



# The Jewish Veteran

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

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Correction: In the previous issue of The Jewish Veteran, we mistakenly identified a photograph of Sandra Cantor on the front page as Linda Singer. We regret our error.



**Now is the time  
to register for  
Capitol Hill Action  
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## Confessions of a Veteran Klansman: How the U.S. Army Radicalized a Soldier

By Harrison Heller

Hate groups have always existed, but in the current environment they have emerged from the shadows. Some new actors have jumped from the digital world to the physical world to start collaborating with older hate groups.

According to a MilitaryTimes poll in October 2017, one in four troops witnessed examples of white nationalism among their fellow troops. The poll also found that 42 percent of non-white active duty troops reported personally experiencing white nationalism within the military.

In September, Parents for Peace, a group that fights all forms of extremism, organized a discussion in Washington, D.C. The audience heard from three panelists, including Christopher Buckley, an Afghanistan veteran who joined the Ku Klux Klan.

Buckley had a seemingly normal upbringing with his family in Cleveland, Ohio, but can now see the first sign of where his hatred originated. His parents were never racist in public, but at home they would occa-

sionally include racial slurs in their conversations. When he was seven-years-old, his cousin started dating a black man. His parents told him not to speak with his cousin. "Interracial relationships should not exist because mixed kids have no place in this world because they do not know where they belong," Buckley said they told him.

At school Buckley had few friends and said his peers often bullied him, leaving him feeling broken and alone. When he told his parents about his best friend at the time who was of Lebanese descent they said, "That is the problem with this country."

After September 11, 2001, military recruiters went to Buckley's high school and he decided to enlist in order to get revenge for those attacks.

During basic training at Fort



Sgt. Buckley on duty in Afghanistan at Camp Harriman / Forward Operating Base Orgun-E

Leonard Wood, Missouri, Buckley felt the military used sophisticated methods in order to dehumanize other people. He said commanding officers frequently used ethnic slurs to describe the people he would be fighting against in Arab countries. He considered it similar to using racial slurs during other U.S. conflicts when describing the Germans, Japanese, and Vietnamese. At the rifle range, paper targets that started out as silhouettes of a person

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## No Longer Missing in America

By Larry Jasper

Thanks to the Missing in America program, a special internment cere-

mony on September 26 brought 12 veterans and five spouses of veterans to their final resting place at Sarasota National Cemetery in Florida. The remains of these individuals were unclaimed for as long as 14 years before this ceremony.

More than 400 people attended the ceremony, which included a motorcade of veterans and county police,

a flag detail, and an honor guard representing all U.S. military branches.

I was honored to carry the remains of Pfc. Charles William Livingston, a World War II veteran who passed away in 2011 at the age of 85.

Other members and patrons who represented the JWV Department of Florida at the event included Georgi Jasper, Boris Stern, and Dr. Bill Luria.

The Missing in America program was founded in 2006 to locate, identify, and inter the unclaimed remains of veterans through joint efforts be-

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Urns lined up for the ceremony and final tribute.

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# D'verei HaShomrim

## The Bad Rap on Chanukah

By Rabbi Mark L. Winer, JWV National Chaplain

Chanukah gets a bad rap.

In the Jewish tradition, Chanukah is regarded as a minor holiday. Indeed, for hundreds of years, observant Jews were forbidden from celebrating Chanukah. Those who commemorated the Maccabees' victory would receive no part of the "World to Come," according to the Mishnah, the foundational compilation of the Talmud.

Only when the focus of Chanukah shifted to the miraculous oil lasting eight days, was the festival grudgingly admitted into Jewish observance. The story of the one day supply of oil which burned for eight days appears a few hundred years after the Mishnah in the Gemara.

Some modern Jews dislike Chanukah because many Jewish parents in contemporary America set up Chanukah as a Jewish counterpart to Christmas. No matter how wonderful Chanukah is, it cannot possibly hold a candle to what Christmas means to Christians. With the exception of Easter, Christmas is the most important holy day in the Christian year. Even eight days of presents and the most beautiful Chanukah Menorah cannot compete with what the Christmas tree, the creche, and the nativity mean to Christians.

Chanukah may not be so important in the Jewish tradition, nor does it really work as the Jewish version of Christmas, but Chanukah is a meaningful festival for modern Jews who delight in being loyal Jews and at the same time rejoice in being loyal patriots in their native and adopted lands. From my perspective, Chanukah is a particularly important holiday, for American, Israeli, and modern Jews everywhere in the world. It is especially powerful in its message to Jewish families in



which one or more members have served in our nation's armed forces.

Chanukah is the festival which most poignantly speaks to modern Jews. Like the Maccabees, we modern Jews stand up for our beliefs. We fight anti-Semitism wherever and whenever it rears its ugly head. We stand up for Jewish rights here in America and in Israel. American Jews spearheaded protests which culminated in the liberation of Russian and Ethiopian Jews. Our people recovered from the worst genocide ever perpetrated against any people. We both re-established the State of Israel after 2,000 years of exile and built American Jewish life to a level of strength and depth of observance and study without parallel in Jewish history.

Like the Maccabees of the Chanukah story we balance a healthy traditionalism and a sensible enjoyment of modernity. Proud, strong, and free, we rejoice as heirs to the noble legacy of the Maccabees.

## Can you help identify this Jewish soldier?

Gabriel Salinger from the South American country of Chile is trying to identify the soldier in these photographs. Salinger's grandfather, Heinz Salinger, is on the right hand side of the middle photograph. The other young man is Felix Kahn. They were stepbrothers who escaped from a train transporting them between concentration camps. A bombed out section of railroad tracks forced their train to stop, allowing them to escape. The men made their way to Pilsen in the Czech Republic by walking at night and hiding during the day. They hid in a basement

in Pilsen until the 16th Armored Division liberated the town on May 6, 1945. The unidentified soldier was a member of the 16th Armored Division and gave Salinger his shoulder patch. The photo showing just the soldier was taken in front of the Great Synagogue in Pilsen on June 16. Both of the young men were Jewish, and they assumed the soldier was also Jewish because of his prayer shawl.

If you can help identify him, please contact The Jewish Veteran by mail or email.



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National Commander Harvey Weiner  
National Editor

Managing Editor Cara Rinkoff  
Graphics/Production Editor Christy Turner

### EDITORIAL OFFICE

1811 R Street, NW • Washington, D.C. 20009

Telephone (202) 265-6280 x413

Fax (202) 234-5662

E-mail jwv@jwv.org

Web Site www.jwv.org

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## Display your JWV Membership Proudly

The JWV supply store isn't just for pins and poppies! You can also purchase JWV branded badges, caps and jackets!

**Shirts, caps, and jackets!**



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Visit the online store at the JWV website or contact Pat Ennis at 703-753-3733 or by email: [pat@asb-va.com](mailto:pat@asb-va.com)

## For JWV caps, call Keystone Uniform Cap Corporation

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# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Harvey Weiner

Article II of the JWV Constitution states:

“This Organization is civilian and shall not be used for the promotion of political candidates, partisan politics or issues and interests not authorized by the National Organization, and the use of its name, uniform, insignia and titles of rank, past or present, directly or indirectly, for any such purposes, is expressly forbidden.”

This prohibition seems relatively straightforward in many ways. No Post, Department, Council, or the National Organization can promote or endorse a candidate for political office, nor can its meetings be used by a candidate for a political speech, which can be viewed as an implied promotion, in the absence of a contemporaneous statement that they were not endorsing or promoting the individual. No JWV member, while acting as a JWV member, such as by wearing a JWV cap, can promote a political candidate or engage in partisan politics. Of course, JWV members can promote or endorse anyone they want and engage in partisan politics as long as it is clear they are acting in their personal capacity and not in their capacity as JWV members. In fact, it is the obligation of an informed American citizen to be engaged in politics.

National has legally and properly advocated for certain issues and interests in order to fulfill the mandate in its charter and in the preamble of its Constitution: “to combat the powers of bigotry and darkness wherever originating and whatever their target” and “to preserve the spirit of comradeship by mutual helpfulness to comrades...” It does so by lobbying individual legislators on Capitol Hill, supporting or opposing legislation, cooperating with other veterans’ groups, passing resolutions at annual convention, litigation, and taking positions in press releases.

This has happened twice in the three months I have been National Commander.

National issued a press release condemning

the transfer of military funds, some of which was earmarked for daycare and schools for soldiers and their families, to build a border wall. Also, National issued a press release opposing the attacks on Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, a Jewish immigrant from Ukraine.

National would have taken these positions whether or not the source of the issues was a Democrat, Republican, or any candidate or office holder regardless of political party. It is the issue that National takes a position on, not the individual or party involved. JWV has a national voice that continues to be heard.

Your National Commander has been on the road and in the air in the past three months with ten in-state events and nine out-of-state events. I was interviewed as part of the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. I visited the Boston Stand Down with the Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the promotion ceremony of the Massachusetts National Guard Judge Advocate, the installation of officers at Peabody Post 220, and the honoring of two Veterans Legal Services advocates by the Murray Inn of Court. I taught a veterans mediation course to soldiers and those who deal with them. I delivered a speech about JWV to the Active Veterans and Military Veterans Section of the Boston Bar Association. I supervised our third annual “Wills for Veterans” day and I helped serve Thanksgiving dinner (with JWVA President Sandra Cantor) at the Chelsea Soldiers Home.

I attended the Rosh Hashanah Reception of the Israeli Ambassador at the embassy in Washington D.C., where I met two Jewish veterans who are members of the U.S. Congress. My Chief of Staff Barry Lischinsky and I visited the Department of Connecticut. We also went to Rhode Island to see a Veterans Home spearheaded by local JWV members.

I also became the first National Commander in 23 years to visit the Department of Maryland. Barry

and I visited a Maryland VA medical center and met a JWV member resident who was present at Hitler’s Eagle’s Nest at Berchtesgaden

when it was captured and replaced the Nazi flag with an American one. We also visited the Maryland American Jewish Veterans’ War Memorial, which JWV members initiated and built.

The two of us also visited the Department of Minnesota, toured the state veterans’ department offices, and presented plaques to two firemen involved in the Duluth synagogue fire. One rescued eight Torahs and the other was severely injured in the fire. The fire chief accepted the plaque for the injured fireman. Sir Barry and I were knighted by the King and Queen of the Winter Carnival.

I traveled to D.C. for Mack’s Marines’ luncheon at the Marine Barracks to celebrate the Marine’s birthday and the Nats’ World Series win. A new JWV member was recruited there.

I went to Maryland again for Post 360’s formal Dining Out. Post 360 is a new post and is comprised of Orthodox Jews.

I went to D.C. to participate in the VA Veterans Day Breakfast and to watch the laying of the wreath and to listen to speeches at Arlington National Cemetery. For the third year in a row, the President did not attend and for the second year in a row the breakfast was not held in the White House. Instead, I attended the national reception of the Catholic War Veterans.

My wife and I went to London to attend the festivities of our British counterparts, AJEX. There is a separate article about that trip in this issue of The Jewish Veteran.



## Capitol Hill Action Days & National Executive Committee Meeting February 12 - 15, 2020

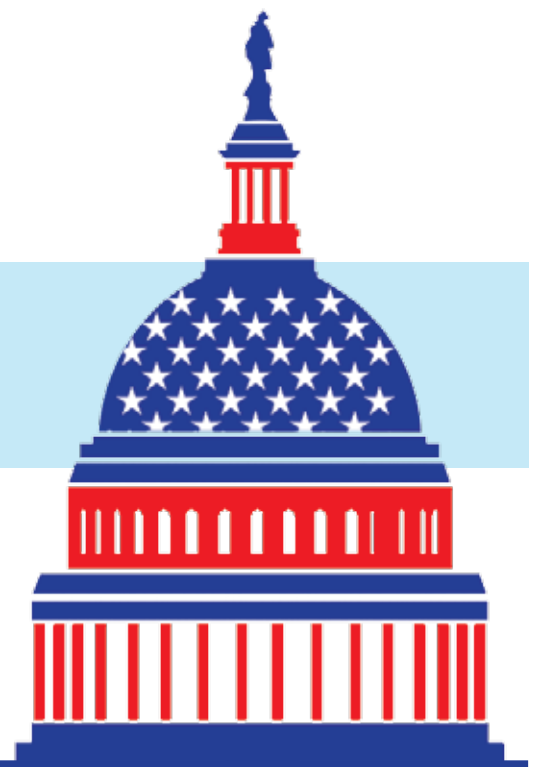


Capitol Hill Action Days - February 12 + 13  
National Executive Committee Meeting - February 14  
NMAJMH Board of Directors Meeting - February 15

**Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport**  
1999 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202

Make your reservations online at: <https://tinyurl.com/JWVNEC2020>  
Or call 703-413-5500 and tell them you are with the Jewish War Veterans

**\$162/night ★ Book by Tuesday, January 14, 2020 to reserve your space!**





## VA Staffing Shortages

A major challenge for both the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs is the reported 49,000 employee vacancies in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Staffing shortages in the 386,000-employee agency cause many of the problems with veterans' health care. The vast majority of these vacancies are in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Two key causes for this huge number of shortages are low salaries and a lack of qualified applicants. In too many cases, VA health care salaries are lower than the public sector. VA medical center directors make approximately 25 percent of a private hospital chief executive officer yet they have a greater scope of responsibility.

The VA is also outmatched when it comes to surgeons. Highly specialized surgeons in the private sector can earn nearly twice what the VA can pay. Because the law caps how much federal employees can be paid, federal agencies are at a disadvantage when competing for highly qualified and capable individuals. The VA needs the ability to offer competitive salaries to recruit and retain personnel in occupations that have much higher rates of pay in the private sector.

Shortages of physicians in rural areas pose a serious challenge to the nearly three million rural veterans who rely on the VA for health care. The VA's Office of Rural Health is highlighting a variety of programs designed to recruit and retain rural clinicians. These programs offer a range of

incentives from professional opportunities to financial reimbursement.

JWV and The Military Coalition strongly support recent recommendations made by the VA Inspector General (IG) during a House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on September 18, 2019 on how barriers to hiring at the VA affect patient care and access. The IG said, "Additional fundamental changes are needed for significant and sustained improvement, such as accurately tracking VHA's vacancy numbers; considering the implications of support staff and other team members in staffing models for particular positions; reliable and transparent reporting; recruiting and retention oversight that includes consideration of both individual facility and veterans' needs within a community; and strong and consistent leadership to create a stable welcoming environment."

The VA is the second largest federal organization in the United States - second only to the Department of Defense (DoD). The Veterans Health Administration is the largest part of the VA. VHA turnover rates compare favorably with the private health care industry. Each has its share of retirement and job changes among its employees.

The VA is taking initiatives to attract health care personnel. Some of these initiatives include targeted nationwide recruitment advertising and marketing, working with DoD to recruit transitioning service members, exhibits at key health care conferences and job fairs, and expanding

opportunities for telemedicine providers.

The VA attracts many employees, including a high percentage of veterans who value the personnel who have worn the uniform of our country.

Many highly trained healthcare personnel work for the federal government when they could be paid more elsewhere because of their devotion to public service and the sense of purpose their agencies provide. Unfortunately only a limited number of people have that attitude, and it's hard to keep that attitude when the salary gap continues to increase.

A recent VA Inspector General report found that 39 percent of the 140 VA facilities had severe shortages in at least 20 occupations. Severe shortages in psychiatry were identified in 85 facilities. The IG cited shortages of medical officers and nurses throughout the VA system. Human resource management shortages were found in 72 VA facilities.

The VA is developing a comprehensive legislative proposal to help attract the personnel and skills needed to fully serve veterans. JWV will support this legislation.



COL Herb Rosenbleeth, USA (Ret)  
National Executive Director

## Military Women Should Support Deborah Sampson Act

By Sheila Berg

Women are the fastest growing demographic in the military today. Most jobs are open to military women, but non-acceptance and barriers persist. Women have served as defenders of this country since the American Revolutionary War.

Deborah Sampson disguised herself and en-

listed in the Continental Army as Timothy Thayer in Middleborough, Massachusetts. She was discovered and reenlisted again in 1782 as Robert Shirliff. She joined the Light Infantry Company of the 4th Massachusetts Regiment, which was a group of elite troops. They were required to provide rapid flank coverage for advancing troops. She was wounded after serving 17 months and honorably discharged at West Point in 1792.

The Deborah Sampson Act represents her desire to serve under difficult situations. This act provides guidance for the Department of Veterans Affairs to update services for female veterans including the expansion of group counseling for veterans and family members, improving quality child care, increasing the number of days of maternity care VA facilities provide, eliminating barriers of care by increasing the number of gender-specific providers in VA facilities, and retrofitting VA facilities to enhance privacy and improve the environment where they care for female veterans. The act would also authorize additional grants for organizations that support low-income female veterans and their families, as well as improve the collection and analysis of data regarding women veterans. As the chairwoman of JWV's Women in the Military Committee, I support the immediate passage of this legislation.

On November 12, 2019, the Deborah Sampson Act passed in the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 399 to 11.



1797 engraving of Deborah Sampson

## Join the JWV Team!

**We are looking for  
PR/Journalism Interns.**

JWV is seeking a self-motivated individual to be our Public Relations/Journalism Intern. This is a perfect opportunity for college students who are studying communications.

**Duties:** Duties include monitoring social media, assisting with press releases, writing articles, and assisting with the layout for The Jewish Veteran (JWV's quarterly newspaper). During the summer, there will also be opportunities to assist with preparations for JWV's National Convention. This position requires up to 20 hours a week.

**Qualifications:** Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as recent graduates, are encouraged to apply.

**Salary:** Unpaid. May qualify as course credit depending on institutional requirements.

**How to Apply:** The PR/Journalism Internships are available during Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. To apply, please send your resume and cover letter to Programs and Public Relations Coordinator Cara Rinkoff at [crinkoff@jwv.org](mailto:crinkoff@jwv.org) with the subject line: "PR/Journalism Internship Application."

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## BUDGET COMMITTEE

*By Chairman Alan Paley*

The Budget Committee received some preliminary financial information from National, so we are about to begin the process of developing the budget for the 2021 Fiscal Year.

As soon as Julia in Accounting closes out the month of November, she will send us the actual year to date (July through November) cash information for each line item on the budget. From those numbers, we will project what we think will come in for the balance of the year (December through June).

Each member of the Budget Committee receives the information from Julia and submits their suggested budget numbers. We use input from each committee member to develop the budget, which we present at the NEC and museum meetings in February.

Once the budget is approved, the committee turns its attention to the actual numbers for the current year. Since the year concludes in June, the committee is furnished with the cash basis numbers (this is the actual cash received through June 30 of that year before the auditors make any adjustments). We put together a line by line comparison of the cash basis numbers against the budgeted numbers and present that information at the National Convention in August.

## GULF WAR COMMITTEE

*By Chairwoman Rochel Hayman*

The Gulf War Committee's (GWC) latest online meeting included updates on our increased social media presence and goal setting for the next couple of months. Recently, Gulf War Committee members joined the Post 9/11 Committee on a call with Iraq and Afghanistan veteran Sgt. Christopher Buckley. An article about Buckley written by Harrison Heller is in this issue of The Jewish Veteran. Thanks to the efforts of committee member and National Quartermaster Col. Nelson Mellitz, we also have at least one new resolution submitted for consideration at the NEC meeting this February. We look forward to updating you on it once the vote is accepted.

The GWC would like to reiterate that we heartily recognize that the knowledge and experience of our members is JWV's greatest asset. In order to actualize that hidden potential, we have initiated networking and social media opportunities. The committee has set up an email address, a general information page on Facebook, and a private group on Facebook exclusively for JWV members. This new private group is an asset as a recruiting tool for all Posts and Departments. Younger members can join any brick-and-mortar post while also having a place to meet and interact with their peers nationwide. They can watch and respond to the latest GWC meetings, give their input, and be a part of this special growth within JWV.

All these new avenues have sprouted, albeit slowly. The GWC is requesting your assistance to spread awareness and encourage participation. You can contact our committee at [jwvgwc@gmail.com](mailto:jwvgwc@gmail.com), or find our general Facebook page by searching @JewishGulfWarVets. For the private group, search Facebook for JWV Gulf War Vet Network and then request permission to join.

## MARKETING COMMITTEE

*By Chairman Howard Goldstein*

Attendees at this year's National Convention in Richmond discussed the need for more focus on how JWV presents itself to both potential members and the public at large. An affirmative vote from attendees gave birth to a National Marketing Committee. Howard Goldstein (IL), Rochel Hayman (AZ), Steve Krant (TX), Kim Queen (WI), and Scott Wilson (FL) attended an initial, informal meeting during the convention. Since then, Sheila Berg (PA), Dick Aronson (MA), and Lou Michaels (MN) have joined the committee. Programs and Public Relations Coordinator Cara Rinkoff is supporting us at headquarters.

The Marketing Committee is working to define its mission and scope. Marketing is a broad subject encompassing marketing planning, target marketing, market research, and sales and communications, and therefore the committee needs to organize its scope to make it manageable. The committee has held a discussion with Membership Committee Chairman Barry Lischinsky to make sure the committees complement each other and not duplicate any efforts.

From these initial meetings, we agreed the focus of the committee will be:

- 1) Target marketing: determining various segments of Jewish veterans (for example, people who are nearing retirement from their careers or newly separated from the military), what messages will resonate with these groups, what benefits are important to them, and what is the best way to reach them.
- 2) Establish a central repository of all best practices as it relates to marketing communications materials, fundraising, local community inclusion events, successful Post/Department meetings, guest speakers, and other activities. We are looking at ways to house or at least be knowledgeable about where all materials are currently housed in order to take the best of the materials and share them among all levels in the organization.
- 3) Conduct a comprehensive study with current and past members of JWV to learn more about why they joined, why they stay (or why they left), and more, in order to develop ways to increase and retain membership. We eventually plan to expand this study to non-member Jewish veterans and to potential patrons in order to better understand their interests.
- 4) Develop a communications plan to increase awareness among non-members about the benefits of joining JWV.

This is a huge undertaking and while it will require time, money, and patience, the committee is actively working to move forward. The committee will present its initial findings at the February NEC meeting and update the membership through communications in The Jewish Veteran as well as through the Departments and Posts. We look forward to working with all committees, staff, and the executive board to help build a bigger and better Jewish War Veterans organization.

## NATIONAL STAMP PROGRAM

*By Chairman Michael Corbett*

The National Recreation and Rehabilitative Therapy Stamp Program will soon undergo a change in operation to offer JWV Departments the opportunity to have closer and more personal relationships with their local VA Hospital. Stamp Program Chair Michael Corbett will continue to coordinate the National Stamp Program, receive donated stamps, prepare boxes of stamps for shipment to JWV Department Stamp Chairs, and keep track of the stamps and boxes as they flow through his office. Department stamp chairs will receive the boxes of stamps and deliver them to their local VA hospitals. This will require volunteers from each department who live near a VA Medical Center where therapy managers and technicians have agreed to use the stamps for recreation and physical therapy.

In addition to delivering boxes of stamps to their local VA, Department Stamp Program Coordinators should be available to take pictures of veterans using the stamps and their beautiful works of art for publication in The Jewish Veteran. These coordinators should also evaluate the stamp program at their local facility and provide insight on possible improvements.

The National Stamp Program recently incorporated Fisher House facilities into its program. It will provide stamp collecting kits for children who spend time there. The program is now looking for starter stamp collecting albums to go in a kit that will also include a pamphlet on stamp collecting, a magnifying glass, stamps, and hinges to attach the stamps in an album.

Department Commanders are asked to take the months between now and NEC in February 2020 to find volunteers and provide a list of their Stamp Coordinators to Mike at [OCUSMC@Hotmail.com](mailto:OCUSMC@Hotmail.com). You can have more than one coordinator from each department.

Please contact Mike Corbett if you have any further questions.

## VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

*By Chairman Bob Jacobs*

I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Approximately 40 members attended our committee meeting at the National Convention in Richmond this summer, including both the outgoing and incoming National Commanders. We had a great meeting and accomplished a lot.

Jerry Alperstein and I reviewed progress of a project which involves collecting the stories of those who served during the Vietnam Era. Jerry told us what it will cost to publish 300 copies of a disc with those stories, which we plan to donate to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH). Profits from sales of the discs would go to the museum. The committee has more than enough funds to cover copyrighting, purchasing, publishing, and packaging the discs. I have had some discussions with the people running the museum, and we hope to make the presentation on the night of the museum's program during the next National Convention in Jacksonville. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed their

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# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

I would like to take this opportunity and say Mazel Tov to the newly elected JWV Post Commanders and JWV Department Commanders. Having served in both capacities for a number of years, I find both leadership positions challenging and equally rewarding. I am often asked, if given the opportunity, which one would I like to repeat. The answer is a JWV Post Commander. This is where it all happens and where you can have the greatest impact in our organization. As an incoming commander you are responsible for our most important asset, our JWV members. Every JWV member in our organization belongs to a post. Get to know your post members. It starts by reviewing your post's Alpha Roster and trying to identify the members on the list.

Recently I have received multiple calls from incoming commanders saying they have not received their alpha roster. They end their complaint by saying, "The system is broken." After walking the incoming Commander through the change of command process, I ask if they have submitted a JWV Post installation form sometimes referred to as warrant. After a moment of silence, they generally ask, "What is a JWV Post installation form/Warrant?" The JWV National Membership Department uses your Installation form/warrant for all contact needs, including the best contact person when a Jewish veteran wants to learn about

your post, who is authorized to receive your post's alpha roster, who is designated to receive your refund check, etc. I will guarantee that if you have not submitted an updated installation form/warrant then all the rosters and reports are still going to the leadership designated on the previous installation form/warrant.

To assist you in your role as incoming commander, please refer to the following JWV links:

**JWV Post Installation Form:** [https://www.jwv.org/wp-content/uploads/Post\\_installation\\_form.pdf](https://www.jwv.org/wp-content/uploads/Post_installation_form.pdf)

**A checklist to keep your JWV echelon in good standing:** <https://www.jwv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Good-Standing-Checklist-08152019.pdf>

This is where we need the help of leaders in all echelons, including the Installation Officer who administers the Commander's Oath, the Department Leadership, and the outgoing Post Commander. For the most part we have all experienced this situation when we first took command of our post. We need to coach and mentor our incoming commanders and their designated officers. Remember, their leadership is responsible for our most important asset – the members.

In closing, one of the easiest things we can do to grow our membership and make communication

easier is to create individual post and department emails. These email addresses should be shared with National and National leadership. Currently, when a prospective member wishes to contact a post, they have to contact National. Since National does not share private contact information, this creates an extra step the prospective member must take in order to join. Yes, they can simply fill out the application online, but wouldn't it be great for the prospective member to meet us first and join with members by their side? That is much more welcoming.

I encourage all our posts and departments to create a single email that can be shared with National and posted on the JWV website. This email account should be checked at least once a week. If the Commander and Quartermaster cannot check it, I encourage them to empower someone else to do so.



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky  
Membership Chairman

## A Plan for Change to Ensure Our Future

By Larry Jasper

Most people think veteran organizations are places where members sit around drinking and smoking and talking about their "good old war days."

After World War I, veterans' organizations were made up of former service members on a mission to give back to communities, build partnerships with local and state organizations, and develop programs targeting families. This attitude continued for a while after World War II, but slowly changed into a place to swap war stories. WWI veterans are gone, and so are most of the WWII veterans. Most organizations are now heavily populated by aging Korean and Vietnam veterans.

While most organizations still have policies to aid veterans and push for related legislation, at the local level, many have become what I described in the first paragraph. This does not appeal to the post 9/11 veteran. It is not the image the next generation of vets wants to project.

If the Jewish War Veterans and other organizations do not change, we will cease to exist. We have to adopt measures that appeal to the new breed of veteran. Like the military itself, we must shift and offer more personalized, tailored positions that give prospective members a sense of purpose and belonging. We need to focus more on family and community, with events like cookouts, career fairs, and raising money for the homeless. We need something for everyone, while still continuing our tradition of looking out for our fellow veteran. We need to look back to how things were after WWI as this is what appeals to the average post 9/11 vet.

One approach is to create new posts for the current generation of veterans which can be tailored to their needs.

JWV may want to adopt what another veterans' organization has dubbed its 21st Century Committee, to look at future development.

We need to find out what today's veteran is interested in, and let them know what JWV can do for them.

We also need to let them know they will be making a difference by joining JWV. We must ensure JWV is providing something that satisfies post members across all generations.

We also cannot forget the spouses of these new veterans. When JWV started, all service members were men and we set up an auxiliary for their spouses. Now, when we ask female veterans to join us, what do we tell their spouses? We need to provide an avenue for all spouses, or the married veteran may not join JWV.

We have all asked the question, how do we find current veterans? It is not easy to find a Jewish veteran once they have left the service. One approach is to increase our recruiting efforts with regards to active duty service members. I have taken on this task, in conjunction with Rabbi Irv Elson, a retired Navy Captain, and the Director of the Jewish Welfare Board. I am developing a brochure that will give the active duty member the answer to, "What's in it for me?" Once approved by JWV, Rabbi Elson can distribute it to every active duty Jewish Chaplain and Lay Leader, who will in turn pass it along to every Jewish service member they contact. If we can give them a reason to join us while on active duty, we should be able to keep them when they leave, thus solving the search problem.

How to ensure a future for the JWV? Adopt the suggestions I outlined above as a start.

## No Longer Missing

*Continued from page 1*

tween private, state, and federal groups. Missing in America has identified the remains of approximately 4,500 veterans out of the 20,000 remains found so far. In many cases, the remains belonged to veterans who were homeless or had no next of kin. Their ashes were put in a box and left on a shelf.

The Missing in America Project hopes to identify every forgotten veteran and ensure they are interred with the honor and dignity they deserve.



A final salute to a WWII hero.

Interested in writing an article about veterans' issues? Want to let everyone know what your post or department is doing? Send in articles and photographs to Managing Editor Cara Rinkoff at [editor@jwv.org](mailto:editor@jwv.org). You can find more information about guidelines for article and photo submissions on [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org).

The deadline for the next issue of The Jewish Veteran is March 2, 2020.

**Member:** Steve Krant

**Post:** Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 (Dallas, Texas)

**Military Service:** Lt Colonel, USAF Retired (January 1967 to April 1994 — roughly equal parts Active & Reserve)

**Member Since:** 2015

### 1. Where and when did you serve in the military?

- Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, AZ. 1967-69 (various admin & public affairs duties)
- Air Force Institute of Technology (at Syracuse University) 1969-70 — graduate program, Mass Communications (TV/Radio/Film)
- Carswell AFB, Ft Worth, TX. 1970-73 (Exec. Officer, Aerospace Audiovisual Service — now Combat Camera — Detachment creating video training materials for Strategic Air Command)
- U.S. Southern Command, Albrook AFB, Canal Zone, 1973-76 (Detachment Commander, AAVS)
- Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, MT. 1976-79 (Minuteman Launch Officer)
- Kelly AFB, San Antonio, TX. 1980-94 (HQ Air



Force News Service, “Individual Mobilization Augmentee” to the Commander, AF Broadcasting Service (i.e., “shadow commander”)

### 2. Why did you join the military?

For one, the dreaded draft. I joined at the height of the Vietnam build-up in early 1967. But more importantly, the opportunity to serve and spread my recent college-grad wings somewhere far away from my New York City comfort zone.

### 3. How did your Jewish faith impact your time in the service?

I was fortunate to be “adopted” by a Jewish family at the local Jewish Community Center within weeks of arriving at my first duty base in Arizona. I was absorbed into their extended family gatherings for High Holidays, boisterous Seders, and assorted simchas. I experienced similar connections at my other active duty assignments. For example, the base Chaplain in Montana provided a portable ark and space for monthly Shabbat services with the handful of “townie” families. The Jewish Welfare

Board occasionally sent in a circuit-riding Rabbi to officiate, once for a 76-year-old local’s Bar Mitzvah!

### 4. Have you ever experienced anti-Semitism at home or abroad?

Rarely — at least nothing overt, beyond the occasional ignorant comment or question. Early on, a “born again” senior officer felt it his mission to “save” me with Bible verses and twisted facts; the Wing Commander caught him red-handed and halted the crusade.

### 5. Why did you join JWV?

Frankly, JWV wasn’t on my radar until a chance encounter at a Super Bowl watch party. The gentleman seated across from me introduced himself and asked if I was a veteran. I attended a few monthly meetings and nearly walked away (too many “grumpy old men” arguing) but was pulled-in by the Post commander to work on some needed projects.

### 6. How would you improve a current JWV program or what type of program do you think JWV needs to add?

– Start with visibility and credibility: As an organization, JWV has become a “best kept secret” and a Voice of the Jewish Veteran that’s not being heard outside our own echo-chamber.

– Seek to engage Gulf War and veterans of the more recent conflicts in ways that resonate with their generation’s culture and norms. Most are raising families and have full-time jobs. Perhaps we can gain mindshare online, then transition into physical meetings as they edge toward empty-nesters and retirement.

### 7. What’s your favorite Jewish food?

Warm corned beef on freshly baked rye bread slathered with strong deli mustard. That, and a “real” bagel, not the ubiquitous Franken-donut pretenders served nowadays, even in New York.

## NEW MEMBERS

#### DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Barron, Rolando R. - Post 100  
Carter, Teal J. - Post 100  
Frankenberg, Sydney L. - Post 100  
Garner, Marti W. - Post 77  
Price, Don - Post 344  
Shafer, Bryon - Post 344  
Winer, Jerrold B. - Post 100  
Winer, Mark L. - Post 100

#### DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Sherwin, Gerald A. - Post 750  
Shusterman, Eugene M. - Post 60

#### DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Hamilton, Katharine - Post 45  
Lapine, Seth - Post 142

#### DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

Huffman-Parent, Brad I. - Post 767

#### DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Faine, Robert - Post 243  
Fisher, Daniel - Post 352  
Goldman, Martin Y. - Post 352  
Guernieri, Constance A. - Post 400  
Parker, David - Post 300  
Rubin, Charles - Post 265  
Woolf, Richard A. - Post 352

#### DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Levin, Matthew - Post 89

#### DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Seigel, Mark L. - Post 644  
Sokol, Michael S. - Post 605  
Wajcman, Simon G. - Post 605

#### DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Camp, John E. - Post 692  
Weiner, Lowell B. - Post 567  
Wise, Arthur - Post 692

#### DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Chanson, Mark J. - Post 32  
Dean, Herbert M. - Post 32  
Silverman, Jeffrey M. - Post 220

#### DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Brumbaugh, Aaron C. - Post 510  
Erlich, Jerry L. - Post 510  
Hundiak, David - Post 474  
Steinberg, Robert A. - Post 135

#### DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Elledge, Kim - Post 331  
Feinstein, Irwin - Post 331  
Sonner, Stu - Post 354  
Weiss, John - Post 354

#### DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Anderson, Deborah S. - Post 65  
Stone, Johnathan H. - Post 65

#### DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Bergman, David - Post 609

Dorfman, Donald - Post 126

Feller, Melvin A. - Post 972

Katz, Stuart F. - Post 126

Maisus, Samuel - Post 39

Myers, Howard - Post 126

#### DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Atkinson, James W. - Post 336

Day, Matthew - Post 105

Kartez, Zachary - Post 717

Kazdan, Jacob Alan - Post 41

Neulander, Melvin - Post 76

Seidel, Michael - Post 36

#### DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Gereboff, Murray - Post 23

Gereboff, Rosalyn A. - Post 23

#### DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Glazer, Marc - Post 112

Radinsky, David - Post 121

Weiser, Barrie M. - Post 121

#### DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Posniack, Gregory J. - Post 619

#### DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Keiter, Aaron - Post 574

Gonzales, Felix O. - Post 753

Greenspan, Michael M. - Post 574

McManaway, William F. - Post 256

Rotenberg, Joshua S. - Post 574



*Continued from page 5*  
stories.

We also discussed the theme of the proposed Vietnam exhibit we hope to establish at the NMAJMH. We cannot add to the current Vietnam section, which is part of the overall exhibit, but there is a good chance we can use all or part of a room that has two exhibits which have been on display for many years. Our exhibit would focus on the Jewish military experience during the Vietnam Era. Shortly after the convention, I sent out an e-mail asking for a listing of appropriate items for the exhibit. So far, the response has been somewhat limited but we have time on this. We have also received \$2,200 in donations that are earmarked to help fund the new exhibit. If anyone wishes to help out, contact me at conrail-bob2003@yahoo.com or 732-691-6139.

Wisconsin Department Commander Kim Queen spoke about the proposed committee Facebook page. He is working to resolve some issues with Facebook.

Nelson Mellitz gave an extensive report on the Mission Act, also known as the VA Community Care Program that was implemented last June. He explained the pros and cons of the program but it is too detailed to summarize here.

On Wednesday night of the convention, we had our Vietnam Veterans Committee Nite Out. It was at the hotel this year because of lack of appropriate places (either price or seating space). The food was great and the camaraderie was better! Thanks again to Jerry Alperstein for a great job arranging the dinner.

I've saved the best for last. Just before Rosh Hashanah, I received a call from a man who was a Catholic Chaplain in the last days of our involvement in Vietnam (September 1972). Just a few days before the Jewish high holidays that year, he received a panicked call from the Jewish Chaplain in Saigon. All of the torahs, arks, etc. had been shipped back to the states and the only remaining ones in-country were in Long Binh where the Catholic Chaplain was stationed. He was told there was no truck or helicopter available to get them to Saigon. He and his assistant put the items in a jeep but were told the highway had closed due to Vietcong snipers. He convinced the MPs that it was a holy mission and they finally let them go. They made it to Saigon unharmed and the Jewish services were fully equipped!

### VAVS COMMITTEE

*By Chairman Ken Ashworth*

The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) was founded in 1946 to provide for our nation's veterans while they are cared for by VA health care facilities. The Jewish War Veterans is one of the founding organizations.

JWV volunteers provide assistance by augmenting staff with end of life care programs, foster care, community-based volunteer programs, hospital wards, nursing homes, and veteran outreach centers.

This past Fiscal Year, JWV members volunteered over 20,000 volunteer hours at more than 51 of the 200 VA facilities.

## From Our Archives...

***Both of these articles were originally printed in the January 1933 issue of The Jewish Veteran.***

### Christmas and Chanukah

At this time of year, there is generally a great deal of criticism account of the increasing observance of Christmas by Jews. Among the more liberal-minded, the excuse is given that Christmas has lost a great deal of its religious significance and has become a secular holiday. But does this hold true of our children? In the public schools, the Christmas spirit is emphasized by Christmas trees, singing of Christmas songs and the staging of Christmas plays, all of which make a deep impression on the Jewish Child.

What is to be done about it? Some states have passed laws, releasing Jewish children from partaking in Christmas exercises and plays. But as is natural, children are not only curious, but do not like to be singled out and segregated.

Is it not the real solution in parents teaching their children the origin and significance of Chanukah and in the parents themselves practising [sic] the observance of Chanukah? Chanukah invariably falls about the same time as Christmas and if parents lived as Jews, and inspired their children more with the Maccabean spirit, the Christmas legends would have less significance. Chanukah is 200 years older than Christmas, and undoubtedly our Christian neighbors borrowed the idea and manner of celebration from our Chanukah. Of course, our non-Jewish neighbors should show more tolerance, but as always, it is up to the Jew to lead the way.

### A Fable with a Moral

A good lady once informed her minister that she had circulated some slanderous stories about one of her neighbors, which she now discovered were untrue. Regretting sincerely the wrong she had done, she asked her minister to pray for her and to help her recall the harm she had been guilty of doing. The minister took a feather pillow, cut open one end, shook it to the wind and the thousands of feathers released were carried in every direction by the wind blowing hither and thither. He handed the empty pillow to the lady and said "Madam, will you please be so good as to gather all those feathers together and return them to this pillow?" "Oh, doctor, I cannot do that, the wind has scattered them far and wide." "No more can I recall the harm done by your slanderous words" replied the minister.

Many Jewish Veterans when approached to join the J.W.V. cannot see the necessity of our organization. Many of them do not seem to know that prejudice and anti-semitism [sic] are flourishing not only throughout the world, but including our U.S.A.

Twenty years ago intelligent Jews in Germany would have scoffed at the possibility of such a thing as "Hitlerism".

The trend of the times in all fields is toward "prevention" rather than "cure". This is true in science, medicine, law, etc. We also aim to prevent what seems to be a growing trend – injustice to the Jew. And a strong and united J.W.V. Organization is the best possible preventative.

The moral is obvious – join the J.W.V. NOW and [sic] don't wait until it is too late.

## Wills for Veterans

*By Harvey Weiner, National Commander*

The third annual Massachusetts Wills for Veterans Day took place on November 26. This is a joint initiative between JWV's Department of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Twenty-five soldiers, veterans, and their spouses had their wills, healthcare proxies, and durable powers of attorney drafted by seven volunteer estate planning attorneys, six of whom were from the law firm of Day Pitney. There was not an empty slot. Colonel James Downey and I organized and supervised the event.

This event publicizes the name of JWV throughout the state and is a great service to veterans. I even recruited a potential JWV member who was grateful we organized the event. Once again, I have a template on how to put this program together and would be glad to share it with any department. So far, only the Department of Minnesota has taken me up on the offer.



National Commander Harvey Weiner and Col. James Downey supervise the third annual Wills for Veterans program at the law firm of Day Pitney.



# Jewish War Veterans Scout for Logo

By Carolyn Conte, Baltimore Jewish Times

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV) Inc. is celebrating its 125th anniversary with a contest. It is holding a logo design competition with a reward of \$500 and a feature in the next issue of its publication, "Jewish Veteran." Submissions, welcome from any individual over 18, must be emailed to Christy Turner at [cturner@jwv.org](mailto:cturner@jwv.org) by January.

JWV is the longest running veteran's service organization, according to their website.

"We are the only consistently running veteran's service organization, so it's a very exciting milestone," JWV Public Relations Coordinator Cara Rinkoff said.

The website explains: "JWV was founded in 1896 by a group of 63 veterans from the Civil War

after a series of anti-Semitic comments about the lack of Jewish service in the Civil War." Since then, JWV has fought for Jewish recognition in the veteran community.

They have fought for things like the Star of David on gravestones, religious protections in the 1944 GI Bill, the recognition of Jewish veterans, and the establishment of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

As Rinkoff explained, the JWV is a military coalition, but is also particularly invested in justice for the Jewish community as a whole.

Just this past month, JWV called on Chancellor Timothy White of San Francisco State University to respond to some online comments made by a professor about Zionism.

"We have three things other vet organizations don't: We are close to Israel, we fight anti-Semitism and we publicize that Jews have fought for this nation since the Revolutionary War," said JWV National Commander Harvey Weiner. He wants Jews to be proud of the face that they have served in every war in greater proportion than the general public.

The winning logo will be used for the JWV anniversary in 2021. Guests of the 2020 February Executive Meeting will vote upon the contest submissions.

*This article was originally published in the Baltimore Jewish Times and appears here with permission.*

## Contest to Design a Commemorative 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo!

### What is the Contest for?

The purpose of the contest is to design a commemorative logo for the 125th Anniversary of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc.

### Who is sponsoring the Contest?

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc.

### Guidelines

The contest begins on July 1, 2019. Submissions will be accepted through January 31, 2020.

- Entries must be the original work of the entrant(s) and must not be derived from any third-party designs, trademarks, or copyrighted images.
- The logo must be appropriate for a cap pin, printed materials such as posters, brochures, and for use on social media.
- Logo must look good in color and black and white. Do not use halftones and gradients unless created inside a vector graphics program.
- Logo design can be submitted in the following formats, jpeg, psd or PDF, but if you are chosen as a winner, you MUST be able to provide a high resolution vector file (EPS).

### Eligibility

The contest is open to any individual 18 years or older.

### How to Enter

Send your name, address, phone number and your email address along with a jpeg or PDF of your design to Christy Turner at [cturner@jwv.org](mailto:cturner@jwv.org).

Entry submissions must not be larger than 5MB. If yours is the winning submission, you MUST be able to provide a high-resolution vector file (EPS) of it. Multiple submissions are accepted.

Questions concerning the contest should be addressed to Christy Turner at [cturner@jwv.org](mailto:cturner@jwv.org) or (202) 265-6280.

### Judging and Winner Selection

All entries will be displayed at the 2020 February National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting and voted on by attendees.

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc., reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify entries that do not meet these Terms and Conditions.

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc. reserves the right to not select a winner if, in its sole discretion, no suitable entries are received.

### Ownership

Contestants assign all ownership rights, including all intellectual property rights to the logo, to Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc. Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc. may alter, modify or revise the logo as it sees necessary to fit the organization's needs.

### Prize and Winner Notification

\$500.00 will be awarded to the contest winner. Winning design to be chosen at the February NEC 2020 in Arlington, Virginia. The winner and winning design will be featured in an upcoming issue of The Jewish Veteran.

*Good luck to all entrants!*

## Students, Veterans Celebrate True Meaning of Veterans Day

By Larry Katz

Veterans Day events were more than just opportunities for barbeques and family get-togethers for Congregation Shaarey Zedek (CSZ) Religious School students. A new program started this year to ensure students remember and honor Jewish veterans.

This joint venture between the CSZ Religious

School and the Jewish War Veterans Department of Michigan took place on Sunday, November 18, 2019. The goal of the program is to introduce meaningful interpersonal experiences into the school's curriculum, allowing students to learn the lessons of history proactively, educating and inspiring students about the sacrifices necessary to protect and preserve the freedoms we enjoy, and building intergenerational connections within the synagogue.

Thirty-seven students attended the three sessions at the CSZ Berman Center for Jewish Education.

In the first session, the veterans and students gathered together in the library. Veterans introduced themselves

and shared stories about their military experience. Several brought photographs and other visual materials to show the students.

The second phase of the program consisted of three breakout sessions. Students were matched with veterans in a more personal setting, enabling one-on-one discussions. The veterans tailored each session to the ages of the students.

The third and final phase of this program was a return to the library with the veterans addressing any follow-up questions based on what the students had learned from the veterans and what the veterans had learned from the students.

Future local projects with CSZ and JWV will feature structured dialogue with current and former military service members and their families, field trips to military sites, cemeteries, museums, memorials, and other sites dedicated to the victims of war and genocide, and other proactive events including face-to-face dialogues with people who have devoted their lives to public service as well as those who benefitted from their sacrifice and courage.





## Post 587's Honor Flight Trip

By Steve Markman

A small group from Post 587 in Dayton, Ohio flew to Washington D.C. as part of an Honor Flight on September 7, 2019. The five post members joined more than one hundred others on the trip. There were six World War II veterans, 13 who fought in Korea, and the rest served in Vietnam.



At Dayton International Airport (From Left: Steve Markman, Ira Segalewitz, Alex Pearl, Jerry Kuhr, Bill Fried).

Honor Flight is a nationwide program that flies veterans to Washington, D.C. to see their memorials. The trip is free for the veterans, funded solely by private and corporate donations. Our trip was sponsored by Frontier Technology, Inc., a defense contractor with offices around the country.

We left Dayton International Airport at 6:30 a.m. and landed at Reagan National Airport at 8:00 a.m. As we taxied down the runway, fire trucks sprayed a water canon salute over the aircraft. The

ground crew lined up next to the plane to wave American flags as we pulled into the gate. More than one hundred others greeted us inside the airport with cheers and more waving flags.

We boarded buses and headed to Arlington National Cemetery along with a police escort to see the Changing of the Guard ceremony. From there, we drove past the Iwo Jima Memorial, then stopped at the Air Force Memorial for lunch. After lunch, we headed to the Lincoln Memorial, and then walked to both the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials. I lost count of how many times visitors on the National Mall came over to welcome us to D.C. and thank us for our service. Our last stop of the day was the National World War II Memorial.

All of us on the trip served in the days before email and text messages. A letter from home handed out during mail call was usually the highlight of the day. During our flight home that night, Honor Flight called out our names and gave us each an envelope stuffed with letters. The letters were from kids and adults who wanted to express their appreciation for our military service. Honor Flight even had our family members write letters to put in those envelopes.

When we landed in Dayton, Honor Flight had one last surprise waiting for us. After

getting off the airplane, we were led toward the main lobby of the airport by a group of bagpipers. In the lobby, there were at least a thousand people cheering and waving flags, as well as a band and even an honor guard from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Although we know attitudes toward those who served in the military has changed since the height of the Vietnam War, this experience was still overwhelming.

If you've ever thought about going on an Honor Flight trip, I highly recommend it. You'll have a great day and experience appreciation from your fellow citizens for your service. If you live near an Honor Flight hub, you should go to the airport to help welcome veterans home from their trips. We've added that as an activity for our Dayton post members.



At the Air Force Memorial (From Left: Alex Pearl, Ira Segalewitz, Jerry Kuhr, Bill Fried, Steve Markman).

## Jewish War Veterans Director Reflects for Veterans Day

*Jeffrey Blonder discusses the historic organization he represents, as well as serving in Afghanistan for 15 months, and why employers should hire veterans.*

By Rich Tenorio for JewishBoston

Honoring those who have served their country in war and in peace, Jewish War Veterans of Massachusetts (JWV) department commander Jeffrey Blonder was at the State House for the annual Veterans Day ceremonies with Gov. Charlie Baker and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Francisco Urena.

Honoring those who have served their country in war and in peace, Jewish War Veterans of Massachusetts (JWV) department commander Jeffrey Blonder was at the State House for the annual Veterans Day ceremonies with Gov. Charlie Baker and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Francisco Urena.

Blonder, an Afghanistan War veteran, represented the Massachusetts JWV, an organization consisting of 13 posts serving 600 Jewish veterans across the Bay State. "A lot of [members] are still from World War II," he said, noting that other members served in the Korean and Vietnam wars and in "modern-era" conflicts.

"We have posts in Springfield, Pittsfield, Worcester and Leominster, but I would think the majority are within the 495 belt," Blonder said. Individual posts' Veterans Day activities included the Peabody post, which participated in the City of Peabody activities and service.

The state JWV is part of a national organization

dating to 1896. According to Blonder, it's the oldest veterans organization in the U.S., as well as the oldest congressionally chartered veterans organization, older even than the American Legion, which turns 100 this year.

"It was founded with two principles in mind," Blonder said of JWV. "To serve all veterans without regard to race, color, creed or religion, and to fight antisemitism." He said these guiding principles are "the same today as in 1896."

At the time of JWV's founding, Blonder said, there was an erroneous belief that Jews did not serve in the military, a misconception that he said probably persists today. But, he said, whereas Jews represent 2% to 3% of the U.S. population, Jewish participation in the military has historically been estimated at 4%.

That includes Blonder, who served in the Naval Reserve for 28 years, including 15 months in Afghanistan during the War on Terror from 2008 to 2009 as a combat advisor to the Afghan army. He also served as chief of information technology for naval research intelligence in Fort Worth, Texas.

In Afghanistan, Blonder was stationed in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, the nation's third-largest city and home to the Blue Mosque. His home base was Camp Mike Spann, named for CIA operative Johnny Micheal Spann, the first American killed in action during the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

Blonder described his time in Afghanistan as



Jewish War Veterans of Massachusetts department commander Jeffrey Blonder, center, and JWV MA Post 74 (Malden) past department commander and event chair Barry Sobel participate in the 2019 Greater Boston Stand Down activity at Boston's Government Center on Sept. 6, 2019 (Courtesy JWV Massachusetts)

a "unique situation." "They had no real central government," he said. "It was tough teaching leadership ... They were still learning to be a nation when I was over there." As he recounted, he met individuals who had, over a 25-year period, fought with and against the Soviets, and with and against the Taliban. "[Afghanistan] had more survivors than leaders," he said.

Blonder was the only Jew among the 300 to 400 people at Camp Mike Spann, but, he said, "I tried to do as much as possible," such as celebrating Hanukkah. "My wife sent a menorah and dreidels," he said. And, he added, "a couple of times" he flew to the air base at Bagram for Shabbat services with 20 fellow Jews, including civilian contractors, as

*Continued on page 16*



## Confessions of a Veteran Klansman: How the U.S. Army Radicalized a Soldier

*Continued from page 1*

were replaced by images of Muslim men. In close quarters combat training, the actors were in full Muslim dress. Buckley said this is when his hatred of Muslims started to grow.

In Afghanistan, Buckley saw Islam through a very controlled and unfavorable lens. On base he heard ethnic slurs and disparaging remarks about Muslims. At night, some troops burned copies of the Quran and urinated on them. When he had time to venture out into the community, he felt on edge and acted aggressively toward the local people. He viewed everyone as a potential threat. The troops who did not feel anger and resentment towards Muslims would call out their fellow soldiers for this negative behavior.

The lens through which Buckley viewed Muslims and Islam grew even narrower after the death of a colleague, who happened to be a close friend. Buckley stopped for a smoke break with a fellow soldier while they were on patrol. Shots were fired, and the other soldier died. Buckley blamed Islam for his friend's death and says the little flame of hate turned into a raging inferno. "All the negative experiences I had with Islam happened in the military," Buckley said.

The military offered Buckley counseling services when he returned to the U.S. in March of 2009. The services were difficult to access so Buckley did not take advantage of them. Buckley joined the National Guard in Kentucky, but in May of 2009, a training accident led to his honorable discharge.

When one of his black friends started dating his sister-in-law, he began searching online for ways to protect the white race. One of those



**Sgt. Christopher Buckley**

searches led Buckley to the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (LWK).

The Anti-Defamation League considers LWK one of the largest and most active Klan groups in the United States. The LWK practices traditional Klan ideology blended with neo-Nazi beliefs. At their cross-lighting ceremonies, they also light a swastika.

The KKK inducted Buckley in June of 2014, and he ultimately reached the rank of Imperial Nighthawk, in which he provided security for the Grand Wizard of the LWK.

Eventually, Buckley started to realize the KKK was something he no longer wanted to be in-

volved with. His substance abuse had validated his anti-Muslim and racist beliefs, but when sober, he did not want to be part of the group.

Buckley's wife Melissa contacted Arno Michaelis, a former skinhead, to get some help. Michaelis said that Buckley was in rough shape when they first met, and it took months before he could get him to leave the KKK in 2016. Buckley is currently working on a 12 step program that helps those escaping hate groups.

Many former white supremacists volunteer their time to help others leave these types of groups. However, Michaelis says it's difficult when these hate groups target newly discharged veterans. He said the groups use the veterans' military training to encourage them to protect America.

During our conversation, Buckley compared Muslim extremists to those involved with the white supremacy movement. "They are small groups of people, very poor, who are overlooked and angry about their environment and living conditions. This kind of correlates to rural America. Look at where white supremacy is bred." He added, "We are the world's finest fighting force...but at what cost? We are not only dehumanizing our enemy, but also dehumanizing our soldier."

Parents for Peace operates a confidential hotline that assists families and those who have been radicalized. If you know anyone who might have been radicalized, or a family that has been impacted, please contact the hotline at 1-844-49-PEACE. Parents for Peace is also trying to collaborate with veteran service organizations to bring awareness to the issue of veteran radicalization and how to combat it.

## Commander Honors Britain's Jewish Troops

By Harvey Weiner, National Commander

Each year the JWV National Commander flies across the pond to participate in a special Remembrance Day ceremony and parade with our British counterpart organization, AJEX. The trip typically includes a stop in Brussels for a two-day briefing at SHAPE and NATO, but the organizers canceled that stop this year due to a visit by the U.S. Secretary of State.

I still went to the ceremony in London, along with my wife Linda, Past National Commander David Magidson, and his wife Marilyn Mittentag.

The AJEX Annual Remembrance ceremony and parade takes place a week after the annual London Armistice Day parade and celebration.



**National Commander Harvey Weiner prepares to lay wreath at memorial during AJEX parade in London.**

AJEX stands for the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and is a remarkably active organization, considering Great Britain has not been involved in any major wars since World War II. More than 1,000 people marched in the parade, and an equal number of spectators lined the parade route. Considering there are only about 260,000 Jews in all of Great Britain and 158,000 Jews in London, this attendance is noteworthy. It appears all sections of the Jewish community are supportive of AJEX.

The ceremony took place at the Cenotaph near Westminster in the center of London. During the ceremony I laid a wreath of poppies in honor of the U.S. forces who served in all theaters of war. There were also representatives from France and Israel. Linda and Marilyn escorted Renee Salt, a Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz survivor and prominent speaker about the Holocaust.

Prior to the parade, we attended a reception at the Institution of Civil Engineers headquarters, where I spread JWV's message to everyone at each of the more than 20 tables. After the parade, the new AJEX commander hosted a dinner.

The day after the parade we toured the new American Embassy with a three-person briefing team. The leader was a Jewish Department of Defense Attaché who served as a Rear Admiral. I hope he and another one of the Jewish briefers will join JWV.

With the assistance of new JWV National



**Linda Weiner, National Commander Harvey Weiner, Ritual Director Mickey Nathanson, his wife, and PNC David Magidson at the Saturday morning services of the West London Synagogue for British Jews.**

Chaplain Rabbi Mark Winer, two new events were added to the London trip. The day before the parade we attended services at the West London Synagogue of British Jews, the largest Reform synagogue in Great Britain. Winer served as the rabbi there for more than a decade before his retirement.

The morning of our visit to the Embassy, we met with the David Sumberg at the Jewish Museum of London. David is a Jewish ex-member of Parliament and shared his knowledge about the status of Jews in Great Britain.

This trip is helpful in spreading the messages of JWV and enhancing relationships with Jewish veterans from other nations. I hope to complete the Brussels part of the excursion at a future date.



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Post 41 Commander Gary Ginsburg and former Post 41 Commander Louis Babin attended the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new VA outpatient clinic in Rochester, New York on September 26. The 15-acre site, which cost more than \$50 million has 84,000 square feet of usable space. The state of the art facility will support more than 60,000 veterans in the six-county area.



JWV Post 41 held a memorial service on November 10 to honor the 45 Jewish veterans who passed away in the past year in the Rochester, New York area. Post commander Gary Ginsburg said, "This is the most important event we do every year - to remember our Jewish comrades who have passed away. Following the service, Post 41 hosted a brunch for those who attended. From Left: Mort Stein, Morrey Goldman, PNC Lawrence Schulman, Louis Babin, Edward Kazdan, Sydney Cohen, Gary Ginsburg, Seymour Weinstein, and Stuart Blume.



PNP Elaine Bernstein and PNC Mike Berman place wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Veterans Day.

On Tuesday November 12, Department of Wisconsin Commander Kim Queen was asked to speak at a dedication of an Honor Wall at the Laurel Oaks senior living facility in Glendale, Wisconsin. This wall honors the Veterans that currently live at Laurel Oaks. The Department also presented a cased American flag to be displayed on the wall.



In September, Revere City Councilor and JWV Post 161 member Ira Novoselsky became a trustee of the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea, Massachusetts. From Left: Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Francisco Urena, Novoselsky.



New York State Senator John Brooks attends a meeting of Post 652 in Merrick. From Left: Brooks, David Zwerin, Gary Glick, Irving Liebowitz, and David Cepler.

Are you or someone you know both a Holocaust survivor and Korean War Veteran? Did you serve in the Korean War alongside a Holocaust survivor? If so, Rachel Kastner and Katie Morris are interested in speaking with you. These filmmakers are hoping to interview Holocaust survivors who are also Korean War veterans for a documentary. If you are interested in sharing your story or just want to connect with them to hear more about the film, please send an email to: [survivorsoldiersdoc@gmail.com](mailto:survivorsoldiersdoc@gmail.com).



Members of Post 256 and its Auxiliary placed flags on the graves of fallen comrades at local cemeteries in Dallas, Texas on November 3. They started at Shearith Israel Memorial Park with a ceremony that included a reading in front of a memorial to the veterans of World War I. Pictured are Steve and Andrea Solka.



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On October 3, Camden County, New Jersey named JWV National Quartermaster Nelson Mellitz of JWV Post 126 a 'Hometown Hero' and presented him with a special proclamation for his service to our country. From Left: Camden County Freeholder Susan Shin-Angulo, Freeholder Melinda Kane, Mrs. Debbie Mellitz, Cherry Hill Mayor Chuck Cahn, Nelson Mellitz, Rep. Donald Norcross, Camden County Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt.



JWV Post 126 Administrator Perry Levine delivered remarks at the Camden County, New Jersey Veterans Day Event in his role as the Commander of the county's Veterans Affairs Committee.

JWV member Sheila Berg met with U.S. Representative Susan Wild during the first Women Veterans Roundtable of the Lehigh Valley. Also attending the event were representatives of St. Luke's, other Lehigh Valley hospitals, and female veterans. They discussed military sexual trauma, VA services for women, and prosthetics for female veterans.



JWV Post 126 of Cherry Hill, New Jersey has sent Hanukkah cards to U.S. troops stationed overseas and at bases in the U.S. for the past 19 years. This year Post 126 worked with the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) to make more than 350 cards which will be included in the care packages to Jewish troops. The cards have messages from South Jersey senior citizens and local Jewish religious school students. This program has sent more than 7,000 cards to troops over the past 19 years.



JWV Post 753 member Irwin Barath and JAG Officer Lt. Hendel met with students and teachers at Shmuel Bass Torah Academy of San Antonio on Veterans Day to share their stories about military service.



Post 652 Commander Gary Glick and Department of New York Commander Jack Holzman were awarded Certificates of Appreciation by Edward Freeberg for speaking about veterans benefits and entitlements at Veterans Shabbat at Congregation Shaaray Shalom in West Hempstead on November 9. From Left: Gary Glick, Edward Freeberg, Jack Holzman.



JWV Post 125 Poppy Drive in Shrewsbury, New Jersey. From Left: Dr. Paul Goldfinger, Gerry Levine, Larry Snider, Dr. MJ Celli, and Sid Marshal.



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On September 24, JWV Post 210 Commander Michael Chambers and Adjutant Steven Troy presented Marine Midshipman Nathaniel Zachariah with the Captain Philip Roos Grant for Excellence and the Izzy Lichter Grant for Excellence to Naval Midshipman Jerome Iannone.



On October 13, National Commander Harvey Weiner and Chief of Staff Barry Lischinsky visited with members of the Department of Rhode Island.



On October 15, four members of Post 41 in Rochester, New York and the Western District of New York Department visited the Batavia Veterans Administration Medical Center for a bingo program with several patients. From Left: Post 41 Commander Gary Ginsburg, Post 41 VA Liaison Louis Babin, Post 41 Quartermaster Lawrence Shulman, and Post 41 Judge Advocate Seymour Weinstein.



Manhattan-Cooper-Epstein-Greenwald Post 1 of New York City conducted a panel discussion on military and veterans issues during Sutton Place Synagogue's Mitzvah Day on November 10. From Left: Post Commander Edward Hochman, Jerry Alperstein, Rabbi Melinda Zalma, Patron Joan Ashner, Rabbi Andrew Scheer, and Charles Simon.



Post 336 Donated \$500 to The Veterans Place in Yonkers, New York. From Left: Post 336 Senior Vice Commander Mel Cohen, Director of The Veterans Place Wilkins Young, and Post Commander Norman Weitz.



Post 256 was front and center at Dallas' 5th Annual Kosher BBQ Championship event on October 27th. Our Color Guard performed in the opening ceremony and we answered questions and handed out membership applications at our Inform and Recruit table.



During a meeting in October, Post 344 in Denver brought in someone from Freedom Service Dogs to talk about how they train dogs to help veterans with PTSD.



JWV Post 161 worked with American Legion Post 61 to raise funds for new flagpoles at the Beachmont Veterans Memorial School in Revere, Massachusetts. The new poles will hold both an American flag and a POW-MIA flag. JWV member Ira Novoselsky was honored for his efforts at a dedication ceremony in September.



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On October 13, National Commander Harvey Weiner and Chief of Staff Barry Lischinsky visited the new Rhode Island Soldiers Home and spoke with three JWV members who are residents at the facility. In this picture are Department Commander Ira Fleisher and Past Department Commander Sanford Gorodetsky.



A ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication took place on October 4 for a new housing unit for veterans in Revere, Massachusetts. The building with 30 one-bedroom units is the first housing for veterans built in Revere since the Korean War. JWV Past National Commander and Prince-Strauss/Groman Quartermaster Ira Novoselsky worked on this project from 2015-2019. A granite stone at the site pays tribute to the members of Post 161.



JWV Post 118 member, retired Col. Dick Littlestone, received an award on October 5 at the dedication ceremony of the expansion of the West LA VA Cemetery. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie honored Littlestone for his 20 years of lobbying on behalf of the cemetery expansion. From Left VA Chaplain Rabbi Barbara Speyer, Littlestone, and Department of California Commander Matthew Millen.

National Commander Harvey Weiner presents a challenge coin to Norman Hartstone of Post 211 at the Jamaica Plain VA Hospital in Massachusetts. Hartstone volunteers at that VA hospital three days a week. He is known as the "mayor" of JPVA, and will celebrate his 100th birthday in February.



## Women Veterans Seminar

By Nelson Mellitz

The female veterans of JWV Post 126 in New Jersey co-sponsored the seminar, Women Veterans are Not Invisible. The JWV Women in the Military Committee, Post 126 Auxiliary, and the South Jersey Jewish Community Foundation were also co-sponsors of the event which more than 40 female veterans attended.

This seminar is just the start of JWV's female veterans reaching out to all women in the military. The veterans who attended served in World War II through the current conflicts. The Department of Veterans Affairs provided speakers and reference materials, but the primary speakers were JWV Women in the Military Committee Chairwoman Sheila Berg, Selina Kanowitz from Post 126, and World War II veteran May Brill.

Ten of the female veterans who attended the event chose to become JWV members or patrons after the seminar.

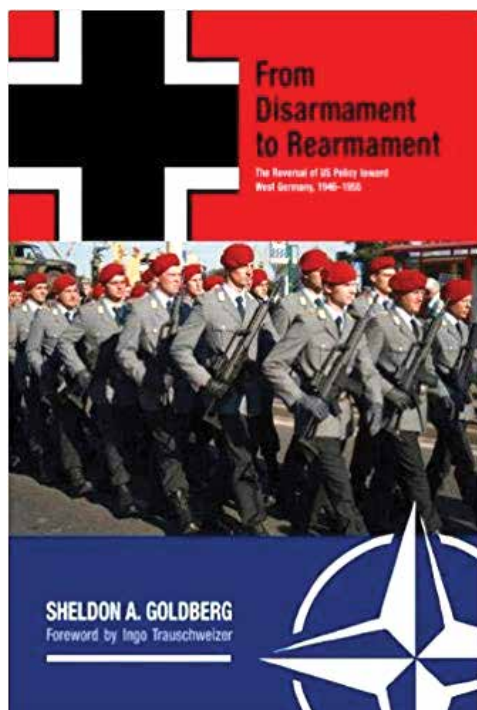


JWV member Sydney Cohen of Post 41 led a bingo program with seven residents at the Jewish Home in Rochester, New York on October 31. Members of Post 41 volunteer at the Jewish Home every month.



Members of JWV Department of Michigan attended the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces annual dinner on October 29. From Left: Mark Weiss, Saul Arsht, Art Fishman, Don Ritten, Bill Glogower, Ed Adler, Don Schenk, and IDF Major (Dr.) Macan Zer.





## From Disarmament to Rearmament: The Reversal of U.S. Policy toward West Germany 1946–1955

By Sheldon A. Goldberg, Ph.D.

Review by William A. Taylor, Ph.D.,  
Angelo State University

European Advisory Commission (EAC), Operation ECLIPSE Memoranda, Himmerod Conference, Bonn Report, and orders, directives, and laws dealing with the disarmament and demilitarization of Germany.

The implications of Goldberg's story are significant. As the author demonstrates, failure to reach consensus among U.S. civilian and military leaders, and between the United States and its European allies ultimately resulted in the long-term commitment of U.S. troops to Europe. By charting this turnaround in U.S. policy, the author illustrates the immense difficulties in moving from war to peace, including efforts first to disarm and then to rearm a former adversary, the German military. His presentation grapples with a very important question: How do you handle former combatants once fighting has ceased? Such questions are important, and the author's treatment of them is excellent.

Goldberg clearly articulates policy differences between the Department of State and the Department of Defense regarding German rearmament. He shows how State Department leaders worried about "significant domestic and foreign political repercussions," while military leaders in the Pentagon viewed German rearmament as providing critically needed personnel. In doing so, the author illuminates the differences between military strategy and grand strategy. The latter accounts for

not only military factors but economic and political ones as well. Another valuable contribution of Goldberg's narrative is a depiction of how policy must account for variables beyond military power, including diplomacy, information, and politics.

A particular strength of the work is the author's extensive research. Robust and meticulous notes, many of them explanatory and useful for additional context, demonstrate his rigorous analysis. Goldberg weaves together this impressive research into a colorful tapestry, scrutinizing primary sources from the National Archives, Harry S. Truman Presidential Library, Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Center for Military History, Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt, and Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum. Goldberg also synthesizes much of the existing literature into the narrative as useful context, including secondary sources in both English and German. The scholarship is sound.

Sheldon Aaron Goldberg's "From Disarmament to Rearmament" is a significant contribution to an understanding of the complex nuances of the early Cold War. Overall, it illuminates the complex relationship between military and political factors by demonstrating the shifting terrain of U.S. policy toward Germany during that period. It is also a significant contribution to both diplomatic and military history, illustrating the complexities of grand strategy during the Cold War, as U.S. leaders sought to balance military, political, and economic objectives and as former adversaries were becoming allies and vice versa. The work should prove useful for students, scholars, and general readers interested in the shifting contours of U.S. policy during the early Cold War.

*Printed with permission from Ohio University Press*

Sheldon Aaron Goldberg's "From Disarmament to Rearmament" considers the transformation of U.S. policy toward Germany during the early Cold War. The author convincingly argues that such a shift passed the initiative from the United States to France, thereby dooming the European Defense Community (EDC). As Goldberg attests, "In revisiting this rearmament debate, this book examines both the military and political dimensions of the German rearmament process." In pursuing this thesis, the author explores diplomatic aspects of the story as well as the undergirding strategy.

Goldberg covers a broad scope, assessing the impact of the formation of NATO and Operations TALISMAN and ECLIPSE, among many other topics. His organization, encompassing five main chapters and an epilogue, is quite good. Goldberg also includes useful appendices detailing the

## Jewish War Veterans Director Reflects for Veterans Day

*Continued from page 10*

well as military personnel.

"The good thing about celebrating Shabbat in Afghanistan is that, technically, it's a dry country that doesn't believe in alcohol," Blonder said. "The U.S. has to respect that. They didn't allow us to drink alcohol, except Concord grape wine for a Friday-night toast. It was the only time I drank, on Shabbat."

Several years after returning home, Blonder retired in a ceremony aboard the USS Constitution in 2013 with the rank of senior chief petty officer. "It was very thrilling," he said of the day, which included a turnaround cruise on the historic ship. "It kind of brought the whole thing together. As a little kid, I had gone to the Constitution with my parents. In school, I had raised money to save the Constitution." And, he noted, during World War II, his mother had worked as a civilian in the Charlestown Navy Yard, home port of Old Ironsides.

Now with JWV, Blonder looks to help fellow veterans, including those who have had a harder time than himself transitioning back to civilian life. "I [was] able to reintegrate into society right away," he said. He has been on the Swampscott Planning Board for 20 years and involved in Town Meeting for over 30 years, and is currently the Swampscott

town constable. But, he said, "A lot of veterans do have issues, do have problems." He noted that priorities for JWV include "better medical and mental health care," as well as "[making] sure the VA is adequately funded" and "job opportunities for veterans as they come back."

JWV members have participated in recent activities meant to help, including a Sept. 6 distribution of 1,250 pairs of socks for homeless veterans in Boston, and the Oct. 4 dedication of 30 one-bedroom housing units for veterans in Revere on the site of the former Congregation Tifereth Israel, with memorials transferred from the shul to the housing honoring congregation members killed in World War II and members who served in the Korean War, and honoring members of Revere's Prince-Strauss/Groman Post 161. Blonder noted that the housing was aided by Ira Novoselsky, a past national commander of JWV and Revere city councilor.

Blonder also encouraged employers to "hire veterans."

"There are a lot of skills they bring to the table," he said. "Leadership, discipline, a sense of mission. It's very important. They know how to get the job done."

*Reprinted with permission from Jewish Boston.*

## Replacing a Cross on a Float

By Mark Weiss

JWV Michigan participated in Detroit's annual Veterans Day Parade. The parade organizers placed us behind a float made by a local Vietnam Veterans group. The float consisted of a flag-draped coffin surrounded by four orange crosses, as well as several rifles in the ground with helmets on them.

One of our members said – and I believe he was joking – "What, no Star of David?" So I went over to the group and offered to fully fund a Star of David to replace one of their four crosses. They agreed! One of our members, who is a skilled woodworker will make the star. It should be ready for the Memorial Day parade.

I believe that this is an opportunity. Other non-Jewish veteran organizations have similar floats. JWV echelons that participate in parades should be on the lookout for these floats and offer to replace one of the crosses with a Star of David.

Long after we are too old to walk in parades, some veteran organization will be dragging that float through a parade and observers will see the Star of David.



**This opinion piece does not represent the views of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. nor the views of The Jewish War Veteran's Managing Editor. This piece reflects only the opinion of the author.**

## HEAL THE WOUNDS

By Dr. Robert Pickard, PNC

Most of our JWV members recognize me as PNC 2013-14. I am a practicing ear nose and throat physician as well as a retired colonel. I view my life work as a calling, much like a rabbi or priest. My job is to heal the wounds. These days I see a festering gaping wound, a rift between Israeli and American Jews over politics and national interest. I want to engage you to participate in healing these wounds.

## THE RIGHT VS THE LEFT

There are approximately 6 million Americans who call themselves Jewish, comprising orthodox, conservative, reform and non-practicing. Most vocal of American Jews is the Reform community. I am a member of a reform synagogue in Coral Gables, Florida. These American Jews are generally what we call politically liberal or left leaning. They generally belong to and vote for Democratic Party candidates. There is said to be about 7 million Jews in Israel, of a similar mix. Most are what we call conservative and right leaning. They vote along the lines of the Likud party, which is right leaning. This amounts to about 13 million total Jews with double or triple that number of opinions on just about everything, including politics.

## DIVIDED LOYALTY

Many American Jews were ok with the Iran Deal. Many American Jews are ok with appeasing and looking the other way at those candidates for public office in the US who favor BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions), espouse Anti-Zionist and Anti-Semitic rhetoric, some even going so far as to buy into the premise that Israel is an apartheid nation. These same American Jews appear to give lip service to their love of the modern State of Israel and love for the welfare of its people. All thinking American Jews claim sole political allegiance to the USA, believing the canard that Jews who espouse loyalty to Israel are espousing divided loyalty. American Jews may bend over backwards to be liberal in their approach to people whose views are Anti-Zionist and Anti-Semitic. These American Jews want to give the other guy a break; to see all men and women as really good inside despite their outward show of antipathy to Jews in general. These Jews find themselves at times on the opposite side of Evangelical Christians who see evil for what it is: Anti Zionism and Anti-Semitism. It is not divided loyalty to be loyal to both the USA and Israel.

## JEWISH COMMONALITY

American Jews, left leaning or right leaning make up only a tiny percentage of the American population. Jews are the majority in Israel. The views of Israeli Jews are as diverse as ours, if not more so. America and Israel are independent nations. They have much common ground and national interest and most importantly they share a common viscous enemy. Jewish commonality is key to my attempt at healing wounds.

Jews came to America from the mid-1850s generally to escape Pogroms, discrimination and

prejudice. They came from mostly small villages, Shtetls, populated only by Jews, isolated for security and religious reasons. Each village had a burial society and various forms of social networks where everyone helped their fellow Jews. Socialism carried over to America where people like Samuel Gompers and other Jewish workers began the labor movement, bringing a much needed end to sweat shops and child labor. Some Jews came to America with Marx-like Communism in their thinking and experience. We Jews have always been a band of brothers and sisters, either forced by others or self-imposed. We are used to circling the wagons to defend ourselves against common enemies. This is where the healing begins, i.e. recognizing our commonalities and recognizing our common enemies.

## JEWISH MIGRATION TO ISRAEL

Many Israeli Jews (not all of course) came to Israel after WWII from DP camps and from the refuse of European Jewry. These Jews saw and see themselves as pioneers and indeed they were and are Halutzim. Jews who survived the camps and those who escaped and helped the partisans are not about to be decimated and "thrown into the sea" by their Arab and Persian neighbors. The Jews in Israel, whatever their religious callings might be, are living in foxholes. Most men and women have served or are still actively serving in the IDF. No matter their religious or political views and except for the ultra-orthodox Israeli Jews, they realize their very existence depends upon their defenses. It has been said that there are no atheists in foxholes, even though many Israeli Jews are non-practicing Jews.

## JEWISH MIGRATION TO AMERICA

Most American Jews are not escapees from torture, nor have we ever felt the hot breath of our oppressors down our necks. We American Jews are arguably spoiled and naive. Yes, we have our anti-Semites, our BDS and Neo-Nazis. But they are few and far between. Yes, the level of Anti-Semitic acts has increased. This also has driven the Florida legislature under prior Governor Scott and now Governor DeSantis to fund millions of dollars for Jewish day school security. This far thinking has helped to prevent and forestall tragedies here at home. Most Reform Jews in America, Jews I am most familiar with, are liberal minded. Instead of thinking their Jewishness is based on Hillel's "do not do to your neighbor what is hateful to you", now think Tikum Olam, healing the world, as their mantra. This often transmits to the belief that ALL people are really good inside and that all we need to do to turn our enemies around is to appease and play nice with them. By way of contrast, most of our orthodox and conservative Jews by and large feel much more cynically about our enemies and often see the world through the eyes of Israeli Jews. They know that evil exists in the world and that by being nice and pretending that your mortal enemies don't wish you dead will not cut it. No, it will kill you.

## THE RIFT

So where is the rift, the wound we see between our Israeli and American Jewish brothers and sisters

in their world views and therefore in their politics? Why do many American Jews agree with the Iran Deal while the Israeli Jews see that as a threat to their existence? Is the answer simply because we American Jews don't live in the Israeli foxholes nor scurry for bomb shelters with missiles incoming from Hezbollah supplied by Iran?

## THE COMMON BOND

This goes to part of the solution. In Wisdom Each Day by Rabbi Abraham Twerski, M.D. the Sanhedrin 105a is quoted, "There is a folk saying, the Mouse and the cat make a feast from the fat of their enemy." American and Israeli Jews may at times appear at loggerheads over politics, BDS, Anti-Semitism and Anti Zionism, but when they realize that their common enemy and the enemy of the USA is Iran under the Ayatollahs, they will hopefully close ranks and unite in a strong bond as they should be. We need to respect each other's beliefs, we need to tolerate and be considerate of each other's opinions and not feud incessantly and bitterly. We need to stick together.

Herzl understood there is no country that Jews have sojourned in over the centuries where Jews are accepted as full and total citizens, equal in all respects with others, except for America. He understood this from the Dreyfus Affair and realized that a Jewish Homeland is essential for our ultimate survival. Let us B'nai Yisrael respect one another and stick together; let us walk a mile in each other's moccasins. Even if we American Jews differ with our brothers and sisters in Israel, let us also be more understanding of their immediate life threatening issues.

Thankfully, we Americans are not on the front lines. Our Israeli brothers and sisters are on that line, in foxholes and rightfully afraid for their lives, although bravely facing the enemy head on. Let's be strong together. We need each other. Let's stick together. Let's not try to interfere with each other's politics. We can and should voice our opinions but let us always be guided by the principles of, "what is good for the Jews." In short, we American Jews are, but for the Grace of Ha Shem, going as the Israelis will go.

## HEAL THE WOUNDS

**TOGETHER, WE CAN HEAL THE WOUNDS.**

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



## NATIONAL PRESIDENT SANDRA CANTOR

Dear Sisters,

JWVA has afforded me some wonderful heartwarming experiences through the years, including participation in various VA programs such as serving veterans dinner, playing bingo, and of course offering the Grant-A-Wish. But the most inspirational experience happened just last year.

Most VA hospitals sponsor an annual Homeless Stand Down event, which is a gigantic giveaway of essential items, including coats, gloves, hats, and blankets. This year our Post and Auxiliary in Dallas participated and contributed socks.

Last year my husband and I volunteered to work at the Dallas VA Stand Down. Since we did not host a table and were the only two representatives from JWV/JWVA, we were assigned to work in the shoe area. I sat on the floor while the veterans sat on chairs trying on shoes. While I never thought

party and bring gifts to the palace every year. One of his subjects was a poor Jewish shoemaker who spent most of his money making a pair of lavish, beautiful shoes each year for the king. The night before the party a disheveled drifter appeared at the shoemaker's door and begged for some food and directions to a nearby town. The shoemaker complied with the little bit of food he had and the directions; however, as he glanced down at the man's feet, he realized the drifter's shoes were tattered and falling apart. Feeling sorry for the poor man, he gave him the shoes he had made for the king.

The next day when the shoemaker arrived at the party the king asked him, "Where is my gift?" The shoemaker explained what had happened, told the king of the poverty within the kingdom, and what a burden it was to require people to bring him an annual gift. The king commanded his servants to lift him up so he could see over the palace wall, where he saw for himself the poverty of his subjects. As he rose higher toward the heavens, he observed more poverty throughout his land and his heart sank for his people.

When he came down to earth he spoke to the Jewish shoemaker, thanking him for his wise council, and decreed that in the future, he would give gifts to his people and not accept gifts for himself. After the Rabbi told this story, he ended saying "when you elevate others, you elevate yourself as well."

As the Rabbi's story concluded I felt a wave of emotion building in me, realizing that is exactly what I had experienced that day! Thank you JWVA. I will continue to be proud of what we do for others and in turn, am grateful for what we do for ourselves.

Loyally yours,  
Sandra



National President Sandra Cantor and National Commander Harvey Weiner commemorate Veterans Day at a reception following a ceremony at Arlington Cemetery.

of myself as a shoe salesman, that's what I was that day! It was very humbling, and I felt proud to be a participant.

On that same Friday night our synagogue hosted a guest speaker, a Scholar in Residence Rabbi, who specialized in storytelling. He proceeded to tell the following story. There once was a king who required his subjects to attend his birthday

Just as the sisters of JWVA have always promoted service to our local communities and the veteran community, we have always supported the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Our museum thanks you for your continuing patronage and dedication and hopes to have your continued support in the future as yours are the "hands that care." Our museum does not exist for you, but because of you! The sisters are aware of the important legacy that this museum represents to future generations.

As imperative as it is to contribute your time, voice, and efforts on behalf of the NMAJMH, we

## NMAJMH By PNP Iris Goldwasser, Chairman

also need you to help generate membership for us. Our museum may not be as big as the Smithsonian, but we are important. In numbers there is strength! We know we should and could be bigger and better. We remind you that membership in JWV/JWVA is not necessary for someone who would like to become a member of our museum. But is incumbent upon all JWV/JWVA members, Auxiliaries and Posts to be members! After all, if we don't belong, how can we expect others to join us?

To update you on other museum news, I must inform you that our Remembrance Walk is almost complete but there are still a few pavers available.



## Senior Citizens

By PDP Barbara Steiner, Chairman

Consumers are receiving alarming phone calls from an individual who claims to be from law enforcement or the Social Security Administration. The call scares our senior citizens into believing that their Social Security number has been connected to running drugs or money laundering across the border.

The scam attempts to convince people that their Social Security number has been suspended because of this suspicious activity or because it is connected to a serious crime. **DO NOT BELIEVE THIS STORY!**

Social Security will never call with an unknown problem. They will only call about a problem after first informing an individual by mail. Anyone who receives one of these calls or feels threatened can call the Social Security Administration's Customer Fraud line at 1-800-772-1213 or the Inspector General's Office at 1-800-269-0271.

## NEC

By PNP Petra C. Kaatz

Are you dreading the cold, dreariness of winter? Don't fret! National JWVA has a mid-winter program to warm you up, no matter what the outside temperature may be. Our NEC!

We all enjoy seeing each other and exchanging ideas to help make JWVA bigger and better. We don't have to wait until the National Convention to do this. The NEC (February 12 to 16, 2020) is the perfect opportunity to meet old friends or make new ones while exchanging ideas and learning about new things happening within our organization and of course, our National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

The NEC is the place to get answers to questions you may have regarding your Auxiliary, Department, or National issues that may have come up since the last annual Convention. If you have such a question, please let us know so it can be placed on the Advisory Board agenda.

***We look forward to seeing you in February.***





## Editor's Corner By PNP Iris Goldwasser

### Science Advances the World



How did the convergence of curiosity, love of mathematics, science, medicine, and thirst for more knowledge yesterday lead to developments that benefit humanity today? Although there are many people with Jewish backgrounds who possess these impressive traits, I want to introduce you to three scientists who have contributed to the advancement of civilization.

German-born Albert Einstein emigrated to the U.S. in 1933. He is a renowned genius and physicist who developed the theory of relativity, but is perhaps best known for the equation  $E=MC^2$  which paved the way for the development of the atomic bomb. The bomb led to the end of World War II in the Pacific, saving the lives of many in the American military at that time. He played an instrumental role in the scientific foundation for the invention of everyday items like paper towels and lasers. In fact, some of the mathematics behind present-day stock market analysis and solar power can be traced back to him.

Jonas Salk, born in New York City, was an American medical researcher and virologist who discovered and developed one of the first successful polio vaccines. In 1948, Salk undertook a proj-

ect funded by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, an organization established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, which would support the development of a vaccine. He devoted the next seven years to this project and in 1955 was finally ready to initiate a trial program. Until the introduction of the Salk vaccine, polio was one of the most frightening public health problems in the world. The success of the vaccine resulted in Salk being hailed as a miracle worker. Nations around the world began requesting this immunization for their own populations. Salk campaigned for mandatory vaccinations, proclaiming that public health is a moral commitment. Due to his efforts and tenacity, polio has been eradicated as a childhood threat.

Jessica Meir, born in Maine to a Swedish mother and an Iraqi father, was inspired to become an astronaut while watching Space Shuttle missions on television. She studied medicine, the physiology and behavior of diving penguins in Antarctica, geese migration over the Himalayas, and marine biology. From 2000-2003 she worked at NASA in Houston on physiological studies of astronauts (bone loss, muscle atrophy, etc.) to determine if any bodily processes were altered in space exploration. In 2019

she traveled to the International Space Station. She will perform three space walks during this mission to install lithium batteries on their station structure. On Oct. 18, 2019 she made history as part of the first all-female spacewalk in history, which she performed alongside her colleague Christina Koch.

What do Albert Einstein, Jonas Salk, and Jessica Meir have in common? All had inquiring minds, a thirst for learning, and a love for research. In other words, a deep curiosity of the world around them. All were encouraged by their parents and teachers to continue their education and feed their minds with information. All have different backgrounds and were part of different generations, but each of them was drawn to investigate and explore the unknown and contribute to civilization. We are the lucky recipients of their efforts.

The next generation of children have more to contribute as well and we must encourage them. JWVA must continue to contribute time and helping hands to programs in our local communities, especially schools and libraries. Most importantly, encourage young people to read. Help them unlock the door so they can step into the world beyond because they are the key to the future.

## Action & Jewish Affairs

By PAP Stephanie Naftelowitz, Chairman



It is my sad duty to report that anti-Semitism is still alive and well in 2019 all over the world, not only in the United States, and is reminiscent of the atmosphere in the 1930s and 1940s in Europe. Once again, people who look different, act differ-

ent, or pray different are at risk.

It has been one year since the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue, a conservative congregation in Pittsburgh. Although the synagogue itself is

not open for regular services, congregants and people from the neighboring Jewish community gather to pray in the garden where the eleven victims are memorialized. This incident was the deadliest attack on a Jewish temple in the U.S.

A few weeks ago in Williamsburg, Brooklyn some religious Jews were attacked as they sat in the park - no doubt they looked and dressed differently. Really?

Why do people who are different represent a threat to others? Why do people who are different make others feel inadequate? Why does everyone have to conform?

Hopefully one day we can all live together peacefully, see beyond the veneer, and accept all people as a friend and neighbor. No more anti-Semitism!

## Student Awards

By PNP JoAnn Lifshitz, Chairman

At our National Convention in August 2019 we were proud to announce the following winners of our Student Awards. Each and every one of them were bright with diversified interests and a credit to their families and schools.

JWVA awarded the Ethyle Bornstein Award to Allison Cohen who has been accepted to the University of Florida where she will be majoring in Architecture. She ranked in the top five-percent of her class and yet still managed to participate in mentoring younger students. Although busy she also found the time to interact with the homeless by bringing them food. She grew up with JWVA as her grandmother, Iris Kramer, is a member of Aux. 425, Dept. of NY, and her mother, Michelle Cohen, is a member of Aux. 256, Dallas.

Alex Cortez won our Wegman Award, which is given to a student who will be majoring in Music or Art. Alex traveled to Normandy, France and led a group of students on part of that tour. He has also sailed on tall ships, learning to work and survive among the masters of the sea. Cortez will major in Architectural Design at the Savannah College of Arts and Design. His grandmother is Roz Kaplan from Aux. 256, Dallas.

Hannah Damon received the PDC William Singer Memorial Award, a part of the Raoul Wallenberg Awards. She graduated 36th in her class of 483 students and although busy with classes, participated in Peace March meetings, newspaper club, teen outreach, and the Council Theater. Hannah will major in Biology at SUNY-Binghamton. Her grandmother is Sandra Damon from Aux. 3, Dept. of NY.

We congratulate all our winners, their mothers, and grandmothers, and wish them the best of luck in the future.

## Calling ALL Sisters! Support JWVA! By Natalie Blank, Chairman

JWVA is offering a new shirt for sale. Although these classic white short sleeved shirts with a collar and our blue emblem can enhance your JWVA uniform, this lovely shirt can be worn casually anywhere.

**The shirts are available in sizes medium to extra-large for \$25 and sizes 2XL and 3XL for \$28.**

Please fill out this form and send with your check payable to: National Ladies Auxiliary JWVA, 1811 R Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009-1603.

**Call me at 718-671-4629 with any questions.**



Size	QTY	Cost	Total Amount

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State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_



By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

We've had two interesting talks in the past few months. On October 27, Selma Ruth Wolkow joined us to discuss her book "Dearest Ruth, How Are You?: Falling in Love Through Letters During WWII." She shared a love story told through over 100 letters sent home from her future husband Irv who was serving in Europe. The letters shed light on the life of an 18-year-old Jewish soldier and how World War II impacted virtually every aspect of life at home. Wolkow is a wonderful storyteller and it was a pleasure to learn about her story.



Selma Ruth Wolkow reads from one of the letters she received.

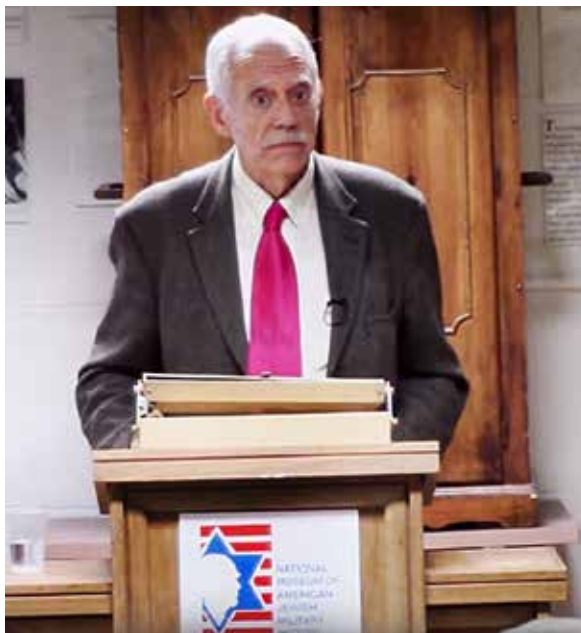
On November 4, John Simon spoke about his new book "Strangers in a Stranger Land: How One Country's Jews Fought an Unwinnable War Alongside Nazi Troops... and Survived." Simon shared the surprising history of Jewish soldiers from Finland who fought alongside the Germans during World War II. The Jews of Finland had arrived in the 19th century as child soldiers known as Cantonists, essentially kidnapped from the Pale of Settlement and conscripted into the Russian Army. Jews established communities in several places in Finland.

In World War II, facing an aggressive Soviet Union and cut off from food and other supplies, Finland felt it needed to side with the Germans as co-belligerents. The country's Jewish soldiers fought side by side with Germans to keep the Soviet Union out of Finland. Several openly Jewish Finns were awarded the Iron Cross by the German Wehrmacht but refused to accept it. Native Yiddish

speakers were at times used as translators to facilitate Finnish-German communication. The Finnish Jewish soldiers were aware of the contradiction that fighting for Finland meant supporting the Nazis, but they determined it was the only way to defend Finland.

After seven years of historical research, Simon decided to write the stories he found as a novel because he thought that would allow it to reach more readers and have a greater impact. You can watch Simon's talk on our YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/c/NmajmhOrg>. The book is available in our museum store, at <https://nmajmh.org/shop/>.

In October, the museum also welcomed President Greg Gunderson and Professor Timothy Westcott from Park University's George S. Robb Centre for the Study of the Great War. They are working on a project called the "Great War Valor Medals Review." They are reviewing World War I records to recommend upgrades to the Medal of Honor. Their review will include over 200 Jewish veterans who received a Distinguished Service Cross, the French Croix de Guerre with palm, or were recommended for the Medal of Honor but didn't receive it. They're also reviewing records for African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic-American, and Native American veterans. They're eager to work with the museum and JWV to share



John Simon



the stories they discover and publicize their project. We hope the project results in deserving Jewish veterans receiving their proper recognition. This project will take years of research and will surely uncover many interesting stories.

On Veterans Day, we completed our annual service project at the museum. We put together nearly 200 care packages for patients at the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center. Middle school students from the Levine Academy in Dallas and The Field School here in D.C. assisted with this project. We had additional volunteers from AmeriCorps and many individuals from our community who were eager to find a way to help veterans. Special thanks to Sheldon Goldberg for being here all day and to Ari Tessler for helping out as well.



Care packages for patients at the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center.

## Giving Securities

### Donate Appreciated Securities to the Museum and Take a Tax Deduction

Support the museum and decrease your tax liability by donating securities. The donor can usually deduct the fair market value of the donation without realizing any capital gain. The National Museum of American Jewish Military History is a 501(c)(3) organization, eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions

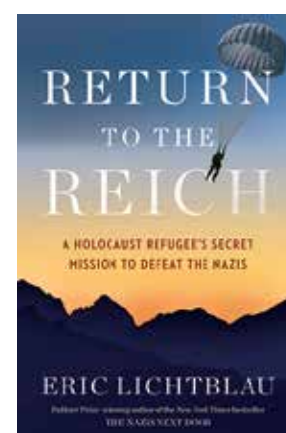
### Make a charitable distribution from an IRA

Congress has provided that those people who make a "Qualified Charitable Distribution" from their traditional IRA using their minimum required distribution directly to a 501(c)(3) are eligible to take the amount donated as a charitable deduction (even if you don't itemize your deductions). This is a win-win. You satisfy the requirement to withdraw the minimum required distribution, but the money withdrawn is not taxable if donated directly to a 501(c)(3) charity.

**Check with your financial advisor to be sure your account meets the requirements.**

## • Upcoming •

January 16 • 7:00 pm



**Return to the Reich** author Eric Lichtblau discusses the story of Freddy Mayer, a German-born Jew who escaped Nazi Germany only to return as an American commando.



By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

## Celebrating the Holidays Under the Gun: Festivities During Wartime

Meals with family and friends, gifts, and revelry are what come to mind when we think of the holiday season. For those in the military, particularly during wartime, the holidays are often spent away from their families and without the trappings of the season. The fall and winter holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year's Eve gave a sense of hope and home to American service members far from home.

The holidays often brought a respite from the standard, less than appetizing, daily fare. Thanksgiving Day dinner in Vietnam in 1967 started off with shrimp cocktail and crackers, featured a traditional meal of roast turkey and gravy with cornbread dressing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, glazed sweet potatoes, other sides and sweets, and of course culminated in pumpkin pie with whipped cream. Gary Levinson wrote, "After nearly a year in Vietnam and eating mostly C-Rations, this was a festive meal and greatly appreciated by all. Of special interest were the messages by General O'Connor and General Westmoreland [included in the printed menu]; many of us felt at this time we truly were serving a noble cause in Vietnam."



Thanksgiving in Korea, 1953.  
Bernard Rosen Collection.

Arranging a taste of home in a warzone is no small feat. A 1990 Associated Press article detailed the U.S. military's efforts to provide all 230,000 Americans deployed to the Persian Gulf with a fresh turkey dinner for Thanksgiving. The arrangements for the November dinner began in mid-August and ingredients were procured from around the world, including 60,000 pounds of rolled, boneless turkey from the U.S., 2,000 whole turkeys from Saudi Arabia, pies from Germany, grapes from Lebanon, and vegetables from Lebanon, Turkey, and Syria. The military wanted to provide a fresh holiday meal to all the service members, but just in case they weren't able to get fresh food to a unit (say the unit did not have a kitchen), there were also Thanksgiving T-rats (TV-dinner style tray rations) available.

Quick on the heels of Thanksgiving comes Hanukkah and Christmas. The upheaval of war made the holidays seem more important to separated families. Letters home revealed the longing that many felt more acutely during the winter holidays. Lawrence Brenner spent the 1965 holiday season in Vietnam and he corresponded frequently with his Aunt Ella Horwitz, keeping her updated on his activities. He wrote, "Thanksgiving was quite nice, but being home would have been much better."



Menorah with Brian and Ryan - Matthew Gabe (center) with fellow servicemembers in front of Hanukkah Menorah, Iraq, 2007. Matthew Gabe Collection.

Care packages from home were greatly appreciated and he wrote to his aunt to thank her for sending him cookies and to say that he is celebrating Hanukkah as best he can. He was fortunate to see a holiday USO show featuring Bob Hope that was "really appreciated."

Some Jews chose to adopt the Yuletide festivities, while others rejected the rituals and symbols of Christmas. Still others sought ways to meld Christmas and Hanukkah. The museum's collection contains many Christmas cards sent by Jewish servicemen to their families back home. While many Jewish service members participated in Christmas festivities, sometimes the roles were reversed with Christian chaplains conducting Hanukkah services.

On Christmas Eve 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, Sidney Strausberg and the rest of the 872nd Quartermaster Company found themselves in the town of Tongeren, Belgium. They billeted with a widowed farmer and his 10-year-old son. The men of his unit voted to make a Christmas dinner for the farmer and his son as a thank you and because their supplies (including the first meat they had seen in a long while) had arrived earlier in the day. The unit had eight Jews including Strausberg. During the Jewish holidays the other men of the company would cover the duties of the Jewish soldiers so they could have services, so in turn the Jewish soldiers got together and volunteered to cook and serve the Christmas dinner and cover all duties that day. They started at dawn, gathering equipment from local cafés, decorating, and of course, cooking. When everyone was assembled for dinner, they invited the farmer and his son to join them. Strausberg remembered that the farmer "was speechless and cried as [they] toasted him." They had an emotional dinner and their Christian buddies thanked them for what they had pulled together. After dinner the farmer asked for help getting something he had hidden away. He returned with two cases of good champagne, with which he toasted the soldiers. It is a memory Strausberg recalled fondly every December for years.

Hanukkah sometimes provided service members with an opportunity to interact with the local Jewish community. Shanghai served as an important haven for Jewish refugees during the Holocaust because at the time it was an open city with no

immigration restrictions. Some 23,000 European Jews found shelter there. During the war, occupying Japanese forces relocated the Jewish refugees to a very small area in Shanghai's Hongkou (also spelled Hongkew) district. The Japanese authorities gradually adopted additional restrictions, but the ghetto did not have walls and American Jewish charities, including the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB), provided basic necessities to the Jews there. During Hanukkah in 1945, American service members celebrated the holiday with the ghetto's refugees and handed out gelt provided by the JWB to the children.

Leslie Dresbold was stationed at Lincoln Army Airfield in Nebraska in December of 1944 and was fortunate to be close to Lincoln's small but active Jewish community. He attended Hanukkah services at the synagogue and wrote to his mother that the Hanukkah play was "swell." It wasn't all fun and games though, as Dresbold spent part of his New Year's Eve 1944 writing a letter to his mother from the officers' latrine. He was on duty overnight on New Year's Eve with the task of keeping the fires going in the stoves.

Those overseas also received holiday care packages from friends and family back home and from groups like the Red Cross. Marvin Kastenbaum wrote to his sister from Burma about having no plans to celebrate the New Year but was happy to say that the Red Cross had distributed Christmas packages. The package contained cigarettes, hard candy, postcards, chocolates, and address books. He praised the Red Cross for, "really doing its part in this war."



Two Catholic chaplains celebrating Hanukkah at IX Corps Chapel in Japan. Morry Luxenberg Collection.

When deployed or stationed overseas during the holidays, service members do everything they can to bring the festive holiday spirit to their duty stations, whether it is a special meal, whatever decorations they could cobble together, or corresponding with those back home. Creativity and generosity made wartime holidays meaningful and memorable. Being separated from family and friends during the holidays made wartime much more difficult for those in the military, and the separations and deprivations made festivities poignant and bittersweet. Most of us will spend the holidays at home surrounded by the ones we love. Many service members willingly sacrifice time with their families so our country will have the freedom to enjoy these holidays.



# In Memoriam

## PNC Neil Goldman



The JWV community is sad to report that past National Commander Neilson Goldman passed away on November 21 at the age of 95. Goldman served as the National Commander during JWV’s centennial year. After his election in August of 1995 Goldman said, “If we take the opportunity to involve ourselves with the program and projects of the centennial and the centennial membership campaign, we will achieve the growth so vital in membership and self-esteem.” Goldman added, “If we position JWV for strength in the 21st century, these are the things we can do. These are the things we must do. These are the things we will do.”

Goldman enlisted in the U.S. Air Corps as an aviation cadet, serving as a celestial navigation trainer operator and instructor before his honorable discharge in 1946.

Goldman is survived by his three children, 20 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

# HONOR THE MEMORY

## OF A LOVED ONE

Honor the memory of a loved one with our yearzeit program. You’ll receive an annual reminder notice prior to the anniversary date each year. The yearzeit entry is visible on the website year round for family and others to view from anywhere in the world. Visit [yearzeitremembrance.org](http://yearzeitremembrance.org).

Yearzeit will include a biography, photo(s), information about their military service, medals and awards they may have received, and his or her affiliation in JWV or JWVA.

### Gold- \$500

750 word biography and 18 photos

### Silver- \$375

500 word biography and 6 photos

### Bronze- \$250

250 word biography and 1 photo



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### PNC BENJAMIN KAUFMAN

★ ADAR 2, 5741

March 10, 1894 to February 5, 1981

PNC Benjamin Kaufman is a recipient of the Medal of Honor. He served in the battle of Argonne Forest, France where he took out a patrol for the purpose of attacking an enemy machine gun which had checked the advance of his company. Before reaching the gun he became separated from his patrol and a machine-gun bullet shattered his right arm. Without hesitation he advanced on the gun alone, throwing grenades with his left hand and charging with an empty pistol, taking one prisoner and scattering the crew, bringing the gun and prisoner back to the first-aid station.

#### U.S. ARMY, WWI

#### HIGHEST JWV POSITION

National Commander & National Executive Director

#### MILITARY SPECIALTY

Infantry

#### RANK

First Sergeant

#### AWARDS/MEDALS

Croix De Guerre, Medal of Honor

## TAPS

### DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Arnow, Robert - Post 100  
Rotkopf, Maurice - Post 100  
Shower, Ralph - Post 100

### DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Fine, Ernest H. - Post 385  
Holstein, Lee J. - Post 680  
Wolk, Abe J. - Post 385

### DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Rubenstein, Herbert - Post 45

### DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MacFadden, Jack - Post 58

### DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Jaffe, Bernard - Post 440  
Kirschenbaum, Bernard - Post 639  
Novitsky, Harold - Post 501  
Victor, Leonard - Post 321

### DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Becker, Lawrence - Post 800  
Steinlauf, Marvin I. - Post 89

### DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Burstein, Joseph - Post 260  
Sherman, Carl K. - Post 644

### DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Bach, Maurice D. - Post 167  
Greenblatt, Victor - Post 692

### DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Cristol, Harold - Post 735  
Goldberg, Bernard L. - Post 211

Hillman, Leonard - Post 161  
Howard, Bertram E. - Post 735  
Lit, Leonard H. - Post 735  
Marshall, George J. - Post 211  
Yonis, John - Post220

### DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Farber, Leonard R. - Post 135  
Kaye, Sheldon - Post 510  
Sklarchyk, Fred - Post 474  
Wayne, Leonard G. - Post 135

### DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Melzer, Leo - Post162

### DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Bloom, Larry A. - Post 178  
Karlin, Martin - Post 63  
Levitt, Albert - Post 126  
Millstein, Norman - Post 972  
Oberson, Arnold - Post 39  
Rappaport, Lee Michael - Post 126  
Simons, Stuart - Post 609  
Sorin, Francis - Post 76

### DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Brynin, Milton - Post 191  
Cohen, Emanuel - Post 191  
Cohen, Stanley - Post 425  
Goldberg, Gerald A. - Post 425  
Kirschner, Donald - Post 50  
Koerner, Ronald J. - Post 191  
Kornreich, Ivan - Post 625  
Lemberger, Alan D. - Post 625  
Oberman, Nathan - Post 425

Rosenblum, William - Post 717  
Silverman, Harold - Post 717  
Solomon, Maurice - Post 425  
Stateman, Edward - Post 488  
Toplitsky, Jerome - Post 425  
Vooss, Eugene - Post 425  
Warmbrand, Martin - Post 1  
Zipes, Melvin - Post 625

### DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Hattenbach, Ira - Post 122

### DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Austein, Elliot - Post 697  
Barbash, Jack - Post 98  
Edelman, Aaron - Post 122  
Hartman, Mort - Post 697  
Nagurka, Jack - Post 697  
Schonberger, William - Post 181  
Tucker, Sherwyn J. - Post 697

### DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Greenspon, Irving - Post 112

### DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Blumberg, Melvin R. - Post 753  
Cohen, Jack B. - Post 749  
Dworkin, Bernie - Post 256  
Goldman, PNC Neilson N. - Post 757  
Wald, Sol - Post 256  
Wechsler, Lawrence - Post 256

### DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA-NC

Merims, Michael H. - Post 765





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# Happy New Year 2020!

**We Wish All Good Health,  
Strength, and Happy Life!**

**Greetings from Post 409**  
*Clearwater, Still Going Strong!*

**Allan & Sheila Abramson**  
*Good Health & Happiness to All*

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

**Chag Sameach**  
*Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ*

**PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw**  
**Eugene Baraw**

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

**PA PDC 697 Stan Bilker**  
*In memory of my wife, PDP Adele*

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

**PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749**  
**PDC Jordan Crosby • Post 440**  
*In memory of PDP Edith Crosby*

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

**Greetings • Gerald Elkan**

**Greetings from Post 409- Clearwater, FL!**  
*Co-cmdrs Murray Zolkower / Stan Sarbarsky*

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

**In Honor of all who have served!**  
**Good Health & Happiness to All!**

**In Memory of my Father**  
*Samuel Goldberg*

**PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg**

**PNC Edwin & PNP Iris Goldwasser**  
*Honoring Veterans*

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

**PNC Sam Greenberg**

**Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321/69**  
*National Adjutant • 2016-2019*

**PA PDC 706 Larry Holman**  
*In memory of PNC Ronald Ziegler*

**Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health**  
*Happy Holiday!*

**Saluting the Veterans of Heritage Hills**  
*Mazel Tov!*

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

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

**PNP Petra & PDC Jason Kaatz**  
*Good Health & Happy Holidays!*

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

**Mazel Tov, PNC Barry Schneider!**

**PNC Sheldon Ohren**  
*L'Chaim - To Life*

**In Loving Memory of my wife, Virginia**  
*Queens PCC Ron Peters*

**In Memory of My Wife Raya**  
*Get Well, George • Dr. Jack Porter Post 211*

**Post 712-OH In memory of Michael Rubin**  
**PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky**  
*Happy Holidays*

**Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth**  
*Happy Holiday to You and Yours!*

**PNP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein**  
*Good Health & Happy Holidays*

**In Memory of Don Rothman PC #44**  
*By Wife Bernice Rothman PAP #44*

**Stephen & Helen Sax**  
*Live long and prosper*

**In Loving Memory of**  
*Eleanor (Smith) & PNC Al Schlossberg*

**Harriet & Norman Schnitzer, PDC**

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

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

**PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman**  
*Our Very Best Wishes to All*

**In Memory of Moshe Shaki-Tiberius**  
*Lieutenant-Tank Forces IDF*

**Good Health & Best Wishes**  
*to all Veterans and their Families*

**PPC Post 191 Aaron Silver**  
*In memory of my wife Marilyn-JWVA*

**PNP Linda Singer & Stuart Singer**  
*In loving memory of PDC Bill Singer*

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

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

**The Tarnofsky Family**  
*In memory of Len Klanit - Post 440*

**Norma & PNC Paul Warner, Ph.D.**  
*Health & Happiness to All*

**NC Harvey & Linda Weiner**  
*Be Well!*

**In Memory of Philip & Jolia Weinstein**  
**Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute**  
*www.msawi.org*

**Jeri Zweiman**  
*In loving memory of PNC Robert Zweiman*

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

**Any Jewish WWII person captured, sent  
to Auschwitz, etc., and survived**  
**Happy New Year to JWV!**

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

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