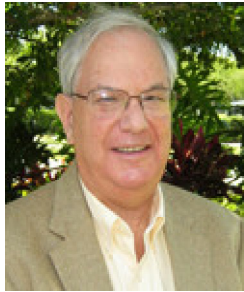


From the President



As we enter springtime, our Torah readings focus more and more on the *kohanim* as they are depicted in the books of Exodus and Leviticus. The priests were the civil servants and religious

functionaries of the biblical period. Alongside of them were the *nevi'im*, those who were to remind the people what was expected of them if they were to be on good terms with God.

I suspect that we all remember the admonition of our teachers that, upon ordination, we would be expected to serve as both priest and prophet – religious functionaries and moral voices. Along the way we became, as well, pastors, community representatives, CEOs and more. Whether we were in academic, communal or congregational positions we were “rabbi” or, as spouse, a loving support of “rabbi” – connecting individuals with the awesome world outside and the inner voice of right and wrong. As hard as we may have tried, we could not be just your average Joe or Jane.

Ah retirement! No more board meetings, no more late-night calls, no more perfect sermons, publications for advancement or grant applications due yesterday. And yet, we are still “rabbi” or rabbinic spouse. Our words – the occasional sermon or spontaneous conversation at an *oneg Shabbat* or casual comment at a social gathering – still have *gravitas*. We are still not the average Joe or Jane. And we know that while our words have only limited impact, our deeds speak volumes. We are still priest and prophet – a joy, a privilege and a challenge.

Maybe that is why it is so wonderful when we get together to study, to chat, to gripe – to be ourselves. So mark your calendars for January 5-9, 2017 in Scottsdale and pay your 2016 dues which will qualify you for the Scottsdale convention.

Richard
Richard Klein

From the Executive Vice Presidents



ISRAEL, THE REMARKABLE

We feel intensely grateful that we had the opportunity to represent

NAORRR at the 2016 Israel Convention of the CCAR. We return to the US, with a deep admiration for our Israeli siblings and with optimism about their future. Just the route taken by our El Al plane gave us confidence about Israel’s place in the world. We flew over Poland, Hungary, Serbia, and Turkey. During our earlier years, such a path would have been politically impossible. From Lod to Jerusalem, we took a *sherut*, affording us a glimpse of just how vast the metropolitan area has become. Everywhere, we observed cranes and construction. In our youth, Eged buses had open windows. This trip, every bus was air-conditioned. Even on the West Bank, we were encouraged to visit Rawabi, a planned city (a la Reston, Columbia and Modai’in). Bashar al-Masri, the personable, visionary Palestinian developer will have his first 700 inhabitants take up residence this summer.

We were thrilled by the strength and vitality of Reform Judaism in Israel. Aaron Panken announced that there are 100 alumni of the Jerusalem school. He intends to double that number by the end of the decade. On *Erev Shabbat*, conventioners fanned out to worship in a dozen Reform communities. Each congregation confronts the indifference of secular Israelis unaccustomed to paying for religious institutions. Our Friday evening host,

continued on page 2

From the Executive Vice Presidents

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Eli Levin, reported that last year, he educated 85 families in preparation for meaningful *bar mitzvah* celebrations.

The work of IRAC is awesome. Anat Hoffman and Noa Sattath (now a rabbi!), aided by a staff of 28 lawyers, many of them part-time, have notched up a series of political and judicial victories. Through their good offices, the convention spent two hours in an auditorium of the Knesset building. Our leaders were invited to testify before the Committee on Immigration, Absorption, and Diaspora. The session was sealed as we rose and sang *HaTikva*.

The government approval of an egalitarian prayer space at the southern end of the Herodian platform is a major step forward. Rick Jacobs imagines a place where it will be possible for worshipers to approach the wall at the level of the Roman *cardo*. He envisions moving the present security kiosk closer to the Dung Gate. After passing through security, visitors will have a full view of the Robinson Arch space and will have the choice of proceeding north to the existing plaza or descending onto the new plaza. He hopes that Michael Arad, the architect who designed the 9/11 memorial in Manhattan, will be appointed to design the space. You can be sure that there will be vigorous pushback from Orthodox leaders, whose religious monopoly is being dismantled. But the project will move forward!

Without a doubt, Israelis face daunting challenges: daily terrorism; inequality of resources and opportunity; massive incarceration; political sclerosis. But, as we contemplate American society, we see the same challenges in this country. We resume our domestic routine with a confidence that the liberal values we cherish will prevail.

Beth and Frank

Beth and Frank Waldorf

A New NAORRR Project: A Publication by NAORRR Spouses



At the 2016 convention an exciting new NAORRR project was introduced by Pat Bloom and Judy Maslin. It is

the compilation of memoirs of NAORRR spouses. In describing the project Pat and Judy related that the idea came after Judy Maslin published her memoir, *Rabbi and Judy*. Pat and Judy had both read *I Know Just What You Mean* by Ellen Goodman and Patricia O'Brien, a book about women's friendship. The book incorporates stories of the lives of many other women friends. In her memoir Judy wrote that she could imagine many other *Rebbetzins* writing a book similar to hers. "It is the reality of living in a fishbowl and sharing one's life with someone, specifically a rabbi, in the public eye."

After talking with other rabbinic spouses Pat and Judy determined that while no one wanted to spend time working on an entire book there was great enthusiasm about making it a collaborative project. The "jointly written book" will contain reminiscences by rabbis' spouses about their experiences. Spouses will be able to share such experiences as happy/sad/funny/frustrating events, love, funerals, *shivahs*, weddings, receptions, children, problems, deaths, widowhood and anything else that is deemed worthy of sharing.

The book will be a fine chronicle of a period in American Jewish life that has not yet been documented. The idea has received great interest and support from Gary Zola of the American Jewish Archives.

In extending an invitation to rabbinic spouses to contribute to the book Pat and Judy said, "We are looking for events, experiences, or thoughts from your rabbinic spouse life, that at the time they happened to you prompted you to say, 'Someday I will write about this!' We are hoping that all of this wonderful material, in

continued on page 3

A New NAORRR Project: A Publication by NAORRR Spouses

continued from page 2

addition to becoming part of the American Jewish Archives will make a most interesting book.”

At this time the project is well underway. Over ten vignettes have already been submitted to Pat and Judy and a number of others are in the making. Please think about contributing your remembrances to this project. Address all essays or inquiries to MaslinandBloom@gmail.com.

An Opportunity to Study OR Teach On-Line



Our colleague Mike Comins has opened a new online, Jewish learning

center called Lev Learning. It features online classes and curricula development for synagogues. You can check it out at www.LevLearning.com. A number of classes are appropriate for NAORRR members. As time goes on, more and more “Masters” courses will become available. Mike is also looking for book club leaders. If you are interested, please contact him at mc@levlearning.com.

Make Sure That You Are Getting NAORRR's emails

Are you receiving emails from NAORRR? While much information about NAORRR appears in the two issues of Ohr L'Naorrr that are published each spring and fall, there is other information that is distributed throughout the year by email. If you are not yet a regular recipient of NAORRR news please contact Irvin Ehrlich at irvinehrlich@gmail.com. He will add your contact information to the NAORRR list.

Are You Interested in Serving a WUPJ Congregation?

Retired rabbis, especially those with language skills, are needed to serve World Union for Progressive Judaism congregations. Most communities can offer an apartment and a car in return for service. To volunteer, contact Rabbi Joel Oseran, Vice President for International Development, seniorstaff@wupj.org.il.

Make New Friends and Do a Mitzvah

For some time, under the superb leadership of Sue and Ken (שׁוֹרֵי) Weiss, a team of NAORRR members calls members periodically to keep in touch. Calls are made about three times a year. Those who NAORRR tries to maintain contact with include widows and widowers, those unable to attend the annual convention, and older members.

Those who make these calls have found it to be extremely rewarding and those who receive the calls have indicated that it means much to them to be called. Out of these calls many fine friendships have developed.

If you would like to join the call team or if you would like to know more about the program, please contact Michael Remson at (262)654-1066 or email him at ravremson@sbcglobal.net.

What's New on the NAORRR Website

NAORRR's website - www.naorrr.org - has lots of information that you will find interesting and enjoyable. Among the materials on the website are:

- Many of the sermons, special addresses, *divrei Torah*, *azkarot* from recent conventions. Recently we were able to add a couple of videos of the scholarly presentations made by David Ruderman at the 2016 convention.

- Photos of the last convention.
- Past issues of Ohr L'Naorrr
- NAORRR Constitution and By-Laws

The website is edited periodically and new material is added. Take some time to go to the website and participate more fully in the life of NAORRR.

Subscribe to NAORRRnet

All those eligible to be NAORRR members may sign up to receive (and to post to) the List-Serv, NAORRRnet. It is NAORRR's way of communicating with each other and to share family news and retirement adventures.

Once you've signed up, anything posted will appear in your e-mail.

If you are not already part of NAORRRnet just go to ccarnet.org/naorrrnet and follow the instructions to "Sign up for NAORRRnet." (And, if you are having trouble figuring out how to do that, just place a call to your grandchild. Surely they can guide you through the process).

Looking Ahead to NAORRR January 5-9, 2017 in Scottsdale, Arizona



The 2017 NAORRR Convention will be exciting! The program which is still a “work in progress” will have a somewhat different schedule that will incorporate suggestions received from attendees of prior conventions. Some absolutely wonderful speakers have already been booked. Here’s a preview of what has been arranged thus so far:



• **THURSDAY EVENING** – The opening program will be presented by Deborah Prinz on her studies and writings about Judaism and the world of chocolate. She has been

presenting programs throughout the country as well as internationally but this presentation will be especially created for NAORRR. The program promises to be light and interesting. It will be perfect for the weary traveler who nevertheless always wants to study and learn. While for many years the opening night of the convention has included an Ice Cream Social it has not yet been fully decided what will be served after the program, but it will definitely include some special chocolate offerings.



• **EREV SHABBAT** – 2017 marks the 100th Anniversary of the National Jewish Welfare Board. To mark this anniversary the Erev Shabbat Service will include a tribute to Jews who have served in the military and especially

those who have served as chaplains. Our colleague Rabbi Harold Robinson, a retired Rear Admiral who is currently the Chair of the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces, will be the speaker. Harold is the first

rabbi to hold this position, following his stellar prior career as a congregational rabbi and as a chaplain.



• **SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND SUNDAY MORNING** – The

Scholar-in-Residence will be Rabbi Jonah Pesner who is the new director of the Religious Action Center. He will be making two major presentations at the convention. He will examine what Reform Judaism might be like in the future when our grandchildren assume positions of Jewish leadership.

The convention program will also include as much free time as possible so that those attending can take advantage of the many sites and activities in the Phoenix-Scottsdale area. **You really should start planning NOW to attend, so don't make other plans by mistake and miss out.**

The convention program, which is still in the process of being fully developed, will include the usual plenary-business sessions, daily services and a variety of workshops. If you are interested in presenting a workshop please contact Connie Golden who is chair of the Program Committee.

NAORRR Historical Material Now at American Jewish Archives



NAORRR is endeavoring to preserve its history so that future generations can know more about our organization. Recently we sent a great deal of historical information to the American Jewish Archives. They now are the guardians of a number of scrapbooks of

photos taken at conventions held in the early years of NAORRR. For a long time these were in the possession of Erv and Ag Herman, the first co-executive vice presidents of NAORRR. Other material now at the American Jewish Archives are videos taken at the last four conventions of NAORRR by David Spitz, copies of Ohr L'Naorrr going back to the time when Ohr L'Naorrr was created and photos of the conventions of recent years. If you have any material related to NAORRR that you think ought to be preserved please feel free to send them to the American Jewish Archives, 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45220.

Does Your Life Still Matter?

Editors Note: From time to time I come across articles or essays that deal with retirement. While not specifically related to rabbinic retirement, they offer some valuable insights for all retirees that I feel are worth sharing with the NAORRR "family." The following piece by Raymond Lesser appeared in *Funny Times*, December 2015:

Steve is a professor who specializes in Medieval Christianity. Although he has tenure, a good pension plan, and a lovely tree-shaded campus to work at, he recently found himself wondering whether he's wasted his life by devoting most of it to John Wycliffe, the first person to translate the Bible into English. The sales of Steve's many books about Wycliffe are pretty much limited to the students and professors of colleges that offer courses on Medieval Christianity. Steve has never been approached on the street, or even in a bookstore, and asked for his autograph, or featured in a magazine spread of the 100 hottest Wycliffe scholars in the world.

But then one of his books saved a student's life! It seems that there was a crazed shooter at Florida State University who got inside one of the university buildings and began firing away. One student, hearing the gunfire, began running down a hall away from the shooting, but a bullet hit him right in the middle of his back. Fortunately, he was wearing his backpack, inside of which was one of Steve's thick tomes on Wycliffe, where the bullet safely lodged. "That's what happens when you write impenetrable prose," Steve said. He will never again doubt that his life has made a difference.

Of course, Medieval History professors are not the only people who want to remain relevant and continue to have an impact on the world. Lately I've been running across a slew of people of a certain age who are in an almost existential crisis about the meaning of their lives. They've spent decades working at one career, and then their organizations downsized, or ceased to exist and they found themselves suddenly unemployed. Although they're eligible for retirement, these folks immediately begin sending their resumes to every possible job opening within a 100-mile radius. Others try networking on LinkedIn or with friends to see if they know of any openings in their field. But often, after many weeks of rejections, it begins to dawn on them that no one wants to hire an expert typewriter repairman or elevator operator. These folks might as well have spent their careers as sandal-bearers or scullery maids. Even if their skills are still in demand, companies are reluctant to offer a job to a 60-something-year-old bricklayer with arthritis or a beer-bellied roofer whose medications periodically make him dizzy.

So they begin scouring the want ads with a different eye: What are the jobs they would still

be capable of doing? Standing at a fast-food counter for eight hours straight taking orders for deep fried tacos? Greeting shoppers at Walmart? Doing cold-call marketing for a home-improvement firm? Selling Amway? None of the available jobs pay even a fraction as much as they once earned as a bowling pinsetter, let alone their top earnings as an 8-track tape salesman. The truth is they can earn more opening a lemonade stand in their front yard than they can with almost any job in the want ads.

So they keep looking, but not nearly as diligently. They begin sleeping in later, taking longer to eat breakfast and read the newspaper. They take little trips, visiting friends and relatives with spare bedrooms and beer in the fridge, or begin volunteering at the food bank or tutoring kids. But ask them what they're doing and you get all kinds of obfuscation. They've become "independent contractors" or "consultants." They're putting together a business plan and trying to raise capital (by playing the lottery). They're on sabbatical, or going to school for retraining. (The retraining often involves clay and a potter's wheel, or a guitar and sheet music.)

For a generation of people who never really wanted to work in the first place, it is funny to see so many of us in denial about the fact that there aren't many paying jobs around that any employer has us as the first choice to hire. When we were growing up, the science fiction fantasy was that machines would take over most of the drudgery and free us to have more and more leisure time. Well, the future has arrived, although maybe it's not only machines who are doing our work, but a bunch of poorly paid workers in Asia. Still, we've been indoctrinated into believing that unless we have a full-time job, we no longer can make a difference in the world. We think we've become obsolete.

Instead, we should realize that our lives have made a difference to lots of people and will continue to do so, even if we spend our mornings drinking coffee and doing the crossword puzzle. The world is built upon the foundation that we've laid. The books we've written will save people's lives, even if they don't have a chance to read them, because they're too busy tweeting their friends about the website they just found that re-interprets the Bible into hip-hop. We can still use our skills and resources to help people, to create community, to share knowledge, and to make people laugh.

Call yourself whatever you want - a consultant, a retiree, or an unemployed go-go dancer. But above all, realize that you have become an elder: Your experience and wisdom are things that no one else can contribute. And who knows how many lives you might still save.

Some Lasting Memories of the 2016 NAORRR Convention

Over 200 people attended the 33rd annual NAORRR convention which was held in Boca Raton, Florida in January 2016. The convention began with everyone being greeted by a wonderful group of NAORRR volunteers who expedited the registration process and gave everyone a



“goodie-bag” filled with all sorts of tasty snack items. The afternoon found board members meeting under the leadership of Don

Berlin, NAORRR president. A reception was held for those attending their first NAORRR convention as well as those who are single.

David Ruderman, the Scholar-In-Residence for the 2016 convention, presented his first lecture on “The Natural World in Pre- Modern Judaism.” The evening ended with a lovely Ice Cream Social that provided lots of time for socializing.



Informative reports were given on Friday morning by Steve Fox of the CCAR and Chuck Kroloff for HUC-JIR. The new director of the Reform Pension Board, Michael Kimmel, was introduced and he spoke about some of the latest developments with the RPB.

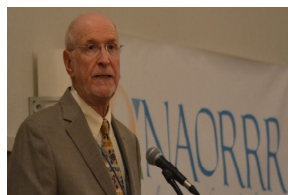
The second lecture by David Ruderman was titled “**Early Modern Rabbis and their Engagement with New Science.”



Five workshops were held concurrently which provided outstanding learning opportunities for all. They included Hank Bamberger sharing his insights on the Apocrypha, Diane Steinbrink keeping everyone enthralled with her dramatic presentation of “Yoo Hoo, Mrs., Goldberg”, Jonathan Brown leading a session on preparing for a better ending to life, Jim Rudin speaking on

his new book about Stephen S. Wise and Roberta Schwartz teaching about the poetry of Primo Levi.

The Erev Shabbat celebration was very festive. Donald Splansky and Hank Zoob led an inspiring service. *Peter Kasdan delivered the Sermon-D’var Torah in which he challenged NAORRR and the entire reform rabbinate to become more deeply involved in the pursuit of justice. At the service Steve Fox presented Honorary Memberships in the CCAR to those rabbis who in 2016 are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordination.

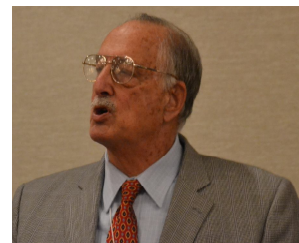


The Shabbat morning service was led by Jeff Stiffman. Peri Smilow, a talented cantorial soloist led the musical portion of the service.



During the *Kriat ha-Torah* those celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordination and their spouses were honored with the first *Aliyah* and received the blessings of the entire assemblage on this milestone. This was a most memorable moment for all.

The D’var Torah/ Sermon was delivered by *Ken Roseman. The service included a warm and touching *Azkarah* by Sam Karff. He memorialized those rabbis and rabbinic



spouses who had died since the 2015 convention.

A festive Shabbat luncheon, held in two rooms, began with Vivian and Irvin Ehrlich and Cheryl and Stephen Wylen leading the *Kiddush* and *Motzi*.

On Saturday afternoon Eric Yoffie spoke about the current situation in Israel. His analysis was extremely perceptive.



The program on Saturday evening featured Peri Smilow. She enthralled all those in attendance with her beautiful voice and her lovely spirit. Peri also led a beautiful Havdalah service.

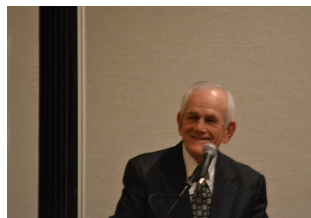
The Sunday morning plenary session included reports from Frank and Beth Waldorf about the activities of NAORRR throughout the year and a report by Ralph Kingsley, NAORRR treasurer. The Nominating Committee report was presented by Harvey Tattelbaum. The names of the new board members along with the continuing board members and officers are listed on the back page of this issue of Ohr L'naorrr.

David Ruderman's third lecture was on ******"Explorations in Pinhas Hurwitz's Sefer Habrit."



Sunday afternoon found the newly elected board meeting to discuss future directions for NAORRR.

The concluding program of the convention on Sunday evening included the installation of the new officers and board. Donald Berlin was honored for his outstanding service as president of NAORRR during 2015.



The installation of officers was beautifully conducted by Dena Klein, daughter of the incoming

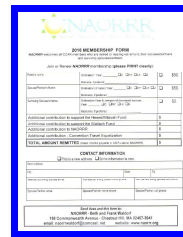
NAORRR president Richard Klein.

The 2016 NAORRR convention was enjoyable, educational, and provided many wonderful opportunities to renew old friendships and to make new ones.

Thanks to the Program Committee so ably chaired by Richard Klein and to all who helped make the 33rd annual NAORRR convention so memorable.

- = indicates that these presentations are available for reading on the website;
- ** = indicates that these video presentations are available on the web site.

NAORRR Membership



Included in this issue of Ohr L'Naorrr is the membership form for 2016. As the form states "NAORRR welcomes all CCAR members who are retired or nearing retirement, their spouses/partners and surviving spouses/partners."

In a recent review of the membership policies of NAORRR and its long-standing commitment to treating rabbis and their spouses/partners equally the NAORRR board voted to make the annual dues of all members \$50.00. It also decided that membership dues for surviving spouses of rabbis will be waived entirely.

There are lots of good reasons for becoming a member of NAORRR. A key reason is that registration for the annual convention is limited to members. While Ohr L'Naorrr is mailed to all CCAR members who have reached the age of 60 and are thus either nearing retirement or are already retired, the periodic electronic NAORRR information is only available to members.

Through its being an affiliate of the CCAR NAORRR is able to bring matters of concern to retirees to the attention of the CCAR leadership.

So - if you have not yet renewed your membership for 2016 - now is the perfect time to do that. And - if you are not yet a member and want to be part of this extraordinary organization - send in your membership form and check and have the satisfaction of knowing that YOU are part of the NAORRR family.



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NEWSLETTER OF THE
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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

מועדים לשמחה

May
this Passover prayer come true:
that you
and
your loved ones
"go your way ...
with a merry heart,"
with
courage of conviction,
with
broad-based integrity,
with
faith in our future,
with
individuality and perception
in
our conscientious scenario
for
sane human relations
and
caring
one for the other,
always
and forever.
Together.

"Hear,
O ye heavens,
and
give ear,
O earth,"
unity is
not a burden!

The holiday
is a moral asset,
a light,
a bond
of strength.

It is up to us
to keep our step
in tune with its spirit.
It's what
we need most.

Issachar Miron, *Eighteen Gates*, Jason Aaronson Inc., New Jersey, ©1993