

## HAPPY PASSOVER!

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Bennett Miller



Here's a bit of demographic information for all of us: nearly half of the CCAR membership is made up of colleagues who are age sixty or over. That means that half of the American Reform Rabbinate consists of women and men who are either retired or nearing retirement. What are the implications for us going forward?

We should all know that Rabbis are needed more than ever. We don't

have enough Rabbis to do all the teaching of Torah that our community needs. We don't have enough to provide all of the pastoral assistance that so many need. And, we don't have enough Rabbis to touch the lives of fellow Jews in congregations, in communities, in hospitals, in assisted living communities, in nursing homes, too.

Similarly, our NAORRR community is a growing one. When we retire, we still need community. As we age, we need community. If we are fortunate, we continue to have good health and financial stability. But generally, our health diminishes, and we face other challenges as well.

At NAORRR, our slogan is "we need one another," and the tag line of the slogan is, "we will be there for each other." I trust that all agree!

Our NAORRR leadership and Board of Trustees is currently preparing a program for caring for

each other. It is our hope that in the coming months we will share with you our plans to bring us closer together in community, to reach out to each other, to call and be called not only in crisis but more regularly, especially for those who are facing physical and fiscal challenges. That is the primary purpose of NAORRR today and heading into the future.

You and I are all grateful to those who came before us, to the Rabbis who helped form and shaped our lives. For many of us, their influence and mentorship continues to guide us every day. To those in need I hope we can care for them as they cared for us. To each other I hope that you and I will create a community of caring for rabbis, for their spouses, partners, widows too. There can be no greater act of *gemilut chasadim*, of spiritual caring for each other.

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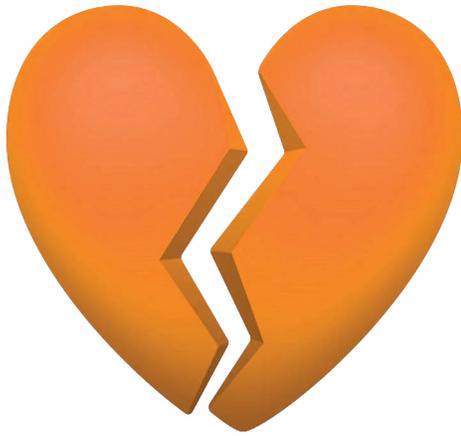
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**PLEASE SEE PAGE 10...  
IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**



**BRING  
THEM  
HOME**

## Hesed/Mitzvah Fund stands ready to help.

Many of our members continue to contribute to the Hesed/Mitzvah Fund, which helps support colleagues and their spouses/partners who have fallen on financial hardship. Through your generosity over the years, our combined NAORRR/CCAR Hesed/Mitzvah committee has been blessed to ease the burden of hundreds of rabbinic families. We continue to help support surviving spouses, retired rabbis, as well as younger colleagues. This past year has created a financial crisis for several of our MARAM Israeli rabbis. The Hesed/Mitzvah fund has generously supported a number of them as this year has progressed. Those rabbis serving in Israel during this year of enormous stress, pain and suffering have expressed their deep gratitude to us for all the help and support we have given. We continue to monitor the situation, helping where the need arises. Please continue to support this important endeavor.



### ADDRESS OR OTHER INFO CHANGES?

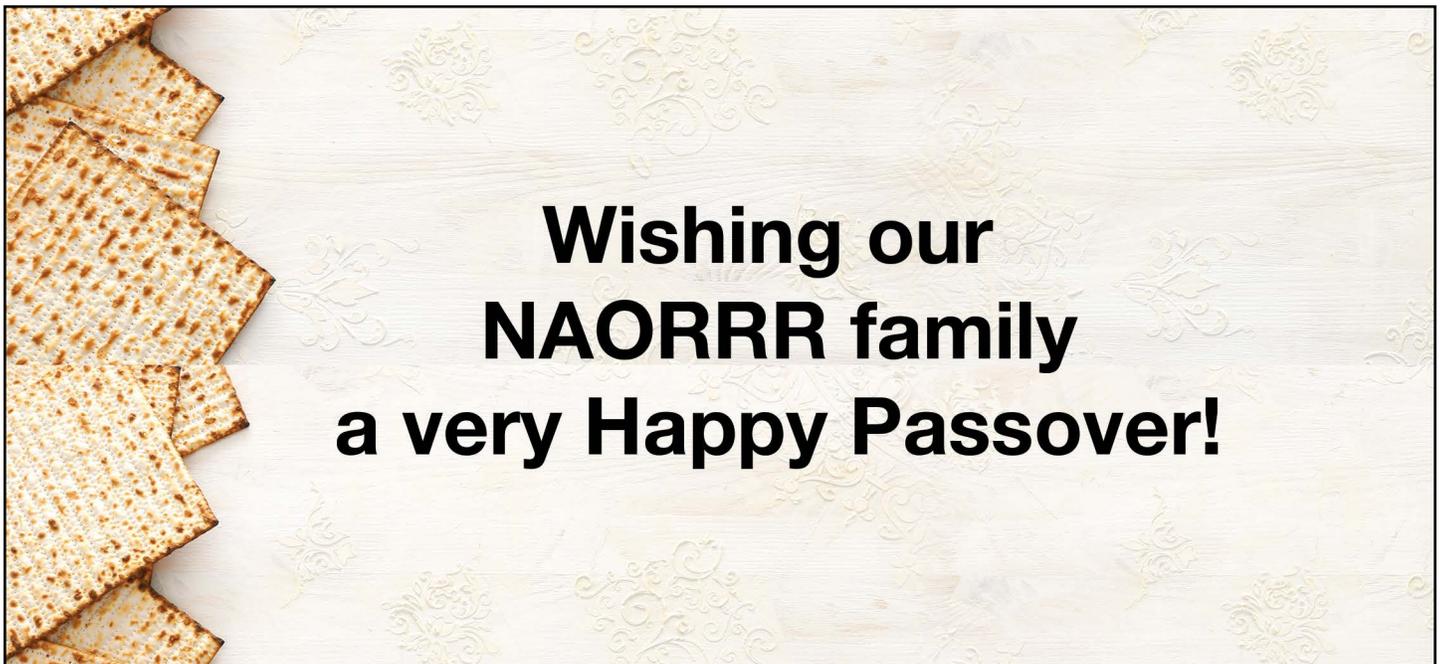
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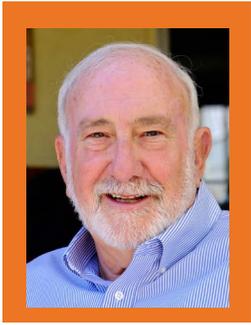
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**Wishing our  
NAORRR family  
a very Happy Passover!**



# YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

Norm Roman, First Vice President

## THE TEACHINGS OF ‘MY’ RABBI

As I write this message on Erev Purim 5785, I know that there are many who guided me to-

wards and in the Rabbinat, now smiling at my having been chosen for a leadership role in NAORRR. Some are dwelling in the *Yeshivah Shel Ma’alah*, while others are, thankfully, still sharing the community of men and women who have found the same contentment and fulfillment as I through these last 50 years since receiving *S’michah*. I am grateful to all of them, as I am to my wife and family, also.

I thought it appropriate, then, to honor a Rabbi whose Torah and life influenced me greatly, and whose words will, I trust, resonate with many of you:

I am a descendant of Eliezer ben Yehuda Papo (1785-1828), Sephardi Rabbi and teacher of Musar, who led several communities in Bulgaria and Romania. Among other works, his classical text is *Pele Yo-etz*, which has been translated into English and annotated by our colleague, Marc D. Angel. First published in Constantinople 200 years ago this month, it was written in Hebrew so that it could be read and used by all Jews, Sephardim and Ashkenazim alike. Indeed, as in Rabbi Angel’s introduction, “Rabbi Papo stressed the need for all Jews to treat each other as members of one family. He was very distressed by the antagonism between” the streams of Am Yisrael, proclaiming the prayer that “everyone will realize that all Jews have one God and are part of one people”.

My English edition of *Pele Yo-etz* is subtitled: An Encyclopedia of Ethical Jewish Living. Its topics and commentary are arranged alphabetically, according to Hebrew terms. As I thought about this upcoming year in NAORRR, I sought out Rabbi Papo’s teaching about the word “Chevruta”:

[Disclaimer – the following is my own ‘updating’ of Rabbi Angel’s translation.]

### CHEVRUTA - COMPANIONSHIP

It is important to have a good and God-fearing

companion with whom you can share your secrets and consult for advice. “The one who listens to advice is wise” (Proverbs 12:15).

A suitable partner is essential for Torah study, since those who learn together sharpen each other’s mind. Choose proper and truthful partners who will support you in your study . . . Keep away from students who stubbornly argue their points of view and will not accept others’ opinions.

Learning partners should be equals in intelligence and virtue. Such a companion is difficult to find. Just as a good companion brings succor, so does a bad companion do much harm. Make sure that your children associate only with Torah scholars.

Be very hesitant to render legal decisions, and do not be a solitary judge. If there is no one equal to you in knowledge, then argue both sides of every case in order to clarify the laws, and render judgement only after carefully scrutinizing all arguments for and against.

When studying Torah, do your best to refute your own ideas and opinions. This is a good intellectual exercise to help clarify the truth.

Consult your love-partner for advice. Our Rabbis taught that: “If your mate is short, bend down and listen to their words” (Bava Metzia 59a), for “They are your friend, the love-partner of your covenant” (Malachi 2:14).

In so many ways, Papo’s words and teaching help form the foundation which we all appreciate so much about NAORRR: we pledge to listen and respect each other, to learn with each other, to be the wisest and most compassionate companions, to be patient and tolerant with each other. Our Chevruta extends to our love- and life-partners and our children and grandchildren, for they are all sources of our strength and nachas.

As we enter the Spring Festival Season, stretching from Purim through Shavuot, may we all celebrate, remember, and give thanks for those who taught us their and our Torah.



## FORTY YEARS OF NAORRR

Laura Geller, Second Vice President

This past year we marked the 40th year of the founding of NAORRR. There are lots of significant 40s in our tradition, including that it took 40 years to get to the promised land. The purpose in 1984 was to provide support and advocacy for, and to foster fellowship among retired and about-to-be retired rabbis (who were all men), their wives/partners and surviving wives/partners. In 1984, many of the retiring rabbis had served congregations and their wives were truly their (unpaid) partners in nurturing their congregations. NAORRR became the best version of “an old boys’ network”, offering a social community for the rabbis and wives to be with friends, travel together, and support each other. Now, 40 years later, the rabbis who are retiring have had different experiences. Their spouses and partners, if they had them, were not typically involved in the rabbi’s work. Many of the rabbis are women. Many have had very different kinds of rabbinates – from congregations to chaplaincy, to education, to entrepreneurial startups.

The leadership of NAORRR is committed to imagining what the promised land for NAORRR might look like now, 40 years later. Several years ago, Executive Director Gary Glickstein openly described the elephant in the room – hardly any women. He acknowledged that in retrospect, there had been times when he had remained silent when his colleagues said inappropriate things about women rabbis, or stood in the way of a woman colleague moving into a position she wanted. He asked that NAORRR confront this past honestly. Gary and all the other leaders committed to bringing more women rabbis on to the NAORRR board and to begin to move forward with a vision that would be more inclusive of the many different kinds of rabbis who could become part of NAORRR. NAORRR wants to encourage women colleagues to get involved, but some are hesitant to join an organization where some of the older colleagues had been less than helpful, or even harmful, as these women aspired to advance their careers. NAORRR will need to change in order to attract these new colleagues.

Before the pandemic NAORRR was essentially one annual convention. During the pandemic NAORRR began to offer virtual programs where colleagues could meet over Zoom, learn together, support each other, and create a sense of connection through the isolation and loneliness so many retired rabbis and partners felt. So a program committee was formed, and the role of the 2nd vice president was transformed to be the chair of the program committee.

I am honored to be that 2nd vice president now. Since we all have access to spectacular webinars with national or international organizations or institutes, we will not try to duplicate those webinars. Instead, our programs will be targeted to the concerns and interests of retired Reform Rabbis and their partners and will benefit from the connections and networks of a terrific committee of colleagues.

We’re off to a great start. The first program was a conversation with Rabbi Mira Regev, one of the very talented MARAM rabbis who was with us at the San Diego Convention. In conversation with our president Rabbi Bennett Miller, Rabbi Regev shared with us the heartbreak of the return of the bodies of the hostages who had been murdered and how she and other MARAM rabbis were offering solace and hope to Israelis. Our March program, “Countering Antisemitism and Holocaust Distortion in Europe: Good Practices, Lessons Learned and the Challenges Ahead,” was organized by Rabbi Andy Baker, the Director of International Jewish Affairs of the American Jewish Committee and the Personal Representative of the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) Chair-in-Office on Combating Antisemitism. Rabbi Baker facilitated a discussion with Lord (Eric) Pickles, UK Special Envoy on Post-Holocaust Issues and Out Going Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and Dr. Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life.

The April program is slated for April 9 at 8:00 PM (Eastern) and will focus on the power of ritual objects

to elicit the stories that shape our Jewish memory and identity. Rabbi Michael Zedek will be in conversation with Abby Magariel, the curator of the Congregation B'nai Jehudah Klein Collection of Judaica. For this program we invite any of you with your own story of an object to bring it and be open to telling its story.

Program Committee members are Rabbi Melanie Aron, Rabbi Andy Baker, Susie Block, Rabbi Norman Cohen, James Dreyfus, Rabbi Joan Friedman, Rabbi Rosalind Gold, Cantor Gail Hirschenfang, and Rabbi

Norman Patz...along with Rabbis Jack Luxemburg, Bennett Miller, Norm Roman, and Executive Directors Rabbi Gary and Joanie Glickstein.

With hopes that Adar brought joy into this dark moment in our world...

**Rabbi Laura Geller**



**Thank You!**

## **ANNUAL CAMPAIGN 2024/2025 DONORS**

We acknowledge with deep appreciation the generosity of the following individual and institutional donors to NAORRR's Annual Campaign (April 2024-March 2025). These funds allow us to continue offering opportunities for learning, gathering at conventions, and providing financial support when needed to our membership.

**Julian Cook IMO Susie Cook<sup>z"l</sup>**

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**Suellen and Mark Winer**

**Michael Zedek**

**Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple IHO Bennett Miller**

**Congregation Beth Ahabah (Richmond, Virginia) IHO Martin Beifield**

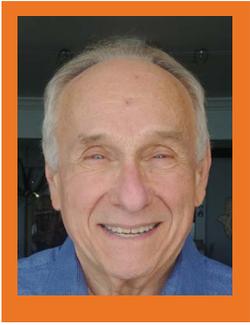
**Hebrew Union College**

**Temple Emanu-El (Westfield, New Jersey) IHO Charles Kroloff**

**Temple Israel (Memphis, Tennessee)**

**The Temple (Atlanta, Georgia) IMO Alvin Sugarman<sup>z"l</sup>**

*We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted any names.  
Please notify us at [naorrrglickstein@gmail.com](mailto:naorrrglickstein@gmail.com)*



A few of our members are aware that I wrote a musical play with two friends that was performed Off-Broadway this past year. It was an incredible blessing and an unexpected gift. When advertising the musical, the producers used all the glowing reviews that we had been given, avoiding the thankfully few negative ones.

Our convention in January in San Diego was a boffo success. Almost all the reviews were stellar. Members used glowing phrases to describe the four days of meetings: Well-Planned, Good Balance, Camaraderie-Hevruta, Welcoming, Excellent, Great, Conviviality, Quality, Ambiance, Nice People.

After we returned, Peter Grumbacher summed up the consensus beautifully in the following RAVKAV posting:

*Chaverim,  
People were incredulous when I told them I was going to attend a convention of retired Reform rabbis. "Oh," said one, "and I bet the hotel has a veranda where you and your other 'seasoned' friends will sit and regale each other with tales from the good old days!" Actually, as I told a NAORRR officer, this was a more stimulating four days than any URJ or CCAR convention that I can remember. As a matter of fact, after one session I stood and said I hoped the same quality presentation was being offered to pre-retired CCAR members who needed to hear its content far more than we whose rabbinate is behind us.*

*As an example of another dimension of this year's convention, we hosted four MARAM colleagues whose contribution to the convention brought to light their painstaking efforts to comfort their Israeli congregants post 10/7. And their participation in worship added so much to our experience. Yes, we might shoot the breeze with friends we've known for decades, as would you, but the National*

## VIEWS אלו ואלו

Gary Glickstein and Joanie Glickstein

*Association of Retired Reform Rabbis offers stimulating programs both at convention and during the year to move us off our rocking chairs to think.*

*If you're eligible to join—and your retirement need not be right around the corner—ask someone who has been a member for years or just a brief time to share with you what s/he has gotten out of NAORRR.*

Our new Convention 2026 committee is working diligently to build on that success and shape next year's convention to be held in Atlanta, January 2-6.

Our Program committee already has scheduled programs and is creatively discussing stimulating and imaginative programs for this calendar year.

All we need is you.

Please fill out the Membership 2025/2026 form in this Ohr L'NAORRR. Send it in with payment to NAORRR 1 Grove Isle Dr. #1803, Miami, FL 33133.

Next year you can write the glowing evaluations and add any suggestions and critical comments. We take them all seriously and together we continue to embrace our community of an ever-changing population of rabbis and their spouses/partners.

Our musical *David: A New Musical* ran for six weeks to mostly sold-out houses. Like all things, the run of shows ended. All of us who had poured our all into the production celebrated and then left it behind, a powerful and glorious memory. We found a new path forward.

We who have served the Jewish People and our movement for many decades have moved on and



are continuing to find new paths, new adventures, new challenges in this third stage of our lives.

For Reform Rabbis and their spouses/partners, that path can be NAORRR. We are a caring, compassionate cadre who really enjoys being together, learning, singing, eating and drinking, davening and

just hanging out.

See you online throughout 2025 and in person in 2026, *b”n*.

**Gary Glickstein**  
Co-Executive Vice Presidents  
NAORRR

**Joanie Glickstein**

Vote Reform in the WZC Elections today to support security, peace, and democracy in Israel

*Bring every hostage home*

Vote now  
ZionistElection.org

**urj ARZA VOTE REFORM**

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*EXCERPTS FROM RABBI BENNETT F. MILLER'S NAORRR INSTALLATION REMARKS*

One of my teachers, John Talbot, used to say, "People need community or else they die." You and I know that, for we provided community to so many over the course of our active years. We too need community. I trust that NAORRR serves in that sacred role, not only by the community we have in sharing at convention time but also throughout the year. In recent years we have come to understand that community is even more important to us than we knew before.

In the recent past, under the leadership of Marty Lawson, Jack Luxemburg and our precious Joanie and Gary Glickstein, NAORRR has sought to widen its tent, to welcome our more recent colleagues who are not part of an old boys' club but are part of a network of women and men, gay and straight, who proudly carry the name Rabbi, together with their spouses and partners. It is fair to say that NAORRR represents yesterday, today, and tomorrow. That has been the theme of our convention, and it is the very essence of NAORRR.

As we look at yesterday, we reconnect with friends who have been with us on the journey. The student years, the active years, the visits to Israel, the marches on Washington, summers at UAHC/URJ camps. Such fond memories of those days. And there were biennials, too. Our gathering here for NAORRR reminds us of those precious moments of sharing.

As we look at today, we renew relationships with colleagues and spouses. We reach out to them to offer them comfort when they lose

a loved one, and we are there to provide friendship and support as needed. Just think of the calls we made to dear friends in Israel this past year. Each family with whom we spoke thanked us for being there for them. These were powerful moments of sharing. And most of all we look to tomorrow. What role will NAORRR play in the coming years in the life of our members and friends? How will we strengthen our brothers and sisters in Israel as they face the future? What mark can we make on our Jewish community, a community in transition from a golden age to ... we really don't yet know.

This much I do know: NAORRR is made up of members, rabbis and spouses who continue to care deeply about the Jewish People, about the future. NAORRR possesses a pool of dedicated folks waiting to be asked to help create the future...

And this much I also know. Our colleagues and friends need us, we need each other. Like it or not, we are all aging, even me. We need to support one another. I attend a virtual minyan each day. I have been doing so since my mother died a few years ago. I cannot tell you how comforting and strengthening it is to be a part of it. And I don't have to leave home to participate. Perhaps NAORRR should consider establishing such a minyan as well or encourage friends to join the minyan that I attend. I am not there as rabbi, but simply as one Jew being in community with other Jews, being comforted and strengthened by

each other, near or far. In our minyan we have folks from Omaha and Florida and Chicago and Indianapolis and New York, New Jersey, Boston, and Maryland, too... Perhaps it is time for an additional staff person who will oversee "Caring for each other," creating that minyan that I mentioned, establishing a caring committee of NAORRR members who will reach out far and wide to members who are in need, the home-bound, the caregiver, the financially stressed... Friends, I want to suggest that we build such a system of caring throughout NAORRR. We can't expect the CCAR or URJ or even HUC to do that for us. Each of those organizations has their own agenda to attend to. But we can create a "caring community system" that will serve as model for our entire movement. So, when you get the call to be part of this, say "yes, count me in." And let's build a community that is a real "*kehillah kedosha*." If so, the title emeritus will truly mean earned with loving merit and by a grateful community. I conclude with gratitude to each of you. I look around the room and see folks with whom I have shared the story of our lives. You and me, we together, have really made a difference. Thank you for all that you mean to me, to each other, to our communities which we have served, and for our lives of service to our people. May we all continue to be of such service for many years to come.




# NAORRR

National Association of Retired Reform Rabbis



**CONVENTION 2025**



## 2025/2026 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAORRR welcomes all CCAR members who are retired or who are 60 or older, their spouses and surviving spouses or partners.

**Please complete and PRINT clearly Date:**

Rabbi's name Ordination: Year ____ <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NY <input type="checkbox"/> LA <input type="checkbox"/> J Nickname, if preferred _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
Spouse or Partner's name Ordination: (if rabbi) Year ____ <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NY <input type="checkbox"/> LA <input type="checkbox"/> J Nickname, if preferred _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
Surviving Spouse's name Ordination year & campus of deceased spouse: Year ____ <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NY <input type="checkbox"/> LA <input type="checkbox"/> J Name of deceased spouse _____	* No dues required
Additional contribution to support Hesed/Mitzvah Fund	\$
Additional contribution to support Convention Assistance Fund	\$
Additional contribution to support NAORRR Re-Imagined	\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT REMITTED</b> <i>(make checks payable in US funds to NAORRR)</i>	\$

Check here if would like to receive your Ohr L'Naorrr newsletter ONLY via an email link.

### WE NEED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Street Address		
City	State	Zip
Member or surviving spouse email	Member or surviving spouse home phone	Member or surviving spouse cell phone
Spouse or Partner email	Spouse or Partner home phone	Spouse or partner cell phone

**Send dues and this form to:**

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**Email: naorrrglickstein@gmail.com**  
**Website: <https://www.naorrr.com>**



# BOOK REVIEW

Review by Fred Davidow

## THREE NEW BOOKS BY RABBI LANCE J. SUSSMAN, PH.D.

Old age is harvest time for the learned and Lance Sussman, C-1980, C-Ph.D. 1987, has brought in three large bundles of sheaves in the form of three new books: *Portrait of an American Rabbi: In His Own Words* (2023); *Portrait of a Reform Rabbi: Continuity and Change* (2024); and *Portrait of a Rabbi-Historian: How Did We Get Here?* (2025). Each book is an anthology of his various writings since ordination.

The first adjective to describe Lance is prolific. Contrary to the limits of volume in the physical world, a mind already full of knowledge can continue to receive more, because if one has learned much, one can continue to add to one's knowledge. Ideas and themes continue to crop up in Lance's mind. He finds new stories to tell and he has an exceptional aptitude for telling them well.

A second adjective to describe Lance is pastoral. *Pirkei Avot* 1:15 comes to mind: והרי מקבל את כל האדם בסבר פנים יפות. Greet every person with a cheerful expression on your face. When Lance retired in 2022 as the Senior Rabbi of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, the portrait of him that was commissioned to grace a wall in the lobby of the synagogue shows the two aspects of his career: the rabbi and the historian. He is seated in a chair with an open book- his own *Isaac Leeser and the Making of American Judaism* (1995) in his lap. He had been reading some history but stops and looks up with a smile on his face. Okay with the interruption, he is ready to acknowledge the presence of a congregant. I've heard it said that when a person asks orthodox rabbis to answer a question, they look into a book of laws. When someone asks reforms rabbi to answer a question, they look into the person's heart. Lance puts aside his history book and listens attentively to the congregant. Lance's portrait illustrates the double life he has led: the

pastoral rabbi and the prolific academic historian. The portrait is on the cover of the first volume of the trilogy.

Lance reports on how his parents shaped the life he was to lead. His mother Freda, a refugee from Nazi Germany in 1938, gave him "the gift of a life grounded in Judaism." His father Charles, a decorated World War II combat soldier, became a public school history teacher and "instilled a passion in [Lance] for history and historical research." Together they inspired Lance to invest his life with a sense of purpose.

Jacob Rader Marcus prized Lance as "one of his best" students and encouraged him to pursue a doctoral dissertation with him. Marcus modeled for Lance four criteria for historical scholarship: (1) belief "in scientific, critical historical methods"; (2) preference for "empirical research" instead of "theoretical discussion" and the effort "to write history in a nontechnical fashion"; (3) the belief that "a



good historian also had to be a good psychologist"; (4) the historian needed to "genuinely [love] the Jewish people and deeply [believe] in the ethical vision of the prophets of ancient Israel." In his new

series, Lance adheres to these criteria in his historical writings.

Lance is a youthful *zakein*. He continues to sow seeds whose produce will be bundled into yet another sheaf. His research and writing continue unabated in his retirement from the pulpit but not from scholarship. Lance's new books can be obtained online from Amazon.

*Rabbi Fred V. Davidow, C 1973*

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# POSTCARD



JOIN US FOR  
THE NAORRR  
CONVENTION  
IN ATLANTA  
JANUARY 2-6,  
2026!

*Greetings from*  
**ATLANTA**