

Wise, Stephen S.

000904

PEOPLE'S TRIBUTE  
*70th Birthday Dinner to*  
STEPHEN S. WISE



TUESDAY, MAY 23 • HOTEL ASTOR • NEW YORK CITY

April 27, 1944

Hon. John W. Pehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Jewish organizations of Greater New York are combining in a dinner to Dr. Stephen S. Wise marking his seventieth birthday and his completion of fifty years of public service.

The dinner will take place on Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m., at the Astor Hotel, New York City.

The Committee would deem it an honor, and knows that Dr. Wise would be delighted, if you could be the principal speaker on that occasion.

We trust you will find it possible to accept this cordial invitation.

Sincerely,

*Benjamin J. Weinberg*  
BENJAMIN J. WEINBERG  
Chairman - Dinner Committee

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Sponsored by ASSOCIATION OF FRATERNAL AND BENEVOLENT ORGANIZATIONS  
OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

1834 Broadway • New York City • Circle 6-1900

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## Dinner Committee

Benjamin J. Weinberg, <i>Chairman</i>	Max Lobl
M. Balsam	Martin M. Mandell
Benjamin Barshop	Alexander Olshanetsky
Samuel Berke	M. Osherowitz
Louis Bielewicz	Irving Poretz
Isaac Brown	I. Arthur Rosenberg
Leib Bruck	Sam Rosenwald
Isidor H. Cohen	Israel Roskin
Isidor J. Deutch	Samuel Rubin
Isidor Fife	Dr. Mayer B. Schier
Isidor M. Filutin	Jack Schnapik
Isidor O. Frankel	Max Schonfeld
Isidor Gingold	Maurice Schwartz
Isidor I. Goldman	Max Schwartz
Isidor Goldstein	Sol Servitz
Isidor Samuel Goldstein	Charles Sonnenreich
Isidor Grouchko	Joseph Steinberg
Isidor Guttman	Hon. Adolph Stern
Isidor Hays	Garry Stolberg
Isidor Hoffman	Julius Streit
Isidor Jarvis	Herbert Sussman
Isidor I. Kahn	Max D. Thomer
Isidor Kalmanowitz	Nathan Warshaw
Isidor Kanter	Dr. Vladimir Weinberg
Isidor Lavitt	Benjamin Winter
Isidor Levine	Samuel L. Wohl

THE YEAR 1944 marks a milestone in the annals of the Jewish people—the seventieth birthday of Dr. Stephen S. Wise and the fiftieth anniversary of his public service.

Peerless spokesman of his people, ardent champion of the common man, Stephen Wise is a magnificent blend of prophetic Jew and proud American. In him the ancient Judaic concepts of justice and human brotherhood are fused with the American ideals of equality and democracy. Wherever truth needs an advocate, justice a defender, suffering a healer, Stephen Wise is ever to be found.

His is an amazing range of activity. Passionately devoted to the ideal of democracy, he championed the idea of the democratic organization of Jewish affairs through an American Jewish Congress, of which he is now president. Likewise, he was instrumental in the organization of the World Jewish Congress, being now chairman of its Executive Committee. A Zionist from his early youth, he has labored unceasingly for Jewish national redemption in the Land of Israel, bringing the message of Zion restored to the Jews of America, and being instrumental in the founding of the organization now known as the Zionist Organization of America. A bold leader of religious thought, he is the founder and rabbi of the Free Synagogue, organizer and president of the Jewish Institute of Religion. His record reaches into many spheres of human need and aspiration—letters, education, philanthropy, civic and national service, diplomacy and statecraft.

Spanning five decades, the works of Stephen Wise have left their impress deep upon his generation. The completion of a half-century of such labors is an event to compel the attention of every section of mankind. The commemoration of Dr. Wise's seventieth birthday and fiftieth anniversary of public service is being utilized to uphold his hands in his manifold endeavors for the Jewish people through the establishment of a Birthday Tribute Fund. Presented to him as the loving and grateful gift of the Jewish community of America, the fund will be used for the causes to which Dr. Wise has dedicated his life, principally for the work of the American Jewish Congress in safeguarding Jewish rights and combatting anti-Semitism, and for the World Jewish Congress in the rescue and rehabilitation of our people in Europe.

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April 29, 1944

Dear Mr. Weinberg:

Thank you for asking me to address the 70th Birthday Dinner to Dr. Stephen S. Wise. I appreciate the honor and I wish that I might be with you. But the demands of the work I am doing are such that I must refuse your kind invitation. I am sure you understand just how pressing those demands are.

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board

Mr. Benjamin J. Weinberg  
American Jewish Congress  
1834 Broadway  
New York, New York

VMM:mg

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