

From the President



I've just returned from a 3-day camp reunion! This was not a Jewish camp with a lake and team sports and Shabbat Services; it was a camp called "A Fine Arts Center for Young Girls," and we swam in a pool, and studied drama and

dance and art, and played tennis and golf and went horseback riding. However, since just about all the campers were Jewish (the counselors were not), we did have a non-denominational Service once a week, on Friday evening. Regardless of what religions we were, the Service was inspiring: we all prayed to the same God (no mention of Jesus or Allah or any other religious figure), and sang songs that we campers had written.

My eyes are still filled with the exquisite beauty of the "purple mountains' majesty" that surround Belvoir (from *bel voir* – beautiful to see) Terrace. My ears are still ringing with the laughter we all shared. My nose still feels refreshed from the clean air, and my taste buds are still reeling from the local fruits and vegetables of the Berkshires. Most important, my heart is still uplifted from being with old friends in a world of peace and love.

I wish my five senses could stay this way longer. I know that reality, "fake" or not, will tarnish each of them too quickly. I grieve that our world today presents us with the sadness written about so brilliantly by Frank Waldorf in this issue of *Ohr L'NAORRR*.

One of the first things I did when I came home from Belvoir was to read Frank Waldorf's article, something I had the privilege of doing as did all the members of the Executive Board. The article cried out to me, but I have no answers. What I do have, and what I hope all of us can hold onto, is God, who can fix none of it, but who can help everyone deal with it.

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From the Co-Executive Vice President



OUT OF POWER

For social conservatives, the decades after 1973 were bleak and distressing. The Supreme Court gave sanction to safe abortions for women. The ready availability of contraceptives paved the way for a sexual

revolution. Women, blacks, and Hispanics muscled their way into positions of prominence. To people like me, it was a giddy time in which the left-liberal agenda seemed to be prevailing at all levels of society. How wrong I was. For most of my adult life, the values that I treasure have been in ascendancy. What we are experiencing now is the backlash in which conservatives have seized power and are pushing back hard. Pundits say that the current administration won because of jobs and the economy. I conclude that what is of passionate interest to supporters of the president is to roll back the social change of the past half-century. They want a president who refuses to speak to the NAACP, who freely engages in racist, misogynist rhetoric, who demeans immigrants and the disabled. They revel as he trashes the establishment, the courts, and the media. They want voter suppression, bathroom laws, and exclusion of transgendered Americans from the armed forces. The "progress" in which I rejoiced is fragile at best.

But humanity has endured such periods of backpedaling before. In 1807, Napoleon convened his Sanhedrin to affirm the desire of Jews to be full citizens of France. After Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, Europe sank back into virulent anti-Semitism. In 1821, nearing death, Thomas Jefferson penned these hopeful words: "I shall not die without a hope that light and liberty are on steady advance..." Since then, the advance of freedom and justice has been spotty at best.

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President's Message

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God gives me the inner strength to cope with and live with problems personal and worldly, and it is God who fills me with the promise of peace. As I approach Rosh Hashanah of 5778, my prayer is that all of us will find inner strength and a promise of peace. The source may not be God for everyone, and for those of us who do seek God as the source it may be a difficult search. Moses was allowed to see God's back; I pray that each of us may see at least that much.

Shalom,

Connie

Connie Golden, President

From the Co-Executive Vice President

continued from page 1

Would that policies I treasure might get better treatment in the State of Israel. Alas, the *rabbanut* in Israel, backed by government power, continues its centuries-old assault on a liberal approach to Judaism. They know that they speak for God when they question our right to call ourselves Jews. They want to shape Israel in their own image; and they are pleased to have the power to impose their viewpoint on the Jewish people.

The present era requires of me patience, persistence, and indomitable hope. The ideals that have animated my life are still the lodestar I am determined to follow. I am grateful that I do not have to endure the daunting oppression visited on Uriel de Costa and Baruch Spinoza.

FAKE NEWS IS NOT NEW

Alternative facts and fake news have grabbed recent headlines; but the phenomena are not new. From of old, claims of divine revelation, resurrection, and the-world-to-come have enthralled the majority of humankind. In the Middle Ages, questioning minds like Rambam and Ramban dared only to offer mere hints about their doubts. An outspoken skeptic like Spinoza paid a dear price for his rebellion against widely held beliefs. Even today, it is hard to imagine an open atheist becoming a serious candidate for high office in the United States.

When I was young, I harbored a deep conviction that science would lead to a consensus on public policy. We would be able to keep track of best practices and use them to ameliorate the big practical problems confronting humanity. How naïve that belief turned out to be! With great regularity, there

arise voices denying the Holocaust, global warming, and the dangers of dietary fat and sugar. The financial welfare of health insurers, big pharma, industrial farming, fossil fuels, the military-industrial complex, Wall Street usually trumps what appears to be in the public interest. Think tanks churn out misleading reports that distort fact to advance the cause of their patrons. The average evening news show on local TV offers distraction from the real news with a steady dose of fires, auto crashes, and grisly murders. I don't see on the horizon a cure for misinformation and misdirection.

Frank

Frank Waldorf

Applications for Assistance from "Wallach Fund" to Attend Convention are Welcome

A few years ago, Benno ל"ר and Madeline Wallach generously established the "Wallach" Fund to assist NAORRR members who wished to attend the Annual Convention but might be precluded from doing so for financial reasons. Once again we invite anyone who might need assistance with paying such convention costs as travel, hotel, registration to apply for such aid. All you need to do is contact Beth and Frank Waldorf. All applications are held in strict confidence.

Board Adjusts Convention Registration Fees

After careful consideration the NAORRR Board of Trustees has decided that the registration fees for the forthcoming convention need to better reflect the actual costs of the convention. Thus the registration fee for the 2018 convention has been raised to \$100.00 per person (an increase of \$50.00 from the fees that have been in place for a number of years). Recognizing that this increase might pose a hardship for some, the Board has authorized an automatic \$25.00 subvention for those who request it. The subventions are being subsidized by the "Wallach Fund" which was created for the express purpose of enabling as many as possible to attend the annual convention. On the registration form you will be able to "opt-out" from the subvention if you are in a position to pay the full fee.

A Request to Aid a Colleague Doing Work on Two Projects

Our colleague Joan Friedman is currently engaged in two scholarly projects and would appreciate assistance from NAORRR members.

The first project is an article about *Keeping Posted*, the publication that was published by the UAHC and used widely in reform religious schools. The initial focus of the article is on the role played by Edith Samuel in publishing *Keeping Posted*. Joan would like to speak to anyone who knew Edith. And, if you had any communication with either Eugene Borowitz or Sam Silver in the very early years of *Keeping Posted* (1955-1960) Joan would like to speak to you as well.

In connection with this project Joan would like to receive any old issues of *Keeping Posted* that you might have. She will gladly reimburse you for postage.

Joan's other project is on the *Guide for Reform Jews* edited by Frederic Doppelt and David Polish in 1956. If you used that book Joan would like to talk with you about such questions as your response to its "theology of ritual observance", the delineation of a norm of observance for Reform Jews and other related questions. If you used the Doppelt and Polish work as a resource in your congregation Joan would be interested in knowing ways in which you used it.

You are welcome to send written comments to Joan at her email address: jfriedman@wooster.edu or a time can be arranged for a phone conversation with her by calling her at (330)263-2448.

Help Us Keep In Touch

For a number of years Bill Leffler has been making phone call to colleagues and widows of colleagues on behalf of NAORRR. These calls have been greatly appreciated and have enabled NAORRR to keep in contact with them. Recently Bill has been aided in this activity by Michael Remson. It is a most rewarding activity - a real *Mitzvah*.

If you would like to join in the *Mitzvah* of making these calls three or four times a year, please contact Michael Remson at ravremson@sbcglobal.net or (630)254-4430.

NAORRR Spouse Book

Welcomes Your Help

The joint "Spouse Writing Project", a unique collection of remembrances, memories and advice is coming along extremely well. About thirty spouses already have submitted to material on a broad range of fascinating pieces. Judy Maslin, the initiator and coordinator of this project has promises of many more to come. It is certain that this book will be delightful and informative. Gary Zola has assured that when completed the book will be an important addition to the American Jewish Archives since it covers the unique role in rabbinic and congregational life played (or not) by *rebbetzins*.

If you have been working on a memoir to be included in the book - no title yet - please let Judy Maslin know that she can expect to receive a piece from you soon, or simply send your contribution between now and the end of the summer. Your entry can be long or short. Some people have submitted anecdotes of just a few paragraphs; others have contributed essays of a number of thousand words. Most entries are about 500 to 700 words. There is no objection to including something you might have written elsewhere as long as it is not copyright protected. In order to bring this project closer to publication no manuscripts will be accepted after the High Holy Days.

If you feel at all insecure about writing, rest assured that Naomi Patz, a professional writer and editor, will do whatever editing might be necessary. She will make sure your text says what you want it to say - and all submissions will be sent back to the writer for your review before the book goes to press.

If you have any questions or need more information please contact Judy Maslin at JBMaslin@gmail.com.

NAORRR is grateful for major gifts from:



Ira Kornow

Andy Vogel, in honor of Beth and Frank Waldorf

NAORRR was the recipient of multiple gifts sent in honor of Harvey Tattelbaum on his *bar mitzva sheni*.

The Shabbat Kiddush (Luncheon) Buffet at the 2018 convention is being underwritten by Alerus Retirement Solutions.

TWO FUN THINGS TO DO ON SHABBAT AFTERNOON WHILE IN BOCA RATON

Arranged by Ann Lois Ballon - for information email Ann Lois at bubtiff@aol.com or call (256)426-2176

"Savor Downtown Boca - A Taste of Royal Palm Place" NAORRR Private Lunch Tour Saturday- January 6, 2018 1 - 4pm

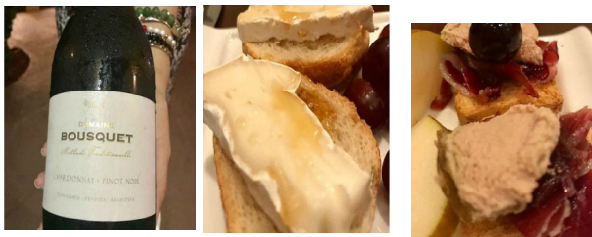
Experience an unparalleled array of award-winning dining and wine-ing choices in Downtown Boca with this 3- hour culinary adventure that will introduce you to flavors from all over the world. From intimate wine bars and bistros to vibrant night clubs, fine dining and caviar bars – there is something that will be enjoyable for all.

SAVOR DOWNTOWN BOCA TOUR INCLUDES:

Visiting & sampling signature 'bites' from 5 local restaurants and delicious gourmet specialty shops. Getting to know the neighborhood as our guide shares fun facts about Boca Raton's rich history. Uncover local artisanal delights and sights you simply won't find on your own.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE SIGNATURE 'BITES' THAT YOU WILL ENJOY:

*Homemade Pasta *Authentic German Pretzel, Brats & Bier * Thai Chili Calamari *Spanish Tapas *Assorted Crostini *Artisanal Cheeses, Wine, Charcuterie * Assorted Crepes



SPECIAL DIETARY RESTRICTIONS/FOOD ALLERGIES:

We are able to accommodate vegetarians & pescatarians, however, we are NOT able to accomodate any gluten free and vegan diets.

- * This tour is the equivalent of a full meal.
- Each tour participant will receive a goodie bag at the end of the tour with special offers from each stop on the tour.

Cost: \$75 per person, inclusive

\$50.00 per person deposit required by Nov 1 made payable to NAORRR and sent to NAORRR.

Specify that your reservation is for the SAVOR BOCA RATON TOUR.

This requires a minimum of 10 participants!

Afternoon Tea At The Chesterfield Palm Beach Special NAORRR Traditional Afternoon Tea Saturday - January 6, 2018 starting at 1:15 pm



Tea was first introduced to Britain in the 1640's as sailors returning from the Far East brought back packets of tea into the country as gifts. By 1700 tea had become a popular drink and was on sale in more than 500 coffee houses in London.

In 1840, Anna, the 7th Duchess of Bedford, pioneered the idea of Afternoon Tea. In her household the evening meals were served fashionably at 8:00 which left a long period between lunch and dinner. To stave off pangs of hunger she started to request a tray of tea, bread and butter along with some cake to be brought to her room in the late afternoon. This soon became a habit and she started to invite friends to join her for this daily ritual.

Initially this practice was limited to the upper classes and it is probably from this time that the notion of tea and aristocracy became associated with each other. In the late 1800's no well brought up young English woman could consider herself socially acceptable unless she knew how to make and present Afternoon Tea.

The Chesterfield Palm Beach has captured the elegance of Afternoon Tea.

The menu includes:

A selection of Homemade Sandwiches such as Roasted Chicken Salad, Smoked Chilean Salmon, Sliced English Cucumber, Egg Salad, Vine Ripened Tomatoes & Cheddar... Freshly Baked Homemade Scones, Selection of Seasonal Pastries... and, of course, Tea.

Two tables of six have been reserved for NAORRR. The all-inclusive cost (including gratuities) is \$40.00 per person. The deadline for reserving a place at The Chesterfield Traditional English Afternoon Tea is December 1st. You can make your reservation by sending a check for \$40.00 per person payable to NAORRR. Specify that your reservation is for the AFTERNOON TEA.

NAORRR - 35TH ANNUAL CONVENTION JANUARY 4-5-6-7-8, 2018 - BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CONVENTION...

THURSDAY - JANUARY 4, 2018

12:00 pm	Registration opens
4:00 pm	NAORRR Board meeting
5:30 pm	Open Cash Bar - A Time to Connect and Reconnect
6:30 pm	Opening Dinner With Special Welcome to "First Timers" Followed by a special NAORRR Performance by Comedian Rabbi Bob Alper
10:00 pm	Opening Night Dessert Buffet

FRIDAY - JANUARY 5, 2018

7:30 am	Breakfast Buffet
8:30 am	Shacharit
9:30 am	Address by The Hon. Ken Salazar, Former Senator and Secretary of Interior "A Retrospective on the Year on Domestic Policy"
11:00 am	Breakout Groups
12:15	Lunch on Your Own
2:45 pm	Plenary Session I
4:30 pm	Free Time
6:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Dinner
8:15 pm	Erev Shabbat Service followed by festive Oneg Shabbat

SATURDAY - JANUARY 6, 2018

7:30 am	Breakfast Buffet
9:00 am	Workshops 1. Life After Retirement: Findings from My Study of Retired Rabbis - Ken Roseman 2. How Come God Created Miracles in the Past But Not Now? A Rational Answer - Rifat Sonsino 3. New Rituals for New Life Stages - Richard Address 4. Validations from Science - Herb Bronstein 5. Amy Herzog - A New Talent of American Theatre - Diane Steinbrink 6. Senior Rabbis and Rabbis Emeritii: An Honest Appraisal - Joe Black and Steve Foster
10:30 am	Shabbat Morning Service
12:30 pm	"Light" Kiddush (Luncheon) Buffet sponsored by Alerus Retirement Solutions
1:15 pm	Afternoon Workshops 1. How Come God Created Miracles in the Past But Not Now? A Rational Answer - Rifat Sonsino 2. Growing Older, Growing Better: A Text Based Approach to Life's Third Age - Richard Address 3. The Jewish Funeral Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow: Has the Rabbi's Role Changed? -Keith Kronish 4. On Raising A High Functioning Autistic Child - Marlene Ringler

1:15 pm	Free Time - Alternate Activities: "Savor Downtown Boca - A Taste of Royal Palm Place" "Afternoon Tea at The Chesterfield Palm Beach"
7:45 pm	Havdalah - Rabbi Joe Black in Concert - followed by Ice Cream Social

SUNDAY - JANUARY 7, 2018

7:30 am	Breakfast Buffet
9:00 am	Shacharit Service
10:00 am	Scholar Presentation by Josh Weinberg - "Retrospective on Foreign Policy With Special Emphasis on Israel"
11:30 am	Breakout Groups
1:00 pm	Meeting of Outgoing, Continuing and New Board of NAORRR
3:00 pm	Address (tentative) by the Hon. Deborah Wasserman Schultz
6:30	Pre-Banquet "Happy Hour"
7:15 pm	Banquet Honoring those celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordination Recognition of old and new board

MONDAY - JANUARY 8, 2018

7:30 am	Breakfast Buffet
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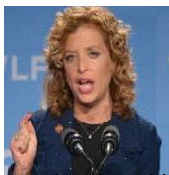
OUR PRESENTERS



KEN SALAZAR served as the 50th United States Secretary of the Interior in the administration of President Barack Obama.. Before he was appointed to serve as a member of the cabinet he served in the United States Senate representing Colorado and prior to that served as Attorney General for Colorado.. Mr. Salazar's law practice is focused on corporate governance, energy, environment and natural resources, and with Seth Waxman, leads the firm's efforts on tribal issues.



JOSHUA WEINBERG has been President of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. since 2013. He was ordained from the HUC-JIR Israeli Rabbinic Program in Jerusalem. Josh previously served as the Director of the Israel program for the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and as a faculty member of NFTY-EIE High School in Israel teaching Jewish History. Josh is a reserve officer in the IDF spokesperson's unit, has hiked the Israel National Trail, and came on Aliyah to Israel in 2003.



DEBORAH WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (tentative) has been a member of the United States House of Representatives since 2005. For more than 20 years she has represented Florida's 23rd Congressional district, which encompasses parts of Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Before joining the U.S. Congress, she was first a Representative and later a Senator in the Florida State Legislature. Rep. Wasserman Schultz is a person respected by her colleagues for her tenacity and her hard work on many important issues. In March 2009, after announcing her own battle with breast cancer, she introduced the Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act, a piece of legislation that directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop and implement a national education campaign about the threat breast cancer poses to all young women, and the particular heightened risks of certain ethnic, cultural and racial groups.

OUR ENTERTAINERS

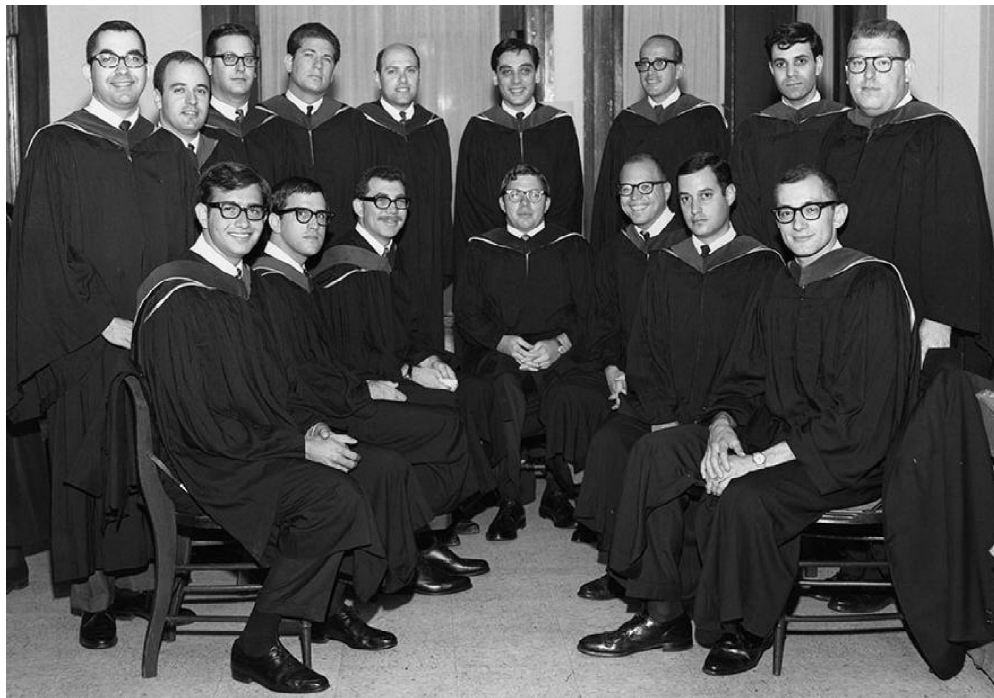


Rabbi Bob Alper
Comedian

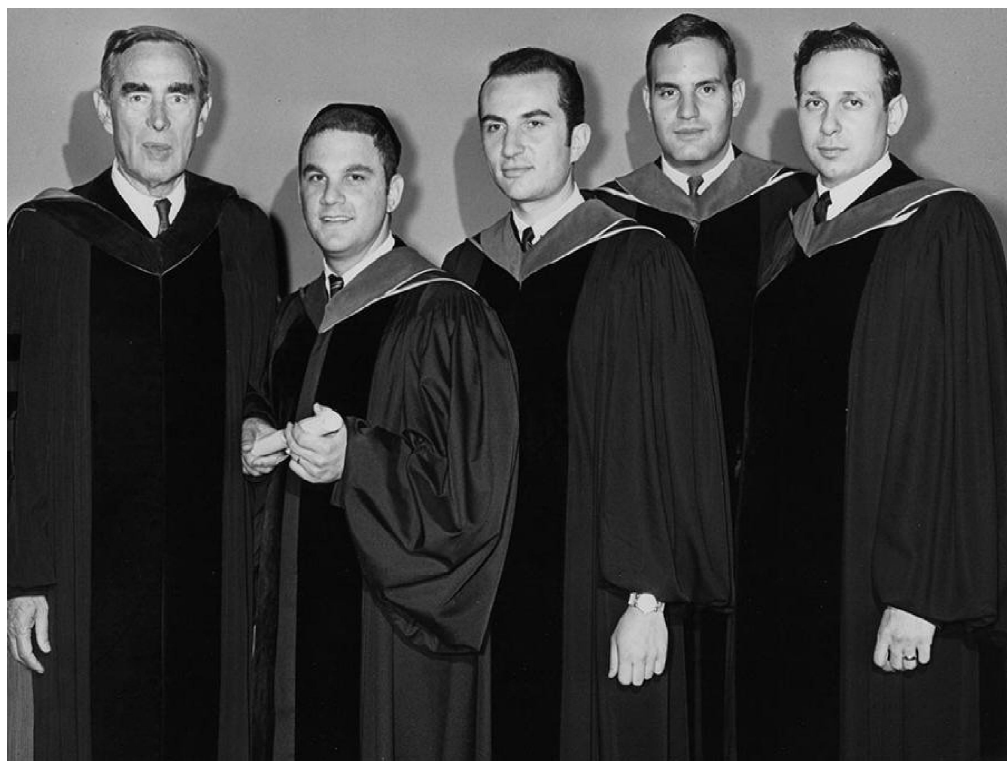
Rabbi Joe Black
Singer



*50th Anniversary of Ordination
to be Celebrated at 2018 Convention*



Class of 1968 - HUC-JIR Cincinnati



Class of 1968 - 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. During the convention they will be presented with their Honorary Life Membership in the Central Conference of American Rabbis. On Shabbat morning they and their spouses/partners will be called up for an *Aliyah*. The major recognition and honoring of the Class of 1968 will be the centerpiece of the convention banquet on Sunday night, January 7th. NAORRR looks forward to this celebration.

Staying Young in Retirement

(Editors Note: This essay by Corine Gatti was included on the "beliefnet" website recently. What appears here are selected excerpts.)

"Senior citizens are commonly thought to be out of touch with the world and are typically associated with vast stereotypes. The older folks fight a battle through the media, our culture and our conversations that they can't contribute to society. Let's face it, the aging population are rarely respected in our society. But many seniors are enjoying the second chapter of their lives. They are reinventing themselves by going back to college, teaching classes, taking dance lessons and traveling. They are starting new businesses and expanding their horizons beyond the expectations that society puts on them.

"Seniors are defying and finding there's more to retirement than cashing Social Security benefits. This is a time that they can enjoy their lives. After working for so many years, here are ways to remain young in retirement no matter what culture tries to mandate.

Start to travel more

"Traveling... slows down the aging process...You don't have to book an expensive cruise, you can just take a weekend to get away or take a day trip somewhere.

Start to volunteer

"Start to volunteer and share your talents. Ask yourself what can I do to make an impact on others around me? Actress Goldie Hawn said "You have to truly grasp that everybody ages. Everybody dies. There is no turning back the clock. So the question in life becomes: What are you going to do while you're here?" Volunteer opportunities can help you find new friends, learn new skills, help your self-esteem and feel youthful. Volunteering can help your health and give you something to look forward to every day.

Do something new

"You have a rare opportunity to find satisfaction in life by doing something new during retirement. You can start a support group, play in a band... Use your skills in a new way. "

Make new friends

"Be bold and introduce yourself to the new person in the neighborhood or during your travels. When you meet someone new try to find common interests and go from there... Having friends gives us a solid great support system when you're struggling and need guidance. Building new friendships means spending time together by attending plays, musicals or having a cup coffee to just chat. Making new friendships means learning about someone and getting outside your own head.

Simplify your life

"Cut down your clutter and get rid of things that you really don't need. By simplifying our lives we can be free to focus on what is more important in life.

Stay active

"Regular exercise will help you remain healthy. Start swimming, gardening, walking, cycling and do other low-impact exercises to keep your body in shape. Exercise also will help you remain mentally sharp. Exercise activates the part of the brain that will also help your memories!"



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NAORRR

Beth and Frank Waldorf - Executive Vice Presidents

188 Commonwealth Avenue

Chestnut Hill MA 02467-3941

email:naorrrwaldorf@comcast.net

phone: (617)965-9738

mobile:

(857)205-6604 (Frank) (857)205-6603 (Beth)

website: www.naorrr.org



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Please submit all items for publication to

Hillel Cohn, Editor

3947 Ironwood Street - San Bernardino CA 92404

email: rabbihcohn1@cs.com