



# GRATZ COLLEGE

HEBREW EDUCATION SOCIETY

7605 OLD YORK ROAD, MELROSE PARK, PA 19027 • (215) 635-7300

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



בס"ד

December 30, 1998

Rabbi Norman Lamm, President  
Yeshiva University  
500 West 185 Street  
New York, New York 10033

Dear Rabbi Lamm:

Please accept my thanks for the opportunity to converse with you some days ago. It was a particular pleasure to convey orally the happy decision of Gratz College to bestow an honorary doctorate upon you and I do so now in writing. As you know, this accolade is the highest that any institution confers and all associated with Gratz would be honored by your acceptance. The doctorate would be awarded at a special inaugural convocation that is planned to recognize formally my assumption of the presidency of Gratz and is to take place, ה'אי"ה, in the fall of 1999.

In making your decision, I thought it might be useful for you to know more about Gratz. As I mentioned, Gratz College, founded in 1895, is the oldest independent, non-denominational college of Jewish studies in North America. Its faculty and students represent the full spectrum of Jewish life in America. As such, Gratz College serves as common ground for the meeting of Jews of diverse backgrounds and commitments.

Gratz primarily provides graduate programs for students including master's degrees in Jewish education, Jewish communal service, Jewish music and, of course, Jewish studies. To further illustrate its activities, I am enclosing a variety of materials that describe not only Gratz's college division, but also its Jewish community high school, the largest of its kind in the United States, its research library, and its substantial offerings in continuing education.

Through its graduates who occupy roles of leadership in Jewish education and communal life, the academy, and as בעלי בית with accomplishments in the professions and business, Gratz has contributed substantially to Jewish life in the U.S. and Israel. I am convinced that it can play an even more significant role at this pivotal time in American Jewish history when institutions that once served as umbrellas under which halakhic and non-halakhic Jewish groups could confer no longer exist. As a place of Jewish learning and commitment where all Jews can and do meet, Gratz may serve as a bridge to discourse. Its role in this regard was a critical reason for my acceptance of Gratz's leadership.

♦ PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS ♦

CONSTITUENT OF THE FEDERATION OF JEWISH AGENCIES OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

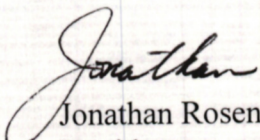


Dr. Norman Lamm  
December 30, 1998  
Page Two

In my view, normative, historic Judaism is embodied by Centrist Orthodoxy. You personify that ideal and your presence as I officially assume my new role would be mean more to me than I have words to describe. I know that your acceptance is a delicate issue and I am ready to come to New York at any time you may designate to discuss this matter with you personally. I am profoundly appreciative of your warm encouragement and of your willingness to consider an act that would allow Gratz to recognize you for your exemplary commitment to Torah and כלל ישראל.

As I indicated, I have not spoken to any prospective non-Orthodox recipients and will of course not do so without your permission. I am grateful for your consideration and look forward to the privilege of being in touch. With every good wish, I remain

Most cordially,

  
Jonathan Rosenbaum  
President

JR/jk  
Enclosure

