

Minutes
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH MILITARY HISTORY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 29, 2021
Online Meeting

President Michael Berman called meeting to order

Secretary Mathew Millen called roll (see enclosure)

Minutes of previous board meeting were approved.

There were no additions to agenda

JWV National Commander Jeffrey Sacks brought greetings. He discussed museum programs and thanked the staff

JWVA President Natalie Blank brought greetings praising the work of the museum.

Director Herb Rosenbleeth brought greeting wishing the museum continued success.

President Michael Berman delivered his report. He discussed collaborating with the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, upcoming exhibit on Vietnam and future exhibit on women in the military.

Alan Paley delivered the budget report. See enclosure.

Elaine Bernstein delivered the personnel report praising the two full-time museum employees.

Kim Queen delivered the exhibits and programs report. The committee has been meeting regularly discussing potential projects and collaborations with other organizations.

Iris Goldwasser delivered the fundraising report. Our paver program has raised \$148,975. Our Heroes has raised \$11,500. The next program is the memorial garden and options are being determined still.

There was no old business

Pledges were taken.

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH MILITARY HISTORY
Board of Directors**

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National Museum of American Jewish Military History
2022 Budget

EXPENSES

	2017 <u>Audited</u>	2018 <u>Audited</u>	2019 <u>Audited</u>	2020 <u>Unaudited</u>	Unaudited 7/1-11/30/20	2021 <u>Budget</u>	2022 <u>Budget</u>
Advertising and promotion	\$173.00	\$118.53	\$148.13	\$359.09	\$2,413.94	\$150.00	\$2,500.00
Bank charges	\$1,950.23	\$2,491.11	\$1,201.78	\$1,826.50	\$234.54	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Brick Paver Program	\$933.00	\$289.25	\$367.00	\$458.00	\$305.00	\$650.00	\$600.00
Calendar expense		\$26,862.29	\$18,231.66	\$10,099.27		\$4,200.00	\$10,000.00
Computer consulting fees	\$3,859.00	\$6,250.00	\$10,653.15	\$8,288.51	\$2,120.00	\$3,500.00	\$4,000.00
Convention & NEC Expense	\$3,967.95	\$2,340.56		\$584.24		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Dues- subscriptions-licenses	\$2,324.00	\$1,942.98	\$1,230.74	\$2,620.90		\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00
Employee benefits	\$26,669.68	\$26,591.53	\$33,699.20	\$34,377.31	\$4,625.97	\$28,750.00	\$30,000.00
Freight	\$695.94	\$221.30	\$306.93	\$175.36	\$12.89	\$500.00	\$500.00
Honorial Wall	\$675.00	\$510.00	\$90.00	\$300.00		\$300.00	\$250.00
Interest Expense							
Lecture Series			\$693.34	\$661.00	\$800.00		\$1,000.00
Magazine	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00			\$4,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$679.13	\$908.13	\$1,065.38	\$1,066.46	\$50.20	\$300.00	\$250.00
Office Supplies and expense	\$8,942.00	\$8,190.37	\$10,206.65	\$16,629.02	\$2,498.34	\$2,000.00	\$7,500.00
Museum Store Expense	\$1,866.21	\$2,110.31	\$2,295.94	\$1,873.22	\$256.75	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
Payroll taxes	\$18,121.56	\$18,270.18	\$18,565.19	\$20,231.72	\$6,794.02	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Postage and delivery	\$13,248.00	\$13,122.56	\$9,696.15	\$9,023.32			
President's expenses							
Printing and reproduction	\$110.00		\$510.03	\$179.50		\$250.00	
Professional fees	\$21,103.02	\$7,020.00	\$20,114.32	\$25,305.28	\$5,102.25	\$9,000.00	\$10,000.00
Repairs and maintenance	\$35,997.00	\$35,574.46	\$41,757.21	\$37,571.17			
Salaries	\$224,239.42	\$231,236.32	\$236,482.69	\$238,623.00	\$83,343.40	\$250,000.00	\$240,000.00
Payroll processing fees	\$3,162.00	\$2,350.47	\$2,346.37	\$2,372.66	\$1,494.10	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
Security	\$18,831.00	\$19,909.42	\$25,758.12	\$31,190.20	\$17,528.12	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Telephone	\$13,983.00	\$12,886.63	\$13,640.54	\$13,734.13	\$2,819.64	\$2,500.00	\$12,650.00
Travel	\$1,367.40	\$1,527.24	\$98.00			\$1,000.00	
Exhibit	\$265.42	\$2,417.60	\$140.94	\$324.70		\$250.00	\$250.00
Tree of Honor	\$6.50	\$131.19	\$15.00				
Utilities and Building Insurance	\$72,907.00	\$70,298.15	\$70,508.52	\$56,624.14			
Yahrzeit	\$14,017.95	\$15,502.72	\$26,096.50	\$1,800.00	\$6,505.50	\$3,500.00	\$6,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$494,094.41	\$513,073.30	\$549,919.48	\$520,298.70	\$136,904.66	\$354,850.00	\$357,500.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$319,098.76	\$405,752.16	\$433,089.86	\$557,630.22	\$230,729.09	\$184,850.00	\$248,000.00
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	(\$174,995.65)	(\$107,321.14)	(\$116,829.62)	\$37,331.52	\$93,824.43	(\$170,000.00)	(\$109,500.00)

Michael Berman: If you missed, if you're on and you were not called or you're on and you're a member but didn't have a chance because of the webex please let Mike know and the agenda after we finish our meeting he'll be on for another minute or five. So call him or contact him. I see some people who were called who were not here at the time so please let Mike know so that the uh attendance can be corrected. There's, the minutes have been circulated ahead of time. Any questions on the minutes? Any questions on the minutes? Hearing none there'll be a motion to accept. Thank you, Al Adler, for the motion. Thank you, Alan Paley for the second. Those in favor say aye or raise your hand. Accepted as presented. Any additions to the agenda? If so raise your hand through um that smiley on the bottom of your screen. Seeing none, no additions to the agenda. Greetings, starting with Commander Jeff Sacks. Jeff? Jeff?

Jeffrey Sacks: i didn't it took me a second to get my unmute message so i'm sorry.

Berman: Okay.

Sacks: President Berman, fellow museum officers, board of director members and museum staff. It's my pleasure to meet with you again albeit virtually. I wish we had a little more time between meetings. Having worked with Mike as his co-chair on resolutions for a decade i can tell you the man always starts on time and while i went and ran in the kitchen for about five minutes to make myself some macaroni and cheese i had this vision of Mike yelling at me move it, move it, move it you know, and anyway, let's get back on track. As National Commander of JWV my favorite duty of office is to be a member of this board along with you. That is probably the best thing that I get out of being the National Commander. In these troubled times when the museum can't always be open it still remains a bright star in the dark sky. Since our last meeting i have been able to enjoy several of the museum programs as current issues of military justice by Eugene Fidell, the online film screening of Jewish 48'ers in the Civil War. It worked a lot better than that at our convention, and a talk which was given in December by Daniel Martinez of the National Park Service Pearl Harbor National Memorial concerning the Pearl Harbor surprise military strike. i was also honored to have a few sound bites in the museum's military Hanukkah program and even drafted one of my sons to tell a Hanukkah story of service in Afghanistan during Hanukkah, and it was through this ____ program i learned that the West Point Jewish chaplain is a cantor with the metropolitan opera or he has an operatic voice. It really put me to shame since i did the first blessing. Checking twitter is not complete without seeing if the museum has tweeted anything new such as the recent commemoration of the 30th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm which featured a short history of the combat phase of the Gulf War and included links to individual stories of Gulf War era service members of the JWV Gulf War Committee and I am proud to have been able to contribute to that. I would like to thank Steve Fixler of this committee, the Gulf War Committee and Mike Rugel for turning an idea, and basically about six weeks, into reality that's a short time. Lastly as we enter our 125th year I would like to thank both Pam Elbe and Mike Rugel for assistance in preparing my speeches concerning the history of JWV. I also wish to thank Cara Rinkoff of National Headquarters who with the help of the museum staff has been transmitting tidbits of JWV history on Facebook and twitter daily, except on shabbat. Please visit JWV on Facebook and then check out our tweets and retweet them, and uh what do you call it, share them on your Facebook page. Thank you very much.

Berman: Thank you, Mr. Commander. My pleasure now is to ask President of the Auxiliary, Natalie Blank. Natalie for a few words.

Natalie Blank: Can everybody hear me? Can you hear me?

Berman: Yes we can.

Blank: Yeah, because I had a little trouble earlier to get on, that's why I was um you know saying. I'd like to say hello to everybody. Unfortunately, due to today's times this is how we have to meet. I just want to let you know that I do back the museum. I think it's one of the most important programs we have. The museum is great. I've been looking at all the new stuff that's been coming out and it's wonderful. I've been checking it out online a lot and it's absolutely wonderful. Mike, I'd like to thank you for being the museum president. Mike, the other Mike, you're doing a great job and the office and all and thank you.

Berman: Okay, thank you. Herb Rosenbleeth is our museum director. Is Herb on? Is Greg on? All right, we'll come back

Greg Byrne: Hey, mike?

Berman: Yeah.

Byrne: Mike, yes, I'm on. Let me see if I can get Herb on.

Berman: All right.

Byrne: Okay.

Mike Rugel: Mike we have some hands raised if you want before Herb to check, Jeffrey Blonder, Scott Stevens, and Ian Heller, did you guys have something you wanted to add or just previous raised hands?

Norman Rosenshein: Mike?

Berman: Yeah.

Rosenshein: I know you don't want to hear from me, stick me in there wherever you like.

Berman: All right we'll stick you probably about 5:30, six o'clock?

Rosenshein: Sounds good to me actually.

Berman: Yes. All right. Let me give the President's report and then we'll go to Norman. First of all I'd like to thank our professional staff, Mike Rugel and Pam Elbe. Mike is the guy with the earplugs on over his head that you see on your screen raising his hand and thank him shaking his hand. If you don't know it we have a professional staff quote of two, plus the executive director as the, as our administrative top,

but with two people we present some of the most interesting exhibits in, at least by me, in Washington. We are the only museum that memorializes or sanctifies the blessing of the Jewish Veterans. Herb? I'm gonna stop and let Herb speak. Herb? Herb?

Herb Rosenbleeth: Hey, can you hear me, Mike?

Berman: Yes, we're good.

Rosenbleeth: Good afternoon members of the museum board of directors. I bring you greetings from the staff in Washington D.C. and in particular the two museum staff, Pam Elbe and Mike Rugel. You are blessed to have these two outstanding museum staff personnel, as Mike Berman was just saying. We the staff and myself wish you every possible continued success. Thank you, Mike.

Berman: Thank you, Herb. Let me continue. Some things that are going on in the museum that you want to know about. We've been talking with the National Museum of American Jewish History which is located in Philadelphia. Mike Rugel and their curator have been working together on a possible virtual exhibit that is a novel and new approach to showing what's going on, so that that's moving forward quickly, and I thank Mike in reaching out. I had the opportunity to meet with, virtually again, and everything is on, if it weren't for computers nothing could happen. So I met virtually with their president. We spoke for about an hour, maybe two hours, of things that we can go, there's any number of ideas being batted around as to how we can cooperate. There's the possibility of exchanging exhibits, there's the possibility, again, of virtual exhibits. All of this is up in the air in development. What is developing quickly and nicely is our museum exhibit on Jewish experience in the Vietnam Era. And that goes again from people who served in country, the ground counters, what we would call 11 bravos, to those who served at Fort Dix, Texas, Germany, wherever you served, Korea. But as long as you served during the era, you're of interest to us. So, if you have anything, memorabilia, artifacts, whatever, please let us know. Don't send them in but let us know. The next exhibit we're working on and that is women in the military. And that's going to be a revision or an update of the exhibit we had several years ago that is an important, considering I believe the number of women in the military now is about 17 percent, I don't know of any military occupational specialty that they're not allowed into or barred from, so the women in the military is an important exhibit and that is being developed. My thought is that right now if you came to our museum and you did our museum six, seven, eight years ago there'd be no change. The museum is stale quite frankly put, and we need to update it. There are forms online for artifacts or contributions that you make. We have in the museum probably too many World War II purple heart, American Expedition Pins, or medals etc, etc. So fill out the form prior to sending in anything. If you have anything on the Vietnam era let Bob Jacobs know. He's _____ that exhibit with of course Pam and Mike. We have a new committee system. I believe everyone has been asked to serve on a committee. If you're a member and you're on a committee please, please, please, if you chair it, make the calls get them, people involved, we need it. Finally, we have a, we're up to four meetings a year now. This is one of ours, we'll have one in the spring at a date to be set sometime between April and May. It will again be probably a noon meeting so that the west coast can participate. If we start at nine eastern time that means about six o'clock in the morning in California, or we don't need those people coming in sound asleep. They can sleep anyhow.

If there is anything anyone has anything to add please raise your hand so that Mike can know and we can unmute you. No, nothing? No _____. Thank you very much for allowing me to present, Alan Paley, budget, oh I'm sorry Norman. I had promised you next.

Rosenshein: Thank you. First i want to do as you did, thank the staff, Mike and Pam and Herb and Greg. As i said before at our JWV meeting everybody is staying away from the building as best they can. We do need people coming in so they're there. Our exhibits, Mike went over them, i'm not going to say much on them except that i agree with Mike, it's time to redo the women in the military. Vietnam veterans is moving forward so that exhibit's happening. Of more interest to me and probably to Mike and to first vice president Elaine Bernstein, if all goes well a member of, actually a member of JWV and a member of the museum has set up a meeting between the four of us to do some fundraising. it's in the very preliminary stages but this gentleman is looking to fundraise in the seven-figure area. So, Mike will be reporting back on that after we meet on it, hopefully in the month of February if all goes well. That's the only news that I have at this point in time. Everything else is running smooth and Mike will follow through with you later on, hopefully at the spring meeting of where we stand on the fundraising efforts. Thank you, Mr. President.

Berman: Right and if i could add to Norman again, I'm not sure if it's JWV or the museum but someone is donating an exhibit, I'm sorry, what would you call it, a store or something in the building to sell some of our books, some of our things that we have for sale so that we can raise some money when there are visitors to the building. The building, the museum is shut, all museums in Washington are shut, is that correct, Mike?

Rosenshein: Yes

Berman: So, all museums are shut and we are one of them that are shut. Our staff is coming in regularly. When they can work from home they do, when they can't, they come in. The next, will be Mike, uh Alan Paley on the budget.

Alan Paley: Thank you, Mr. President.

Berman: I see you Hannah.

Paley: If we can put up the spreadsheet please. Okay, in the spreadsheet that you will see in front of you shows the audited results from 2017, 18, and 19, the cash basis results from 2020 since the audit has not been finalized yet, year to date 2021 cash received, that's the first five months of this year July through November. The budget that we're currently in this year which is in column j and the proposed budget for 2022 which is the very last column. So similar to what we did for the budget for JWV, the committee took the five months of actual cash received, divided it by five, got a monthly amount, then in some cases projected that out for 12 months and that was our starting point for the budget. In other cases we used input from the national staff or best judgment. So on the commentary, dues revenue declined in 2018 but then spiked a bit in 2019. 2020 the dues revenue remained flat. The trend for the first five months of this

year shows a very steep decline. Requests and general donations however have come in higher than anticipated. So taking that as well as the results for the other fundraising activities into consideration we have budgeted total revenue at \$248,000, which is \$3,150 more than we budgeted for the current year. On the expense, side payroll and employee benefits continue to be the largest line items followed by security expense. Since we anticipate normal operation of the museum during 2022 we budgeted all operational expenses to mirror what was spent during 2020. However, due to the homeland security grant that we have received our normal security expense which was 31,190 in 2020 will be totally paid for by the grant, thereby providing a substantial bottom line savings. So expenses in total amount to \$357,500, which is \$2,650 more than what we budgeted for this year. The deficit came in at \$109,500, which is \$60,500 less than we budgeted for this year and again we were very conservative in our revenue estimates. If anyone has any questions let me know, otherwise we need to vote on budget.

Unknown: Move to vote.

Berman: I hear a motion but right now, Mike you got it? There we go, thank you. There was a emotion to accept the budget report. Who made it?

Rosenshein: I made it, Michael.

Berman: is there a second? Yeah, Allan Cantor second. Those in favor raise your hand.

Rosenshein: David has a question Mike. David Magidson has a question.

Berman: All right, David, question. You're muted. Hold on.

David Magidson: Okay my question is this, Alan, it's so i can get a better understanding and i think so people can as well. We have under revenue the \$76,000 contributions. Is that just people that write checks for five thousand, ten thousand, three thousand dollars, make it to 76? That's one of a two part question. Because that's a substantial amount and it's contributions and i don't think that comes from JWV, so my best guess is what i said but I just want to double check.

Paley: General? If you're talking about the general contribution line

Magidson: Yes sir.

Paley: That comes from JWV members but primarily from the outside. That's the general contributions.

Magidson: Okay. My last question

Paley: Other than that you have bequests.

Magidson: i just wanted to make sure. And the last question i have is this, when it says the deficit is \$110,000 anticipated for this year, 109,000 and change, that's made up by JWV at the end of the year? In other words that income comes from JWV?

Paley: Uh yeah well, ___ make either entity whole even from the foundation. So the foundation lends money,

Rosenshein: Alan?

Paley: in this case....

Rosenshein: Alan? It always comes through JWV, not the foundation.

Paley: Right, i was about to say that Norman, so

Rosenshein: okay

Paley: The foundation lends to JWV and then if the museum needs money JWV lends the money to the museum.

Magidson: Just I want to understand and i want other people to understand it. Thank you very much. Thanks, thanks a lot.

Berman: Other questions? Comments?

Rugel: Looks like we have raised hands. Warren Dolny? Bob go ahead.

Bob Jacobs: All right thank you. all right on both inside JWV donations or contributions and outside of JWV, the Vietnam veterans committee has, a fair amount of money has come in in the last year both from inside and outside and it has been earmarked for the museum for the Vietnam exhibit in the museum. Those numbers, and i don't want to start nickel and diming numbers, but those numbers that showed on the board include those donations or is that somewhere separately?

Paley: No if it came in this year it would be shown on that line to my knowledge. i can confirm that with Julia and get back to you.

Jacobs: Well okay, Mike, Mike Rugel, has been accounting for the money that goes to the Vietnam exhibit, but okay, i'll be talking with him anyway but i just want to make sure that that money if it's accounted for it is, it is earmarked for the exhibit as it was supposed to be. All right? i don't have a dollar figure I don't want to get into a dollar figure right now.

Paley: Yeah any money that comes in and is earmarked for a specific function is kept for that function whether it's an exhibit or something else

Jacobs: Right but it's still counted in the whole dollar amount, good enough, good enough. All right thank you.

Berman: Other questions. Jeff, i thought i heard, Jeff Sacks? You're muted.

Sacks: I don't have the unmute me link. Alan, just uh tell them about good news though even though we budgeted for a loss i believe that that the audit and even, even your sheet shows that we actually ended up in the black this year, am i correct?

Paley: Well we don't know this year because the audit you know

Sacks: i should say 2020.

Paley: Last year the unaudited number shows a positive number.

Sacks: Because of the question i mean

Paley: Until yes, because of bequests, until the audit is actually done and they ___ whatever entries they have to do between the two organizations we really don't know. But based on trend and based on what's happened for the first half of this year this is what we think is the best shot at it. So we don't want to tell you we're going to come out even or we're going to come out positive if we don't think we will, so this is our conservative opinion.

Sacks: Thank you.

Berman: Question, Jeff, um, Alan, Delaware gave about \$20,000 this year for purposes of having a panel or whatever. Is that shown in the, anywhere?

Paley: i can't answer that mike. i don't know but i can check with Julia and find out.

Berman: Thank you.

Rosenshein: The statement is true. They go into a general contribution fund, but yes they did, their panel will be going up because we now have the instructions for it.

Berman: But it's shown in the general revenue side?

Rosenshein: All the other details yeah.

Berman: okay

Paley: i'll find out mike.

Berman: thank you. Other questions? Mike, any other questions showing?

Rugel: No other raised hands.

Berman: Move it. In favor raise your hand because you're probably muted. The budget success, the budget report's accepted as presented. Personnel report, Elaine? You're muted still. Still muted. Would it be easy if she walked in here and gave the report, yes. She's, yeah right down the hall she's here.

Elaine Bernstein: You can't see my head though. Can i sit on your lap?

Berman: I'm in public.

Bernstein: Mr. President. Boy that's weird to have to call you Mr. President. i had the pleasure to speak with both of our employees, Mike Rugel and Pam Elbe, our professional staff. For the most part they are both happy there are a few things i will discuss with the executive committee and see if we could clear a few things up. i just want to say to everyone we are very happy and very lucky to have these two on our staff. Thank you.

Berman: Short and sweet. Exhibits and programs Kim queen on the line please? Kim?

Kim Queen: Yes, good morning. Good afternoon everybody. i was thinking it was in California yet. Our, the exhibits and programs committee had their first meeting on January 21st of this year and the, what we did was we looked at our, our programs, we had a roll call that looked for minutes of the last meeting, We couldn't find any. Nobody could. Nobody knew when the last meeting of the committee was. So Mike Rugel went on to report on the current status of exhibits and programs as well as those that are proposed for the coming year. Mike also reported on the status of the Vietnam exhibit and the women in military exhibit for Bob Jacobs and Carol Berman because they were unable to attend the meeting. We also discussed the ____ with the national museum of jewish history in philly and how far that's going. We didn't, of course because there were no minutes, we couldn't find any old business but through new business we're talking about viewing and updating the committee's mission statement and goals and we will review those at our next meeting. Also we talked about the need to videotape our world war ii veterans before they're all gone. They have a lot of history. We also talked with Jeff Thau who we asked to be on the committee and Jeff works at Wright Pat Air Force Base, he does work with the museum there and his family is, particularly his father, is a big part of world war ii history. His, there's this famous photograph of the Russians and the Americans meeting on the Elbe River in april of 1944. The Russian soldier shaking the American soldier's hand is Jeff's father and the American, interesting enough, jeff immigrated to united states and settled in Milwaukee. The American officer is from, was from Milwaukee and they communicated basically in Yiddish, because America didn't speak Russian or German and Jeff's dad spoke everything else but English. So jeff's done, Jeff's done a pbs program and he is going to be

working with mike to get that as part of the museum history collection. We also talked about identifying other military museums and Jewish history museums that may have information on Jewish veterans, as well as collaborating with other museums such as the armored cavalry museum, the army museum and the Wisconsin veterans museum, all have information on Jewish veterans. Let's see. Also we talked about the possibility of obtaining a copy of the Nancy Spielberg film, film on Mahal volunteers in the Israeli war of independence. Many of these men were former GIs, some were on leave and it's a very good film and we want to try and have that available to the museum also. And our next meeting will be, next committee meeting will be March 18th of this year. That's all I have Mr. President.

Berman: All right. Very good Kim. Thank you very much for that good report. Again, if you have a world, know a World War II veteran take or however recorded. Barry has a question, comment? Hold on Barry until you're unmuted.

Rugel: Who are we trying to get unmuted, Mike?

Berman: Yep. Did you unmute Barry? Nope. Yep, you're on Barry.

Barry Lischinsky: Thank you very much, Mr president. This is to, for Kim or Mike, or even yourself. In Massachusetts during veterans day this past veterans day we had a Jewish organization of, for teens, called the Lapin Foundation. and they interviewed some of our members and it was a very productive program for veterans that if I could get the interviews from our JWV members or from the lapin foundation is that something you want me to forward to you? is this something you want?

Berman: I think we do. I think it would be very nice if we would be the repository of some of these interviews for posterity.

Lischinsky: Okay

Berman: Once members pass that history's gone. It's worth, we need to record it and save their contributions.

Lischinsky: Okay. I'll make contact to them to tomorrow, being Monday, to see what I can acquire. They did interview JWV members so I think that's, that's the key as well.

Berman: That's great. Great, thank you, Barry. Any other, I see Harriet. Harriet is waving her hand, Harriet don't start until you're unmuted. You're unmuted.

Harriet Epstein: Okay. I have given a lot of thought to the subject of, let's, I'm trying to see, I don't know what you all see but this is a brochure of the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish museum. It has mostly been located inside this old synagogue but they have, are, have moved the synagogue, actually several times, and they have a very large space let's see if I can get this picture where you can see it. You see this synagogue and you see pictures of people standing in a square in a very, in very strange

positions, that's the area where the building is going to take place. They seem to have done very well financially and i have thought that it would be wonderful for the, for the american jewish military history museum to collaborate with them on a number of things including not just programming, but it certainly fits in here, including the possibility of i don't know using some of their space because they have access to parking and all kinds of other things. At any rate i just wanted to recommend because this has been around for a long time and they seem to be a good solid thing that the JWV and particularly the museum get in touch with them and see, you know, if something good can come of that. So thank you for listening to my suggestion.

Berman: Thank you, Harriet. Mike has made a note of that so that in the future he can reach out to these people. Any other comments? Again, raise your hand so that we can recognize you. I see none. Thank you for that report kim again and thank you for the contributions of Barry and Harriet. Carol Berman on the line? Is Carol on? All right. Mike has muted himself. All right i think we're in what we call in the business a technical glitch. Iris you'll be next if we can get you on.

Iris Goldwasser: Am I unmuted?

Berman: yes you are.

Goldwasser: Okay. Thank you. i'd like to make my report on the fundraising that we've been doing so far. The front of the building just as our country has had financial stalls this year so has the museum. People's pockets have grown thinner and so did ours. However just like all of us we keep pushing forward and hoping for better days. As of our last museum meeting in December 2020, our paver program has raised \$148,975. The entrance to our building at 1811 R Street is impressive and still attracts many visitors and passersby. Many stop just to read the inscriptions. While there are no huge steps to the door the inscriptions have already been completed on the bottom steps. We only have two, and the top step is 75 percent already inscribed. We urge anyone that would like to be included to please contact our office before you go _____. There are only about 30 pavers still available. We are offering to reserve your paver for \$100 now and wait to inscribe your paver and for you to pay the balance at a later time but within the year. Our heroes exhibit has raised \$11,500 to date. Remember all we need to include your hero is a four by six picture with some service information. During this past year we have offered a discounted fee of one hundred dollars rather than 180 and need, and have seen a very positive response. We hope to continue this special offer for 2021 only and look for your participation before it is too late. There has been a new program in development at this time, a memorial garden to be designed in the outside garden area of our building. It will include two marble, two benches, an eternal light, a memorial plaque, trees, and greenery, etc, and a few other things. A fee schedule for these various options has not yet been finalized, but more information will be available in the near future. Also in development as you already heard are the new exhibits, women in the military and the jewish experience during the vietnam war. Although the isolation has been difficult we have not stopped working on behalf of the NMAJMH. Development has not been at a standstill. Phone and computers continue to be the mode of communication that keeps us going. We look forward to a time of normalcy, and we will appreciate life

more than ever. As always if there are any questions regarding our museum you can always call our staff, Mike Rugel, or myself here at home. Thank you very much.

Berman: Any questions to Iris? Any questions? Motion to accept? Arthur, thank you. Allan Cantor thank you for the motion. Those in favor say aye. I gather no one is opposed. We pass it. Old business. Raise your hand so that we can or some type of signal so we know you have old business. Hannah do you have old business, new business, something? No?

Rosenshein: Mike, did Hannah give a report?

Berman: No. I'm waiting for her. We asked her now. Hannah? Does Hannah hear me? That's it Hannah. There you go. Give your report please. Hannah?

Rosenshein: Just talk Hannah.

Berman: Just talk. Hannah can, if you hear me raise your hand.

Rosenshein: She's not muted.

Berman: She's not muted? Hannah can you hear me? She looks like her frame is frozen. It looks like she's frozen. Mike is that us or her?

Rosenshein: She's, she's moving.

Rugel: Well, i think Hannah is not hearing us.

Rosenshein: Yeah

Ed Goldwasser: She turned her sound off.

Rugel: She did say she was having problems earlier. I'm guessing she's not hearing us.

Ed Goldwasser: She could have her sound off. Move on.

Berman: Well. There is no, is there any new business. i think she's going to call in. i don't know who she's talking to. We don't hear her or anything.

Rosenshein: No and she's talking. Mike, how's she doing with the certificates?

Berman: That's why we're waiting for her to tell us.

Rosenshein: Yeah, that's why i asked mike. Maybe he knows.

Berman: No, but i'm trying to figure out who she's talking to. Mike Rugel did she call you?

Rugel: Not right now. i did speak to Hannah earlier today. All right, Mike do you know how the certificates are going, the certificates sales. Uh, yeah, yeah, i'm sure Hannah will want to give the report but we, they do continue to come in. i think it's been a bit of a slowdown in the pandemic times but in the past six months there's been \$2,707, or dince the last report in Auugst, \$2,707 coming in from certificates.

Berman: Okay. Is there any other business to come before this committee, the board?

Rosenshein: Eddie has his hand up.

Berman: Ed?

Ed Goldwasser: yeah i don't know if it's proper here. I tried to get in on the NEC meeting. i would like to see us close the meeting in memory of Susan Pickard the wife of past national commander Bob Pickard, who passed away this past month from a long illness. And i'd like us to show some respect to the family and close this NEC weekend in her memory.

Berman: If i'm ready to close I will take that suggestion, but i must add that any number of our members have lost spouses and in-laws.

Ed Goldwasser: This is a past national commander we're talking about now.

Berman: Yeah, i realize that and the past national commander's daughter-in-law passed too, and in her memory and in the memory of all our departed i would ask for a moment of silence out of respect.

Ed Goldwasser: Thank you, Mike.

Berman: You're welcome. All right are there any, before we close, any donations. Raise your hand if you have a donation. I see one, Ed Baraw. Ed, are you unmuted? Mike is, Ed are you unmuted? No, not yet.

Ed Baraw: My question is for Mike Rugel. I sent in a donation from the post in the end of November and i don't know if it was received by the museum for two pavers. Mike, can you remember anything on that?

Rugel: I believe I did see that. I will confirm that and get back to you.

Baraw: Okay thank you.

Berman: Any other? Yeah. Any other.

Rosenshein: Jerry Blum.

Berman: Jerry?

Jerry Blum: Yes, Joanne and i would like to donate \$200 in the memory of what would be our daughter's birthday today.

Berman: Thank you, Jerry. Thank you, Joanne.

Joanne Blum: You're welcome.

Rugel: I have nothing else. You get your hand raised?

Berman: Okay. Thank you. Jay?

Jason Kaatz: Yeah, Jay Kaatz. I'd like to donate ___ dollars in memory of Peter and Bobby Kaatz.

Berman: Thank you, Jay. In memory of Bobby and Jay Kaatz \$100.

Rosenshein: And Lou Michaels.

Berman: Lou?

Lou Michaels: Yeah, my wife and i would just like to donate \$100 from the department of minnesota post 331, 162 and 334. I don't know how we do that but we'll get it to you someway Michael and to the museum.

Berman: Yeah, cash, check, or money order.

Michaels: Okay we will do that. May I, I just have one question. i was, we have the video of our national commander at our dinner and i was wondering, would you like that as part of the museum? I'm just asking here.

Berman: Mike? I'll leave it to the professional to make that. Let's talk offline at some point.

Michaels: Yeah, Ok.

Berman: ____ further.

Rosenshein: Nelson Mellitz.

Berman: Nelson wherever you are.

Nelson Mellitz: Thank you. Nelson Mellitz, Department of new jersey, and real quick comment and suggestion. During the NEC we were talking about closing down posts, counties, even the department of Delaware. That we don't have another step within the close downs where we don't ask for the history files, the files, the information about what happened with the post, with the counties, with the departments. i would think that's the job of the museum. Again, I'm just giving a suggestion here. The museum could probably send out a letter to the members, the post commanders, Allegheny County for example, my father-in-law and his brother were very ___ on keeping those going for many, many years. I hate to see that history lost and maybe it's something the museum could reach out to them, whoever remains and pull that information back. Just suggestion thank you.

Berman: I make that suggestion. Mike will consider it, Pam will look at it, and they'll get back to you for what they can do.

Mellitz: Thank you.

Berman: Barry Lischinsky please. Unmute.

Lischinsky: Yeah. Just hearing Nelson's comment is a very valuable thing. we should get the history of the post. The other thing is a post closes do we get their charter and their banner? Because that stuff ends up on ebay and it really should be with us and i think that's an item that ties along with the, what nelson's just talking about.

Berman: it's a very good idea, the problem is storage. how many banners can we store you know? i understand and it becomes a problem.

Rosenshein: Even if we can't store them, we should take them even if we have to destroy them. Hold on Nelson.

Berman: Yeah the other thing is that i don't know how many posts are named after someone who's deceased, who at one time may have been a hero of some sort, whether they were killed in action, whether they were the first member of the county or the city to go in, their names may be lost when you merge posts or whatever and the history of their contribution, and i simply take it from my own post, if i might, the Ocean County post had five names in it. One of them was the KIA, the first KIA from the area. Another one was named, well the person named while he was still alive. He was a local politician who was in World War one, whose history is probably lost because he's gone for eons. So more and more of our posts that are folding are named after people who are local heroes in a way. Their memory or their contribution to JWV and to the country is lost because no one remembers why did we name the post after joe glockenspiel, you know, unless that person had a distinguished service cross or even a silver star, they're probably forgotten and that's a history that i think we need to preserve in our museum in some form, some way. Thank you for letting me pontificate.

Rosenshein: You're good at that.

Berman: Thank you. I could have been a rabbi except I'd pontificate instead of giving good sermons. All right Howard. Hannah? Howard? Did you have your hand up? All right anyone else?

Rosenshein: Kim Queen and Larry Jasper.

Berman: Gerry Levine has his hand up. Can you unmute him Mike?

Rosenshein: If I can find him I can.

Gerald Levine: Can you hear me?

Berman: Yes.

Levine: Okay. it's my pleasure to donate \$100 in honor of Michael Berman from our new jersey, and we're very proud of you and for the work you do for the museum. Thank you michael.

Berman: Thank you, Gerry. Just as a hint, Gerry and I have lunch together occasionally. i guess it's my turn to buy.

Rosenshein: You have Kim Queen, Larry Jasper, and Ron Sivernell. ___ please.

Queen: Okay, my wife and i would like to donate \$100 to museum in memory of her uncle sherman elias, a korean war veteran who passed away in december of last year due to covid. He was a member of the department of Pennsylvania.

Berman: Thank you kim. Other's hands up? i only have part of my screen. i see Arthur.

Rosenshein: You have larry jasper

Berman: All right.

Larry Jasper: All right thank you. i have three things real quick. One, with respect to the people who posts are named after, perhaps the museum should consider contacting all the existing posts to get the names and the backgrounds instead of waiting till these posts go away. Second point is the department of florida purchased a large paver in memory of Susan picard and i would like to personally donate \$100 in her memory. Thank you.

Berman: Thank you, Larry. Arthur? Is Arthur unmu-there he is. Arthur? You're still muted.

(CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEING SAID)

Rosenshein: Lou Michaels?

Michaels: Yes. Personal donation for me in honor of Jeff Sacks, also in honor of the passing of Robert Nussbaum, and to the present national members. All i can say gentlemen, you do one hell of a job. G-d bless you that's my gift from me to you and in memory of Robert Nussbaum. G-d bless all of you. Thank you.

Berman: Thank you lou. Other the hands up?

Rosenshein: Yes you have

Berman: I see Ed Baraw. Ed, you're still muted

Baraw: Yeah okay, I think you can hear me right?

Berman: You're echoing but yeah we hear you.

Rosenshein: You have 2 phones on.

Baraw: We'd like to donate \$100 in memory of my brother, Eugene Baraw who passed away.

Berman: Thank you, thank you very much. Other hands up?

Rosenshein: Jeffrey Sacks.

Berman: Well you're echoing.

Sacks: It's other people.

Berman: Hang up your phone.

Sacks: My phone's not on.

Berman: Mute Ed Barraw.

Sacks: Jerry Berns who just, Jerry was a big supporter of the museum, and he was active nationally as our vavs chairman and our civil rights chairman so I'm going to purchase a kiosk picture and I've got a picture of him from world war ii and he lived to be 97 and he led a good life.

Berman: All right jeff thank you so much. Other hands up?

Rosenshein: Ed Goldwasser, hold on.

Berman: Ed Goldwasser? Yeah, Ed, wherever you are. You're still muted.

Ed Goldwasser: Several ____ ago, the department of new York attempted to create a scholarship for someone who was involved in museum studies and in memory of past department commander Hyman Miller. I think for one or two years we had an applicant for it and it's died since then along with____. So in talking with some of the people from new York we were thinking of doing something to memorialize Hy in regard to the new memorial gardens so as soon as the committee can establish the honorariums for various items in the memorial garden we will choose one and do that in his memory, but we have something in mind but we'll talk about it with whomever you appoint Mr. President to establish the fee schedule for the various items available for sale within the gardens itself.

Berman: Thank you i think we'll be talking of the fundraising chairman who happens to be sitting next to you.

Ed Goldwasser: Well, that's special projects chairman, not the fundraising chairman.

Berman: Oh, all right. Other hands up? I know new jersey has committed I think 5,000 to the museum plus 15 for a room or whatever so that 20,000 coming in from New Jersey. Any others?

Rugel: Ron Sivernell, he's had his hand raised. Did he get a chance to go? Ron? How about Warren Dolny.

Berman: Ron? Warren?

Warren Dolny: Okay i'd like to make a donation of \$50 in memory of my daughter for Yahrzeit and \$50 for Anita Goldwasser, daughter-in-law of Eddie and Iris.

Berman: Thank you.

Iris Goldwasser: Thank you Warren.

Berman: Thank you very much. Others?

Rosenshein: Let's see. Sivernell?

Berman: I see Gerry Levine.

Berman: Ron's unmuted. Somebody muted him again. Ron's unmuted, Mike.

Berman: Who is?

Rosenshein: Ron Sivernell.

Berman: Ron and then Gerry Levine.

Rosenshein: Ron, talk. Does anybody hear him because he's not muted? His audio is not working mike, we'll have to move on to Gerry.

Gerry Levine: Gerry Levine. Michael at our Department meeting a substantial sum of money was dedicated to the museum in your name and i'm remiss if I didn't hear it mentioned. Do you remember those numbers?

Berman: Yes 5,000 to the museum, 5,000 went to JWV, and 15,000 will go for us a plaque or a room or whatever we're doing.

Levine: Okay.

Berman: A total of 25,000. Anything further?

Rugel: Nelson Mellitz you still have a hand raised did you have anything you wanted to add?

Mellitz: No, I passed.

Berman: All right. Nelson is not going to pledge a 100,000.

Mellitz: Not this week

Berman: Nor next week. Anything further. All right. We have at the museum a series of speakers. They're fascinating and whoever we might i guess you we, Mike do you refer to them, they're good speakers, they're interesting, you can do it at home so you can have your bowl of noodles and your meal as well and you can have a very interesting program. mike what's the one that's coming up now?

Rugel: On thursday we have Michael Geheran who wrote a book about German Jewish world war one veterans and about them once nazi rule takes over Germany and how some of the benefits and privileges they had as veterans lasted a little bit under the Nazi rule rule before going away and they were treated like other Jews. So that's coming up on Thursday. We'll have, we're planning a Vietnam discussion panel probably in April. We likely will have a second part of our, we had the Shappell manuscript Foundation's civil war researchers on Jews in the civil war a few months back and we're probably going to do a follow up on that in March. But right now coming up thursday is the only firm that we have on the calendar.

Berman: So again i ask you as long as you're on the part of the museum to go online get the schedule find the links sit down enjoy the lectures, enjoy the movies they're very pleasant and again you can have your martinis of dry, shaken, but not stirred or stirred not shaken and very dry. so please we'll have a

Meeting in april or may. keep on checking on the JWV, on the museum bulletin board for further information. With that i thank you all for attending. We had an hour and a quarter. i think we did a very good job and i thank the presenters.