Shalom, colleagues and friends! Although these 2021 issues of the *CCAR Journal* are not wandering Arameans, they are perhaps remindful of our ancestor Jacob—though few in number (three rather than four), they are proving mighty in scholarship, insight, and enjoyment. As we dare to imagine an end to this pandemic, I dare to hope for a return to our full publication schedule in 2022; but in the meantime, I trust that the contributions of our talented authors—and the expertise of our dedicated editorial board—will keep you intrigued and inspired.

In this issue, we are proud to present another outstanding symposium; expertly curated and edited by Marla J. Feldman, it is entitled “Gendered Judaism: Gender-Based Programs in Jewish Life.” Rabbi Feldman beautifully describes the topic and participants in her introduction to the symposium; I hope you will read, consider, listen, learn, and—ultimately—be roused by the words and the wisdom she and her authors share.

Once you have savored this symposium, you will find many pages of the *Journal* still to be explored—beginning with five articles that prove as fascinating as they are unexpected. In his terrific *Journal* debut, Peter Margolis makes a compelling case for a new understanding of *eish zarah*; though tackling very different subjects, Stephen Bertman and Ian Silverman display similar ingenuity in seeking new meanings of Israelite slavery and service, and uncovering new aspects of the sin of Zelafchad. Deborah Prinz brings her renowned creativity and acumen to the polemics associated with leaven during our spring festivals; and Mark Verman concludes this section with a wide-ranging and brilliant examination of the heart in biblical tradition—including how Paul (mis)used these teachings to serve as the “heart” of Christian antisemitism.

Speaking of heart, Edward Zerin will warm yours in his newest *Maayanot* offering, a loving and earnest tribute to his teacher Rabbi Simon Krinsky. May we each be blessed with such a teacher—and may we each strive to be worthy of such a tribute!

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You may recall that in recent At the Gates entries, I have expressed delight in our enhanced poetry section. While I still feel that delight with every issue—and never more so than in this one, as we bring to you magnificent work from Jeffrey A. Summit, Patty Seyburn, Mark Elber, Richard J. Fein, Roger Nash, Michael Linder, and Israel Zoberman—I am thrilled to share an equally enhanced selection of book reviews and review essays. A wonderful cluster focuses on Hebrew and Israel—with literature and poetry dazzlingly considered by Neal Gold and Stacey Blank, and politics and history by Paul Golomb and Israel Zoberman. Glynis Conyer, Emma Gottlieb, and Julia Margolies then offer a superb review essay on a new volume tracing the history of South Africa’s progressive Jewish movement; and exceptional reviews by Joseph A. Skloot, Rebecca Einstein Schorr, Rifat Sonsino, Wendy Pein, Elyse Goldstein, Lisa Goldstein, and Bill Cutter illuminate books on topics ranging from Rabbi Leo Baeck and Natan Sharansky to Jewish theology and the Hebrew prophets to Sephardi history, illness and aging, and the (perhaps) coming “vegan revolution.” We are especially proud that our colleagues and teachers Dr. Michael A. Meyer, Rabbi Dr. Kari H. Tuling, Rabbi Nahum Ward-Lev, and Rabbi Laura Geller are among the authors whose books are analyzed so perceptively.

While there are clearly many wonderful reasons to turn the pages ahead, I encourage you to take a moment and turn a few pages backward. There you will find an updated masthead, which includes the names of our two newest editorial board members: Beth Lieberman and David Segal. Rabbi Lieberman’s extraordinary editorial talent is on display in these pages; and, although Rabbi Segal has just joined our team, we know he will add tremendously to the CCAR Journal. We are honored and happy to welcome both!

By the time you read these words, Passover will be a memory—but as I write them, the festival is soon to begin. So just in case Elijah did not join our seder meals, and just in case the Messiah has tarried, I wish you a spring and summer filled with the hope of redemption and the promise of vaccination—which, this year, might feel like exactly the same thing. Chag sameach!

Elaine Rose Glickman, Editor
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