

## Happy Passover

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Jack Luxemburg



During our convention in Boca Raton, I had the opportunity, as the newly elected President, to share some thoughts with those in attendance. In addition to expressing my appreciation, I identified some areas that will need our attention in the year ahead. I want to share those comments with all the members of NAORRR to introduce myself and to invite comment and suggestions regarding the issues I identified.

A survivor of the Johnstown Flood of 1889 spent his life as platform speaker, retelling the story of the great deluge and his survival. When his days on earth ended,

he was ushered into the presence of the entire heavenly community to tell the story of his life. "I will tell the story of the great Johnstown flood," he told his angel escort. "Perhaps you have another story?" asked the angel. "Why would I? I have mastered the telling of my tale, how the flood waters covered the earth, how I floated upon them for several days and nights, before miraculously finding a patch of dry land. Why would I tell any other story?" "As you wish," responded the angel, "but remember, Noah is in the audience."

Here, every seat is occupied by a Noah – whether a rabbi, a spouse, a partner... in every seat is wisdom and experience comparable to, if not exceeding, my own. I want to thank all you Noahs for making room for me among you.

I want to thank friends who encouraged me and my wife, Barbara, to join NAORRR and all who welcomed us into this community that – as we know first-hand – has a wonderful capacity to celebrate and to console. I want to acknowledge those NAORRR leaders who invited me to get involved, especially during the Covid years when we pivoted from a loosely knit organization with an annual convention to a cohesive community with monthly opportunities to learn, to celebrate and to connect – albeit on-line -- during a time when many of us felt distanced, isolated

and lonely. They enabled us to stay together, to strengthen each other, and ultimately to reconvene and be renewed. We all owe them our thanks.

I'd like to express appreciation to Marty Lawson for his gracious participation in the "peaceful transfer of power" and for passing on to me, to our new officer corps and Board, a NAORRR which is strong and vibrant because of his leadership. And my thanks to NAORRR's "power couple", Joanie and Gary Glickstein, and their behind-the-scenes logistical support, Marsha and Seth Bernstein, for all they do. And this evening, as every evening for the over 50 years of our relationship and marriage, I want to thank my wife, Barbara, who, after some consideration, endorsed my candidacy ... who provides enthusiastic encouragement, great editing, supremely reliable legal counsel...and love without limit.

I'd like to touch on a few things I hope we can address between now and when we meet next year in San Diego. I do so as an invitation to share with our officers, Board of Directors or Executive Directors your suggestions and ideas about how we can best achieve our goals.

Last year in Scottsdale, Marty Lawson and Gary Glickstein challenged us to reflect, recognize and acknowledge how each of us

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## THE BREATH OF LIFE

### Bennett Miller, Second Vice President

“You have severe apnea!” That’s what the doctor told me. “Should I be concerned?” I asked. The doctor responded, “Well, not if you don’t mind if you stop breathing many times during your sleep!” I then agreed to use a CPAP machine, designed to help prevent breathing interruption during my night’s sleep.

So now I sleep with a CPAP. I fall asleep quickly and get a good night’s sleep until I wake up in the morning. It’s no bother for me, although, sometimes in the middle of the night Joan thinks there is a Martian sleeping next to her!

In the morning, when I awake, I usually feel and hear the sound of my breathing, the air that gets pushed out through the machine. And I am reminded of the prayers that we recite in the *Birchot Hashachar*: *וּמְדָה אֶתְּמַלְכִי וְקִיָּם שְׁהִתְנַחֲרַת בִּי נִשְׁמָתִי בְּחַמְלָה*, *I give thanks to You... for You have restored my soul to me....; מִיָּמָּה בְּאִתְּמַלְכִי שְׁפַתְּ בִּי טוֹחֶה הִיא אֶתָּה בְּאֶתָּה אֶתָּה יָצַרְתָּ אֶתְּנִסְחָתָה בִּי וְאֶתָּה* *O God, the Neshama that You have placed within me, You formed it, you shaped, and you breathed it into me. For as long as my soul is within me, I offer thanks to You; Praised are You in whose hand is every living soul and the breath of humankind.*

To breathe is a gift, restored to us each and every day. To hear your breath, feel your breath, and sense your breath is a gift and a privilege. That is why our sages included the breath of life in our prayers.

The CPAP can be seen as a metaphor for NAORRR. Many who retire do so without a plan, sometimes feeling worthless or without community. It is as if our breathing is interrupted due to our retirement. NAORRR can be a wonderful instrument to prevent us from such interruptions. NAORRR provides fellowship, friendship, renewal of relationships going back many years, and even development of new relationships. NAORRR provides programs to “keep us in the loop” about issues and activities near and dear to us. NAORRR provides opportunities to make a difference, to care for one another in good times and times of personal difficulty; and through NAORRR we are able to help sustain each other and our surviving spouses. Of course, NAORRR also provides us with the opportunity to gather together each year at our convention (the next one being in San Diego, January 2-6, 2025) where we celebrate our shared lives, our experiences, and our friendships. We even get to have ice cream and dance after *Havdalah*!

So, if your breathing is interrupted by retirement or you just want to feel and give thanks for the gift of the breath of life renewed each and every day --- Please plan to join us for the future programs that you will hear about throughout the year.

## Caring Committee: Here For YOU!

If you or any of our members you know could use a call from a member of our Caring Committee, please contact either Steve Moss at [samoss@aptonline.net](mailto:samoss@aptonline.net) or Gary and Joanie Glickstein at [naorrrglickstein@gmail.com](mailto:naorrrglickstein@gmail.com)



## REACH OUT AND CONNECT

Barbara Goldman-Wartell

I attended my first NAORRR Convention in Florida in 2016. I was the youngest member at that time. Remember that NAORRR is

open to rabbis who are 60 and older, their significant others and surviving spouses. I qualified by age to spend time with colleagues whom I had known for years and admired and to get to know so many other people. When I registered as a single woman rabbi at my first convention, I asked if there were any women to share a hotel room. The Waldorfs, who were the Co-executive Vice Presidents at that time, did their magic. I roomed with Janice Rothschild Blumberg, now of blessed memory. We stayed up late each night talking. She shared her experiences with her husband, Jacob M. Rothschild, at The Temple, the bombing of The Temple, having Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King, as dinner guests in their home and more. She also shared her experience with her second husband, David Blumberg, who was B'nai Brith's president during the hostage situation at B'nai Brith's headquarters in Washington, D.C. in the 1970s. She shared that for both crisis situations, long before cellphones, she was the one to stay at home by the

phone to be the communications center. I saw her again at the CCAR Convention in Atlanta several years later when we watched a theatrical production in the sanctuary of the Temple about the time of the bombing. Her warmth and sharing of her life stories with me have stayed with me. Her memory is a blessing.

I treasure the many connections I have made at NAORRR with colleagues, rabbinic spouses and widows over the years. The monthly programs we began offering during the pandemic only increased our potential to connect, learn and grow with one another. This past convention only strengthened the possibilities of what we can do when we are open to interacting and relating to one another in caring ways, open to many possibilities. I look forward as the 2nd Vice President with your assistance to reaching out to others who are not yet NAORRR members, to find out how NAORRR can be helpful to them and meet their needs at this time in their lives. I hope you enjoy the quickening pace of the spring holidays coming our way in the next few months.

**Barbara Goldman-Wartell**





On January 4, 2024, both our President, Marty Lawson, and our 1st Vice President, Jack Luxemburg, referred to our gathering as a “Convention of Conversations.” Throughout the four days of our 41st NAORRR Convention there were a number of opportunities for our members to share their thoughts, feelings, fears, and concerns with each other. In small groups, as within our larger sessions, we were able to discuss aging, career changes, Israel after October 7. For me, one of the most crucial sessions centered on the CCAR video “Clergy Monologues.” Hara Person introduced a short video from Ellen Dreyfus and then we all sat and watched the entire “Clergy Monologues” together. We broke up into smaller groups and spoke about what we had seen and what we had experienced. Our female colleagues helped lead each of the breakout groups. In our post-Convention evaluation we asked, “Clergy Monologues: did you find it any of these? (check all that apply).” About 50% of the surveys returned checked “challenging”, “enlightening” and “troubling.” The adjective that garnered over 65% was “worthwhile.” This was the first time our organization had seriously tried to address the way women rabbis were treated by our male colleagues over the past 50 years. Some of the conversations were intense and some tearful. I was gratified that so many found the session worthwhile. I think it

## VIEWS אלו ואלו

Gary Glickstein

telling that so many also found it troubling. Rabbi Avi Strausberg wrote a piece for Hadar for MLK Day. She began, “In *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. addresses his critics and writes, ‘Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will.’” Rabbi Strausberg turns to TB Makkot 9b: “our Rabbis use this story of Avimelekh to debate the status of someone who...mistakenly says or thinks that something forbidden is permissible. Is this person guilty and responsible for acting on that misimpression, or exempt from punishment?...The Talmud concludes this back and forth about Avimelekh’s guilt with a profound teaching. “He should have learned but he did not learn.” Avi goes on to write, “For me, I hear the echo of this short one-liner, ‘he should have learned and he didn’t learn,’ when I think about my own relationship to racial awareness and racial justice work.”

I am continually struck by the realization that that short phrase applies to me and so many of my colleagues when thinking about my female colleagues, my LGBTQ+ colleagues, my colleagues of color. I should have learned and I didn’t learn. I am learning more and that knowledge and awareness helps me become a stronger, more effective ally, colleague and rabbi. The NAORRR Convention experience and the survey results demonstrated to me that so many of our colleagues are in the same



situation. Some of us are still challenged and troubled and enlightened. And more of our members find this process of conversation and confrontation worthwhile. I am trying to deepen my understanding by learning what I did not learn earlier in my career. I am sorry it has taken so long. However, I am grateful for both the journey and the challenge as well as the encouragement I have received from our membership and from CCAR colleagues who are not yet old enough to be eligible for NAORRR. Thank you for your support, guidance and wisdom.

## **Hesed/Mitzvah Fund stands ready to help.**

While reaching out to several of our members, we have come to realize that many are still unaware of the incredible resource that is the Hesed/Mitzvah Fund of the CCAR and NAORRR.

The Hesed fund provides emergency financial assistance to rabbis and the surviving spouses of deceased colleagues.

This fund is substantial and stands ready to help any of our members and their spouses/partners in time of financial need. The process for application is always open and strictly confidential. Many of us have had difficult times and only got through them with the help of others. Our Hesed/Mitzvah Fund stands ready to help you in your time of need. Please contact [hesed@ccarnet.org](mailto:hesed@ccarnet.org) for more information.

## **NAORRR**

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### *continued*

might have contributed to discomfort of colleagues through our words or actions ... or by withholding supportive words or actions. While the focus was on the impact on our women colleagues, those very women colleagues reminded us that the issues of implicit bias, micro-aggression and discrimination, that the challenge of creating an inclusive and validating culture throughout our movement and its institutions, including in NAORRR, is not only about women. It is also about our LGBTQ+ colleagues, colleagues who are Jews-by-Choice or Jews-of-Color, colleagues living with disabilities. The American Jewish community is increasingly diverse. That diversity is most evident in our movement and its institutions. Consequently, we are the most challenged and our response to those challenges, the most visible throughout the Jewish world. While our movement continues to grapple with the implications of diversity, learning how to ensure it is a virtue and a strength, we ... NAORRR ... must acknowledge that the community of retiring rabbis, their spouses, and partners, will also become increasingly diverse. If NAORRR is to be relevant to future retirees, then we must be intentional and purposeful in making sure NAORRR is synonymous with the values of welcome, inclusion, validation, and acceptance. I believe that these values are present in NAORRR and embraced by our members. But they cannot remain implicit ... we will need to express them, affirm them, demonstrate them and be intentional in our pursuit of them. This is a work ... an *avodah* ... a sacred doing... in which we can all take part.

Our attendance is down this year. Among the reasons: some objected to holding this convention in Florida and, for political reasons, decided not to attend. We can discuss the moral obligation to fulfill contracts or protect workers or coming to give *chizuk* to our local colleagues and congregations...whether voting with our feet is best accomplished by being present or by being absent. That's the immediate controversy. The larger issue is this: other than California, where can we go on the first weekend in January as mandated by

our constitution ... that is warm and politically *"kasher?"* Everywhere that is warm in temperature come January is not necessarily warm to our generally liberal politics and social values. And places that are warm to those values, are warm during their "high season"—not referring to temperature, but to costs. The economics of our convention and the cost to our members will need to be reviewed soon. We are booked for San Diego in 2025. When this convention ends, we will start to look for a location for our 2026 convention. Should politics determine the place? Should temperature determine the season?

Our Reform Movement -- the URJ and its affiliates, HUC-JIR, Reform Judaism, itself -- is in a state of flux. This period of "reformulation" can offer NAORRR and our members opportunities to become engaged in the emerging initiatives and projects related to these changes. Our members are already involved in the "Recharging Reform Judaism" enterprise. NAORRR is represented on the CCAR Board of Directors by Gary Glickstein. Some of us, including me, have seats on standing committees of the CCAR. We have members who sit on the Board of Governors of HUC-JIR. NAORRR members fill roles in the Movement's affiliated organizations. I think it is our responsibility in these venues to point out that even though much has changed since our retirements, NAORRR represents a great pool of talent, experience, and expertise. We will be listening carefully to promising plans and projects across the Movement, and promoting how NAORRR and our members can contribute.

I'd like to conclude with a bit of Torah. In this week's Torah Portion, *V'eyrah* 6:9, Moses approaches our people with a vision of liberation and freedom. Of that moment, Torah says:

וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה בְּנֶאֱמָרוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ

אֶל-מֹשֶׁה מִקֶּדֶר לֹט וּמִקֶּבֶר נֶפֶשׁ: {ב}

"But when Moses told this to the Israelites, they would not listen to Moses, their

spirits crushed by cruel bondage."

I would like to share what I think is a current ... poignant ... commentary on the terms *"kotser ruach"* and *"avodah kasha"* ... from our Israeli colleague Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman of congregation Kol HaNishama in Jerusalem.

In an interview with Jodi Rudoren, editor-in-chief of *"The Forward,"* Rabbi Weiman-Kelman said, "I'm ashamed at how my heart has shrunk. I think on October 7 all our hearts were broken, and since then everyone is just trying to cope with so much, and we're limited human beings." He went on to say, "The suffering in Gaza is real. I definitely don't wish anyone in Gaza harm, but I just don't feel I have the emotional capacity to contain all this. And this is the ultimate Hamas victory. They made me a worse person. They made me a less compassionate person. I'm just so angry about that."

A painful admission...and an insightful commentary...*"kotser ruach"* ...a shrunken heart...*"avodah kasha"*...circumstances too much for our spirits to bear. It speaks volumes about what is going on in Israel ...and what is going on in our own communities with the rise of antisemitism and the increasing political turmoil. It speaks to what we are feeling in our own hearts and souls...anguish and anger... and speaks to our fight, against spiritual diminishment and overwhelming despair.

In this year, let's help each other bear what feels unbearable and keep our hearts from shrinking. I think we do that by continuing to be in conversation with each other, by helping, supporting, and encouraging each other to do the hard work about which we sang earlier (*Mi Ha-Ish*, Ps. 34) ... to call out evil, actively promote good, seek peace for all and pursue it everywhere.

Jack

# Thank You

## FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

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We acknowledge with deep appreciation the generosity of the following individual and institutional donors to NAORRR's Annual Campaign. These funds allow us to continue offering our membership opportunities for learning, gathering at conventions, and providing financial assistance when needed.

### INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL DONORS TO NAORRR'S ANNUAL CAMPAIGN (as of 2/28/24)

We apologize if any names have been inadvertently omitted. Please notify us at [naorrrglickstein@gmail.com](mailto:naorrrglickstein@gmail.com)

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The Temple, Atlanta IHO Alvin and Barbara Sugarman

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### We thank the following individuals for honoring the memory of NAORRR board member Eric Wisnia z"l with donations to the 2024 Convention Ice Cream Social

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# GLIMPSES OF THE CONVENTION









## 2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAORRR welcomes all CCAR members who are retired or who are 60 or older, their spouses and surviving spouses or partners.

**Please complete and PRINT clearly Date:**

Rabbi's name	Ordination: Year ____ <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NY <input type="checkbox"/> LA <input type="checkbox"/> J Nickname, if preferred _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
Spouse or Partner's name	Ordination: (if rabbi) Year ____ <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NY <input type="checkbox"/> LA <input type="checkbox"/> J Nickname, if preferred _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
Surviving Spouse's name	Ordination year & campus of deceased spouse: Year ____ <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NY <input type="checkbox"/> LA <input type="checkbox"/> J Name of deceased spouse _____	* No dues required
Additional contribution to support Hesed/Mitzvah Fund		\$
Additional contribution to support Convention Assistance Fund		\$
Additional contribution to support NAORRR Re-Imagined		\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT REMITTED</b> <i>(make checks payable in US funds to NAORRR)</i>		\$

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Street Address		
City	State	Zip
Member or surviving spouse email	Member or surviving spouse home phone	Member or surviving spouse cell phone
Spouse or Partner email	Spouse or Partner home phone	Spouse or partner cell phone

**Send dues and this form to:**

NAORRR – Joanie and Gary Glickstein  
1 Grove Isle Drive, #1803, Miami, FL 33133  
Email: [naorrrglickstein@gmail.com](mailto:naorrrglickstein@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://www.naorrr.com>



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Has your mailing address or your email address changed recently? We want to keep our data current, so we ask that you please notify NAORRR of any contact information changes.

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Please let us know at [naorrrglickstein@gmail.com](mailto:naorrrglickstein@gmail.com)



**Stay tuned for exciting  
upcoming programs from NAORRR**

**We have great programs planned for  
the next few months (and beyond, of  
course!)**

**Check your email for updates.**

*It's time to re-join or join for the first time!*

**JOIN NOW**

*A reminder...  
NAORRR Membership is from  
April 1, 2024  
through  
March 31, 2025*

NAORRR  
1 Grove Isle Drive  
#1803  
Miami, FL 33133

