

Newsletter of the National Association of Retired Reform Rabbis

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Robert Orkand, President



I retired in 2013. If someone had asked me then what I imagined the world would look like 10 years in the future, I would have had to have been using some illegal substance to imagine the state of the world today. We have lived through Covid, a chaotic election and its aftermath, a tragic war in Ukraine and a Supreme Court decision that denies women control of their own bodies. And, I would add to my personal list the dramatic challenges faced by our Reform institutions.

For me, personally, it has been Covid that I have found the most challenging, perhaps because it has felt the most personal. The fear of getting sick at my

age, the constant worry about the health of family and friends, and the isolation all weighed heavily on me. Throughout a pandemic that seemingly has no end, I could not help but reflect on the challenges that confronted younger colleagues. Creating a sense of community when people were quarantined, finding ways to bring the comforting and healing messages of Judaism into people's homes, and quickly learning new technologies required ingenuity and tremendous skill while, at the same time, taking care of family and oneself. To be honest, while marveling at the ability of colleagues to adapt and change while worrying about their mental and physical health, I could not help but feel thankful that I am retired!

As it became clear that NAORRR would not be able to bring people together for conventions, we quickly pivoted to a new model. We reimagined NAORRR and found ways to connect retired colleagues and spouses with each other using Zoom (I can only imagine what life would be like without this amazing tool). We have provided monthly workshops that allow for continuing education and have found creative ways to schmooze with each other, albeit on computer

screens and smartphones. I think that as we (hopefully) begin to emerge from the pandemic NAORRR is more vital than ever.

In January we will meet in Scottsdale, and what a reunion that will be! We will hear from great scholars, learn from each other in workshops, participate in a conversation about the future featuring the professional leaders of our Movement's institutions, and, most important fist-bump (or, perhaps, hug) those friends we have not seen in person for almost three years. I cannot help but feel that being together will be the "medicine" we all need during a most difficult time in human history.

I look forward to seeing you in January as the members of my ordination class celebrate 50 years in the rabbinate. We have a lot to celebrate, and I can't wait to join you in a most heartfelt *Shehecheyanu*.

Bob

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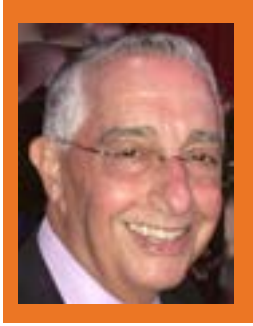
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Has your mailing address or your email address changed recently? We want to keep our data current, so we ask that you please notify NAORRR of any contact information changes.

NOT TUNED IN?

Are you not receiving our email program flyers? To subscribe to our email blasts, please let us know at naorrrglickstein@gmail.com





THIS IS THE DAY!

Marty Lawson, First Vice President

It is finally coming to fruition. After being separated for three years due to the pandemic, we will, with your help, gather for our NAORRR convention in Scottsdale, Arizona from January 5 – 9, 2023.

All of us serving on your Program Committee are so excited to see you again IN PERSON! While our Zoom sessions have been wonderful and helped to maintain our *kesher* – our connection, there is nothing like being together, learning together, schmoozing together at our annual convention. That is why I am asking you to seriously make plans to be with us for an extraordinary program.

We will have not one, but two main scholars with whom we will engage in *Torah lishmah!* Dr. Daniel Matt, scholar of Kabbalah, will teach us on his latest book: *Becoming Elijah: Prophet of Transformation*.

“How did this zealot turn into a compassionate hero – apparently the most popular figure in Jewish folklore? ... His transformation is pertinent and inspirational for our polarized, fanatical world.” He will also offer two workshops on Zohar.

And if that were not enough, we will have the joy of learning with our colleague, Amy Scheinerman. Amy will lead us on a journey into *The Talmud of Relationships*, her amazing two volume writing exploring the world of the rabbis and the Talmudic tradition. As professor of Midrash, Rabbi Norman Cohen writes: “Be prepared to experience the Talmud come alive as we learn to navigate engrossing texts and also reflect on our own relationships: who we are and who we aspire to be.” You will also have two opportunities to study with Amy in workshops.

So much has transpired in the Reform Jewish community since we last gathered in convention. Some of these things continue to challenge us for today and tomorrow. That is why we are so pleased to announce that the leaders of our three national bodies will be with us for a panel discussion. We will dialogue with Rabbi Hara Person, Chief Executive of the CCAR; Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism; Dr Andrew Rehfeld, President of HUC-JIR. The discussion will be moderated by our colleague

Rabbi Andrea Weiss, Provost of HUC-JIR and Associate Professor of Bible.

Now if that were not enough, we have incredible workshops being offered by many of our colleagues and spouses/partners. Add to all the above opportunities, the time when we will celebrate our 50 Year Ordination class throughout the convention, sing together, *daven* together and just enjoy the blessings of being physically present for each other! Due to the pandemic, we never had the chance to express our gratitude to Julian and Susie Cook and to Shelly Harr for their great work to transform NAORRR during the last three years. We plan to do so in Scottsdale. It is definitely time to put Covid behind us and to bask in the sun of Scottsdale together! Personally, I cannot thank our Co-Executive Vice Presidents, Joanie and Gary Glickstein, enough for their caring, dynamic, organized leadership of our precious NAORRR! Please make their lives easier by sending in your registration forms and fees EARLY. In fact, if you do so it will be to your advantage with a reduction in fees.

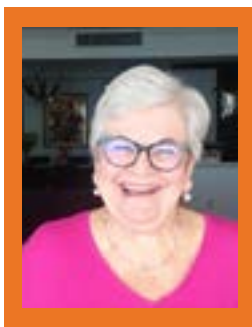
Above all, let us pay heed to the voice of our tradition. “*This is the day that the Source of All has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!*” See you in Scottsdale in January!

Marty

**Tell Us You
Want To...**



If you would like to “Go Green” and not receive a mailed hard copy of the Ohr L’Naorrr, email us at naorrrglickstein@gmail.com



“Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver and the other is gold.”

Any Girl Scouts among us who remember that song?

Two months into the pandemic lockdown, six high school classmates and I began to meet monthly via Zoom. Those calls have continued until now and we are hoping to have an in-person reunion soon, since we are scattered across three states and two countries. Several of us had been out of touch with each other for 55 years, yet we reconnected as if only months had passed. If any lesson stands out for me from the past 2 ½ years, it is the importance of relationships: maintaining and nurturing those we cherish, as well as developing new ones that bring us fresh insights and joy.

Over the decades of Gary’s active rabbinate, I rarely attended national or regional CCAR meetings and conventions, due to family and professional obligations. I did, however, maintain individual contact with many classmates’ spouses. Since retiring from our full-time professions, we have attended three NAORRR conventions in person.

In my new role as Co-Executive Vice President of NAORRR, I look forward to the opportunity in January, 2023 to meet rabbis, spouses and partners whom I do not yet know, as well as to renew relationships with those whom I have not seen in person for several years. Since one of the primary responsibilities of my role is processing membership forms and checks, it will be a bonus to place a face with a name. There is an ongoing effort to recruit members to

VIEWS אלו ואלו

Joanie Glickstein

attend our first in-person convention since 2020, led by Jack Luxemburg and a committee of volunteers. I would like to urge spouses, partners, and surviving spouses to assist in this effort.

Reach out to your friends and acquaintances to join you in beautiful Scottsdale, Arizona for study, schmoozing, sightseeing, and camaraderie. The \$150 flight subsidy is available to ALL NAORRR members, not just rabbis. Early Bird registration can save you up to \$100. Additional assistance is available (with total confidentiality guaranteed) from several sources.

Please make it a priority to be part of this upcoming convention. Visiting virtually with my high school friends during the pandemic has reminded me how valuable and enriching personal connections are. My hope is that we will meet and connect.

“Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver and the other is gold.”

Next year in Scottsdale!

Joanie Glickstein

Daniel Luxemburg^{z"1}

Today, I am not your rabbi nor anyone's clergy or comforter. Today, I am a grieving parent. It has been a privilege to speak from this pulpit. Today, it is painful. Today, I am at a loss for words, struggling to express our shock, sorrow, loss, grief, emptiness, dismay, disorientation ... and yes, the tinges of frustration and anger. We are numb ... but not unfeeling. We have too many emotions ... some so alien and overwhelming that we don't know how to experience them ... let alone express them. Please bear with me as I try to speak for Barbara and for myself. Michael, as always, has spoken for himself ...and as himself ... and shared Daniel with us as only a brother can ... and made you all aware of the magnitude of his loss and depth of his sorrow.

Barbara, Michael and I appreciate all of you who are here ... and those present on the livestream ... Daniel's friends, his colleagues and companions, his schoolmates and teachers, debate partners, the computer geniuses, intellectuals, literati, artists, political activists – everyone who shared his life and his passions ... we thank you all. We thank you for your sympathy and for sharing with us the burden of our sorrow. We thank you for what you gave to Daniel and for your expressions of appreciation and admiration for what Daniel contributed to your lives. We read your on-line posts over and over. They are an eloquent eulogy that gives us great comfort knowing that Daniel touched so many lives in such meaningful ways. We want to thank our congregation, our colleagues, and friends ... who have come from near and far ... those from the Jewish world, the legal world, and the world at large for the solace and support you are providing us. And to the members of our immediate and extended family -- your love and appreciation for Daniel, your being with us in this terrible moment is meaningful beyond words.

And we want to thank all of you for something else. We thank you for our son, Daniel. You are the congregational and communal village that helped us raise him as a child. You embraced him, educated him, supported him, motivated him and made him feel valued and appreciated. Others of you are the citizens of Daniel's personal village, his world, to which we ... like all parents of adult children ... visited occasionally, but only as tourists. We look forward to meeting the

natives despite our sorrow. Your friendship, your mentoring, your guidance, your challenges, your support, and encouragement helped Daniel become the talented professional, the deep and creative thinker, and the good person for whom we mourn today ... and for all the tomorrows to come.

Since language is inadequate to express our grief, I choose to focus on gratitude. -- an emotion easier to experience and to express. We are ... and always will be ... grateful for Daniel. We are grateful for his graciousness and his generosity; for his passion and his persistence; for his love and his attentiveness. We are grateful for his attention and his concern; for his intellect and his insight; for his introspection and his self-awareness. We are grateful for his fortitude and his forbearance; for his sense of adventure and his sense of decency; for his integrity and his honesty. We are grateful for his warm heart...though we are told it was his heart that failed him ... and sweet soul; for his intensity and his inventiveness; for his scientific inquiry and his spiritual pursuits; for his curiosity about the world and his attachment to home. We are -- and always will be -- grateful for every moment of his life. That said, we are also ingrates. For all that we enjoyed and treasured in his 37 years...and it was a lot ... it was not enough. We looked forward to more. We wanted more... and we still do. We feel entitled to more. Daniel was entitled to more. We expected Daniel to be with us at the end of our lives...not to be with him at the end of his.

Like Michael...who, to my delight, outshines me...I have a couple of vignettes to share. From an early age, Daniel was interested in technology and how technology could affect positive social change. An example – at age five or six, he came into possession of a TV remote, no longer used because we had graduated to cable. He took that old remote apart and put it back together repeatedly, trying to figure out how it worked. He brought it to services at the Temple one Shabbat evening where, to demonstrate how technology could effect change, he stood up in the aisle, pointed the remote at me as I was speaking, and pressed the button again and again! To this day, I wonder what he thought would happen. Maybe, he just wanted to find out. Curiosity was one Daniel's most admirable and endearing traits...except in that instance. His life was

defined by a deep desire to know, to explore and to understand, ... everything.

With that drive ... and equipped with the learning and research tools he acquired as a champion policy debater ... Daniel became an extraordinary auto-didact. He taught himself so many things across a multitude of disciplines. He taught himself to be a computer programmer and software engineer. Never took a course. Earned no technical degree. He would come home for holidays, or vacation and immediately headed to Borders ... remember Borders? He would buy some big tome from which he would learn yet another computer language or programming skill. Self-taught, he became a sought-after professional. Daniel also loved fine arts. He could, as you heard, spend hours in museums. When we went with him to MOMA, he was our guide to the exhibit. He had immersed himself in information about the artist ... Kandinsky, I think...the history of the era, the influences on the artist ... and while he was explaining the art, its significance and intellectual context, to us ... other people were standing around listening to him. Daniel was the type of learner that the rabbis describe as a sponge. He was a happy sponge. He loved to soak up knowledge and he retained it. But Daniel was a generous sponge...give a little squeeze, and he was happy to share what he learned so others might share his enthusiasm and his enjoyment. This was one of his ways of building community. He had the makings of a great teacher. Not only Michael, but Barbara, myself ... and many others, so we have discovered, learned a lot from him.

Daniel was a thinker. He enjoyed reading... discussing and debating... philosophy, theology, ethics, political theory, social criticism... and other "isms" too numerous and esoteric to name. One reason he came home every year on Passover was to engage in study, discussion, and occasional debate at the Seder table. According to him, it all started in ... 4th grade, with a book called, "*Why? An Introduction to Philosophy.*" About it, Daniel wrote this... for a 6th or 7th grade assignment... "While I read, I began to question things I never had before. Things like reality, time and space. I did not understand everything...but reading it was the most fun I have ever had while learning. I did not agree with everything, but I learned that philosophy was my new favorite subject. I was greatly interested in these complex questions. I cannot imagine who I would be if I had never read that book. I believe it was one of the defining events in my life." An intellectual

journey begun early ... and ended too soon.

Consequently, and unhappily, this is a defining event in our lives. I wish I had a book that could answer, "Why?", answer the questions and fill the void that has settled in the core of our being. Our sacred texts are genius not because they give us pat answers, but because they recognize, as did Job and Kohelet, that there are no answers to the mysteries of life ... or death. None that are fathomable, anyway. Instead, Jewish tradition honestly acknowledges that life contains both joy and sorrow. That the two are often intertwined ... that to appreciate the former... and to survive the latter ... are both sacred obligations. Therefore, I am inclined to lean into the joy of being Daniel's parents -- not the sorrow. For "Daniel's parents" is who we are and who we will always be. He is forever our son and Michael's brother. He will always be a nephew or a cousin in the family circle. We hope Daniel will always be considered a friend among those who know him. Lives end, relationships live on. And it is through those relationships that the ripples Daniel's life set in motion will continue, even amplify. One of his favorite authors, Terry Pratchett, wrote, "No one is finally dead until the ripples they cause in the world die away. The span of someone's life is only the core of their actual existence". We hope that everyone who knew, loved and appreciated Daniel will find a way to keep those ripples flowing. ... sustaining and spreading his influence on our lives and in this world, making his presence persistent, his life more meaningful despite being incomplete. As one of my wise colleagues said, "like the symphony of the same name, Daniel's life was beautiful even though unfinished." The fullness of Daniel's life waiting to be realized but now to forever go wanting, the bits of new knowledge and moments of understanding that he will never collect, the places he will not visit, art he will not see, the technology he will not help create, this is what we mourn. We mourn what will forever be missing. But Daniel, our beautiful Daniel, will always be present in our lives. Daniel gives us joy... he always will. For this, our broken hearts will be forever grateful. *Zichrono L'vracha*... may making ripples...and a bit of good trouble...in his memory bring blessing...and consolation...to us all. Amen.

Rabbi Jack Luxemburg

HEY GOOD LOOKIN', WHATCHA GOT COOKIN'?

You might call it my Tony Bennett/ Lady Gaga moment with Helen (my mother)

A Reflection by Rabbi Bennett F. Miller

My mother Helen Brenner Senzel was widowed at age twenty-seven. I was five. Her husband (my father, Eli Miller) lived to be thirty-one. He died of complications related to rheumatic heart disease. Somehow, she managed to get on with life, live a full and active life with real meaning and rich fulfillment. She also went on to marry (Erving Schwartz for 16 years) and later Harold Senzel for thirty years. She died at age 96. One thing that was consistent in her life was music. As she often said, "As long as you have music in your life you are never alone." And she certainly had music in her life every day until the very last day of her life.

My parents were founding members of their synagogue, Temple Emanuel of Irondequoit, NY. For many years my mother sang in the Temple Choir. After my father's death she would bring me to Friday night services and I would sit next to her, with my own pile of books of liturgical songs. I, too, became a member of that choir, a glorious group that welcomed me into the choir "loft." I sat next to Mom and listened to all of the voices as they sang the holy words of prayer. Even after my father's death, Mom had music in her life; she was never alone.

On Tuesday nights Helen and her sister Marion would rehearse at our home (on Thursday evenings they rehearsed at Marion's home). Sister Betty accompanied them on the piano. They were known as The Brenner Sisters, the Rochester version of the Barry Sisters. I often sat on the steps just off the living room and listened to them sing their songs — some were contemporary popular tunes, or classics, some were Yiddish melodies, and some were Hebrew songs. I loved listening to them sing, hearing them harmonize, and doing it all with smiles on their faces. They would then take their musical craft and perform at night clubs, b'nai mitzvah or wedding receptions, civic groups, sisterhoods or men's clubs. And they were loved by all. Little did I know that they were teaching me all of the melodies, the harmonies, the lyrics, too. Yes, as long as you have music in your life you are never alone.

Of course, I became the music teacher (song leader) at the Temple. Later to go on and lead songs for NELFTY, NFTY Torah Corps, OSRUI, GUCI, too. And my daughter Ellie would become music teacher at our Temple in New Brunswick and then song leader at Camp Harlam. And now my grandson Sam is leading songs at Camp

Harlam. It's fair to say my mother was the first song leader in the family and it now continues to the fourth generation. As long as you have music in your life you are never alone.

As it turns out, like Tony Bennett, Helen had dementia in her later years. During the last two years of her life, the dementia took over more and more of her waking hours. She lost her long term memory (except for being able to recall the names of each of her four sisters: Billie, Betty, Pearl, and Marion). Eventually she couldn't remember my name (but she always knew I was someone special in her life; same for my brother Andrew). And she couldn't remember what happened two minutes ago. The short term memory was gone, too. But not the melodies or the lyrics. Like Tony Bennett she could sing the songs on key, with full expression, and with absolute joy in her heart. For all of her years she had music in her life and she was never alone. Ironically, about six weeks before Mom's death I had hip revision surgery that was complicated and I went to rehab. The rehab was in the same nursing home where Mom

was living. In fact, my room was down the hall from hers. I didn't know it at the time, but for four weeks Mom and I met every day, often twice a day, and we sang. Many days, my cousin Howie (Betty's son) joined us, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays, my brother Andy would sing with us via FaceTime from Australia. It was our Tony Bennett/ Lady Gaga moment. The staff loved it, the residents loved it too. We would usually sing in the hall or from a private room (we were permitted to take off our COVID masks in that room and sing away.)

We sang together every day for four weeks. As I would approach her she would smile to indicate that she knew me. Then I would croon "Hey good lookin'" and she would respond, "whatcha got cookin'?" And I knew she was ready for song session. So we sang: Unforgettable, That's What You Are, Fly Me To The Moon, When You're Smiling, Moon River, S'wonderful, I'm In Love With You Honey, All By Myself, As Long As He Needs Me, Bye, Bye, Blackbird, Blue Skies, Everybody Loves Somebody, I'll Be Loving You Always, Carolina In The Morning, Let Me Call You Sweetheart, All Of Me, Three Coins In The Fountain, Sing, Sing A Song, Makin' Whoopee, Till There Was You, Dona Dona Dona, By Mir Bistu Shayn, Belz, Chiri Bim, Chiri Bam ... and always ending with If you're

happy and you know it. They were all part of her repertoire along with many more.

On the Sunday before week five, my brother came to visit with some of his children and grandchildren. Mom was wheeled out to the courtyard. She saw us and exclaimed, "My family is here!" And then we chatted and sang some songs. On Monday, more grandchildren, but Mom was a bit off. We brought her back to her room. I said, "See you tomorrow Mom, I love you!" And she said, "I love you too." Saturday night she died. I spent the week singing to her. She didn't say or sing a word. She had no pain, no discomfort, she simply descended into the night. It was Erev Shavuot when she left us. She had music in her life until the end. She was never alone.

It is said that King David died on Shavuot eve. So I assume that David was waiting for Helen, along with his harp. And they are singing together in Heaven, Tony Bennett just turned 96. Like Mom, he can't remember a thing, except the songs and the lyrics of all the songs. I was Mom's Lady Gaga (so to speak) and what beautiful music we made together. By the way, I didn't know it would be her last day, but on that last day I put my cellphone up to her ears and played "my Yiddishe Mama," performed by the Barry Sisters.

So many have shared with me how hard it is to watch loved ones descend from Alzheimers or dementia. I understand. I have seen it with all too many families. But those last weeks with my mother were a gift to her and to me. We made music and neither one of us was ever alone! I would urge loved ones to sing to their parents, their spouses, those members of the family who don't have to be alone even in the twilight of life or in the darkness from memory loss or from pain. As long as they have music in their life, they need not ever be alone.

ABOUT THIS FUND

Caring Committee: We are there 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 or Gary and Joanie Glickstein at naorrglickstein@gmail.com

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BOOK PEOPLE עַם הַסֵּפֶר

BOOK REVIEW

Review by Stephen Wylen

A God We Can Believe In, eds Richard Agler and Rifat Sonsino



In the early days of Reform, reformers updated the ideology of liturgy according to the principles of the Enlightenment. That side of Reform has been replaced by a neo-Romanticism that embraces tradition for its own sake. The early Reformers rewrote or deleted prayers that were not consistent with truth as we understand it. References to angels, the Messiah,

Resurrection, were without apology scrubbed from the *siddur*. The idea was to say what we believe when we pray. Every new Reform *siddur* since that early era has come closer to the traditional words, our inheritance from the Byzantine Era when God was the Emperor, to be assuaged with relentless flattery in the hope of favor. The dominant view in contemporary Reform seems to be, “We must struggle to understand our wise heritage.”

The counter-revolution is past due, and here it is, in the form of this collection of essays, *A God We Can Believe In*. The premise of this work is that a primary reason Reform Jews stay away from worship is that they are turned off by the theistic Deity they find there. These writers believe that Jews will be drawn back to the synagogue if we represent God according to our actual beliefs - a Natural Deity, not a Supernatural Deity.

The primary co-conspirators are Rabbis Richard Agler and Rifat Sonsino. Disclaimer; I consider them both to be friends. They are amongst the most learned of our colleagues, and they also proved themselves adept as pastors during a distinguished career. They have assembled a group of like-minded colleagues, many of them members of NAORRR, to contribute to this volume.

Who are the influences? Mordecai Kaplan. Maimonides. Harold Schulweis. Abraham Joshua Heschel, a lot. One can see why believers in the religion of science would like Heschel's starting point in individual human wonder at the amazing cosmos. Our respondents may have underplayed the theism of Heschel.

The writers are relentlessly positive. They write about what we should believe in, not against what we should not believe in. As one would expect from an anthology, the

essays are uneven. Still, there is a cumulative effect in demonstrating that so many intelligent Jews worship a God of nature who does not provide individual providence and is immune to our pleas. The writers themselves are evidence that a natural Deity can still inspire passion. Anson Laytner writes movingly about the effect of second and third generation PTSD from the Holocaust on the a-theism of American Jews. Rachel Greengrass admits that, despite being a chemical engineer and a believer in a natural God, she has prayed for what she wanted and received it. I saw myself in her. I have prayed for a computer and, once, for a crisp green Granny Smith apple, and received them. I like to joke that even though I don't believe that God answers prayers, God ignores me and answers them anyway. And there's the rub – we have rational minds, but can we overcome our human tendencies?

I ask two questions of a book – is there a good idea here, and is there an audience waiting to hear it? About the second question, I am not so sure. Are there Jews waiting to be lured by a God who neither listens nor speaks? There are renegades from Orthodoxy, turned off by justifications for the Shoah, who would love this message. Jews who became Christians because they are enamored of the personal relationship with Jesus are not seeking a natural God. Many Jews nowadays pray to Mrs. Shekinah, a turn towards neo-pagan mythology. (In real Kabbalah prayer to *Sefirot* is forbidden.) I wish some of our writers would have explored more deeply why contemporary Reformers insist on gender purity but not on theological purity.

Maimonides refers to the classic trio of Praise, Petition and Thanks in the *Mishneh Torah*. In the *Moreh*, Maimonides admits that all worship is praise. The wise praise God without thought of reward. How many are drawn to this message?

The editors address this work to the rabbis who will someday authorize the next Reform *siddur*. All liberal rabbis should buy a copy. If we believe that Truth and Religion have anything in common, we must hear what this book is saying.

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

NAORRR CONVENTION 2023



Becoming Elijah: Prophet of Transformation

Daniel C. Matt

In the Bible, Elijah is a zealous prophet, attacking idolatry and injustice, championing God. He defeats the prophets of Baal and performs miracles, restoring life and calling down fire. When his earthly life ends, he vanishes in a whirlwind, carried off to heaven in a fiery chariot. Was this a spectacular death, or did Elijah escape death entirely? The latter view prevailed. Though residing in heaven, Elijah revisits earth—to help and rescue, to enlighten spiritual seekers, and ultimately herald the Messiah. Because of his messianic role, we open the door for Elijah during each seder—the meal commemorating liberation from slavery and anticipating final redemption.

How did this Biblical zealot turn into a compassionate hero and source of wisdom—as well as the most popular figure in all of Jewish folklore? In this talk, Daniel Matt will explore that question, tracing how Elijah develops from the Bible to Rabbinic Judaism, Kabbalah, and Jewish ritual. His transformation is pertinent and inspirational for our polarized, fanatical world.

ABOUT DANIEL MATT

Daniel Matt is a scholar of Kabbalah and the Zohar. He has been featured in Time and Newsweek, and has appeared on National Public Radio and the History Channel. He has published over a dozen books, including The Essential Kabbalah (translated into eight languages), Zohar: Annotated and Explained, and God and the Big Bang: Discovering Harmony between Science and Spirituality (revised edition, 2016). His biography of Elijah the Prophet (Becoming Elijah: Prophet of Transformation) was recently published by Yale University Press in their series Jewish Lives.

Some years ago, Daniel completed an 18-year project of translating and annotating the Zohar. In 2016, Stanford University Press published his ninth volume of The Zohar: Pritzker Edition, concluding the Zohar's main commentary on the Torah. For this work, Daniel has been honored with a National Jewish Book Award and a Koret Jewish Book Award. The Koret award hailed his translation as "a monumental contribution to the history of Jewish thought."

Daniel received his Ph.D. from Brandeis University and for twenty years served as professor at the Center for Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. He has also taught at Stanford University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Daniel lives in Berkeley with his wife Hana. He currently teaches Zohar online. For information about this ongoing Zohar course, see the website of Stanford University Press: <https://www.sup.org/zohar/course>

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

NAORRR CONVENTION 2023



Far Out Rabbinic Fantasies

Amy Scheinerman

Rabbah bar bar Chana is a curious rabbinic figure, in large part for the enigmatic fantasy stories he left us to ponder. These include whimsical tall tales of fantastical voyages replete with hyperbole, strange beasts, and bizarre characters.

These tales invite us to explore the situation of the Jewish people in the world. Or perhaps our personal life situations? We'll read and analyze several of these intriguing stories together

ABOUT AMY SCHEINERMAN

Rabbi Amy Scheinerman is the author of *The Talmud of Relationships*, volumes 1 and 2, published by the Jewish Publication Society. She is editor of the "Voices of Torah" column in our CCAR newsletter and writes many of the pieces. In addition, she has contributed essays or chapters to numerous CCAR publications. She has served Reform, Conservative, and unaffiliated congregations, and been a hospice rabbi over the course of her career. She travels either physically or via Zoom as a scholar-in-residence teaching Talmud.

Rabbi Scheinerman is married to Dr. Edward Scheinerman, professor of applied mathematics and statistics and Vice Dean for Graduate Engineering Education at The Johns Hopkins University. They have four children and three grandchildren.

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 hessed@ccarnet.org for more information.

NAORRR CONVENTION FINANCES

Available assistance includes an airfare subsidy of \$150, and underwriting from the Wallach Fund to ensure attendance at NAORRR Conventions. To inquire, please send a confidential email to naorrrglickstein@gmail.com

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES:

Print clearly

		By 10/20	By 11/30	After 11/30	
Member 1	Preferred name on name tag	\$ 75	\$ 125	\$ 175	
Member 2	Preferred name on name tag	\$ 75	\$ 125	\$ 175	
TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE DUE					\$ A

NAORRR DUES **You must be current in 2022-23 dues to attend!**

2022-23 Dues: Member \$75. Surviving Spouse \$0.

If you are unsure if you have paid dues for 2022-23, please contact Joanie or Gary Glickstein at naorrrglickstein@gmail.com.

Dues enclosed: Member 1 \$ _____. Member 2 \$ _____

Check if this is your **first time attending** a NAORRR convention

TOTAL DUES

\$ B

MEAL FEES

OPENING WELCOME DINNER – Thursday eve	1 or 2	\$50 each	\$
EREV SHABBAT DINNER	1 or 2	\$55 each	
SHABBAT KIDDUSH (LUNCHEON) BUFFET <input type="checkbox"/> attending <input type="checkbox"/> not attending	1 or 2	\$20	\$
SATURDAY NIGHT ICE CREAM SOCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> attending <input type="checkbox"/> not attending	1 or 2	No Charge	\$ 0
SUNDAY EVENING BANQUET	1 or 2	\$60	\$
TOTAL COST OF ALL MEALS			\$
ADD TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES– from line A			\$
ADD TOTAL DUES - from line B			\$
CONTRIBUTION TO MITZVAH/HESED FUND			\$
CONTRIBUTION TO CONVENTION ASSISTANCE FUND			\$
CONTRIBUTION TO NAORRR FUND			\$
GRAND TOTAL - AMOUNT DUE			\$
ENCLOSE CHECK PAYABLE TO NAORRR Or check here <input type="checkbox"/> if using PayPal			
Please double check your addition			

NOTE: We cannot process any form without correct payment.

If you have food allergies or special dietary needs, please enclose a note describing your needs. Complete BOTH pages and mail with your check (Payable to NAORRR) to Joanie and Gary Glickstein at 1 Grove Isle Dr. #1803 Miami, FL 33133

*****(Before mailing this form, please make a copy of both sides for your future reference.)**

NAORRR 2023 CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Embassy Suites by Hilton Phoenix-Scottsdale, AZ– January 5-9, 2023

Registration deadline – December 22, 2022

Please complete ALL information below to ensure that our records will be up-to-date

Member Names		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Home phone	Member 1 Cell	Member 2 Cell

All attendees must be vaccinated unless medically exempt

Vaccine affidavit	I have been vaccinated	I am exempt from having it
Member 1	signature	signature
Member 2	signature	signature

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

The 2023 NAORRR convention is being held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Phoenix-Scottsdale, Arizona. The room rate is **\$169.00 plus taxes**. This special room rate is also available five days before and five days after the convention. To get this special NAORRR convention rate, you **MUST** book reservations by **December 22, 2022**. Reservations may be canceled without penalty up to 72 hours before your reserved date. **Book your room online at:** www.my-event.hilton.com/phxpves-nao-368f43cd-90ce-42a5-9929-f8b47efb7184/ or call Reservations at 1-602-765-5800 and ask for the special NAORRR rate. You may also register via the NAORRR Website by going to: <https://naorrr.org> ***If you have any questions or problems concerning your reservations or getting NAORRR's special rates or you have mobility requests, contact Joanie and Gary Glickstein at 786-261-1124. Once you register and pay the applicable fees, details about transportation, workshops and meal choices will be sent to you in a timely manner.***

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please indicate your readiness to volunteer for any of these tasks

- Assembling Registration Materials & Goodie Bags (Wednesday, Jan 4, 2023, beginning at 2:00 pm)
- Helping at the Registration Desk - Thursday afternoon, January 5, or Friday morning, January 6, 2023)
- Distributing Siddurim Ushering at programs and meals

**FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2020
WE MEET AGAIN IN PERSON!**

**January 5-9, 2023 | Embassy Suites by Hilton Phoenix-Scottsdale, AZ
All single and double rooms \$169 per night plus tax**

Stay up to five days before and five days after at the same Convention rate.

Make your flight reservations now and receive a \$150 incentive grant towards airfare
all you have to do is email
naorrrglickstein@gmail.com

Look for the program and registration form via email in the next few weeks.

Remember, to attend the convention and/or to access any of our NAORRR programs,
you must be a member of NAORRR!

At the 2023 NOARRR Convention we will be honoring the ordination class of 1973 for 50 years of rabbinic service to our Reform Movement!

MEET OUR NAORRR CONVENTION PANEL...



Rabbi Hara Person is the Chief Executive of Central Conference of American Rabbis. Previously, she was the CCAR's Chief Strategy Officer. In that capacity, she oversaw the Communications Department and served as Publisher of

CCAR Press, and worked with leadership on overall organizational strategy.

Rabbi Person was ordained in 1998 from HUC-JIR, after graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Amherst College (1986) and receiving an MA in Fine Arts from New York University/International Center of Photography (1992).

She served as Educator at the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue from 1990-1996, and was the Adjunct Rabbi there from 1998-2019. Since 1998, Rabbi Person has been the High Holy Day Rabbi of Congregation B'nai Olam, Fire Island Pines, NY.

Before coming to the CCAR, Rabbi Person was the Editor-in-Chief of URJ Books and Music



Dr. Andrea Weiss is the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Dr. Weiss was ordained at HUC-JIR and received her

doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. She served as Associate Editor of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* (URJ Press, 2008), which won the Jewish Book Council's 2008 Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award.

Dr. Weiss's leadership within HUC-JIR has helped reshape curriculum for the rabbinical program across the campuses and built a deeper sense of community at the New York campus. She developed the Worship Working Group in 2003 and has continued to oversee this group of students and faculty who work together to reflect on and improve worship there. She has played a leadership role in major initiatives such as the Spirituality Initiative of the New York School, the Mandel Initiative in Building Capacity for Visionary Leadership, and the annual New York Kallah.



Rabbi Rick Jacobs is president of the Union for Reform Judaism, the most powerful force in North American Jewish life. The URJ leads the largest and most diverse Jewish movement in North America, reaching more than 1.5 million people through

nearly 850 congregations, 15 overnight camps, the Reform teen youth Movement NFTY, and the Religious Action Center in Washington DC. For nearly 150 years, the URJ has been at the forefront in promoting an open, progressive Judaism.

The URJ's programs and communities inspire more and more people—from children to seniors—to explore what it means to be Jewish, pursue justice around the world, and forge stronger ties to Israel.

He's a tireless advocate for an Israel that is secure, Jewish, democratic, and pluralistic, with a vibrant Reform Jewish community. Rabbi Jacobs has studied for two decades at Jerusalem's Shalom Hartman Institute, where he is a senior rabbinic fellow.



Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D. is the 10th President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR). A leading political scientist and distinguished Jewish communal leader, Dr. Rehfeld's career has

bridged both the academic and professional worlds as Associate Professor of Political Science at Washington University (2001 to 2019) and as President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis (2012 to 2019).

Elected on December 18, 2018 by the HUC-JIR Board of Governors after a national search, he began his tenure on April 1, 2019, and was inaugurated on October 27, 2019, at Plum Street Temple in Cincinnati.

As HUC-JIR President, Dr. Rehfeld leads the four-campus international institution of Jewish higher education and seminary for Reform Judaism, which educates leaders to serve the Reform Movement and the Jewish people worldwide as rabbis, cantors, educators, and nonprofit management professionals, and offers graduate programs to scholars and clergy of all faiths.

MEMBERSHIP

Jack Luuxemburg



What could be better than an in-person NAORRR convention in Scottsdale, AZ in January 2023? The answer is simple: A very well attended NAORRR convention! What could be a better antidote for all that we have been through the past two years than a joyous, safe, and uplifting gathering? Our Program and Convention Committee has planned an outstanding convention with opportunities for learning, socializing, and enjoying the scenic surroundings. To build NAORRR membership and promote attendance at the convention, a special effort has been made with the support of tens of NAORRR members.

This effort is based on volunteers from every ordination class from 1959 through 1985. They have been contacting classmates and/or their spouses encouraging membership in NAORRR, participation in our NAORRR webinars and attendance at the convention in January. In addition, these calls have helped us to be better aware of the welfare of our members. As the Vice President responsible for membership, I want to thank all the “class agents” who have been part of this effort. If there are other NAORRR members who would like to take part in this project, please let me or Gary Glickstein know of your interest. Volunteers from the classes of 1978 through 1985 would be welcome. The more members involved, the more likely we will reach all the colleagues and spouses eligible to join NAORRR and to participate in our programs. The more contacts we make with this personal outreach effort, the greater the likelihood we will have the well-attended convention to which we all are looking forward.

One more note ... it would be a benefit to NAORRR going forward if the idea of “class agents” carries beyond the current effort. A small team of two or three NAORRR members could be established to represent each ordination class. Their role would be to maintain contact with classmates, promote NAORRR and share pertinent information gained through these contacts with NAORRR’s caring committees and support systems. It would also provide an opportunity for our members to make suggestions about future programming. If any current NAORRR members might be interested in being a “class agent”, or have some suggestions about creating such a program, please let me know.

In the meantime, thank you to all who are already engaged in our membership effort, and I look forward to seeing everyone in Scottsdale!

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

JOIN NOW

Please see facing page for NAORRR Membership Form 



2022 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	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT REMITTED <i>(make checks payable in US funds to NAORRR)</i>	\$

Check here if would like to receive your Ohr L'Naorrr newsletter ONLY via an email link.

WE NEED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION:

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, #1803, Miami, FL 33133
Email: naorrrglickstein@gmail.com
Website: <https://naorrr.org>

NAORRR
1 Grove Isle
#1803
Miami, FL 33133

