

January 27, 1966

Dr. Belkin, President
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
Amsterdam Avenue & 186th Street
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Belkin:

I am enclosing, at your request, a copy of the brief proposal originally composed for the founding of an Institute of Jewish Research.

A good deal of thought had gone into the specific problems that ought to be researched. These have not been enumerated in the enclosed proposal for reasons of brevity.

If, however, you would want me to outline them, I should only be too glad to do so.

Cordially yours,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

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Enc.

File: INSTITUTE
NORMAN LAMM

The Institute is established for the purpose of elaborating the relevance of Judaism to the contemporary world. It is committed to the proposition that the Jewish tradition, based upon the divinely revealed Torah, is both eternally valid and always responsive to the needs and aspirations of every generation.

In our own times, with its cataclysmic world events and the accelerated advances in all areas of knowledge, Judaism has often seemed remote from the ~~problems~~ and crises of modern men. The paucity of directed scholarship has prevented contemporary Jews -- indeed, all mankind -- from benefitting from the profound ethical, intellectual and philosophical insights of the trimillennial Jewish tradition. These teachings and judgments must be made accessible to those who seek them in a form that is germane to the real predicament of men and women of this second half of our century; that articulates with the contemporary temper; and yet that is completely true to the authentic spirit of Judaism.

The Institute proposes to embark upon a three-fold program in pursuit of this goal.

1. It will undertake fundamental research in those areas where little or no information is available on the response of Judaism to the great issues of the times. Fellowships and research grants will be offered to qualified scholars to work both individually and in teams.

2. It will collect, translate, edit, and publish pertinent material from both classical and modern sources.
3. It will sponsor Public Education in a wide variety of forms, such as work-shops for selected professions, courses for young people, and lectures for adults; special seminars by outstanding scholars; and the publication of both periodicals and texts directed to all groups.

The Institute invites inquiries from and participation by all interested people, both in the United States and overseas. The cooperation of scholars, community leaders, and the general public will be welcome and deeply appreciated.

4/26/65