



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Summer • 2012

Congratulations!



Sheldon Ohren Elected National Commander

At the 117th Annual National Convention, Sheldon Ohren was elected the National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans.

NC Ohren is a longtime member of JWV and has previously served as the Commander of the Department of New York and Special Assistant to the President of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

In addition to these positions, he serves as Vice-Chairman of the West Point Liaison Committee and attends Oneg Shabbats sponsored by JWV at the Academy – passing on the tradition of Jewish American service to the next generation.

For more highlights from the 117th Annual National Convention, please turn to page 7.

General Robert Magnus Addresses the 117th Annual National Convention

“I want to thank each and every one of you Americans, who also happen to be Jewish, who also happen to have served their country...you have represented the footsteps in the sand that the young men and women who also happen to be American, who also happen to be Jewish, will choose to follow today and in the future.”

The Jewish War Veterans was honored to have General Robert Magnus, USMC (ret) as the keynote speaker at the Grand Opening of the 117th Annual National Convention in Norfolk, VA. A longtime member of JWV, Magnus served as the 30th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps from 2005-2008.

After thanking the men and women in the room for their service, Magnus went on to mention the importance of having a volun-

teer military where people have the honor of being allowed to serve. As he looked over the audience of members from both the Jewish War Veterans and the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary, Magnus mentioned how the service of Jewish American veterans has made it possible for future generations of Jews to serve in the nation's armed services.

To illustrate the opportunities afforded to Jews who have served, Magnus told the story of



Lou Lenart an immigrant from Hungary who joined the Marine Corps to fight the Nazis in 1940. After WWII, Lenart joined the effort to smuggle war supplies into pre-state Israel. In May 1948,

Continued on page 9

Admiral Gretchen Herbert Discusses Navy Cyber Forces at the National Convention



The delegates of the National Convention were privileged to hear from Rear Admiral Gretchen Herbert, Deputy Chief of Staff (N6), US Fleet Forces Command Commander, Navy Cyber Forces.

During her speech, Herbert addressed Navy Cyber Forces, the future of the Navy, women in the military, and military sexual trauma.

Herbert translated the Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jonathan Greenert's Sailing Directions (warfighting first, op-

erating forward, and be ready) into concrete examples of how the Navy is prepared to be successful in a changing world. In particular, she emphasized the importance of her Command, Navy Cyber Forces, in protecting American interests.

As she noted, 95 percent of all Internet and communication transit occurs via the ocean through submarine communications cable. Only 5 percent is conducted through satellite and wireless links.

Continued on page 9

Upcoming JWV Teleconferences

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

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

Wed. Oct. 24 Energizing Membership through Planning and Involvement

Wed. Nov. 14 Finding and Recruiting New Members

2013 Schedule

Wed. Jan. 9 NEC Plans and Preparations

Wed. Mar. 6 Responsibility of Post Officers

Wed. Apr. 10 Helping Our Museum

Wed. May 8 What is New with Information Technology?

Wed. June 19 Volunteering to Help Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families

Tues. July 2 Preparing for the National Convention

Wed. Aug. 28 Reviewing the National Convention

Wed. Oct. 23 Preparing for Veterans Week

Wed. Nov. 20 Growing JWV Membership

Correction:

Senior-Vice Commander Steve Seiden was incorrectly identified as Ed Kranson, Commander of the Department of Nevada in the Piece "Mission Impossible Becomes Mission Accomplished." We apologize for the error.



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JWV Online Forum: jwvusa.ning.com



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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Look for this link on the JWV homepage



or call Pat Ennis at: (703) 753-3733
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Congratulations to National Commander Ohren

Dear Mr. Ohren,

I just wanted to take a moment to congratulate you on your election as the new National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. Jewish American men and women have a long tradition of patriotic military service to this country. From the 550,000 who served in World War II, to the tens of thousands who serve to this day, these dedicated warriors have never failed to answer the call to duty, repeatedly demonstrating their bravery, dedication and willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom.

On behalf of the United States Army Warrant Officers Association, I wish you the best of health and success in your important new role. May G-d Bless you and all of your members, as you prepare for your 27th Annual Mission to Israel in February of next year!

Very Truly Yours,

Jack Du Tell

Executive Director, United States Army Warrant Officers Association

Col. Zane E. Finkelstein

The article about Col. Zane E. Finkelstein, who was the Army Legal Advisor and Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1971-1975), was very interesting. In January 1975, I received a letter from Col. Finkelstein, which was in response to a letter that I sent to General George Brown, who was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in 1974.

General Brown had made some very uncomplimentary and untrue remarks pertaining to American Jews at Duke University in Oct. 1974. The Jewish War Veterans were incensed, and as a result, the JWV publicly expressed its concern about General Brown's remarks on television, referring to his remarks as "unbelievable anti-Semitism." Col. Finkelstein's letter stated that "Gen. Brown appreciates my concern, and he meant no affront." President Ford later reprimanded General Brown.

Nathaniel H. Goldman

Post 122 OH

The Liberation of Luxembourg

I was completely surprised to see an entire page devoted to Luxembourg where I was born in 1928. My young life was good until May 10, 1940 when the Nazis occupied the country. The Nazi laws were thrust upon the Jews and in December 1940 we were told: pick France or Belgium since Luxembourg was to become

"Judenrein." My parents decided on Belgium which turned out for us the better choice. There were many days of torment but a Catholic family in Bruxelles saved us by keeping us in their apartment and we survived. The description is just the tip of the iceberg. What follows is equally astonishing. It took us three months to return to Luxembourg since there were two zones: British and American. We arrived back in Luxembourg toward the end of November 1944, just three weeks before the Battle of the Bulge. The Jewish Chaplain kept a Jeep available for us in case the Nazis would break through the American lines. The GI's held and this threat as well ended in our favor.

Here is another Tidbit: my father who had been a master tailor learned through the Chaplain that white covers were needed for the troops in the front lines. My parents were working day and night (practically) for almost four weeks; the Chaplain had "provided" the sewing machines since all of our belongings were gone.

We left Luxembourg in 1950 and arrived in New York – legally – to begin a new life.

I registered for the draft (and after basic and crypto classes) I was on my way to Inchon via Yokohama. I stayed 16 months on part of a peninsula called Kangwah (N.W. of Inchon at the Han River). Few Americans know that Kangwah was occupied by US Marines in 1878 as a result of some dispute with the then Prince of the peninsula.

I did not return unscathed. Once back home I tried to resume a normal life, which in some ways I succeeded since I now have a great-granddaughter despite the Nazis wanting to eliminate the Jews.

Coming back to my story re Luxembourg, of course almost every American citizen is familiar with the Battle of the Bulge, but I wonder how many knew that General Patton for a short period had his HQ in Luxembourg. Nor is it known that the "Ghost Army" had its HQ also in Luxembourg but for a longer period of time. PBS will show the "Ghost Army" film next year. Everyone should watch this presentation since this "army" was responsible in FOOLING the Nazis for many months starting a month or so BEFORE D-Day and continued till after spring 1945.

Paul Tenenbaum

Post 400 FL

Thank You

Dear Jewish War Veterans,

My name is cadet Ariel Hane, and I am a first-year cadet in the West Lincoln High School "Rebel Navy" JROTC. I want to express my

sincere thanks to you for selecting me for your JROTC award. Receiving your award means a great deal to me as a cadet, and I will strive to better myself and my unit next year. It was an honor and a surprise to hear my name called, and I cannot wait to wear my award on my uniform in the future.

Thank you for recognizing my hard work and accomplishments. Your support of our unit is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Cadet Ariel Hane
Lincolnton, NC*

1Lt Schulte

Good Morning!

Today I had the honor of running in the Fisher House Foundation charity run on Ford Island/Pearl Harbor in remembrance of all the fallen heroes since 9/11. The streets were lined with boots for miles, each representing one of the over 6,500 heroes who had passed. I had the privilege to serve with 1Lt Schulte while in Afghanistan, and I was there when she gave the ultimate sacrifice. She was the convoy commander on a humanitarian mission we were both participating in to give toys to kids and food to families at a refugee camp just one week prior to her passing—which just goes to show she wasn't just a great soldier, but also a great person.

Today on the run I found her boot, and I just wanted to let your organization know that I appreciate you keeping her memory alive, and that there are many out there who will do the same.

Here's a toast...

Best wishes,

*Major Dax Presuto
Honolulu, HI*



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Sheldon Ohren

On August 11, 2012, I was elected National Commander at the 117th Annual National Convention of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

I am thankful to all the convention delegates for giving me an opportunity to serve as your National Commander for this year. I pledge to you that I will represent you, the Jewish War Veterans, in fulfilling our mission to fight anti-Semitism and spreading the message that Jews fought and died for our great nation. In addition, it is our solemn obligation to help our veterans, especially those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today, in my view, there is a “disconnect” between the military and civilian populations. A very small percentage of the population serves in the armed forces. There is no draft as there was when many of us served. Today’s military is a volunteer force. Many of the people who now serve go through many deployments and much of the population outside of the military has no understanding of what this means to our service-

members and their families. Let us then end this “disconnect” and “reconnect” with these veterans, help them find employment, and take advantage of their G.I. Bill benefits. But, above all, we have to be there at the VA hospitals to help them get the care they are entitled to and deserve.

We are all aware that the coming year presents many challenges to our organization. The dwindling pool of veterans to recruit and the poor economy make it difficult to maintain our current level of activities. At our convention, an ambitious plan was passed to help us get back on our financial feet. This plan, The JWV Veteran’s Week Fundraiser, will be outlined at your local meetings. Information about the program is also available on our website at www.jwv.org. Let us give this program our whole hearted support and make sure that it succeeds. I am more than confident that we will meet these challenges.

As you plan your events for November, I hope that you’ll reflect on why we commemorate Veterans Day. This is a time when we pause to salute the service and remember the sacrifice

of those who have protected and defended our nation.

The men and women of our Armed Forces have pledged themselves to preserve the strength and assure the survival of our nation. Let us remember their legacy in our public places where we gather to celebrate and speak openly, and in our places of worship, where we pray freely and in our own way.

As we honor our living veterans we acknowledge their courage and sacrifice in war and their accomplishments in peace.

In conclusion, I pledge to do whatever is in my power to make the members of the Jewish War Veterans proud. During my time as National Commander, I will continue to position our organization as a leader in the defense of veterans and their rights. I am looking forward to working with all of you in the coming year.



NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



I am writing this column on September 11, 2012. Eleven years ago this morning, the Twin Towers were destroyed and the Pentagon was attacked. Only extraordinary heroism by a number of passengers prevented another airliner from probably crashing into Washington, DC.

This morning, it seems as if that day was only yesterday as the images are still so vivid in my mind. That morning set in motion a chain of events that came to be known as the Global War on Terror. That morning also almost ended the life of our own PNC Paul Bernstein, who worked in one of the Twin Towers.

Since then our servicemen and women have carried the burden of protecting all Americans from attack and have endured multiple deployments away from home, family, and friends.

We are at a critical point in our nation’s history. This country faces unprecedented deficits, an enormously high debt, and high unemployment. But in finding solutions to these problems, the

Congress must not look to funding cutbacks for military personnel and veterans as the answer.

Our military personnel need funding for equipment and support in combat. And when they return home from the battlefield as veterans, they need healthcare and benefits. This nation must not forget its veterans!

PTSD and suicides continue to plague veterans and active duty personnel at an alarming and unacceptable rate. With this in mind, I urge you to stay in contact with your members of Congress. JWV’s Capitol Hill Action Day(s) will be February 13 and 14, next year. Let’s keep reminding our Senators and Representatives that veterans need healthcare and benefits.

It is less than two months until Veterans Day, November 11, a day set aside for our nation to remember and honor our veterans. National Commander Sheldon Ohren will be on the dais for the ceremony honoring veterans at Arlington National Cemetery on that day. Following that

program, National Commander Ohren and his wife Judy will participate in the Veterans Day reception, hosted this year by The Retired Enlisted Association.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. Recently, my wife, Francie and I represented JWV at a Rosh Hashanah reception at the home of Israeli Ambassador and Mrs. Michael Oren. It was a wonderful event and a terrific way to begin the New Year! Some of the guests included Wolf Blitzer, Andrea Mitchell, Senator Joe Lieberman, Congressman Ted Deutch, Congresswoman Jane Harmon, and White House Chief of Staff Jack Lew. PNC Warren Dolny invited Jack Lew to our convention in Norfolk. He quickly expressed his disappointment in not being able to join us and requested that he be invited again to a JWV event. Ambassador Oren grew up in New Jersey as Michael Bornstein and later became an Israeli and changed his name to Michael Oren.



PROTECTING YOURSELF

In light of recent events in the world – both natural and man-made – I urge you to review your family’s preparedness plan. By being aware of the risks from natural hazards, you can protect yourself and your family. Familiarize yourself with the hazards that befall your area. Learn whether or not hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, wildfires, or tornadoes are likely to affect your community. Below are lists of items to consider in creating your protection scheme:

Protect Your Property from Earthquakes

- Secure your refrigerator, water heater, furnace, and gas appliances by strapping them to the wall studs and bolting to the floor.
- Anchor and brace propane tanks and gas cylinders and use flexible connections on gas and water lines (by contractor only).
- Anchor tall bookcases and file cabinets. Mount framed pictures and mirrors securely.
- Bolt sill plates to foundation (by contractor only).
- After an earthquake event, check your home for structural damage and be sure to turn off the main gas valve.

Protect Your Property from Hurricanes

- Consider installing protective shutters for windows and doors.
- Remove potential windborne missiles such as outdoor furniture, garbage cans, decorations, etc.
- Fill a clean bathtub and sink to store emergency drinking water.
- If you remain in your home during a hurricane, go to an interior room, away from windows.
- Stay out of your basement in case of flooding.

Caution: Carbon Monoxide Kills

- Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace, or any partially enclosed area.
- Locate unit away from doors, windows, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.

Protect Your Property from Fire

- Teach each family member how to use a fire extinguisher (ABC type) and show them where it’s kept.
- Use fire-resistant or noncombustible materials on the roof and exterior structure of the dwelling.
- Plant fire resistant shrubs and trees that will contain fire and not fuel it.
- Regularly clean roof and gutters.
- Keep a ladder that will reach the roof.
- Consider installing protective shutters or heavy fire-resistant drapes.
- Keep handy household items that can be used as fire tools: a rake, axe, handsaw or chain saw, bucket, and shovel.

Plan Your Water Needs

- Identify and maintain an adequate outside water source such as a small pond, cistern, well, swimming pool, or hydrant.
- Have a garden hose that is long enough to reach any area of the home and other structures on the property.

Protect Your Property from Flooding

- Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel in your home if you live in an area that has a high flood risk.
- Anchor propane tanks and gas cylinders.
- Consider installing “check valves” to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Replace building material with flood damage resistant materials (by contractor).

The Following are Important Points to Remember when Driving

in Flood Conditions

- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling. A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Do not attempt to drive through a flooded road. The depth of water is not always obvious. The road bed may be washed out under the water, and you could be stranded or trapped.
- Be especially cautious driving at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

Make a disaster kit of the following:

- Three-day supply of water (1 gallon per person, per day).
- Three-day supply of nonperishable food and a manual can opener if kit contains canned food.
- Battery powered or hand cranked radio.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit.
- Whistle to signal for help (these saved lives during 9/11).
- Dust mask to filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation. Also diapers and feminine supplies.
- Prescription medications and glasses.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilites.
- Fill your car with gas at first warning of an emergency, and have an extra set of car keys just in case.
- Cash and coins (ATMs might be down due to lack of electricity).
- Cell phones and car chargers.
- Copies of important documents (identification, insurance policies, bank records, and credit cards).

Don't be a hero, evacuate if authorities say to evacuate. It is not worth risking your life and your family's life.

Plan in advance to have essentials ready in the event of an emergency. During an emergency, you will not have the opportunity to shop or search for supplies.

Learn More on How to Prepare

What to do before, during, and after an emergency:
<http://www.ready.gov/>

Get involved-find opportunities to support your community’s preparedness: <http://www.preparemybusiness.org/>

EDEN-Reducing the impact of disaster through education:
<http://eden.lsu.edu/Pages/default.aspx>

Check list to help you prepare:
http://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/FamEmePlan_2012.pdf



Islamophobia - High Anxiety?

We must respect those of any faith whose religious beliefs may be different from each of us – it is pluralism, not surrender that must be the goal. We must not be required to apologize nor grovel for the actions or statements of some others who may have offended the rites or values of any faith. We must not irrationally have to fear that an offense, no matter how slight, will result in an outpouring of controlled non-manageable protestors. We must not be required to tolerate violence without meeting violence with violence, or without meeting nuclear with nuclear (it worked in Europe for 40 years – M.A.D. isn't it?). No one should have to surrender their faith and have to assume and fully supplant it with the faith of the usurper.

The Arab Spring has flowered with the supreme blossoms of anti-Americanism resulting in the death of an American Ambassador and three other Americans. The Arab Intifada deceitfully started with the immediate utilization of an Internet video showing disrespect of the Prophet Muhammad. The producers initially falsely said that the video was financed and produced by Jews. The video was actually created, and admittedly so, by Coptic Christians. This lie never changed in the streets where mobs of incensed protestors raged against America, Israel, and Western culture. We sit and await possible (or is it probable?) further developments.

So, what is to be their next step in the expansion of the full scope of a “popular” takeover in the name of “religion”? Is the politicalization one of fantasy or reality? I know of few other situations (other than conquest, coupe d'etat, fraudulent elections or the like) where anxiety overtakes the minds of people making them willfully compliant with the religious dictates of another culture. Although, never before has there been a means of direct person to person communication comparable to social media. It is comprehensive transmission of mind control. We don't seem to be able to harness it to its global utilization as our political and intelligence weapon.

Strange, isn't it, that the mob protests expanded unrestrained to over 20 Muslim areas such as Libya, Egypt, Iran, Yemen, Gaza, Indonesia, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, etc. attacking US embassies and burning US flags. The unified domination makes the surge of the mob movement monolithic. The dynamics intensified, not unlike the Arab Spring, leading an enraged populous around like sheep. The challenge is that it was and can be accomplished with such ease and unthinking – a hell of a response to a video or even

to a cartoon. How simple hate can be relayed when preconditioned minds are put into action by an automated disciplined directives.

The entire process appears to be too preconceived as an approach to battle. The Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu wrote that war was the child of deception. We are now seeing a most sophisticated form of deception. It places the act of a single affront to religious convictions putting all others in fear of a more venomous flare-up. Saladin and his empire look to return and live again.

Our usual erroneous moral response is that all of us should act as brothers and sisters – brotherhood. This immutable mixture of religion, culture, fundamentalism, discipline, ordinary people etc. etc. makes us capitulate to a guilt trip by bending over backwards to become accustomed to the automatic tolerance of the guided missile of hate and bigotry.

The “friendly” government of Iraq did not attempt to restrain an attack on our embassy by protestors. We must wake up and bring an end to the false impression of democratic nation building and realize that all we are doing is creating anti-American competitors who have learned to play on our weaknesses. The rivals will, either alone or in combination with other like-minded nations, seek to move to super-nation status. At some defined point, competitors may or will pursue the character of a noteworthy take over. They all have the same religion and all have the same subservience, which they can turn on and off with little drawback. It is more inclusive and requires a sophisticated counterattack by the West. If we do it in political campaigns with effect, why can't we do it in the world?

The screwed up Middle East theater has also generated the concern of a unilateral attack by Israel on Iranian nuclear facilities. Will they or won't they? It's my recollection that the bombing of the nuclear facilities in Iraq and Syria and the cyber attack in Iran were all consummated without a prior public relations foray by whoever may have attacked those facilities.

Now we come to a nuclear Iran and the public relations campaign which smacks of a poorly written melodrama about the world in jeopardy (not the game show, but lives). The egocentricity of Netanyahu (PM) calls upon the international community to set “red lines” that once crossed by Iran would result in military action being deployed. The PM says “international community” when really he means only the United States. Where did everyone else go?

“Red lines” are meaningless unless they result in automatic triggers prompting immediate military action. I learned that in a disagreement with the former US Ambassador to NATO Victoria Nuland with my article for withdrawal of substantial forces from Europe as to the red lines with the USSR. Neither she nor her staff was able to explain truly defined red lines. So, otherwise all of the lines trigger further discussion where there is no specificity as to the line or the happening of some specific act (you probably heard of Pearl Harbor).

The PM has played this during an election campaign where his former co-worker is running for president. He does Israel a disservice with no definite gain for Israeli security. The PM's public relations campaign also seeks to euchre the United States into a military foray against Iran without obtaining prior commitments from other international allies (forget about our “moderate” Arab allies) to prevent a nuclear Middle East.

Thus, until the international community gets its act together, we must continue and intensify our economic and weapons sanctions and all other diplomatic procedures against Iran. The US should not invade, but must follow and destroy training camps, production, and storage of weapons and other facilities of the terrorists (including supportive nations) no matter where they may be located or how secure they appear to be. Claims of sovereignty are no longer a reason for non-attack. We went after al-Qaeda and the Taliban in the land of our beloved friend Pakistan and we got Osama bin Laden.

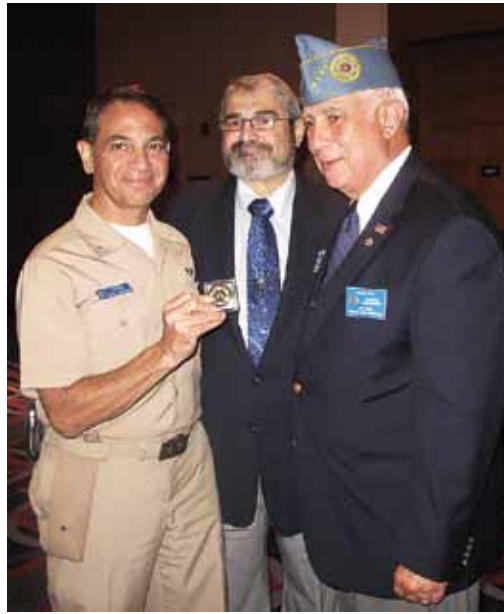
The terrorist understands automatic and targeted retaliation in response to their actions. There should be no constraints on the matter or manner of our retaliation and without compliance to misleading Geneva rules against those who do not recognize them and definitely without boots on the ground.

The United States should have learned from our Iraq and Afghanistan adventures that the conventional form of war has been severely modified and supplemented by technology, limited incursions, and cyber warfare, etc. No unilateral or bilateral invasions can be accomplished without loss of lives nor should they be considered. While we cannot leave the Middle East, we must not allow it to control us, nor must we allow ourselves to be its police force or protectors.

117th Annual National Convention Highlights



JWV members salute during a wreath-laying ceremony at The Homecoming statue in Norfolk's Town Point Park on August 8, 2012. Photo by Bill Tiernan, Staff Photographer, The Virginian-Pilot.



PNC Falk presents Admiral Shelanski with a special JWV coin to thank him for bringing greetings from the fleet. Left to right: Admiral Herman Shelanski, Museum President Norman Rosenshein, and PNC Allen Falk.



PDC Michael Corbett leads an engaging discussion on using the Internet to fundraise for JWV and the museum. During this year's Convention, there were several workshops designed to teach useful skills for members to bring back to their Posts and Departments.



JWV members tour the USS Wasp (LHD 1), a multipurpose amphibious assault ship.



National Chaplain Admiral Harold Robinson and Command Chaplain Christopher Merris at the National Commander's Banquet.



David Dinour of Aviatours covers the highlights of JWV's annual Mission to Israel. Additional information about the Mission is available on the last page of *The Jewish Veteran*.



PNC Allen Falk thanks Kevin Secor, Veterans Service Organizations Liaison for the Department of Veterans Affairs, for bringing greetings from the Honorable Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.



PNC Allen Falk pins the National Commander pin on newly sworn in NC Sheldon Ohren. Left to right: Judy Ohren, PNC Lawrence Schulman, NC Sheldon Ohren, and PNC Allen Falk.



PNC Norman Rosenshein, President of NMAJMH, and Nikki Salzman, National Programs and Public Relations Coordinator, answer questions during the Social Media Workshop where participants learned how to use social media for their Post, Department, or Echelon. Video of this presentation is available online at www.jwv.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S JWV AWARD WINNERS!

The National Awards recognize the work done throughout the year to benefit our nation's veterans. Every year the achievements of echelons throughout the country are recognized at the National level through the presentation of these Awards. Winners and runners-up are announced at the National Convention and presented with certificates of achievement by the National Commander.

To learn more about the National Awards Program, visit: http://www.jwv.org/programs/service/awards/national_awards.

DEPARTMENT

Feureisen Award - Doing the Most for Hospitalized Veterans

Department of Massachusetts

Joseph Demiany Memorial Award - Advancing Scouting

Department of New Jersey

Wolfson Award - Outstanding Record in Community Relations

Department of Massachusetts



DC Nelson Mellitz accepts the Joseph Demiany Memorial Award, the National Commander's Award, and the National Headquarters Award on behalf of the Department of NJ.

National Commander's Award - Performing Outstanding Service

Department of New York

Edward D. Blatt Award - Outstanding Department Commander

Department of Massachusetts

Blood Donor Program Award

Department of Southeast

COUNCIL

I. T. Rockman Award - Doing the Most for Hospitalized Veterans

Nassau-Suffolk District Council - NY

POST

Ben Kaufman Award - Doing the Most for Hospitalized Veterans

Post 256 - TX

National Headquarters Award - Outstanding Record in Community Relations

Post 126 - NJ

National Commander's Award - Performing Outstanding Service

Post 126 - NJ

Brotherhood Award

Post 1 - NY

Brenner-Jaffee Memorial Award - Outstanding Post Bulletin/Newsletter

Post 194 - AZ

ECHELON

Vietnam Veterans Award

Post 1 - NY

Post Membership Increase Award

Category 1: 4-99 Members • Post 474 - MI

Category 2: 100-174 • Post 717 - NY

INDIVIDUAL • Murray L. Rosen Award

Alan Cornblatt - NJ



NJA Alan Cornblatt, right, receives the Murray L. Rosen Award.



PC Al Garment accepts the Ben Kaufman Award on behalf of Post 256 of TX.



DC Joseph Kraut accepts the Blood Donor Award on behalf of the Department of the Southeast.



PC Lewis Wonderlich accepts the I. T. Rockman Award on behalf of the Nassau-Suffolk District Council of NY.



PDC Gerald Order accepts the Post Membership Increase Award on behalf of Post 474 of MI.



DC Gerald Alperstein accepts the Vietnam Veterans Award and the Brotherhood Post Award on behalf of Post 1 of NY.



PDC David Zwerin accepts the National Commander's Award on behalf of the Department of NY.



DC Jacob Romo accepts the Feureisen Award, the Wolfson Award, and the Edward D. Blatt Award on behalf of the Department of MA.



Herb Simon accepts the Post Membership Increase Award on behalf of Post 717 of NY.



Dear Comrades:
On behalf of the National Ladies Auxiliary, I congratulate Shelly Ohren and all the newly elected officers of the Jewish War Veterans. As I travel around

the country, I will spread the word of our organization and light the way for future members.

It will be an exciting and fruitful year for both Shelly and myself. The endeavor of supporting our veterans and their families, as always, will be our number one priority.

Let us rededicate ourselves to motivation, service, and achievement. With togetherness, we will acquire success.

Loyally,

Arlene Lodgen, National President



JWV Announces National Youth Achievement Program Recipients

The JWV National Youth Achievement Program Committee selected three recipients from among the outstanding group of applicants for academic year 2011-2012.

All applicants must be direct descendants of JWV members in good standing, in the top 25 percent of their class, and involved in extracurricular and community activities. After difficult deliberations, the committee selected the following:

\$1,250 Robert and Rebecca Rubin Memorial Grant

Ethan Fried of Englewood, NJ

\$1,000 Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant

Marion Hirshberg of Elkins Park, PA

\$750 Louis S. Silvey Grant

Isaac Gillet of Manasquan, NJ

We congratulate the recipients and wish them continued academic success as they begin their college careers.

Information on how to apply for the National Youth Achievement Program for academic year 2012-2013 is available on our website: www.jwv.org.

JWV Announces 2011-2012 Olympiad Award Winners

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA is proud to present the Olympiad Award in memory of the Israeli athletes murdered at the Munich Olympics in 1972 to three worthy high school seniors.

All student athletes, whether or not they have ties to the Jewish community, were eligible for this award. This year, the Olympiad Committee selected the following recipients:

\$1,000 First Place Award

Lauren Hintenlang of Archer, FL

\$300 Second Place Award

Adrian Samsel of Whippany, NJ

\$200 Third Place Award

Shannon McCarthy of Fair Haven, NJ

The achievements of these student athletes greatly impressed the committee, and JWV wishes them the best as they begin their college careers.

General Robert Magnus

Continued from page 1

Lenart led Israel's first aerial assault, surprising Egyptian troops which had been assured Israel did not have an air force.

Magnus told Lenart's story to illustrate his greater point that "In every generation, we have had, and we will continue to have...Jews who will stand up and set the example, whether they are leaders or followers, and literally put it all on the line, not only their careers, but their very lives."

As Magnus noted in his speech, Jewish men

and women are continuing to make the choice to serve; following in a tradition passed down from their fellow Jews.

During a 39-year career in the Marine Corps, Magnus served in numerous and significant operational and command assignments. His staff assignments tours with Marine Aircraft Groups 26 and 29; Headquarters Marine Corps as Aviation Training Devices and Assault Medium Lift /JVX Requirements Officer from 1980-1984; the Joint Staff as a staff officer and then

Chief, Logistics Readiness Center from 1989-91; Executive Assistant to the Director, Joint Staff from 1991-1993; Headquarters Marine Corps as Head, Aviation Plans, Policies, and Budget Branch from 1993-1994 and then as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation from 1995-1997; Headquarters Marine Corps as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Policies and Operations from 2000-2001, then as Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources from 2001-2005. General Magnus retired in 2008.

Admiral Gretchen Herbert

Continued from page 1

In addition, 90 percent of international trade is conducted by means of the ocean. Ensuring the safety of these sea lines also safeguards the economic sovereignty of the United States.

Navy Cyber Forces is responsible for manning, training, and equipping ships, subs, aircrafts, and source stations with forces that can operate, defend, and, in some cases, attack in the cyber domain. Herbert anticipates a growth in the demand for these services over the next four years.

According to Herbert, there is no guarantee that the networks will be 100 percent safe from attack; however, a multilayered defense is in

place to make the Navy's networks as impervious as possible.

Herbert touched very briefly on how WikiLeaks led to the development of new measures to protect from internal threats, causing the Navy to realize it was not taking full advantage of all possible defense capabilities. In response, there are new measures in place which include monitoring the amount of information being downloaded by workstations and disabling CD writing on most computers.

As a woman in the military, Herbert made sure to address the strides the Navy has made in this domain during her long career. She not-

ed the increasing opportunities for women and that nearly every job opportunity, community, and rating is now open to women. According to Herbert, "we want our Navy to be a reflection of our national society and that's where we're moving to."

Herbert also commented on the issue of sexual assault in the military and the Navy's ongoing campaign against it. She highlighted the efforts being made to empower Sailors to intervene before an assault occurs.

As she stated: "Our society expects that folks who are serving, and have served, hold themselves to a higher ideal."



Post 105 New York Recalls 9/11

Photo courtesy of NY National Guard.

Lance Wang, Post Commander of Post 105 in Albany, NY, began his Post's calendar of speaker programs with a special commemoration of September 11, 2001 led by Col. Richard Goldenberg, a Post member and military veteran of the National Guard response in New York City.

Goldenberg, an officer with the New York Army National Guard, served in lower Manhattan as part of the Guard's support efforts to the New York City Office of Emergency Management. At its peak, more than 2,000 Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, and Marines from New York State's Military Forces served at ground zero, providing security, augmenting law enforcement at key transportation sites, managing logistics and donations, and serving as general purpose forces for New York.

"9/11 changed more than the skyline of New York City – the attacks changed a generation of Americans, our nation's military and our world," Goldenberg said.

One of the key contributions the National Guard made in those hours and days after 9/11,

Goldenberg said, was to lift New Yorkers and the nation's confidence and sense of security during a very stressful time of uncertainty.

In 2001, Goldenberg was a major serving in the National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters, based in Troy. He deployed to lower Manhattan on September 13, less than 48 hours after the towers collapsed, serving as the task force public affairs officer, providing information and imagery to news organizations, and supporting the mayor's press office.

Goldenberg described the scene at ground zero to his fellow war veterans as surreal, unlike any battlefield or disaster site imaginable. One Soldier had commented to him that the entire landscape was more out of Hollywood than reality.

The National Guard, he said, helped first responders and the local community through the difficult stage of rescue and recovery.

From offering hundreds of locally based Soldiers to the rescue efforts to assisting local residents from Battery Park City, the National Guard was seen at every street corner and police checkpoint, helping direct all of the volunteers and additional emergency assets arriving at the World Trade Center in the days and weeks after 9/11.

Like Pearl Harbor in 1941, most of the Jewish War Veterans understood the ways that the nation had changed following such a terrible attack on American soil. Unlike Pearl Harbor, Goldenberg said, the attacks of

September 11, 2001 were directed against civilians in New York City, people unaware of the danger from an enemy that refuses to distinguish between military targets and civilians.

"That day's destruction and devastation didn't condemn our country to a future of fear. No, this loss, as terrible as it was, could not break the soul of our nation. It made us stronger," he said.

The support to New York City from the National Guard has continued straight through today, with more than two hundred Soldiers and Airmen still on duty supporting security needs in New York City. Troops are often visible at airports and rail stations, Goldenberg said, since New York remains at such a high state of alert and readiness for other terror attacks.

"9/11 strengthened Americans with a new sense of patriotism and created a spirit of service in the hearts of a new generation that I only hope lasts much longer than the years it has taken to bring justice to those who planned, plotted and brought such violence to our friends and neighbors."

Goldenberg lives in Schuylerville, NY and is



Then a major, New York Army National Guard officer Richard Goldenberg speaks with first responders at ground zero on Sept. 13, 2001 following the terror attacks at the World Trade Center on 9/11. Photo courtesy of NY National Guard.



New York Army National Guard Soldiers Sgt. 1st Class John Brett and 2nd Lt. Monroe Mann discuss operations at ground zero as part of the thousands of responding National Guard troops in New York City following 9/11. Photo by Col. Richard Goldenberg.

a member of Temple Sinai in Saratoga Springs. He has been part of the Jewish War Veterans throughout his military career, spanning 24 years. He serves now as the Post Adjutant for Post 105 NY, previously serving two years as Post Commander following his redeployment from Iraq in 2006.

The Speaker Program has been one of Post 105 NY's signature programs for decades. This year, the Post plans to incorporate the stories of more of its members in order to ensure that their stories are told to the Post and the greater Albany community. On December 16, they will host two Post members who are veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. In the spring, they will hear from a young Jewish lieutenant who served at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba securing the detainees there.

They Fought for Our Home. Now Help Us Fight for Theirs!



On a single night in January 2011, 67,495 veterans were homeless in the United States. This is unacceptable: veterans who have honorably served our country should have a safe and secure place to call home.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) aims to end veteran homelessness by 2015. VA needs our help to meet this ambitious target. The Jewish War Veterans has joined VA

in its fight and is enlisting our members to support the cause.

Much is being done. VA has transformed its programs for veterans who are homeless and those who are at risk of homelessness—and their families as well. Veterans nationwide are eligible for comprehensive, coordinated access to health care, housing, employment, education, job counseling and training, and justice system assistance and benefits. Homeless veterans and those at risk of homelessness can gain access to VA services 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans hotline, toll-free, at 1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838).

Jeffrey Doyle, VA Network Homeless Coordinator, spoke at the National Convention in August and shared with JWV what can be accomplished by teaming with VA to end veteran homelessness. He offered the following information for reaching out to homeless veterans:

- Know the Facts. Any veteran may be at risk of homelessness due to poverty, lack of sup-

port from family and friends, and substance abuse or mental health issues. All veterans and their families have earned access to VA benefits, community-based supports, and other resources.

- Spread the Word. VA has specialized programs to assist homeless and at-risk veterans and operates the nation's largest network of homeless assistance programs. Make sure veterans know about this support and help them get the care they deserve.
- Make the Call. Trained responders are ready to talk confidentially by phone or online chat 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Veterans, family members, friends, and other supporters can call the hotline toll-free at 1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838) or visit www.va.gov/homeless.

We urge you to share this information with family, friends, and colleagues. Learn more by visiting va.gov/homeless. Make a difference. **Make the call.**

THE VETERANS AFFAIRS BACKLOG: PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS

By Jeremy Killion, JWV Volunteer

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has recently been faced with a firestorm of criticism for its failure to keep pace with the rapidly-increasing number of benefits claims being submitted. Despite a series of reforms leading to record-level claims processing in the past few years, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have caused the number of veterans dependent on VA care to skyrocket. At the same time, an entire generation of veterans from the Second World War through Korea and Vietnam are requiring more care from the organization as they age. These factors have all combined to create a backlog of over half a million cases that the VA has yet to process.

In response to this growing problem, Allen Falk, Past National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans, testified to Congress at a hearing last March, during which he gave his full support for the VA. Falk urged Congress to work with the organization, including allocating appropriate funds and technologies to help deal with the monumental task they face. This was echoed in another hearing on the VA backlog in July by Allison Hickey, the Undersecretary for Benefits at the VA.

Hickey pointed not only to the massive in-



flux of claims as the cause of the backlog, but also to inherent faults in the records processing system. Despite receiving record numbers of files, claims, and patient histories, the VA is still stuck using an antiquated processing system that relies entirely on paper records. Ideally, according to Hickey, all information would be received and stored electronically, allowing for quick and easy access whenever a claim was filed. As it currently stands, however, virtually none of the information received is electronic, forcing workers to dig through stack upon stack

of files to collect the necessary information. Although the Department is in the process of converting the system to an electronic format, progress has been relatively slow for a variety of reasons.

It is not enough, however, to just improve the records system for processing claims. Despite the fact that doing so would significantly cut down on waiting times for veterans, the backlog problem requires a multi-pronged approach, a fact that both Undersecretary Hickey and JWV have realized. Another “prong” that the Department needs to tackle is the level of training their workforce receives when processing veteran claims. Fortunately, steps have already been taken to implement reforms in this area, including the creation of quality review specialists at each regional office that have reduced the return rate for corrections by 20 percent in a few short months.

Despite the progress that has been made so far, the backlog of veteran's claims continues to grow every single day, and needs to be addressed immediately. This workload that the VA faces will take an enormous commitment to overcome – not just from the people processing the records on the ground, but from members of Congress as well.

Membership: Thinking Outside The Box

By Jules Golombik

Membership Chair, Post 631 FL

How do you get new members? How do you keep the members you have? Post 631 FL has been successful in answering both questions, and we would like to share our experiences with you.

We were losing members, and we also had the “every group is losing members, it can’t be done” comments. A flyer aimed at getting members was inserted in our community newspaper. The naysayers said it wouldn’t work, and they were right. Not only didn’t it work, it returned zero replies. So now what? It was time to think outside of the box!

Let us start with the second question first. How do you keep the members you have? If you have a handle on keeping your members, you stand a much better chance of getting new members.

Our monthly meetings started with a breakfast of bagels, cream cheese, and coffee. Good, but what did we hear from some of our members? “The Men’s Club also serves lox and orange juice.”

Thinking outside the box, we created what we call our “Mitzvah Breakfast.”

Each month, we offer a member the chance to host a breakfast in honor of a special event in their life. Would you believe that we get more than one request for the same month?

The host pays a fixed dollar amount for the breakfast. When we have more than one host, they each pay the same amount. This translates to a bigger, better spread, and it gives us extra dollars for the Post Treasury for use in our veteran programs.

The benefits: For the first half hour of our meeting, our members enjoy a good breakfast while seated with friends talking about the host’s Mitzvah, war stories, last evening’s social events, the good work of our VA Hospital volunteers, and camaraderie is established.

During the breakfast, 50-50 raffle tickets are sold. This helps the treasury, and it keeps members from leaving early since the winner is drawn at the end of the program.

Getting Post exposure in the community is an important part of our membership success:

We have run two Walk-A-Thons which benefit the Fisher House. Post Exposure!

Our Auxiliary runs casino bus trip fundraisers. Post Exposure!

For Flag Day, we run flag retirement programs where we gather old, torn flags for proper disposal. Post Exposure!

Post 631 FL is an active, interesting, important organization. This helps us keep members and gain new members. To encourage this, we

reward our members that have been with us for 5, 10, 15, or more years with longevity pins.

We recently had a member transfer to our Post. He had been a member for 50 years and never received any acknowledgement. The first thing we did was get him a 50 year pin. The smile on his face stretched from ear to ear.

Since we put these initiatives in operation, the only members we lose are due to age and health. To keep the Post viable, we need to replace these few members as well as add more. How do we do it?

Let’s go back to that flyer that produced zero results. Why? We told our story, but the question “what’s in it for me?” was not an-

Your membership in JWV tells the world that you have the back of those who have protected us.

swered. We questioned as many people as possible about the flyer and received the following responses: “Sounds like a good group but it’s not for me” “I’m not a joiner” “I don’t want to pay another set of dues” and on and on.

Although we are on the lookout for members all year, we hold two membership drives: pre-Memorial Day and pre-Veterans Day. We use the following process during our drive:

- 1) We review the community calendar for club events (social, tennis, men’s, etc) that take place during our membership drive period.
- 2) We request a short time to address the attendees.
- 3) We quickly mention JWV’s history.
- 4) We say: I’m sure you have heard of all the good things Post 631 does for our veterans, but that is not what we want to talk about.
- 5) We tell them: After WWII, there were 16,000,000 men and women available to join veteran’s groups. Because of our combined voices in the halls of Congress, bills were enacted. Today, we are losing these veterans at a rate that impacts the strength needed to get necessary benefits for those returning from Iraq, Afghanistan, and all

points around the globe. We must protect the rights and needs of those that have put their life on the line for us. Your membership in JWV tells the world that you have the back of those who have protected us.

- 6) We set a table up in the lobby with a Post member in attendance. There are two clip boards with requests for their information.

Through this process we receive the name and phone number of a potential member, which allows us to do a follow up. This ensures that we have a very good chance of getting them as a member.

What about those who do not join immediately? We hold a coffee at someone’s home and invite those on the list that we feel we can bring into the fold. If they have a significant other, we invite them along as well, usually four couples at a time. This arrangement works, since the spouse often “suggests” their significant other should join.

Our job is not complete. A new member needs to be welcomed if we wish for them to become an important part of our Post.

At their first meeting, we seat them with welcoming members, so they feel at home. They are also formally greeted and introduced to the full membership during the business part of the meeting, and we issue them a new member pin.

The solutions to improving Post membership are many and varied. We must be ready to think outside of the box and embrace everything that works if we are serious about getting members and retaining them.

Post 352 Holds First Installation of Officers

The JWV is happy to announce the establishment of its newest Post, Judith A. Resnik Post 352 in The Villages, FL.

Post 352 held its first installation of officers on July 22, at which Commander Gerald Prezioso and the other Post officers were sworn in.

Department of Florida Commander Michael Weiss, Department officials, and members of Albert Aronovitz Post 373 were on hand to welcome the new Post to the JWV.

Online Fundraising: Don't Let the Computer Age Pass You By!

By PDC Michael Corbett, Post 819 FL

What a wondrous thing the computer is, almost everything we want to do can be done with it: calculations, communications, buying, selling, and even SHOUTING! One thing that is finding its way to the computer is fundraising.

Asking the public to support your cause via the Internet offers an opportunity to reduce expenses and appeal to a wider audience. Major causes like the fights against medical diseases, the building of memorial tributes, saving dolphins, and preserving open space have found their way online.

Given the advantages of online solicitations, it's no wonder we scheduled a fundraising presentation at the National Convention. While the attendees had an opportunity to learn about the effort to raise needed resources for JWV and NMAJMH, it is evident that Posts and Departments want this information for their own purposes to raise funds for local programming. The efforts of our Echelons are important to JWV, which is why we are sharing this information from the Convention with you.

Seeking monetary support from the general public is just as difficult as asking our own

members for a shekel or two. The difference is that we have a mutual understanding among our members and their families that money derived from our solicitations will be used for our activities to support veterans and operate our local programs. When we venture outside our comfort zone – to the wider public audience – we really have little idea what the results may be. Yes, it's a “shot in the dark!”

There are ways to encourage a complete stranger to dig deep into their pockets, but it requires research and preparation on the part of the organization doing the solicitation. Sure, you may put an advertisement on Google or send an email to every address in your directory. Unless the market you are targeting knows you – and knows you well enough to give you their hard-earned money – the results will be paltry, at best.

Those who attended the session at the Convention learned about relationship-building. When you solicit the public, you have to develop your potential sources. After all, few people will give to a cause with which they are not attached. That's the crux of relationship-building: to attach your cause to the people you are soliciting, so they will donate generously, again and again.

Until we get to the point where the mention of JWV elicits empathy, we have to spend time and energy telling the public who we are, what we do, what we have done in terms of our military service to America, and detail the programs their money will support. Building that relationship, no matter how much time it may take, is what will bring funds via the use of the Internet and make your Post, Department, our National organization, and NMAJMH successful.

Another tactic in fundraising is to reduce our audience to the lowest common factor. “Target marketing” allows us to bundle a group of potential donors to develop them for giving to the cause. After all, what may appeal to one may be a complete turn off to another. Addressing common issues in fundraising makes it easier to develop the market.

Whether you are soliciting for the local Little League or running for office, having a cadre of loyal donors you may depend upon for the long-haul will bring the funds we seek. In future issues, we will dig deeper into building relationships and target marketing. Meanwhile, gather your resources, build your list of email addresses, and prepare to solicit.

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JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Post 1 NY sponsored an Oneg Shabbat at the West Point Jewish Chapel to welcome the new Jewish Cadets on July 6, 2012. Left to right: Marshall Duberstein, Ralph Lawrence, Sy Foner, National Commander Sheldon Ohren, National West Point Liaison Lieutenant Colonel Walter Stern (Ret.), Edward Hochman, Gerard Petite, and National Holocaust Chair Bernhard Storch. Photo by Dept of NY Commander Jerry Alperstein.



Dr. Julian Haber presents copies of *They Were Soldiers In Peace and War*, Volumes I and II to Johnnie Drennan, Chairman of the Texas State Library at the Fort Worth Woman's Club, which recently purchased them from Post 755 TX. Dr. Haber is the author of the book and immediate past commander of Post 755. He interviewed more than fifty Jewish American veterans for each book from World War II through our current conflicts. The books are distributed free of charge to all Bar/Bat mitzvahs and conferees in Tarrant County, Texas. The books are available through NMAJMH and Post 755 for \$18.



Members of Post 51 in Middletown, CT have been serving danish and coffee once a month at the Newington Veterans Hospital for the past three years. Dept Commander Norman Hanenbaum plays a variety of songs on his keyboard during the breakfast. This music invites conversation between patients and JWV members. Left to right: Dept of CT Commander Hanenbaum, Post Member Bernard Slater, and Post Commander Morton Pear.



Senior-Vice Commander of the Dept of IL Dr. Jerry Field and LTC Robert Ruffolo, a representative of the DoD's 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Committee, at a commemoration event in spring 2012 in the suburbs of Chicago, IL.



Post members, guests, friends, and scouts of Boy Scout Troop 33 join for a group photo following the Post 105 NY Memorial Day ceremony held at the JCC on Sunday, May 20. The Post remembered fellow comrades who passed away this year and all of the fallen Jewish personnel killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Photo by Delaney Goldenberg.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



During PNC Allen Falk's visit to California in June 2012, members of the Dept of CA took him to a local VA Hospital to learn more about local JWV programs. Left to Right: Darin Selnick, Stephen Rosmarin, Mike Leibowitz, and PNC Allen Falk with a VA patient.



Nassau-Suffolk District Council presented a memorial wreath on June 21, 2012 at the traveling Vietnam wall at Calverton National Cemetery. Left to right: Anthony Tafuri, Sales Manager at Dignity Memorial; Commander of Post 336 NY David Stein; PDC David Zwerin, Commander of NSDC Lew Wunderlich, who is a member of the Calverton National Memorial Committee; DEC Gary Gluck; and Joseph Velotti, Assistant Sales Manager at Dignity Memorial.



JWV Members gathered in Culver City, CA for the Dept of California Annual Convention on June 23, 2012. Seated left: Bea Cohen, a WWII veteran and active JWV member at 102. Standing right: Viola Orloff, Post 603 CA, Commander of the Los Angeles District Council, and Dept of CA Adjutant.



Sgt. Fianna Sogomonyan of the US Army's 42nd Division stationed at Ft. Wardsworth, Staten Island, NY at Post 80 NY's weekly prayer service. Sgt. Sogomonyan is a cast member of the online TV program Bands of Brothers (<http://bandsofbrothers.org/>), which raises awareness about PTSD through music.



Caption: Post 44 OH Past Commander Donald Rothman left a bequest of \$5,000 in his will to establish a scholarship in his name. Shown is the first scholarship recipient, Larry Seifert, receiving his award of \$1,000 from Don's wife, PAP Bernice Rothman, son, Alan, and Post 44 Commander Larry Pollak. Larry Seifert is the grandson of Post and Auxiliary 44 members Dr. Neil Cantor and Dolores Cantor.

A number of books written by internationally known author Dan Kurzman were donated to the North Bergen Library by Post 76 NJ. According to Post Commander David Kronick, "The occasion has special significance since Dan Kurzman was a member of Post 76. His last three books were written during the time Kurzman lived in North Bergen and who was also a personal friend." Post 76 has also made donations of Kurzman's books to Lyons Hospital, Paramus Veterans Home, and Sunrise Assisted Living. Kurzman wrote 17 books primarily dealing with global military and political history after his career as a reporter for the Washington Post and as a foreign correspondent for NBC. Left to right: Howard Barmad; Barry Weiss; Sai Rao, librarian; and PC David Kronick.



NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

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Peter Lewis-152 • Reuben Hauptman-750 • Leland Leger-786

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

Harold Meyers-747

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Lester Eberle-352 • Bernard Goldstein-352 • Joel Poretz-352 • Gerald Prezioso-352 • Laurence Wallace-352 • Sheldon Wallace-352 • Leonard H. Zuriff-373 • Sanford Cohen-400 • Harvey Wolfson-400 • Barry Fleischman-440 • Jerome Freedman-631 • Barney Hill-631 • Joel Hollander-631 • Robert Rosen-631 • Leonard Harris-819

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Fred Rosenberg-89 • Jeremy Schweinler-89 • Melvin Schneider-407

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Jack Rowe-567 • Michael Podberesky-692 • Alida Rothmel-888

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Robert J. Engell-26 • Andrew Abernathy-485

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Gerald Cook-333 • Lionel Finkelstein-333 • Ervin Manson-333 • Leonard Jerome Zeidman-510

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

S. Allen Friedman-354

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Burton H. Arnold-21 • Lori A. Bordman-64 • Adele Sherman-64 • Jack Berman-65 • Larry A. Lapow-65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Paul S. Halpern-41 • Julian E. Yudelsohn-41 • Nathan Fisher-42 • Fianna Sogomonyan-80 • Robert Carlyn-105 • Gavin Ellman-131 • Jerald Griliches-488 • Nelson Rosen-655 • Stanley

R. Goldstein-720 • Murray Burg-776 • Harvey Cohen-776

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Sheldon Zuckerman-44 • Nathan R. Brenner-222 • Norman Demby-222

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

William Cohen-212 • Abigail Bryman,-215 • Perry Middleman-575 • Simon E. Zayon-575

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Lewis Silverboard-112 • Robert P. Rutstein-608

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Jerry Small-201 • Julian Podeorsky-210 • Michael Thomas-210 • Sandy Borken-619 • Myron Buckner-619 • Gabriel Forsberg-619 • Bernice Shames-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Aaron U. Friedman-580 • Melvin Eichelbaum-753 • Sarah Kovel-753 • Chaim Koppel-755 • Charles Mandelbaum-757

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Lawrence Katz-777

PEOPLE & PLACES

► After six years of patience and determination, **Herb Barret** and **Don Tannen** of **Post 69** NY realized their goal of restoring the Memorial Grove at Van Cortlandt Park in New York City after discovering it in deplorable condition. Damaged head stones and plaques have been replaced, new shrubs and trees were planted, and three benches and a pipe fence were added.

► On July 8, 2012, **Post 191** of White Plains, NY invited **Post 46** of Somers, NY to help out in preparing a BBQ for 50 patients at the Montrose Veterans Hospital. The strong bond between Posts led to a wonderful day for the patients, VA nurses, and staff.

► Past Post Commander **Morton Schecter** was awarded the Medal inducting him into the French Legion of Honor by the French Consul. S/Sgt. Schecter was a Tail Gunner on 35 bombing missions over Europe in WWII. He is a member of **Post 603** CA.

► **Murray Soskil** of **Post 819** FL was honored on May 22 and **Sidney Ostrovsky** of **Post 741** NJ was honored on June 24 as Veteran of the Game by the New York Mets. Both men received standing ovations from the crowd in recognition of their service.

► NY State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr. discussed pending state veteran legislation with members of **Post 250** NY.

► Bryan Bernstein received the \$500.00 Chwatsky-Farber Award from **Post 717** NY for his essay "Why I'm Proud to be an American" on May 30, 2012.

► The **Department of Michigan** awarded thirteen students with \$750 awards at its annual Convention. Recipients were the descendants of veterans in the Detroit metro area. Funds for the program were raised through poppy sales and private donations.

► Question: What occurs once every 29,170,800 times? Answer: A Bingo game where the winner gets Bingo on the fourth number drawn. That extremely rare event occurred on the evening of Wednesday, August 29, at the Manhattan VA Medical Center. **Post 1** NY was holding its monthly bingo game night at the medical center for the patients when one of the patients won the bingo game after the fourth number was drawn. The 29,170,800 was determined by multiplying 75 X 74 X 73 X 72. **Post 1** NY has been conducting a monthly Bingo game night at the medical center for decades.

IN SEARCH OF

► In search of US Army/New York National Guard members who would have served with PVT Joseph Levy, Company C, 1st Battalion, 71st Infantry, 33rd Street Armory, New York, NY 10016. Period of service 2/12/1970 to 6/15/71. Please contact Alec Pandaleon, Jewish War Veterans, P.O. Box 764, Millbrook, NY 12545 or call 845-266-9800.

Barbara Crawford

1936-2012

We are saddened to mark the passing of Barbara Crawford, a longtime employee of the Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary, who passed unexpectedly on October 8. Barbara was a loving mother, daughter, sister, and aunt.

She arrived at JWVA in 1956 and worked for the organization for over 50 years. She was an irreplaceable part of JWVA, and was admired and beloved by the members whose lives she touched. She will be greatly missed by the members and staff of JWVA and JWV.



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Civil Rights Committee

Jerry Berns, Chairman

In the past 10 years, I have covered civil rights in many countries throughout Africa and Europe, while also covering some of the challenges we have in our own country. Examples of civil rights are freedom of speech, the right to vote, equality, the right to assemble in public places, and religious freedom.

I have never written about the Jews in Mexico. The main population numbers around 68,000 and is concentrated primarily in Mexico City. Other communities are found in the state of Jalisco, mainly in Guadalajara and surrounding cities, and in Monterrey, Veracruz, Culiacán, and Tijuana. Recently, a small group of Mexican Jewish families has immigrated to Cancún. There is a small group of implanted American Jews who have relocated to the retirement lake towns of Chapala and Ajijic in the state of Jalisco; they meet once a month for religious services and occasionally interact with their Mexican Jewish counterparts in close by Guadalajara.

Jews worldwide face anti-Semitism but in Mexico, when compared to the rest of the world, it appears rather low.

Jews have been in Mexico since the 16th century. They fled the Inquisition in Spain, and they arrived with the conquistadors. However, they did not find the religious freedom they were looking for, and they were forced to practice their faith in secrecy until Mexico's independence from Spain in 1820.

There are several sectors in the Jewish community in Mexico, the biggest of which are the Ashkenazi community. The Sephardic community is primarily made up of descendants of Turkish and Spanish immigrants.

Crypto-Judaism is the secret adherence to Judaism while publicly professing to be of another faith. The term crypto-Jew is also used to describe descendants who main-

tain some Jewish traditions of their ancestors, often secretly, while publicly adhering to other faiths, most commonly Catholicism.

Most Jews in Mexico live in Mexico City. They live more of a secluded life – some rarely leaving the safe invisible walls of their community. They have a vast network of synagogues, schools, and other communal institutions. There are over 30 synagogues, most of them Orthodox. The majority of Mexico City's Jews send their children to Jewish schools. Jews are seen as elite and sometimes viewed as outsiders. Some people find them exotic because of their coloring, since most have not intermarried as extensively as other populations. They have not changed their looks in skin tone and eye color as other populations have. This is predominantly true of the Jews that live in the bubble of society in Mexico City. They have found that there are not many reasons to venture outside of their circle of private schools, markets, temples, businesses, and lifestyles. Of course, there are some who have ventured outside and become part of Mexican culture and government.

The Mexican influence has played a part in the lives of the local Jews. The food, for example, has a spicy flair to it: guacamole and bagels instead of bagels and cream cheese, pozole in exchange for matzo ball soup, and quesadillas for blintzes.

Statistically, the Jewish population is growing at a steady rate throughout all cities where there is a presence of Jewish culture. I would like to believe that Mexico has a strong and thriving Jewish community and will continue to grow and prosper.

Development

PNC Monroe Mayer, Chairman

The most recent direct mail fundraising program was for the High Holidays, which hopefully was delivered to most of you. Our dis-

tinctive cards were again the creation of the renowned Israeli artist, Smadar Livne, whose artwork is displayed at shows all over the country.

Undoubtedly, you have also received other solicitations asking for a donation from many other worthwhile organizations. We all receive a goodly number of similar mails throughout the year, as direct mail is a major fundraising source for many charities and non-profits. It is our hope at JWV USA that you not only responded positively to us, but that you have utilized these delightful cards. They also carry several different messages that you not only can use at the High Holidays, but throughout the year as the occasion arises. More importantly, a donation will sustain JWV USA into the future.

There is also a possibility that you may not have received the cards at all. This arises because in the past you may have received the cards, or other direct mail premiums like our Calendar, and did not make a donation as requested. If you have sent in a donation in the near past, then chances are excellent that you have received the High Holidays Cards as well as the 2013 Calendar, which currently is being prepared. The premiums enclosed in these mailings, are not to be considered as benefits of your membership. Their purpose is to financially support your National Organization so that our unified voice is heard where the needs of veteran's are discussed.

You may have heard the conversation about the future of JWV USA, and how long we can continue. That is entirely up to you. Our JWV USA is held in high repute by all other veteran and military organizations, especially in the Nation's Capitol. Evidence of this is that the Chairman of the Military Coalition, which is made up of veteran's organizations, is our own National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth.

Imagine showing a copy of our Calendar to a young, Jewish veteran. As you know, everyone ad-

mires this product, and how easy it is then to secure a new member.

Maintaining our great organization and the National Museum of American Jewish Military History well into the future is in your hands as recipients. Enjoy the cards and look forward to the 2013 Calendar, which will be arriving shortly, and please do send a check.

Homeless/StandDown Committee

PDC Maxwell S. Colón, Chairman

This marks the 25th year that Stand Down has existed to meet some of the needs of our homeless veterans. Each year, Stand Down has grown and been refined to better meet the needs of homeless veterans. In San Diego, which hosted the first Stand Down, there are over 200 organizations and agencies with over 3,000 volunteers that come together to make up a successful Stand Down project. The name of the program, "Stand Down," comes from the military term for taking units off the front line and allowing them rest, rehabilitate, and relax. There are many Stand Down operations that take place throughout the country. The program is a valuable resource for the homeless veterans in our nation today. It is also an extremely important source of help for the increasing number of homeless veterans that are single women and women with children.

As I stated before, Stand Down is not a handout, but a hand-up to our Nations' Homeless Veterans. Stand Down has helped change our nation's perception by increasing the public's awareness of the many issues our veterans face when they transition from a military lifestyle back to life as a civilian. As a nation, we must prepare ourselves for the next big influx of veterans that will need our assistance. As of today, the number of homeless veterans on the streets of this country is unacceptable, and our communities must respond with all the resources required for our sons and daughters that served this na-

tion during trying times. Housing homeless veterans can reduce our nation's burden by saving millions of taxpayer's dollars. I will further elaborate on this project in our next issue of *The Jewish Veteran*.

National Holocaust Committee

Bernhard Storch, Chairman

It is now 68 years from when soldiers from the Eastern Front, among them myself as Artillery SGT. of the First Polish Infantry Division of the Polish Army, entered the Concentration Camps. I had orders to enter and occupy this large complex known to me only as a Polish pre-war military base located in Lublin, Poland. To our disbelief, it turned out to be a death camp with crematoriums with human remains, ash, and bones still inside. About 850,000 human lives were snapped among them Jews, Russian war prisoners, Polish clergy and intellectuals, and Children of all ages.

You have no idea what an impact it has on a soldier to be told that it was a killing factory. To see the hundreds of thousand shoes, tons of human ash, tons of clothing, combs, eye glasses utensils, and human hair. The date was July 23, 1944, and to this day the smell of death is still with me. That was my introduction to the liberation of the Death Camps.

That is why education, and eye witness testimony, is so important while the Liberators and the Survivors are still with us. We the Jewish War Veterans of the USA and the National Museum of American Jewish Military History ensure that the legacy will continue.

Women in the Military Committee

E.G. "Jerry" Farris, Vice-Chair

If you have been following the news lately, you are aware of the plight many female veterans not only share, but have great diffi-

culty speaking about. Many have been made to feel like second class citizens – like the scum of the earth. Yet, as much as they have suffered over the decades, today they are finally being heard. That "shame and degradation" comes from the sexual assaults they have had to endure, often in silence.

In January 2012, it was estimated some 19,000 military men and women have been assaulted sexually; yet only around 13,000 were actually reported. Of those reported, a scant 200 are prosecuted annually with a resultant conviction (1). The same number, 19,000 were reported in 2010 (2). The numbers have not changed, but more are now reporting their attackers. The downside to reporting is that it can worsen matters. If a woman seeks counseling – which is considered a "mental" issue – she may lose her security clearance, which would then result in her being discharged.

The picture doesn't get much better. The rapist is often pro-

tected by his military commanders. Providing alibis and cover-ups only gives the rapist a license to repeat the crime over and over.

And so it continues... the rapist rapes and the raped feel powerless to speak out for fear of losing their military status; hiding their secret - some for many years - from family and friends. That secret destroys marriages, relationships, job stability, and even the secret holder!

Some signs or symptoms you may experience as a victim are super-sensitivity to sudden noises. You may cringe at the touch of someone who reminds you of your rapist. The very thought of intimacy may disgust you. And the images that visit you in the middle of the night may bring you sudden wakefulness and trembling.

If you were a victim of sexual trauma while in service, the VA has set up healthcare providers specially trained in this area in the major hospitals and some clinics. They are ready and willing to help

Continued on page 22

Life is full of surprises ... including accidents.



In this day and age, there's no such thing as being too safe. You know how important it is to take precautions and guard against the unexpected.

That's why JWV sponsors an **Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance Plan** to help you provide your family the financial resources they may need should the unexpected happen to you.

As a member under age 70, you're **guaranteed acceptance** for coverage in the plan and can choose a Principal Sum that best fits your needs—\$250,000.00, \$150,000.00 or \$100,000.00. Economic group rates negotiated by JWV are offered exclusively to our members.

And, this accidental insurance plan not only pays the benefit amount you select, but offers **additional benefits designed to help cover expenses such as day care, elderly care, injury rehabilitation, and help with costs for college or trade school for insured spouse and children** to help give your loved ones an added measure of financial wellbeing.

Here are some additional benefits of the JWV-endorsed AD&D Insurance Plan:

- ✓ **Benefits for Military Air Travel**
A benefit equaling the lesser of the Principal Sum or \$150,000.00 will be payable for any covered person who is recalled to service or serves in the reserves, and incurs a covered loss while a passenger on any transport-type aircraft operated or contracted by the Air Mobility Command of the United States.
- ✓ **Benefits for Common Carrier**
An additional benefit of \$25,000.00 is payable if the insured incurs a covered loss as a result of an accident while a passenger on a licensed common commercial carrier, such as a plane, taxi, bus or any other vehicle licensed for the transportation of passengers.
- ✓ **Adaptive Auto/Home Benefit**
You'll receive an additional 5%, up to \$5,000.00 of actual expenses incurred, if a covered loss (other than loss of life) makes it necessary for you to modify your home or car. The Certificate of Insurance will provide certain limitations.

GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE

Members (under age 70 and residing in the United States) and their eligible dependents cannot be turned down.

To learn more about the JWV-sponsored AD&D Insurance Plan (features costs, eligibility, renewability, limitations and exclusions) and how it can help protect your family against an unexpected loss, call **1-800-503-9230** or visit us online at www.jwvinsure.com

This Plan is underwritten by New York Life Insurance Company
51 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010
Under Group Policy No. G-29319-0 on Policy Form GMR-FACE/G-G-29319-0



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although it is late, I would like to wish you and your family shana tova. May you have a good and sweet year.

In synagogue this Yom Kippur, as I joined my community in reflecting on the memories of those who have passed before us, my thoughts turned to the men and women who have given their lives in service to our country in our current conflict and in the conflicts of years past.

As Jews, we remember our dead, and it is in our memory that they continue to live. This belief was behind the museum's motivation for creating the Fallen Heroes: Remembering American Jewish Casualties of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn exhibit, which honors the 50 known American Jewish casualties of these operations.

Recently, we received a touching letter from Major Dax Presuto (reprinted on page 3) thanking us for our work honoring 1Lt Roslyn

Schulte who passed in May 2009 in Operation Enduring Freedom. I was moved by his words, and it is letters like his that remind us the Fallen Heroes are not just names and photographs – they are people with loved ones and friends who they have left behind.

Our work in recording the names of the Fallen Heroes ensures the memory of each individual is kept alive for their family, for their friends, in the veteran community, and in the greater Jewish community.

In that vein, I would like to extend my thanks to the Jewish War Veterans Department of New Jersey, which is sponsoring pavers honoring the Fallen Heroes of our recent military operations. These pavers will be placed in the front walkway of the museum for all to see as they enter our building. We hope it will be a meaningful tribute to these men and women, and we greatly appreciate the

generosity of this gift.

We hope that you will consider honoring the Fallen Heroes through the reading of their names during Shabbat, by conducting a memorial ceremony, or in another observance that is appropriate for your community. The list of Fallen Heroes can be found on our website at <http://www.nmajmh.org/collectionsAndResearch/fallenheroes.php>.



**PNC Norman Rosenshein
President, NMAJMH**

FROM OUR ARCHIVES **By Pamela Elbe**

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

Caring for Your Family Photos

Nearly every household has photographs scattered about in drawers and boxes. You know you should take proper care of them, but are not sure how.

The most important factor in the preservation of any heirloom—photographs included—is maintaining a proper environment. Conditions of around 68°-70° F and 30-40% relative humidity are best. Fortunately, these conditions are pretty easy to meet as they are also the environment where we are most comfortable. The best place to store your important family photographs is in enclosed areas, such as an interior closet or an air-conditioned room. The worst place to keep them is in an attic or basement as high temperatures and high relative humidity levels will accelerate deterioration.

Exposure to visible and ultraviolet light is potentially damaging to photographs. Light can cause embrittlement, yellowing, and color fading in prints and hand-colored surfaces. For this reason you should avoid long-term display of photographs. If you have photographs that you are particularly concerned about preserving, consider having copy prints made and displaying them instead so that you can safely store (and preserve) the originals.

Another way to protect your photographs is

Stambovsky family photo. Top row: Louis, Joseph, and Lazar Stambovsky - each in a different branch of service. Bottom Row: Nathan Stambovsky and Anna Wolansky Stambovsky. Donated by Gertrude Chityat.

to house them in protective enclosures to keep out dirt, dust, and moisture. Avoid materials such as acidic paper or cardboard and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic, and remove rubber bands, paper clips, and pressure-sensitive tapes. Avoid folding or rolling oversize photographs. Suitable storage materials should be made of plastic or paper that is free of sulfur, acids, and peroxides. Do not laminate photographic prints as this can permanently damage them. Storage of family photographs in albums is very user-friendly and makes your photos accessible, and many commercially available albums utilize archival-quality materials. Avoid albums constructed of highly colored pages. Never use “magnetic” or “no stick” albums for the storage of contemporary or historic photographic prints in black-and-white or color. These materials will deteriorate quite quickly over time, destroying your photographs. Besides albums, there are acid-free boxes made to accommodate between 500 and 1,000 prints (shoeboxes are not good storage places). These boxes come with acid-free envelopes and sleeves for nega-



tives. Choose materials that say “archival” on the label.

Finally, one of the simplest (and arguably the most important) things that you can do to preserve your photos is to caption them. Identify who is in a picture and when and where it was taken. When marking photos use a felt tip pen or a pencil; many stores sell film and photo marking pens. If you can only do one thing to help preserve your photos, caption them. Captioning photos preserves the information about and within the photos, enabling the photo to tell its story to future generations.

Administratively Speaking-By Mary Westley, Asst. Administrator

Thank You!

I want to thank those that have come forward with funds for the museum. All donated funds go toward keeping our museum a vibrant and noteworthy institution. Your support is vital and appreciated. It enables us to continue to preserve a record of the patriotic contributions of Jewish men and women in America's armed forces, l'dor v'dor, from generation to generation.

Please keep the museum in mind as you plan your budget for the near future.

Consider giving a very special birthday or anniversary gift by purchasing a space on our Honorial Wall or a paver on our Remembrance Walk. Both of these are located in prominent places around our museum.

To memorialize a loved one, consider purchasing a leaf on our Tree of Honor or participating in our Yahrzeit Memorial Program. Both programs ensure that your loved one will not be forgotten, and that he or she will remain in memory for perpetuity.

For more information on these programs visit us online at www.nmajmh.org or contact me, Mary Westley, at (202) 265-6280.

Send Us Your Military Chanukah Stories and Photos!



We're looking for military photos of Chanukah celebrations in the field. If you have a photo and a story to share, please send them to mwestley@nmajmh.org or Nikki Salzman at nsalzman@jwv.org.

Fallen Hero, SPC Daniel Agami (far left) 12/2006 Baghdad, Iraq.



Mark your Calendars!

- On **November 8 at 6:30pm**, 3GDC will come to the museum to hear from Arthur Seltzer, Post 126 NJ, one of the Liberators of Dachau. 3GDC is a group for the grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, and their friends and supporters, in the DC area.
- On **December 13 at 6:30pm**, the museum will host its second annual Chanukah event: **New Light on an Old Tradition**. JWV Chaplain Michael Bloom, Post 381 DC, will lead the group in the story and celebration of Chanukah; featuring tours of the museum, traditional Chanukah food, and dreidel.



From Our Collection By Mike Rugel

Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH



In July of 1945, Isadore Tabachneck was one of only three American Army men awarded the Medalha De Campanha or Brazilian Expeditionary Force Campaign Medal from the Brazilian government during World War II. In an unusual set of circumstances, he earned it by speaking Yiddish.

In 1944, First Sergeant Tabachneck was aboard the USS Gen. M.C. Meigs. He was assigned to the Coast Guard as an observer for the Army. The ship was transporting Brazilians returning home to Rio de Janeiro after Allied victory in Italy. The troops had fought on the ground with Gen. Mark Clark's Fifth Army. The trip home promised to be a triumphant and

celebratory voyage, but it started as a logistical nightmare. There was a lack of English speakers amongst the Brazilians and not a single speaker of Portuguese amongst the Americans onboard. Communications were impossible and even simple tasks involving the men from both countries were difficult to accomplish.

Tabachneck resolved the communications issues by identifying a Brazilian Yiddish speaker. Russian-born Tabachneck had grown up with the language in his Albany, New York home. The two men established an efficient Portuguese-Yiddish-English communications system. Aboard the General Meigs, Tabachneck became Special Service Officer using Yiddish to organize activities and morale-building exercises with both Americans and Brazilians.

This came when U.S.-Brazil relations were still fragile. Brazil had maintained close relations with Axis powers until 1942 when the country joined the Allies contributing over 25,000 troops that would fight in Italy. A commendation from General J.R. Kilpatrick of the Transportation



Corps stated: "The importance of friendly relations between the nations of America cannot be overstated... I am proud to observe that mission was accomplished with the high approval of the Brazilian government. The commendation from Brazilian officer Fernando Pedra Padron called Tabachneck "a dynamic sociable fellow [with] a great spirit of cooperation." On July 24, 1945, in a ceremony where Gen. Mark Clark was an honored guest, Brazilian President Getúlio Vargas was on hand to personally present the medal and certificate to Tabachneck and the other American Army and Coast Guard men receiving medals.



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DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

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DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Leonard L. Cohen-112 • Jack L. Rosenbaum-112 • Jack Forman-121 • Paul Slesinger-237 • Sol Shapiro-608

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Abraham Gorman-128 • Robert I. Epstein-201 • Morris Migdal-201 • Lawrence Cohen-210 • Lawrence Cowan-210 • Herbert I. Goldberg-210 • Samuel Goldsmith-210 • Stanley Levine-210 • Arnold Shapiro-210 • Charles S. Tomack-210 • Peter R. Zack-210

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Karl Baumgarten-256 • Harry Levine-574 • H. D. Bailkin-580 • Charles W. Frank, Jr.-580 • Myron Kasten-580

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Rudolph Kane-701

We regret that Arnold Gordon of Post 126 NJ and Robert Doktor of Post 512 CA were incorrectly listed in Taps in the Spring 2012 issue of *The Jewish Veteran*.

We are delighted that they were listed in error, and can be counted on as active members of their Posts. We apologize for the error.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Continued from page 19

you overcome the shadow within. Please, get the help you need – even if you think you don't need it. Believe me, it will help you more than you think.

You know, truth is truth, and the fact that the military has been “hiding” it speaks volumes to the mindset of many men in our society. It's not that it is so “strong,” but that it is the truth; a truth which shines a light on many in and out of the military and raises the question of “Why?” Why have backs been turned for so long when it comes to this subject? Perhaps it is time a voice from the abyss is heard. Hopefully, it will go through and somewhere someone will hear and seek help.

(1) NBC Nightly News, July 16, 2012

(2) Associated Press January 31, 2011

NMI Certificate Program

Hannah Deutch, Chairman

The Museum recently started a popular new mini campaign within the Certificate program. The way it works is from now until February 28, 2013, you will receive *one free certificate* for every four blank certificates ordered. Certificates are 6”x9” and are \$10.00 each. Order four certifiacates at a time and you will receive five and only pay \$40.00.

Certificates are a great way to honor birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations, or to send

a friend a get well wish.

As you know, a nice all occasion card can be hard to find. But if you purchase a certificate, not only will your card say what you want it to say, but you will be supporting the museum's programs as well! When you buy four certificates, you will recieve five, and you will always have a certificate on hand, ready to acknowledge an occasion.

To order your certificates, please send your \$40 check, made payable to NMAJMH, and request five blank certificate cards with envelopes. But hurry! This program ends February 28.

For more information, contact Mary Westley at (202) 265-6280 or mwestley@nmajmh.org.

If not now, when?



Jewish War Veterans of the USA

27th Annual Mission to Beautiful and Historic Israel! • February 17-27, 2013

Join us on our 27th annual mission to Israel! This year we're visiting new sites in addition to the places you want to experience again. Meet Israelis and their leaders, and enjoy the fun and comradeship that our trips are known for.

HOTELS

CROWNE PLAZA TEL AVIV • FEB 18 – 20
CROWNE PLAZA JLM • FEB 20 – 24

LEONARDO DEAD SEA • FEB 24 – 25
CROWNE PLAZA EILAT • FEB 25 – 27

Day 1-Sun, FEB 17: Flights from JFK, NEWARK, LOS ANGELES

Day 2-Mon, FEB 18: Arrival at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport to be met and assisted by aviatours staff. Transfer to our hotel. Check in and rest. We meet for dinner.

Day 3-Tues, FEB 19: After breakfast we will have a meeting with the US Military Attaché or his representative for a briefing, to be followed by a presentation by General Baruch Levy – Chairman of Tzevet (the Israeli organization of retired IDF personnel). Panoramic city tour of Tel Aviv – Jaffa and a visit to the Palmach Museum (The pre IDF Military organization). Free afternoon for relaxation. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 4-Wed, FEB 20: After breakfast we check out of our hotel and head to the Ayalon Institute (A pre independence hidden ammunition factory). We continue to Jerusalem and visit Mt. Herzl and Yad Vashem (the Holocaust Museum). Check in and dinner at our Jerusalem hotel.

Day 5-Thur, FEB 21: After breakfast, we start our tour at Mt of Olives for a magnificent panoramic view of Jerusalem. We visit the Shrine of the Book where the original Dead Sea Scrolls are exhibited. We continue to the Holy Sepulcher church (the empty tomb). Nearby is the colorful market of the old city where we enjoy a Falafel. Afternoon visit to Ammunition Hill. Here we can see how the city was liberated in the Six Day war in 1967. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 6-Fri, FEB 22: We start the day at the 9/11 site where we will have a little memorial ceremony. Continue to the Kotel (the Wailing Wall) and the nearby Generations Chain. We cross over to visit the Jewish Quarter of the old city. In Machne Yehuda Market we see how last minute shopping is done before Shabbat. Here too we can enjoy a great Falafel. Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner at our hotel in Jerusalem.

Day 7-Sat, FEB 23: Shabbat rest or join our Qumran, Massada and

Dead Sea tour. Return to our Jerusalem hotel. If you stay at the hotel for rest, you are free to enjoy lunch on your own in any of the fine local restaurants or the hotel.

Day 8-Sun, Feb 24: We check out and depart Jerusalem towards Beit Guvrin - hiding caves of the Macabeans. Continue to Shderot the town that was attacked by thousands of rockets and mortar bombs. We will visit a Kipat Barzel (Iron Cast - the new anti rocket defense system) if around and subject to IDF approval. We reach Hazerim AF base and visit the AF Museum. Dinner and overnight in nearby Beer Sheva. Possible meeting with mayor.

Day 9-Mon, Feb 25: After breakfast we head south to Sde Boker (Ben Gurion desert residence). Here we can understand the greatness of this leader and his modesty. Continue to Mitzpeh Ramon - world's largest crater. A visit to IDF Officers School or an armored corps training base (subject to IDF approval). If time permits we visit King Solomon mines in Timna. Dinner and overnight in Eilat on the shores of the Red Sea.

Day 10-Tues, Feb 26: Free to enjoy Eilat on the Red Sea and depart in the evening with a domestic flight to connect to their USA night flight from Ben Gurion airport, arriving home on the morning of the 27th.

**Welcome home! You have just returned
from a lifetime experience.**

If you would like to extend your stay in Israel, or take optional extensions to Petra (Jordan) or other side trips, please contact Aviatours directly.

David or Mary at Aviatours:
(800) 950-0747 • (516) 867-2200 • info@aviatours.net

For more information, please contact
Christy Turner at JWV Headquarters:

Phone: (202) 265-6280 • Fax: (202) 234-5662

E-mail: cturner@jwv.org

You can also find more info on the JWV website:
http://www.jwv.org/events/international_assembly_of_jwv