

36 Bullough Park
Newtonville, MA 02160
March 25, 1998

Dr. Norman Lamm
President, Yeshiva University
500 West 185th Street
New York, NY 10033

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

I just wanted to congratulate you on the splendid *chag hasemicha* this past Sunday. My wife and I were there because Rabbi Samuels was among the inductees, and also because our future *mechutanim's* current son in law, Akiva Sacknovitz, was too. (Our own son Ari was engaged last week. This is a new, and very pleasant, phase for us.)

The speakers were excellent, particularly Ari Berman and Minister Ne'eman, whose presence was obviously of political significance. He was a little hard to hear, but what he had to say was very much to the point.

And of course hearing you speak is always a great pleasure. Oratory like yours is really a lost art -- I can hardly think of anyone who practices it, in this country anyway. I particularly enjoyed the way you turned the Yosi ben Kisma *baraita* into a dramatic dialogue, complete with colloquial inflections. Terrific! I also enjoyed the irony of hearing you advocate taking controversial positions (or nonpositions), while standing in front of a faculty who presumably thought that's just what you were doing. I just wonder, though -- how many of the new *musmachim* are actually planning careers in the pulpit?

Anyhow, a hearty *yasher koach* from the out-of-towner.

Best wishes to you and your family for a *chag kasher v'sameach*.