



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Winter • 2011

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FALLEN HEROES

Remembering American Jewish Casualties
of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)



Pfc. Daniel J. Agami

Pfc. Daniel J. Agami

Hometown: Coconut Creek, FL
Age: 25 years old
Died: June 21, 2007 - OIF

Sgt. Howard P. Allen

Hometown: Mesa, AZ
Age: 31 years old
Died: September 26, 2005 - OIF

1st Lt. David R. Bernstein

Hometown: Phoenixville, PA
Age: 24 years old
Died: October 18, 2003 - OIF

Cpl. Albert Bitton

Hometown: Chicago, IL
Age: 20 years old
Died: February 20, 2008 - OIF



1st Lt. David R. Bernstein



2nd Lt. Seth J. Dvorin

Sgt. Aron C. Blum

Hometown: Tucson, AZ
Age: 22 years old
Died: December 28, 2006 - OIF

Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan B. Bruckenthal

Hometown: Smithtown, NY
Age: 24 years old
Died: April 24, 2004 - OIF

Cpl. Michael R. Cohen

Hometown: Jacobus, PA
Age: 23 years old
Died: November 22, 2004 - OIF

2nd Lt. Seth J. Dvorin

Hometown: East Brunswick, NJ
Age: 24 years old
Died: February 3, 2004 - OIF



Petty Officer 3rd Class
Nathan B. Bruckenthal



Lance Cpl. Mark E. Engel

Lance Cpl. Mark E. Engel

Hometown: Centennial, CO
Age: 21 years old
Died: July 21, 2004 - OIF

Cpl. Mark A. Evin

Hometown: Burlington, VT
Age: 21 years old
Died: April 3, 2003 - OIF

Pfc. Aaron E. Fairbairn

Hometown: Aberdeen, WA
Age: 20 years old
Died: July 4, 2009 - OEF

1st Lt. Daniel Farkas

Hometown: Brooklyn, NY
Age: 42 years old
Died: July 4, 2008 - OEF



Sgt. Foster L. Harrington

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Upcoming JWV Teleconferences

Your opinions and ideas count! All JWV members are encouraged to join in and participate by calling this toll-free number:

Dial 1-866-266-3378 and enter the JWV Code Number: 202 265 6280#. Enter the full number, including the # sign. All calls start at 8:00 PM EDT

Thurs - Mar 24 NMAJMH

Tues - April 12..... Past National Commanders-Visions of the Future of JWV

Wed - April 27 Information Technology

Thurs - May 12 Membership

Tues - May 24..... Veterans Services and Hospitals

Thurs - June 2..... The National Convention

Tues - June 22 The Manual of Ceremonies

Thurs - July 7 JWV in the Year 2020

Wed - July 27..... The Jewish Veteran and Local PR

Wed - Aug. 10 At the Convention Committee Meetings, Business Sessions, Speeches, etc.

Wed - Aug. 24 Convention Overview

Tues - Sept. 13 Membership

Wed - Oct. 26 Meeting Planning and Programming

Wed - Nov. 16 Membership Drives, Veterans Shabbats, Poppy Drives and Other Post Activities



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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LIFE MEMBERS

JWV needs the assistance of all life members to update our records.

We need your date of birth and the date on which you became a life member. Please send this information to our membership department as soon as possible.

Contact Ruby Deschamps

by phone at 202-265-6280 x 401,

by e-mail at rdeschamps@jwv.org,

or by mail to: JWV Membership Department

1811 R St., NW

Washington, DC 20009

Thanks for your help.

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How I Won the War

During WWII I was stationed in General MacArthur's headquarters from Australia to Tokyo. In August of 1945 we were preparing for the invasion of Japan. Every airplane and ship possible was being prepared to invade with the probability of over one million casualties, figuring that the Japanese would fight from door to door.

I was a SGT in a section titled CRO, Part of G-4. Our job was the priorities unit. Any individual or small group entering or leaving the Southwest Pacific area by air had to get a priority from us. Priorities were 1, 2, 3, and 4. No. 4 was practically anyone with the possibility of being offloaded for anyone with a higher priority. No. 3 was for medical personnel or wounded individuals being sent back. No. 2 was for members of Congress or a high-ranking officer. No. 1 we had never issued.

I was on duty about 12 PM when a call came in asking for Priority 1!!! Never having issued a No. 1, I woke up my Major in charge of our section and asked what to do. He was mad about being awakened, but, realizing the importance, woke up the Colonel in charge of our department. It seems the request went up the line, and finally I got the OK to issue the priority to a Captain. Never heard anything more about the incident.

Many years later I read an article in a magazine explaining the above. It seems the Enola Gay was sitting on the ground on Enewetak Island preparing to lift off to bomb Nagasaki, but the individual assigned to arm the bomb enroute was hospitalized, and they were afraid to arm it on the ground with an inexperienced person (if anything went wrong, the whole island would go) so they requested an experienced person from the States to be sent to them. Thus the No. 1 priority request for the Captain. When he arrived, they took off and, because of cloud cover, dropped the bomb on Hiroshima. Nagasaki was next.

That was my priority which won the war.

PDC Irvin Hoffman
New Jersey

Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery

We have a list of the soldiers of the Jewish Faith buried in the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Belgium.

On our end we are currently working on a

very ambitious project to which you might be able to contribute. The project consists of finding a picture and a story about all those soldiers laid to rest in this cemetery. The purpose of this project is to keep the memory of these men alive. The stories we are looking for are the personal stories—those that bring out the personality of each man.

Caroline Oliver
Cemetery Associate

From Normandy to the Pacific

I read with great interest your letters as I am a survivor of the Normandy Invasion. (I was in the powder room—under turret No. 2 of the 14-inch giant guns of the Battleship Texas—I carried 200 bags [of 103 lbs. each] of black TNT in 80 minutes to feed our guns for rapid fire—the first wave to attack the German guns guarding the beaches).

How we survived the German shells was a miracle until June 25 when we took a direct hit during the naval assault on Cherbourg which resulted in serious damage—1/3 of the bridge was blown off, 8 men killed, and wounded and a tremendous scare for 2,000 crewmen.

Fast forward—after the second battle I was in pain. I found out in the sick bay that I had torn my abdominal muscles, and arrangements were made to send me to the hospital as soon as we got back to the US. After successful surgery I convalesced for three weeks and was told I would be discharged. Then the Navy changed its mind. I would be given light duty—I was not allowed to do heavy lifting. I was sent to the submarine station of New London, CT, and was assigned to DE683 (what a contrast between a giant ship and a tiny destroyer escort). I told the Executive Officer that I would be a liability on this ship as I could not do any heavy lifting. He examined my record—I was originally drafted as a specialist-translator in French. I was a student in Ancient Humanities (Latin and Greek) from Belgium. My family and I had escaped from Belgium three days after Germany attacked and invaded Belgium and Holland on May 10, 1940. He asked me if I would like to work in the ship's office. I enthusiastically accepted, and within 6 months I was a yeoman. The DE took a trip to Casablanca, returned to New London, and on VE Day received orders to report to the Philippines Sea via the Panama Canal.

With the exception of the threat of dangerous Japanese submarine attacks, it was a reasonably

pleasant assignment. In time I took full charge of the office and wrote and printed the ship's paper. About September 1945 we were in the Gulf of Leyte, and I got the surprise of a lifetime—special arrangements were made for Jewish personnel to attend religious services for Yom Kippur. A liberty boat picked up Jewish sailors at 5 PM. I thought I was the only Jew on board, but a LT Gerson jumped in the boat with me. An excellent chazzan (cantor) from Brooklyn, a staff sergeant, conducted a moving service. We were seated at random—NO RANK—just Jews together. He chanted the traditional Kol Nidre, and shortly thereafter was almost drowned out by thousands of buzzing locusts. Suddenly there was an emergency broadcast requesting a blackout—a suspicious Japanese airplane had been spotted. The Japanese had been chased off the island about a week earlier.

At once we turned on our small individual flashlights. It was a most eerie feeling to follow the service by flashlight, but there was no panic. We were proud Jews—feeling protected under the American flag—there was a feeling of safety in numbers. Every Yom Kippur I recall this traumatic experience and thank G-d I survived.

Jack Lust
Post 819

Support for Military Families

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, please accept my heartfelt appreciation for your most thoughtful, generous, and sustained support of clipping coupons and sharing them with our military families residing in Spain. Your efforts have saved these Navy and Marine Corps families, operating on tight budgets, significant funds, enabling them to stretch their paychecks.

Quite honestly, we've been overwhelmed by the response. We've received more than one hundred packages of coupons in just the past four days, and our limited volunteer staff is overwhelmed. We must declare a COUPON HOLIDAY. Until further notice, please DO NOT SEND additional coupons to Rota, Spain. If you feel compelled to continue clipping coupons, I encourage you to go to a coupon website to find a base that is in need of your help. One such website is the Overseas Coupon Program. You can find a list of base addresses on their site:<http://www.ocpnet.org/Base%20List/BaseList1.htm>. There are many bases listed that are in need of coupons for their families.

Continued on page 5

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Stephen R. Zeitz



I was honored on behalf of the JWV to attend Veterans Day ceremonies in Washington, DC. My day started with breakfast at the White House hosted by Vice-President Biden. It was wonderful to be with the leaders of the other veterans organizations on this most solemn and important day.

After the breakfast, we went on to attend the moving ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. It was truly an honor and a privilege to be there representing the JWV. If you ever have the occasion to be in Washington on Veterans Day, I urge you to attend Arlington's stirring tribute to those who have served.

The day concluded with a reception at the National Press Building with the commanders of other veterans' organizations and dignitaries.

Along with PNC Sam Greenberg and Pennsylvania Department Commander Jerry Farris, I attended a meeting to recog-

nize group sponsors and contributors to the new National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. Their President Robert Rosenzweig wants to work in close cooperation with our National Museum of American Jewish Military History in the future.

It was wonderful to attend a ceremony with the Department of New Jersey as they presented a Day Room Suite to returning soldiers at Fort Dix, NJ. The leaders at Fort Dix were most appreciative of the donation.

I am looking forward to my upcoming trips to the Departments of Florida and Massachusetts, and I hope to see as many of the members as possible on these and other trips.

I do want to take a moment to pass along an important notice for all echelons. It is very important that JWV members who are leaving of-
office give complete information on their duties to the incoming elected or appointed officers who

will be taking their place so that the work of the JWV continues uninterrupted.

Remember—my door is always open to members for their suggestions or complaints.



NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



By Herb Rosenbleeth
Colonel, U.S. Army(Ret)
National Executive Director



DON'T TAX YOU, DON'T TAX ME, TAX THAT BABY ON YOUR KNEE

The new congress is facing a huge national debt. Unless this debt can be significantly reduced, future generations will be faced with unbearable tax obligations. The 112th congress seems determined to reverse this deficit.

On December 1, the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform released its recommendations for cutting the federal deficit. These suggested reductions to government spending include a wide array of proposals that would specifically target military personnel, veterans, dependents, survivors, and military retirees.

In addition, cuts to Medicare and Social Security, elimination of tax deductions for homeowner interest, capital gains, and others, while not specifically aimed at military and veterans communities, would adversely affect many of us.

The percentage of Members of Congress who have had at least some time in military uni-

form (active duty, Guard or Reserve) continues to decline. In 1969-70 74% of the House were veterans, and the Senate had 78 percent veterans in 1977-78. In the congress today, these percentages have dropped to 20 percent in the House and only 25 percent in the Senate.

Missing in the new Congress are several strong supporters of the military and veterans including Ike Skelton (D-MO), Chet Edwards (D-TX), Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Gene Taylor (D-MS), and Jim Marshall (D-GA). Our thanks to each of them for their outstanding service to our country.

What can we as veterans do? We must actively and forcefully communicate with our Senators and Representatives. Tell them our opinions; tell them what we want from them. Only Congress can implement the proposed reductions to our benefits. There will be big battles ahead.

In March, JWV's National Executive

Committee will be in Washington to meet with Members of Congress to present our legislative priorities, and National Commander Steve Zeitz will testify before a joint session of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs. JWV will be there for you!

I will close this "Capitol Hill" column with a prayer for Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Representative Giffords serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Her views align with those of JWV. She is the only member of Congress whose spouse is on active duty with the armed forces.

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA prays for the full and complete recovery of Representative Giffords and for all those who were wounded on that awful day in Tucson. JWV looks forward to the day when Congresswoman Giffords will be back in her office on Capitol Hill.

DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor



LESSONS LEARNED?

I know that Pearl Harbor Day was a few months ago, but due to the schedule for the Veteran, I did not have a chance to reflect on this very special day at the time. Actually, there are two days of infamy now, and what lessons have we learned or not learned from them?

On these two bleak dates in our history, September 11, 2001, and December 7, 1941, acts of terrorism were committed by cowards. Both acts of terrorism should have taught America many things, but I wonder if they did.

September 11 started out so routinely but quickly brought to mind the attack on December 7. The 9-11 attack marked our entrance into the all-out global war on terrorism we are currently fighting, while the December 7th attack ushered us into WW II.

It's important for us to remember these two dates in history--Dec. 7 and Sept. 11 were both low points in our lives. We have survived both acts and have come a long way in healing. To many, except our WW II comrades, the attack on Pearl Harbor is difficult to comprehend because

it happened before many of the baby boomers were even born, while Sept 11 happened in our lifetime. Unfortunately, because of those cowardly attacks on Sept 11, it is now much easier to feel the pain our parents and grandparents must have felt on Dec 7. Why didn't we remember the lesson of that day? Why must Sept 11 serve as a vivid reminder that some of us too often forget the lessons from history?

America survived both those days of national disgrace. We remember all those who were lost, taken down in the prime of their lives. We remember them all, those who were lost in Hawaii, New York City, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa. We understand these two days, and they are important to us and to the future of our nation. We must remember so the youth of our Country understands the terrible price our nation has paid for its lack of vigilance. In remembering those who paid the supreme sacrifice, I ask you to think about those who survived the attacks. The sneak attacks are still burned in their memories, and time does not always heal

all the scars.

America survived Sept 11 and will survive any attack on its soil. It is a lesson worth telling generations to come. It is a lesson that we forgot, because we forgot the lesson of Dec 7. Don't let anyone forget, especially our leaders in Washington.

So did we learn anything? The answer should be yes. We must never lose that feeling of patriotism and Americanism that occurred after the attacks. I know we in JWV will not. JWV is committed to love, honor, and respect those who came before us. And we respect and honor our military, including our active duty members, Reserve, and the National Guard. G-d bless them all, and G-d bless our America. We will never forget our POWs and MIAs. We will honor their courage and commitment. One thing I know for sure--terrorism will never prevail. NEVER!

LETTERS

Continued from page 3

By sending your coupons to their locations, you'll be helping even more families from all branches of the military.

The need for the Society's services continues to grow. In 2009, our staff of 3,600 volunteers, supported by a small professional paid staff of fewer than 240, disbursed \$47.4 million in interest-free loans and grants in response to more than 91,000 requests for financial assistance. Based on statistics for the first nine months, we project even larger numbers for 2010: \$50 million in financial assistance to more than 100,000 clients! Since our founding in 1904, the Society has maintained a philosophy of not asking for donations from outside the family of active duty and retired Sailors and Marines and their families—the part of the population who are eligible for our assistance.

Thanks again for your thoughtful and generous support.

June Brennan

*Director, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society
Rota, Spain*

National Student Awards

By Committee Co-Chairman Harry Ettlinger



Post Commanders may or may not be aware of their involvement in the submittal of candidates for the National Student Awards. A reorganization of the Committee for the subject awards has taken place. Furthermore, in line with cost cutting measures, distribution of related data through the mails has been greatly curtailed and is now essentially confined to the national website, www.jwv.org.

The newly formed Student Award Committee will now determine the recipients of the Education Grant Awards (formerly the Scholarship Awards) and the XX Olympiad Memorial Awards. Candidates for these awards will be processed in the lower echelons and submitted to the Committee through the National Commanders. A maximum of three (3) submittals for the Education Grant Awards and two (2) submittals for the Olympiad Awards are permitted.

Submittals must be in the hands of

Cheryl Waldman in the National Office by the end of this coming June. Within your Department, time allowance for review should be made for selection of candidates, if submittals exceed the above stated maximums.

My Co-Chair Morton Millinger and I urge Department Commanders to contact their Post officers. The Education Grants are for the very bright children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren of your JWV Post members. The Olympiad Award is non-sectarian for any High School Senior excelling in sports. Publicity for these awards is vital.

If you have a question or if you're doubtful about any related issue, feel free to contact me at 973-366-4350 or by e-mail at harrymimi@optonline.net. Rest assured that we are dedicated to spread the word to the young people about what we, the veterans of the Jewish faith, have done for our country.

COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee



A GLOBAL MARSHALL PLAN: POWER TO THE PEOPLE

“Power to the People” is a beautiful slogan and is sometimes overused for its ambiguity in meaning and difficulty in implementation. We are now in the midst of what is a public outpouring of the people seeking to overthrow autocratic leaders and governments. The bottom line appears to be economic in nature—food, employment, and, of course, rights of freedom, no matter whatever that may mean or consist of. It appears to be an empowerment in action—hopefully one which can become a truth.

When I was growing up, there was a mayor named Frank Hague of Jersey City, NJ. It seemed to me as though Jersey City never had another mayor. He retired, and the mayors after him became stained by allegations of corruption and all such good things. Of course, all of those who analyzed his reign came up with the reason for Hague’s durability—namely, “He shared with the People.” He built hospitals, parks and community programs. He is reported to have said that his successors were trying to become rich in a few years, while it had taken him many years of service.

Apparently sharing with the people was never the policy in the Middle East. “The People” seem to have determined after one of them decided to immolate himself and become a martyr to take to the streets. With such an outpouring, the Tunisian president left his office and his country. The momentum started to spread to Algeria, Yemen, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iran [hopefully] and definitely to Egypt where the 30-year despot has finally stepped down after 18 days of a 24/7 insurgency.

There appears to be a uniqueness about the turnover since it is not a coup d’état by an opposition party in the country or by the success of different religious factions. It is secular in nature to the extent that it appears to be rudderless, with protesters calling for the autocrats to step down and give them democracy. There is no singular or charismatic leader [other than the military], although the Muslim Brotherhood sits by like a vulture awaiting the opportunity to swoop down and take over control as a theocracy.

To dump the long-term autocratic leader is easy to understand, and the assumption is that all good things will come forward in the economy and public representation. Unfortunately, that doesn’t follow since democracy is still a rather misleading concept to those who have lived under a totalitarian leader and undemocratic government. They see freedom as an avenue leading to economic redemption and a secular society

allowing them freedom of movement and of expression without actually realizing that it has restraints—the measure of those restraints will be the key to the scope of the freedom.

Now into this pot of confusion comes technology which was not in existence when the autocrat took possession of the nation 30 years earlier. The people at this moment have used and extensively communicated on the internet, Facebook, Twitter and all sorts of social access to transit the slogans and the fervor needed to propel themselves onto the street and affect a change in government or as an instrument to spark change [maybe?]. Youth and others with staying power seem to have their day to seek and to express a new opportunity.

Two interesting aspects of the Egyptian revolution are that it has been a peaceful non-violent gathering and secondly that it has not as yet blamed Israel for all for the ills imposed upon the Egyptian society. A most important concern must be that both of these elements of revival of democracy not seek to make a scapegoat of Israel for all past ills. The continued existence of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel would signal a benchmark of the new democracy.

It is vital that the transformative aspects find within them a trust, internal and external, which had been lacking for the last 30 years. That trust must be reciprocal both within and outside Egypt.

The playing field has changed, and the United States must motivate with it in diplomacy and possible foreign involvement in political and economic assemblages. Alliances thought to have existed between us and another government are not absolute—especially in the Middle East. We can no longer guarantee stability or economic gain. This is especially true when tear gas canisters being thrown at protesters show them to be made in the USA. True, when our troops are on the ground supporting leaders who continue to seek deals with their so-called enemies to the exclusion of the United States. True, when US monies contributed find their way into the pockets of corrupt government. True when terms of democracy are spoken of in terms of dollars rather than in the expenditure of American lives.

Yet, after saying all that, the United States must remain a major player in that area. But, the United States must not be the only one obligated to expend money and lives. The Past is gone, and technology has spread the messages quickly and fully to mobilize the rallies of protesters. It has made them attuned to each other in almost an immediate development of a bonding to accomplish

change.

Watching the protesters reminded me of the Displaced Persons [DPs] who after World War II were homeless and rudderless after release from the concentration camps and a controlled society. However, the United States is no longer able to solely undertake to guarantee economies and support the development of democracies as it did under the Marshall Plan for Europe.

What is necessary now is a coordinated Global Marshall Plan. Such an undertaking must require monies from not only the United States, but from other countries, especially from the Middle East, such as the Saudis who have been supporting the despots and the terrorists with extensive amounts of money and creating rather than positively working to solve the problems existing—such as making nomads of the Palestinians. It should immediately be worked on and put before the world’s major economic nations. Such a global line of attack and credit would not be limited to the Middle East but has to be universally designed as well.

Such a universal approach could be initially staged starting in Egypt, which at this point is a major player of the need in the areas of economics, democracy and military. The immediate area of involvement would appear to be agriculture, which will provide food and income to many of the protesters. The ultimate decision as to the realization of a political democracy must be with the Egyptians themselves together with the Army [which in reality has been a fundamental part of the secular society for the past 30 years].

There must be no requirement for the introduction of ground troops to accomplish this purpose and should be resolved within Egypt itself. Iraq and Afghanistan have already shown how hollow such an approach is. Technology and the more current tactics allow for the implementation of drones, SWAT teams, computer-generated programs to interfere with nuclear progress, the use of social networking sites and the internet as a means of mass communication and the like.

In a column by Thomas L. Friedman, he quotes an engineer from Tunis who just about says it all: “Don’t burn yourself up; burn up the fear that is inside you.” Those, both young and old, who rallied in Independence Square, proved the reality of that quote.

The final question: In actuality, is there ever going to be Power to the People???? Doubtful!!!

Israeli Report Journal

By General Sidney Shachnow and NJA Allen E. Falk

JWV was recently honored by having two of its members invited to attend an educational seminar in Israel sponsored by the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA). The seminar, known as the General and Flag Officer's Program, is one of JINSA's most important activities. The two JWV invitees were Maj. Gen Sidney Shachnow, USA (Ret.) and JWV National Judge Advocate Allen E. Falk. Gen. Shachnow retired af-



NJA Allen Falk, at left, and General Shachnow at Kibbutz Kfar Aza on Gaza border.

ter a long and distinguished Army career. NJA Falk served as a Captain with the First Marine Division in Vietnam.

The other seminar participants were Rear Admiral (Ret.) Paul T. Kayye, National President, Reserve Officers Association; Maj. Gen. David R. Bockel, USA (Ret.), Executive Director, Reserve Officers Association (Gen. Bockel is also a JWV member); Richard L. Denoyer, USMC (Ret.), Vice Commander-in-Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Ms. Wendy Hoffman, National Blue Star Mothers of America, and Keith Hensley, Project Director, Wounded Warrior Project.

The program, which ran from Dec. 5-11, 2010, started after an early Sunday morning arrival in Tel Aviv followed by a visit to the Yitzhak Rabin Center and Museum.

Monday started off with breakfast with Col. Richard Burgess, U.S. Defense and Air Attaché at the U.S. Embassy. There were open and informative discussions about the Iran and Palestinian situations.

Other events that day included:

- A visit to the IDF Command and General Staff College. We met with Brig. Gen. Noam Tibon, Commander of the facility. He discussed the School's challenge of staying ahead of geopolitical changes and the adaptation of tactics and techniques. Gen. Tibon expressed his confidence that this institution was keeping pace.
- A tour of Kibbutz Kfar Aza along the Israel-Gaza border, where we were treated to lunch in the dining hall. Our hostess explained the perils of

living under the constant threat of Kassam Rockets fired from Gaza into the community. We were then taken to the Nir Am observation point on the border for a strategic briefing on the situation. (The next day we learned that a rocket from Gaza had just been fired into the area of the dining hall at Kibbutz Kfar Aza.

- A briefing at the Tel Nof Air Force Base outside Tel Aviv. We were able to inspect an active duty F-15 fighter.
- A dinner briefing on the Iranian threat by Dr. Brig. Gen. Efrim Sneh.

On Tuesday morning we departed for Israel's North. We first visited the settlement of Alfei Menashe, which sits on the Heights east of Tel Aviv. We discussed strategic concerns at Israel's narrowest point.

Additional stops were:

- Lunch at the Rafael Advanced Defense Systems facility. We were given presentations and briefings on cutting edge military technology, both offensive and defensive.
- A briefing on the situation at the Lebanese border. Although the area is usually quiet, the Battalion Commander of the outpost had recently been killed in an incident involving repair of the border fence. A firefight followed, and the border remains tense.
- A strategic bus tour through the Golan Heights with visits to observation points.

Wednesday morning the focus of our trip changed to a tour of historical and religious sites around the Sea of Galilee. Our guide was Mr. Asher Afriat who is both an historian and archeologist. He is learned in both Old and New Testament Bibles. It was fascinating and inspirational for all our group to tour the sites around the Sea of Galilee and travel to Jerusalem via the Jordan River Valley.

En route to Jerusalem we visited the Kfar Adumin Settlement and met with spokesman Herzi Makov.

Upon arrival at our Jerusalem Hotel, we were scheduled for a conference with Deputy Minister of Defense Matan Vilnai. Because of the renewed fighting on the Gaza border, the Minister was unable to attend. We finished the day at dinner with representatives of an Israeli NGO, discussing Israel's civil society.

Thursday we spent the morning at Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum. This was a very moving experience for all of us.

Other briefings were:

- A meeting at the American Colony Hotel with the Palestinian negotiators' support unit representative Xavier Abu Eid. We were given the PLO power point presentation and materials on the Palestinian positions on statehood and settlements.



- A meeting with Mark Regev, the foreign press spokesman for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

- A lecture by Asher Afriat on "Military Conflict and Jerusalem through the Ages."

Friday we were taken by bus for a strategic survey of Jerusalem and also enjoyed a walking tour of the Old City and the Holy Basin during which Asher Afriat again provided us with a wealth of knowledge on the history of the City, and we welcomed the Sabbath at the Western Wall.

We were then treated to one of the highlights of the trip as guests for a traditional Sabbath Eve dinner at the home of Prof. Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Yishei Be'er and his wife Hagit and their lovely family.

On our final day we departed early for a journey through the West Bank to the ancient fortress of Masada. Our afternoon visit to a Dead Sea beach had to be cancelled because of threatening weather and a sandstorm.

The trip was sometimes exhausting, but always fascinating and informative. We were all impressed by the spirit of the Israeli people. We also saw first hand the importance of always maintaining vigilance in the area of national security affairs.

FALLEN HEROES

Current as of 10 December 2010

Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher
Hometown: Ballwin, MO
Age: 24 years old
Died: July 14, 2010 - OEF



Lance Cpl. Jeremy M. Kane

Pfc. Jacob S. Fletcher
Hometown: Bay Shore, NY
Age: 28 years old
Died: November 13, 2003 - OIF

Spec. Daniel J. Freeman
Hometown: Cincinnati, OH
Age: 20 years old
Died: April 6, 2005 - OEF

Sgt. Foster L. Harrington
Hometown: Ft. Worth, TX
Age: 31 years old
Died: September 20, 2004 - OIF

**Airman 1st Class
Elizabeth N. Jacobson**
Hometown: Riviera Beach, FL
Age: 21 years old
Died: September 28, 2005 - OIF



Airman 1st Class
Elizabeth N. Jacobson

Lance Cpl. Jeremy M. Kane
Hometown: Towson, MD
Age: 22 years old
Died: January 23, 2010 - OEF

1st Lt. Nathan M. Krissoff
Hometown: Reno, NV
Age: 25 years old
Died: December 9, 2006 - OIF

Staff Sgt. Robert J. Paul
Hometown: The Dalles, OR
Age: 43 years old
Died: September 8, 2006 - OEF

Maj. Mark E. Rosenberg
Hometown: Miami Lakes, FL
Age: 32 years old
Died: April 8, 2008 - OIF



Maj. Stuart A. Wolfer

Cpl. Dustin H. Schrage
Hometown: Indian Harbor Beach, FL
Age: 20 years old
Died: May 6, 2004 - OIF

1st Lt. Roslyn L. Schulte
Hometown: St. Louis, MO
Age: 25 years old
Died: May 20, 2009 - OEF

Capt. Robert M. Secher
Hometown: Germantown, TN
Age: 33 years old
Died: October 8, 2006 - OIF

Spec. Marc S. Seiden
Hometown: Brigantine, NJ
Age: 26 years old
Died: January 2, 2004 - OIF

**Staff Sgt.
Michael B. Shackelford**
Hometown: Grand Junction, CO
Age: 25 years old
Died: November 28, 2004 - OIF



Staff Sgt. Robert J. Paul

Sgt. Alan D. Sherman
Hometown: Brick, NJ
Age: 36 years old
Died: June 29, 2004 - OIF



Spec. Jeffrey M. Wershow

Capt. Benjamin A. Sklaver
Hometown: Medford, MA
Age: 32 years old
Died: October 2, 2009 - OEF

1st Lt. Andrew K. Stern
Hometown: Germantown, TN
Age: 24 years old
Died: September 16, 2004 - OIF

Capt. Michael Y. Tarlavsky
Hometown: Passaic, NJ
Age: 30 years old
Died: August 12, 2004 - OIF

Pfc. Morris L. Walker
Hometown: Chapel Hill, NC
Age: 23 years old
Died: August 18, 2009 - OEF



Senior Airman
Jonathan A.V. Yelner

Tech. Sgt. Timothy R. Weiner
Hometown: Tamarac, FL
Age: 35 years old
Died: January 7, 2007 - OIF

Sgt. Robert M. Weinger
Hometown: Round Lake Beach, IL
Age: 24 years old
Died: March 15, 2009 - OEF

Spec. Jeffrey M. Wershow
Hometown: Gainesville, FL
Age: 22 years old
Died: July 6, 2003 - OIF



Tech. Sgt. Timothy R. Weiner

Pfc. Colin J. Wolfe
Hometown: Manassas, VA
Age: 19 years old
Died: August 30, 2006 - OIF

Maj. Stuart A. Wolfer
Hometown: Coral Springs, FL
Age: 36 years old
Died: April 6, 2008 - OIF

Sgt. Elijah Tai Wah Wong
Hometown: Mesa, AZ
Age: 42 years old
Died: February 9, 2004 - OIF

**Senior Airman
Jonathan A.V. Yelner**
Hometown: Lafayette, CA
Age: 29 years old
Died: April 29, 2008 - OEF

Spec. Benyahmin ben Yahudah
Hometown: Bogart, GA
Age: 24 years old
Died: July 13, 2005 - OIF

Lt. Miroslav (Steven) Zilberman
Hometown: Columbus, OH
Age: 31 years old
Died: March 31, 2010 - OEF



Spec. Benyahmin ben Yahudah

A DEBT THAT CANNOT BE REPAID

By Rabbi Irwin Wiener, D.D., Spiritual Leader, Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation, Sun Lakes, Arizona
Deputy National Chaplain, JWV, USA

On July 4th, the anniversary of America's freedom from tyranny, I glanced at the cover of the New York Times. There I saw a picture of a soldier who had lost all his limbs in combat. The caption read: "No less of a person." I was so moved by the picture and the thought because it brought to the forefront the realization that war is hell! No question about it.

Each generation has had battles to fight whether on the field or in the trenches. Our generation is no different. And yet we are different because the conventional waging of war is not the norm today. Today we face enemies from within and without who wear no uniform, understand no discipline and follow no prescribed tables of battle plans or methods taught in the colleges of war.

Most wars are fought because of economics. Today's wars are waged by zealots whose only purpose is to create havoc while randomly murdering innocent people. The ultimate goal is to subjugate and dominate, we are told, because of ideological differences and religious intolerance.

I looked at the picture over and over again. The pain on the soldier's face was evident. I wondered, "Was it the pain of his agony or the pain of his sacrifice?" Perhaps it was the pain of trying to understand and make sense of his offering. I thought of all the men and women serving our country that have made similar commitments of body and mind and tried to imagine how I would feel or what I would be thinking as I suffered through the ordeal.

None of us who are whole can truly understand the torment of living a different life that now requires constant care and help. The agony of not being able to wash or dress or walk or catch a ball; the anguish of realizing that there will no longer be normal relationship with a loved one or a partner; the constant reminder that life consists of looking at a ceiling, or just reading a book or watching television, all come into play in the afflicted existence of a person who was once whole and vibrant.

Dr. Louis L. Mann, Rabbi of Sinai Congregation in Chicago, wrote two interesting observations that I believe speak to the problems facing the men and women who serve in the military today and have experienced untold horrors on the field of battle.

The first: "Only eyes washed by tears can see clearly." There is no doubt that there have been nights and days when all seemed lost and the future looked even dimmer. Waking each day to the realization that what once was is no

more. Gazing at the emptiness that once filled sleeves and pant-legs can be daunting.

The second: "What happens to a man is less significant than what happens within him."

And here is the crux of the internal struggle that accompanies the loss of limbs. We all know that there are ghost pains – limbs that are no longer there seem to be calling out, looking at the void and wondering about the touching and feeling that gave it life and fulfillment. Where are the legs that once took us to places we can no longer remember?

At a recent meeting of a veterans organization I listened to an Iraqi War veteran tell about his experiences and the marvel of science and how it put him back together. He lost a limb and one eye and modern medicine created a limb and a bionic eye. If he had not told us, we would never have believed. And as he displayed these wonders we sat in amazement and awe.

Then he made a startling pronouncement that the government, our government, which sent him into battle, refuses to help others with these miracles because it was too costly. Everyone in the room was shocked to learn that there are funds for everything but not to make people whole again.

We read about saving financial institutions and helping industrial giants regain their significance in our economic downturn. We watch, on TV, the millions of dollars spent in faraway places to bolster corrupt regimes. We discourage democracies by touting demagogues who want nothing more than to see us destroyed. We do all this but cannot find the will or the resources to do what we can to give meaning to lives that have been shattered by war.

These men and women serve our country because they want to, not because we demand it of them. We no longer have a draft system where we indiscriminately take men and women from their daily exercise and throw them into some makeshift environment and take time, their time, from them. All the more reason we need to acknowledge the debt owed.

Every day the newspapers relate stories of depression and homelessness. Veterans who gave their all are now living on the street and cannot receive the help they need and deserve. Where is our humanity for them? When there

is a flood somewhere in the world, or an earthquake in a distant land, we load planes and send aid and help those looking for assistance. And we do this as a caring nation of people who understand what it means to have and not share. We do all this, and it is right and as it should be.

What happened to the compassion for us right here at home? Where is the connection to the people of Louisiana or Mississippi or Georgia as they struggle to clean their shores of contamination? Why don't we feel the pain of struggling families who lost their homes or jobs? And where, Oh where, is our desire to pay the debt we owe those who serve our country by wearing its uniform with courage and distinction?

This country is involved in a great struggle. There is an enemy we cannot know or understand because there is no logic to their destructive behavior other than to dominate and control the very essence of our individuality. And it is a different world with senseless killing and unnecessary dying, scary and intimidating. But each instance has produced its share of volunteers and patriots and heroes. I would imagine the generations that fought in previous wars felt the same apprehension and fright; whether it was the Revolutionary War or the War to End All Wars.

We volunteered because we were motivated by love of country and understood the value of freedom. Each generation packaged the gift of freedom because the gravest error that can be made is to take freedom for granted. Each generation knew that it was their determination and fortitude that would protect it and guard it for the next generation and the next.

Not everyone is motivated by love of country. Most, however, answered the call to duty. In times past we would romanticize war until we were faced with the reality of it and all its horrors. There are graves, millions of them, on what was once, blood soaked ground and each marker indicates that there once stood a person who lived and died. That was then. What about now?

Now we, from the comfort of our homes,

Continued on page 22

JWV National Commander Visits South Florida

By David A. Schwartz

Following a prayer for “our two-fold heritage of Americanism and Judaism,” Jewish War Veterans from posts in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties welcomed Stephen R. Zeitz, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, to a recent meeting in Deerfield Beach.

In an interview with the Jewish Journal, Zeitz, 73, a U.S. Army veteran who served in Germany during the Cold War and lives in Cheltenham, Pa. said the national organization needs to attract new members to survive.

Every year, fewer Jewish veterans of World War II and the Korean War are left and the JWV, the oldest veteran’s organization in the United States, struggles to get younger members.

“You have to get the message out to the synagogues to increase membership in the JWV,” Zeitz said. One way to attract Jewish members of the armed services from U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is to offer them free two-year memberships in the Jewish War Veterans, but “we have to be able to contact them first,” he said. “They have no idea we even exist.”

Zeitz said the JWV is caught between religious factors and age. Jewish veterans of the Vietnam War started their own organization, he

said, and younger Jews who served in the U.S. military since then were raised differently from Jews of previous generations. Also, veterans with young families don’t have a lot of time, Zeitz said.

He said that because there is a National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington, D.C., the Jewish War Veterans will still exist, “but it’s going to be tough.”

Voicing his concerns to an audience of primarily World War II veterans, Zeitz said, “We’re putting our troops in jeopardy when we give [our enemies] an exact date for a pullout” in the Middle East.

He said at least 100 members of Congress are needed to support a memorial to the Jewish chaplains at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Zeitz, an insurance broker who is a long-time chairman of the JWV’s National Insurance Committee, said he is concerned about two major insurance companies not paying the full death benefit to the families of veterans by paying only a portion at a time with interest.

And he said he would like to see a day of observance for Haym Solomon, a Jew who raised money for General George Washington to pay soldiers in the Continental Army during America’s War for Independence.

Michael Corbett, 64, of Boynton Beach, a six-year veteran of the Marine Corps and JWV Florida Department Commander, said, “aging is probably the major obstacle” the Jewish War Veterans is facing.

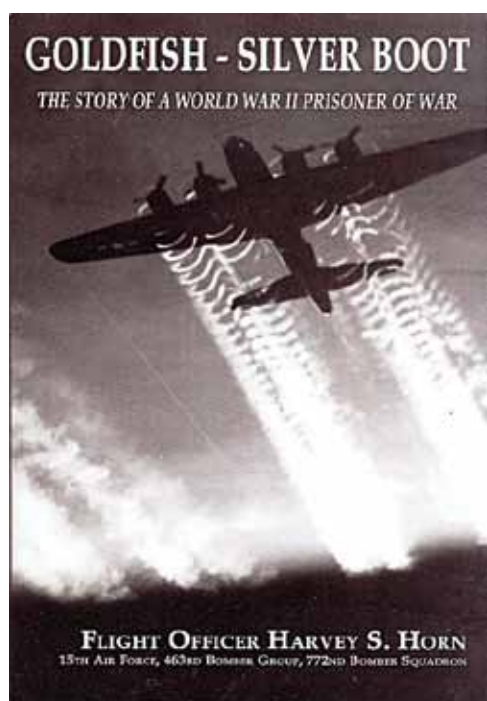
Another issue, Corbett said, is “dealing with the Veterans Administration to represent our veterans.”

He said increases in funding for veterans under the Obama administration is “the greatest accomplishment in the last 10 years apart from the new GI bill.”

Mental health issues—not only post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) but the “whole trauma” from combat that can affect veterans many years after they are out of the armed services—are being recognized earlier, Corbett said.

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Sales of GOLDFISH-SILVER BOOT to Aid Veterans



[Editor’s note: Goldfish—Silver Boot is a memoir by WWII Prisoner of War, Harvey Horn, a member of Irving Zuckerman Post 758, Monroe, NY. Mr. Horn is donating the royalties from this book to the JWV and the Orange

County (NY) Veterans Coalition. The book is for sale at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and from Amazon and Barnes and Noble online.]

Goldfish - Silver Boot is about 36 days that changed my life. It is the story of a Jewish boy from Brooklyn who dreamt of flying and enlisted in the Army Air Corps to fight for his country. It is about survival. It is about walking, riding in trolleys, carts, and trains to go from Fiume, Italy, to Nuremberg, Germany. It is about war. It is about the resiliency of the human being and the ability of the body to adapt to conditions beyond one’s control. It is about the trauma of being Jewish in the hands of the Germans.

I am a member of the Goldfish Club and the AFEES (Air Force Escape and Evade Society). Members of the Goldfish Club are those that survived ditching. Members that wear the Silver Boot insignia are those that “walked” out of enemy (Germany) land. Fortunately, I did both.

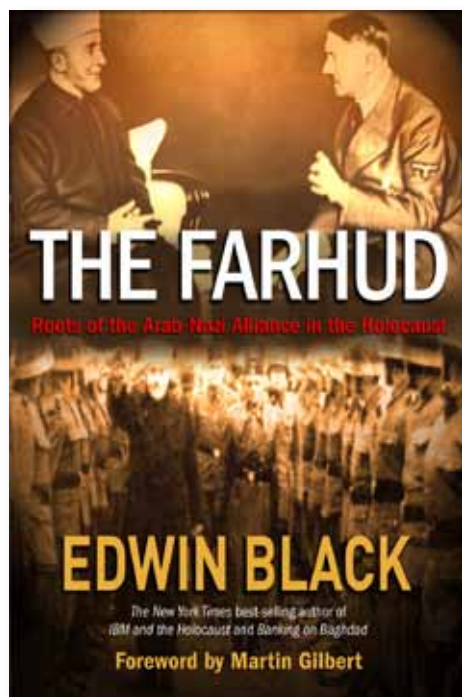
I was the navigator in John Lincoln’s Crew 11-30. We were attached to the 772nd Bomber Squadron, 463rd Bomber Group, 15th Air Force based in Foggia, Italy. On March 20, 1945, we

were assigned to Flying Fortress B-17G “Pretty Baby’s Boys.” Our mission was to bomb the marshalling yards south of Vienna at Amstettin, Austria. We were hit by flak over Zagreb, Yugoslavia, and had to ditch into Quarnero Bay off Fiume, Italy (now Rijeka, Croatia). We became prisoners of war of the German Navy. Being captured by the Germans is not the best of times; being Jewish and being captured by the Germans is the worst of times.

The worst of times for me was to be in solitary confinement in the SS prison in Trieste, Italy, because I was Jewish. Fortunately, the Germans in northern Italy knew that the war was over for them. They honored the Geneva Convention. Earlier in the war, Jewish POWs were separated from the general Stalag population. Some were sent to concentration camps like Berga.

For 55 years, I never spoke about my World War II service. In this regard, I believe that I am not alone. I hope this book helps to keep alive what World War II meant to our country. It also tells a story of what servicemen had to endure to defeat the enemy.

Author Edwin Black to Speak to NMAJMH



[Editor's note: Edwin Black, author of numerous books relating to the Holocaust, launched his latest book, *The Farhud*, at the NMAJMH on Dec. 2, 2010. He will be the special guest speaker at the Museum Board of Directors Meeting at the Museum on Mar. 5, 2011. All are invited to attend. Below are excerpts from the Introduction to his book.]

This book is a nightmare. I regret anyone must read it. I regret it was necessary to write. I regret that I was the one who had to write it. I hope it never becomes necessary to write another like this one. Perhaps that is why I labored ten hours per day for more than a year to document the Farhud and the roots of the Arab-Nazi alliance in the Holocaust—that is, the truth about what happened and why.

Hence, I was more than prepared to tie together the last great thread of my mission—the role of the Arabs and Islam in the extermination of more than six million Jews and other “ethnic enemies”—during the Holocaust. I first began researching and writing about the Mufti of Jerusalem in the late 1970s on The Transfer Agreement. To me, the Mufti was nothing more than a hatemonger, an inexplicably aberrant Arab leader aligned with the Third Reich. But how could this happen and why did it happen? Discovering the tragedy of the Farhud led me to also ask how it was possible that a large community of Jews, which had dwelled in Iraq for 2,600 years, a millennium before the advent of Islam, could become alien in their own land and the object of planned extermination in their cities.

That required a personal voyage, one the reader will share. It was not enough to document the blood and blades of the two-day Farhud po-

grom. That would have been too easy.

The real questions were these. Who were the Jews? That took me all the way to that ancient Mesopotamian, Abraham, and then to the Romans in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. Who were the Muslims? That took me back to Muhammad in seventh century Arabia. Who indeed were the people of Iraq or Mesopotamia? That took me back to the beginning of recorded time, some 5,000 years ago, when the so-called “cradle of civilization” first began to tremble. How did the West, from Great Britain to Germany, come to be so involved in Iraq? That last question took me into the hidden annals of the 160-year history of commercial oil, its discovery, the lust for its black magic, and the fact that Iraq had it—and the West wanted it. What orogenic factors of history brought these tectonic forces together? Only by illuminating the dark and often inaccessible crevices of all these stories can we understand the vast, international Arab-Nazi alliance during the Holocaust, the many tens of thousands of ordinary Arabs and Muslims, prompted by audacious leaders, who crusaded against their Jewish cousins.

When we speak of German Jew-hatred resulting in the Holocaust, we can never mean all Germans, a corrupt idea. Today, Mercedes-Benz is among the vehicles of choice in Israel; Germany sells the Jewish State her submarines. German volunteers have always been the mainstay of my projects. When we speak of the Turks mass-murdering the Armenians, it would be corrupt to generalize to include all Turks, as many refused to participate and have their own noble culture of peace with their neighbors. When we speak of the extermination of the Native Americans by the white man in America, or the slavery inflicted against Africans, those despicable stories are defined as much for their racist transgression as by the many European Americans who fought against those horrors, often giving their lives to undo these crimes.

While this volume chronicles in great detail the horrible acts of Muslims against Jews, going back centuries, that bear a direct impact on the Holocaust, using the precise Holocaust-era and post-World War I words of the original actors, no monolithic generalization against Muslims or Arabs can be made. That, too, would be a corruption of my work. In this volume, you will learn that when Catholic Spain expelled the Jews during the Inquisition, it was the Muslim world that took them in for the sole purpose of

sponsoring their thriving existence. Readers will learn sadly that going back more than a century, there never was a day of peace between the Arabs and the Jews in Palestine. Make no mistake—Palestine functioned as the inextricable fulcrum between Iraq and Nazi Germany. Yet, history records that at all times, many Arabs in Palestine tried to stand tall for peace with their Jewish neighbors, risking extreme political and communal consequences. You will learn the names of those Arabs in Palestine who tried and lost the quest for peace. You will discover that in the darkest hour for Jews in the Muslim world suffering in the Holocaust, many Jews are alive today in many countries for only one reason: their Muslim neighbors refused to allow them to perish and gave them a hand to safety when Jewish victims barely had the strength to take it.



Edwin Black launched the publication of *The Farhud* at the NMAJMH in December.

I want this Holocaust history to prove any point other than the one I made the week before this book was published, when I lectured on the topic to an auditorium of high school students in North Carolina. After the presentation, I went to each table and reminded them: use a legacy of hate to create a future of peace. Can it be done? Yes, it has been done and can yet be done again in the Middle East. I keep hearing the song Holocaust survivors sang as they sailed from the charnel house of Europe to Israel. The song is named “Hatikva.” It became the national anthem of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. In Hebrew, hatikva means “hope.”

JWV DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY DEDICATES DAY ROOM AT FT. DIX, NJ

By PDC Bernard Epworth

On November 17, 2010, the JWV Department of New Jersey dedicated a Day Room Suite, consisting of a refurbished Day Room and Kitchen, to the Wounded Warrior Residence at Ft. Dix, NJ.

The residence is used for the transitioning process of wounded troops returning to the States from active theater prior to being sent home to their local communities. Ft. Dix, part of the Joint Base operation of McGuire, Dix and Lakeland is the only tri-base unit in the country.

The Day Room suite was Bernie Epworth's Commander Project for 2009-10. The presentation of this Suite was made to the Mobilization Commander of Ft. Dix and the Commander of the WTU unit on the base.

JWV outfitted the room with funds contributed by several NJ Posts and friends of the JWV. A professional interior designer was retained to lay out the suite and select the furnishings.

The Day Room was painted, carpeted, and furnished with sofas, reclining easy chairs, desks, cocktail tables, a large 8-seat multi-purpose table, chairs, a donated piano, pictures, wall décor, table top accessories, an IT desk and chairs with computers and printers, bookcases stocked with 650 books, a 50" TV entertainment center with all accessories, and a re-

furnished professional pool table and queue rack. The finished Day Room became a warm, homey "Family Room" away from home.

The kitchen area was furnished with a large table and 8 chairs, two smaller round tables and chairs, a wall mounted TV, wall décor, pictures, kitchen accessories and a professional Foos Ball table. Both of these rooms are stocked periodically with candy, snacks, toilet accessories, videos, playing cards, writing pads and pens collected by the JWV Ladies Auxiliary.

JWV was gratefully and sincerely acknowledged in remarks made at the dedication ceremony by members of the Base Command as they took title to the Day Room Suite. JWV members from around the state, along with friends, including National Commander Steve Zeitz, joined the military in a tour of the Day Room facility for which the JWV provided refreshments.

A plaque in the Day Room dedicates the room for the enjoyment of the troops in honor of their service with the appreciation of the JWV of NJ, which is proud to have this permanent recognition in one of the country's most



PDC Bernard Epworth (center) at the dedication of the Day Room Suite at Fort Dix, NJ.

active and unique Joint Bases.

The project has further established our working relationship with the active military based in NJ.

JWV is considered the "go to" veterans' group in the State, always active and involved. We are proud to say that we continue to earn the high regard, respect and recognition of the military, DMAVA, fellow veterans' organizations, and State and Federal Legislators and officials.

JWV POST 605 DELIVERS GIFTS TO VETERANS



Post 605 volunteers who packed the gift bags for the veterans.

Jewish War Veterans Mo-Kan Post 605 accomplished its major annual project this past December, delivering 405 gift bags to military veterans at the VA Medical Center and Domiciliary at Ft. Leavenworth Kansas and the VA Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Post's annual "Gifts for Vets" program, under the direction of past commander Mike

Katzman, has provided the gift bags annually since 2003. Donations of clothing, personal hygiene supplies, paperback books, notepads and pencils and board games were provided by merchants at reduced or no cost. The Post has gratefully received monetary donations from the Kansas City community in order to purchase the many items that make up each gift bag.

Larry Gordon, Post Commander, states that the process of requesting donations of money and supplies and then storing the items (the past few years at Congregation Ohev Sholom) takes about six months. Each December, Post members and other volunteers meet at Ohev Sholom to prepare "the assembly line" required to pack each bag, and then provide the caravan to deliver the gifts.

This year, all volunteers met at the school wing building at Ohev Sholom on December 6 to sort and set up tables for the "assembly," and each of the 405 bags was prepared on December 8. Delivery of gift bags at Ft. Leavenworth was made by JWV volunteers on December 10 as follows: 205 bags to the Domiciliary; 25 bags to the Psychiatric Ward, and 25 bags to the VA Hospital. 150 bags were delivered to the VA Medical Center in Kansas City on December 17.

All veterans receiving the gifts are temporary residents of the Domiciliary or patients in the VA Hospitals. Commander Gordon says that the purpose of the program is to ensure that veterans, past and present, who are at these facilities, are recognized for their service and sacrifice to our country.

Jewish War Veterans of the USA

116th Annual National Convention AUGUST 7-14, 2011 • JACKSONVILLE, FL



Hotel Registration deadline is Wednesday, July 13, 2011
A one night (\$125/single or double) deposit is required for all
hotel registrations • A 3-night minimum stay is required.

Omni Jacksonville Hotel
245 Water Street • Jacksonville, Florida, 32202
Phone: (904) 355-6664 • Fax: (904) 791-4812

Partial Schedule of Events

(Subject to Change)

Daily • Aug 9-13

Morning Minyan - 8:00 AM

Monday • Aug 8

Half Day Tour of Jacksonville
and Wreath Laying Ceremony

Tuesday • Aug 9

Committee Meetings
NEC Meeting
Century Club Cruise

Wednesday • Aug 10

Joint Opening Session
Resolutions
1st JWV Business Session
Dinner Theatre Production of
Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

Thursday • Aug 11

2nd Business Session
Committee Meetings
Resolutions
National President's Banquet

Friday • Aug 12

3rd Business Session
Committee Meetings
National Commander Elections
Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday • Aug 13

NMAJMH Board Meeting
Commander's Banquet

Hotel reservations must be made through JWV, or the surcharge will be
assessed and attendance at meetings will not be allowed.

\$150 Convention surcharge for those not staying at the Omni Jacksonville Hotel.
Local Members living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.

Name: _____ Post No. _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Room will be shared with: _____
Arriving: at _____ / _____ Departing: at _____ / _____ Total nights: _____

JWV 116 th Annual National Convention	Cost	How Many?	Amount
Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00 per member		
I prefer: <input type="checkbox"/> King (Single Room) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds (Double Room)	\$125.00 per night		
3rd Person in a room	\$55.00		
Minimum Deposit Only	\$125.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Omin Jacksonville Hotel	\$150.00		
Century Club • Riverboat Cruise • Tuesday, Aug. 9	\$100.00 member \$45.00 spouse		
Trip to the Alhambra Dinner Theatre • Wednesday, Aug. 10 Buffet Dinner & an Exciting Production of <i>Dirty Rotten Scoundrels</i>	\$40.00		
Commander's Banquet • Saturday, Aug. 13 No. of: Beef _____ Salmon _____ Kosher _____ Sugar Free Dessert _____	\$40.00 per person		
You must include full payment for all event(s) that you plan on attending. Reservations for trips or activities will only be made if paid in full.	Total:		
I am paying by <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card:			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No.		Exp. /	
Signature			

Sign and mail this completed form, along with your payment to:
Jewish War Veterans • 1811 R Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009
Attn: Convention Dept.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



JWV member Robert Shay with his wife Marilyn showing the JWV Seattle Post 686 colors for the first time in many years at the Association of Jewish Libraries convention in Seattle, WA, on Independence Day 2010. Robert also took the opportunity of this important American holiday to display his Hall of Heroes exhibit to the professional librarians in attendance and is currently in the process of revitalizing the Seattle Post.



Shown at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia are from left: Museum President and CEO Michael Rosenzweig, JWV National Commander Steve Zeitz, PNC Sam Greenberg, and Department of PA Commander Jerry Farris.



Paul Surenky Post 409, Clearwater, FL, gave lap robes to all wheel-chair bound residents at the Bay Pines VAMC at their Annual Christmas Bingo party. The robes were knitted by members of the Ladies Auxiliary.



Veterans Day, 2010 Poppy Sales at the West Long Branch Shop Rite for Post 125, Asbury Ocean, New Jersey. Pictured left to right: Jerry Kessel, Howard Wiener, and Jerry Levine.

Chwatsky Farber Post 717, Oceanside, NY, Chaplain Lenny Levine (at right) presented a check to a representative of the Fisher House Group on behalf of the Post. Fisher House Foundations builds homes on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers to enable family members to be close to service people who are hospitalized.



The JWV Department of Maryland was honored at Baltimore's Chanukah House. Pictured are some of the members who attended and participated in the lighting ceremony. Department Commander Erwin Burtnick is 3rd from right, 2nd row.



Members of Frederick Hecht Post 425 attended a Chanukah party sponsored by Rockland/Orange District Council, at the Montrose Veterans Hospital. Shown from left are Ellie Shafer, Fremont Reif, PDC Arthur Schroeder, Sy Foner, Sandra Foner, Michael Zeilberger, Hannah Zeilberger, PDC Shelly Ohren, Hilda Steinklein, PDC Ben Storch, PC Al Zeilberger, and Rabbi Daniel Kramer.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Two members of JWV Dayton Post 587 recently were awarded special recognition for their wartime service. Gil Unger (L) was awarded the Knight of the Legion of Honor by the Government of France for his service as an anti-aircraft gunner. Henry Guggenheimer (R) was awarded the Commemoration Medal of the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War by the Government of Korea for his service in Korea. Congratulating both members at their recent Chanukah Dinner is Steve Markman, Commander, Dayton Post 587.



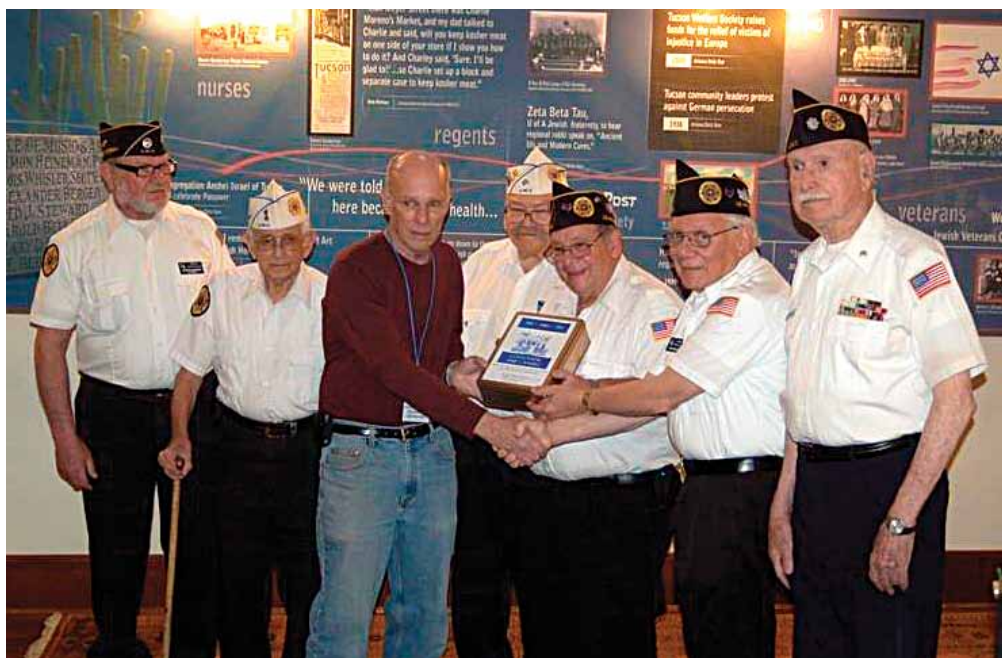
The Beth Israel Gemilut Chasadim awards dinner in Schenectady, NY, on Nov. 12, included a salute to veterans. Fourteen of 29 veterans from the congregation and JWV Schenectady Post 106 were present and honored by the congregation, as was guest speaker Richard Goldenberg, Post Adjutant and former Post Commander of Albany Post 105. From left are Paul Witonsky, Don Stracher, Phil Ziffer, Dick Preisman, Al Finkle, Norm Nosenchuk, Harian Harrison, Coleman Ellen, Sidney Zack, Shel Abelson, Leonard Daffner, Richard Goldenberg, James Strosberg and Jack Dieber. Not in the photo is Orrey Rosen. Photo provided by Marc Gronich.



Commander (Rabbi) Joel Newman, Chaplain for the MAG39 Helicopter Squadron at Camp Pendleton, CA, spoke at a Jan. 16, 2011, meeting of the Major Gary Grant Post 680. Post Commander Emil Welden (at right) presented Chaplain Newman with a scroll plaque he had made himself.



The Department of MI participated in the Veterans Day ceremony at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. Shown from left are Mel Marsch, Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Shelly Order and Department Commander Jerry Order.



Members of the Friedman-Paul Post 201, Tucson, Arizona, AZ, delivered a time capsule to Barry Friedman, President of the Tucson Jewish History Museum for placement in the time vault. It will be opened Oct. 3, 2110, and contains a list of current and past members, a JWV cap, and a picture of members attending the Nov. 28, 2010, meeting. Shown from left to right are Seymour Shapiro, Saul Stoltz, Museum President Friedman, Martin Harow, Murray Baker, Post Commander Irwin Brewster, and Alan Winner.



David Kauffman Post 41 had the honor of presenting a framed copy of a resolution passed by the August 2010 National Convention, commending the Suicide Prevention Hotline at Canandaigua VA Hospital, to staff members of the Hotline. Shown from left are Sydney Cohen, Mort Stein, Commander Stuart Blume, Rich Barham, Frank Kazdan, Trisha Englerth, LaQuanna McCloud, Supervisor Vic Bridges accepting the resolution, Janice Adams, Jason Goldwasser, and PNC Larry Schulman.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Karl Schechtman-75 • Bernard Malamud-100
• Shlomo Paz-100 • Daniel Rodberg-100 •
Marvin L. Rosenfeld-100 • Robert C. Roth-100
• Harold W. Traub-100 • Jack W. Kranser-180

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Sidney Kordell-123 • James W. Mc Cay-512
• Julian C. Goldstein-603 • Samuel Louis
Rouso-603 • Steven H. Mandel-617 • Harold
Margolis-617 • David Henriques, Usn-Ret-680
• Marvin S. Stein-680 • Josef A. Citron-750 •
Anita Bean-760 • Buster Bean-760

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Joel Richard Frankl-45 • Howard Stanley
Fiedler-317

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

Roger M. Levy-747 • Leonard H. Seltzer-767

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Edwin Robert Cohen-202 • Morris Goldfarb-266
• Howard M. Rubin-266 • Joseph Anthony
Dibiasi-300 • Gideon G. P. Kaat-300 • Robert
Milton Nathan-300 • Melvin Gordon-400 •
Robin Arum Feldman-475 • Julius S. Duhl-501
• Edward Joseph Ross-502 • Sol Bernstein-505
• Jay Elgart-520 • Leonard Chafetz-631 • Milton
Kopelman-631 • Norman Malikin-631 • Jack
Marks-631 • Monte L. Miller-631 • Daiid Rill-
631 • Richard Swick-631 • Joseph Tabak-631 •
Ernest Haar-639 • David Jacobson-639 • Frank
Grossman-698 • Martin Miller-698 • Manny
Resnick-698 • Harold S. Rubin-698 • Reuben
Adler-819 • Sidney Bernstein-819 • Mort L.
Mazur-819 • Harold E. Rosenberg-819 • Milton

A. Schiffman-819 • Jack A. Stern-819

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Marvin Azriel-89 • Irving Reiner-89

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Dan Friedman-346 • Ronald Waxman-346 •
Robert D. Dewitt-605

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

David M. Kaplan-167 • Michael A. Zippert-167 •
Jules Fink-567 • Edward Friedman-567 • Milton
C. Nomkin-567 • Boris A. Schachnes-567 •
Robert Jay Small-567 • Robert Strauberg-567 •
Arnold H. Gelfer-692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Robert Glasberg-157 • Arthur C. Sands-211
• Elliott G. Segal-211 • Gerald Zarrow-211 •
Arthur P. Pearlstein-735

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

John H. De Respiris-125 • Theodore A.
Ginsberg-125 • Howard Gordon-125 • Harold
G. Rudnick-125 • Marvin S. Ginsburg-126 •
Stanley Goldstein-133 • George Schob-133 •
Howard P. Kessler-273 • Edwin Glotzer-395
• Martin Denman-569 • Louis H. Elbert-569
• Mark Soifer-601 • Joseph Jacobson-609
• Alfred Seymour Yatkowitz-609 • Leon
Abramowitz-651 • David Elias-741 • Harry
Lou-741

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Phillip E. Feigel-02 • Milton Monas-06 •
Jack Weingarten-06 • Jack Weiss-68 • Leroy
Rosenblum-336 • Richard G. Weintraub-413 •
Daniel A. Coren-425 • Lawrence H. Ecker-425 •

Solomon A. Fuerst-425 • Henry Goldsmith-425
• Wayne Mark-425 • Arthur R. Handler-488 •
Harvey I. Schuster-552 • Mayer M. Gary-625 •
Allen H. Kapit, MD-655 • Johanna Friedl-717
• Henry Glickman-717 • Eugene Prever-717 •
Tami Sue Ellinport-724 • Brian Roger Levy-
724 • Arnold Neal Minsky-724

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Avi Goldman-14 • Joseph Klein-14 • Tamas
Muencz-14 • Neil Lynn Cantor-44 • Fred
Gluck-587 • David Gary London-587

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Albert Bellman-98 • Ralpl Gladstone-98
• Robert C. Ambrose-212 • Bernard M.
Cohen-215 • Martin E. Kingsman-215 • Jordan
Peiper-215 • Harold Rosenthal-215 • Jay E.
Melman-239 • William Carroll-575 • Elliott M.
Feldman-706

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Samuel Morris Draisen-112 • Fred Simon
Kanter-608

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Leonard Estrin-619 • Rance S. Makuch-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Barry Jordan-256 • Daniel Morguloff-256 •
Richard Polakoff-256 • Joseph E. Rebic-256
• Gerald Tarnower-256 • Bob Boggio-580 •
Jacqueline Goldberg-580 • Stephen Katz-580
• Samuel Kleindorf-580 • Aaron Nachlas-580
• Steven Plotkin-580 • Kotel Sadrusi-580 • Gil
Salz-580 • Inbal Yael Salz-580 • Fredda C. Key-
753

AJA and CAA Religious School Light Up Soldiers' Chanukah



Jewish War Veterans Austin Post 757 with the able support of Austin Jewish Academy and CAA Religious school students spearheaded the effort to send over 200 Jewish soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, Chanukah holiday pack-

ages. This effort has been continuous since 9/11 with the post sending items to our United States Jewish forces for the High Holiday, Passover, Chanukah, and Purim.

The soldiers, sailors, and airmen who received cards and holiday specific kosher food items are on active duty and stationed worldwide in Iraq, Afghanistan, Europe, and Asia.

AJA and CAARS students created Chanukah cards, stars and unique art work which were included in each package that was mailed.

Besides the unique art work contributed by the students, the packages also contained dreidels, Chanukah candles, dried soups, food bars, peanuts and tooth brushes.

CAA sisterhood provided Chanukah cards which were signed by many members of the Jewish Community and Smith and Carr dental provided the tooth brushes. CAA, Temple Beth Israel, Temple Beth Shalom, Congregation Shir

Ami and members of the Austin Jewish community provided monetary support.

Post 757 has access to a national mailing list with over 200 Jewish soldiers mailing address and also receives names of sons, daughters, grandsons and daughters, and other mispukah from the Austin Jewish committee.

JWV Post 757 sent individual packages to 68 locations and over 14 packages to locations where lay leaders could distribute to many Jewish warriors. Some of the many locations included: Carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, Arleigh Burke Class destroyer USS Stethem, Oliver Perry Class Frigate USS Fauffman, to airmen at Kandahar Airfield and Shirdand Air Base, Afghanistan, Camp Phoenix, Camp Eggers, Camp Gibson near Kabul Afghanistan, soldiers in Korea, and multiple locations in Iraq.

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PEOPLE & PLACES

- **Maryland Free State Post 167, Rodger C. Snyder Memorial Post 117, and Paul Savanuck Shaarei Zion Memorial Post 888**, all of the Department of Maryland hosted a Chanukah party attended by more than 100 people. Guests brought gifts to be distributed to the patients at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital.
- **Monroe Township Post 609** presented a check at McGuire Airbase to purchase equipment for their new recreational center. In attendance were Mildred Safar, Gene Foladare, Bernard Passer, Commander Frank Slavin, and Moe Ellish.
- **Ben Fleisher of Post 346** has dedicated a grave marker for a Jewish WWI veteran at Beth Hamedrosh Hagodol Cemetery. Fleisher has been doing research on veterans who have died

and so far has located 180 who are now being honored on Veterans Day.

- **Sol Lazinger of Post 178 and William Engel of Kew Forest-Woodsiste-Irwin Loitz Post 250** have been named “Chevaliers” of the French Legion of Honor to honor their service in the liberation of France during WWII. Mr. Lazinger received his award at the French Embassy in Washington, DC, and Mr. Engel received his award at the French High School of New York.
- **Hartford-Laurel Post 45** has recognized **Abe Homar** for his service and sacrifice during WWII. Abe was a TSGT and crew member of a B17G, the “Paper Dolly,” which was shot down over Germany in February 1944. He subsequently endured an 86-day forced march in

extreme cold during which he had little food or water and slept standing up for days at a time. There were times he was forced to eat wood and grass. He was presented with a detailed scale model of “The Paper Dolly” as our way of saying thanks to him, and also returning to him a memento of the plane which he lost 66 years ago. The presentation was made by Department Commander **Elliott Donn** and Post Commander **Marvin Goldfarb**. Earlier in the month, Abe was named an Honorary Grand Marshal of the annual Veterans Parade in Hartford.

- Two members of **Neumann-Goldman Post 69** have received honors from the New York State Senate. **Herb Barret** and **Donald Tannen** have been inducted into the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame.

REUNIONS IN SEARCH OF

▶ USS Boston CA-69, CAG-1, SSN-703 reunion will take place July 14-17, 2011, in Chicago, IL. Contact Art Hebert, Secretary@ussboston.org, 603-672-8772.

▶ Navy NMCB 128 mini-reunion will take place Aug. 18-21, 2011, in Chicago, IL. Contact John York, sargejohn@comcast.net, 815-372-3152.

▶ Kilo Company, 3rd Bn. 7th Marine Rgt. (Vietnam) reunion will take place in Appleton, WI, Aug. 4-7, 2011. Contact William Rolke, k37usmc@att.net, 262-780-0993.

▶ USS Iwo Jima (LPH2/LHD7) Shipmates reunion will take place June 1-5, 2011, in Newport News, VA. Contact Robert G. McAnally, yujack@megalink.net, 757-723-0317.

▶ The Society of the First Infantry Division, veterans of the Army’s “Big Red One,” will hold its 93rd Annual Reunion from Aug. 17-21, 2011, in Buffalo, NY. Contact Society of the First Infantry Division, 1-888-324-4733, Soc1ID@aol.com.

▶ USS Cascade AD-16 reunion will take place Sept. 25-30, 2011, in Branson, MO. Contact Larry Countryman, 417-581-2926, ldcountry@centurytel.net.

▶ USS Craig DD885 reunion will take place Sept. 7-11, 2011, in Rapid City, SD. Contact Jerry Chwalek, 734-525-1469, jermail@ameritech.net.

IN SEARCH OF

▶ Looking for Daniel Christenberry from Detroit. We served on the heavy cruiser USS Saint Paul (CA-73) in 3rd Division. I was aboard the ship from Dec 27, 1967, until April 5, 1971, when the ship was decommissioned. Please contact Robert W. Lampe, danceswithwolves49@hotmail.com.

▶ In search of information about Major Ben C. Ross. He was born in 1907 and entered the Army in 1942, discharged in 1945. He was a physician and was in the following battles and campaigns: Tunisian, Sicilian, Southern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. He evidentially set up practice in Detroit after WWII. Please contact Jan Durecki at franklinarchives@TBEonline.org.

▶ I am a Dutch historian searching for any living family members of William Siegel who was KIA on 18 September 1944 near the Dutch-German border, during Operation Market Garden. He was born on 14 September 1916, probably in New York and was S/Sgt in the 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division. He was killed in a battle at Zyfflich. His remains were recovered after the war and buried in an American military cemetery in Belgium. In 1949 his remains were transferred to Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, Long Island, New York. At that time his father Joseph Siegel lived at 680 Fort Washington Ave, New

York City. I want to contact family of William Siegel, because I am working on preparations for a war memorial on the place where William Siegel and many other American liberators were KIA. Plans are also being made for a book and a documentary. Please contact Rene Van Slooten at vslooten@hetnet.nl.

Finance Board Requirements

The 2011 Finance Board Report forms and instructions have been distributed by e-mail and are available for downloading from the home page of the JWV web site, www.jwv.org. All echelons must file a Finance Board Report with National Headquarters by May 1, 2011, in order to be considered in good standing. An echelon that is not in good standing will lose its ability to vote at Department and National Conventions.

If you have any questions concerning Finance Board requirements, please contact Greg Byrne at National Headquarters at 202-265-6280, ext. 507, or e-mail gbyrne@jwv.org.

Development Committee

By Chairman PNC Monte Mayer

We are happy to report that for the Annual Year 2010, the total amount received by the organization from development exceeded one half million dollars. Our first order of business is to thank our members and donors for their gracious donations, and we trust they enjoyed the premiums that were included in the mailings. Our 2010 Calendar, Mailing Labels, and High Holiday Cards, were extremely well received. For Jewish War Veterans USA to maintain its mission, it is imperative that donations continue. Please tell yourselves that the items included in our mailings are not to be considered a bonus of membership. They are not inexpensive to produce, and the purpose is to raise the funds necessary to maintain our JWV USA community.

To demonstrate the power of our organization, we merely look to the appointment of Herb Rosenbleth, our National Executive Director, as Chairman of The Military Coalition, as proof positive of our strength in the nation's capital. This group is an umbrella organization for over 30 veterans organizations, retired and active-duty military personnel and delegates from the various armed services, all working towards a common goal. To have them look to JWV USA, not only is an honor and privilege, but demonstrates our power and authority within the total nation's military framework.

It is our desire that more members and donors take advantage of the Jewish War Veterans Credit Card issued by the Bank of America. It is a known fact that many of us carry more than one credit card, but in this case one more certainly wouldn't hurt. There is no annual fee, and the points earned can be used for many choice prizes and selections.

The 2011 calendar is already in the black at this writing, and we anticipate following up in the first

year of the second decade of this century with more good news. Our committee will be working on the programs for the balance of this year, which we trust will be as successful as in the past.

We would still like to remind our members and donors of the need for more photographs, stories, and information concerning all of those who served in our Armed Forces over the years. Please, do not let these stories fade into the past, but allow us to retell them to a grateful audience.

Holocaust Committee

By Chairman Hannah Deutch

Since the last National convention the following events took place or are in preparation--

In New York, commemorations of Kristallnacht on November 9, took place in more synagogues than in previous years. The commemoration at Queensborough College was attended by over 250 people and that at Queens College by about 150.

Queensborough College opened an exhibition called "Camp Siegfried," about a Club Siegfried which was for Nazi supporters from 1933 to 1939.

The United Nations had its annual Holocaust Commemoration worldwide on January 27, which was attended by many comrades from New York and New Jersey.

In New Jersey Vice-Chairman Harvey Fox reports that on the upcoming Yom Hashoah, there will be Survivor speakers and a 15-person choir from Jersey City in Liberty State Park under the Liberation monument of an American Soldier carrying a Survivor in his arms.

In California Vice-Chairman Joseph Seller reports on a recent confrontation that took place between the Arabs (the Holocaust deniers) and the Jews.

Homeless Committee

By Chairman PDC Maxwell S. Colon

Even though many cities support the homeless Veterans with shelters and food, this country has never had enough housing for them. As a result, Veterans line up to get into a shelter, sometimes participating in a lottery for beds. They must leave early in the morning, often with nowhere to go. Homelessness and hunger often go hand in hand. By putting more resources into intervention programs for Veterans at risk of becoming homeless, we can reduce suffering and increase the opportunities for turning around these lives. A homeless prevention program by the Department of Veterans Affairs that seeks to help Veterans and families who are on the verge of becoming homeless has moved closer to implementation.

The program marks the first time that VA will fund services for the spouses and children of Veterans at risk of becoming homeless. With all of the problems confronting homeless Veterans, making time for healthy habits such as exercise might seem trivial. But healthy habits are as important to the quality of their lives as they are to anyone else's, especially considering that much of their diet consists of cheap, high calorie foods. The leading causes of premature death in adult homeless people are chronic illnesses like diabetes and heart disease. It's not drugs. It's not suicide. It's not exposure to the elements or murder.

JWV Outreach to the Current Generation Committee (Formerly GWOT)

By Chairman Nelson L. Mellitz, Colonel, USAF, Ret.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Policy and Planning estimates that the total Veteran population is 23,067,000.

This includes 7,653,000 Vietnam era Veterans, representing the single largest period-of-service component of the Veterans population. Gulf-war-era Veterans now comprise the second largest component, numbering 5,507,000. Korean conflict Veterans number 2,621,000, while World War II Veterans total 2,272,000. Veterans serving only in peacetime number 5,892,000, about one-in-four Veterans. Female Veterans number 1,824,000 representing 7.9 percent of the total Veteran population. For the accountants like me, the individual parts (wars) do not add up to the total because 716,000 Veterans served in more than one war and are counted twice or more.

The median age of all Veterans is 61 years. Veterans under the age of 45 constitute 20 percent of the total, those ages 45 to 65 represent 40 percent, and those 65 or older are also 40 percent of the total.

Future Population: Even though the U.S. is fighting two regional wars, the total Veterans population is expected to decline by one million each year under currently projected armed forces strength and mortality rates. The one group of Veterans that will continue to increase at a substantially higher rate as a percent of the total Veterans population is the Vietnam era Veterans. The Vietnam era Veterans are projected to number 9.6 million in 2013 compared to their current population of 7.7 million.

Conclusion: The JWV Outreach to the Next Generation committee will continue to reach out to every Jewish U.S. military Veteran who has served or is serving in Afghanistan or Iraq. However, the future of our organization is "not just" with the new Veterans but with those that have previously served. Whenever the opportunity presents itself, the Outreach to the Next Generation committee will form alliances with Vietnam, Korean, Gulf War, and peacetime Veterans to meet the goals of this committee and the Jewish War Veterans.

You as a member of the JWV are a part of this committee; please send me your suggestions and comments.

Please feel free to send me your suggestions and comment through cwaldman@jwv.org.

Membership

*By Committee Chairman PDC
Bob Richter*

A number of changes to the dues pricing were approved during the National Convention in August of 2009. The changes became effective for the 2011 membership year.

Based on misunderstandings that many members have in regards to the new dues structure, I would like to use this article to review the changes in the pricing and payment options.

The following is a summary of the changes:

- 1) A multiple year pricing option for membership was incorporated, giving a lower per year cost (like magazines do) with the purpose of making it more attractive to purchase more than a one year membership. Single year dues at the National level stayed at \$35, a new two year dues option became \$65 and a new three years dues option became \$90. The three year dues option is a saving of \$15 over the single year rate. The rates quoted above are at the National level. Department, County and Post dues are added on by those echelons respectively. This is no different than what has been done in the past. All of the echelons will receive the same refunds they received in the past. National absorbs the reduced rate.
- 2) The single year "Member at Large" dues was raised from \$45 to \$50. This was done to put those dues at the same level as most Post dues.
- 3) Life membership dues was changed from a single payment of \$200 to \$500, with a payment option of 3 years as follows: An immediate payment

of \$200, a payment of \$150 for year two and a payment of \$150 for year three.

- 4) Patron dues are the same as that for a member.

I hope the above clarifies the changes to the dues structure.

National Service

*By Chairman, PDC Maxwell
Colon*

The type of work a Volunteer does is ultimately determined by the needs of a host country and the potential of a Volunteer to contribute to those needs and to the Peace Corps' mission. There is a wide variety of Volunteer positions to fill throughout the world; however, nearly all Volunteers fall under one of the following general categories.

Education: Education Volunteers introduce innovative teaching methodologies, encourage critical thinking in the classroom, and integrate issues like health education and environmental awareness into English, math, science, and other subjects.

Youth & Community Development: Youth and community development Volunteers engage in a wide variety of outreach projects concerning at-risk children or youth, adult literacy, health or HIV/AIDS education, environmental awareness, development of libraries and resource centers, and information technology.

Health: Health Volunteers educate and promote awareness issues such as malnutrition and safe drinking water.

Business and Information & Communication Technology: Business development Volunteers work in education, private businesses, public organizations, government offices, cooperatives, women's and youth groups, and more. Information and communications technology (ICT) Volunteers help communities capitalize on technologies by teaching computer and multimedia skills, developing regional databases, and implementing networks for non-

governmental organizations, businesses and government offices.

Agriculture: Agriculture Volunteers work with small farmers to increase food production while promoting environmental conservation practices.

Environment: Environment Volunteers work on a wide variety of activities, from teaching environmental awareness to planting trees within a community.

HIV/AIDS: Many Volunteers will contribute to HIV/AIDS initiatives during their service, regardless of their area of expertise.

Food Security: 40 percent of Volunteers are involved in some capacity to support food security through projects in health and nutrition, agriculture, and the environment.

Earth Day: Peace Corps Volunteers think globally and act locally in communities around the world every day.

Resolutions Committee

*By Committee Chairman,
PNC Michael Berman*

What is the Resolutions Committee?

The Resolutions committee meets during the National Convention for the purpose of reviewing, discussing, and recommending to the floor of the Convention the policies and positions of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA on issues of interest and importance to the veterans' community and to us as Jews. The Committee is clearly the largest committee that meets during the Convention with up to 75 individuals listed as members and with as many as 50 of those members in attendance. In addition, the door is always open for anyone who wishes to drop in and speak. However, only members of the Committee may vote on a proposed resolution. Proposals come before the Committee in several ways. Firstly, they come from the departments after discussion and approval. Secondly, they may come to the Committee upon recommendation of the National staff. Thirdly, they may come before the Committee as

the result of other committees that meet at the Convention requesting that the Convention take a position on an issue which was developed by that committee during its deliberations at the Convention.

VAVS

By Chairman Jerry Berns

During the last two years as the National Representative I've seen what our Jewish volunteers have done at the VA hospitals throughout the country. We should be very proud of their dedication throughout the country. We should be very proud of their dedication to our veterans. I've seen them push wheelchairs, serve at birthday parties, visit with the patients, answer phones, bring the patients their mail, supervise Bingo, donate all the prizes, and so much more.

As an example of this devoted service, I received the Annual Review from the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tucson. Our VAVS Rep Norman Bass and Deputy Rep Saul Stoltz have done a great job in being there for our veterans. I spoke with the Chief of Voluntary Service Deborah Brookshire who has nothing but praise for all of the Jewish volunteers at the Tucson VA.

Once again, the biggest exposure we get is by volunteering and being there for our veterans.

Women in the Military

By Committee Chairman Josie Anton

There is recent news from the Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services.

Although there are no longer front lines in our current campaigns, women do not get the extra pay that men receive due to the restrictions on women in combat that are still in force.

Sexual trauma during military service is now labeled MTS (Military Sexual Trauma) and remains a major problem for women in the military. MTS has led to an increase in the numbers of homeless women veterans. They need help, and they need it now.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OUR FALLEN MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN

Yesterday in my hometown of Miami, Florida, traffic stopped, tears flowed, and people stood at attention. Two Miami-Dade Police Officers – a father and a mother/ a man and a woman, killed in the line of duty – were laid to rest.

My thoughts drifted to the men and women who have been killed while serving our country and protecting our families in Afghanistan and Iraq – and most especially the Jewish War Veterans. We list at present over forty (40) Jewish persons; and I am sure we will identify many, many more as Jewish in

the future. Who is crying for them? Who is thinking of them? Who is thanking them? Who is standing at attention for them? We must remember them!

Our National Museum of American Jewish Military History has begun a project to honor these Jewish American heroes. This Memorial Day weekend, and hopefully countless Memorial Day weekends thereafter, we will ask all of the synagogues throughout our Nation at their Shabbat Services, all of our echelons at their events and all Jewish organi-

zations to read their names in memorial. We also intend to sponsor a National Service in Washington, D.C.

Please clip out the list of those who have fallen in this edition of the "Jewish Veteran." Present it to your Rabbi, Executive Director, Post Commander, Organizational President, and ask him or her to read it with reverence on this Memorial Day Weekend. Who other than the Jewish War Veterans and National Museum of American Jewish Military History is better



PNC DAVID L. MAGIDSON
President, NMAJMH

suited for this honorable task? In remembering the names of our fallen brothers and sisters we must try. We must succeed.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES By Pamela Elbe

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

Calling All Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History needs your help to fully document Jewish service in the American military. The Museum is actively seeking to preserve the stories and experiences of our nation's newest veterans. If you served in Iraq or Afghanistan, please consider donating items that document your personal experiences for future generations—things like correspondence, photographs, and unique objects that you encountered during your deployment.

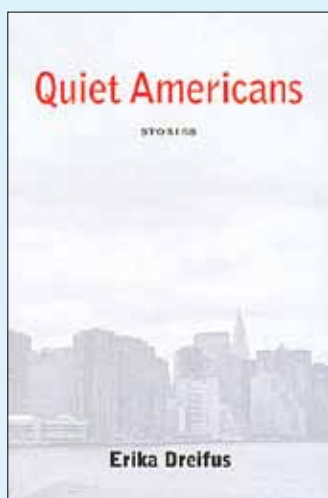
The mission of the NMAJMH is to collect and preserve, for future generations, memora-

bilia, and written and oral records of the patriotic contributions of Jewish Americans who served in the armed forces of the United States from the time of the founding of this country to the present. While the Museum currently has a sizable collection of materials relating to both World Wars and other earlier conflicts, more recent service is not well represented within the Museum's collections. We need your help to fix that.

Items of interest to the Museum include, but are not limited to: letters, photographs, military equipment and uniforms, and memoirs. If you

have material that you are willing to donate to the NMAJMH, please contact Pamela Elbe, Collections Manager at pelbe@nmajmh.org. For more information about donating to the Museum and how our collection is used, visit our website: www.nmajmh.org/collectionsAndResearch/collectionAndArchives.php.

Nearly all of the objects in the Museum's collection have been acquired through the generosity of individuals such as yourself, making our collection one that truly reflects the diverse experiences of Jewish Americans in the US Armed Forces.



We have a new book for sale on-line and in our Museum lobby shop!

Quiet Americans, by Erika Dreifus, is a collection of short stories whose characters were inspired by her paternal grandparents, German Jews who immigrated to the United States in the late 1930's. For more information on Erika or her book, visit: www.erikadreifus.com.

To support the museum by purchasing this book, contact Mary Westley at: (202) 265-6280.

Family Stories

Daughters, Mothers and Bubbes

Come show off your talents! On May 1, the Museum and the Washington, DC Jewish Community Center will devote a special afternoon to the most important women in our lives. We invite you to portray your beloved daughters, mothers, and bubbes in skits, scrapbooks, videos, song and dance routines, or whatever your imagination can conjure. For more information or to register, please contact Mary Westley at mwestley@jwv.org. A Family Stories event for the men in your family is scheduled for June 5. Contact Mary for more information.

Administratively Speaking **By Mary Westley, Asst. Administrator**

On December 20, the staff at the NMAJMH had the great honor and extraordinary pleasure to welcome RADM Mark F. Heinrich, USN, and Retired Army Air Force Officer Beth Unklesbay to the museum. RADM Mark Heinrich currently serves as Commander, Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers, San Diego, CA. Admiral Heinrich, who is one of the most senior Jewish military personnel on active duty

today, was referred to our museum by Colonel (Chaplain) Sandy Dreisin, the Director of Military Programs for the Aleph Institute. Retired Officer Unklesbay knew Sgt. John Levitow, one of the 15 known Jewish Medal of Honor recipients and felt honored to be invited by RADM Heinrich to visit the museum and view Sgt. Levitow's picture and citation hanging in the Hall of Heroes exhibit.



Museum Director Col. Herb Rosenbleeth relays to RADM Heinrich the story of Sanford L. Kahn of Kearny, New Jersey, who at the age of 19 was killed in Normandy on July 11, 1944. The story of his life, death, and family's grief is told through photographs, letters, and artifacts shown in the exhibit, "A Mother's Grief."



Retired Officer Unklesbay pictured in the Hall of Heroes exhibit next to picture and citation of Sgt. John Levitow.

Alan and Karen Shapiro from Plymouth, MA, recently visited the museum and were so impressed by what they saw and learned, that they pledged to support the museum each month with a double chai donation, directly deducted from their checking account.

We thank you for your visit, your kind words, and continuing support of the museum and its programs.

We are putting a shout out to others who wish to join the Shapiro family by making an automatic monthly donation to the museum.

From Our Archives **By Mike Rugel**

Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

Flag Donated to NMAJMH by Edith Weinstein in Memory of Raymond L Weinstein

In 1945, Raymond L. Weinstein was with the 405th Infantry Regiment of the 102nd Infantry Division, a part of the occupying forces in Germany. Weinstein's unit was in the Bavarian town of Schönburg when the commanding officer decided he wanted to send a signal to the local German population that the Americans were here and in charge. He wanted to fly an American flag at the highest point in the area, Schloss Schönburg, a hill-top castle that overlooks the Rhine.

Weinstein was given the order to procure a large flag. There were no American flags available. The only option was to have one made from materials found locally. Seeing no other choice, Weinstein commandeered the labor of the local women with sewing materials.



It's impossible to know what these Bavarian seamstresses (who had absorbed decades of Nazi ideology) thought of sewing the stars and stripes under the direction a young American Jewish soldier. But Weinstein reported that, at his insistence, their initial reluctance turned to diligent work, and the next morning he had a

48-star American flag over nine feet long and five feet wide. At the very least, the women must have realized their world had drastically changed.

While Weinstein had been overseeing the sewing of the flag, his buddy Ben Gerber was placed in charge of the flagpole. Gerber drew his laborers from two SS Panzer divisions to improvise a pole from the tallest tree he could find. So, the day after the arrival of the occupying force, this American flag, handmade by German women under the direction of an American Jew, flew high over Schönburg on a pole erected by former SS men as a symbol of Allied victory and a new world.

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We Regret The Error

We regret that Mr. Manuel Liebert of Post 45 was incorrectly listed in Taps in the Winter 2010 issue of *The Jewish Veteran*.

We are delighted that he was listed in error, and can be counted as active member of his Post. We apologize for the error.

A DEBT THAT CANNOT BE REPAID

Continued from page 9

can watch the slaughter. We erect monuments and arrange parades and pin medals. Everyone seems to be an expert about yesterday. But through it all we still send our men and women to war because it is the only way humans have of protecting life and limb. We have not found the secret to survival through discourse.

This soldier who lost his limbs is truly “no less of a person,” and we owe a debt that can never be repaid. He represents all that is good in us and all that is bad as well. The goodness is the sacrifice we are willing to make to pro-

tect, defend and preserve a dream that began 234 years ago and resonates today even more. The goodness can be found in the millions who serve, who give of themselves so that we can enjoy the beauty of freedom and the values established by a few for so many.

The bad is displayed by our indifference and the lack of respect we display by ignoring the traumas of these dedicated individuals. The bad can be found in our neglect of the homeless veterans and the disgrace in not giving them the proper care and attention because it “costs too

much.”

Perhaps one day we will wake-up to our responsibilities. In the meantime all we can do is pray that those in harm’s way will find their way back home in peace and whole. In the meantime we should never lose sight of their sacrifice for honor and country. In the meantime we all pray that God will watch over them as we look with pride on their achievements understanding full well that the debt we owe can never be repaid, but we never stop trying.



Happy Purim



Allan Abramson & Wife Sheila
Happy Days and Good Health

PNC Louis & Gloria Abramson

Jerry & Sara Alperstein

Eugene Baraw • Post 776
Fair Winds & Calm Seas to All

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76-NJ
Chag Sameach

Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger
Naples/Denver • USFA/USASETAF

Pres. Adele & Cmdr. Stanton Bilker
Dept. of PA • L'Chaim

PNatl. Adj. Izzy & PDP Harriet Brosbe

PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749

Mr. & Mrs William J. Denton
Baltimore Jewish War Veterans

Harvey Deutsch
In Honor of My Dad, a Loyal JWV

PNEC Jeanette Jacobson & Alan J. Fox
Life Members, Post 177 • FL

Sidney M. Gluck, Mesa, AZ

Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126
JWV Cherry Hill, NJ

Nat. Inspector Sidney & Fay Goldman

Irving & Dena Goldberg

Al Gorman, Post 128, AZ • Canada WW2
A Happy & Healthy Holiday To All

National Officer of the Day
Martin & Sandy Greenberg

PNC Sam & PNP Barb Greenberg
Happy Holidays to All

PNEC Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321
PCP Mildred Pitkowsky • Aux 3

Cmdr. Charles & Ilene Greinsky
Life Members, Post 80 • Staten Island, NY

Lt. Robert P. Grover Post 10

Donald H. Haber, PDC-NY

PCC Murray A. & PPC Lillian G. Handler

Susan Schneider Helsinger
President, Dept. of NY -2007/2008

PDP Ruth Herbst & PDC Willy Herbst
Post 83 Celebrating 75 Years!

In Service to a Higher Calling
Larry & Debbie Holman

Dr. Alvin & Carol Hollenberg

PNEC Jeannette Jacobson & Alan J. Fox
Life Members • Post 177, FL

Bob Kummins, Post 400 • Ft. Meyers, FL

PC Arthur & Barbara Kahn • Post 74-MA
L'Chayim and Best Wishes to All

PPC Norman & Marylin Kailo • Post 695

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

Jack Kent (Kantrovitz) #62, Akron, OH

Bob Kummins Post 400 • Ft. Myers, FL

PPC Mel & Bernice Levine • Post 740

Elaine & Sam Menszer
Post 580 • New Orleans, LA

Commander Alan Nathan
Joseph L. Bale Post 474 of Michigan

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

PNEC Mort & Shirley Ozur
Post 655 • Our Very Best Wishes To All

The Perlman -Matlin Post 800
Best Wishes & Happy New Year

LT. J. I. Platt Post 651 • JWV
Melvin Kaplan, Commander

Ben Podgor • Post 112, Atlanta

Queens County Council
Queens, New York

Jerry & Lea Rosenberg • Post 740, NJ
Good Health & Happiness to All

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

Lillian Rovner, PDP • IL

Happy Holiday to all Comrades!

Murray Runin, PDC/PNEC

Charles Greinsky & Martin Satloff
Post 80, Staten Island, NY • 75 Years

Zinita & Cliff Sawyer • Post 113
Good Health & Happy Days

Stephen & Helen Sax

Harriet & PDC Norman Schnitzer

Irv Schildkraut PC JWV 440
May JWV last forever

PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

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Mike & Gloria Shapiro
In Health - To Life

PDC Ralph & Florence Shear • Post 459

PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129-NY

Hy Tuchman
Post 400 • Ft Meyer, FL

Ken & Anita Volk • Post 510, MI
Shalom -Peace on Earth

David Jonah Weiner, Post 239
In Honor of all Veterans

Irving Wunderman
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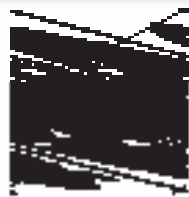
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