Volume 72 • Number 3 • 2018

The Jewish Veteran

A Jewish Voice for Veterans and a Veteran's Voice for Jews

JWV's Leadership Heads to NATO and AJEX

By Dr. Barry J Schneider, National Commander

Coordinating Committee Chairman Norman Rosenshein and myself, National Commander Dr. Barry Schneider, were privileged to attend the NATO briefings in Brussels, Belgium. At NATO, we met with our NATO Defense Attaché Jordan Becker, who discussed current NATO strategies and ongoing importance of sharing the financial and physical support among the member nations. Our next discussion covered the situation in Afghanistan by analysis Jim Golby and Turkey by analyst Michael Polyak. We found the briefings to be well planned and both analysts to be very forthcoming. Our final briefing at NATO was conducted by Justin Suni, the Public Affairs Officer. The discussion centered around the ongoing issue of the necessity of being politically correct "keeping everyone happy" while still getting the message out.

The following day, we were privileged to meet with the U.S. Ambassador, Ambassador Ronald J. Gidwitz, to Belgium at his beautiful residence, he was a delightful host. Coffee and cakes were served followed by a tour of the Embassy. Courtesy calls were made to the following Embassy staff members: Defense Attaché Col. Stephenson, Deputy Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs Matt Habinowski and Cultural Affairs Specialist Brian Dick, who discussed the U.S. participation in Belgium's WWI and WWII commemoration.

From Brussels, we moved on to London for one of the most memorable events that I have had the privilege to participate in. The Association of Ex-Jewish Service Men and Women (AJEX) conducted their 84th annual parade and wreath laying ceremony at Whitehall in memory and honor of the 100th anniversary of the World War 1 Armistice.

The Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women (AJEX) was founded in 1929 to serve the needs of Jewish veterans of the First World War (1914-18). AJEX membership includes Ex-National Servicemen who served in Korea, Kenya, Malaysia, Cyprus, Iraq, The Falklands and Afghanistan. Lord Sterling is the current President of the Association.

Veterans from Israel, France, Australia and the United States participated in the parade and wreath laying ceremony. It was my honor to be one of the wreath layers as the American representative. Over 2000 people attended the ceremony and parade. Watching the WWII vets march with the assistance of canes and wheelchairs was a heartwarming event. No wonder they are known as the greatest generation! The Chief Rabbi of England conducted a meaningful memorial service. It was an awe-inspiring event, and I, personally, was very glad it did not rain.

Following the parade, we were treated to high tea and comradery with the members of AJEX and other dignitaries. A keynote address was given, thanking AJEX for their outstanding work and to present good wishes to outgoing President Jacques Weisser for his 24 years of service to AJEX. On Monday, a gala dinner was held for AJEX members and foreign visitors. The dinner itself was spectacular and all kosher, and yes, we all ate too much and enjoyed every bite.

On Monday morning, we were welcomed to a short visit to the U.S. Embassy in London. We met with First Secretary Anna Stinchcomb, from the Political Department and First Secretary Jason Uliner from the Cultural and Economic Department. Both briefed us on current events affecting the U.S. and UK.

The trip was enlightening. I encourage JWV to continue the relationships with NATO and AJEX. It is important for us to continue to be knowledgeable of current events and topics that affect us as Americans, as Jews and as JWV members. As the

CONTENTS

D'vrei HaShomrim.....2
Message From the Commander.....3
On The Hill.....4
Membership Corner.....6
JWV in the Community.....8
JWV Convention Highlights.....12
Reviews.....17
National Ladies Auxiliary....18
Museum News.....20
Taps.....22

D'vrei HaShomrim

My first Chanukah in uniform was a dark one. Only the day before our scheduled Chanukah party at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, we'd gotten the devastating news that our unborn baby had 3 of the 12 congenital heart defects considered critical. Expectation for survival? Negative.

Yet the fact that this painful news was thrown at us on Chanukah was itself bolstering; and the fact that I'd share the light of the holiday with my brothers and sisters in uniform was quietly invigorating. After all, doesn't this particularly holiday remind us that the fight against all odds is not over before it starts? And the warriors around me, with their variety of experiences, each with their own tale of survival, were all testament to that.

The Maccabees did not just fight for their religious freedom, and leave it at that. They sought out that elusive jug of oil because they knew that even after the battles have been fought, more needs to be done. Victory would ring hollow if not followed up by bringing light anew into the world.

Rabbi Elie Estrin

Light, and fire in particular, is so heavily symbolic in Judaism: The flicker of the flame that strives ever upward. The idea that light will continue infinitely, so long as it does not get blocked - but that the blockage itself reveals that the light is there. The concept that just a small amount of light dispels a whole lot of darkness. The Macabees understood all this, and that's why it was critical to find a source of light; a pure source of goodness and light, immediately after the war and the bloodshed. Pure oil, extracted from intense crush of the olive press, symbolizing the idea that the most crushing of experiences are themselves transformative; capable of lifting us to become sources of light.

The fact that they found the oil was itself a miracle. Perhaps the greater miracle was that they even searched at all. But search they did; and they indeed found. And the results were greater than what could have been expected: the legendary seven extra days of light.

Knowledge of this first fortified my mind, and over the next nine weeks until the baby was born, I struggled to wrestle it into my heart. In my personal fight, the search for oil was both the elusive goal, as well as the weapon of choice. In our case, we turned deep to our Jewish experiences, and struck oil within them: we fixed our mezuzot. We held a communal gathering of Torah study. And we celebrated the life we had with the children we had as best we could; working hard to ensure Shabbat remained sacred, pleasant and uplifting. And every time the doctors asked us for an end-of-life plan for the unborn child, we rebuffed them.

Eventually the baby was born. His heart functioned not for 4 hours, but for five days, while we fought to get him medical care; eventually resulting in open-heart surgery on his sixth day of life. And this year, our own Chanukah miracle, our little Nissi, will celebrate his second Chanukah as a true source of light to all who see his beaming smile.

And while that original battle might be over, the fight to find and spread more light never is.

Wishing all a Chanukah of ever-increasing light!

Rabbi Elie Estrin is a Chassid in uniform and the bearer of the first beard in the US Air Force in 3 decades. He is a Reserve chaplain for the 42nd Air Base Wing at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. After directing Chabad at University of Washington in Seattle for 13 years, he and his family moved to North Miami Beach, where he now serves as the global military personnel liaison for the Aleph Institute.

THE JEWISH
VETERAN

The Jewish Veteran is the Official Publication of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America

National Commander Dr. Barry S. Schneider
National Editor Lance Wang
Managing Editor Jennifer Brande
Graphics/Production Editor Christy Turner

EDITORIAL OFFICE
1811 R Street, NW • Washington, D.C. 20009
Telephone (202) 265-6280 x504
Fax (202) 234-5662
E-mail jwv@jwv.org
Web Site www.jwv.org

The Jewish Veteran is published 4 times a year: Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall, by the

Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Periodical postage paid at Washington, DC, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to Jewish War Veterans, 1811 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Subscription price in the United States is $5.00 per year, included in membership. Nonmember subscriptions: $10.00. Single copies: $2.50.

Photos and articles submitted to The Jewish Veteran shall be used at the discretion of the organization. The opinions expressed in signed articles and letters in this magazine are not necessarily those of JWV.

Advertising information and rates available from the Editorial Office. JWV assumes no responsibility for products and services advertised in this publication.

© 2018 by the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

NPA#112285 • ISSN 047-2018.

Reproduction without permission is prohibited.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Dr. Barry J. Schneider

A Busy Winter At JWV

In light of the mass murder at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvannia, we must remember that our mission of fighting anti-Semitism does not end at the gates of our military installations or at the doors of our posts. Our mission is applicable throughout the world where injustice is done. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with our brethren in Pittsburgh. May G-D grant them strength in the days to come. We thank everyone who provide support, both physical and spiritual, to the members and community of Tree of Life Synagogue. Let us pray that tragedies of like this never happen again. Be vigilant in all you do, be aware of your surroundings and look after one another.

We have just completed the holiday of Hanukkah. Hanukkah is perhaps the quintessential and first recorded battle for religious freedom. The story of how the few overcame the many. JWV may be small, but we are mighty. The struggle began with the Maccabees so many centuries ago is ours to continue - it is our battle to win today! Religious freedom is an essential right of all people. We must remember that what we do in fulfilling our mission is extremely important.

On the first night of Hanukkah, I was privileged to present a lecture and show a video tour of our museum to members of Congregation Beth Shalom in Arlington, Texas. Over 22 members attended, and the program was well received. Several participants pledged to join the museum, and two members singed up as members of JWV. On the third night of Hanukkah, members of Post 755, under the leadership of Commander Ron Sivernell, participated in and co-sponsored a candle lighting program recounting the story of Master Sergeant Roddie Edmond. His son discovered posthumously that his father was responsible for saving the lives of over one hundred Jewish American GIs trapped in a German prisoner of war camp. In 2016, Yad Vashem—Jerusalem's Holocaust Remembrance Center recognized Sergeant Roddie Edmonds as one of the "Righteous Among the Nations." It was a very special night.

During the last few months, I have had the opportunity to visit several Posts. In Overland Park, Kansas, Commander Bernie Brownstein runs a well-organized Post with events in their Jewish and veteran's communities. In Seattle, Washington, Robert Shay put together a reorganization meeting in which 15 people were in attendance and several new members signed up. I have no doubt Commander Shay's Post will continue to grow. I also visited several post members in Omaha, Nebraska, and met with veterans in Wichita, Kansas, who have a desire to start a post there. I am pleased to report that these Posts are living up to their responsibility of carrying out our mission in an exemplary manor. To the Post Commanders, staff and members, thank you for your warm welcome. Thank you to Sheldon Goldberg, Post 692 in Maryland, for escorting us to synagogue and taking us to their Veterans Memorial in Silver Spring. Yasher Koach to all, I am proud you.

Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery were inspiring and emotional. We celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice that ended the Great War. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie was eloquent in his presentation. It is incumbent that we always remember and never forget those who gave their last measure of strength to keep us free and allow us, as Jews, to preserve our traditions. May the memory of those remembered, known and unknown, always be a blessing. As we have taken time this Veterans Day to plant flags and honor our fallen, remember it is not just a one-day event. Their sacrifices should be a daily reminder for us to continue our work for the benefit of all veterans every day. Indeed, it was my honor to represent JWV on the dais at Arlington.

While in Washington D.C., I had the opportunity to meet with Israeli Ambassador Dermer to discuss such topics as Israel's relationship with Turkey, NATO's role in the Middle East and Israel's internal security. The Ambassador was very candid in his remarks. This meeting continues to cement the relationship between the Israeli Embassy staff and JWV. The entire visiting embassy staff were treated to an in depth tour of the Museum by Public Relations Coordinator Mike Rugel and Anna Selman.

Following the activities in Washington D.C., Chairman Rosenshein and myself attended briefings in Brussels, Belgium at NATO headquarters, the U.S. Embassy in Belgium, AJAX and the U.S. Embassy in London. It was amazing to meet and learn from our NATO Commanders, and I was honored to be one of the wreath layers at the AJAX parade celebrating our Jewish heroes in World War I.

We truly appreciated the sincere welcome and kindness shown us at each venue. We found it to be a remarkably, enlightening and worthwhile trip.

I hope each of you and your families had a joyous holiday and wish you good health in the up coming year.

Capitol Hill Action Days & National Executive Committee Meeting
February 12 - 17, 2019

Capitol Hill Action Days - February 13 + 14
National Executive Committee Meeting - February 15
NMAJMH Board of Directors Meeting - February 16

Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport
1999 Jefferson Davis Highway Arlington, VA 22202

Make your reservations online at: https://tinyurl.com/JWVNEC
Or call 703-413-5500 and tell them you are with the Jewish War Veterans

$159/night ★ *Book by Tuesday, January 15, 2019 to reserve your space!*

Capitol Hill Action Day is Right Around the Corner, *Schedule Your Congressional Appointments Now!*

By Herb Rosenbleeth, National Executive Director

One of JWV's most important programs is Capitol Hill Action Days (CHAD). This program is an annual event when our members go to Capitol Hill and present JWV's legislative priorities in as many House and Senate offices as possible.

It is up to us to convince, educate, and persuade our members of Congress concerning issues important to veterans. To do this, we recommend that each Department create a Capitol Hill Action Day committee to develope a plan to meet with with your legislators. Ideally, you should try to meet with as many legislators as possible in order to get the voice of the Jewish veteran heard in Congress.

In order to be effective, please make you appointments in advance. When you visit, please be on time, dressed in appropriate business attire and wear your JWV cap. If you are part of a group, choose a spokesperson who will do most of the speaking. Decide what you want to say and who will say it. Prioritize and outline the salient points of your argument. Be friendly, and a good listener, answering your legislator's questions point by point. NO THREATS! You are there to win friends and votes, not lose them. Keep the conversation focussed on your issue. If the topic should stray, bring it back in a tactful manner.

Please note that meeting with a staffer can be just as important as meeting with a member of Congress.

After CHAD? Follow up! Send an email or letter to thank your Congressperson (or her/his aide) for meeting with you. A few months later, touch base to see if any progress has been made on the presented priorities. Keep making appointments and stay in touch! The more often they hear from you, the more likely they are to listen.

How to Contact Your Elected Officials

You can find who your federal, state, and local elected leaders are and how to contact them by going to:

www.usa.gov/ elected-officials

Tracking the United States Congress

Find legislation in the U.S. Congress that affects you.

www.govtrack.us

JWV's 2019 Key Legislative Priorities

► SUICIDE PREVENTION

Current research puts veterans suicides at 20 deaths per day. This is unacceptable. Even one veteran suicide a day is too many. The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV) strongly urges the members of Congress to place this important issue high on their priority list.

Data released this past summer show that veterans are twice as likely to die by suicide than non-veterans. It also shows that the rate is highest among post 9/11 veterans ages 18-24. Female veterans are least likely to reach out for help, and veterans over age 55 and those who served during a peacetime experience had the highest rates overall.

• JWV urgently asks Congress to fund research which will help eradicate veteran suicide. Additionally, the VA needs new ways of reaching out to veterans in need of mental healthcare. The VA must have enough healthcare providers to ensure quick access for veterans in need.

► VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

Veteran homelessness continues to plague us. In spite of heroic efforts by many, there are still thousands of homeless veterans out there. Housing and Urban Development officials estimate that there are approximately 38,000 veterans across the country who do not have stable housing.

• JWV implores Congress to do much more for our homeless veterans. We need legislation which would substantially reduce veteran homeless and get the many thousands more of our veterans off the streets.

► BURN PITS ACCOUNTABILITY

Burn pits are the new Agent Orange. This issue is of primary interest to the Jewish War Veterans and our members who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Burn pits have been used as a way for service members to dispose of waste at forward operating bases. Service members had to stand over metal drums and stir the burning waste. Although not as visible as other job-related risks, exposure to toxic chemical fumes is perilous.

• JWV strongly urges legislation to provide adequate benefits to these veterans who have been exposed.

► BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS

JWV has been a strong supporter of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, which would extend Agent Orange disability benefits and health care to between 70,000 and 90,000 veterans who served aboard ships in territorial waters off Vietnam during the war. The bill passed the House last year, but it seems that it is likely to fail in the Senate before this Congress's term is over. It will be likely that the new Congress installed next year will have to tackle this important issue.

JWV salutes the House of Representatives for unanimously passing a Blue Water Navy bill (H.R. 299) this past June.

The sailors and Marines who served in the waters off of Vietnam, but did not come ashore or operate in "brown water" near sprayed foliage or runoff from dioxin-laced herbicides, are denied Agent Orange related benefits. This must be corrected!

• JWV asks each member of Congress to vote to insure passage of legislation, which will provide appropriate benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans.

► GI BILL ACCOUNTABILITY

Earlier this year, a report came out stating that more than 10,000 student veterans have gone more than 30 days—and 1,000 more than 60 days—without receiving their GI Bill stipends. Some had their housing and food supply interrupted due to the issue in distributing these stipends. To make matters worse, the VA initially stated that they were unable to retroactively pay these veterans.

After much intervention by different VSOs and the Military Coalition (which JWV is a proud member), the VA reversed its course, and it will now retroactively pay these veterans their much earned benefits.

The reason behind the missed payments and the delay were due to a 50-YEAR-OLD computer system. Congress must ensure that the VA updates it system as soon as possible. Relying on 50-year-old technology is not only substandard, it is actually ***harming our veterans.***

• JWV urges Congress to pass legislation modernizing all of the VA's computer systems as well as ensuring that veterans receive their much-earned GI Bill benefits.

► REPATRIATED JEWISH REMAINS

This year, JWV was made aware of two Jewish soldiers remains which were identified through the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) lab's DNA identification program. The important effort to identify the remains of unidentified American soldiers includes approximately 90 military researchers currently working at labs in Hawaii, Nebraska and Ohio. Though the number varies from year to year, they identify roughly 30-50 remains a year through advanced DNA techniques.

Unfortunately, after these remains are identified, only the family is notified. For our Jewish servicemembers, their families may be distant or may have converted over the years. However, if the service member was Jewish, they deserve a proper Jewish burial and for someone to say Kaddish for them.

• JWV urges Congress to pass legislation that notifies the Jewish Welfare Board, the Jewish Chaplains Council, the Aleph Institute, and the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. when a Jewish service member has been identified to ensure that they receive the proper Jewish funeral that they would have wanted.

To download a copy of JWV's 2019 Key Legislative Priorities to leave with your Congressperson or Representative, go to: www.jwv.org/programs/building-membership/capitol-hill-action-day/

Jewish Veteran Exits The Race To Deal With Ptsd

By Sabrina Fine, Communication Intern

He was blindfolded, talking and able to piece together an AR-15 rifle. You may remember seeing Missouri Democrat Jason Kander's viral ad for the U.S. Senate in Sept. 2016. Kander's experiences in the military is also what has recently caused him to drop out of the race for Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri.

The Jewish former Army Intelligence officer left the military 11 years ago. In his ad he spoke about his time in Afghanistan and his support of background checks, and then he challenged his opponent Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) to attempt to piece together a rifle blindfolded.

The video asserts that Kander's military experience and knowledge of firearms make him qualified to discuss the intricacies of the 2nd amendment. Kander stated that while he supported the 2nd Amendment he also supported background checks to keep weapons out of terrorist hands. Kander is considered a new young face in the Democratic Party with presidential aspirations. However, for now, his politics is on hold.

"I can't work on myself and run a campaign the way I want to at the same time, so I'm choosing to work on my depression," said Kander in a personal statement.

Kander is certainly not alone. According to the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA), 11-20% of veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in a given year. Twelve percent for Gulf War veterans and 15 percent of Vietnam veterans have had PTSD sometime in their life.

According to VA research, veterans often feel

Jason Kander

extreme guilt for things they experience in combat. PTSD is rampant in veterans and studies show a link between PTSD and suicide.

"PTSD and traumatic brain injury (TBI) diagnosis have been associated with suicide," said Sheila Berg, the woman in the military committee chairwoman.

On Oct. 4th, together with the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Anna Selman, the JWV Public Relations and Programs Coordinator participated in planting flags for veterans that have died by suicide. They planted 5520 flags on the mall in DC.

"I think we often talk about PTSD in terms of deployment but you don't have to be deployed to be in a stressful environment," said Selman.

There are many causes of hostile work environments in the military. Often Iraq and Afghanistan service members return to their command with PTSD and sometimes while they are dealing with their issues; it becomes stressful for the people around them.

Also, many suicides occur after their military service concludes, when veterans feel as civilians they have lost their sense of purpose.

"For those of us that come from families of Holocaust survivors, we know that Jews have a long history of treating PTSD even before the term came into use," said Selman. She also mentions Viktor Frankl, a post Holocaust scholar's approach.

"Viktor's approach to treating traumatic events was to give everything meaning, even one's painful trials," said Selman.

By Kander telling the American public about challenges he is facing, he believes he may be on the road to recovery.

"I'm done hiding this from myself and from the world," said Kander. "When I wrote in my book that I was lucky to not have PTSD, I was just trying to convince myself. And I wasn't sharing the full picture. I still have nightmares. I am depressed."

Kander is receiving services at the VA in Kansas City. Kander also wrote that he hoped his struggle with PTSD would inspire others to seek help for similar issues.

Controversial Comments on Combat Roles for Women

By Sabrina Fine, Communication's Intern

Secretary of Defense James Mattis delivers remarks at the Virginia Military Institute.

While speaking at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) Lexington, VA, Defense Secretary James Mattis told cadets that the "jury is still out" on women serving in infantry. His remarks were perceived in different ways.

When a male cadet asked Mattis what his thoughts were on research of women in the military. Mattis said it was a very difficult situation and was also linked to societal gender roles.

"In the event of trouble, you're sleeping at night in your family home and you're the dad, mom, whatever. And you hear glass break downstairs, who grabs a baseball bat and gets between the kids' door and whoever broke in, and who reaches for the phone to call 9-1-1," said Mattis. "In other words, it goes to the most almost primitive needs of a society to look out for its most vulnerable."

He stated that his job was to help solve problems. Yet, looking at current numbers studies there just isn't enough yet to know if it is beneficial.

"This is an issue right now that we have Army, Navy, Marines — all looking at as we speak. And that is the close-quarters fight being what it is, you know, is it a strength or a weakness to have women in that circumstance," asked Mattis.

Mattis said that there is not currently enough data and that while he is open to it, he would like to make an educated decision on the matter.

Some women did not take those comments positively. Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) is suing the U.S. government because of the limits in women combat roles.

Monica Medina is a board member of SWAN, whose mission is to give military women past, future and present a voice. Medina helped write Defense Secretary Leon Panetta's women integration policy.

"Now the current defense secretary appears to be undercutting that policy ("This is a policy that I inherited," Mattis said) by casting doubt on women's ability to fight in combat units," wrote Medina in the Washington Post.

Panetta's policy opened all jobs, in all units including combat ones to women. The policy stated that their mission was to put the most qualified service members in roles in order to maintain mission readiness.

If a woman could pass the requirements, she could fit the role. Currently, the numbers of women serving in those roles are small. According to the Army Times, 18 women have graduated from the elite Army ranger school. According to the Military Times, two women have graduated from the Marine's 13-week Infantry Officer Course.

Yet, some data from June 2016- June 2018 indicates that women sustained fewer injuries which conflicts with past study's suggesting combat units with women were less effective and had more injuries.

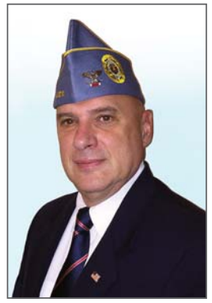
Mattis explained there was not enough information and statistics for him to make a decision.

"Remember our natural inclination to have this open to all. But we cannot do something that militarily doesn't make sense," Mattis told the cadet.

He argued that the media has mistaken his comments. He also mentioned that the female cadets he was speaking to did not take his comments negatively, he explained to reporters at the Pentagon.

"The female cadets took it just the opposite — that the door was open," said Mattis to reporters.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky
Membership Chairman

Understanding and Filing the 990

Each year, our posts are required to file a 990-N with the IRS.

A copy of the 990-N should be sent to National no later than May 1st of each year.

The 990-N serves a very important purpose. It is needed so your post can maintain its tax-exempt status with the IRS. The IRS website states "Most small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally $50,000 or less can satisfy their annual reporting requirement by electronically submitting form 990-N if they choose NOT to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ instead".

Before filling out the 990-N, you will need the following eight (8) items:

1. Your post EIN Number
2. The tax year the post follows; examples such as (01/01 thru 12/31 or 07/01 thru 06/30)
3. The legal name and address of the post
4. Any other names used by the Post (leave this field blank on the form)
5. Name and address of the principal officer of the post
6. Post website (if you have one)
7. Confirmation that the Post's annual gross receipts are less than $50,000
8. A statement that the Post has either terminated or is terminating

To complete the 990-N:

1. Go to the IRS website (www.irs.gov).
2. In the search box on the top right-hand side of the page, enter 990-N. Hit the enter key
3. Select Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations – Form 990-N
4. Read through the information and you should be ready to file
5. Click on the link under Ready to File?

You can easily find links to the 990-N and a step by step guide on the JWV website.

1. Go to Membership tab on the home page.
2. Select Member Resources and then select Discover in Ins and Outs of Post Management
3. Scroll down to Financial Administration on the lower left side and click on the purple buttons labeled "File Your 990-N" and the "Tutorial Guide: Filing Tax Form 990-N".

You may also want to print out and retain a copy of the Good Standing Checklist, which is found on the same page – under Business Administration.

7 Questions with a JWV Member

Member: Adam Goldberg

Post: Old Dominion Post 158

Current Residence: Norfolk, VA

Military Service: 1999-2019. From 1995-99, I was enlisted in the reserves while attending college.

Member Since Year: 2006

1. When and why did you serve in the military?
I enlisted in the reserves in 1995 and commissioned in 1999. It is our duty as Americans to serve our country in one form or another. For me, it seemed like a good fit to do this through Naval service vice some other civil service. But, if you ask my good Jewish mother I did it just to upset her. I've never disputed that claim.

2. How did you get introduced to JWV?
I do not remember, I just heard about it one day while stationed in San Diego. I was on sea duty with small children ages 1, 2, 3, and 5, so I did not follow up with it till much later.

3. What is a program that JWV offers, in which you would like to be more involved with, and why?
The main mission, Veterans Affairs.

4. What is an American tradition that makes you the proudest?

Being an American, there is a lot to be proud of.

5. What is the best military Jewish holiday story you have?
There I was, in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. It was the 5th night of Hanukkah 2008 and my ship had pulled in for a brief refueling and resupplying. There was a cool breeze blowing off of the Caribbean through the old battle field that was the Cuzco Well, and shaking the windows of the O'Kelly's Irish Pub where my local detachment of American Jews had lite the menorah for the fifth night. Through the flicker of these holy lights USMC Sargent C. Fox commenced to debrief the story of Hanukkah as only a Jewish Marine from West Virginia could... I have tried to tell his story over again cleaning out the language and "civilian-izing" it, but it does not have the same comical punch to it! This kid got so into telling the story about Judah Maccabi set up irregular gorilla operations against the Syrians through physical gestures (theatrics) of mock up squad tactics (he got fellow sailors and marines to participate) and close order combat. He really got into it. We laughed so hard, I don't think I had ever heard or seen anything so funny in my entire life! Give me some time and I will try to recreate it.... It was funny.

6. What is your favorite movie about the military and does it relate with your experience in the military?
First off, any movie with John Wayne is top! *In Harms Way*, *They Were Expendable*, *Operation Pacific*, et cetera! But if you want a movie my wife says represents me it would be *The Last Detail*. She says they managed to break my personality down into the three main characters. Truth is my career has been more of a *Down Periscope* than anything else.

7. Do you prefer Latkes or donuts on Hanukkah?
Bourbon. Was that a choice?

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE
Bass, Miranda L. - Post 100
Glassman, Harold D. - Post 100
Goldberg, Harold P. - Post 100
Goldwag, Edmund I. - Post 100
Hayman, Scott A. - Post 686
Otero, Dylon A. - Post 100
Teasley, Kenneth C. - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
Finelt, Howard I. - Post 750
Hoffman, Edward - Post 680
Katchka, Abraham S. - Post 385
Kramsky, Dennis - Post 385
Leyman, Asher L. - Post 385
Matloff, Jeffrey L. - Post 385
Ratner, Daniel - Post 786
Schilleci, Aaron - Post 786
Tiep, William R. - Post 385
Turner, Miguel D. - Post 385
Wright, Adam M. - Post 385
Young, Frank M. - Post 603
Zalben, Bradley S. - Post 118

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
Fromkin, Noel J. - Post 352
Goldstein, David H. - Post 941
Katz, Leonard A. - Post 172
Patlak, David Y. - Post 243
Reznick, Joel J. - Post 941
Roth, Jared M. - Post 202
Yegelwell, Howard - Post 941

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
Orloff, Charles - Post 29

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST
Laycob, Leland M. - Post 644
Rosenblum, Steven E. - Post 644

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND
Barshay, Larry B. - Post 567
Goldstein, Lawrence - Post 567
Kaiser, Marian R. - Post 692
Levine, Richard A. - Post 567
Levinson, Phil - Post 888
Swartz, Steven - Post 167
Wolkstein, Daniel C. - Post 167

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
Ring, Ben - Post 220
Ring, Ramie - Post 220

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
Cuttner, David A. - Post 135

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
Weinstein, Michael L. - Post 354

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA
Bulmash, Marilyn S. - Post 64
Kantar, Michael A. - Post 64
Lehrman, Merle I. - Post 65
Lucht, John M. - Post 65
McCarron, Richard G. - Post 64

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY
Aptowitzer, Charles P. - Post 538
Cruz, Ron - Post 39
Gerber, Irving - Post 651
Liss, Richard A. - Post 651

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
Bobroff, Alvin J. - Post 425
Byrnes, Michael I. - Post 425
Herbst, Stephen S. - Post 425
Herzig, William A. - Post 717
Rubenstein, Marc I. - Post 129

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST
Abrams, Ellis R. - Post 320
Boris, Ari - Post 112
Brown, Joseph J. - Post 112
Cheng, Nathan D. - Post 112
Dell'Orto, Nathan - Post 112
Emerson, Andrew W. - Post 112
Forrester, Samuel - Post 112
Gier, Brett - Post 112
Gillet, Stephen - Post 112
Gomez, Elijah J. - Post 112
Gomez, Moises - Post 112
Larsen, Brandon - Post 112
Madison, Dustin O. - Post 112
Meyer, Marc N. - Post 112
Sadlik, Michal P. - Post 112
Smiley, Carl V. - Post 112
Steed, Brandon J. - Post 112
Thomas, William B. - Post 112
Trumble, Ryan M. - Post 112
Weinshenker, Ross M. - Post 112
Woodruff, Jeffrey - Post 112
Wren, Victor - Post 112

DEPARTMENT OF TALO
Cohen, Larry E. - Post 256
Einhorn, Jack F. - Post 574
Jeschke, John M. - Post 753
Wasserman, David C. - Post 256

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC
Brande, Howard A. - Post 299

Hanukkah In Iraq

by Ben Kane, Programs Assistant

A well-known fact among the international Jewish community is that sometimes observing Jewish traditions and a Jewish lifestyle can be difficult. For Jewish American military service members overseas, this difficulty stems from a variety of sources. It can come from anti-Semitic fellow service members, from being in a country that is hostile to observers of the Jewish faith, or to simply not having the right items needed for Jewish holidays and customs. One place where being a Jew in the military would likely have its fair share of difficulties is Iraq. Yet, as this story demonstrates, Jewish U.S. military personnel often find a way to express their Jewish faith and traditions even in potentially unfriendly environments.

In October 2005, an idea amongst several Jewish American service members took shape- to plan and hold a successful Hanukkah party or two in Iraq. It had been several years since the last Hanukkah party, and they believed it was due time to celebrate the festival of lights. Calls were made to various organizations that would likely help with the efforts to carry out the party, with Colonel Nelson Mellitz contacting the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. His association with the JWV would continue for years and into the present, with Col. Mellitz eventually becoming the Department Commander for the state of New Jersey, as well as the National Quartermaster.

Calls were made through the U.S. embassy in Iraq, through the chaplain's services, through the JWV, and as the word spread, the trickle of Hanukkah memorabilia sent their way turned into a flood. Col. Mellitz soon found his desk and surrounding space in the Baghdad embassy had enough Hanukkah memorabilia for parties far into the future. The effort to celebrate Hanukkah in Iraq was not without a few hiccups. Hesitation amongst some of captains and lieutenants involved in carrying out the plans for the parties provided some difficulties. The hesitation was rumored to be anti-Semitic in nature, but any issues were resolved by the generals, as well as on an ambassadorial level, allowing the plans for the festivities to proceed.

As if the Hanukkah celebrations being held in Iraq was not unique enough, the specific location of the parties is noteworthy. The celebrations of the festival of lights for this year and for several after were held in the former palace of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. His opulent palaces, once the seat of power of a tyrant, was now being repurposed for good- for beautiful Hanukkah celebrations. Hanukkah parties at the palace featured music, dancing, and no small number of latkes and chocolates. Included in the itinerary were more serious notes like speeches from dignitaries, including Zalmay Khalilzad, at that time the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq. Initial questions of whether he would be able to attend or not were eventually answered when embassy security staff began posting troops around the area and combing the area with their dogs.

A focal point of these celebrations was the colossal Menorah that was designed by LTJG Laurie and constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers and the military contractor KBR. Humorously, the Army Corps of Engineers Captain who was tasked with overseeing construction efforts had no idea what a Menorah was until then. The Menorah soon became synonymous with the Hanukkah parties at Saddam's Republican palace and was on display whenever a Hanukkah party took place there.

Many, but not all, of the attendees were Jewish, Col. Mellitz said, creating a heightened sense of camaraderie between service members of different faiths that hopefully has lasted long after the celebration and deployment ended. The Hanukkah parties at the palace and at nearby Camp Liberty, represented by the towering Menorah, in the palace and at Camp Liberty, served as symbols not just of the overthrowing of tyranny, but of the resilience of the Jewish people and their ability to honor Jewish traditions and customs anywhere in the world.

Hanukkah at Sea

By Sabrina Fine, Communications Intern

During the gentle sway of the ship, three of us huddled in the library aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) and lit a menorah. It was a moment of normalcy during a deployment that felt long and stressful. We were three different ranks and had three very different duties, and yet, we slowly recited the Hanukkah blessing in unison. It was a moment that brought three of us together; it connected us with our families far away that celebrated Hanukkah.

Hanukkah is an eight-day, winter holiday also known as the "Festival of Lights". Hanukkah means "dedication." It is a celebration of the re-dedication of the Holy Temple.

To me, while deployed in foreign seas, dedication was a significant word. As a sailor on my first deployment, Hanukkah was Jewish reminder of being part of something bigger than myself. The ship had a dedicated mission. Also, our small Jewish gathering was dedicated to celebrating Hanukkah out at sea despite our busy schedules and the small, yet significant number of us.

Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Samantha Haag lights a menorah on the seventh night of Hanukkah aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Sabrina Fine.

The Weight-Lifting Rabbi of Vietnam

By Anna Selman

On the Jewish plaque at Chaplain's Hill, there reads a name: Rabbi Morton H. Singer, USA 17 December 1968. Weeks later, an article appeared in the Jewish Telegraph Agency titled, "NY Chaplain Killed in Vietnam, Buried in Israel". Those eight words encapsulated the death of Rabbi Morton Singer. However, the story of his service and his life are much more remarkable.

Rabbi Morton Singer was born in New York City in 1936. Little is known about his childhood growing up in Manhattan, but we do know that he was an avid weight lifter in his youth - he was recognized as the Eastern Intercollegiate Weight Lifting Champion of 1959. He also was very active in Judo, and he would later serve on the Armed Forces Judo Team.

He went to City College of New York for his undergrad, and he later attended Yeshiva University. After obtaining his rabbinical degree, Rabbi Singer taught at a Jewish Day School for 3 years. However, according to his nephew, Jeffrey Singer, "Rabbi Singer felt a strong obligation to serve. He believed that if there were Jews someplace, he was going to help.

So, during the outbreak of the 6 Day War in Israel, it was only natural that Rabbi Singer signed right up. During the war, he served as a volunteer in the Bikkur Holim general hospital in Jerusalem. He would often volunteer to drive the ambulance to evacuate soldiers from the front lines in the West Bank. It was there that Rabbi Singer found a deep love for Israel, and he promised himself that he would move himself and his family there one day.

After coming back to the states, Rabbi Singer signed up for the US Army, and he went to Chaplains School at Fort Hamilton and basic training at Fort Benning. Alan Potkin remembered meeting Rabbi Singer at Fort Benning, "In basic training in Georgia, I met the Jewish chaplain there. He was airborne. He was a big Zionist." From there, he went to Fort Sill shortly before deploying the Vietnam in November of 1968.

After arriving in Vietnam, Rabbi Singer was busy conducting Shabbat Services, meeting Jewish soldiers and preparing for Hanukkah. It was there that Alan Potkin met Rabbi Singer again, "I had seen him only a few days earlier when he tracked me down at the 95th Evac Hospital in Da Nang, where I had been MEDEVACed in with a severed jugular vein from a frag wound."

On December 17th, Rabbi Singer geared up to conduct Hanukkah services for Marines stations at Chu Lai Air Base in the Quang Nam Province. The flight there was quick and easy. Rabbi Singer sang songs, ate latkes and played dreidels with a few Jewish marines. He packed up his gear, and he went to board his C123 Fairchild to go home. Seconds after takeoff, there was an explosion in the plane that left 14 dead caused by the crew placing the wrong type of fuel in the aircraft.

Marine Corps veterans Tracy Diffin was one of the first responders to the scene, "I was on Fire & Rescue Crash Crew, and was the first one there. A chopper flew overhead to keep the flames down. It was allegedly bad gas in the craft that took it down. Almost everyone died. I tried like hell to save everyone I could."

"Growing up, I was always bothered hearing that my Uncle was killed going to do a mitzvah (conducting Hanukkah ceremonies), because when a person is going to do a mitzvah, they have extra protection from G-d. I received some form of comfort upon learning that it was only after completing the lighting on take-off from Chu Lai that this tragic event occurred," said Jeffrey Singer, Rabbi Morton Singer's nephew.

On January 2, 1968, Rabbi Morton Singer was buried on a hillside near Jerusalem today in accordance with his last wish. His body was laid to rest at Har Hamenuchot, a cemetery for the fallen of the Six-Day War. Funeral services were attended by the chief chaplain of the Israel Army's Jerusalem area command, the military attache of the U.S. Embassy and relatives who live in Cholon, near Tel Aviv.

National Commander, I was honored to be your representative.

Up next, I will be heading to Congress in March to testify on your behalf. Please accept my personal invitation to attend the National Executive Council Meeting in February so we can discuss the issues that you would like for me to advocate in my testimony. I look forward to seeing you then.

JWV's Female Veterans Highlighted in Event in Peabody

By Barry Lischinsky, Membership Chairman

On Sunday, November 11, 2018, Jewish War Veterans (JWV) Massachusetts (MA) North Shore Post 220 Members participated in the City of Peabody, MA Veterans Day event. Approximately three hundred (300) Veterans, families and guests attended this year's City of Peabody Mayor's Breakfast event thanking all community Veterans for their service. This year's event was dedicated to the service of Women in the Military. The keynote speaker of the event was JWV MA Post 220 Lillian Aronson. Lillian was born on July 1, 1917 in Salem, MA, and she is the oldest member of JWV.

In 1935, she graduated from Salem, MA High School. Lillian felt it was important to contribute to the War effort, so contribute she did. At the age of 26, she volunteered and joined the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC). Lillian's military service spans over 20 years - paving the way for Women in the military today.

Lilian, at the young age of 101, remains active today as a volunteer for both the Jewish War Veterans Massachusetts, and the Disabled American Veterans. On occasions, you may hear Lillian's voice as she maintains the "Birthday List" of fellow Veterans at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital, where she resides today.

Also, recognized during this event was JWV MA Post 220 Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Donna Lehman. In 2003, LTC Lehman served during Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Chief Nurse of a Forward Surgical Team located in Kuwait. Attached to the 1st Armored Division with a unit from Walter Reed Hospital, she then was then stationed in Baghdad serving as the Chief Nurse of an Intensive Care Unit. Extended on Active Duty with her unit she was redeployed to Najaf in April 2004. In mid-July 2004, LTC Lehman returned to Fort Dix, New Jersey. Many that attended the 2018 Veterans Day event remember LTC Donna Lehman as the 2011 Veterans Day keynote speaker.

In keeping with the theme of City of Peabody's Veterans Day event of Women in the Military, to quote a past Veterans Affairs article, "Women are now the fastest-growing subgroup of U.S. Veterans. The number of women Veterans is expected to increase dramatically in the next ten years." From the generation of Sargent First Class Lillian Aronson to the generation of LTC Donna Lehman, we are reminded of our Hebrew term L' dor V'dor, meaning "from generation to generation." Special thanks to Mayor Bettencourt, Peabody Veterans Agent Steve Patten and the Peabody Veterans Council for recognizing all Veterans and their families.

Jewish War Veterans Co-Sponsor Tidewater Veterans Day Commemoration

By Adam Goldberg, Post 158 Commander

Jewish War Veterans (JWV) Post 158 of Southeastern Virginia had the honor of co-sponsoring the Hampton Roads Veterans Day parade and ceremony with the Hampton Roads Council of Veterans Organizations (HRCVO) in Virginia Beach, Nov. 12. This years festivities being significant due to the 100th year anniversary of the end of World War I which was the origins of Veterans Day previously known as Armistice Day.

The parades grand marshal was retired Chief Petty Officer Robert Freitag, past president of HRCVO and the co-marshal was Michael Berman, esq., past National Commander of JWV.

During the ceremony invocation Rabbi Sender Haber, lead rabbi of B'nai Israel Congregation of Norfolk, VA, and JWV Post 158 Chaplain recounted a message from Mrs. Kitty Saks, a member of B'nai Israel and holocaust survivor.

"She called me after the terrible shooting in Pittsburgh last week and she said I remember 80 years ago standing at a window on November 9th 1938 during Kristallnacht," said Rabbi Haber. "Glass was shattering in Jewish homes, Jewish door fronts. We waited for my father to come home and nobody cared, nobody defended us, nobody took care of us. Here I am 80 years later in the United States of America and a synagogue is attacked and I don't stop getting letters, messages, emails and calls from neighbors and friends in America."

The parade was followed by a ceremony that included a wreath-laying presentation, offered by various veteran service organizations, and a ceremonious gun salute by the Virginia Beach Police Department in honor of Veterans Day.

"We need to thank god every day that we live in the United States of America," said Rabbi Haber. "We need to thank god for our neighbors, for our government and most of all for our veterans who give their lives not only to protect us but to protect our freedom to worship to believe and take care of one another."

Michael Berman, esq., was the guest speaker during the luncheon and talked about the alarming suicide rate of veterans.

"We are losing 20 veterans a day. You who serve, I ask a small favor," said Berman. "If you know someone who is approaching that, you can tell. They may divest themselves of their possessions, they may hear ghosts at night, they may wake up with the sweats, they may say I can't take it anymore there is too much in my mind I have to get out of here somehow. So if you know someone in that area, buddy up to them. You can't do it alone. They need professional help and we are not professional help but we are their friends and sometimes their confidant… talk to them, let them know you care."

This year's Veterans Day proclamation also included special recognition of the Jewish War Veterans honor, integrity and supremacy to the United States.

The JWV is the voice of the Jewish service member and friend to all veterans. Formed in New York in 1896 after the Spanish American War, the Jewish veteran group was known as the Hebrew Union Veterans Association. The union fought anti-Semitism in the Armed Forces and the general public. Seeking to prove that Jews do proudly serve and fight in the US Armed Forces, the union evolved with each war, eventually taking the name we know today – JWV. With over 120 years of service, JWV is the oldest, continuously operating Veteran Service

A Man of Many Merits

By Sabrina Fine, Communication Intern

Dr. Guy Stern is a man of many titles. Literary scholar, Bronze Star Medal recipient and published author- to name just a few.

Stern was born in Hildesheim, Germany in 1922. He escaped Nazi Germany and relocated to the United States in 1937 with the help of an uncle and an American Jewish organization. He hoped his parents and two siblings would follow.

In 1943, he was drafted into the Army and in 1944 landed in Normandy after D-day as a Ritchie Boy. Ritchie Boys were a military intelligence unit made up of mostly German, Austrian and Czech refugees and immigrants, many of whom were Jewish.

"Beyond the fighting spirit of all GI"s, the knowledge of the Holocaust was an added incentive to put forth our utmost effort in the war, we were refugees; our own families were being murdered," said Stern.

Since Stern spoke German he was tasked with the interrogation of prisoners of war and defectors. Stern's story was highlighted in the book Sons and Soldiers, "the untold story of the Jews who escaped the Nazis and returned with the U.S. Army to fight Hitler."

Stern, along with fellow Ritchie Boy Fred Howard, devised a plan to extract information from German soldiers after previous more traditional methods did not work.

"My friend and comrade Fred Howard found that the German soldiers were afraid beyond everything else of landing in Russian captivity," said Stern. "We played on that fear by telling the enemy soldiers that we had orders to turn them over to the Russians, if they did not cooperate. We got vital info for our air force that way. I disguised myself as a Soviet commissar and liaison officer. I donned a Russian uniform for that purpose; Fred played a soft-hearted American."

Stern also adopted a Russian accent, despite not knowing speaking Russian. Stern's method allowed him to gather important intelligence as well as earn him a Bronze Star.

"I could make a contribution to the war effort as an interrogator of POWs by introducing mass interrogations in order to assess the strength of the last German replacement divisions and to report on the German potential for gas warfare," said Stern.

Stern never hesitated his allegiance to the United States and he felt American.

As a Jew, American soldier and human, he keeps memories of what he witnessed in Buchenwald. In a 1990 oral history recording for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, he spoke of the horrors.

His unit set up food and water for recently liberated prisoners, yet the prisoners were still dealing with shock and not comprehending freedom.

When speaking of the experience, Stern's demeanor changed. He looked off to the side in search of words.

He recalled a story of a prisoner readying himself to drink from a muddied puddle. It seemed routine for the prisoner. Yet, Stern's unit had set up clean water in the camp.

The survivor needed to be gently reminded and pointed in the direction of clean water.

"To summarize it- it was almost as if you had to unlearn the concentration camp experience," said Stern.

Before leaving Buchenwald, Stern recalled despite their grim conditions and poor health, the survivors seemed grateful.

After the war, Stern learned his whole family had perished in Warsaw.

In 1948, Stern graduated Hofstra and received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in German Literature and Culture.

"I found to my satisfaction, and that of my professors I had some gifts for German literature and German cultural history," said Stern.

Yet the troubling thought was, if he continued studying German, he would be reminded of Germany and its past and the terrible memories of his youth.

"I came to the recognition I indeed had a gift and to deny it, or to let it lie fallow would be an act of self-amputation, very much like the one they were going to inflict on me, it was doing the work of the enemy," said Stern. "So, I decided to stay in German."

He also believes in helping the victims of Nazi Germany.

"I've made the right decision because I've lent voice to some writers who may have been forgotten," said Stern. "I have in a way kept their memory and the memory of their writings alive," said Stern.

Stern currently directs the Harry and Wanda Zekelman International Institute of the Righteous at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Jewish Pride in Service on Full Display at the Merage JCC

By Sam Yudin, Post 786 Commander

Tibor Rubin Post 786 has ensured Jewish American Medal of Honor Recipient display cases see the light of day for the first time in over 10 years in an exhibition at the Merage JCC in Orange County, California.

The 40th Infantry Division of the California National Guard has been the home of 16 display cases highlighting 17 Jewish American Medal of Honor recipients. The display cases have sat in a classroom in the back of a building on Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos, CA. The cases were built by JWV member Alvin Selinck, of blessed memory, and donated to the California Military Department in 2004. They were displayed at the state's military museum in Sacramento until it closed its doors. After that, they made their way to Los Alamitos by way of San Diego.

Tibor Rubin Post 786 wanted these important pieces of Jewish American military history to be seen by the widest audience possible. The obvious choice was front and center at the Merage JCC in Orange County which has 50,000 members a month pass through the aptly named main street which house(s/d) (-d depending on publication date) the Jewish American Medal of Honor Recipient Exhibit from October 12- November 30th.

From the beginning the Merage JCC has been a very supportive partner to JWV Tibor Rubin Post 786. The exhibit when first discussed was a no brainer for the president and CEO, Dan Bernstein, and the Chair of the Board, Irv Chase. "From the founding of the United States, Jews have defended the liberties that all Americans enjoy," says Irv Chase. On the meaning of this exhibit to the JCC he continues, "It is important for American Jews to know what sacrifices their fellow Jews have made to protect the liberties they enjoy."

On November 8th, a reception was held in honor of the exhibit and Jewish veterans in the community. The purpose of the event was to celebrate Jewish American pride in service and recognize the veterans in the community. The event which featured the California State Military Reserve Military Heritage Command's color guard and over a dozen military members in uniform was attended by approximately 100 people. The event was called one of the most important events to happen at the JCC and very moving by many others.

A very important feature of this exhibit is only possible due to the partnership with the California State Military Reserve Military Heritage Command which has enhanced the exhibit with many period artifacts and uniforms from the Civil War to the Vietnam War. They also have been providing tours and activities for children and adult groups at the exhibit. The children have enjoyed writing letters to the Medal of Honor recipients and trying on period uniforms. Brigadier General Jay Coggan, Commander of the California State Military Reserve was present for the event and announced that this exhibit is the very start of his command getting these important military artifacts in the eyes of the public.

Brigadier General Coggan's comments indicate there is now a commitment that the Jewish American Medal of Honor Recipient display cases will continued to be displayed in the community. Discussions are already ongoing to bring this exhibit back next year at another local venue such as the Alpert Jewish Community Center Long Beach.

This event has also brought Jewish veterans

Atlanta Post 112 Stayed Busy During November 2018

By George Heart, Post 112

JWV Atlanta Post 112 hosted a special guest speaker during our monthly post meeting November 18th. First, LTC (WA) George H. Heart, Ret., Post 112 CDR, presented introductory remarks about Jewish soldiers serving in the German Armed Forces. The main speaker was Oberstleutnant (LTC) Alexander Siegfried Sauer, Bundeswehr (German Federal Armed Forces) Military Liaison to Ft. Benning. OBSLT Sauer, who is a decorated combat veteran from Kosovo and Afghanistan, spoke about the mission of the German Army Liaison to Ft. Benning. Afterwards, he fielded a lively question and answer session that included subjects ranging from the future of NATO, the rise of anti-Semitism, and other topics.

From Left: JWV Post 112 members Sam Benator, Gavin Ellman, Murray Berger, and Joanne and Robert Max handed out poppies and American flags outside a local Atlanta business over the Veterans Day weekend. All donations raised by the post during the Veterans Day weekend are used to support volunteer events in the Atlanta community.

The Atlanta Post also far exceeded the goal of supporting veterans and active duty Soldiers throughout Veterans Day. We spoke at local events about honoring our veterans and the contributions of the Jewish War Veterans Service Organization. We placed hundreds of American flags on Jewish Veterans graves at Greenwood, Arlington Park and Crest Lawn Cemeteries.

Many volunteers, including veterans and family members, arrived to help us raise funds over the Veterans Day Weekend. We passed out poppies and small American flags and collected donations to remind the public that JWV is thriving and supporting our veterans and active duty Soldiers of all faiths in Georgia. Over $5,000 was raised and these funds will go to support our volunteer events at the Atlanta VA Medical Center, Georgia War Veterans Home, Atlanta International Airport USO, Atlanta Veterans Empowerment Organization and others. We also support our active duty soldiers by sponsoring Shacharit Onegs at Ft. Benning's Regimental Chapel of the Infantry.

The next Atlanta Post meeting will be Sunday, 09 Dec - the last night of Hanukkah. This will be our second annual JWV Atlanta Post Hanukkah Military Social. It will include a display of over 30 military themed menorahs, musical entertainment, a scrumptious Hanukkah buffet, to include sufganyot, latkes, and much more. For more information,

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

JWV's 32nd Mission to Beautiful and Historic Israel March 31 - April 10, 2019

If you promised yourself that you will see Israel one day....

JWV visits places most tours don't get to, and provides an opportunity to meet with Israeli leaders and military. This year our tour will include a visit to a secret underground bullet factory in operation during Israel's struggle for independence, a visit to the innovative Weizman Institute of Science, one of the world's leading multidisciplinary basic research institutions, Katzrin, to see the remains of a Talmudic Jewish town, and other fascinating historical and religious touchstones that will make your trip to Israel a uniquely memorable one. *You don't have to be Jewish or a veteran to travel with us, so bring your friends and family!*

From JFK $4499.00 / DFW $4250.00 / Based on double occupancy.

Package includes:

- Round trip coach class tickets from JFK (New York) or DFW (Dallas Ft. Worth). Call for other cities.
- Transfers to/from airport and hotels (if you fly with the group).
- Superior First Class hotel accommodations (similiar to Sheraton or Crowne Plaza in the US).
- Full Israeli buffet breakfast and dinner daily, except for three dinners on your own.
- Daily sightseeing tours in an air-conditioned deluxe bus with licensed English speaking guide.
- All entrance fees to sites as per program.
- All taxes and service fees as imposed by hotels.
- Earphones so you can easily hear the guide.
- Tips per day, per person, for guide, driver, hostess, and hotel restaurant staff.

For more information about this trip, please visit the JWV website or contact Christy Turner at JWV Headquarters: 202-265-6280 cturner@jwv.org.

Jewish Warrior Weekend Brings Together Young Jews in DC

By: Sabrina Fine

Jewish Warrior Weekend commenced in Washington, DC November 8-11, 2018. The weekend-long event brought together Jewish Cadets and Midshipmen for a weekend of learning, comradery and celebration of Judaism.

Forty-nine officers in training joined together and learned about the history of Jewish veterans in America and attended the Holocaust museum. Friday, Shabbat was observed with services and Saturday night included a Havdalah ceremony outdoors in DuPont Circle.

"I was able to meet and get to know more Jewish future officers, as well as learn from the speakers that were brought in," said Cadet Jacob Widman.

In the crisp fall air, Cadets and Midshipmen placed their arms on each other's shoulders and swayed in a circle while reciting prayers, watching the glow of a colorful Havdalah candle, sipping from the Kiddush cup and smelling the ceremonial spices. Havdalah is ceremony that marks the end of the Shabbat and is supposed to reawaken the senses, including smell.

Some tourists stopped to watch and photograph as the Cadets and Midshipmen joyfully sang and chanted.

After a shared meal, inspirational speaker and Rear Adm. (Ret.) Paul Becker lent advice to the young future officers on Jewish military life.

"It is good to build a comradery with other Jewish Warriors," said Becker. "As it is we are few in numbers and there is value and strength in knowing there are others out there like you."

Often times there are only a few Jewish service members at each a command.

"In some cases, you might be the first Jew they meet and they may have some stereotypes," said Becker.

Therefore, he stated that Jews in a command have a responsibility to represent a culture. He also stated that it is possible to abuse this representation by overly requesting leave or attempting to fool others about Jewish holidays.

"It is important to prioritize how you put effort as a Jewish lay leader, or toward the Jewish holidays," said Becker. "For example, High Holidays are at the top but you don't want to expend any effort trying to convince your chain of command that there needs to be some type of commemoration of minor holidays like Tisha B'av."

Becker then consulted with Rabbi Michael Bram about Tisha B'av , and laughter followed.

Sunday began with a guest speaker - former Army Officer Phil Carter, who is a senior researcher who focuses on veterans, military personnel and civil-military relations.

The weekend ended on a somber note, with a visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on Sunday. Ben Kane, the Programs Assistant at JWV lead interested participants on a historical tour.

"I enjoyed the Holocaust Museum in the sense that I am glad that there is a museum dedicated to such a tragic event," said Widman. "It was meaningful because I learned more about the US involvement in the refusal of refugees, and other topics not covered at Yad Vashem."

Jewish Warrior Weekend is an annual Shabbaton program. This year was sponsored by the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, National Museum of American Jewish Military History, USAA, Jteen Philanthropy, Joseph Goldstein, Rabbi Steven Rein, Dallas Jewish Federation, Temple Sinai, Temple Micah and Stratton-Petit Foundation.

MOVIE REVIEW

On November 9, Netflix premiered its new docu-series entitled Medal of Honor. The series shares the stories of eight veterans who served from World War II to the Global War on Terror. For season one, Medal of Honor features the stories of:

- SGT. Sylvester Antolak (WW2)
- SSGT. Clint Romesha (Afghanistan)
- SFC. Edward Carter (WW2)
- SSGT. Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura (Korea)
- MSG. Vito Bertoldo (WW2)
- CPL. Joseph Vittori (Korea)
- CMSGT. Richard L. Etchberger (Vietnam)
- SSGT. Ty M. Carter (Afghanistan)

Each episode is an individual story and details "the worst day of their lives". The stories are re-enacted and told by military historians, witnesses, and sometimes even the recipient. Medal of Honor shares some amazing stories, some of nation's bravest heroes. The stories of Staff Sergeants Clint Romesha and Ty Carter are from the same battle, a Taliban assault on Combat Outpost Keating. This is the first time since Vietnam that the Medal of Honor was awarded to two survivors of the same battle. Medal of Honor is a much watch and a must binge.

One story that truly stood out to me was that of Staff Sergeant Edward Carter, Jr. The child of an African America father and East Indian mother, Carter was raised in India and Shanghai, China. Carter's parents were missionaries and were constantly on the move. Edward Carter was a born soldier, in 1932 he ran away from home to serve with the Chinese Nationalist Army. After it was discovered that he was only 15, he was forced to leave the Nationalist Army. A short time later, he found his way to Europe and served in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. The Lincoln Brigade was a group of American volunteers that serve in the Spanish Civil War which fought against the regime of General Francisco Franco.

In 1941, Edward Carter enters the Army. Due to his previous combat experience, Carter stood out among the other recruits and in less than year, he achieved the rank of staff sergeant. In 1944, he was deployed to Europe and was assigned to supply duties. General Eisenhower ran short of combat-arms replacements in December 1944 and instituted the volunteer Ground Force Replacement Command for rear-echelon soldiers of all races. At the height of Carter's career, he served as one of General George S. Patton's guards.

After months of volunteering, Carter's platoon made it to the frontlines and was assigned to the "Mystery Division". When Carter was assigned to this unit, he went from staff sergeant to a private. This was because his superiors would not allow an African American to command white troops. One thing to keep in mind, America was fighting one of the most racist regimes in world history, Nazi Germany, yet our own military was still segregated.

On March 23, 1945, while scouting with his platoon, the tank that carrying Carter was hit by bazooka fire. He quickly dismounted, Carter confronted his superior officer and asked to go cross and examine a nearby open field, where he noticed a mortar crew and 2 machine gun nests. The officer first told him no, due to his rank. Carter replied that he held the rank of staff sergeant before going to the frontlines.

Carter entered the open field with three other African American troops. In the field, Carter was able to get a better view of the situation. He told his troops to run back and that he will continue forward. Two of his troops were killed and one was severally wounded. Carter continued deeper into the open field alone. He was wounded five times before taking cover. As eight German soldiers scan the field in-attempt to capture Carter, he sprung up and killed six Germans and capturing two. While limping and using the two captured Germans as a shield, he was able to interrogate them. The Germans gave Carter valuable information on enemy-troop positions. For this Carter was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He was also awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, American Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and many other citations and awards.

In 1949 Edward Carter tried to re-enlist in the Army. Due to unfounded allegation, as a result of his time serving with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, he was denied. They believed that he had communist contacts and allegiances. Carter died of lung cancer on January 30, 1963, attributed to shrapnel remaining in his neck. He was 47 years old. He was buried in Sawtelle National Cemetery in Los Angeles.

In 1992, John Shannon, Secretary of the Army, commissioned an independent study to identify unrecognized African American heroes from World War II. The study was completed in 1996, under the name The Exclusion of Black Soldiers from the Medal of Honor in World War II. On January 13, 1997, SSgt Edward Allen Carter, Jr's Distinguished Service Cross was upgraded to the Medal of Honor by President Bill Clinton at a White House ceremony. SSgt Carter's body was exhumed and relocated to Arlington National Cemetery, where he was laid to rest with full honors.

As part of the new Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture, there is a hall dedicated to the many African Americans who served in the American armed forces from the American Revolution to current War on Terror. There is a section dedicated to African Americans who were awarded the Medal of Honor. On your next trip to Washington, DC, we recommend that you a make a stop at the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture. If you bring your Military ID, you can skip the line and enter without a reservation.

As the series Medal of Honor grows, it is the hope of the Jewish War Veterans that they include the stories our Jewish brothers and sisters who were awarded this highest honor.

NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT LINDA P. SINGER

Dear Sisters,

I am looking forward to visiting as many of you as possible as I travel around our country and bring you news from our JWV National Ladies Auxiliary.

One of my first messages will be to remind you that as a Sister of JWVA you are not automatically a member of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Now is your opportunity to become a participating member of our Museum; if you are already a member renew your membership; if you are not a member join us NOW. Remember your Auxiliaries are all eligible to enroll; you do not have to be Jewish to join nor a member of JWV/JWVA.

As you read the Veteran and review the various articles included on JWVA's pages remember the importance of these programs to our Auxiliaries, our local children's hospitals, our communities, our veterans and our brethren in Israel.

Congratulations to our newest Auxiliary; happily they are up and running and making progress in adopting our programs. Check our Membership release for ideas on recruiting new members.

Linda P. Singer

We invite all members both new and "established", to our National Executive Committee meetings in February, 2019 in Arlington, VA at the Marriott Hotel. Bring your newest ideas and initiatives with you as your ideas might inspire others.

Lastly, I want to thank you all for your efforts on behalf of those less fortunate. Remember, my theme, "our hearts and hands help those in need".

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Iris Goldwasser, PNP

The Hiram Bingham USA Stamp

Who is Hiram (Harry) Bingham? Why has he been honored by our country with a USA stamp?

Bingham came from an illustrious family. His father (on whom the Indiana Jones series was based), was the archeologist who discovered the Inca city of Machu Piccho, Peru, in 1911.

Harry entered the U.S. diplomatic service in 1939 and was posted to Marseilles, France as an American Vice Counsel.

At that time and before the U.S. became involved in WWII, we tried to remain uninvolved in the European unrest and did not want to antagonize the Vichy regime. Also it was acknowledged in certain political circles that anti-semitism existed among various State Dept. officials, including Asst. Secretary of State Breckenridge Long. Bingham learned that Mr. Long illegally, and without the knowledge of President Roosevelt, quietly ordered the counsels in Europe (including Marseilles, Lisbon, Zurich, et al) not to issue visas to any Jews.

Harry found this policy immoral and risking his own career, was determined to undermine it. So, defying Washington, he granted over 2500 USA visas to Jewish refugees and others including artists Marc Chagall, Max Ernst and the family of the writer Thomas Mann.

In addition he sheltered Jews in his own home in Marseilles at times and obtained forged identity papers to help Jews journey across Europe at times. Also he worked with the French underground to smuggle Jews out of France into Spain or across the Mediterranean and sometimes Harry even paid their expenses himself.

In 1941 Washington lost patience with Harry and moved him to Argentina, where he continued to annoy his superiors by reporting on the movements of Nazi war criminals. Eventually Harry was forced out of the American diplomatic service and retired.

Hiram Bingham died in 1988 almost penniless and almost unknown for his bravery. Little was known of his extraordinary activities until his son found some information among his belongings. Subsequently, Harry was honored by many including the UN, the State of Israel and former Secretary of State Colin Powell who presented him with a posthumous award for "constructive dissent".

For over 50 years the State Dept. resisted any attempt to honor Hiram Bingham. To them he was an insubordinate diplomat, a dangerous maverick who was eventually demoted. Now, after his death, Harry has officially been recognized as a hero and has been honored with a USA stamp in his name.

HOW TO PROMOTE MEMBERSHIP

By Sophie Ruderman, PNP/Chairman

The life blood of our organization is membership! Without members we cannot achieve the aims and goals of JWVA; why we are necessary and the purposes we serve. Our primary mission is to service the men and women in and out of uniform who protect our country and us.

To accomplish this objective we send packages to our Armed Forces around the world, some of which include manufacturer's coupons in an effort to help them shop wherever they are stationed. We request that school children write letters to remind our active servicemen and women that we, at home, appreciate and thank them for their service. In our local communities we venture into VA hospitals and homes because we remember what they did for us and assure them that they have not been forgotten; we visit and entertain them. At times we provide televisions and/or other equipment to help hospitalized vets while way the time.

In addition, our National Auxiliary annually celebrates new veteran mothers with a Baby Shower at our convention which provides them and their babies with infant necessities. We donate teddy bears and pajamas for distressed children.

One of our most rewarding programs is our Grant A Wish which provides a terminally ill veteran with their last wish – sometimes a gift for a family member or a last dinner with family at a local restaurant or a suit for burial. What could be more fulfilling than that?

We try to provide so much for them – but without you we cannot succeed. We need you, your friends and your commitment! As long as your friends and/or family members are related to a Jewish veteran they are eligible to join us!

THANK YOU

To all members of JWV and JWVA who called, sent cards and made donations in memory of my son, Marc, your kindness was greatly appreciated.

Charlene Ehrlich, PNP

NATIONAL MILITARY AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY MUSEUM

By Freda Rosenshein, PNP/Chairman

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History is very close to my heart. This is our legacy so our children and grandchildren will learn the history of Jewish American servicemen and women and their contributions to the freedoms we enjoy today.

There are many ways for you to contribute to the legacy of our Museum. Your participation in our Museum keeps us viable and visible.

• Our **Yahrzeit Program** allows us to show our grandchildren that their family served. No matter where you live you can visit this program on your computer at any time. Participation in this program is $250 and includes one picture of your loved one and a 250 word biography.

• The **Yahrzeit Candle Program** reminds you of your family's Yahrzeits; a donation of $18 is suggested for tzedakah.

• The **Pavers Program,** at the entrance to our Museum, called our Remembrance Walk, is filled with our lasting memories for all to see. Participation is $250 for a single brick paver or $500 a double sized brick paver.

• We respect our service members so much that we created our **Heroes Kiosk.** For $180, a photo of your veteran and a brass plaque with his or her name will be displayed in the kiosk.

• Our **Tree of Honor** still has a few remaining leaves available for inscription for just $100.

One of the most important ways to support your Museum is to become a member; even your Post, Auxiliary or Department can become a member. You do not have to be Jewish or a member of JWV/JWVA to become a member. Membership begins at $25 annually.

Become a participating member of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. We value your support.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

By Annette Rose, PDP/Chairman

If you have a few extra hours each week, please consider volunteering at one of the following:

♥ You can touch the lives of those in need at a local area hospital;

♥ Spread the word about FREE health fairs held in your neighborhood;

♥ Do you have a pet that loves to be handled? Check with Hospice to make your pet a certified visitor.

♥ Volunteer your time to homebound neighbors who are in need of transportation to medical appointments or the supermarket. Help lift their spirits through your companionship.

The selfless act of volunteering is fulfilling and easier than most people think. When you choose to volunteer you not only make a choice about the kind of community you want to live in, you impact lives on a very real and personal level. Think of the comfort you are capable of providing to someone who needs it. Be there for them as you would have them be there for you.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

★ ★ AID TO ISRAEL ★ ★

By Gladys L. Simon, PNP/Chairman

In Israel earlier this month a Palestinian baby was in critical condition and was fighting for his life in a Tel Aviv hospital (Sheba Medical Center) after receiving a heart transplant from a Jewish child. The transplant, done in October, was unusual in that a Palestinian baby has received a heart transplant from a Jewish child.

The 1-year old Jewish child died from a chronic disease at Sheba Medical Center. The Palestinian baby had been sent by doctors from a Ramallah hospital to Sheba's Safra Children's Hospital on several previous occasions to treat and stabilize him. There is no such thing in the Palestinian Authority as an "organ donor or organ waiting list. While organ donor and waiting lists exist in Israel, there was no Israeli baby on the waiting list when the Palestinian baby was brought to Sheba Medical Center in very critical condition. By a twist of fate, a miracle, the Palestinian baby was able to receive the new heart from the Jewish child, whose parents had agreed a few hours earlier to donate the heart."

The Ladies Auxiliary has always found the Chaim Sheba Medical Center an oasis of peace, where healing is the priority and everyone, regardless of who they are is treated equally, with dignity and respect.

CHILD WELFARE

By PDP Louise Baraw, Chairman

We help our children when they are sick or in distress. What about their parents – how can we be of assistance to them?

Our NICU/PICU program, initiated by PNP Iris Goldwasser, was established to address this problem.

This project provides kits with the necessary toiletries for parents to utilize while their children are hospitalized and they remain at their bedsides.

We can assist and bring comfort to these families by purchasing these kits and donating them to your local children's hospital. They are available from our National Office; just contact Sharon Williams at 202-667-9061.

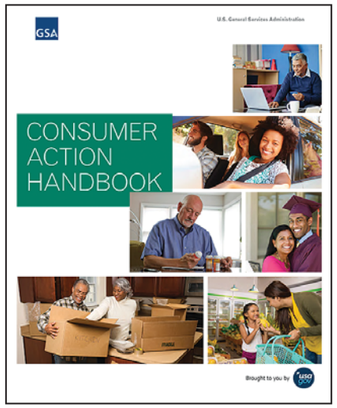
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

By Carole Goldberg, AP/Chairman

In researching the most useful tips for fraud awareness, I discovered a government issued publication online, the ***Consumer Action Handbook***, which is available FREE for the asking or downloading. Visit online www.USA.gov to access it.

The ***Consumer Action Handbook*** is a 152 page book jam packed with tips to use before shopping, to help prevent identity theft, to understand credit, to file a consumer complaint plus a sample complaint letter and so much more.

Additionally, the publication has a consumer assistance directory to help you find contact information for corporate offices, consumer organizations, trade groups, government agencies, state authorities and more.



VETERAN SERVICES

By Esther Rosenshein, Chairman

Volunteering on behalf of our veterans is not a new project for the Sisters of JWVA. We are all well aware of your efforts to provide information and aid to veterans, entertaining and visiting those veterans in hospitals and VA nursing homes.

We are always seeking new ideas with which to service our institutionalized veterans, to entertain them and to assure them that they have not been forgotten.

It has come to our attention through a friend and hospitalized veteran himself, that some comrades can and want to help others like themselves. This friend has requested reading materials such as books, comics, newspapers and/or magazines so he can entertain other comrades by reading to those unable to do so themselves. What a great idea – one hospitalized veteran spending his time to entertain another! This positive "can do" attitude is healthy for both!

So when you visit your local VA facility next time, bring with you some reading materials that might be of interest to these patients. Not only can you read to them but you can also leave newspapers and/or magazines, etc. for them to enjoy after you leave. Please remember all materials must be apolitical. Thank you so much for all you do for our veterans and their families.

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

This year, the staff of the Embassy of Israel to the United States have become some of our most frequent visitors. Embassy staff have visited on four separate occasions including visits from the Public Diplomacy staff and the Air Force Attaché. On Veterans Day, we had the largest visit yet led by Ambassador Ron Dermer. The Ambassador was accompanied by Deputy Head of Mission Benjamin Krasna and 20 staff from the Embassy. Representing JWV leadership were National Commander Barry J. Schneider, Coordinating Committee Chairman Norman Rosenshein and National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth.

When discussing the atmosphere in America during the period of the formation of the Hebrew Union Veterans Association in 1896, we often cite Mark Twain's essay "Concerning the Jews" which he wrote in 1898 including the infamous quote that Jews had an "unpatriotic disinclination to stand by the flag as a soldier." Of course, Twain later retracted that statement and praised the Civil War record of American Jews. In light of hearing this, Ambassador Dermer discussed Twain's 1867 trip to Palestine. Twain recorded his thoughts on the trip in the humorous travel guide The Innocents Abroad. That book made Twain's reputation as an American author. Taken together the two Twain documents written decades apart reveal a lot both about his world view and the world itself.

Along with discussing over 350 years of the history of Jews in the American military, we discussed the long history of interesting connections of American service members with Eretz Yisrael. This goes back to the Civil War. Jerusalem-born Isaac N. Cohen served from 1862 – 1865 with the 14th New Hampshire Infantry. He entered the Army from Kensington, New Hampshire where he worked as a cigar maker. In 1921, World War I hero Abraham Krotoshinsky moved to Palestine as part of the National Farm School program. He worked there on a farm, married and had children. In 1926, he and his family returned to New York. American World War II veterans including Mickey Marcus helped created the IDF in 1948. The connections continue to the present day.

The visit coincided with the end of Jewish Warrior Weekend, where we hosted Jewish cadets from service academies and ROTC programs. A group from the Air Force Academy had the opportunity to meet Ambassador Dermer. It was a pleasure to have the next generation of American Jewish officers represented.

Dermer and the entire staff showed great interest in our stories and promised to help spread the word about our museum. Following the controversial comments of last year from Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely, it's a huge privilege to have developed a good relationship with the embassy and hope that they continue to visit.

We've had some interesting programs at the museum in the past couple months including two speakers as part of our Alan S. Brown Scholar Series. Leah Garrett, Director of Jewish Studies at Hunter College spoke about her book Young Lions: How Jewish Authors Reinvented the American War Novel. In 1948, 5 books on the New York Times

Bestseller were war novels written by Jews and centered around Jewish soldiers. She showed how the ideas shown in these novels reflected American attitudes toward war, country and military service.

By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

A Touching Visit to the NMAJMH

We were honored to have George Berke, his wife, and grandchildren visit the Museum recently. While the Berke family knew that there were photos of George from his time in Korea and Vietnam in the Museum, they were surprised to see one of the photos featured prominently in our permanent exhibit. It was truly touching to see what the NMAJMH's recognition of our veterans' service means to those men and women and their families.

George Berse Berke was born in 1927 in Plainfield, New Jersey. He grew up as a "non-observant Jew" in a WASP neighborhood Westfield, New Jersey. Berke was a freshman in high school when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. As a high schooler he was a Sea Scout, learning semaphore and Morse code and patrolling the Raritan River.

He paid close attention to World War II—particularly the air war. May of his friends' older brothers were in the Army Air Force. He learned how to fly, receiving his pilot's license at sixteen with the plan to enlist in the Army Air Force after high school and become a fighter pilot. V-E Day happened shortly before he went to enlist, and he was told that there was not much need for pilots. He opted to join the Enlisted Reserve and shipped off to Fort Dix in July 1945.

He went to Keesler Field, Biloxi, Mississippi, for training and was in line to go to flight school when V-J Day happened. Suddenly there was no need for any more pilots, but there was a need for radio operators, so he was sent to Scott Field in Illinois. As service members began to return home, the Army opened a separation center at Scott Field with the aim of processing 350 people a day. Berke volunteered to be a medic but it did not turn out to be as glamorous as he'd hoped. He started off inspecting for venereal diseases and worked his way up to serology. He eventually became a qualified medical laboratory technician, a job he enjoyed for the most part.

Berke was discharged in December of 1946 and attended college on the GI Bill. He graduated from Rutgers University in 1951 with the hope of being a writer. Rather than focus on writing, though, the returned to the military and was commissioned as an officer in the Air Force. He received orders to Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio for flight school. While at Wright Patterson he met his future wife, Barbara. They were married in March of 1952, shortly before Berke received orders to attend basic flight training in Hondo, Texas. He received his wings in September of 1953, and in December of that year he headed to Korea.

In Korea, Berke was stationed in Taegu with the 58th Wing. He first flew an F-84G, and then later a F-86 Sabre. It was only a few months into the armistice and there were still a lot of incidents, and Berke recalls never being in a relaxed state while in Korea. After Korea, Berke opted to remain in the Air Force and pursue a career as a fighter-bomber pilot.

His first post-Korea assignment was with the 401st Fighter-Bomber Group at England AFB, Louisiana. He was in the 401st, flying the F-84F. While at England AFB he participated in Operation Sagebrush. Operation Sagebrush was a large training exercise that covered a substantial portion of Louisiana, and the focus was to evaluate the effectiveness of military operations in a nuclear environment. It involved 140,000 various troops; 110,000 were US Army and 30,000 US Air Force personnel. This exercise forced Berke and many others to see the reality of warfare in the nuclear age.

George Berke, now 91 years old, stands next to a photo of himself as a 27 year old fighter pilot in Korea in the NMAJMH's core exhibit.

After ferrying a plane over to Belgium, he put in a transfer to Europe, thinking that Europe was where the action would be. He was impressed by the caliber of the tactical fighter units there. His first NATO assignment was at the Royal Air Force Base in Manston, England. In 1956 the 92nd Squadron was on full alert for the Suez crisis. His introduction to life as a NATO nuclear strike pilot was when the squadron commander told Berke to call

1Lt George B. Berke in flight suit, 69th Fighter Bomber Sq., 58th Fighter Bomber Wing, K-2 (Taegu) Korea, June 1954.

his wife and tell her that he'd be sleeping in the hangar until the crisis was over. In 1958 Berke was transferred to RAF Bentwaters, where he began to fly the F-101A Voodoo.

In an abrupt change, Berke was assigned to the University of Wisconsin to earn a master's degree in English under the Air Force Institute of Technology program. He earned his degree in just one year and was assigned to the Air Force Academy as an English professor in 1961. He often felt like a fish out of water at the Academy, neither fitting in with the other professors nor with his fellow pilots as his professional career was an anomaly for a fighter pilot.

In 1966, he became chief of operations for the 81st Wing until 1968, when he was transferred to Vietnam. He was assigned to the 633rd Special Operations Wing at Pleiku in South Vietnam. While at Pleiku, Berke flew the C-47 military transport aircraft. This was "the lowest of the low" for a fighter pilot.

In October of 1968, Berke finally received the assignment that he had trained nearly his whole life for—a combat assignment in F-4 Phantoms at Da Nang. At Da Nang, Berke flew interdiction and close-air support missions with the 389th Tactical Fighter Squadron.

Berke left Vietnam in August of 1969 to serve as an operations officer at Andrews AFB, Maryland, and retired from the Air Force in 1970.

Attention Posts, Councils, and Departments!

Please send a copy of your Constitution & By-Laws to National Headquarters so that they can be included in our archives.

Please send them to:
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
Attn: Archives
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

JWV Remembers General Sidney Shachnow

By Anna Selman

On Friday, September 31st, the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV) lost a distinguished member, Major General Sidney Shachnow. Major General Sidney Shachnow is most known for his 40 years of service with the U.S. Army Special Forces which culminated in his position as commander of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command. General Shachnow served two tours in Vietnam and earned two Silver Stars and three Bronze Stars with V for Valor.

Gen. Shachnow's story would be an impressive tale based on his military service alone, but there is another story that makes his accomplishments all the more amazing. He was born and raised in Lithuania until he was 17. At ten years old, Shachnow escaped the notorious Kovno concentration camp in Nazi-occupied Lithuania. His father hid him and his younger brother with a Christian family just before the ghetto was cleared and the inhabitants sent to extermination camps. Through some miracle, both his parents survived as did the future General and his brother. He was impressed by American soldiers during the war, and he remembered them after he and his family were eventually admitted to the U.S.

In 1950, he immigrated to the United States, and he enlisted in the U.S. Army - later entering Officer Candidate School as a Sergeant First Class. In 1960, Gen. Shachnow was commissioned as an infantry officer. In 1962, as a young company commander, he applied to be a Green Beret, and he was promoted to Captain and served in the Special Forces for the next 32 years.

During the Cold War, he served as Commander of Det-A, Berlin Brigade, a clandestine unit of Green Beret commandos on high alert 24-hours a day. This covert unit was made up of selectively trained and language qualified members of Special Forces, as well as many Eastern European immigrants who brought much needed culture, geographical and language skills to the assignment. Their missions were classified - they dressed in civilian clothing made in East and West Germany and carried appropriate non-American documentation and identification. Many of its members later went on to help form Delta Force. Shachnow's status grew as Special Forces grew, rising to the rank of Major General, receiving both a masters and an honorary doctoral degree along the way.

General Sidney Shachnow

Shachnow returned to the United States in 1991 to take command of the Special Warfare Center. He retired in 1994 and published his best-selling biography Hope and Honor: A Memoir of a Soldier's Courage and Survival. In 1995, he first talked about his struggles with PTSD, and he continued to be an advocate for the treatment of PTSD the rest of his life.

After retiring, Gen. Shachnow served the board of advisers of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA) as well as on the Military Affairs Committee for the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV). He was the keynote speaker for the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. Foundation's Gala to Honor the Liberators of the Concentration Camps in World War II.

"JWV is deeply saddened by the passing of Gen. Shachnow. He was a very impressive man and his accomplishments were even greater. His contributions to our American military and to Jewish military history has majorly impacted the lives of Americans and Jewish Americans in ways that we cannot even know, and JWV is committed to preserving his accomplishments for generations to come. Our brother Gen. Shachnow will be sorely missed," said JWV National Commander Barry Schneider.

Shachnow is survived by his wife Arlene, four daughters and many grandchildren.

TAPS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE
Ashin, Jay L. - Post 686
Hancock, Keith C. - Post 100
Romer, Ben A. - Post 221
Saxon, Joseph S. - Post 100
Shachnow, Sidney - Post 100
Stein, Jack - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
Greenberg, Alfred - Post 385
Kay, Herbert J. - Post 603
Lenga, Stanley I. - Post 385
Levinson, Samuel - Post 385
Orland, Burton A. - Post 385

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT
Baer, Seymour - Post 45
Marcus, Melvin - Post 45
Nair, Howard - Post 45

DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Gillman, Gerald - Post 58
Neufeld, Ed - Post 381

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
Baratt, Seymour - Post 631
Epstein, Charles - Post 631
Gopman, Herbert L. - Post 698
Katz, L. Melvin - Post 778
Rosenfeld, David - Post 172

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
Broutman, Jerome - Post 407
Engelberg, Phillip - Post 407
Gass, David - Post 407
Margolin, Louis - Post 407
Rabin, Bernard - Post 153
Schwartz, Stanley - Post 328
Sherman, Allan - Post 407
Sloan, Raymond - Post 407

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST
Kunitz, Ronald B. - Post 644

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND
Hochhauser, Fred - Post 692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
Dropkin, Irving - Post 161
Gitberg, Gerald H. - Post 26
Kaminsky, Robert - Post 161
Keller, Laurie - Post 157
Siegal, Calvin - Post 735

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
Arnold, Daniel - Post 474
Brateman, Irving - Post 135
Eisenberg, Stanley L. - Post 135
Levy, Harry - Post 510
Rosenblatt, Gary R. - Post 510
Schram, Richard - Post 474

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
Fantle, Herbert - Post 162

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA
Blum, Sidney A. - Post 64
Miller, Sidney - Post 65
Nevins, Phillip A. - Post 64
Perlmutter, David - Post 21
Shaw, Gil - Post 65
Westerman, Samuel - Post 65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY
Bitman, Irving - Post 126
Center, Hyman - Post 133
Cohen, Edward - Post 133
Ettlinger, Harry - Post 740
Freiman, Arthur - Post 126
Kaplan, Edward - Post 133
Lichtman, Benjamin - Post 126
Miller, Sol - Post 651
Moldoff, Jack - Post 126
Schneier, Arthur I. - Post 133
Slutsky, Thelma - Post 126
Tucker, Hartley A. - Post 601
Warm, Samuel - Post 125
Weiss, Newton - Post 126

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
Adelman, Joseph - Post 105
Cooper, Martin - Post 764
Furman, Norman - Post 191
Gancz, Anton - Post 169
Gilbert, Gerald - Post 764
Gordon, Bennett - Post 250
Hecht, Marvin A. - Post 69
Nisman, Jerome - Post 50
Novick, Murray - Post 655
Pliskin, Roy L. - Post 764
Rapkin, Milton L. - Post 41
Schwartz, Ira S. - Post 336
Seidman, Elliot - Post 764
Shulman, Henry - Post 41

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO
Berman, Allen L. - Post 44
Sherwin, Sol - Post 44
Thall, Stanley Ira - Post 122

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
Budman, Edward - Post 575
Caplin, Jonas - Post 697
Feldman, William - Post 98
Forman, David - Post 575
Halpern, Louis - Post 706
Levin, Norman - Post 98
Rudman, Jerome - Post 98

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND
Bronstein, Milton H. - Post 23

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST
Adler, Harry - Post 210
Chernin, Homer - Post 210
Kazen, Dave R. - Post 210
Lichter, Isadore - Post 210
Merritt, Lester - Post 619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO
Cohen, Bernard - Post 256
Richmond, Lewis H. - Post 753
Rubinson, Seyman - Post 755

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
Snyder, Bertram - Post 299

We Regret the Error

We regret that Murray Runin was erroneously listed in Taps. We are delighted to confirm that he is still an active member of Post 651-NJ. and Post 191-NY.

2019

Allan & Sheila Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

PNC Lou & PDP Gloria Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

SFC Lillian Aronson, USA (Ret)
I'm grateful for reaching 101 years!

Chag Sameach
Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ

PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw

Eugene Baraw • Post 336

Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger
USF Austria/USASETAF Italy

Post 202 • Naples, Florida
Warm Greetings to All JWV Members

In Memory of PDP Adele Bilker

PNC Jerry & PNP Joanne Blum
Good Health & Happiness to All

PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749

PDC Jordan Crosby • Post 440
In memory of PDP Edith Crosby

PDC Elliott Donn & PAP Elissa Donn • CT
Best Wishes & Good Health to All

Diane & Marshall Duberstein

Greetings • Gerald Elkan

In Memory of Lorraine Engelmann
Loving wife, mother, grandmother

Greetings! Jerry Farris, PDC-PA

PA PDC 98 Donald Feldman
In Memory of my wife, Edith

In Memory of Carol C. Frank
In Memory of Fred Hiendrick

Jim Friedlander, PC • Post 99-ME
In memory of Mel Stone, Late QM/PPC

In Honor of all who have served!

In Memory of Lt. Jack S. Gardner
U.S. Marine Corps, 1952-54

David Goldberg, K.C.C.
In memory of Sam Goldberg

Sidney B. Goldberg, PDC • Post 510
Abe Cohen - Lehman Memorial

PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg

In Honor of PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg
In Memory of Leo & Anita Gilbert

PNC Edwin & PNP Iris Goldwasser
Honoring Veterans

Alan J. Gould Post 105
In Memory of Sam Gould, Post Cmdr.

PNC Sam & PNP Barbara Greenberg
Happy Holidays to All

Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321/69
National Adjutant • 2017-2018

PNP Petra C. & Jason A. Kaatz

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

Saluting the Veterans of Heritage Hills
Mazel Tov!

Jack Kent (Kantrovitz)
In Memory of wife Marilyn Shapiro Kent

Kalman (Kal) A. Leichtman
A WWII Proud Jewish American

MA PDC Stanley R. Light
In memory of Shirley Hersh, PPC Post 26

In Memory of Morty Kessler
Bell-Oak Post 648, Queens-NY

Eva Mangeim, WWII
Walkie Talkie Quality Control Inspector

Best Commander - George Marshal
Post 211, Newton-MA

PNC Sheldon & Judith Ohren
L'Chaim - To Life

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

Dr. Jack N. Porter • Post 211-MA
In memory of my dad, Irving Porter

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

PNP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein
Good Health & Happy Holidays

Stephen & Helen Sax

Harriet & Norman Schnitzer, PDC

In Memory of Ralph Leon Shear
Lubert/Shear Families - All 22 of us!

Irv Schildkraut • JWV Post 440
Proud Vet of USMC, USN, USA

NC Barry J. Schneider
Best Wishes to all JWV & JWVA members

PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

Good Health & Best Wishes to all Veterans and their Families

NP Linda Singer & Stuart Singer
In loving memory of PDC Bill Singer

PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129 NY

CH Murray Stadtmauer • Post 648
In loving memory of Clare Stadtmauer

Shalom & Mazel Tov to all Veterans
Greta & Jerry Stoliar • Post 346

The Tarnofsky Family
In memory of Len Klanit - Post 440

NC Paul and Norma Warner

NJA Harvey & Linda Weiner
Be Well!

In Memory of Joan & Louise Weinstein

Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute
www.msawi.org

Jeri Zweiman
In loving memory of PNC Robert Zweiman

David S. Zwerin, PDC
Post 652 • Merrick, NY

Send a greeting or message to family and friends in the next issue of The Jewish Veteran!

Name:_____

Address: _____

_____

Amount of payment: _____ Check ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Amex ☐

Card #:_____ Exp:____/____

1st line:_____

2nd line: _____
(no more than 30 characters per line)

2018-4

Only $30.00 per 1 line, or $50.00 for 2 lines, you can purchase a one year subscription which includes greetings for 4 issues! Names and greetings can be submitted anytime. Please fill out the form and send it along with your payment to:

Jewish War Veterans
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC-20009