***Azkarah*- NAORRR**

January 4, 2019Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl

This Shabbat, we gather to recognize the legacy of our colleagues who were summoned to eternity since we last assembled. At their ordinations, they were charged with the mission *lehagdil Torah ul’ha-adirah*, to magnify and glorify the ideals of Torah.

Each one understood that mandate differently. Most chose sacred service as congregational rabbis. Others held positions as seminary faculty members or Hillel directors.

As rabbis, in whatever capacity, they strove to achieve that delicate balance between their prophetic and priestly roles and between their professional duties and their domestic responsibilities.

Some of these colleagues achieved national prominence, while others labored quietly in relative obscurity. Yet, in their own individual ways, they achieved something of significance in advancing the ideals of Judaism and fulfilling the sacred aspirations of the Jewish people.

We who gather here may know all or some or none of those whom we are memorializing. Yet, even as recall their names, we are keenly aware that in a few generations, they, in their individuality and uniqueness, will no longer be recognized.

Their names may become forgotten in a less than a century from now.

However, what they accomplished, whether in small, simple ways or in more monumental achievements, will impact the Jewish people and the human family for decades, if not centuries, into the future. Indeed, their deeds will long outlive their personas.

At this hour of reflection, may we grasp the profound wisdom of the author of a prelude to the Kaddish in *Gates of Prayer*: “And let no man or woman support that the smallest act of goodness is wasted for society at large. All our help, petty though it be, is needed; and though we know not the manner, the fruit of every faithful service is gathered in.”

In this spirit, we call to heart and mind, these NAORRR colleagues and spouses who have departed this transient life for life eternal. We shall remember each of them, with solemn reverence, by their name, their ordination class and their last position before retiring:

Daniel Allen, Cincinnati, 1976, Senior Vice-President of the Jewish Federations of North America

Philip Aronson, New York, 1969, Rabbi of Temple Beth Am, in Jupiter, Florida

James Cohn, Cincinnati, 1978, Rabbi of Temple Israel, in Charleston, West Virginia

Frank Fischer, New York, 1962, Hillel Director at University of North Carolina

Bernard Frank, Cincinnati, 1960, Rabbi of Beth Or, now in Maple Glen, Pennsylvania

Meyer Heller, Cincinnati, 1950, Rabbi of Temple Emanuel, in Beverly Hills, California

Bernard Honan, New York, 1951, Rabbi of Temple Emanu El, in Longview, Texas

Lynne Landsberg, New York, 1981, Senior Advisor of Disability Rights at Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, in Washington, D. C. and Rabbi of synagogues in Staunton and Harrisonburg, Virginia

Mark Miller, Cincinnati, 1974, Rabbi of Temple Bat Yam, in Newport Beach, California

Robert Miller, Cincinnati, 1958, Rabbi of Temple Beth Avodah, in Newton, Massachusetts

Stephen Passamaneck, Cincinnati, 1960, Professor of Rabbinic Literature, at HUC-JIR, Los Angeles

David Posner, Cincinnati, 1973, Rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, in New York

Harold Salzmann, Cincinnati, 1950, Rabbi of Anshe Amunim, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Allan Schwartzman, Cincinnati, 1955, Rabbi of synagogues in Vicksburg and Greenville, Mississippi

Max Selinger, Cincinnati, 1958, Rabbi of B’er Chayim, in Cumberland, Maryland

Daniel Treiser, New York, 2000, Rabbi of Temple B’nai Israel, in Clearwater, Florida

Isaac Yerusalmi, Professor of Bible and Semitic Languages, HUC-JIR, Cincinnati

Isaiah Zeldin, Cincinnati, 1946, Founding Rabbi of Stephen S. Wise Temple, in Los Angeles

We also recall, in loving reminiscence, the spouses of our colleagues, who left our midst for life eternal:

Deborah Berkson, wife of Marc Berkson

Hilda Gelfman, widow of Harold Gelfman

Barbara Kadden, wife of Bruce Kadden

Hanna Kravitz, wife of Leonard Kravitz

Richard Siegel, husband of Laura Geller

Anita Fay Tosk, widow of Morris Tosk

Irlene Waldman, widow of Elliot Waldman

Marian Weinberg, widow of Dudley Weinberg

Harriet Zion, widow of Joel Zion

In this memorial roster, we highlight the name of *Morenu Harav*, Aaron Pankin, New York, 1991, President of HUC-JIR, master teacher of rabbis, who was tragically called to assume his place in the *Yeshivah shel Ma’alah*, in the months just ended.

*Zikhronam liverakhah*, may all their memories remain a blessing. And now, in praise of the Holy One, whose keenly remembers all of us, both in life and in death, we rise, as able, and say:

(*Kaddish*)

May the Source of peace bestow peace upon all these bereaved rabbinical families and upon all the *aveilei Tzion ViRushalayim*, all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, especially the families of the murder victims at Tree of Synagogue in Pittsburgh. And let us all say, Amen.