaalman Rabbi

HES:sgk

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

OFFICERS: Herman E. Schaalman, President Chicago, IL W. Gunther Plaut, Vice President Toronto, Canada Joseph B. Glaser, Executive Vice President New York, NY

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

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

OFFICERS: Herman E. Schaalman, President Chicago, IL W. Gunther Plaut, Vice President Toronto, Canada Joseph B. Glaser, Executive Vice President New York, NY

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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 Precident Cincinnati, OH

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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

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, elura

Herman E. Schaalman Rabbi

HES:sgk

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

OFFICERS:

Herman E. Schaelman, President Chicago, IL. W. Gunther Plaut, Vice President Toronto, Canada Joseph B. Glaser, Executive Vice President New York, NY

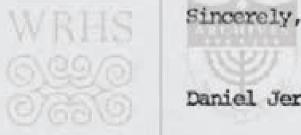
Meyer Heller, Treasurer Beverly Hills, CA Jack Stern, Jr., Recording Secretary Scarsdale, NY Sylvan D. Schwartzman, Financial Secretary Albuquerque, NM Elliot L. Stevens, Administrative Secretary New York, NY Sidney L. Regner, Executive Vice President Emeritus New York, NY Jacob R. Marcus, Honorary President Cincinnati, OH

June 15, 1982

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

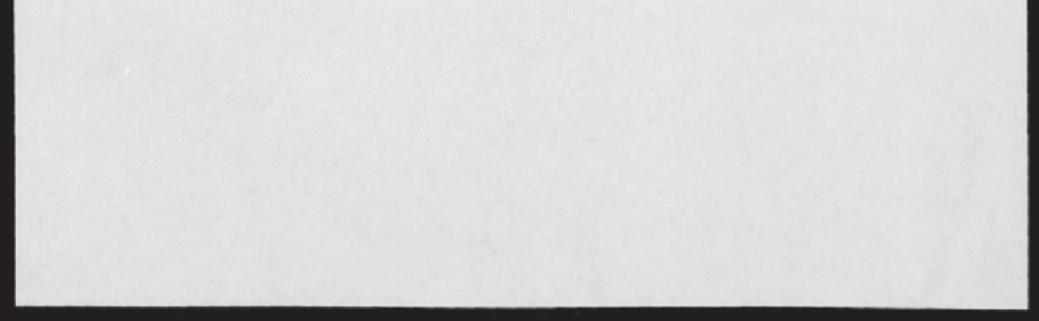
Dear Mike,

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.



Daniel Jereny Silver

DJS:mp



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.

0/67/0

Sincerely

Elliot L. Stevens

ELS/fiu

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

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 Beverly Hills, CA 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

August 2, 1982

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

Dear Herman:

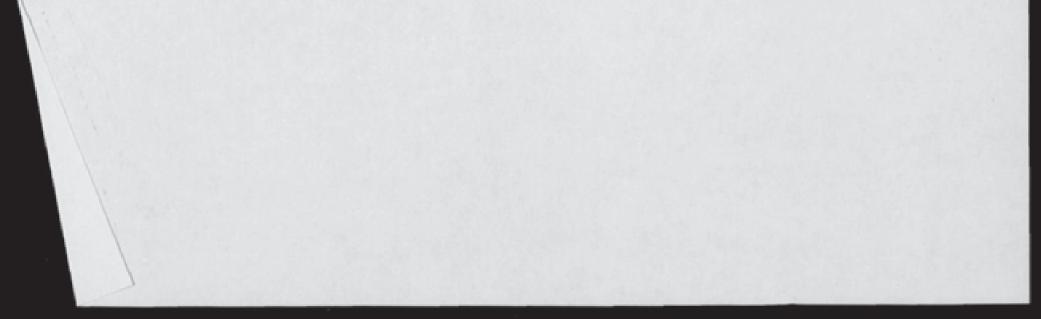
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Elliot Stevens wrote me that the three of us might sit down over lunch on Thursday, September 1, to discuss the Centennial book project. I would love to, but I can't be in New York for the meeting of the Patrilineal Committee. My classes at the university 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 Jereny Silver



October 20, 1982

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

Dear Henniers



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 conmitted 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 exofficio 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 exofficio member.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp cc. ge Glacer

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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?"; Sombody 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, + las

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

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SKJ:npb

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

October 26, 1982

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

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,

Herman E. Schaalman Rabbi

Chillac

Cordially,

HES:sgk

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

CC: Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

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 Beverly Hills, CA 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

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 <u>Shaarei Musar</u>, 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, steges 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 GDR 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 longrange outlook is positive; several of the above titles may generate considerable sales income.

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 **Beverly Hills, CA** 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 Emenitus New York, NY Jacob R. Marcus, Honorary President Cincinnati, OH

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, page 6

VIII. CENTENNIAL PUBLICATION

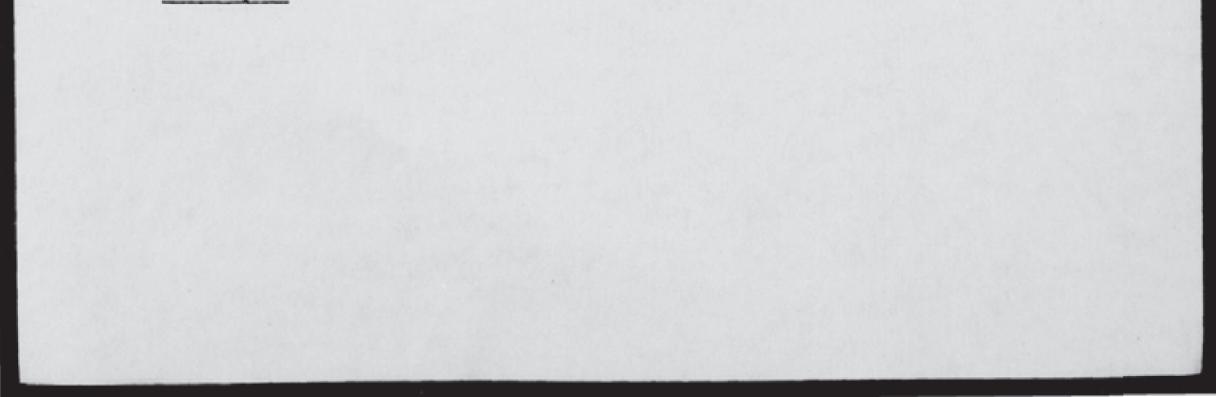
Rabbi Schaalman noted that Rabbi Daniel Silver had previously been approved as editor of the CCAR Centennial volume. Rabbi Schaalman announced his appointment of Samuel Karff, Michael Meyer, and Dan Silver to an Editorial Board, with Jacob R. Marcus as an honorary member. It was moved and seconded that the appointments be approved. <u>The motion was adopted</u>. 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.

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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. <u>The motion was seconded and</u> <u>adopted.</u> It was moved and seconded that the 1989 convention be held June 22-27 in Cincinnati, Ohio. <u>The motion was adopted</u>. 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. <u>The motion</u> was adopted.



Congregation Beth Israel ORGANIZED 1854

ORGANIZED 1854 5600 North Braeswood Boulevard Houston, Texas 77096

> SAMUEL EGAL KARFF, D.H.L. RABBI

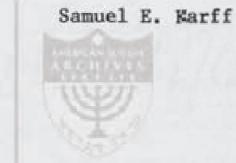
November 10, 1982

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.

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 mineographed 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 Jereny Silver

Congregation Beth Israel ORGANIZED 1854

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, Samuel E. Karff

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver The Temple University Circle at Silver Park Cleveland, Ohic 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.

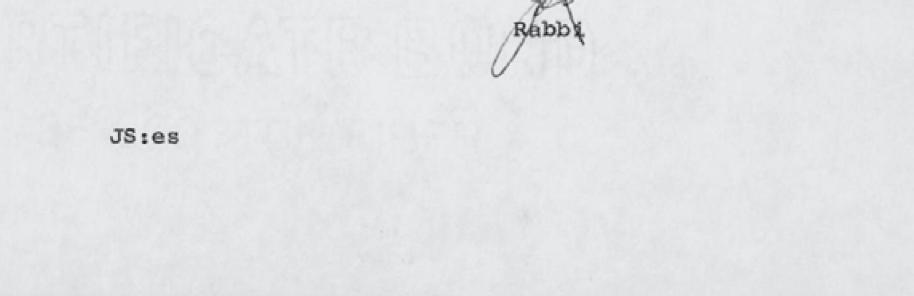
He said that what you are doing, viz shopping from publisher to publisher, is very much on target. Steve offered to help by providing paper at cost, which means at the mill price.

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,



Cent Jol

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,

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Real Property and the second

Daniel Jereny 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

 $\mathbf{f}\mathbf{f}$

1185 SHERIDAN ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022, 835-0724

March 16, 1983

Dr. Michael Meyer HUC - JIR 3101 Clifton Avenue Cincinnati, Chio 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 Jereny Silver

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



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

3101 CLIFTON AVENUE + CINCINNATL OHIO 45220 (\$13) 221-1875

Errig & El Kon's 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, NALI SUS (D Th

Michael A. Meyer

MAM:bb

Congregation Beth Israel ORGANIZED 1854 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

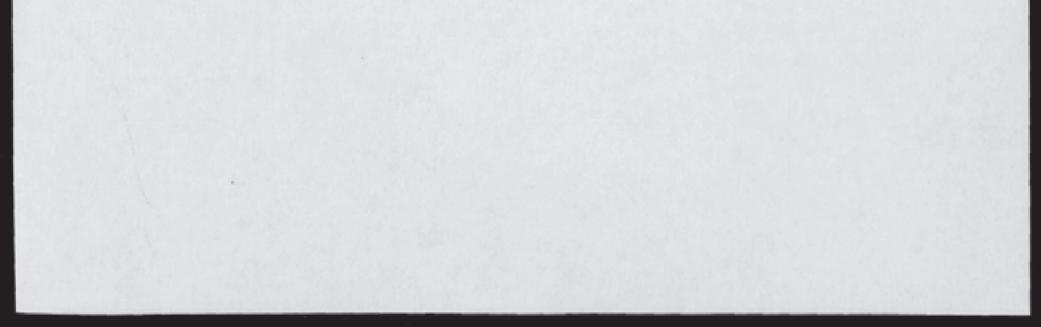
Dear Michael:

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 toughminded study. That's its only value. Have you any suggestions?

With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jereny Silver



From the Desk Of

(212) 684-4990

He He 1983 UNOCT CLANNOL

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 <u>CCAR Yearbooks</u>, 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:1mn

cc: Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

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

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 <u>Yearbooks</u>, 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

Murray I. Rothman, Treasurer Newton, MA Randall M. Falk, Recording Secretary Nashville, TN Eugene J. Lipman, Financial Secretary 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.

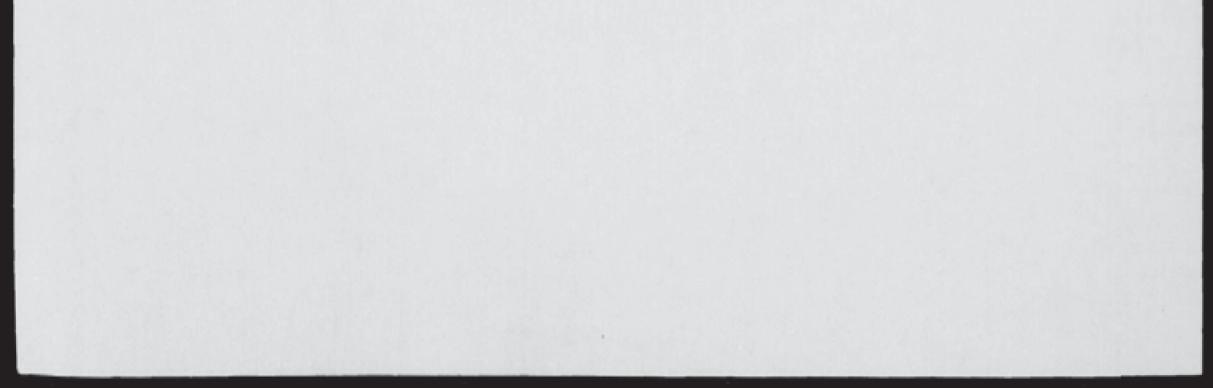
Sincerely,

Elliot L. Stevens

cc: Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

ELS: 1mn







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.

Frofessor 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 tables 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 Iiddish, 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 firstrate. 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,

August 16, 1983

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

Dear Mike:

1.

It's about time that we begin to consider the person we will invite to write the chromicle 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 Congregatéon Betg 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 Rephael 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.

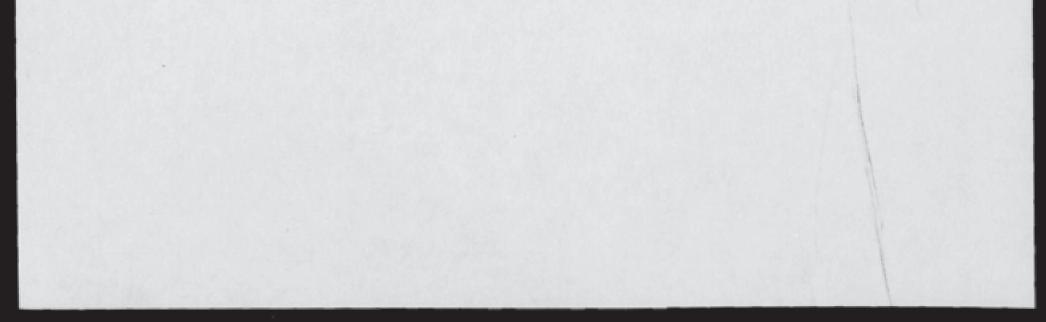
With all good wishes for the holidays. I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.





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3101 CLIFTON AVENUE • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220 (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, ("n1>

Michael A. Meyer

MAM: bb

Congregation Beth Israel ORGANIZED 1854

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 not 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 prof fessionally 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 preparde, 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: 1mn

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.

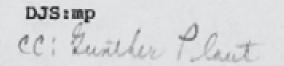
I certainly did not think I was undertaking to edit a Conference history, and that if this is to be the content of such a book there is little need for a committee such as the one I have been asked to chair. The Conference can simply find an appropriate scholar and publish whatever he produces.

I am frankly surprised at the absence of cocrdination 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



CONVERSATION DECEMBER 2, 1983 between Michael Oppenheimer and Daniel Silver

- It was clearly understood by both that the mandate from the Conference Board Ι. 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.
- O request of S: Since the issues confronting the American Reform rabbinate II. 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.
- Issue of financing the Centennial volume as well as financing projects and III.

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

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.

[Dec 2, 1983]

- V. Additional ideas suggested by S and O through discussion centered around three 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 efficaçy 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 coloquia 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 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. 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 contexts 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 packets could be created for use by individual rabbis in their relationship to media.

[Dec 2, 1983]

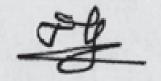
- D. Through correspondence and travel MO should hook into professional and lay heads of our liberal counterparts in other religious denominations. Mutually compatible agendas would be explored and cross participation sketched and effected both at national events including our 1989 Centennial celebration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

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[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 those proposals and recorded actions thereto, on which your own commentary would be your own nothing to do with publications. I am enclosing the list of

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.

OFFICERS: W. Gunther Plaut, President Toronto, Ontario, Canada Jack Stern, Jr., Vice President Scarsdale, NY Joseph B. Glaser, Executive Vice President CC: Dr. Michael Meyer New York, NY

All good wishes. Murray I. Rothman, Treasurer Newton, MA Randall M. Falk, Recording Secretary Nashville, TN Eugene J. Lipman, Financial Secretary

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

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 prercgatives with 1989 Program Committee? What financial resources are available for multimedia 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? Eric Hoffman and Michael Meyer on Symposia subjects; Assignments: Lou Silberman and John Friedman as consultants for centennial index; John Friedman and Lynn Landsberg to flesh cut 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. Plaut, President Eliot L. Stevens, Administrative Secretary OFFICERS: W. Gunther Plaut, President Toronto, Ontario, Canada Newton, MA New York, NY Randall M. Falk, Recording Secretary Jack Stern, Jr., Vice President Sidney L. Regner, Executive Vice President Emeritus Scaradale, NY Nashville, TN New York, NY Eugene J. Lipman, Financial Secretary Joseph B. Glaser, Executive Vice President Jacob R. Marcus, Honorary President New York, NY Washington, DC Cincinnati, OH

March 12, 1984

Br. 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



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 and 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 zzeting 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 [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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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

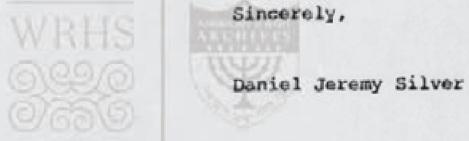
Rabbi Samuel E. Karff Congregation Beth Israel 5600 North Braeswood Blvd. Houston, Texas 77096

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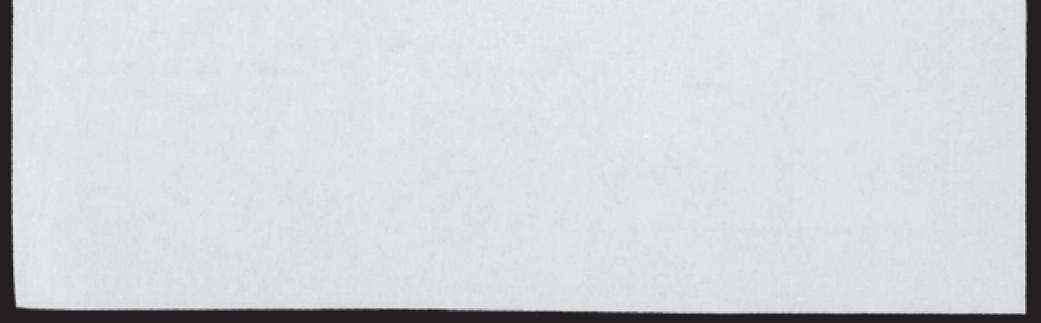
Dear Sam:

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DJS:mp

Encl.



VITA OF EDWARD S. SHAPIRO

 $N_{\rm c} \rightarrow 0$

Personal data: Born January 14, 1938, Washington, D.C. Married Daryl L. Goldstoin, 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, Nest Caldwell, New Jersey, 1976-1980, Instructor Membership in professional societies: American Historical Association, American Jewish Historical Society, Organization of American Misorians, 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 Institut 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:

1. . . .

Clio From the Right: Essays of a Conservative Historian

(University Press of America, 1983)

Articles: "The Southern Agrarians and the TVA," <u>American Quarterly</u>, 1970 (reprinted in R. Lositt and J. Wall, eds., Interpreting Twentieth Century America).

"Decentralist Intellectuals and the New Deal," Journal of American History, 1972 (reprinted in R. Becker, ed., Readings in Twentieth Century United States History).

"H. L. Mencken, the Southern Agrarians, and the Quest for Southern Identity," <u>American Studies</u>, 1972.

"Donald Davidson and the Tennessee Valley Authority: the Response of a Southern Conservative," <u>Tennessee</u> <u>Historical quarterly</u>, 1974 (third place in the Moore Memorial competition for the best article published that year in the THQ).

"American Jews and the State of Israel," Journal of Ecumenical Studies, 1977.

"Responsibility for the Cold War: A Bibligraphic Review," Intercollegiate Review, 1976-77.

"Frank L. Owsley and the Defense of Southern Identity," <u>Tennessee Historical quarterly</u>, 1977 (second place in the Moore Memorial competition for the best article published that year in the <u>THQ</u>).

"The Catholic Rural Life Movement and the New Deal's

Agricultural Policies," <u>American Benedictine Review</u>, 1977. "Frank Gelett Burgess," in <u>Dictionary of American Biography</u>, 1977.

"Jews," in Barbara Cunningham, ed., The New Jersey Ethnic Experience (1977).

"American Jews and the Business Mentality," Judaism, 1978 (reprinted in Jewish Digest, 1978).

"The Return of Conservatism," Virginia Quarterly Review, 1978.

"The Military Options to Hisorhima: A Critical Examination of Gar Alperovitz's Atomic Diplomacy," Naval War College

<u>Review</u>, 1978 (also published in <u>Amerikastudion</u>, 1978).
"Liberalism and Jewish Survival," <u>Congress Monthly</u>, 1978.
"Robert A. Woods and the Settlement House Impulse," <u>Social</u> <u>Service Review</u>, 1978.
"Violence and Progressivism," <u>North Dakota Quarterly</u>, 1978.
"Moral Conflits Between Arabs and Israelis: A Historical Perspective," <u>Jewish News</u>, Mary 11, 1978.
"Charles Edison," in Paul A. Stellhorn and Michael J. Birkner, eds., <u>The Governors of New Jersey, 1664-1974</u> (1932). • ...

"Robert	Lawson,"	in	Dictionary	of	American	Biography
(1980)).					

"Ralph DePalma," in <u>Dictionary of American Biography</u> (1980).

"Harry Wills," in <u>Dictionary of American Biography</u> (1980).

"Benjamin White," in <u>Dictionary of American Biography</u> (1980).

"Earl Louis Lambeau," in <u>Dictionary of American Biography</u> (1981).

"Catholic Agrarian Thought and the New Deal," <u>Catholic</u> <u>Historical Review</u>, 1979.

"German and Russian Jews in America," <u>Midstream</u>, 1979. "The American Jewish Academic," <u>Congress Monthly</u>, 1978. "The Unknown War," <u>Congress Monthly</u>, 1978.

"American Conservative Intellectuals, the 1930s, and the Crisis of Ideology," Modern Age, 1979.

"Liberalism and Jewish Survival," <u>Congress Monthly</u>, 1978. "History Through the Eyes of Irwin Unger," <u>Congrvative</u> <u>Historians' Forum</u>, 1980.

"The Highest Rung: Forty Years of the Jewish Vocational Service of Essex County" (a privately printed, sixty-three

page official history), 1980. "Confessions of a Middle-Aged Academic Curmudgeon," <u>Newark</u>

Star Ledger, March 2, 1980.

"American Anti-Semitism Reconsidered," <u>Congress Monthly</u>, 1980.

"Jewish Socialism in the United States," Congress Monthly, 1980.

"The Ultimate Obscenity," Congress Monthly, 1981.

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"The National Association of Jewish Vocational Services," in Michael N. Dobkowski, ed., <u>Jewish American Voluntary</u> Organizations (in press).

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to several hundred newspapers by Public Research, Syndicated.

"Robert Kennedy," St. Croix Review, 1979.

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David Berger, eds., <u>Anti-Semitism in America</u> (in press). "The Approach of War: Congressional Anti-Semitism, 1939-

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VeAlemp:
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Sherry Gorelick, <u>City College and Poor Jews</u> (1982).
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Jewish News: Irving Howe, <u>World of Our Fathers</u> (July 15, 1976). Naomi Cohen, American Jews and the Zionist Idea
(July 29, 1976).
George Nash, The Conservative Intellectual Movement
in America (September 16, 1976).
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M. T. Mehdi, <u>Kennedy and Sirhan, Why</u> (January, 1969).
Paul Boyer, <u>Purity in Print</u> (January, 1969).
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Peter Manso, <u>Running Against the Machine</u> (November, 1969).
Townsend Hoopes, <u>The Limits of Intervention</u> (December, 1969).
Liva Baker, <u>Felix Frankfurter</u> (January, 1970).
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Gene Smith, <u>Shattered Dream</u> (July, 1970).
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Robert Griffith, The Politics of Fear; Athan Theoharis, The Seeds of Repression; Fred Cook, The Nightmare Decade (August, 1971).

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• . •

Paul Sann, Kill the Dutchman (1972).

John Venable, Out of the Shadow: The Story of Charles Edison (1979).

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Midstream: Egon Mayer, From Suburb to Shtetl: The Jews of Boro Park (1981).

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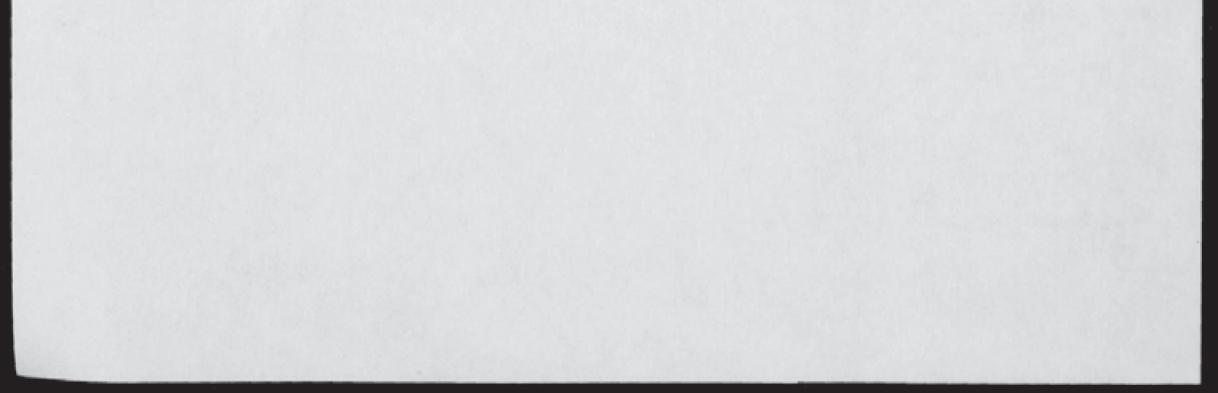
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"H. L. Mencken and the Southern Agrarians, "American Studies Association, Washington, D. C. (November, 1971).

"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).

"The Second Wave: Poland and Russia," Bicentennial Lecture Series, Temple Beth Sholom, Livingston, New Jersey (March, 1976).

"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," <u>ibid</u>., (April, 1980), "The Impact of World War I," <u>ibid</u>, (October, 1979); "The Old South," <u>ibid</u>., (March, 1983); "Franklin D. Roosevelt,"

ibid., (December, 1981).

"The Social Thought of Walter Prescott Webb," 22nd Annual Conference, Missouri Valley History Conference (March, 1979).

"The Meaning of American Jewish History," Trenton, New Jersey Historical Society, (January, 1980).

"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).
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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," <u>Duquesne History Forum</u>, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (October, 1983).

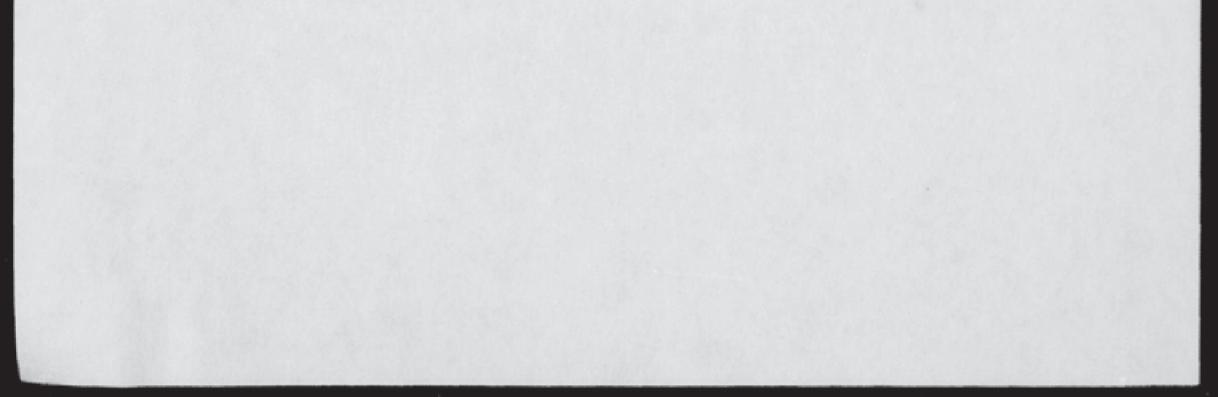
"Property in America," Chesterton Forum, New York, New York (November, 1983).

"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). "Jacobo Timerman," West Orange (New Jersey) Mizrachi, chapter,

(January, 1982).





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Miscellaneous:

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

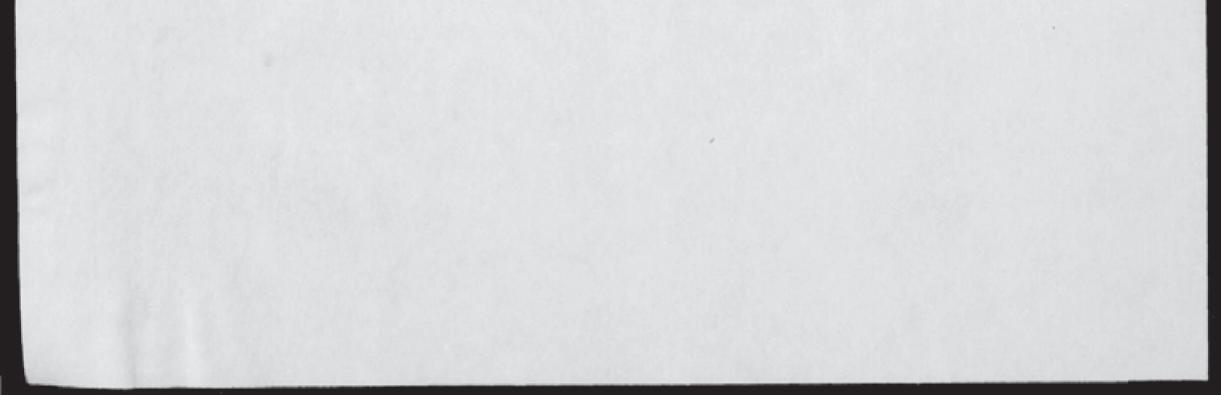
Member of board of editors of <u>Conservative Historians' Forum</u>. Attended organizational meeting of Conservative Historians organization

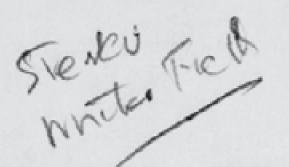
at Hillsdale College, Hillsadale, Michigan (November, 1979). Moderator of panel on American Jewish music at Symposium on Jewish-

American Folklore, April, 1983, YM-YWHA, West Orange, New Jersey. "Communication," <u>American Jewish History</u> (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

Addross

3101 CLIFTON AVENUE · CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220-2488 (513) 221-1875 April 19, 1984

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 proclimities 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 <u>Conservative Judaism</u>, so I presume his affiliation, if any, is with the <u>Conservative movement</u>. 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,

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

Congregation Beth Israel ORGANIZED 1854

5600 North Braeswood Boulevard

Houston, Texas 17096

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





HEBREW UNION COLLEGE – JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION 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,

mul

Michael A. Meyer



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 ofeenof institutional self-congratulation. We look for the history to present the major issues which have been central to the concerns of the Confermete and the success or lock 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:

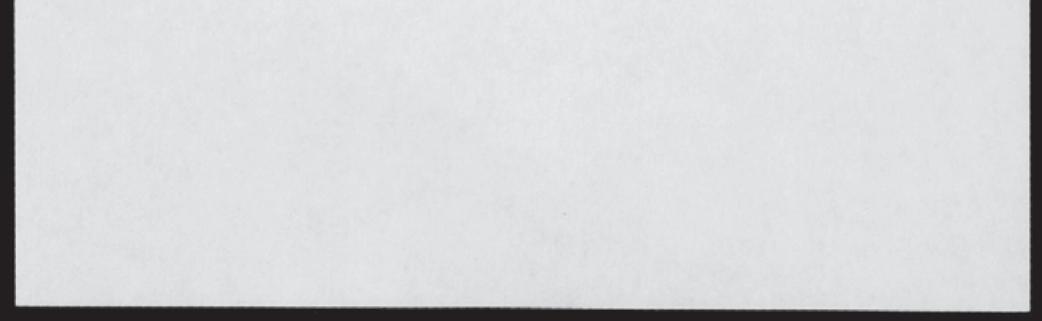
I have delayed writing to you because Mike Meyer put up some stiff objections to Ed Shapero. He was afraid that he would not fully appreciate Reform's liberal stance so I am, for the moment, pursuing other sources for our history.

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, Bern Benny Kraut



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,

Elword S. Slopic

Edward S. Shapiro

The Catholic University in New Jersey - founded in 1856

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 Bissbry Saifh will be the first half of the CCAR Centennial Volume, we have vetted a number of people. My most recent contact, at work & 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:

1.

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 Setan Hall University South Orange, New Jersey 07079

Dear Ed:

I him 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

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

1 ...

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

tean Hucksonn

Oct 2220

20m

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

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.

Policy 3.

- 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.
- Compare CCAR to other rabbinic organizations; 4.
- Outstanding personalities in CCAR: 5.
- Internal strife within CCAR over issues, policies, and 6. personalities.
- When is CCAR in leading position, when in a following one? 7.
- Some overall assessment: significance of CCAR in history of 8. American Reform Judaism and in history of American Jewry; existing strengths and weaknesses; prognosis for its future.

2

All of this would be set against the context of trends N.B. 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 07039 October 23, 1984

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

Dear Rabbi Silver,

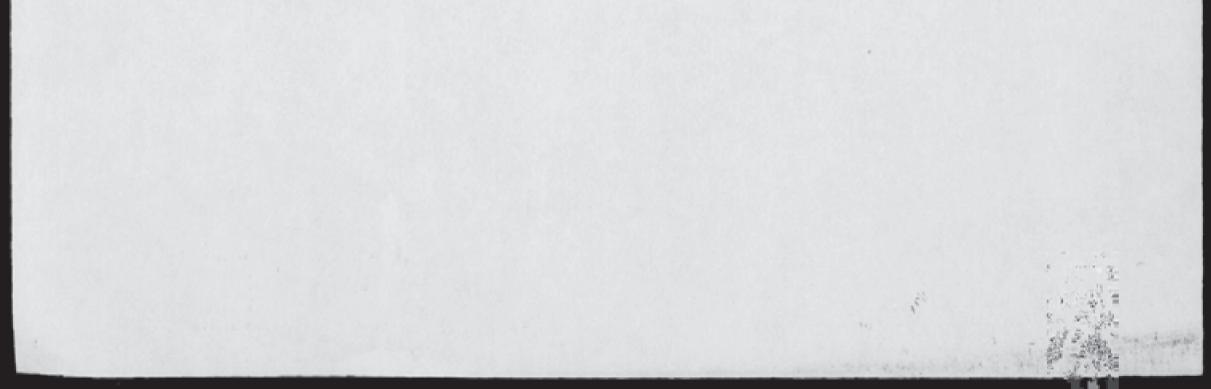
I have called Cleveland several times during the past couple of weeks but I was unble to get through to you. I am writing to see where the centennial history of the CCAR nowstands. Are you still considering me as a possible author of the history? If so, when will the decision be made? Has the project 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).

"Â,

Sincerely,

Edward & Shope

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 muse 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 beenmedde, 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 **tasko**nsibility.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver



The Ohic 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, bud Ed Shapiro's Clip on the Right (University Press of America) is quite fine. He ought to remain a strong candidate who will produce on dime

Sincerely

Marz Lee Raphael

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

November 19, 1984

Dr. Marc Lee Raphael Department of Distory The Ohio State University 108 Dulles Hall 230 West 17th Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43210-1357

Dear Marc:

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1.

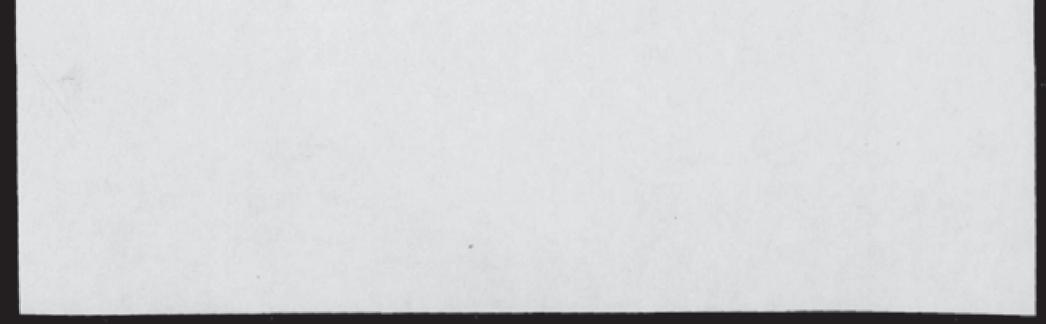
We have not yet completed our search, but as I wrote to him Shapiro will not be the committee's choice. I was satisfied, but MikekMeyer had some very strong objections - largely ideological.

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.

(NOV27, 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 forsee any potential problems.

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

Sincerely yours,

Bennykra

Benny Kraut Director Judaic Studies

BK/dc

. . . .



TheTemple

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.

[Dec10, 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 beme 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 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:

Please

\$6,666	in Septe	September/October			(or	Nov./Dec.	1985)
\$6,666	in Septe	September/October		1986			
\$6,666	at compl	letion, be	it it	June	or	September	1987
advise.							

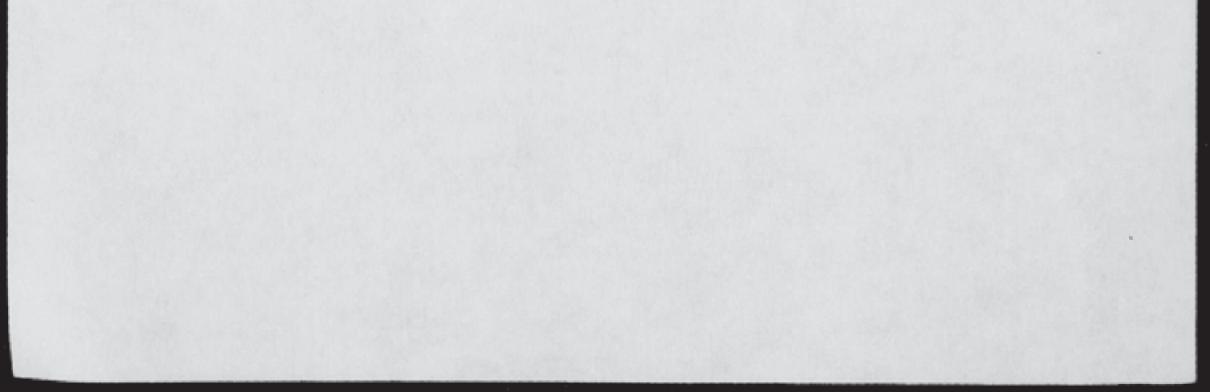
5. To whom in the CCAR would I address my inquiries and forward my expenses? Who is the contact person? I hope to go to New York in March to talk to the officers and see for myself the materials which exist. I've already learned that the AJACCAR collection more or less stops after 1977.

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

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

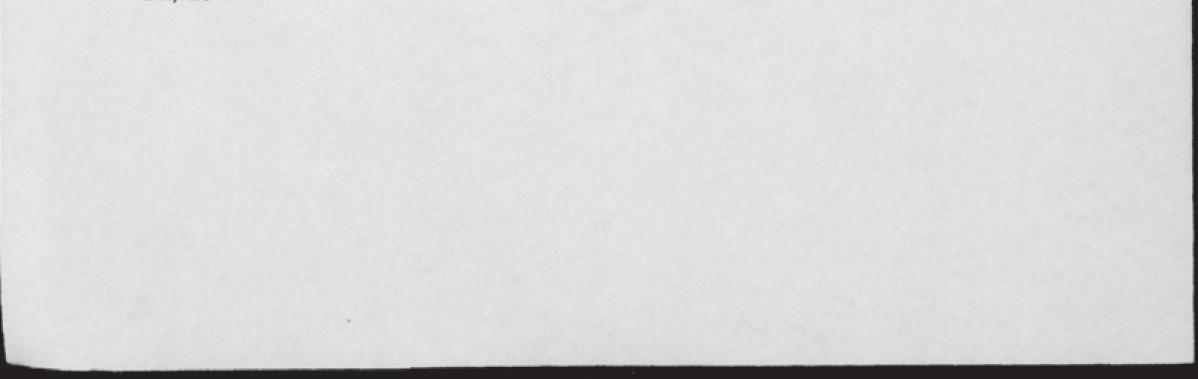
Dear Rabbi Silver,

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 Frau

BK/dc

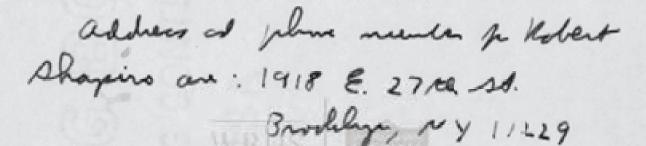




HEBREW UNION COLLEGE – JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION Cincinnati • New York • Los Angeles • Jerusalem

> 3101 CLIFTON AVENUE · CINCIMNATI. OHIO 65220-2466 (513) 221-5875 1/23/15

Dean Dan -



718 376 8773 Failing to find an academin job, he is aments teaching a 5'N).

One other name crossed my mind sim we talked on the phon: Pob Seltzer - an HUC god who has a Colembia 140 and teaches of yunter, Though his a generalist in Eastern Empe to has year breakled, some of syntheses, and I verterstand, will speak a the pettsburgh Platform to the young CCAR Conference.

February 11, 1985

gil -

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff Congregation Beth Israel 5500 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. Wrive problems would probably be the right number. Whom would you suggest?

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

February 11, 1985

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N 21

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 TACKFORM

Middletown, Ohio 45044

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.

Jane In

Congregation Beth Israel ORGANIZED 1834 5600 North Braeswood Bouleward Houston, Texas 770.96 SAMUEL EGAL KARFF. D.H.L.

RADDI February 21, 1985

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. Karkf

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