

The Jewish Veteran

November/December 1985



IN SEARCH OF . . .

Gene Fiorella is in search of **Sanford Krell**, formerly of the USS Helm, concerning a reunion of their old shipmates. Mr. Fiorella can be contacted at 48 Gordon Avenue, North Tarrytown, NY 10591.

Any Vietnam Era Veteran wishing to share their feelings on—being drafted, relationships with officers and commanding officers, the impact the war had on their lives—can mail their information to; Special Project Researchers. Incorporated, P.O. Box 384, Devon, PA 19333.

The World Archives of the Hashomer Hatzair Socialist Zionist Youth Organization is in search of **former Hashomer Hatzair members**, to request that they donate documents and/or photographs from the days in the movement. Interested parties can contact The Hashomer Hatzair Link, 150 Fifth Avenue, Suite 911, New York, NY 10011.

Mrs. Joseph Maceda is in search of **Leon Siegel**, who fought with her husband during WWII. Siegel was a gunner on a B24 of the 22 Bomb Squadron, Second Bomb Group in the South Pacific during 1945. He was last known to be living in Manhattan. Mrs. Maceda may be reached at R.D.I. Box 78A, Sidney Center, NY 13839.

Armando Leon Cruz is in search of **former crew members of the U.S.S. Cornell D.D. 547** who served during World War II. Mr. Cruz is trying to organize a reunion. You can write him at 4517 Gray Street, Tampa, FL 33609 or call (813) 876-2988.

Rodger J. Joyce is in search of all **ex-crew members of the USS Mitscher (DL-2/DDG-35)** interested in having a reunion. Those interested may write to Rodger J. Joyce, 6 Standard Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

Linda Hunt of the Cable New Network is in search of **Herschel Auerbach, Hermann P. Meyer and Victor H. Bernstein** or any of the survivors of Dora Concentration Camp for research on Dora-Nordhausen. Anyone with information should call Ms. Hunt at (202) 342-7973.



Plaque dedicated to PNC Mal Tarlov

Honoring Mal Tarlov

By Shelley Berman
NJCC Program Director

At a very well-attended ceremony on Sunday, October 13, 1985, the Norwalk Jewish Community Center was honored by the dedication of the Mal Tarlov Memorial Plaza by the Jewish War Veterans.

I was not fortunate enough to have known Mal Tarlov. As I heard his friends and colleagues remembering him at Sunday's ceremony, it became clear to me that my life would have been richer if I had. For Mal was more than a man, he was a "mensch." His leadership qualities benefited this Center, since he was one of our presidents, and not only was

he a member of the Norwalk Chapter of JWV, but Mal served as the National Commander of JWV.

But more than being impressed by the titles and honors Mal had earned, I was taken by the spirit of the group at the ceremony. Mal's friends remembered him with such warmth, such joy, that it was obvious that he was a special man who had touched many lives.

It is good that our flagpole now symbolizes the freedoms of America, the dreams of Israel and the best of human potential, as lived by Mal Tarlov.

NOW, AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE: VHS video cassettes of the banquet honoring 1984-85 National Commander Samuel Greenberg. This tape is a permanent memory of the pageantry of this gala event including the pomp and circumstance of the 50 State Flag Team and the Blue Jacket Chorus. All the ceremonies of the evening, including the cake cutting of the 90th Anniversary Cake, are captured on this tape.

To order your tape, complete the form below and send with \$35.00, which includes the cost of shipping and handling, to:

Banquet Video Tape
c/o JWV of the USA
1811 R Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send me _____ tape(s). Enclosed is \$ _____.

On the Cover

The cover, featuring part of a *Chanukiah* (Menorah) was designed and drawn by Ronnie Shimron, Curator for the JWV-USA National Memorial Museum. The design was inspired by the Reznik Menorah which is displayed in our lobby at National Headquarters.

In this Issue

As Chanukah is a holiday of heroes and miracles, this issue is devoted to stories of military men and women from Deborah's time to the present. The miracle is in the moving story of Lee Kweller, "A Speechless Boy sings in Pittsburgh." We wish a Happy Chanukah and a year of peace in 1986 to all of our readers. The menorah featured on Page 29 is the creation of ceramic artist, Pearl Zaltzman. For information on her work, contact National Headquarters.

Organized 1896
Official Bulletin of The Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America

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Advertising information and rates
available from the Editorial Office.

The opinions expressed in signed articles and letters in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editors of JWV.

The Jewish Veteran is published five times a year: January-February-March, April-May-June, July-August, September-October, November-December by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America at Washington, D.C. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C. and other post offices. Subscription price in the United States is \$2.50 per year, included in membership. Non-member subscriptions: \$5.00 Single copies: \$1.00.

Postmaster send address changes or undelivered copies to Editorial Offices, 1811 R St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

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ISSN 0047-2018

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View From the Top



by Harvey S. Friedman
National Commander

Veterans Entitlements

I know that I speak for all of you, as your National Commander, when I say that each of us who have served our country, proudly and without hesitation, are concerned with the current federal budget deficit. However, I am equally convinced that each of you are as concerned as I am, when you read of the imminent threats to veterans' entitlements, proposed by the senate version of the Gramm-Rudman bill. During the week of November 12-15, I had the opportunity to visit the Senators and Representatives on the hill, as National Commander of the JYW, and to put before them our position on veterans benefits: While we of the Jewish War Veterans are willing to take our fair share of cuts to help balance the federal budget deficit, and by fair share we mean an across the board cut to all entitlement recipients, we do not want to see the budget balanced on our backs alone. We believe, that as veterans who have fought and bled for our country, we deserve, at the very least, the same consideration being suggested for Social Security recipients. Our Congresspeople cannot be allowed to forget the sacrifice each of us, willingly, made for our country. It is imperative that you make your Senators and Representatives aware of your very strong feeling on this issue . . . and that you do it now!

There is a lot of pressure on Congress to come up with some sort of deficit reduction bill, and if I came away from my various meetings with only one thought, it was that this is definitely a situation where those who are heard from will influence decisions. Your credibility as a constituent voter *and* as a veteran, can-

not be overemphasized. We cannot be apathetic and expect that someone else will do the work for us. This is *our* fight for what we have *earned!* Make your feelings known and your voice heard!

JWV Leadership Conference

During the months ahead, we will be reintroducing our Leadership Conference in Washington. This is the program where you, as a member of the Jewish War Veterans, have the opportunity to visit JWV Headquarters and to meet with your respective Senators and Representatives. You will be hearing more about this program shortly.

Jordan Arms Sale

It is imperative that you establish a working relationship with your Representatives and Senators and we will do everything possible to help you in this regard. During the weeks and months ahead I will be calling on you to contact your Congresspeople about our position on the sale of *any* arms to Jordan before "direct and meaningful negotiations are entered into between Jordan and Israel." Those are the conditions that were placed on an arms sale before the President's request for said sale was tabled until March, 1986, by Congress. We have every reason to believe that the Administration will reintroduce the sale, possibly as early as February. Reliable sources suggest that the President will also do some personal lobbying on behalf of the sale. It is incumbent upon us to do some "lobbying" of our own. I have taken a very definite and concise stand in opposition to any arms sale until the conditions as set forth by the House and Senate Resolutions are met. During my week of meetings on the Hill, as well as at a meeting at the British Embassy, I carefully explained our concerns about any sale of arms to either Jordan or Saudi Arabia.

Many of you have already written to your Senators and Representatives and your input has effectively postponed any sale. If your congressperson voted in opposition to the sale, write to thank them and urge them to do so again when the issue is reintroduced. If they did not vote against the sale, tell them of your concerns and encourage them to rethink their position before March. Should you need help in this endeavor, contact us at headquarters and we will send you the necessary material.

Human Rights

As I write, President Reagan has just returned from his historic summit meet-

ing with General Secretary Gorbachev. The President's speech on the meetings was optimistic in tone and promised greater cooperation between the two superpowers in the days, months, and years ahead. However, next to nothing was said about human rights and/or the Refuseniks who want to leave. We are confident that the President personally expressed those concerns to Gorbachev. The fact that nothing was said publicly does not mean that progress will not be forthcoming. We must continue, however, as concerned citizens of the world—as Americans, as veterans, and as Jews—to press for the release of all those who wish to leave the USSR.

Achille Lauro

Shortly after I took office, the world watched in horror as four hijackers held passengers on an Italian cruise liner, the Achille Lauro, hostage. The horror was followed by shock and outrage as we learned of the brutal murder of one of those passengers who was confined to a wheelchair—Leon Klinghoffer. As your National Commander, I issued Press Releases in which I called for swift retaliation to acts of terrorism, retaliation by *all* responsible nations. It is time for us to serve notice to terrorists everywhere: there is no safe haven for murderers.

A "Letter to the Editor," mailed to newspapers across the country, was widely reprinted. JWV stands firmly in opposition to *all* terrorism—we condemned the senseless murder of Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee Alex Odeh in California—and will not tolerate a climate in which terrorists feel they can flourish. There are not, and can not be, any concessions to, or understanding of, terrorists' demands. We can only respond to, and dialogue with, those who behave responsibly.

National Commander's Reception

At a reception that I hosted at National Headquarters the day after Veterans Day, we discussed the issue of veterans' benefits, as well as many other substantive issues that concern us as Americans and veterans. Invited were the National Commanders and their National Executive Directors from the major veterans organizations in the country. That evening marked the beginning of what I hope will be a growing cooperation amongst Veterans Organizations to work together in areas of mutual concern where we share a common agenda.

As you work in your Allied Veterans Councils on the local level for greater cooperation, I will strive to mirror your efforts on a national level. Together, we can move toward realizing our goals.