



For Immediate Release
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Contact:
Sean Martin, Ph. D.
Curator for Jewish History
smartin@wrhs.org

Rabbis Silver: Celebrating the Legacy

CLEVELAND, OH – Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) and The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives (AJA) are proud to announce the completion, and first presentation, of the digitized records of two of America's most important twentieth-century rabbis, Abba Hillel Silver and Daniel Jeremy Silver.

To mark the completion of the digitization project, WRHS and AJA, in cooperation with Congregation Mishkan Or, will sponsor ***Rabbis Silver: Celebrating the Legacy***, on **Sunday, November 16th, from 2 pm to 4 pm, at Congregation Mishkan Or, 26000 Shaker Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio, 44122**. This event, featuring reflections by **Dr. Susannah Heschel**, the Eli M. Black Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College, in conversation with **Rabbi Roger C. Klein**, will introduce the collections to the public and allow the community an opportunity to reflect on the significant role the Silvers played as both Jewish and community leaders. Dr. Heschel formerly held the Abba Hillel Silver Chair at Case Western Reserve University. The conversation with Rabbi Klein will address the ongoing influence of the work of both rabbis.

The Silver papers, held at WRHS since the early 1990s, are a window into the valuable contributions of American Jews and the Jewish experience throughout the twentieth century. Including correspondence, sermons, and audio and visual recordings, the Silver collections illustrate the concerns of the American Jewish community and the actions taken by American Jews to enact justice for Jews and non-Jews worldwide.

Both Rabbis Silver served The Temple-Tifereth Israel (with Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, a founding partner of Congregation Mishkan Or), Abba Hillel from 1917 to 1963, Daniel Jeremy from 1956 to 1989. They were active and respected leaders in the civic life of Cleveland and in national Jewish organizations. Abba Hillel Silver (1893-1963) was a scholar who played a key role in both national and international affairs, including the establishment of the State of Israel, advocated for child labor laws, and published widely on Jewish history and theology. His son, Daniel Jeremy Silver (1928-1989), was adjunct professor of Jewish studies at Case Western Reserve University, worked for numerous social welfare and justice and cultural issues and wrote for both popular and scholarly audiences on the history of Judaism.

[Now available online](#) through The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, the Silver collections will be a rich source to all researching, studying or interested in the history of Judaism, its relationship with Christianity and other religions, Reform Judaism, and the Jewish role in and view of world events. Topics range from political issues such as the rise of Nazi Germany, World War II and the plight of European Jews during the war, Zionism and the founding of the State of Israel, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War, to social issues related to civil rights, labor and unemployment, the justice system, women's rights, youth, education, and the family.

The event is free and open to the public; ample free parking is available. Reception following. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Please RSVP to Sean Martin, Curator for

Jewish History, Western Reserve Historical Society, smartin@wrhs.org. Congregation Mishkan

Or will also live stream the event, <https://www.mishkanor.org/worship/live-stream/> (after navigating to the site, select Chapel).

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ABOUT THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) is Cleveland's oldest cultural institution and the trusted steward of Northeast Ohio history. With seven properties, 250 acres, 39 historic structures, and one of the country's finest library and museum collections relating to the American experience, WRHS is among the largest and most diversified historical societies in the United States. WRHS collects, preserves, studies, documents, and provides access to the stories of Northeast Ohioans – people whose stories are documented and preserved in perpetuity in the artifacts, archives, places and spaces we have been entrusted to steward nearly 160 years. WRHS safeguards and shares Northeast Ohio and American history, and provides audiences with a sense of place in a mobile and virtual society.

WRHS is a Smithsonian Affiliate and is among the organizations represented on the America 250-Ohio Commission, alongside the Ohio History Connection and the Cincinnati Museum Center. As such, WRHS is helping to lead events, programs and initiatives to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the U.S.

In March 2025, the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) awarded WRHS Accreditation for meeting the National Standards and Best Practices for U.S. Museums. Recognized as the field's gold standard for museum excellence for 55 years, AAM accreditation signifies a museum's quality and credibility to the entire museum community, to governments, agencies and donors, students and teachers, the museum-going public.

WRHS is a Smithsonian Affiliate. WRHS is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Sponsorships, bequests, grants, admissions, and other funds are used by WRHS to preserve and enrich the region's artistic and cultural heritage. WRHS earned a top four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the nation's most-used independent evaluator of charities and nonprofits. Administrative offices are located at 10825 East Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106. Visit us online at www.wrhs.org or on social media @clestartshere.

ABOUT THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Preserving the Past, Powering the Future: The American Jewish Archives' Leadership in Digitized Access

In an era where accessibility and preservation go hand in hand, the **American Jewish Archives (AJA)** stands at the forefront of archival innovation. Located on the historic Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, the AJA has long been a guardian of Jewish history in the Americas. Today, it is redefining how scholars, students, and the public engage with that history—through its pioneering digitization efforts.

With a commitment to democratizing access to Jewish historical materials, the AJA has digitized thousands of documents, photographs, recordings, and rare manuscripts. These resources, once accessible only to on-site researchers, are now available to a global audience at the click of a button. Whether you're tracing family roots, exploring the evolution of Jewish life in North America, or conducting academic research, the AJA's digital collections offer an unparalleled gateway to the past.

The Archives' leadership in this space is not just technical—it's visionary. By investing in cutting-edge digital infrastructure and metadata standards, the AJA ensures that its collections are not only preserved for future generations but also searchable, shareable, and usable in new and dynamic ways. Its online portals and curated digital exhibits bring history to life, fostering deeper understanding and connection across communities.

In a world increasingly shaped by digital engagement, the American Jewish Archives exemplifies how tradition and technology can work together to illuminate the richness of Jewish heritage. It's more than an archive—it's a living, evolving resource for anyone seeking to understand the Jewish experience in the Americas. <https://www.americanjewisharchives.org/research/digital-collections/>

Explore the archives. Discover the stories. Connect with history.

ABOUT CONGREGATION MISHKAN OR

Established by the members of Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple and The Temple-Tifereth Israel on July 1, 2024, Congregation Mishkan Or is a multi-generational community who finds meaning and inspiration through personal connections – with one another, Torah, the State of Israel, and the Jewish People.

<https://www.mishkanor.org/>



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