



# Brandeis University

October 30, 2006

Rabbi Elkanah Shmotkin  
Director  
Jewish Educational Media  
784 Eastern Parkway, Suite 403  
Brooklyn, New York 11213

Dear Rabbi Shmotkin:

This letter is written to support the efforts of Jewish Educational Media to preserve and make accessible its unique film and video materials which provide the visual record of the Chabad Movement and the Lubavitcher Rebbe. Teaching at Brandeis University, I have had the opportunity to utilize the wonderful collection we have here at the National Center for Jewish Film. Were JEM to make similarly available the type of moving image materials which JEM has it would be a boon to scholarship.

With over 2,500 hours of film and video materials in JEMs collection, and with new materials being produced and other collections being acquired, Jewish Educational Media will be a treasure trove for scholars and researchers and the public. Once properly preserved and made accessible the entire collection will benefit anyone having an interest in Chabad and/or the Rebbe and the value to researchers, documentary film makers and to the general public is invaluable. More broadly, for those studying religion, Judaism, or American history the convergence of these areas as captured in the film and video materials are a treasure trove.

Having recently participated in a conference at New York Universtiy entitled "Reaching for the Infinite: The Lubavitcher Rebbe – Life, Teachings and Impact" I can attest to the level of academic interest in Chabad and the impact of its leader, the late Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. During that three day conference there were close to 30 presentations from around the world. Once the JEM archive is available, it can be accessed for scholarly research or, what may turn out to be more important, for classroom demonstration anywhere.

I commend Jewish Educational Media for taking the steps and having the vision to preserve and make this collection accessible. I support this project and hope that your plans are realized and that you obtain the funding and staff necessary for its completion and ongoing operation.

Sincerely,  
Reuven Kimelman  
Professor of Classical Judaica  
Brandeis University

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