

From the President

Many of you have already heard, maybe far too often, that I started out working toward a career in electrical engineering. Only midway through my doctoral program did I decide that it was time to make a change and enrolled at HUC-JIR. My academic and career interests may have veered in a new direction, but the brain of



the engineer was and is still there. I continue to be interested in the role that science plays in our society and in our Jewish world. This is nothing new. Long before RAMBAM came along and tried to resolve what some called the conflict of science with Judaism, rabbis had been involved, out of necessity, in scientific studies that helped them craft *halachic* opinions.

For some, the clash of science and religion in our time focuses on the reliability of revealed knowledge as opposed to what we learn from applying scientific methodology. I believe that some issues are subject to scientific inquiry while others must be considered as matters of faith. Problems arise when faith teaching dismisses or prohibits scientific exploration.

I am delighted to see that our movement is offering our teenagers who are interested in science and technology a premier camping experience. What I would have given for summer camp that didn't specialize in all of the athletic activities I failed at.

On the other hand, in spite of my belief that our high school and college age students should be encouraged to pursue interests in science and technology, I am distressed by policies which, in the long run, risk undoing the benefits of an increased number of our students enrolled in STEM programs – Science, Technology,

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From the Executive Vice Presidents

100 Years of Cooperation



During 2017, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB), a

remarkable institution in American Jewish life. The governing Plenum consists of sixteen rabbis, four each from CCAR, Rabbinical Assembly, and Rabbinical Council of America; three senior Jewish chaplains; and the executives of the rabbinical organizations. This group remains the sole arena in which Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist and Reform rabbis cooperate on religious matters with mutual respect. The common goal at the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council is to support a ministry to Jews serving the country in the armed forces and Veterans Administration. A recent achievement is the publication of a *siddur* for the military approved by all three rabbinical organizations.

Since 2007, Harold Robinson (Rear Admiral retired, US Navy) has been the professional director of this organization, which functions under the auspice of the Jewish Community Centers Association. In his role, Harold has been responsible for annual training conferences for Jewish chaplains, making field visits to rabbis and their commanders, troubleshooting, and advocacy for Jewish life at the highest levels of uniformed military leadership and the Department of Defense and at the political level both in the House and Senate (everything from *kippah* through *brit milah* to holiday observance). His retirement is scheduled for the end of 2016. At our 2017 Convention, he will be

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President's Message

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Engineering and Mathematics. In my retirement home state, colleges and universities are being forced to increase the number of students involved in STEM programs while reducing the numbers enrolled in the humanities and social sciences.

That triggers alarm bells in my analytic and my spiritual brains at the same time. Technological progress and advancement can do wonderful things to improve the lives of men, women and children. But unrestrained technological advancement can lead to unimaginable harm if not evaluated in a value-centered perspective of the world.

Those of us who have spent most of our lives engaged, directly or indirectly, in understanding and explaining the spiritual implications of the world around us need not retire, or perhaps more accurately, should not retire, as voices for ethical, just and sustainable human progress.

As the holidays approach Ellen and I wish you all a healthy and fulfilling new year.

Richard
Richard Klein



We can really 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 (2 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 noting it at the bottom of the back page of the registration form.

From Our Executive Vice-Presidents

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a featured speaker in order to honor the scores of rabbis who have been among the hundreds of military Jewish chaplains. We also invite former chaplains to be acknowledged and saluted by registering at a special website created by the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council. If you haven't already done so, please take five minutes to register your service at <http://jcca.org/jwb/chaplain-check-in/>

You may want to dig out your DD214. You will be asked MM/DD/YYYY of entry and exit from the military.

If you are in touch with survivors of a deceased chaplain, please urge them to register the service of their loved one.

If you have questions or comments please contact Frank Waldorf, chair of the CCAR delegation to JWB, at sinairabbi8@gmail.com.

The Magic that is NAORRR

Who could have guessed, in 1983, that the organization being founded that year would be planning for its 34th annual convention? Across the decades, a critical mass of retired rabbis and their significant others has gathered for fellowship, worship, study, and fun. Feedback about conventions is enthusiastic and appreciative. Colleagues have stepped forward to accept leadership roles, present workshops, and attend to the administrative details that keep the organization afloat. Remarkable individuals have donated stupendous numbers of hours to edit our newsletters, keep track of our finances, plan our conventions, maintain our website, honor our 50-year celebrants, administer cruise chaplaincies, maintain archives, and reach out to those no longer able to attend conventions. An amazing degree of generosity has meant that the modest financial needs of the organization have always been met.

As passive consumers, Beth and Frank loved this organization long before we were recruited to be the sole paid employees. We enjoyed conventions without ever considering the inner workings of the organization. In the past two years, we have become astounded by the strength and resilience of this *chevra*. Now, even observing from the inside, we still struggle to

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grasp the full meaning of NAORRR's three and a half decades of success

NAORRR is magic. Perhaps it is a niche market, an acquired taste, a bumblebee that should never be able to fly much less soar. Here's the conundrum that inspires our awe: Although there are a thousand Reform rabbis who are eligible for NAORRR membership, less than 20% pay membership dues, and about 10% come to the annual convention. The best-represented graduation classes attract less than 50% of their alumni. Nonetheless, year after year, a bunch of happy colleagues gathers with joy and laughter. We are a genuine *chevra*, generating new friendships, strengthening long-standing ones, caring for one another in retirement, inspiring each other with our thoughts, our feelings and our concerns as Judaism evolves dramatically. NAORRR also provides a unique, inclusive and desirable place for our spouses after all our years as rabbis. The bottom line is that those who are involved paying dues and attending conventions are committed, connected and caring in a very special way. We hope that you will join us and share our experience as we support one another in friendship and love. We look forward to greeting you in Phoenix!

Beth and Frank

Beth and Frank Waldorf

Applications For Assistance from the Wallach Fund

Thanks to the generosity of the late Benno Wallach and his widow, Madeline, NAORRR has funds to assist members who might need financial assistance in order to attend the annual conventions. Please contact the Frank Waldorf for an application form. Applications are due by Friday, October 28, 2016. The plan is to inform people about the amount of their grant from the Wallach Fund by Friday, November 11 so that travel and other arrangements can be made in a timely manner. All transactions are held in strictest confidence. Don't be shy. In a typical year, funds have not been exhausted.



The Face of NAORRR at CCAR

NAORRR leadership is eager to see more of our members taking significant roles at CCAR conventions. If you would like to present a program or workshop at a CCAR convention, please submit a proposal for 2018 to Daniel Septimus, dseptimus@texashillel.org.

Programming Begins for Our 2018 Convention

Michael Eisenstat is chairing the Program Committee for the 2018 NAORRR convention from which will be held from Thursday, January 4th through Monday, January 8th in Boca Raton. If you have an interest in leading a workshop at the 2018 convention let Michael know. You can email him at michael.eisenstat70@gmail.com.



**Get Acquainted Reception
for 'First-Timers'
and 'Singles'
Thursday - January 5, 2017
5:30 - 6:30 pm**

On your convention registration form
please indicate whether
you will be attending.

Did you know that we send out email notifications using the *ConstantContact* program? We note that a number of our members are receiving the electronic mailings, but are not opening them. Perhaps you are sending it to your spam or trash folders without reading it. Please contact Irvin Ehrlich, irvinehrlich@gmail.com if you have questions.



What You Will Find on the NAORRR WebSite



The NAORRR website - www.naorrr.org - is filled with lots of interesting and useful material. The website has eleven "sections" which can be accessed by clicking on one

of the eleven buttons on the left side of the website. The eleven sections and what they currently contain are:

Home - A statement of the purposes of NAORRR, the current officers and how to contact the Executive Vice presidents.

NAORRR Membership Application - You can print out the membership form for the current year and if you have not already done so, send it in with your check so that you can be a fully participating and supporting member of NAORRR.

Ohr L'Naorrr - Current Issue - In this section you can access the current issue of Ohr L'Naorrr. Ohr L'Naorrr is published twice-a-year - in the fall and in the spring. It always contains articles and messages of interest. This issue (Fall 2016) will appear on the website concurrent with the mailing of Ohr L'Naorrr in late September 2016.

Convention Registration Form - The form that is enclosed with this issue of Ohr L'Naorrr also appears on the website. You can print it out, complete it and then mail it in so that you can be part of the fabulous 2017 convention bring held in Phoenix, Arizona.

Convention Presentations - 2016 - If you attended the 2016 convention you can revisit some of the presentations made including those made by our Scholar-In-Residence, *Divrei Torah* delivered at various services, the *Azkarah* memorializing deceased colleagues and more. And, if you did not attend the 2016 convention you can share in some of the inspirational and insightful presentations given at that gathering.

Convention Presentations - 2015, 2014 - Outstanding presentations given at these conventions. They are always worth reading.

Convention Presentations - 2013, 2012, 2011 - Other outstanding presentations given at these conventions.

Convention Photos - 2016 - A pictorial review of the last convention. It's always fun to look at these photos.

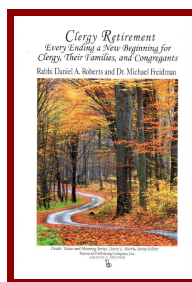
Photos - II - More photos of the last convention.

Ohr L'Naorrr Archive - Here you will find past issues of Ohr L'Naorrr.

NAORRR Constitution and By-Laws - The repository of our governing documents.

Take the time to visit the NAORRR website. Do it regularly and you will be enriched by what you find there.

Book on "Clergy Retirement" A Worthwhile Read!!!



Our colleague Daniel Roberts, in collaboration with Dr. Michael Friedman, has written a book that is of special interest to the NAORRR "family." "Clergy Retirement" is subtitled "Every Ending a New Beginning for Clergy,

Their Families, and Congregants." It was published in 2016 by Baywood Publishing Company, Inc. of Amityville, New York. This 213 page book is filled with valuable insights for those who are preparing for retirement as well as those who have already retired. Perhaps the best recommendation of this book is from our distinguished colleague, Earl Grollman:

"Warning! Do not wait until retirement to read this indispensable book. At last, this is the groundbreaking volume that will offer understanding and support to those transitioning from the active ministry. Assembled are contributions from experts offering unique recommendations for complex problems that may arise. Thoroughly researched, with compelling wisdom and guidance, this is a book to be read and reread years before retirement, not only by the clergy but by their families as well. My only regret - I wish I had discovered it before I retired."

Kol hakavod to Danny Roberts for this outstanding work.

The book can be secured through Amazon.com at \$39.95. And, think about letting your clergy colleagues - Jewish and non-Jewish - know about this book. They will appreciate it!!!

**NAORRR - 34TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
JANUARY 5-6-7-8-9, 2017 - SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA**

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CONVENTION...

THURSDAY - JANUARY 5, 2017

12:00 pm	Registration opens
4:00 pm	NAORRR Board meeting followed by dinner
5:30 pm	Reception for all "first-timers" and "singles"
8:00 pm	Opening Session - "On The Chocolate Trail" by Debbie Prinz
10:00 pm	Chocolate Desert Social

FRIDAY - JANUARY 6, 2017

8:30 am	Shacharit Service
9:15 am	Workshops I
10:45 am	Workshops II
1:00 pm	Luncheon Meetings of 2018 Program Committee, Nominating Committee, Mitzvah/Hesed Fund Committee
2:45 pm	Plenary Session I - Reports from CCAR, HUC-JIR, Atid Society, URJ
7:00 pm	Erev Shabbat Dinner
8:45 pm	T'filat Erev Shabbat including the CCAR honoring of ordinees of 1967 Sermon: Harold Robinson - "A Siddur for 20,000 Hidden Jews"

SATURDAY - JANUARY 8, 2017

9:00 am	Shabbat Morning Service NAORRR honoring ordinees of 1967 Sermon by Jim Perman
11:45 am	Shabbat Luncheon
2:00 pm	Scholar Presentation I by Jonah Pesner - "Prophetic Power and Politics: How Reform Jews Can Bring Healing and Justice to Our World"
8:00 pm	Havdalah and the return of "NAORRR's Open Mike Nightclub"

SUNDAY - JANUARY 9, 2017

9:00 am	Shacharit Service
10:15 am	Scholar Presentation II by Jonah Pesner - "From Bondage to Covenant: The Exodus as the Master Jewish Story of Social Justice"
1:00 pm	Luncheon Meeting of new board
3:15 pm	Plenary Session II - Reports from RPB, NAORRR Executive Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Nominating Committee
6:30 pm	Pre-Banquet Cocktail Reception
7:15 pm	Banquet with Induction of Officers

**OUR PRESENTERS
HAROLD ROBINSON**



Harold Robinson was ordained at HUC-JIR Cincinnati in 1974 and was commissioned as a Navy chaplain in 1975. His overseas active duty assignments have included Italy, Scotland, Iceland, Japan, Guam, Bahrain and Djibouti. He has visited forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar and Kuwait. In 2000, he was assigned as Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Reserve Matters and Director of Religious Programs, Marine Force Reserve. Since 2005, Robinson has served as the director of JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, a program that provides support and advocacy for Jewish men and women serving in the United States military, Veterans Administration and to their families. Since 2007 he has served as the JWB representative to the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) and since

2009 has served on the MCMAF Executive Committee. In 2015 he became the first rabbi to serve as the head of NCMAF. NCMAF is an organization that represents a spectrum of faith organizations that serve as endorsers for military chaplains. Robinson has served as JWB's representative to NCMAF since 2007 and has been a member of its executive committee since 2009.

Among the numerous honors he has received are the Distinguished Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Naval Commendation Medal with two Gold Stars, and the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Deployment Ribbon.

DEBORAH (DEBBIE) PRINZ



Deborah R. Prinz's book, *On the Chocolate Trail: A Delicious Adventure Connecting Jews, Religions, History, Travel, Rituals and Recipes to the Magic of Cacao*, was published in 2013. She has lectured lectures about chocolate and religion around the world.

Following her ordination at HUC-JIR in New York she served a congregation in Bergen County, New Jersey and then served as Assistant Rabbi at Central Synagogue in New York City. Following her retirement after serving as Senior Rabbi of Temple Adat Shalom in Poway, CA for almost 20 years, she served the Director of Program and Member Services and the Director of the Joint Commission on Rabbinic Mentoring of the CCAR. She is a past president of PARR, the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis.

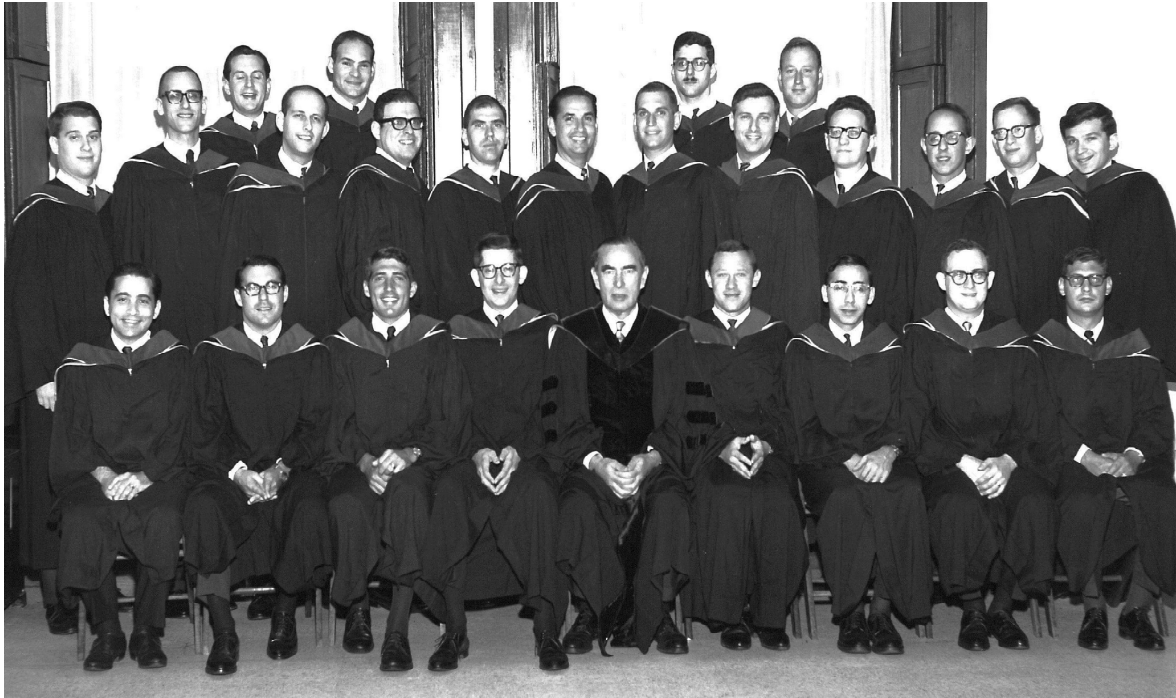
JONAH DOV PESNER



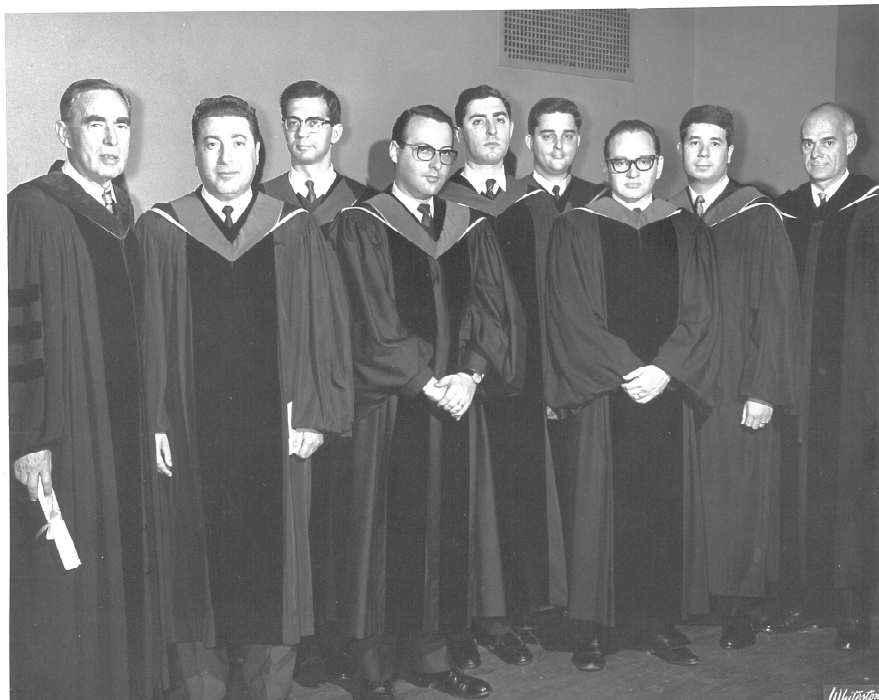
Jonah Dov Pesner serves as the Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism as well as serving as Senior Vice President of the Union for Reform Judaism, a position to which he was named in 2011. He has served as a scholar for the Wexner Foundation, American Jewish World Service, and Combined Jewish Philanthropies, among others. He currently serves as a board member of JOIN for Justice, the Leadership Council on Civil and Human Rights, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, the New England Center for Children and the World Faiths Development Dialogue.

Jonah was ordained at HUC-JIR in New York in 1997, Rabbi Pesner was a congregational rabbi at Temple Israel in Boston and at Temple Israel in Westport, Conn prior to becoming part of the senior staff at the Religious Action Center.

*50th Anniversary of Ordination
to be Celebrated at 2017 Convention*



Class of 1967 - HUC-JIR Cincinnati



Class of 1967 - HUC-JIR New York (photos 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 1967 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.

Retirement CAN Be Fruitful

(Our beloved Ag Herman, Executive Vice-President Emerita of NAORRR, continues to inspire and educate as she writes a regular column in her local newspaper. This a most recent one.)

"Mommy, long ago when you were a little girl were there dinosaurs around?" Judi was 5; I was 33. Her question was not meant to be sharp; I was amused. She really wanted to know, I hated to disappoint her! Today, many young family members look upon us as the homogenized elderly: stooped shoulders, slow moving, sitting on benches and watching time go by. In our own mirrors we eagerly look for signs that we are "aging gracefully". Changing attitudes have allowed us to soften the lines, wash out some of the gray and exercise those stooped shoulders.

Years after Judi's question I found out that retirement has perks, I retired early at 59 because I was ready to quit. Soon I enjoyed the fact that dinners, movies and even flight tickets provided senior discounts and people began to open doors for me, women and men. Really!!! Life after retirement took a very comfortable turn: I gave up boring commutes on boring freeways; I never again yearned for employment. That door was shut and locked.

Today I do not warm up a rocking chair or wrap myself in gloom. I do write appointments in pencil, so they can be easily changed. Oh, joy, oh joy: no more early mornings forever and a day. The first thing I noticed in the senior area where we used to live, were couples in the grocery store: they were shopping together, holding hands!!! Erv Herman and I held hands for more than sixty years! Retirement is a glorious opportunity to follow the dream: something we had always wanted to do, but never had the chance or the time.

Drawing on old skills and discovering new ones are the keys to our special years. We are not alone. My Dad wrote marvelous letters to me at school; gems of affection, good sense and never intrusive. Without knowing it he led me directly to my own retirement years. I took the genes he bestowed upon me and started to write.

My husband gained great satisfaction when asked to fill an absent rabbi's pulpit – no matter how small, no matter how large – he loved the changing responsibility. During a weekend in January in the late 1980's we were invited to attend the National Association of Retired Reform Rabbis' Convention. Both of us attended NAORRR hesitantly, we were not eager to be identified with a group of old folks. It snared us as fish caught in a net. Before two years elapsed, Erv and Ag Herman together became the proud Executive - Vice Presidents of NAORRR. That delicious gift of confidence was one I will always cherish, you see, I still do. It brings tears to my eyes. To lead a group of rabbis and spouses, who were no longer comparing numbers ("how many do you get on Shabbat?"), who no longer needed success defined by the size of the synagogue, was an honor that was lasting and unique.

I still believe that finding new skills to complement old ones defines what we can do, come retirement. It is the same when a friend, a pharmacist, coaches a girls' soccer team, a retired Marine succeeds in the real estate business, or a gardener who owned his own business opens a fishing tackle store or a

rebbitzin starts writing a column for a local newspaper. Retirement can be fruitful, satisfying, the fulfillment of dreams dreamt long ago.

Oh, FYI, Judi doesn't ask hard questions anymore, she already has the answers.



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