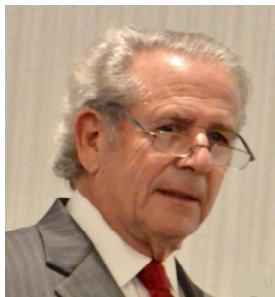


From the President



Dear Friends,

Just a few weeks ago late one Wednesday afternoon Joyce and I joined some 50 people outside the ICE facility in Denver to protest the reckless policy of our federal government that separated parents from their children. Inside

the facility were many adults who were incarcerated after their children had been taken. This was just a few days before the court ordered reunification was to take place. We were there with other members of our Jewish community to participate in a "Moral Minyan" calling attention to the fact that the victims were not alone, while we were outside and they were inside our presence, we hoped, would give them strength and courage for whatever was ahead for them and their children.

There were a number of speakers who inspired us to action. I was reminded that our generation of retired rabbis have been through all of this before. WE have lived through the days of Viet Nam, the Roe vs. Wade battle, the brutal civil rights era, and the unspeakable horrors of our people during the Holocaust. We have pledged over and over again that never again will people be denied their rights and their dignity. We rabbis have spoken out often about the fact that crimes against the weak will continue if we fail to remind people of the history of the past, that unless we speak out we will see repeated the horrors of the past.

I began to think about our retired rabbis and how we might find purpose during these difficult days. While our energy is somewhat less, our vision and our ability to speak out is not lessened by age. Our voice can be even more important now as these daily insults to our moral values continues to unfold. We rabbis are still part of the prophetic tradition that bids us to welcome the stranger, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Our values remind us everyday to cloth

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From the Interim Co-Executive Vice President



A SUPREME FAILURE

I've been thinking a lot about the Supreme Court lately, as I would guess many of you have, and in a not very happy way. With dread. Even with all the other unfathomable and unsettling things that have been happening in our country of late, in my mind the Supreme Court causes me the most consternation. Over the next 10-20 years it may well have the greatest impact on our society. We're seeing a peculiar trend, with the number of Supreme Court rulings shrinking for several years, but this past year was incredible: the Court issued the fewest (59) opinions since 1864! Their recent decisions revealed a pattern of change in American jurisprudence that is already reverberating with dangerous consequences.

In *Trump v. Hawaii*, the Court over-ruled lower courts and found that the president could lawfully exercise his discretion in preventing immigration from certain countries on the basis of national security concerns, and that there was not an anti-Muslim bias. This, according to the minority, flies in the face of legal precedent and ignores the obvious bias shown in the lead-up to the bans. This ban does not accord with our national ethos to welcome "the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Where is the America our grandparents came to a hundred years ago?

In *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute*, the Court ruled that Ohio's method of purging voter rolls by removing registrants who do not vote in consecutive elections and fail to respond to a mailed notice is constitutional. This, of course, eliminates people who may have moved and never received their notice, and entirely ignores the history of voter suppression. In fact, this law hits the poor and minorities the hardest and surely is an effort to limit voting. Similarly, in *Abbot v. Perez*, the Court reversed a federal

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From the President

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the naked, to feed the hungry, and to be present to the widow and the orphan. We are to be by their sides and make a difference in their lives.

While NAORRR as an organization is not equipped to bring our collective voices together none of us is free to be absent from the work that must be done. WE as individuals must do what we can to make these days more bearable for those who suffered enough already. Perhaps as we gather in convention in January we will be afforded the opportunity to reach out together as a group to help in some way to relieve the oppression of those who have been treated so unfairly by our government.

These days of the *yamim noraim* are days of reflection and commitment. Perhaps each of us in a personal way can find the time, the energy and the courage in our own communities to support those who need us still. May our ability to start fresh mean that we can begin again to make a difference.

Joyce joins me in wishing each of you a very happy healthy new year, one filled with purpose and meaning for us and those who need us. May it be so.

Steve

Steve Foster, President

NAORRR's Own Outreach Committee

Kudos to our Outreach Committee who really take the welfare of our members seriously. This dedicated group makes calls, especially to our "*vatikim*," those who may be house-bound or even bed-ridden, and to surviving spouses, with Rosh Hashanah greetings and at other times such as Festivals. It is clear that these calls are greatly appreciated, and that the recipients look forward to these calls.

The Committee is in need of additional volunteers to make these calls. It is a gratifying experience. As one member says, "I have become phone friends with some people I never would have known, and some are downright amazing folks. The people I call are bright and it warms my heart to talk to them."

If you - rabbis and spouses - feel prompted to be part of our Outreach Committee please let Michael Remson know of your interest (ravremson@sbcglobal.net).

From the Interim Co-Executive Vice President

continued from page 1

court that found Texas' districting maps show a discriminatory intent and violated the Voting Rights Act. It said that the legislature acted in good faith in determining there was not racial discrimination. So, minority voters in Texas will continue to be underrepresented. And again, in *Gill v. Whitford*, the Wisconsin legislature's political gerrymandering was given approval, despite clear evidence that partisan political intentions gave one party a majority not reflective of state-wide demographics.

One case particularly of interest to me was *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. Right in my own backyard, a cake-baker refused to make a wedding cake for a gay couple on the grounds that it violated his freedom of religion. While the Civil Rights Commission found that the bakery violated the state's anti-discrimination law, the Supreme Court found that the Commission "showed hostility to religion" and violated the bakers First Amendment's Free Exercise Clause!" This was a severe blow to gay rights.

There were many other cases which I don't have space to discuss that impacted labor unions and the privacy of cell phone records. And *NIFLA v. Becerra* struck a blow at abortion rights that may well be a prelude to overturning *Roe v. Wade*! This year was, at least to me, a bleak picture of how our values, our *Jewish* values, have been eroded by those who would demonize the stranger ("you were strangers"), oppress minorities and the poor, pander to homophobia, gain control over a woman's personal decisions, limit free speech, and undermine our privacy.

And if these things are frightening enough.... Just wait for the next round!

Why am I telling you all this? Because now that the Supreme Court is on a track to issue fewer and fewer opinions, the real action will swing to State Legislatures and governments to provide remedy on these issues, and we all must take action to persuade our state officials to pursue courses of action in defense of our American and Jewish values. Talk to everyone you know and help them understand what is at stake. Support our RAC, and other agencies like ADL, in their effort to reassert the vision of America I think we all share.

Julian

Julian Cook, Interim Co-Executive Vice President

Wallach Funds Available for Convention A\$\$istance



Through the generosity of Madeline and Benno ש"ס Wallach, NAORRR is able to assist members who would like to attend

our Annual Convention but who might not be able to for financial reasons. While our funds are not limitless, we are pleased that we have been able to provide significant assistance to many by giving them subsidies to cover convention costs including travel, hotel, and registration. Now is the time to apply for a Wallach Fund grant. Either go to our website - www.naorrr.org - to find the application or contact Julian Cook at cooknaorrr@gmail.com or call (303)753-1309 and we'll send you the form. All applications are strictly confidential.

Have We Got a Deal For You!

Recently, NAORRR's Board of Trustees initiated a new incentive to encourage an even larger attendance at our Annual Convention in La Jolla in January.

Anyone who is a first-time attendee at a NAORRR convention will have their 2018 dues waived entirely. Normally, one has to pay their current (2018) dues in order to register for the convention in 2019. For our 2019 convention this "deal" is waiting for you to take advantage of it. This is intended to motivate more people to come to our wonderful convention and to have a great time meeting up with old friends and making new ones. Just mark your registration form accordingly. And, of course, we know that once you attend your first NAORRR convention you will be "hooked for life."

But that's not all! Any member who "convinces" another member to attend the convention for the first time will get a \$25 credit toward their own convention registration (maximum of \$50). Wow! What a deal. So talk to your friends and encourage them to attend – you'll both benefit.



A Report to NAORRR from HUC-JIR



Our colleague Chuck Kroloff, is Vice President for Special Projects of HUC-JIR. Chuck is pleased to share with NAORRR a wonderfully encouraging report by the National Director of Recruitment and Ad-

missions, Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi..

As of June 2018, the National Office of Recruitment and Admissions (NORA) has successfully fulfilled its five-year Strategic Plan 2014-2018 which included:

- Achieving an exponential increase in the numbers of inquiries into all HUC-JIR programs; from approximately 663 in 2013 to 4,535 in 2018;
- Achieving an increase in the number, quality and diversity of enrolled students in most core programs;
- Admitted the second largest Year-in-Israel class in 11 years;
- Played a central role, as part of the HUC-JIR team, to rebrand the College-Institute and established a new and influential social media presence;
- Established new alumni recruitment engagement initiatives and recognition awards;
- Secured new funds for a holistic approach to recruitment, admissions and placement.

The National Office of Recruitment and Admissions is proud to report a significant increase in enrollment and in the Year-in-Israel Cohort Size:

The incoming Year-in-Israel class beginning in June-July 2018 included 53 students. This represents a 17% increase in class size from 2017 and a 25% increase from 2016.

- The incoming Rabbinic School class is 40 students, the second largest class in 11 years. The incoming Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music class is 10 students. There were 3 incoming School of Education students.

It is also worth noting that 27% currently have or have had primary affiliations outside of the Reform Movement, a significant increase from 8% last year. The average age of students is 28 (the 2018 Year-In-Israel class is slightly older than last year's class. 69.2% have more than one year of post-college experience; 30.8% enrolled within one year of completing their undergraduate studies.

NAORRR - 36TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
JANUARY 3-4- 5-6-7, 2019 - LA JOLLA (SAN DIEGO), CALIFORNIA

CONVENTION THEME:
וְיָבִין אִתָּךְ - PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CONVENTION...

THURSDAY - JANUARY 3, 2019

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 a delightful program of entertainment (to be announced)
After Dinner	A "Mini-Plenary" to elect the new board and officers for 2019

FRIDAY - JANUARY 4, 2019

7:30 am	Breakfast Buffet
8:30 am	Shacharit
9:30 am	SCHOLAR SESSION I - "O Brave New World: Gender Fluidity, Transitioning, and Judaism" - Prof. Dvora Weisberg
11:00 am	WORKSHOPS 1-1 - Therapoetics - Insights on Aging from the Hebrew Poets - William Cutter 1-2 - Kabbalistic and Scientific Ways of Mentioning God - Ari Cartun 1-3 - Scandals, Scholars and Surprises - Arlene Stiffman 1-4 - The Holidays as a Time of Spiritual Renewal - Paul Swerdlow 1-5 - Psychology and Judaism - Edward Zerlin
12:15	Lunch on Your Own; Luncheon Meeting of 2020 Program Committee
2:15 pm	SCHOLAR SESSION II - "Who'se Been Sitting in My Chair?: The Rabbi Emeritus and the Successor Rabbi" - Prof. Dvora Weisberg
3:45 pm	Free Time
6:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Dinner including a "Call of the Classes"
8:15 pm	Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY - JANUARY 5, 2019

7:30 am	Breakfast Buffet
9:30 am	Shabbat Morning Service including the NAORRR honoring of those celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordination in 2019.
11:15 am	WORKSHOPS 2-1 Bayn Adam L'Chavero - Herbert Bronstein 2-2 Israel Protest Songs - Lawrence Englander 2-3 So, You are Retired! - Robert Orkand 2-4 An Unexpected Link on Jewish Cultural Research - Roberta Schwartz 2-5 The Wives and Mothers in "Death of a Salesman" and "Fences" Diane Steinbrink

12:30 pm	"Light" Kiddush (Luncheon) Buffet
Afternoon	Free Time and Alternate Activities (TBA) including Social Action Projects
8:00 pm	Havdalah, Entertainment (to be announced) and Ice Cream Social

SUNDAY - JANUARY 6, 2019

7:30 am	Breakfast Buffet
8:45 am	Shacharit
9:45 am	NAORRR Plenary Session including reports from RPB, CCAR, HUC-JIR
11:00 am	SCHOLAR SESSION III - "Reflections on the State of the Jewish Community and Our Place in the American Story" - Prof. Steven Windmueller
12:15	Lunch On Your Own
1:00 pm	Meeting of Outgoing, Continuing and New Board of NAORRR
2:30 pm	Report of CCAR Task Force on Women in the Rabbinate - Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus - An interactive program to provide input to the Task Force.
6:30	Pre-Banquet "Happy Hour"
7:00 pm	Banquet including Installation of Jeffrey Stiffman as 2019 NAORRR President

MONDAY - JANUARY 7, 2019

6:30 am	Breakfast Buffet
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ABOUT DVORA WEISSBERG'S SCHOLAR SESSIONS I & II

Session I - We live in a time when gender identity is increasingly fluid and complex. As rabbis, teachers and family members, we want to support people trying to understand who they are and the role that gender identity plays in their self-understanding and relationship to others. Through the study of rabbinic texts about gender identity and respect, Prof. Weissberg will help us consider how to navigate changing notions about gender and how to support those around us while also promoting ethical behavior in sexual relationships.

Session II - The CCAR Code of Ethics offers guidelines for the relationship between a rabbi emeritus and the successor rabbi. Unfortunately, we all know of situations in which these relationships become fraught, causing pain to one or both rabbis as well as the congregation. Using rabbinic texts about relationships between teachers and students, and between colleagues, Prof. Weissberg will help us consider how we can support healthy relationships between colleagues who have served and are serving the same congregation.

ABOUT STEVEN WINDMUELLER'S SCHOLAR SESSION III

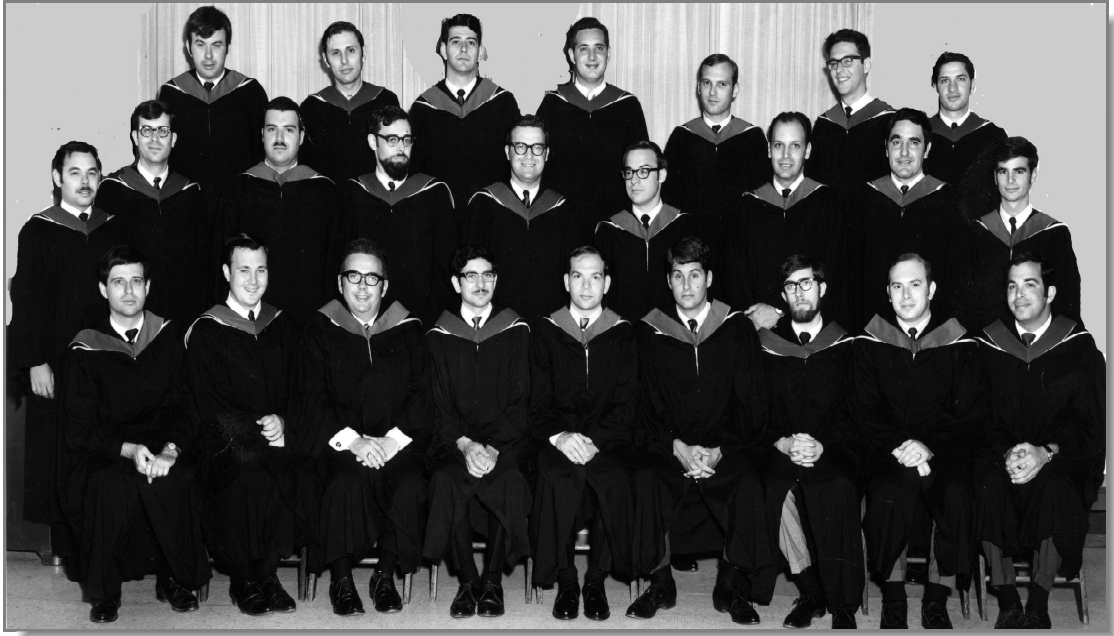
For many of us the prophetic tradition provided us with the framework for creating a more progressive society. We envisioned our Judaism and our Americanism in concert with one another. We believed in the notion that each generation builds upon the next. Today, the question may be whether any of these three assumptions are holding true! If these principles are either no longer valid or have been pushed aside, what will be the necessary ingredients for a Jewish renaissance and for an American revival? Suggested readings:

- <https://ejewishphilanthropy.com/getting-into-the-mind-of-a-jewish-structuralist-insights-into-21st-century-jewish-communal-practice/>
- <https://ejewishphilanthropy.com/the-end-of-the-jewish-century-1918-2018-why-this-period-has-been-unique-in-the-annals-of-jewish-history>

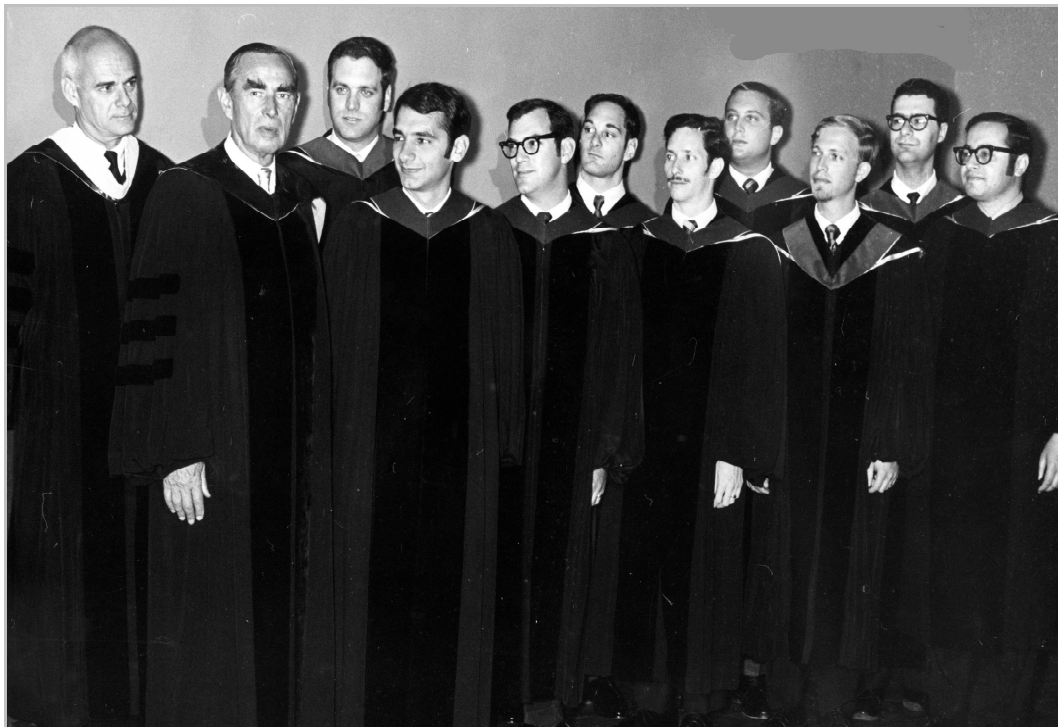
Convention Volunteers Needed

One of the things that makes our annual gathering so great is the cadre of volunteers who assist with many tasks that need to be done to make our convention run smoothly. This includes assembling member packets, distributing prayerbooks, registering conventioners, ushering, and just generally making everyone feel welcome and happy to be at the convention. If you are willing to volunteer some time, especially if you will be arriving early, please check off the box on the registration form indicating your interest in helping. Susie or Julian will get back with you for specific assignments. Thanks in advance for making NAORRR great!

*50th Anniversary of Ordination
to be Celebrated at 2019 Convention*



Class of 1969 - 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 honored by NAORRR as they are called up for an *Aliyah* and blessed by the entire NAORRR “family.” NAORRR looks forward to this celebration.

Our Two Guest Scholars



Rabbi Dvora Weisberg, Ph.D is Professor of Rabbinics and Director of School of Rabbinic Studies at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. She received her B.A. from Brandeis University and her M.A. and her Ph.D in Talmud and Rabbinic

Literature from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Before coming to HUC-JIR, Dr. Weisberg taught at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the College of William and Mary and the University of Pittsburgh.



Steven Windmueller, Ph.D is the Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk Emeritus Professor of Jewish Communal Service at HUC-JIR (LA). From June of 2006 until June of 2010, Dr. Steven Windmueller served as the Dean of the Los Angeles Campus of the

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. In March of 2009, he was appointed to the Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk Chair in Jewish Communal Service.

A specialist on political issues and American Jewish affairs, Dr. Windmueller holds a doctorate in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania and has held academic appointments at several major institutions of higher learning. He has appeared nationally syndicated media offering commentaries on Jewish public affairs matters.

Over the years his articles and monographs have appeared in a wide array of Jewish and general publications and books.

About Room Accessibility at Convention Hotel

Please note that our convention hotel has a limited number of handicap-accessible rooms. Whether or not you've registered with the hotel yet, but plan on attending, please be in touch with the Cooks about your needs. Please don't ask the hotel for an accessible room if you don't *really* require one. Leave them for those who really do. If you have any questions feel free to contact the Cook's at cooknaorrr@gmail.com or (303)753-1309

21 Unvarnished Truths About Retirement

(By Jonathan Look, from *nextavenue*©,- March 2018, public media's first and only national journalism service for America's booming older population.).

"Here are 21 things I've learned since I retired; maybe they'll help you in your retirement:

1. **We ain't gettin' out of this alive.** With retirement, you have more time to do things you love, but the extra time is wasted unless you are using it productively and actually living your dreams. The road doesn't go on forever.
2. **In the end, we are all dead.** Make that phone call or send an email to let someone know you are thinking of him or her. better yet, go to visit. Men fences, hug, show appreciation, be kind to people. Don't be complacent; you never know when the people you thought would be there forever will be gone.
3. **Money is overrated.** Money is a tool. To see it as anything else is folly. Yes, we all need some, but money is a means to an end, not an end in itself. Spend wisely and remember - superfluous wealth only buys superfluities.
4. **Time is your most valuable asset.** You only get so much, and that is it. You can't horde it. You can't get it back. You can't turn back the clock. The best you can do is to start investing your time wisely.
5. **Stop searching for happiness.** The only place you can be happy is in the present. Stop chasing tomorrow and fully experience happiness today.
6. **Your bucket list is crap.** Putting things on a bucket list can just be another way of deferring your aspirations. Sure, go ahead and make a list but remember: life goes on while you are making plans. Lists are useless unless we utilize them.
7. **Comfort is overrated.** The magic in life takes place at the edges of our comfort zones. Memories are made by pushing yourself and trying new things. Challenging yourself and growing your boundaries is more rewarding than security and comfort.
8. **Go with your feelings.** You don't have to intellectualize or justify everything you want to do. It is okay to do things solely because you want to. Take dance lessons. Learn to play the zither. Who cares about the critics? You have earned it.
9. **You are responsible.** You may not be at fault for what happens, but you get to choose how you respond to everything. Yes, *everything*. Your response to anything is a choice. You are response-able.
10. **You get to choose what matters.** You didn't get this far to keep jumping through other people's hoops. Don't forget the importance of yourself.
11. **You can't make people happy.** You can listen. You

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21 Unvarnished Truths About Retirement

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can be kind. You can smile. You can respect. You can offer assistance. You can contribute tools. But people are responsible for their own happiness.

12. **Let it go.** Everyone has regrets, but don't live a life of sorrow. The past is gone; find a way to come to terms with it. You may be able to reverse a bad situation that haunts you from the past, but you can't turn back time.

13. **Stop complaining.** Most people don't care about your problems; some are happy you have them. Complaining only serves to keep negatives at the center of your life.

14. **Your aspirations mean nothing.** Well, they mean nothing if you don't make an effort to realize them. Take action to get the things you want.

15. **Ambition can be a killer.** I hate to break it to you, but you aren't going to be Number One in everything you do. Breathe, and be satisfied, with the act of living today... Savor all of life's moments, even the bad ones, because you only get so many and you may wish you had paid more attention.

16. **Take care of yourself.** You aren't much use to yourself or anyone else if you don't. Looking out for your health and happiness is not the same as being selfish. This is fundamental.

17. **It is okay to fail.** Failure is part of life even in retirement. Failure teaches valuable lessons. In fact, we learn more from our failures than our successes. Expect success, but don't worry about it too much. It is the journey that matters.

18. **You don't have to wait for an apology to forgive.** We have all been wronged at one time or another. Waiting for an apology from someone who may never give one is a waste of life. Who cares? Hell, if this is a gray area and it's possible the other person is waiting for an apology from you, apologize first. What does it matter? Life is too precious to play those kinds of games.

19. **Negativity wastes life.** Being positive and optimistic on the present has a favorable impact on the future. Yes, bad things happen, but so do good ones, and we tend to steer toward the things on which to concentrate.

20. **Be curious. See both sides.** Stubbornness is not strength. When given new information, strong people develop and evolve their opinions. We can grow when we can admit we are wrong. Your life stagnates when you are wrong, but you refuse to admit it.

21. **Even though you are retired, you don't have time for everything.** Everyone dies with things in their inbox. Do the best you can and live your definition of a full life.



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