

OHR L'NAORRR

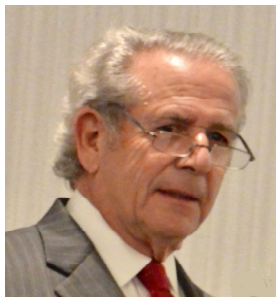
NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED REFORM RABBIS

VOL. 20, NO. 1

SPRING 5778 - אביב תשע"ח

SPRING 2018

From the President



Dear Friends,
With Pesach on the horizon, and our thoughts shifting to Seder and family, I want to share with you some thoughts about the days that have just past.

First, it is with a grateful heart that I express our sincerest thanks to Beth and Frank Waldorf for their four years of devotion and real skill in keeping our NAORRR work on the front lines. We are grateful to them and thank them for their efforts and success on our behalf. We shall miss their quiet, competent leadership.

Second, I want to warmly welcome Susie and Julian Cook as our new Executive Vice Presidents. As you know from my earlier letter, I have known and respected Susie and Julian for more than 50 years – not only for their competence but also their kindness, thoughtfulness and caring. They are among our closest personal friends and I couldn't be happier that they have agreed to succeed Beth and Frank. Welcome to them and know our organization will be in good hands.

Lastly, and of course so very important, is not so much the state of our organization but the state of our country and what we might do. Gun violence has absorbed my thoughts and some actions for many years. Now I ask us all to use our time, our energy and our influence to join our very brave young people in their growing call that says "It is enough." We as retired rabbis have much to say and do. I hope we all will find a way as individuals in our own communities to give of our time to make real change. I hope too that as an organization, NAORRR can use its considerable untapped resources and influence to

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From the Executive Vice Presidents



A VERY GOOD RUN

NAORRR thrives because so many members volunteer for tasks small and large. Year by year, program committees assemble meaningful conventions that enrich our members. Your officers and trustees provide the support and backup necessary for the operation of the group. As NAORRR approaches its double *chai* anniversary, our *chevra* is poised to meet the needs of retired Reform rabbis long into the future.

For the last four years, we have enjoyed a remarkably good run as NAORRR administrators. In our early years of retirement, we took pleasure merely from being at NAORRR Conventions. In our roles as Executive Vice Presidents, our friendship network expanded in a wonderful way. We know that those personal connections will endure even as we hand over the duties of Executive Vice Presidents to the Cooks.

A special bonus has been the privilege of representing NAORRR members at the CCAR Board. The Reform rabbinate is guided by a diverse, conscientious, mindful group of leaders who make me proud to be affiliated with the Reform Movement and inspires me with confidence about the future of liberal Judaism.

We're particularly gratified that we leave NAORRR's helm with the treasury on a sound footing. Wisely, your leaders adopted the principle of realistic pricing of registration and meals. The second accomplishment was the serious fund-raising campaign spearheaded this

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From the President

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make a difference.

If you agree with me and have some ideas of how we can have an impact through our organization please contact me. I am hopeful that we can, in some way, help our young people.

With our best to you and yours for a sweet Pesach,

Warmly,
Steve

Steve Foster, President

From the Executive Vice Presidents

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year by Hillel Cohn and Steve Jacobs. We thank them for very effective work. Now it is essential that other colleagues step forward to continue their efforts.

We'd like to pay special tribute to Irvin Ehrlich and Hillel Cohn for making our jobs manageable. Behind the scenes, Irvin maintains huge data bases that record the entire recent history of our organization. Without his IT expertise, we couldn't have functioned. In addition, Irvin keeps open the lines of communications through ConstantContact and informing us about life-cycle events. He is a non-anxious presence whose voice on the telephone offers assurance that all is well. And Hillel Cohn is a desktop publishing *mayvin* beyond compare. He edits the semi-annual *Ohr L'NAORRR* with informative content and attractive presentation. He maintains the NAORRR website and produces certificates of honor.

We feel indebted to our predecessors: Ag Herman, Irv and Pat Bloom, Hank and Sheila Bamberger, and Sue Weiss, fonts of institutional memory, whose insights and generous support have been enormously helpful. We welcome Julian and Susie Cook to this exclusive club. We are confident that they will serve NAORRR members with warmth and wisdom, skill and an excellent sense of humor.

Beth and Frank

Beth and Frank Waldorf
Executive Vice Presidents

Susan and Julian Cook to Serve as Interim Executive Vice Presidents



We are pleased to welcome Susan and Julian Cook as our Executive Vice Presidents. In keeping with the requirements of the NAORRR Constitution and By-Laws, Susan and Julian will be formally elected to the position by the membership at our 2019 convention. Till that time they are our "Interim" Executive Vice Presidents, having been selected and confirmed for that position by our Board of Trustees. Since its founding, NAORRR has always had couples serving together as Executive Vice Presidents.

We look forward to the energetic and creative leadership Susan and Julian will provide for NAORRR.

It's Time for Some "Regional" Gatherings!!!

While so much can be gained - enjoyment, study, socializing - from our annual NAORRR conventions, a number of our members have expressed a desire for some "regional" gatherings during the year. In some parts of the country there have been some sporadic attempts to gather colleagues and their spouses/partners together during the year be it for a Sunday brunch or a wine-and-cheese gathering or celebrating a holiday together. All it takes is for someone to take the initiative in establishing a very informal *chavurah* in a given geographical area. Such gatherings during the year could be immensely enjoyable and could cultivate some even deeper relationships.

Certainly large urban areas are ideally suited for such *chavurot* but they could work in other areas as well. If you find this to be a good idea and want to take on the challenge of getting such a group going in your area please let Susie and Julian Cook know. NAORRR will help you do this.

From Our “Interim” Executive Vice Presidents

Dear Friends,

We are honored to have been asked to become NAORRR’s next Executive Vice Presidents and are excited about beginning our work. We look forward to coming out of retirement to work with this vibrant organization. We are grateful to Beth and Frank Waldorf, who have done an exceptional job during their tenure, for guiding us and mentoring us as we go forward. We will be overlapping in order to provide a smooth transition for NAORRR.

You might want to know a little bit about us. We know that many of you are intrigued by *gematria*, so we begin with a brief look at some of **our** milestone numbers:

3 – children

7 – grandchildren

8 – cities we’ve lived in

37 – years in active rabbinate for Julian

40+ – years as educator for Susie

45 – years since Ordination

52 – years of marriage

192 Total

This yields the Hebrew equivalent **ב, צ, ק** - *Koof, Tzadi, Bet*.... Or, with slight rearranging, **ק, ב, צ** the root meaning “gathering.” All through our lives, we have gathered friends, experiences, and memories. NAORRR is a great place to experience a gathering, and we have enjoyed our previous gatherings so much, we’ve signed on to do more gathering! Being members of NAORRR, we have become part of a wonderfully supportive community... a *mishpacha*, really. We look forward to new friendships as we take on this challenge. Please feel free to communicate with us and to keep us posted on **your** personal milestones. Contact us at cooknaorrr@gmail.com.

Warmly,

Susan and Julian

Susan and Julian Cook

NAORRR 2019 Convention January 3-7, 2019 In Beautiful La Jolla



NAORRR’s 2019 convention will be held at the Marriott La Jolla in beautiful La Jolla, California, a suburb of San Diego. The convention will

begin on Thursday, January 3rd and end on Monday, January 7th. While the formal convention program ends with a banquet on Sunday night, we recommend that you plan on staying and joining in the final breakfast on Monday morning. There will



be opportunities to take advantage of the special convention rates for three days preceding and three days following the convention. The Marriott La Jolla offers a convenient location to major attractions.

More information on reserving rooms at the Marriott La Jolla will appear in the Fall 2018 *Ohr L’Naorrr* along with the convention registration materials. In the meantime - block these dates on your calendar and plan to be with us.

2019 Convention Planning Underway

The program committee for our next convention began its deliberations during our 2018 convention in Boca Raton. It was decided that the theme of our presentations will deal with our relationships with each other and with others. The general rubric will be “*Bayn Adam L’Chavero*.” Members of the committee are now in the process of contacting possible scholars and speakers for the conference. Members of the Class of 1969 will be invited to have a special role in honor of the 50th Anniversary of their Ordination.

Please feel free to forward any suggestions or thoughts about the program to me at jstiffman@sestl.org.

Your input is invited!

Jeff Stiffman

1st Vice President and Convention Chair

Living Our Values

The vast majority of NAORRR members are participants in the Reform Pension Board. RPB participants have recently been informed of the launching of the Reform Jewish Values Fund (RJV). The fund was created to help RPB participants more closely align their retirement investments with their Jewish values.

A recent communication from the RPB to its participants described some of the key highlights of the RJV Fund. They include:

- Avoiding companies involved in predatory lending, civilian firearms, landmines, and cluster munitions; Avoiding companies involved in tobacco, coal and consumable fuels companies; Avoiding companies that conduct business with the Sudanese government, based on the principles outlined by the Sudan Divestment Task Force.

- Placing greater emphasis on companies with better performing environmental, social, and corporate governance practices; investing in those companies that have a positive impact on the environment; investing in companies that positively impact Israel, its economy, and its people.

We commend the leadership of the Reform Pension Board on its launching of the Reform Jewish Values Fund (RJV) and hope that members of NAORRR will give consideration to selecting the RJV Fund as part of their investment choices.

Some Suggestions for Living an Active and Vibrant Senior Life

(Editors Note: A recent regional publication I receive - Inland Empire Magazine - included a thoughtful article that seemed worth sharing).



**Active Seniors:
Living a Vibrant Life**
“More than ever, older adults are living their lives with boldness, confidence and passion

while serving as an inspiration to people of all ages. Older Americans are engaged and making a difference.

The seven components to living a Vibrant Life are:

1. **Be inspired.** Gain a deeper sense of spirituality and feed the soul.

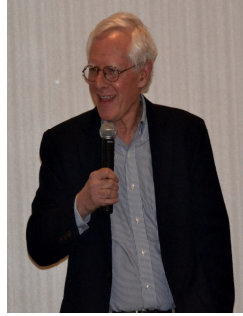
2. **Be Well.** Intellectual stimulation, get moving and stay active!
3. **Be Challenged.** Ignite competitive spirit, learn, grow and motivate!
4. **Be Adventurous.** Try something new every day. Explore and experience the unique!
5. **Be Family.** Cherish family connections, Share and continue family traditions!
6. **Be Social.** Embrace friendships, celebrate the moments. Talk, laugh and listen!
7. **Be Connected.** Engage in meaningful community involvement, share experiences and expertise.

Getting older doesn't mean what it used to. For many Americans, it's a crucial phase of life where interests, goals and dreams can get a new start. Today, aging is about eliminating outdated perceptions and living the way that suits us best. Today's group of older Americans are working longer, trying new things, and engaging in their communities. They can be characterized as taking leadership roles, striving for wellness, focusing on independence, and advocating for themselves and others. They want a Vibrant Life.”

Was This T-Shirt Made for YOU???



Highlights of NAORRR 2018



BOB ALPER entertained everyone with his great Opening Night comedy ...



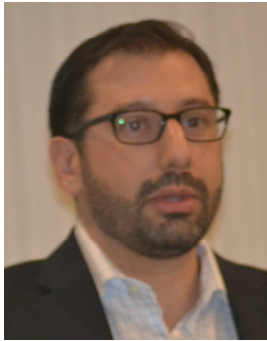
THE HON. KEN SALAZAR, former U. S. Senator (Colorado) and Secretary of the Interior gave an inspiring "A Retrospective on the Year on Domestic Policy"



THE HON. DAVID SAPERSTEIN reported for the URJ and also shared his unique perspectives on contemporary religious life around the world.



THE HON. DEBRA WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (Congresswoman, Florida 23rd Congressional District) spoke of her own Jewish journey and the contemporary scene.



JOSH WEINBERG (Director of ARZA) provided a Retrospective on Foreign Policy With Special Emphasis on Israel



JOE BLACK delighted everyone with his Havdalah Concert.



Members of the 1968 Class of HUC-JIR were honored on the occasion of the Jubilee-50th Year Anniversary of their ordination. In addition to being presented with Honorary Membership in the CCAR they were the honored guests at the Closing Banquet of NAORRR 2018 and presented with plaques from NAORRR. Those present to be honored were (l. to r.) Howard and Eileen Shapiro, Donald and Greta (not pictured) Splansky, Ted Falcon and Ruth Neuwald, Louise Drummond and Philip Posner, Paula Tabachnikoff (widow of Barry Tabachnikoff), Sue Weiss (widow of Kenneth J. Weiss).

For a fuller description of the NAORRR 2018 convention be sure to go to the NAORRR website: www.naorrr.org. There you will also find texts of the Shabbat sermon delivered by Howard Shapiro and the Azkarah delivered by Donald Berlin as well as numerous presentations from previous conventions.

Membership Application

Included in this issue of *Ohr L'Naorrr* is the membership form for 2018. The form states "NAORRR welcomes all CCAR members who are retired or nearing retirement, their spouses/partners and surviving spouses/partners."

There are lots of good reasons for becoming a member of NAORRR. If you are retired - of course you should be part of NAORRR. If you are getting close to retirement and are thinking of your future as a retiree - NAORRR can be of help. 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 already retired or approaching retirement, the periodic electronic NAORRR information is only available to members.

While those who have been ordained for 50 or more years are made honorary members of the CCAR and are thus exempt from paying CCAR dues, we do encourage our 50+ members to make a contribution to the CCAR in lieu of paying dues.

So - if you have not yet renewed your membership for 2018 - 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.

And note - in keeping with NAORRR's commitment to treating rabbis and their spouses/partners equally, the annual dues of *all* members is a very nominal \$50.00. There is no dues cost for surviving spouses of rabbis.



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