

OHR L'NAORRR

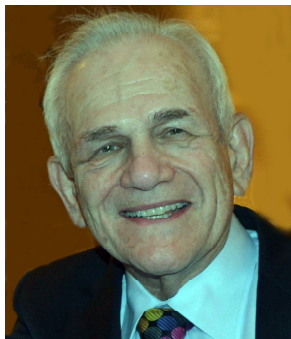
NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED REFORM RABBIS

VOL. 17, NO. 1

SPRING 5775 - אביב תשע"ה

SPRING 2015

From the President



Our Reform Movement continues as ever to innovate and evolve. Allow me to celebrate a wonderful milestone for NAORRR – the election of Connie Golden as 2nd Vice President who will become our first female NAORRR President in

2017.

Why should this be so special? Everyone knows that Sally Priesand became the first female Rabbi in 1972, i.e., the first woman to be ordained by a rabbinical seminary, our own HUC-JIR. What a special treasure and role model Sally has been to all of us – men and women rabbis alike. We are aware but tend to minimize that Sally's journey did not come about easily. She met obstinate opposition. However, Sally was not the first woman to encounter strong resistance. Sally references a predecessor, Regina Jonas, who we learned received private *s'micha* in 1935 in Germany before perishing in the *Shoah*. Ironically, Rabbi Jonas' thesis was entitled, "Can a Woman Be a Rabbi According to *Halachic* Sources?" Her research demonstrated an affirmative response. Still, she was unacknowledged and ignored. Yet, in 1991, a newly discovered box with Rabbi Jonas' papers revealed a photo of her in rabbinical robes, a copy of her thesis, and her ordination certificate.

Forty years ago, female rabbinical students trying to provide mutual support in a challenging environment, established *The Women's Rabbinic Network* on our Cincinnati and New York campuses. It thrives to this day. The CCAR boasts welcoming over 650 women

continued on page 3

From the Executive Vice Presidents



NAORRR WORKS FOR US ALL YEAR LONG

NAORRR is a dynamic gathering of people who are committed to *cha-verut* and mutual support. Many are contributing toward achieving these goals. Please join them.

INREACH

Sue Weiss coordinates an effort to place friendly pastoral calls to members whom we haven't seen for a while. You can take as many names as you wish for you to make phone contact around Pesach, High Holy Days, and Chanukah. If you will join the ten volunteers already making calls, please get your assignment from Sue (978-744-7040) or email her at stonebluffsue@gmail.com.

OUTREACH -- STAYING IN TOUCH

Connie Golden has organized an ambitious project for classmates to be in touch with those who have been distant from NAORRR. If you have found your participation at annual conventions satisfying, Connie would like you to encourage the membership and participation of those people you knew in seminary days. Get your call list from Connie (757-309-4455), or rab.golden@cox.net.

OHR L'NAORRR, WEB SITE, NAORRRNET, and now CONSTANT CONTACT

Thanks to Hillel Cohn, Steve and Cecile Arnold, and Irvin Ehrlich, many channels of communication are available to all who tune in. We salute our communicators and thank them for their daily labors.

TRAVEL EQUALIZATION FUND

We'd like to enable colleagues from distant corners of the globe to attend our conventions.

continued on page 3

To NAORRR from Sue Weiss

With gratitude and appreciation.....

My sincere and heartfelt thanks to my NAORRR friends and 'family' for welcoming me so warmly at the January 2015 convention and embracing me with your love and support. As sad as it was for me to attend and participate without my dear Ken, his presence was felt and I knew of your feelings for him and for me. Being with all of you gave me strength and an appreciation of how important people are in our life. Your tributes to him, both the beautiful Torah breastplate created by Connie Golden and presented at the convention, and your kind tributes to the Ken Weiss Memorial Fund, fill me with gratitude. I know I am not alone, and I thank you for your thoughtfulness from the bottom of my heart.

I look forward to enjoying the friendship we share at our next convention in Boca Raton, Florida in 2016. And I send best wishes to you and yours for a Happy Pesach, good year, many joys and blessings of good health and peace.

Love and Shalom,

Sue

Torah Breastplate Dedicated In Memory of Ken Weiss



When Ken Weiss died suddenly in April, the Executive Committee decided to honor his memory with the creation of a Torah breastplate that could be used on any scroll that we borrow for use at our conventions.

Connie Golden lovingly needlepointed it, and Dick Steinbrink presided as we dedicated it at our Shabbat morning Service in January in Scottsdale.

The breastplate is hung by a silver chain that can be adjusted to fit any size Torah that we borrow from a local congregation.

We thank NAORRR members who have made contributions to the WEISS MEMORIAL FUND. The Board will decide how best to use the donations that have been received that are in excess of the cost of the breastplate.

From the Treasurer

Since our wonderful meeting in Phoenix, we have filled in many of the gaps in our financial structure caused by the untimely death of Ken Weiss ל"ו. Appropriately spurred on by our president, Don Berlin, and thanks to the very diligent efforts of Frank and Beth Waldorf, we again have a working budget which was presented to the Board of Trustees during a phone meeting held earlier this year and so we now have a good sense of where we stand financially.

While all of the numbers are not yet in because our fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th, it seems the deficit that we feared we would face will be considerably less than anticipated and will be quite manageable given surpluses from prior years which give us an operational comfort level. The major gap was caused, as stated earlier, by the loss of approximately \$10,000 of anticipated cruise income. A new, two year balanced budget (2015-17) will be presented at our next convention in Florida.

That said, your prompt submission of membership dues helps us not only with our projections for the future but with our cash flow. Moreover, your contributions above and beyond dues are greatly appreciated. They help us to provide the high levels of programming to which we have become accustomed as well as dealing with unforeseen expenses of the kind that face every organization.

I have written an article about our NAORRR FUNDS (Hesed-Mitzvah Fund and the Wallach Fund) which was to have been in the recent *CCAR NEWSLETTER* but they apparently ran out of space. Hopefully it will be in the next issue. Look for it. In the meantime, you will be interested to know that for the 2015 NAORRR Convention, the Wallach Fund distributed \$5053 to five applicants. Preliminary inquiries from eight correspondents actually exceeded \$12,200 but when it became apparent that the Wallach Fund would be able to fund a fraction of their needs, three rabbis chose to withdraw their requests.

L'shalom,

Ralph P. Kingsley

From the President

continued from page 1

as colleagues. And recently, we rejoiced as we elected Denise Eger as our third CCAR woman President following the distinguished leadership roles of Janet Marder and Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus. Other rabbinical movements have followed our Reform lead in accepting and including female colleagues in North America, in Israel and throughout the world.

What is special to me about female colleagues is very personal. They have done more than take their rightful place in the Jewish world. Women colleagues taught me how to establish personal boundaries for a private life and, most especially, for family life. I have learned how to read our sacred texts with a different filter. I have realized a fresh way to fully respect and acknowledge women differently than in the world in which I was raised. Women rabbis have served as wonderful role models for Jewish lay leaders – men and women - and Jewish youth leaders who have taught me so much. Women rabbis altered my rabbinate and my life significantly in an extremely positive way.

Connie Golden is an extraordinary colleague and leadership partner. She has already demonstrated her impact on creating a more inclusive and participatory role for all our NAORRR members where spouses are treated equally and also serve in leadership roles. Our other officers are equally dedicated and volunteer enormous hours toward our betterment as aging rabbis. Connie's role strengthens us as we begin to realize all the exciting opportunities of remaining rabbis who care deeply about the Ultimate in life, about further explorations in Torah and about the many manifestations of this people called "Israel."

NAORRR is growing and improving. We face new challenges ahead. Now we are reaching a new milestone for what it means to walk proudly through all of life even after we are not "working" as men and women who delight in being RABBIS.

Don

Donald Berlin

From the Executive Vice Presidents

continued from page 1

We need your help in this effort. You may have noticed the added line on the membership application called Travel Equalization Fund.

So, if you have access to foundations, rabbinical discretionary funds, or willing philanthropists, please do the "ask" yourself or guide the NAORRR leadership team to solicit donations.

BOCA RATON -- JANUARY 2016

We urge you to start thinking about Boca Raton in January 2016. It is essential that, as early as possible, you reserve your room at the Marriott Renaissance, especially if you want to take advantage of the 3-day prior and post accommodations. It costs nothing to reserve and you can cancel without cost up to 72 hours before your check-in time. Save yourself hassle by acting now. Think of spring and summer as the time to reserve your room.

HAPPY PESACH!

Beth and Frank

Boca Is Calling You



It is not too early to block out dates on your calendars and begin making plans to join your NAORRR friends and future friends

in Boca Raton, Florida January 7-11, 2016. The Program Committee, chaired by Richard Klein, began its work in January. While it is too early to publicly announce participants, we can assure you that the convention will bring us a mixture of scholarly presentations, workshops, breakout sessions, music, Torah, *tefilah* and *chevrutah*. We will, as we do every year, be honoring our "50 year class" – those ordained in 1966.

A Note from Ag Herman

A rabbi who attended the workshop that I led at the convention (I do not know who) asked me for the name of the book that I recommended to the group. It was Rabbi Harold Kushner's "Conquering Fear." I apologize for not remembering at the time!

A New Form of Communication



NAORRR took a giant leap into the present, and decided to start communicating via email. We're using a program called ConstantContact that allows us to send individual emails to our members.

Many of you may be reading this issue of *OHR L'NAORRR* by having followed a link that was sent to you using ConstantContact. If you did not receive the email, please contact Irvin Ehrlich, irvinehrlich@gmail.com, and he will make sure that you are on the list!

Our goal is to make our communications more efficient, cost effective and timely. Your comments and suggestions are welcome!

For texts of the various presentations given at the 2015 convention go to the NAORRR website:
www.naorrr.org

You will find:

- the texts of the sermons delivered by Jeff Stiffman and Stanley Davids...
- the Azkarah delivered by Arnold Task
- the D'var Torah delivered by Norman Patz

as well as presentations made at the last four conventions...

Some Thoughts About Retirement

Dr. Susan Kersley had an active career as a physician in England and chose to retire from that in 1997. She has since devoted herself to coaching in relation to the lives of doctors, and has published several books for doctors and people about to retire. The following is excerpted from "Retirement Is an Opportunity to Rethink Your Life and Do Something Different" in "65 Things To Do When You Retire", ©Sellers Publishing, 2012:

"Perhaps you are approaching retirement and wondering what it will be like not to go to work anymore. If so, then I offer you some hints and tips about how to approach retirement and the opportunities it can bring you..."

"As with everything, the most important question to ask yourself is, 'What do I want?' Then make sure you answer yourself in great detail, so that you are able to identify something suitable that you'd like to spend your time doing..."

"Whatever you decide, avoid putting yourself into a stressful situation. It's very important at this stage of your life to be able to enjoy yourself, in addition to finding plenty to do each day..."

"You can find new things to do and to explore, things you've been putting off for years... It's important not to neglect your own health and well-being. Here are some things to do every day:

"Get Fit, and Exercise Daily... It's important to look after yourself and to make up for years when there may have been a lack of self-care when you were working..."

"Eat Properly... Eat plenty of healthy foods... Make sure you eat plenty of vegetables and fruit every day, too.

"Keep Your Mind Active... You can spend time reading all those books you never had the time for in the past, or you can enroll in a class or two to get up to speed with computers and the internet, or you can join a club that meets socially and has regular informative talks.

"Keep in Touch with Friends and Family..." Make regular connections with your friends, both those you have now and perhaps some from the past whom you have lost touch with. And don't forget family. Make sure you speak on the telephone and visit as often as you can."

Convention 2015: Another GREAT NAORRR Experience

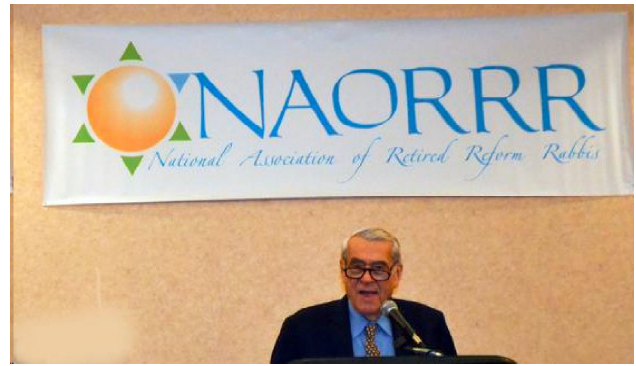
The 32nd Annual NAORRR Convention held in Scottsdale, Arizona was truly a wonderful experience for all those who attended. While the weather did not quite comply with the mandate of the NAORRR By-Laws that “A convention shall be held in early January in a **warm climate...**”, the cool weather outside was counterbalanced by the continuing warmth that everyone felt inside - the warmth that came from illuminating study, inspirational worship and, above all, socialization.



Prior to the actual opening of the convention many joined in an New Year's Eve Party that included a festive dinner, the showing of “The Surgeon Queens”, an especially enjoyable documentary, and then the traditional midnight toast” to the new year. Diane and Dick Steinbrink arranged that New Year's Eve celebration and it could not have been better!!!



The lectures delivered by the new president of HUC-JIR, Aaron Panken, were outstanding. His teaching style and his prodigious scholarship combined to make for three outstanding presentations.



Harvey Tattelbaum, NAORRR's president for 2015, presided over the convention with his own warmth, good humor and efficiency.

A number of workshops were offered and enabled those attending to learn from colleagues and others who shared their expertise on a variety of topics including The Emerging Native American People and Its Many Variations (Eddie Brown), Aesthetics and the Jewish People (Bill Cutter), Cyclists Have Always Made the Best Scapegoats (Naomi Patz), The Tragedy of Leo Frank (Diane Steinbrink), Turkey, Israel and the Jews (Rifat Sonsino) and Varieties of Anti-Semitism in Europe and Elsewhere (Mark Winer).



Shabbat at NAORRR is always memorable. A lovely Erev Shabbat dinner was followed by an uplifting service at which Jeffrey Stiffman, a member of the ordination class of 1965, delivered the D'var Torah reflecting on his experiences in the rabbinate.



Shabbat Morning included the honoring by NAORRR of the members of the HUC-JIR classes of 1965 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of their ordination. The honorees and their spouses/partners shared a group *Aliyah* and then were presented with plaques recognizing their milestone and were blessed by the entire assemblage. It was a touching moment for all.



A moving Shabbat sermon was delivered by Stanley Davids, another of the 50-year honorees. His sermon was delivered with passion. His concluding words resonated with everyone: “So whatever the

worthy issues that command each of us: Israel or environmentalism or racism or economic justice or the strengthening of our families or writing that book that really needs to be written – we who are growing old can continue to find what Frank Bruni recently called in The New York Times, “slices of opportunity” awaiting us.”



The Shabbat luncheon featured an address by Robert (Bob) Samuels in which he recounted his struggles to advance liberal Judaism in Israel, especially his work with the Leo Baeck School. It was a comprehensive history

of difficult days as well as days of great achievement.



Saturday nights at NAORRR are always a time for some special entertainment and NAORRR 2015 was able to enjoy the many talents of Debbie Zecher. Her “Sermon in Song” was delightful. She was accompanied by her son Joshua.

Debbie’s performance was interactive with those attending having a chance to contribute words and phrases while Debbie’s vocal talents filled the room with wit and wisdom.



In addition to a brief but always necessary business meeting on Sunday there was a panel discussion-conversation on “Israel and the Reform Rabbinate” moderated by Chuck Kroloff. He was joined by Bob Orkand, Michael Stroh and Harvey Tattelbaum.



Sunday night’s banquet was a gala event marking the transfer of the presidency of NAORRR from Harvey Tattelbaum to Donald Berlin. A moving consecration of the new president was conducted by Martin Weiner. The newly elected members of the board were duly installed, the continuing members of the board were “re-installed.”

There are many who helped make NAORRR 2015 such a great convention: Don Berlin who as 1st Vice-President chaired the Program Committee, Beth and Frank Waldorf who attended to the many details that a convention demands, Sue Weiss who was there to work with the hotel staff and to do so much ‘behind the scenes’ to make the convention comfortable for all, Irv Ehrlich who created the various printed materials and badges, the guest lecturers, the presenters, the chairs of the various workshop groups, those who delivered thoughtful *Divrei Torah*, the service leaders - so many but most of all the success of a convention is due to the enthusiastic participation of those who attend and who participated in the full schedule of events.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT YET SENT IN
YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORM AND DUES
FOR 2015
PLEASE DO SO IMMEDIATELY!!!**

clip the dues form on the next page



and send it in TODAY!!!!



2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAORRR welcomes all CCAR members who will be age 60 or older by December 31, 2015, their spouses/partners and surviving spouses/partners.

Enroll/Renew **NAORRR** membership (please print clearly):

Rabbi	Name _____ "Nickname" if preferred _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50.00
Year & Place of Ordination	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NY <input type="checkbox"/> J <input type="checkbox"/> LA	
(circle which one applies) Spouse Partner Surviving Spouse	Name _____ "Nickname" if preferred _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25.00
Year & Place of Spouses Ordination	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NY <input type="checkbox"/> J <input type="checkbox"/> LA	
Additional contribution to support the Hesed/Mitzvah Fund		\$ _____
Additional contribution to support the Wallach Fund		_____
Additional contribution to NAORRR		_____
Additional contribution - Convention Travel Equalization		_____
TOTAL AMOUNT REMITTED		\$ _____

Make check payable in U.S. funds to **NAORRR**

ADDRESS

This is a new address. Some information below is new. Please adjust NAORRR's records.

Mailing Address			
City	State	Zip-all 9 digits	
E-Mail	Spouse/Partner E-Mail	Home Phone	Mobile Phone

Send dues and this form to:
NAORRR - Beth and Frank Waldorf
188 Commonwealth Avenue - Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-3941
email: naorrrwaldorf@comcast.net website: www.naorrr.org



c/o RABBI HILLEL COHN
 CONGREGATION EMANU EL
 1495 FORD STREET
 REDLANDS CA 92373

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 54
 San Bernardino, CA

NAORRR BOARD OF TRUSTEES - 2015

DONALD BERLIN - PRESIDENT
 RICHARD KLEIN - 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT (PROGRAMS)
 CONNIE GOLDEN - 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT (MEMBERSHIP)
 SELIG SALKOWITZ - SECRETARY
 RALPH KINGSLEY - TREASURER
 HARVEY TATTELBAUM - IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

BETH AND FRANK WALDORF - EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENTS
 AGNES AND ERWIN ז"ל HERMAN
 EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENTS EMERITI

TERM EXPIRING 2016
 CECILE ARNOLD
 SION DAVID
 ANN FOLB
 STEVEN FOSTER

TERM EXPIRING 2017
 SHEILA BAMBERGER
 JON HADDON
 STEVEN PESKIND
 JEFFREY STIFFMAN

TERM EXPIRING 2018
 EUGENE LEVY
 HOWARD KOVSOVSKE
 NAOMI PATZ
 ADRIANNE SUNDHEIM

HILLEL COHN - EX-OFFICIO
 IRVIN EHRlich - EX OFFICIO

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

***NAORRR was Visible at
 the CCAR Convention***



NAORRR was quite visible at the March 2015 CCAR Convention held in Philadelphia. Connie Golden, NAORRR's 2nd Vice-President, welcomed conventioners to the NAORRR "booth" where information about NAORRR was available. All NAORRR members and those eligible to become members of NAORRR had a NAORRR designation placed on their convention badges. Thanks to Connie for this "Outreach" to our CCAR colleagues.



NEWSLETTER OF THE
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED REFORM RABBIS
 Published twice a year (Spring & Fall)
 Please submit all items for publication to
 Hillel Cohn, Editor
 3947 Ironwood Street - San Bernardino CA 92404
 email: rabbihcohn1@cs.com