



מכון
שלום
הרטמן
SHALOM
HARTMAN
INSTITUTE

February 5, 2002

Dear Wanda,

Thank you for sending me a prospectus describing *Across Boundaries, A Multifaith Institute*, which you and Bob Chodos are organizing within Canada.

Since coming to Israel and living in Jerusalem, I feel that the urgency to create understanding between different faith communities is of ultimate significance. In the name of God, much bloodshed and hatred has been justified. We all know the terrible history of religious intolerance. The soil of Jerusalem is soaked with the blood of triumphalist religiosity.

The claim that one's way is THE way of salvation, although expressed by very serious, pious individuals, is an invitation to murder and destruction. Many people are threatened by the presence of passionate religious diversity. The presence of the "other" creates uncertainty about my own faith commitment. The real issue for faith today is "Does affirmation require negation? Can I celebrate my own history, traditions and forms of worship without feeling threatened by the music and intensity of other faith commitments?"

I am honored to be asked to write a letter and to give moral support to your sacred and holy endeavors. They must bear fruit because the other alternative is total destruction.

Your spirit and the spirit of people like you must become the norm for religious faith.

May God bless your initiatives. My hope is that people throughout the world will recognize the urgency of supporting your endeavors.

Sincerely,

David Hartman