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To Whom It May Concern:

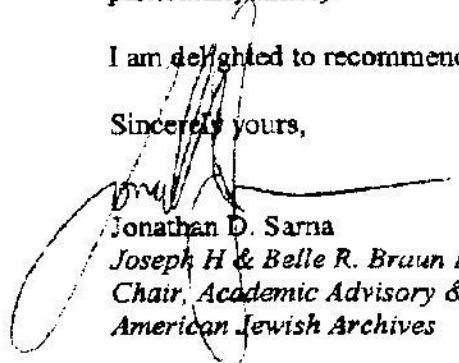
I am delighted to support the American Jewish Legacy Project and to commend it to you as a venture worthy of support.

The American Jewish Legacy Project seeks to preserve the writings and artifacts of Traditionally religious Jews in America. This material has not been systematically collected by any archive or organization, and for this reason the history of Traditional Judaism is much less well documented than the history of other Jewish religious movements. Moreover, American Jewish Legacy admirably focuses much of its attention on religious books and ritual objects—material that gives us a sense of what historians of religion call “lived religion.” These objects are far less widely available than institutional records, but today we increasingly value them for what they reveal about the religious lives of ordinary women and men. Finally, American Jewish Legacy is something of a grassroots project. It aims to locate material of interest found in attics and areas of previous Jewish settlement—treasures, many of them in private hands, that are unknown and too often unappreciated.

The Jewish religious community in the United States is only now becoming conscious of its history. This project is a belated effort not only to find and preserve what remains from an earlier era, but also to awaken public consciousness within the traditionally religious community as to the significance of its historical artifacts. Given the approach of the 350th anniversary of the American Jewish community, in 2004, this project is particularly timely.

I am delighted to recommend it to you for support.

Sincerely yours,



Jonathan D. Sarna
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