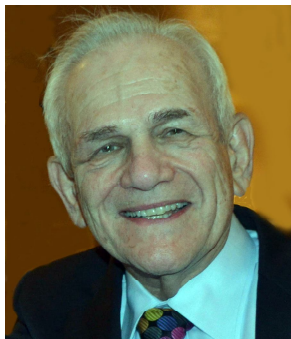


From the President



Self-Discovery in Elul

For me, Elul is a difficult and challenging month. I write these words in the first days of Elul feeling a certain amount of anxiety and concern. Yet, as ever, I am full of eager hope. I

reflect: What's going on in me?

Elul used to be my time of deepest *angst* as I pondered what I wanted to say to my congregation during the holy days. Writer's block captured me more often than I like to remember. Should my message contain admonition or encouragement? What were my deepest insights? How could I best express them? Which topic should I address during which holy day? What events were happening daily that would affect the meaning of my message? How many sermons did I discard because of new timely events that changed everything? Every topic I considered forced me to question exactly what and how I wanted to express myself. So, I read and studied. I drafted; I expunged; I rewrote and I started all over. Even if I knew clearly what I wanted to say, I worried about what would be heard – my thoughts or some unintended interpretation? In my deepest darkness, I speculated: Did anyone really care? Then, I would remember the previous year when, gazing at the assembled congregation, I saw faces of Jews waiting to be inspired, moved, shaken, reassured and uplifted. Yeah, they cared and they would find ways to let me know it whether I succeeded or failed them even as they uttered what I craved to hear: "Wonderful sermon, Rabbi!" What chutzpah allowed me to think I was up to the task? Yes, I confess I wanted to be efficient; to write and speak well and to feel I had produced a quality product as befits what the Jewish People needed at this

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From the Executive Vice Presidents Rebooting Relationships



At this High Holy Day season, we are commanded to repair and rebuild relationships. On *Rosh Hashanah*, we

are reminded how radically the outing to Mount Moriah transformed the connections between Abraham and God, Abraham and Isaac, and Abraham and Sarah. When major life events (like retirement) alter our circumstances, we have an opportunity to move in fresh directions. We are goaded to reconnect with those who have grown distant, to reconcile with those whom we have harmed, to experiment with unaccustomed roles, and to reach out to new acquaintances. For many, the annual gathering of NAORRR nourishes such a renewal. We encourage you to join us in Boca Raton the second weekend in January of 2016 so that you can sample the rich offerings organized by Richard Klein and his Program Committee.

There is something you can do this fall to enhance your convention experience. If you have been enriched and uplifted at previous NAORRR conventions, you might want to be in touch with schoolmates from seminary and close colleagues from your active career. You'll have much more fun at our convention if it is a reunion with old friends. The business of NAORRR is cultivating connections.

May this season be, for you and yours, a time of renewal and reconstruction.

Beth and Frank

Beth and Frank Waldorf

From the President

continued from page 1

special time. There was a lot at stake. I knew that the sermon would be discussed – either as appreciatively significant or dismissed as boringly irrelevant. Periodically, I wondered: For whom and why was I really performing: The congregation? Me? *HaKadosh Barchu*?

It is Elul once again. No longer do I need to prepare any sermons yet this is still my time of *angst*. Strangely, during Elul, sermon ideas now flood my brain. Is it because I miss the *sturm* and *drang* of the sermon writing season, craving to be front and center once again? Is it merely the annual ingrained habit of so many years of “this is what I do during Elul?” Honesty decrees me to admit that I am still seeking significance. It isn’t just preparing a sermon I miss but rather the overall changes in my life: my body looking older, my memory increasingly fading, my energy in shorter supply, my friends and congregants becoming sick and dying, the marvelous innovations I struggled so valiantly to create in my world now changed or eliminated, my days of precious life gradually inching closer to the end. But Elul grants me no excuse, no reprieve. Elul demands that I continue to still struggle with the dilemmas of our People, that I find the excitement and value of my thoughts and actions, and that I continue to interact as enthusiastically as possible with my family and my friends. I have come to recognize that Elul no longer is about the message I craft or my answers to today’s questions that are of ultimate importance to my Norma, to our children and grandchildren, to friends of a lifetime or to the many congregants I have served for over 50 years. My mere presence, my abiding confidence for our Jewish People, my continuous hope for humanity, the fact of my footprint on this precious earth even as the oceans wash it away, my abundant gratitude and deep humility for the blessings and joys of a lifetime, and most especially, my ability still to mine fresh gems from Torah study, - this is the stuff of Elul. It is *heshbon hanefesh* as it was meant to be but which requires years of living to fully anticipate and appreciate. Elul is the also the reminder that I am not alone. I am surrounded by a magnificent array of others who are an integral measure of my essence. And yes, there is you, my treasured friends and colleagues who understand best, more than anyone, what I have just written. May our aging years continue to be blessed with wisdom, humility, and hope for the sacred preciousness of life, for the soaring aspirations of our People during the coming year and for the

joy and significance we bring to one another. Elul challenges us to become better than we think we are today, to struggle one more time with age-old questions, to strip ourselves of all the pretense and to just be the caring Jews we sought to become when first we met and thought to become Rabbis, colleagues and most especially – friends. In my minds eye, I see you very often and I look forward to seeing you in person very soon. *Kol tuv!*

Don

Donald Berlin

Rabbi Kenneth Weiss Grove Dedicated at Camp Newman



A beautiful ceremony was held on Erev Shabbat - July 17th - at URJ Camp Newman in Santa Rosa, California dedicating a section of a grove of trees planted in memory of our beloved Rabbi Kenneth J. Weiss. The ceremony was led by Marty Lawson and Steve Chester. Representing NAORRR at the dedication was Hillel Cohn.



Camp Newman (formerly Camp Saratoga, then Camp Swig) was especially significant to Sue and Ken Weiss. They met there as youths and spent many summers there when Ken served as one of the rabbinic staff. At the time of Ken’s death on April 27, 2014 NAORRR established a Kenneth Weiss Memorial Fund to which many NAORRR members and others contributed. At the 2015 NAORRR convention a beautiful needlepoint Torah breastplate was dedicated in memory of Ken. It will be used at all NAORRR conventions. The Board of NAORRR subsequently decided that the funds remaining in the Kenneth Weiss Memorial Fund be contributed to Camp Newman where the family and friends of Ken Weiss were establishing a grove of trees in Ken’s memory. A special section of that grove is now designated as a memorial to Ken from NAORRR.

From the Treasurer

As treasurer of NAORRR, it falls on me not only to help our executives, Frank and Beth, to fashion an annual budget based on moneys that you send us in the form of dues and contributions, the prompt submission of which is greatly appreciated, but also to remind you that NAORRR is ready to give away money under clearly defined circumstances.

We administer two funds which are meant to help colleagues in need. The smaller of the two, the WALLACH FUND was generously initiated by the late Benno Wallach ז"ל, and his wife Madeline for the purpose of subventing colleagues and spouses who need financial aid to attend NAORRR conventions. Requests may be made to Frank Waldorf who handles such requests in complete confidence. Since the corpus of the fund cannot be touched, sums distributed vary from year to year and depend on the number of requests and the amount of money available, as determined by how well the fund has performed. Last year \$5000 was distributed to five colleagues and spouses who might otherwise have not been able to attend our convention in Phoenix last winter.

The MITZVAH FUND, established many years ago to help NAORRR members and their spouses who for one reason or another had fallen on hard times, has been merged with the CCAR's HESED FUND. It has a much larger corpus and is used to help CCAR members of all ages. Managed by the CCAR and overseen by a joint committee co-chaired by CCAR appointee (Sandy Ragins) and NAORRR elected member, (Irwin Goldenberg) and including a second elected NAORRR member, (Jeff Stiffman), and the NAORRR treasurer as well as Steve Fox and Frank Waldorf who serve ex officio, the committee evaluates written applications for assistance in a clearly prescribed manner. It then distributes sums of money either as a gift or sometimes as a loan, on an as-needed basis. While all CCAR members may apply for help, as a practical matter, most of the recipients are older, including a number of widows. NAORRR should be proud to be able to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *gemilut hasadim*.

Thus, a final reminder and suggestion: Please send your dues and registrations in promptly. And when you do, why not think about an extra gift? Or, if your successor has control over a substantial discretionary account, you might consider soliciting a grant for NAORRR, perhaps even in your honor. Our dues alone really do not nearly cover all of the expenses involved in bringing you the extraordinary conventions to which we all have become accustomed.

And while you are in that giving mood, know that gifts to the Mitzvah/Hesed Fund or to the Wallach Fund are, of course, also always appropriate.

Safe travels to Boca,

*L'shalom,
Ralph P. Kingsley*

We are Part of One CCAR Family



The joy of connecting with other rabbis and rabbinic spouses is that so often only another rabbi or rabbinic family member truly understands "the life". The multiple roles we fill, the juggling of rabbinic and family obligations, the painful situations in which we are called to offer comfort and guidance – it is a small club of people who knows these challenges intimately. Our bond with these *chevrei* is formed early in our rabinates – and through wonderful organizations like NAORRR – continues on for years.

NAORRR is an integral part of the broader CCAR family. I have recently joined the staff of the CCAR as the Manager of Member Engagement (in addition to my work as a congregational rabbi in Tampa, FL). I had the pleasure of meeting Frank Waldorf at the recent meeting of the CCAR Board of Trustees. In my new role, I am actively looking for ways to strengthen our relationship and nourish opportunities for involvement with all of our members, including retired rabbis.

My work encompasses a number of areas – reaching out to colleagues when emergencies and natural disasters occur, strengthening our support systems for colleagues in need, and providing entry points for involvement in the broader work of the Conference in conjunction with the Board of Trustees. If you know of colleagues in need, facing illness or difficulty, I would welcome the opportunity to reach out directly, or in partnership with our MSW intern, Rabbi Rex Perlmeter.

Retired rabbis are an often under-utilized source of great knowledge and wisdom; we value your contributions and, in turn, want to be there to help and support you in whatever way is possible. I would be eager to hear from you with any thoughts. I can be contacted at btorop@ccarnet.org or 813-541-3751.

Betsy Jorop

A Note from Our 2nd Vice President

Due to a drop in membership over the past few years, Don Berlin asked me to Chair a Task Force which would look into two issues for possible change: (1) our definition of Membership and (2) our Dues schedule. The Task Force worked quickly and efficiently, agreeing to put forth the following suggestions:

- A new definition of “membership” which We eliminates the criterion of 60 years of age. This proposed change has to be approved by the Board of Trustees, and if it IS approved then it requires a 2/3 vote of the Plenum. The Board will discuss this in a telephone conference call in October, and if it is approved the Plenum vote will be held at our January 2016 convention.
- A new dues schedule which requires only Board approval, will be discussed during the telephone conference call mentioned above. As of yet it’s not entirely clear exactly what amounts possible raises in dues will be, but there WILL be slight raises.

Further attempts to make NAORRR more appealing to eligible new members are “in the works,” and my vision of the 2017 convention will reflect them as I move on in 2016 to working with a Program Committee for that convention.

Connie Golden

Something About Email Communications From NAORRR

NAORRR now has added the ability to reach out to you via email. We know that some of our email addresses are not working, so if you have not been receiving these emails, please contact Irvin Ehrlich at irvinehrlich@gmail.com and he will be happy to add you to the list.

And if you are getting the emails and would like to stop receiving paper copies, an email to Irvin will do the trick.

A Timely Suggestion

The 21st century has given all of us new tools with which to communicate.

When you are leaving a “voice-mail” message, **begin** your phone message with your callback number. If that information is at the end, one has to listen to your whole message just to write down or double-check your telephone number. If it's at the beginning, it's much easier to grab a pen and record the information.

Volunteer Opportunities

We can use your help at the convention. Here are some volunteer opportunities:

- Putting together registration materials and “goody bags” on Wednesday (late afternoon).
- Greeting and registering people at our Convention desk on Thursday from 12:00 pm to 5 pm and/or on Friday from 10 am to 12 noon (1½ hour shifts available).
- Helping to make sure prayerbooks are handed out, then collected and stored properly.
- Ushering - Making sure everyone can find a seat and is welcomed at each meal.

Please let us know of your desire to help out at the Convention by including a note in your registration envelope.



“Get Acquainted Reception for ‘First-Timers’ and ‘Singles’

**Thursday - January 7, 2016
4:30 - 6:00 pm**

Please indicate whether you will be attending by putting a note in your registration envelope or by emailing the Waldorf’s at
naorrrwaldorf@comcast.net

NAORRR - 33RD ANNUAL CONVENTION JANUARY 7-8-9-10-11, 2016 - BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CONVENTION...

THURSDAY - JANUARY 7, 2016

12:00 pm	Registration opens
4:00 pm	NAORRR Board meeting followed by dinner
4:30 pm	Reception for all "first-timers" and "singles"
8:00 pm	Opening Session - Presentation I: The Natural World in pre-Modern Judaism - David Ruderman
10:00 pm	Ice Cream Social

FRIDAY - JANUARY 8, 2016

8:30 am	Business Session - Reports from NAORRR President, Reform Pension Board, CCAR, HUC-JIR
9:45 am	Shacharit Service
10:30 am	Presentation II: the Early Modern Rabbis and Their Engagement with New Science - David Ruderman
11:45 am	Presentation by Freehof Institute of Progressive Halakha
12:15 pm	Luncheon Meetings of 2017 Program Committee, Nominating Committee, Mitzvah/Hesed Fund Committee
2:30 pm	Workshops A - A-1 The Apocrypha, A-2 The Story of Gertrude Berg, A-3 Strategies to Provide a 'Happy Ending' to Life, A-4 Biography of Stephen S. Wise, A-5 Successes in Using Videography, A-6 Involvement of Reform Rabbis in Operation Solomon, A-7 Poetry of Primo Levi
6:45 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat & Erev Shabbat Dinner

SATURDAY - JANUARY 9, 2016

9:30 am	Shabbat Morning Service NAORRR honoring ordinees of 1966
1:00 pm	Shabbat Luncheon Presentation on Israel - Eric Yoffie
8:00 pm	Dessert Buffet, <i>Havdalah</i> and Program featuring Peri Smilow

SUNDAY - JANUARY 10, 2016

9:15 am	NAORRR Business Session including reports from Executive Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Nominating Committee
10:30 am	Shacharit Service
11:30 am	Presentation III - Explorations in Pinhas Hurwitz's <i>Sefer Habrit</i> - David Ruderman
1:00 pm	Luncheon Meeting of new board
2:30pm	Workshops B - B-1 The Apocrypha, B-2 The Story of Gertrude Berg, B-3 Strategies to Provide a 'Happy Ending' to Life, B-4 Biography of Stephen S. Wise, B-5 Successes in Using Videography, B-6 Involvement of Reform Rabbis in Operation Solomon,
6:30 pm	Pre-Banquet Reception
7:30 pm	Banquet with Consecration of new officers and board

OUR SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE - DAVID B. RUDERMAN



Dr. David B. Ruderman has served on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania since 1994. He currently is the *Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History*. He was also the *Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania* for twenty years from 1994 to 2014. He is the author of numerous scholarly works. He was educated at the City College of New York, the Teacher's Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Columbia University. He received his rabbinical ordination from HUC-JIR in 1971 and then earned a Ph.D. in Jewish History from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, in 1975. He has received numerous honors and has served on a number of boards including service as president of the American Academy for Jewish

Research (2000-2004).

OUR ENTERTAINER - PERI SMILOW

Peri Smilow will be the featured performer at our Saturday night program and will also participate in our Shabbat services. Peri is a nationally recognized performer, composer, educator and activist. Her music and message of *tikkun olam* have been heard throughout the US, Canada, England, Singapore and Israel. She has released four recordings of original contemporary Jewish music including *Songs of Peace*, *Ashrey*, and *The Freedom Music Project*; the music of Passover and the Civil Rights Movement featuring an electrifying 18-voice choir of young Black and Jewish singers celebrating the freedom music of their traditions. Peri's newest release, *BLESSINGS*, is intimate and uplifting. It draws on Peri's experience as a cancer survivor, wife and mother and celebrates the importance of her relationship with loved ones, friends, community and faith.



*50th Anniversary of Ordination
to be Celebrated at 2016 Convention*



Class of 1966 - HUC-JIR Cincinnati



Class of 1966 - HUC-JIR New York (photo courtesy of American Jewish Archives)

A cherished tradition at NAORRR conventions is to honor those colleagues who are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordination. At the Erev Shabbat service they will be presented with their Honorary Life Membership in the Central Conference of American Rabbis and on Shabbat morning they and their spouses/partners will be called up for an *Aliyah* and receive *Mazal Tov* and *Yasher Koach* wishes of NAORRR. Many of the members of the Class of 1966 who will be in attendance at the convention and their spouses/partners will be participants in various parts of the program. NAORRR looks forward to this celebration.

Unsolicited Advice...

Editors Note: There is no shortage of advice on all sorts of subjects. A friend recently shared a compilation of advice for "seniors." Here are some excerpts from that collection:

1. Keep a healthy life, without great physical effort. Do moderate exercise (like walking every day), eat well and get your sleep. It's easy to become sick, and it gets harder to remain healthy. That is why you need to keep yourself in good shape and be aware of your medical and physical needs. Keep in touch with your doctor, get tested even when you're feeling well. Stay informed.

2. Don't stress over the little things. You've already overcome so much in your life. You have good memories and bad ones, but the important thing is the present. Don't let the past drag you down and don't let the future frighten you. Feel good in the now. Small issues will soon be forgotten.

3. ALWAYS stay up-to-date. Read newspapers, watch the news. Go online and read what people are saying. Make sure you have an active email account and try to use some of those social networks. You'll be surprised which old friends you'll meet. Keeping in touch with what is going on and with the people you know is important at any age.

4. Some people embrace their golden years, while others become bitter and surly. Life is too short to waste your days on the latter. Spend your time with positive, cheerful people, it'll rub off on you and your days will seem that much better. Spending your time with bitter people will make you older and harder to be around.

5. Pain and discomfort go hand in hand with getting older. Try not to dwell on them but accept them as a part of the cycle of life we're all going through. Try to minimize them in your mind. They are not who you are, they are something that life added to you. If they become your entire focus, you lose sight of the person you used to be.

6. If you've been offended by someone - forgive them. If you've offended someone - apologize. Don't drag around resentment with you. It only serves to make you sad and bitter. It doesn't matter who was right. Someone once said: "Holding a grudge is like taking poison and expecting the other person to die." Don't take that poison. Forgive, forget and move on with your life.

7. Laugh. Laugh A LOT. Laugh at everything. Remember, you are one of the lucky ones. You managed to have a life, a long one. Many never get to this age, never get to experience a full life. But you did. So what's not to laugh about? Find the humor in your situation.



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