



## Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and  
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

### **MS-4850: Daniel Jeremy Silver Papers, 1972-1993.**

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

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Shaker Historical Society, correspondence and speech, 1988.



255 Meadowhill Lane  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio, 44022  
831-1897

Sept. 1, 1988

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
2841 Weybridge Rd.  
Shaker Heights, Ohio, 44120

Dear Rabbi Silver:

This is to confirm the arrangements you made with Mr. Robert Landgraf concerning your participation in the program being planned by the Shaker Historical Society to pay tribute to certain distinguished citizens of Shaker Heights.

The following information may help you in your participation:

The planning committee, made up of five Trustees, is making arrangements to create a memorial gallery at the Shaker Historical Museum entitled, "Distinguished Citizens of Shaker Heights". The criteria for selecting persons to be honored are: 1. One who has made notable contributions to society, either locally or nationally, ; 2. One who resided in the City of Shaker Heights for a reasonably long period of time; 3. One who is deceased. The initial group to be honored consists of Florence Allen, James Lincoln, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, George Szell, and former Mayor, William Van Aken. Every two years additional honorees may be chosen. A framed photograph of each will be hung in the gallery with an abbreviated biography below it.

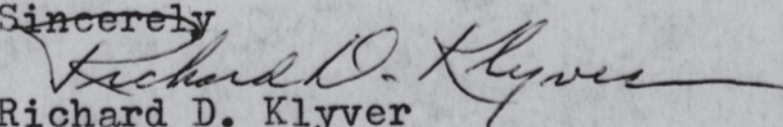
The program to dedicate this gallery will take place in the Van Sweringen Room of the Museum on Sunday, October 23, 3:00-5:00 P.M. After the introductory remarks, commemoration talks of approximately eight minutes each will be given by persons who were closely associated with the honorees. This commemoration may include a brief biographical resume, but we trust the emphasis will be on the honoree's contributions and personal attributes.

Because your association with Rabbi Silver could not be closer, we are delighted that you have agreed to deliver the commemoration talk for him. We truly appreciate this.

The unveiling of the five portraits will bring the program to a close. Refreshments will then be served in the Shaker Room.

If you need further information, please write or call me. (831-1897)

Sincerely

  
Richard D. Klyver



Oct. 24, 1988

Dear Rabbi Silver:

On behalf of the Shaker Historical Society I want to thank you for your most interesting talk last Sunday in commemoration of your father.

Although he was truly a citizen of the world, we can still take justifiable pride in claiming him as a "distinguished citizen of Shaker Heights."

I thought the program went over smoothly and I was pleased at the large turnout in spite of other conflicting events. It shows that we have many people who appreciate the legacy left us by so many outstanding citizens of this great city.

With best regards  
Richard D. Klyver



# SHAKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND  
THE DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL GALLERY  
TO PAY TRIBUTE TO  
"DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS OF SHAKER HEIGHTS"  
and the unveiling of their portraits—

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1988 — 3:00-5:00 P.M.

at the Shaker Historical Museum  
16740 South Park Blvd., Shaker Heights

## BEING HONORED

FLORENCE ALLEN, famous woman jurist; to be commemorated by Dr. Jeanette Tuve.

JAMES LINCOLN, of Lincoln Electric fame; to be commemorated by Charles Herbruck.

RABBI SILVER, one of the architects of modern Israel; to be commemorated by son Daniel Silver.

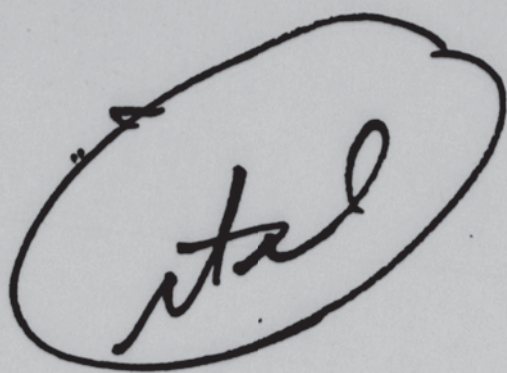
GEORGE SZELL, famous conductor of Cleveland Symphony Orchestra; to be commemorated by Frank E. Joseph.

WILLIAM VAN AKEN, former mayor of Shaker Heights; to be commemorated by son Bill Van Aken.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING UNVEILING CEREMONY

• PLEASE CALL 921-1201 FOR RESERVATIONS BY OCTOBER 17, 1988 •





Temple Bulletin  
November 20, 1988

The following commemorative talk was  
delivered by Rabbi Daniel J. Silver on  
the occasion of the induction of Rabbi  
Abba Hillel Silver into the initial  
circle of "Distinguished Citizen of  
Shaker Heights" on October 23, 1988.

This tribute was paid at the dedication  
of the Memorial Gallery of the Shaker  
Historical Society.





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Dr. Silver was born on the 28th of  
January, 1893 in Neunstadt, Lithuania.

He was the second son of Moses and Dina  
Silver. Moses was a rabbi who, as many  
did, made his living from a family soap  
business rather than from the rabbinate.

My father came to America in 1902.

He settled down with his family in the  
lower east side of New York. It was a  
hard life. Among other things, the  
family made neckties to augment their  
meager income. My father remembers  
the day when he was charged with taking  
a week's work to the jobber. He was  
jumped by some other lads and the week's  
work was stolen. This theft left a  
searing impression on him. His home  
was a typical Jewish immigrant home  
except for several elements. The  
family spoke Hebrew rather than Yiddish.





The family were ardent Zionists. My father and his friends created the first Herzl Zionist Youth Group in the United States. It produced plays at the Council of Educational Alliance in the lower east side. It is hard to believe that this young man who spent the first ten years of his life in Europe speaking other tongues would become one of the great English language orators of his generation.

In 1911 my grandfather sent his sons to the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and to the University of Cincinnati.

This was a surprising decision since the college was then the bastion of classical reform, and Moses Silver was and remained an observant Jew. Moses had recognized changes in the American atmosphere.

America was not a place where Moses and Dina could lead the kind of lives they wished. So in 1922 Moses and Dina called the family together in New York and said that America was for Americans.



It was not for them. They wished to live in Jerusalem. My father bought them a house in Jerusalem where they lived happily an observant life until their deaths a quarter of a century later.

My father graduated from the University of Cincinnati and the Hebrew Union College in 1915 and was immediately appointed rabbi of Eeoff Street Temple in Wheeling, West Virginia. He served there for just two years when he was called to Cleveland to The Temple which was then, as it is now, one of the great pulpits of the United States.

In 1924 he married my mother, Virginia Horkheimer of Wheeling, a daughter of the Eeoff Street Temple president, and four years later I was born, my brother following twenty-two months later. Dr. Silver made immediate changes in the school curriculum and the liturgy. He made greater use of Hebrew.



Many in the congregation were not  
Zionists yet Zionism was openly  
espoused and discussed from the pulpit.

Dr. Silver had had a profound  
impact on the city and state. Early  
on he had espoused the rights of unions.

He had resigned from the Chamber of  
Commerce over the open shop issue. He  
played a major roll in the passage of

the first unemployment insurance compen-

sation act in the state. He helped to  
found the City Club as a citadel of free

speech. In the early twenties, Dr. Silver

worked hard with Justice Brandeis and

Judge Mack of Cincinnati to develop

fundraising capacities for settlement in

Israel. He spoke loudly and clearly

of the rise of anti-semitism and Naziism

in Europe and in the United States.

In the 1950's, when John Gunther  
did a survey of the cities of America,  
he spoke of one of the distinctions of  
Cleveland that it was a city in which a  
rabbi was its most important citizen.

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He traveled widely in America and in Europe. His speeches were much sought after by universities, churches, community forums, and the like. As times became more difficult for Jews in the late 20's and 30's and anti-Semitism was more flagrantly exhibited, not only in Nazi Germany but in the United States, Dr. Silver became a strong tribune of his people. In 1932 he traveled throughout the Rhineland trying to convince the local Jewish population that Hitler meant what he said and that their days were numbered. It was one of the few times his oratory did not succeed. He detailed for those who would listen the menace of Naziism. As the issues became those of life and death, he helped organize fundraising agencies--the United Jewish Appeal and the United Palestine Appeal--to offer relief. He spoke to thousands in the Temple and out, and lent all his energies to the anti-Nazi boycott and other such activities. In the war years he was active in the war effort and in Jewish causes generally.

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In 1943 he broke with the leading  
Zionists and non-Zionists of the day  
on the issue of territorial rights for  
Palestine and the issue of Jewish support  
for the Roosevelt administration. Dr.  
Silver had become increasingly convinced  
that Roosevelt's support for Jewish  
interests was a matter more of words  
than of deeds and he said so. He was  
elected to many offices including that  
of the American chairman of the Jewish  
Agency in which capacity he represented  
the Jewish people before the United  
Nations. The crucial years between  
1946 and 1948 were years which saw the  
United Nations vote for the partition of  
Palestine. Effective speeches like  
those of Dr. Silver, helped carry the day  
for partition.

After the war, Dr. Silver served  
Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy as  
they requested. He visited Israel  
frequently but kept his roots here in  
Cleveland. He died November 28, 1963,  
twenty-five years ago. My mother died  
in 1985.



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transposed here

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