

# NEWS



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## FOR YOUR APPROVAL PLEASE INITIAL AND RETURN

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

DR. NORMAN LAMM  
Erna and Jakob Michael Professor of Jewish Philosophy

Dr. Norman Lamm, rabbi, philosopher and teacher known for his interpretations stressing the relevance of traditional Judaism to contemporary life, was named Erna and Jakob Michael Professor of Jewish Philosophy at Yeshiva University in June, 1966.

Earlier, Dr. Lamm had served as assistant professor of Jewish philosophy at Yeshiva University's Teachers Institute for Men, forerunner of the present Erna Michael College of Hebraic Studies.

Dr. Lamm is also rabbi of The Jewish Center in New York City. Affiliated with The Jewish Center since 1958, he was, prior to that, spiritual leader of Congregation Kodimoh in Springfield, Mass., for five years.

Within the religious and scholarly communities Dr. Lamm has earned wide recognition for his challenging writings and discourses on the contemporaneity of traditional Jewish principles in a world concerned with such questions as the possibility of life on other planets, laboratory-created life, the moral legality of confessions and social changes which have affected marital relationships.

In a much discussed article in Tradition, a scholarly publication which he <sup>e</sup> helped found, Dr. Lamm contended that discovery of life on other planets and creation of life in a laboratory would not conflict with traditional Judaic principles, but would demonstrate their validity.

In 1970-71, during a half-year Sabbatical spent teaching and lecturing in Israel, Dr. Lamm proposed a solution to the recurring religious crises concerning Sabbath observance. "The Rosh Hodesh Plan," as it is known, was <sup>s</sup> submitted to the Knesset and evoked much comment and discussion throughout Israel and abroad.

One of his many works, The Royal Reach: Discourses on the Jewish Tradition and the World Today, deals with a variety of themes, offering Jewish viewpoints on such issues as violence, law and order, space exploration, and parent-child relationships in the contemporary world. For <sup>two</sup> ~~this~~ book, ~~and for Faith and Doubt~~ he received the Abramowitz-Zeitlin Award for Religious Literature, presented in Jerusalem, in 1972.

In another book, A Hedge of Roses: Jewish Insights into Marriage and Married Life, he calls for a return ~~to obedience~~ to traditional rules regarding marital sex as the only means for reversing a trend which has seen an increasing number of marriages fail.

Since 1966, when this work first appeared, it has been published in <sup>seven</sup> ~~six~~ editions, three in the U.S.A. and one in England, and translations <sup>(2 editions)</sup> into Hebrew and Portuguese. Also, Dr. Lamm is the author of Torah



Lishmah, as well as co-editor of 'The Leo Jung Jubilee Volume' and 'A Treasury of Tradition.' His most recent book, The Good Society: Jewish Ethics in Action (Viking), spells out the duties of the individual, the family and society. He has published <sup>many</sup> articles in the Encyclopedia Judaica, and articles by him have appeared in a variety of Hebrew and English journals, both scholarly and popular, throughout the world. "Judaism and the Modern Attitude to Homosexuality," appeared in the 1974 Encyclopedia Judaica Yearbook. He has been quoted twice in decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, once by Former Chief Justice Warren, and once by Justice Douglas. He has testified as an expert on Jewish law before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, and his testimony has been published in The Congressional Record.

A member of The Jewish Center Lecture Bureau, Dr. Lamm <sup>has been</sup> is on the faculty of the 92nd Street Y.M.H.A. Adult Education Program, where he <sup>teaches</sup> teaches Talmud, and on the faculty of the B'nai B'rith Institute. He was chosen for listing in the 1973 edition of "Outstanding Educators in America."

Dr. Lamm has travelled widely, lecturing in nine countries on five continents. In 1961 he spent a month in India and Pakistan on a special religious mission to the ancient Jewish communities of these Oriental countries. In 1964 he toured South Africa for one month, lecturing on behalf of Jewish education. He has also made trips to Australia and New Zealand in 1973, where he spent six weeks

~~weeks~~ lecturing. In 1975 he participated in an international colloquium of political, scientific and religious leaders of all faiths held in Italy which sought to find ways by which religious faith could contribute towards solving the great problems of the <sup>poverty and hunger in</sup> 20th century.

Dr. Lamm received his bachelor's degree, graduating summa cum laude, from Yeshiva College in 1949. He went on to graduate study of chemistry at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. In June, 1966, he was awarded a Ph.D. from Yeshiva University's Bernard Revel Graduate School. He was ordained at the University-affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in 1951. He was presented the Bernard Revel Memorial Award by the Yeshiva College alumni in 1974. *Trustee of RIETS and a member of the Board of Overseas of Bar Ilan University in Israel. His*  
Dr. Lamm is a <sup>^</sup>director of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; ~~and a member of its Overseas Commission. He is~~ a member of the Halakhah (Jewish Law) Commission of the Rabbinical Council of America; ~~and a member of the Council's International Commission;~~ past national vice president of the Rabbinic Alumni of Yeshiva University; a charter member of the Board of Governors of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists; a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Zionist Youth Foundation; and ~~was~~ chairman of the board of education of the Manhattan Day School. He is also former chairman and currently a member of the Advisory Board

of Yavneh (National Religious Jewish Students Association), and a member of the Advisory Board of the Jewish Association of College Youth, as well as an active member of a number of other professional and communal organizations. ~~In 1974 he was appointed by the Rabbinical Council of America to head a committee of scholars and rabbis to formulate a course of action to arrest the rate of inter-marriage and alienation of Jewish youth from Judaism.~~

Dr. Lamm is married, has four children, and lives at 27 West 86th Street, Manhattan.

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