



The Jewish Veteran

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

VA Secretary Wilkie Addresses JWV and JWVA Members at NEC 2020

By Cara Rinkoff

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is stronger than ever before, and is working hard for all veterans. This is just one part of the message delivered by VA Secretary Robert Wilkie when he addressed members of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. during its National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting on February 14 in Arlington, Virginia.

Wilkie told JWV that ensuring the strength of his department is how he can thank veterans for their service and sacrifice to the country. "We have the highest patient satisfaction rates in our history. 90 percent of our veterans are completely satisfied with the services they get at VA. It is our eternal promise that the promise given to Americans veterans by Mr. Lincoln be kept. That we shall care for those who have borne the battle," Wilkie added.

The Secretary also talked about privatization concerns. He noted that, "only in Washington, D.C., would a \$240 billion budget be cause for concern about privatization." This budget is the second largest of any agency in the federal government, second only to the Department of Defense.

Wilkie said the new Mission Act will allow veterans to receive services from the private sector without the need to privatize the VA. He said another benefit of the new law is that veterans are eligible for coverage of their urgent care visits.

Wilkie said he thinks electronic health records will be online in late spring or summer. He hopes these records will keep track of medical history "the minute that young American walks into the military processing station to the minute that American is handed over to the VA."

By the end of March, Wilkie hopes the VA will present a report to the country about veteran suicide. He said it is time for a national conversation to begin about this important topic. "The United States Army started taking statistics on veteran suicide, on Army suicide, during the administration of Benjamin Harrison in 1892. And yet, we have never had a national conversation about what it means when warriors come back," Wilkie noted. He added that until there is a national conversation, all investigations of veteran suicide will amount to are



Veterans' Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie (Photograph by Lou Michaels).

more federal reports that no one will read.

Wilkie said he also wanted to bring JWV a message from President Donald Trump in regards to anti-Semitism. Wilkie said Trump is the most forceful opponent of anti-Semitism and added,

Continued on page 9

National Commander Weiner Testifies Before Congress

By Cara Rinkoff

The Jewish War Veterans National Commander Harvey Weiner testified before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees

on February 26. Weiner decided to deviate from the typical testimony given by our organization's commander, and instead submitted our legislative priorities in a written document.

For his oral testimony before the committees, Weiner decided to discuss courage. He urged the members of the House and Senate to show courage by standing up for veterans and members of the military. "On behalf of all veterans, past and present, and all service personnel, past and present, I am asking each and every one of you to show courage by

doing your job and by doing right, regardless of the political consequences, including the possibility, or even the probability, that you will lose your job by being voted out of office," Weiner said.

In his testimony Weiner addressed two main areas where legislators must show courage. The first is to make sure military funding is not used to build a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico. The other is for Congress to "take back the war powers that the framers of the Constitution and your own 1973 War Powers Resolution gave you."

Here is the entirety of Weiner's oral testimony:

Chairman Moran and Chairman Takano, Ranking Members Tester and Roe, I am Harvey Weiner, a Vietnam War combat veteran and the National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of

Continued on page 3



CONTENTS

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

D'verei HaShomrim

Now Hear This, O Israel

By Captain Arnold E. Resnicoff, Chaplain Corps,
U.S. Navy (Retired)

On a Navy ship, before an important announcement over the public address system, the boatswain's mate sounds the bosun's call with a pipe/whistle, followed by the words, "Now Hear This."

This sound to get our attention always reminded me of the shofar blast, and the words reminded me of the beginning of the Shema: "Hear, O Israel."

In both these phrases, the word "hear" means much more than the physical act of hearing. The word is a command, closer to the old English word hearken. It means listen, understand, and obey. It is similar in some ways to another military phrase, "attention to orders."

On the radio the word roger, which stood for the letter R in an older version of the phonetic alphabet, indicates message received. However, received means both heard and understood. Wilco (from "will comply") adds the third layer, meaning the message was heard, understood, and will be obeyed. Although film actors often say "roger, wilco," that would be redundant... although not as bad as the actors who say "over and out," rather than choosing one or the other!

The idea that a military command includes all three of these ideas – hear, understand, and obey – is longstanding tradition, and the Navy reply, "aye, aye," specifically affirms all three components: I hear, I understand, and I will obey. In other words, I have received the order, understand it, and will carry it out.

In the Bible, the Israelites at Mount Sinai, after receiving God's commandments through Moses, respond "naaseh v'nishmah," meaning "we will do and we will hear/understand." That reply is the Biblical equivalent of "aye, aye" or "wilco." However, commentators note that because the word do precedes the word understand, the theological and philosophical lesson is that we often hear more deeply and understand more fully only after we take action to incorporate the commandments into our lives.

On a ship, after "now here this," we pay attention, preparing ourselves to understand the orders that come next, and then take action to follow those orders. In prayer, whether in synagogue or not, we should do the same when we hear the Shema. We should struggle to hear the words, to understand their meaning, and then to obey them through the way we live our lives.

When we hear "The Lord is our God," that



means that the false gods of ancient times, or the false gods of modern times like money or power, are not our God. But it also means we are not God. Truly hearing that one idea should change our lives.

When we hear "God is one," we should understand that one God means we live in a world created with one plan. Ancient people who believed in many gods could not learn from history because they could not be sure the gods they dealt with on one day were the same ones as on another.

In a way, Jews introduced the idea of history with the idea of monotheism. We believe we can learn lessons of the past. We hear by searching for history's lessons and then making those lessons a part of our lives.

"God is one" also teaches that God is uniquely whole, unlike human beings who are flawed and fragmented. Our nation's founders dreamed that we should pursue "a more perfect union" when it came to our nation. We must do the same as individuals, pursuing integrity, the integration of our dreams, our words, and our actions, and trying to do a more perfect job of walking the talk.

In 1987, I was honored to give the prayer for the first United States Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust ceremony ever held in the Capitol Rotunda. These ideas drove the words of my prayer:

"...if the time has not yet dawned when we can all proclaim our faith in God, then let us say at least that we admit we are not gods ourselves. If we cannot yet see the face of God in others, then let us see, at least, a face as human as our own."

If we truly hear the words of the Shema, if we hearken to those words, struggling to understand their meaning with all our heart, our soul, and our



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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

National Commander Harvey Weiner
National Editor Larry Jasper
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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

© 2020 by the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

NPA#112285 • ISSN 047-2019.

Reproduction without permission is prohibited.

might, with every fiber of our being, not only will
our lives be changed, but so will our world.

Rabbi Resnicoff, a lifetime JWV member, began his Naval career as a line officer and then served in chaplain assignments including Command Chaplain, U.S. European Command, the "top chaplain" for military personnel of all services and all faiths in an area that at the time included 93 nations spanning 13 million square miles. Following retirement, he served as National Director for the American Jewish Committee and Special Advisor for Values and Vision to the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force. On October 23, 1983, he was present in Beirut during the Beirut Barracks bombing. His eye-witness report was read by President Ronald Reagan as a keynote speech in Washington, DC.

Can You Help Identify This American Soldier?

Jack Porter of Post 211 in Massachusetts is trying to identify a soldier in this photograph. Porter said someone took this photograph of him and his family at Camp Bindermichel in Linz, Austria in the summer of 1946. The American soldier he hopes to identify is in the back of the photograph, and on his right are Irving and Jack Porter. Porter was about two-years-old at the time. If you can help identify the soldier in this photograph, please send an email to The Jewish Veteran at editor@jwv.org or call 202-265-6280, ext. 413.



Interested in writing an article about veterans' issues? Want to let everyone know what your post or department is doing? Send your articles and photographs to Managing Editor Cara Rinkoff at editor@jwv.org. You can find more information about guidelines for article and photo submissions on www.jwv.org. The deadline for the next issue of The Jewish Veteran is June 2, 2020.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Harvey Weiner

In my late 40s, I ran a few marathons (two Boston's and one New York). I was not a good runner, but my goal was just to finish each marathon, which I did. One of my goals when running a marathon was to run a negative split, which means that my time on the second half was faster than the first half.

I never did accomplish this goal, as my legs inevitably gave out after 20 miles, and I always struggled to finish. But each time I finished.

Now in my old age, my term as JWV National Commander is half over. I hope and expect to perform better in my last six months of office as sort of a JWV NC negative split. The first half has gone more quickly than I imagined.

I would like to use this report to convince you to come to our annual Capitol Hill Action Day (CHAD) and National Executive Committee Meeting (NEC). This has taken place in Washington, D.C. in the winter, but next year NEC will be in Orlando, Florida, which is warmer and has a host of theme parks to

visit. Bring your Mickey Mouse ears! (One of the most memorable movie endings for me was the singing of the Mickey Mouse Club song by the patrolling American soldiers in Stanley Kubrick's great Vietnam War movie, "Full Metal Jacket." See it!)

This year's CHAD and NEC in February included events that were important, educational, and interesting. The Department of Florida has spent years developing extraordinary relationships with its two senators and 27 representatives. Setting up appointments well in advance with almost all of them, the Department of Florida's members split up and met with either their legislator or an aide. Your department can do this as well, but it takes a bit of planning. Next year, there will still be a JWV Capitol Hill day and a half in D.C., even though the NEC meeting will be in Orlando.

The afternoon of the second day saw the initial in person meetings of both the new Strategic Planning Committee and the new Marketing Committee. Meetings of the Budget Committee, the Convention Committee, the Personnel Committee, the Finance Board Committee, and the Policy Committee rounded out the second day. The Policy Committee meeting included a presentation about Sofer on Site, which is an organization we will work with to restore our 300-year-old Moroccan Torah, which will also help with an awareness campaign and fundraising.

The third day included a morning minyan, a Leadership Seminar, the NEC meeting, and the meetings of the Membership Committee, the Gulf War Veterans Committee, the Vietnam Veterans Committee, the Women in the Military Committee, and a discussion by the Gulf War/Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans. The Women in the Military Committee meeting was an eye-opener for me. I learned about some of their unique problems,

many of which I did not know existed or still existed in the year 2020. There were Shabbat Services in the evening and the next morning.

The fourth day included the National Museum of American Jewish Military History Board of Directors meeting. Please become a museum member! After all, it is not only your legacy, but the legacy of all Jewish soldiers who preceded you and who will follow you. It must remain strong and can only do so with your financial support.

The afternoon included time to play with 7-week-old yellow Labrador Retriever puppies, who will eventually become service dogs for the Warrior Canine Connection. Service members with PTSD participate in therapy sessions where they train the dogs for fellow disabled veterans.

As important as learning is at the NEC meeting, the bonds and connections you make at these meetings with other JWV members from all over the country are just as invaluable. JWV members are dedicated and nice people or they wouldn't be there. Many have the same Department and Post problems that you have. Some even have solutions to these problems that may help you.

Even better than the excellent Winter NEC meeting is the Annual National Convention in August, which takes place in Jacksonville, Florida this year. I will see you there when I complete my JWV National Commander marathon, with what I hope will be a negative split.



National Commander Weiner Testifies Before Congress

Continued from page 1

the U.S.A., America's oldest active continuous veterans' association. We will be celebrating our 125th anniversary next year. American Jews have fought in all of America's wars in a proportion greater than their proportion in the general population.

I want to speak to you this afternoon about courage. Members of the armed services will risk his or her life on the battlefield to serve this great nation and to do the job assigned. Hundreds of thousands of American soldiers have given their lives and millions of American soldiers and their families have made other sacrifices in this regard. They had the right stuff and displayed great courage. They took enormous risks because their country called and because it was the right thing to do. On behalf of all veterans, past and present, and all service personnel, past and present, I am asking each and every one of you to show courage by doing your job and by doing right, regardless of the political consequences, including the possibility, or even the probability, that you will lose your job by being voted out of office.

When you, who, implicitly or explicitly, sent us off to war and asked us to do the right thing at the risk of our lives, it is a shanda if you are unwilling

to take that risk to do right yourselves, rather than what is politically expedient. Shanda is Yiddish for "shameful." The risk of losing your job pales in comparison to the risk we take of losing our lives. I was reviewing the John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage winners of the award that is the nation's preeminent award for elected officials and public servants. For them and for you, it is the Nobel Prize, the Oscar, the Lasker, the Pulitzer. I give you these examples.

Carl Elliott was a Congressman from Alabama for eight consecutive terms from 1949 to 1965. He was a Democrat, but he authored and voted for the National Education Defense Act, which he knew would lead to his removal as a Congressman in 1964. He was right, but he did what was right.

Charles Weltner, also a Democrat, was a Congressman from Georgia who dropped out of his race for a third term rather than seek reelection and be bound by a party loyalty oath to support the candidacy of segregationist Lester Maddox.

Bob Inglis, whom many of you know, is a Republican and was a Congressman from South Carolina. He reversed himself on the issue of climate change because he felt it was the right thing to do. He knew that it would probably mean the de-

mise of his political career and it did.

We, who died, who were wounded, who survived, or who risked our lives in the military to do the right thing because America asked us to, are asking you to do the right thing, merely at risk of losing your jobs.

Do not take funds away from the military, including from their daycare and schools, to build a border wall, because it is politically expedient for you to do so.

In addition, the Constitution, which you swore under oath to uphold, vests the power to declare war solely in the hands of Congress and not in the President, who is solely the Commander in Chief. However, since World War II, Congress, as a practical matter, has ceded its Constitutional responsibility to the President in the semantic guise of so-called "emergencies" and "police actions." War is too important to be in the hands of one person, and since World War II, the usurping of the war power by both Democratic and Republican presidents has led this nation into disaster after disaster and caused the unnecessary deaths of over a hundred thousand of my comrades-in-arms, my brothers and my sisters. An after-the-fact toothless

Continued on page 7

The United States Space Force



The U.S. military now has another branch. The United States Space Force (USSF) is now the sixth branch of the U.S. military. It is the newest armed service since the establishment of the U.S. Air Force in 1947. I had a cousin who served in the Army Air Corp in World War II and remember him becoming a member of the U.S. Air Force when it was created.

Like the U.S. Marine Corps falls under the Secretary of the Navy, the U.S. Space Force will fall under the Secretary of the Air Force, who heads up one of the three military departments within the Department of Defense.

The mission of the U.S. Space Force is to “organize, train, and equip space forces in order to protect U.S. and allied interests in space...” The responsibilities of the U.S. Space Force include

developing military space professionals, acquiring military space systems, maturing the military doctrine for space power, and organizing the space force to present to the Combat Commands.

For now, the 16,000 active duty airmen and civilians who work at Air Force Space Command will be assigned to the Space Force. Eventually, members of the Army and Navy will also be detailed to the Space Force. The Space Force will establish independent procedures for manning equipment, training personnel, and creating a new uniform, logo, patch, and official song. The Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) has been assigned to control operations and the Space and Missile Systems Center, which is responsible for research and acquisitions.

The idea of an independent service for U.S. military space operations has been under consideration since 2001. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld chaired the 2001 Space Commission, which was created to examine the national security space organization of the United States.

The commission concluded that the military needed to develop a space specific doctrine, including the development and deployment of space-based weapons. The Space Commission concluded that the Air Force treated space operations as a secondary mission to air operations.

In 2017, following nearly two decades of inaction, Representatives Mike Rogers and Jim Cooper put forth a bipartisan proposal to create the U.S. Space Corps. The proposal cleared the House, but not the Senate.

Then, in a June 2018 meeting of the National

Space Council, the Department of Defense was directed to establish the U.S. Space Force as a branch of the Armed Forces. On February 19, 2019, Space Policy Directive-4 was signed.

Legislative provisions for the Space Force were included in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which was signed into law on December 20, 2019. Air Force General John “Jay” Raymond became the first Chief of Space Operations. Although it took three years to get the Air Force formed after its establishment in 1947, the U.S. Space Force intends to be off and running in 18 months or less.

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper believes the first shots in the next war will be fired from space. At the Reagan Forum on December 7, Air Force Chief of Staff General David Goldfein said that China’s number one threat to the U.S. is space attack.

There are several ways the U.S. can be attacked. These include bumping a U.S. satellite, jamming their links, hitting our satellites with laser beams, hitting them with high-power microwave bursts, and command intrusion.

JWV will be a strong supporter of the U.S. Space Force.



COL Herb Rosenbleeth, USA (Ret)
National Executive Director

Extra Assistance for Female Veterans

By Sheila Berg

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has increased its access and information for female veterans. Since World War II more than 672,000 women have fought for this country. The VA is addressing this underserved population by providing several ways to access help and information. The Women Veteran Call Center (WVCC), created by the VA, is available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST, and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. You can call or text the WVCC at 855-829-6636 or log on to www.womenhealthva.gov for other contact methods. WVCC representatives can answer general questions about benefits, eligibility, and services specifically for female veterans. All of the representatives are women, and some are also veterans. The call center can also conduct a brief needs assessment which will be sent to your home. The assessment provides information on personalized health care services and VA benefits. The mobile app Caring4Women was also developed by the VA to increase awareness about different services.

Shopping on Amazon via Amazon Smile helps the JWV.

Amazon will donate 0.5 % of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchase to the JWV Foundation.

Responding to the 2020 Census is Critical for the Nation’s Veterans

Military veterans are a diverse and thriving group of people who contribute in many ways to communities across the United States. They are teachers, business owners, public servants, volunteers, civic leaders, and they serve in other ways. In the spring, veterans can continue to shape the future of their communities by being counted in the 2020 Census. A count every decade of people who live in the nation is required by the U.S. Constitution. The data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau will inform how state, local, and federal lawmakers allocate billions of dollars in federal funds every year for the next 10 years for critical public services, including veterans’ hospitals and medical programs, schools, emergency services, and critical infrastructure. The 2020 Census questionnaire only asks a few simple questions about who lives in your household including age, sex, race, and ethnicity. Individual responses are confidential and protected by law. For the first time, people will be able to respond to the census online, by phone, or by mail.

Painting a Picture of Our Nation’s Veterans

While the census only occurs once each decade, the Census Bureau plays an ongoing and vital role in producing statistics so that we have an informed understanding of today’s veterans. With the information collected through Census Bureau surveys, we know that the demographic characteristics of our nation’s veterans have changed dramatically since the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

Veterans of the Vietnam War are still the largest group of living veterans, at 6.7 million. World War II and Korean War veterans are aging, and their numbers are declining. But the post-9/11 group that fought in the Gulf and Iraq Wars is the most diverse, highest-educated group, and has the highest percentage of service-related disabilities, according to 2017 data from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is an ongoing survey that goes to about 3 million homes a year and asks a wide variety of questions. It differs from the once-a-decade census that attempts to count every person once, only once, and in the right place.

Post-9/11 veterans are more diverse in gender, race, and ethnic origin than earlier generations, according to the Census Bureau. For instance:

- About 17% of post-9/11 veterans are women, more than five times the percentage of women among Vietnam War-era veterans.
- 15.3% are Black, compared to 9.1% of Vietnam War-era veterans.
- 12.1% are Hispanic, more than double the 5.2% of Hispanic Vietnam War-era veterans.

Census Bureau statistics from the ACS also show that half of all veterans today are younger than 65. That means there are about 9 million preretirement-age veterans studying, working, and helping to shape the future of their communities.

Continued on page 9

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET COMMITTEE

By Chairman Alan Paley

During our meeting at NEC, the committee discussed the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2021. The budget represents JWV's short term goals, based on the revenue received from normal operations. Long term financial goals are planned and managed by the Finance Board. We have projected revenue at \$1,267,500, which is \$10,700 more than what we budgeted for the current fiscal year.

As membership continues on a downward trend, we budgeted based on the actual dues received during 2019. For certain line items within the fundraising activities area and also for bequests and contributions, we were very conservative in our estimates. On the expense side, we budgeted \$1,425,500, which is \$12,700 more than what we budgeted for the current fiscal year. Although this number is higher, I want to point out that we have added two new expense categories for 2021. We added \$55,000 for marketing based on our discussions with Marketing Committee Chairman Howard Goldstein. We also added estimated expenses of \$5,000 for the new position of National Vice Commander. If you remove these two additional items, we have reduced the expense budget by \$47,300 as compared to the Fiscal 2020 budget. We have reviewed every revenue and expense line within the budget and in many cases offered suggestions on how to increase certain revenue line items or reduce certain expense line items.

GULF WAR COMMITTEE REPORT

By Chairwoman Rochel Hayman

The Gulf War Committee has met twice, once by Zoom conference call and once at the National Executive Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. We now have a set schedule for online meetings which will occur on the first Wednesday evening of each month.

The Gulf War Committee presented JWV with a proposal to recognize and support the National Desert Storm War Memorial going up on the National Mall in 2021, and it passed by unanimous vote. We thank Gulf War Committee member and National Quartermaster Nelson Mellitz for taking on this project and bringing it to fruition. The committee also had a well-attended meeting Friday afternoon, with close to 20 members. While we discussed a couple issue, some need to be more fleshed out. One of those ideas included having a Gulf War Liaison in every Department. We're hoping to have Department Commanders on board with assigning an appropriate contact.

In general, there is more interest in the Gulf War Committee and we are slowly growing in participating members. We will continue to reiterate the fact that we know the knowledge and experience of our members is our greatest asset. In order to actualize that hidden potential, we have initiated networking and social media opportunities to facilitate discussion. An email has been established, as well as both a general information Facebook page connected to JWV's online presence and, even more important, a private Facebook Group exclusively for JWV members. This new private group can

be a recruiting tool for all Posts and Departments. Younger members can join any brick-and-mortar post and also have a place to meet and interact with their peers nationwide. They can watch and respond to the latest Gulf War Committee meetings, give their input, and be a part of this special growth within JWV.

All these new avenues have sprouted, albeit slowly. This is where the committee is requesting your assistance. We need your help to spread awareness and encourage participation. Since there are some who are not on social media, an email has also been set up, which will be utilized as a collection point. Anyone can email us, including Posts and Departments, who have members or names for us to follow up on. Please contact us as at jwvgwc@gmail.com or find our regular Facebook page by searching for @JewishGulfWarVets. For the private group, search and then apply for the JWV Gulf War Vet Network. If you have any questions, you can contact me at RochelHaymanJWV@gmail.com.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

By Chairman Howard Goldstein

Attendees at this year's National Convention in Richmond heard a discussion about how additional effort is needed to focus how we present ourselves to both potential members as well as the public at large. An affirmative vote from attendees created a National Marketing Committee. An informal committee met during the convention with the initial membership comprised of Howard Goldstein, Rochel Hayman, Steve Krant, Kim Queen, and Sheila Berg. Since that time, Lou Michaels and Dick Aronson have joined the committee.

The Marketing Committee initially worked on defining its mission and scope. Marketing is a broad subject encompassing marketing planning, target marketing, market research, sales and communications, and we needed to organize its scope to make it manageable. Our committee held discussions with Membership Committee Chairman Barry Lischinsky to define our respective roles so we complement each other and avoid duplication of efforts.

We have agreed the committee will focus on four specific areas.

1. Target marketing, which includes 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 the audience.
2. Establishing 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 various Posts, Departments, and other echelons so we can take the best of the materials and share them at all levels of the organization.
3. Conduct a comprehensive study of current and past members of JWV to learn more about why

they joined, why they stayed (or why they left), and more, in order to develop ways to increase and retain membership. We will eventually expand this study to non-member Jewish veterans in order to understand their interests.

4. Develop a communications plan to increase awareness among non-members about the benefits of joining JWV and allowing us to truly become the Jewish voice for veterans. We plan to work with staff at National to develop marketing materials with a similar look and feel.

During NEC, we were given approval from leadership to start our comprehensive study of current and former members. We look forward to the whole organization helping us achieve as high a level of participation as possible. We hope to have preliminary results ready to report at the National Convention.

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Bob Jacobs

Approximately 30 people attended the Vietnam Veterans Committee on Friday afternoon at the NEC.

Jerry Alperstein updated us on the progress of our literary project which involves gathering the stories of Jewish personnel who served during the Vietnam Era. We have gathered 89 stories and will be publishing them on disc. The National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) will sell 200 copies at the museum night during the National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida. We hope to publish a second edition in the future. All profits from the sale of the discs will go to the NMAJMH.

On Wednesday, August 26, our committee will host the Vietnam Veterans Nite Out in Jacksonville. You can find the reservation forms on www.jwv.org. This year's location has limited seating, so only the first 80 people will be able to attend the dinner.

Alperstein and I also updated the committee on our initial efforts to establish a separate Vietnam exhibit at the NMAJMH. The proposed exhibit would focus on the Jewish experience in the military during the Vietnam Era. Anyone who has items they think might be useful should contact me at conrailbob2003@yahoo.com or 732-691-6139.

Kim Queen updated the group on a proposed Facebook page only for committee members. If you have attended a committee meeting and given us your email address, you will be considered a committee member. The page should be up and running by the time of National Convention.

Nelson Mellitz updated us on several legislative issues, including the Mission Act, the Blue Water Navy Veterans law, and burn pit legislation.

National Commander Harvey Weiner thanked the committee for all that it has done and will do. He said that as a Vietnam combat veteran, the committee holds special meaning for him. Special thanks goes out to Al Adler who takes great minutes and makes it easy for me to remember what we have accomplished.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

At the NEC in Washington, D.C., the Membership Committee met and discussed what we are doing not only recruit new members, but to retain members. We must remember that retention is a key part of membership.

We are making inroads with the community of active duty military members with assistance from the Jewish Welfare Board and The Aleph Institute. Both of these organizations have access to active duty Chaplains and Lay Leaders. We hope to spread our message through them and increase the number of active duty service members in our ranks. This is an investment in our future.

It is incumbent upon all of us to be retention officers. We need to communicate with our current members so they realize the value of continued membership. We need to contact those who have let their membership lapse, find out why, and bring them back.

We continue to lose members as the bulk of our organization ages. While we can't avoid those losses, we should never lose a member for no good reason. It is up to the leadership of each Post to encourage their members to remain active and to keep every member in the fold.

Our National Commander spoke to a joint hearing of the U.S. Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees in February. I had the honor of attending this event, which was a proud moment for JWV and all veterans, past and present. National Commander Harvey Weiner spoke mainly about courage during his five minute presentation. Just as he asked the legislators to have the courage to do the right thing for all veterans, we need to have the courage to reach out not only to our existing members, but to potential members.

His message to Congress is the same message we should be bringing to our Departments and

Posts. I am often asked, "What does JWV National do for me?" I believe the proper question should be "What does JWV National do for our veterans?" We need to remember that first and foremost, we are an organization of veterans. We need to help not

only the members of JWV, but all veterans. This is how we get and retain members – by showing everyone what we do and why it is important to our communities.



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky
Membership Chairman

The Aleph Institute and the JWV

By Larry Jasper

I have previously written about my collaboration with Rabbi Irv Elson of the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) as part of an effort to reach out to veterans while they are still on active duty. Elson has access to Jewish chaplains and lay leaders around the world. The goal is to use those chaplains and lay leaders to reach active duty service members in order to enhance their connection to the Jewish community through JWV. The challenge is to let these service members know what's in it for them. I presented a brochure highlighting that focus of my work and presented it to the National Executive Committee in February. My work with Elson and the JWB continues. (My apologies to the Marketing Committee which did not exist when this process began)

So what does this have to do with the title of this article?

Late last year, Membership Committee Chairman Barry Lischinsky sent me a copy of a new quarterly magazine published by the Aleph Institute in Surfside, Florida. Since I did not know about Aleph, I started looking into the group.

The Aleph Institute is a Chabad organization with a branch that works with Orthodox service-members as chaplains and lay leaders. (JWB works with all denominations of Judaism) Aleph established Operation Enduring Traditions to service the unique needs of Jewish members of the United States Armed Forces stationed worldwide. Aleph's military program is the nation's largest provider of religious and educational materials to Jewish military personnel and their families. They provide prayer books and other religious articles, kosher food and care packages, holiday provisions and services, chaplaincy training, and many other services.

I contacted the Institute and indicated I wanted to explore a partnership with Aleph that would enable both organizations to better serve active duty Jewish service members.



From left: Jasper, Rabbi Dresin, Rabbi Estrin, and Navy Chaplain Aaron Kleinman.

Rabbi Sandy Dresin is the Director of Military Programs for Aleph and Rabbi Elie Estrin is the Military Personnel Liaison for Aleph. Dresin is a retired Army Chaplain, who happened to serve with almost identical dates as I did. We started the same year and he retired three years prior to me. We both served in Vietnam at the same time. Estrin is a USAF Reserve Chaplain.

Aleph held an annual symposium for chaplains and lay leaders in February. They invited me to attend and deliver a speech to their group. Approximately half of those present were already JWV members. I talked to the others about the benefits of JWV, asked them to join, and asked them to talk about us with their fellow service members. I left with three completed membership applications. Estrin and Dresin have agreed to send information about JWV to their members around the world.

Aleph has asked me to return to their symposium next year, at which time I will be able to make a more in-depth presentation on JWV. I will also continue working with Dresin and Estrin on how we can forge a mutually beneficial relationship. The ultimate goal is to provide a continuing connection with the Jewish service member both while on active duty and after leaving military service. I believe JWV, JWB, and Aleph can work together to accomplish this.

You never know what you can do until you try.

Honoring Our Jewish-American Fallen Heroes This Memorial Day

By PNC David Magidson

This Memorial Day week, May 22-25, 2020, our spotlight should be focused on those Jewish-American service personnel killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. One way to honor these men and women is at Shabbat services on Friday night and/or Saturday before the National Day of Mourning. Many of us belong to a Synagogue, and almost all of us, whether a member or not, attend services at a synagogue at least once a year.

In our synagogue each year, we ask the Rabbis for an inclusive Memorial Day service, and they are quite receptive of the idea. At an appropriate time, one of the Rabbis asks all of our veterans to rise; then all immediate family members of veterans to rise; then all relatives of the veterans; and finally all congregants who have or have had a good friend serve in the military. Now we have at least two-thirds of the congregation standing. We kvel!

Later, at the commencement of Kaddish, the Rabbis read the names of the almost 60 Jewish-Americans who most recently gave their lives for our liberty. Simultaneously, there is a scroll-down on a screen of the pictures of the fallen men and women, white and black, young and not so young, all Jewish-Americans. Tears come to all. What a wonderful mitzvah!

Moreover, there is the additional mitzvah of asking all the veterans who stood to join the Jewish War Veterans. There is no other organization which speaks to the meritorious, and sometimes heroic service of our Jewish-American veterans. What an honor to be a member of JWV! So have your membership applications handy and follow-up.

Most Rabbis will be happy to amend their service. If there is resistance though, please remind them who we are, what we stand for, how well respected we are in the community, and the sacrifice of our brothers and sisters.

If you need any help, contact Harrison Heller, our Membership Coordinator, at 202-265-6280.

7 Questions with a JWV Member

Member: Rabbi Irv Elson

Post: North County Post 385 (California)

Member Since: 2001

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

I was commissioned an Ensign in the Naval Reserve in 1982 and went on active duty in June of 1987. I served at bases in Okinawa, Japan, Naval Station Charleston, South Carolina, Gaeta, Italy, the Naval Education and Training Center in Newport, Rhode Island, Scotia, New York, and as Staff Chaplain at the United States Naval Academy. In January of 2003, I deployed to Kuwait and eventually Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom as Jewish Chaplain for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. As the only Jewish Chaplain serving with Marines in Iraq, and chaplain for 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, I participated in numerous combat engagements throughout the conflict. I returned to Iraq in September of 2004 to serve as the Jewish Chaplain for IMEF during the Battle for Fallujah. In June of 2005, I became the Deputy Command Chaplain at the U.S. Naval Academy. In July of 2007 I became the first Force Chaplain for Commander Naval Air Forces followed by an assignment in August of 2010 as Wing Chaplain, III Marine Aircraft Wing. I returned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force as the Force Chaplain in November of 2012, making multiple deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

2. *Why did you join the military?*

I am the son of a Marine and wanted to serve my country following in my father's footsteps. When I decided to become a rabbi, serving as a Navy chaplain became a natural choice.

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

Kind of an unfair question being I'm a rabbi. My Jewish faith informed everything I did in the military. It informed my choices, gave me strength and



courage and provided answers for me for some of life's toughest questions.

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

No

5. *Why did you join JWV?*

Col. Max Colon invited me to join his post and I was impressed with their sense of history, patriotism and service. I wanted to be part of that.

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

Like everyone else at JWB, I ask myself how we can attract Jewish veterans from the post-Vietnam generation. The organization needs to evolve by seeking what Gen XYZ Jewish veterans need and provide that.

7. *What have you done to help improve the Jewish experience for those who are serving?*

As Director of the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB), our mission is to provide a meaningful Jewish life for those currently serving. We help recruit chaplains, train them and lay leaders, and provide programming so Jews in uniform and their families can live a Jewish life while in uniform.

National Commander Weiner Testifies

Continued from page 3

Congressional resolution is not enough. Take back the war power that the framers of the Constitution and your own 1973 War Powers Resolution gave you.

When Abraham Lincoln was in the Congress, he wrote the following:

"The provision of the Constitution giving the war-making power to Congress, was dictated, as I understand it, by the following reasons. Kings had always been involving and impoverishing their people in wars, pretending generally, if not always, that the good of the people was the object. This our convention understood to be the most oppressive of all Kingly oppressions; and they resolved to so frame the Constitution that no one man should hold the power of bringing this oppression upon us."

As a cantankerous football coach in my neck of the woods is fond of saying, "Do your job!" Risk your jobs to do the right thing! In the long run, it is not just your constituents that you must face. You must face your children, your grandchildren, your descendants, and history. Also, you must face yourself and your conscience. Become a candidate for the Profiles in Courage award.

We, the veterans of America, do not just ask you to do the right thing despite the political consequences. We demand it, and we are entitled to do so. Thank you.

The written testimony submitted to the committee included JWV priorities of opposition to the privatization of the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as the passage of legislation to reduce the number of veteran suicides, assist homeless veterans, and expand the current eligibility period for those who wish to become members of JWV.

You can find a link to the document Weiner submitted to the committees on our website, www.jwv.org.

Meeting Requirements Waived

Due to the current unprecedented situation created by the Coronavirus, all JWV echelons are hereby excused from holding any mandatory meetings until further notice.

If your post or department would like to hold a meeting, JWV committees often utilize video conferencing. Please call Harrison Heller at 202-265-6280 for more information on these options.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Harari, Captain Michael - Post 100
Levy, Lee K - Post 100
Lott, Erik K - Post 100
Messinger, Joseph - Post 100
Perezselsky, Daniel J. - Post 100
Shafer, Byron A - Post 344
Sheby, Matthew - Post 77
Williams, Nathan B. - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Braslawcsce, Zeesha H. - Post 118
Lewinson, Hillard W - Post 603
Philbin, Matthew - Post 185

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Braverman, Nachum - Post 265
Fisher, Daniel - Post 352
Huriah, Solomon - Post 606
Copperman, Stuart - Post 631

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Sinai, Noah R. - Post 029

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Getz, Melvin E - Post 167
Skurrow, Marc D - Post 380
Firnbacher, Frederick S. - Post 567
Wise, Arthur E - Post 692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Finkle, Gerald - Post 32

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Packard, Gary - Post 510

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Cohen, Matthew - Post 260

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Elledge, Kim - Post 331

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Shreiar, Iris G. - Post 064

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Kampf, Joel - Post 740

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Annunziata, Nathaniel F. - Post 652
Birnbaum, Martin J - Post 652
Blumberg, Isidore - Post 652
Day, Matthew I. - Post 105
Glatt, Sheldon - Post 717
Luster, Juana E. - Post 006
Rosensweet, Edward - Post 652
Spinner, Eric L - Post 652
Weissberg, Saul N - Post 717

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Cohen, Michael G. - Post 320

Esquivel, Pablo E. - Post 112
Glazer, Marc J. - Post 112
Marks, Josef B - Post 112
Mendelsohn, Douglas - Post 112
Nyamesa, Griffins - Post 112
Radinsky, David J. - Post 121
Salgado, Jesus - Post 112
Williams, Jack F - Post 112
Vekshtein, Michael - Post 112

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Black, Barry G. - Post 210
Glassman, Rodney B. - Post 210
Posniack, Gregory J. - Post 619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Chalfin, Steven - Post 753
Cohen, Leah M. - Post 795
Gaff, Robert G. - Post 753
Hobbs, Texas - Post 753
Hochman, Yitzchak M. - Post 795
Jimenez, Ismael J. - Post 753
Khan, Imran - Post 757
Quillen, Annya C. - Post 753
Van Damme, Shelly - Post 753

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Pires, Scott J. - Post 701

High Holiday Cards

JWV is pleased to offer you a variety of our High Holiday cards from years past. We will have them available at our National Convention or you can call us to receive an assortment of High Holiday cards at a suggested donation of \$1.00 per card. Please contact Cara Rinkoff or Ben Kane at 202-265-6280.

Cards by artist
Smadar Livne



From Our Archives...

Reprinted from *The Jewish Veteran* April/May/June 1984 • *Passover at Sea, 1944*

By Lt. Cmdr. Bill Jaffe, USNR (Ret.) • JWV Post 608

The year is 1944. USS IOWA, our first 45,000 ton battleship is part of Adm. Bull Halsey's 3rd Fleet. We have successfully bombarded Japanese held Truk Island, supported the landings on Guam, Tinian, and Saipan, and are now stalking the enemy fleet somewhere in the Philippine Sea, 12,000 miles from the states.

Time has no meaning in war – you lose track of months and days of the week. The almost incessant clanging of the GQ (general quarters) alarm marks time, as the booming voice of the bo'sun-mate over the intercom calls, "All hands, man your battlestations on the double." The kamakazes make their attacks on the fleet-some get through to the "flattops" (carriers), but most of them are given the "deep six" treatment by the AA guns from the IOWA and her sister ships. It is "watch on and watch off" – four hours on duty and four hours sleep – and it seems as if this has been going on for an eternity.

Suddenly, there is a lull in the action. The enemy fleet, badly damaged, has suddenly escaped and disappeared. IOWA again takes on an air of routine and normality.

A Marine Orderly knocks on the door of my quarters. "Lieutenant Jaffe, the Captain wants to see you in his cabin." "God, what have I done?" I am one of 250 officers out of a ship's complement of 2,600 men. "Could it be bad news from home – or a promotion – or a long awaited transfer back to the states?"

I have been riding these "battlewagons" for almost four years; first, on convoy duty on the NEW YORK to Iceland and to Scotland, followed by bombardments on the African west coast at Port Laueutey and Casablanca. Now I am assigned to IOWA, the ship that would become famous for taking FDR to his historical meeting with Churchill and Stalin in Tehran. Still in the future is the scare enroute to Iran when one of our destroyers inadvertently fires a "live" magnetic torpedo using IOWA as a simulated target with the President and the entire Joint Chiefs of Staff aboard.

Now the Marine Orderly announces my presence to the Captain. "Jaffe, come in and have a seat." I can barely blurt out, "Ay, ay, sir."



16 inch guns of the USS IOWA firing during battle drill in the Pacific, ca. 1944.

Capt. John L. McCrae is a burly Irish Catholic with white hair, bushy eyebrows, ruddy cheeks, and a weather beaten face; he looks the part of a sea captain. I am on the edge of my seat. "Jaffe, you know that the Jewish Passover will be in two weeks?" I say, "Yes sir" (I am lying). "I want you to muster all the Jewish crew aboard and have a seder. I will order the Chaplain (a Catholic priest) to help you." An Irish navy captain has reminded his only Jewish officer to observe the Passover – leave unbroken the tradition with his brothers. For one night, the war is to be forgotten.

"What will you need?" he asks. I reply that wine will be required for the rituals, and the ship's cooks will be needed to pre-

pare a reasonable facsimile of a seder dinner in the library. The Captain offers, "The chaplain keeps plenty of wine for Mass and he will give you what you need. (I thought that the use of alcoholic beverages by the crew aboard ship and especially in wartime was a court martial offense – but I got five gallons for the seder).

I now meet with a committee selected from the nearly 200 of the crew that are of the Jewish faith to plan a menu and the services. The latter is no problem as there are plenty of yeshiva-buchers aboard. I am reminded that an essential item is missing – MATZOS. We are half way around the world – too far to run to the corner store. It seems if you have trust in G-D, He will provide. One of the committee suddenly remembers that there is a cook aboard who had worked at Manischewitz in Brooklyn.

So at near Latitude 15 degrees North-Longitude 130 degrees West, in search of the Japanese fleet, USS IOWA holds what is probably the first Passover seder in U.S. naval history. I remind those present of the need to preserve our traditions and that our prayers should be that next year – not in Jerusalem –but at home with our loved ones. The allotment of wine is most gone. Again the glasses are filled, and as we stand together at a Passover to be remembered, we conclude with the one word that Jews have repeated almost from the beginning of time – a word that in 1944 the whole world seeks – SHALOM.

Operation Benjamin: Honoring Fallen Jewish Servicemen With The Right Headstones



By Elizabeth Howe, Connecting Vets

More than 405,000 American service members were killed during World War II, and not all of them were buried under the correct headstones. Operation Benjamin estimates that hundreds of Jewish service members could have been buried under Latin Crosses instead of Jewish Stars of David, and they're working to fix that — one service member at a time.

Operation Benjamin began unintentionally when organization president Shalom Lamm came across the issue in 2014 "serendipitously."

"It was really quite by accident that we came across it, but we were scratching our heads trying to figure out what happened. What could be done?" Lamm explained.

Now, the operation is named for that first case. Private Benjamin Garadetsky was a Jewish soldier mistakenly buried under a Latin Cross at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial. It

took four years for Lamm and his team to navigate exactly how to have the issue corrected — which it was during the summer of 2018. The nonprofit has been working to do the same for other Jewish service members ever since.

"What can I say. It's an obsessive labor of love," Lamm said of the long process.

It's not easy to change headstones thanks to the American Battle Monuments Commission's strict standards — but the operation is truly thankful for those standards.

"The American Battle Monuments Commission has super-duper high standards in order to prove that someone was fully Jewish and that a mistake was made," Lamm said. "But as I say with such earnestness that the standards are ginormous — we applaud that because getting to the truth is very important. So they make it very diffi-

Continued on page 17

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am the new Editor of The Jewish Veteran. I am also the Department of Florida Commander, Commander of Post 373 in Tampa, and a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Army. I retired in 1997 with the rank of Command Sergeant Major after spending most of my career in Special Forces. I am also a 40+ year member of the Special Forces Association. I served in three armed conflicts and feel qualified to comment on the accuracy of the article that appeared on the front page of the last issue of "The Jewish Veteran."

The author wrote the article as a result of an interview with former Sgt. Buckley. The article points out some facts about issues of racism within the military. There is a growing number of service members with links to white supremacist or neo-Nazi ideology and activity. A recent survey by the Military Times found that half of minority troops and more than one-third of active duty troops have personally witnessed examples of some sort of racism.

This is being investigated by Congress. Such conduct is a disqualifier for entry into the military and it is also grounds for expulsion.

There have been a small number of cases recently where military members were charged with a variety of offenses such as sharing Nazi-sympathizing materials, having links to white nationalist organizations, and being involved in terror plots.

So far, there is no evidence that these activities

were in any way the result of military involvement, rather the individuals bringing these tendencies with them into the military.

Rep. Anthony Brown of Maryland's 4th District who serves as the vice chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services, is pushing to add a question to routine command climate surveys regarding troops' experiences with these behaviors. This would help identify white supremacy and racial hatred and allow for intervention and education at an early stage.

In short, the article pointed out that a climate of racism does exist within the military. It is being addressed. As to the article in question, several JWV members have expressed outrage with the title and justly so. I believe the author's intentions were good, but missed the mark with the title. Had he used just the first five words – "Confessions of a Veteran Klansman" – no one would have objected. Blaming the U.S. Army for radicalizing a soldier was out of line.

When we hear of someone being radicalized we think of someone moving toward sympathy and support of an organization like ISIS; someone who has been moved to conduct terrorist type acts. What was described in the article was not radicalization, but racism. In the article we are told how his family instilled his sense of racism starting at the age of seven.

It is true that over the decades the military, particularly the Army, has used various means to den-

igrate our enemy. This is an unfortunate necessity. It is designed to condition the soldier to be able to pull the trigger on the enemy. How many of you have fired your weapon at an enemy? Do you think you could have done that if you were not conditioned to demon-

ize the enemy? This does not make you a radical. This does not make you a racist. This makes you someone who sees the enemy for what they are and gives you the ability to pull the trigger. This is something someone who has not been in that position may have a hard time understanding.

I commend Sgt. Buckley for changing his ways and leaving his life of hatred and racism. I listened to Sgt. Buckley during a video conference and I firmly believe he did not develop his attitude of racism as a result of his military service. His own story tells us how this began at home and how he brought his attitude to the military.

I welcome your comments.



Larry Jasper, National Editor

Our 125th Anniversary Mitzvah Project

By Norman Rosenshein

At our recent NEC meeting we invited Sofer on Site to talk to us about repairing one of our Torahs. Rabbi Moshe Druin told us about the history of the Torah currently in the museum's chapel. He believes a Sofer wrote the Sephardic Torah in Morocco at least 250 years ago. Eventually, the Torah ended up in a synagogue in Portugal before its donation to our museum. The Torah is currently not kosher, which means it needs some repair work.

The last of the 613 mitzvot in the Torah says that each Jew should write a Torah. Since this clearly isn't a possibility for the vast majority of people, Sofer on Site allows people to write a letter in the Torah. This fulfills that final mitzvah.

We hope this restoration project will help posts and departments reach out to their

communities and bring awareness to the Jewish War Veterans, while at the same time, raising some money for themselves and National.

The restoration process will start at our 125th convention in Jacksonville, Florida this August. For the next year the Torah, or parts of it, will travel across the country, allowing posts and departments to get involved in the restoration. At each location there will be multiple education stations, including one with the scribe who will explain the method of writing in the Torah and allow each family to participate. Everyone will learn about the letter and phrase they are helping to inscribe in the Torah.

The dedication of the restored Torah will take place at our convention in New Orleans, Louisiana in 2021.

Responding to the 2020 Census

Continued from page 4

This younger, more-diverse population has specialized needs, from access to post-military job training and education to more female-centric health care services, as well as parks and schools for their young children.

Zoom out and consider the scale of these demographic shifts: Census Bureau statistics tell us that there are a total of 1.6 million female veterans, representing nearly 10% of the entire veteran population—and their numbers and impacts are growing.

Shape Your Future: How Veterans Should Participate

Responding to surveys and questionnaires from the Census Bureau helps ensure that we continue to have an accurate picture of our communities and responding to the 2020 Census will be particularly important.

In March 2020, households will receive a mailed invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Most people will have the option to respond online from any computer device—such as a laptop, smartphone, or tablet—as well as by phone or by mail. If veterans are unclear as to how they should count themselves or the people in their home, they should visit Who to Count on 2020census.gov. Generally speaking, veterans need to complete a 2020 Census questionnaire unless they live in group housing, a hospital, or another "group quarters" facility. In that instance, a representative of the building will fill out the census questionnaire for everyone who lives in the facility.

To learn more about the 2020 Census and how it will shape the future for veterans, service members, and their families, visit 2020census.gov.

VA Secretary Wilkie Addresses JWV and JWVA Members at NEC 2020

Continued from page 1

"I stand with him in standing up for the rights of those of you in this audience, but more importantly

for the human rights that we as Americans have to defend every day."

Wilkie concluded his 20 minute speech by telling JWV, "As long as I am in this office you all have what the British would say, first dibs on me, whatever you need."

While Wilkie had to leave early to attend a meeting at the White House and did not have time to answer questions from members after his speech, he arrived early in order to greet members individually and take time to pose for pictures.

Norman Rosenshein, Secretary Wilkie, Harvey Weiner (Photograph by Lou Michaels).



Welcome to Jacksonville, Florida!

Welcome to Jacksonville, Florida!

The 125th Jewish War Veterans annual convention will be held in Jacksonville, Florida this year. The largest city by area in the contiguous United States. Jacksonville is an important port city, with a rich, history.

Studies of pottery found in the Jacksonville area revealed that people inhabited the area as far back as approximately 2500 B.C., though much of its history before 1562 is unknown. The area switched ownership repeatedly between the French, Spanish, and British empires before the territory of Florida became part of the United States in 1821. The city is named after President Andrew Jackson. It rose to prominence during the American Civil War when, as an important port for the Confederacy, it was blockaded and occupied several times by Union forces.

The city had largely recovered from the Civil War by the late 1800s, when it suffered an outbreak of yellow fever and a massive fire. The fire gave Jacksonville the chance for a fresh start. The city emerged as the “winter film capital of the world” because of its cheap labor and agreeable climate, a title held until 1917. Conservative citizens and their newly elected representatives decided to make Jacksonville less appealing for film studios due to



their disapproval of the oftentimes loud and disruptive nature of filmmaking.

But where one industry fell, another rose to prominence. Its location made Jacksonville a particularly enticing area for the U.S. Navy. When World War II came around, Jacksonville became the home of several new Navy bases. While this helped in the short term, the post-war migration of residents away from the city and into the suburbs caused Jacksonville to experience an economic decline. A 1967 consolidation referendum combined the city and county governments into one,

and placed an emphasis on combating corruption, facilitating integration, and improving the quality of services that benefitted the citizenry. It was through these efforts that Jacksonville recovered and became the beautiful city that it is today. It has continued its tradition of having a storied existence, having survived several hurricanes and the hosting of Super Bowl XXXIX. JWV is looking forward to adding to that history by having the 2020 National Convention in Jacksonville. We hope to see you all there in August!

Things to Do in Jacksonville



Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens features the only walking safari in Northeast Florida. There are more than 2,000 rare and exotic animals, as well as 1,000 plant varieties on exhibit. The zoo is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The general admission cost is \$24.95 per person. Seniors 65 and older are \$22.95. For more information call 904-757-4463 or visit <https://www.jacksonvillezoo.org/>.

Fort Caroline National Memorial

Located along the St. Johns River in the Arlington neighborhood, Fort Caroline is a memorial to the French presence in Jacksonville during the 16th century. The location has both a replica fort and museum along with a Visitor Center for the Timucuan Preserve. The National Park Service operates this free site, which also includes numerous historical sites and nature trails. The area is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 904-641-7155 or visit https://www.nps.gov/timu/learn/historyculture/foca_visiting.htm.

Museum of Contemporary Art

MOCA has designed its exhibits to enhance the understanding and appreciation of modern and contemporary art with an emphasis on works created between 1960 and the present. There are more than 1,000 pieces in the museum's permanent collection, which makes it one of the largest collections of modern and contemporary art in the Southeast. Museum admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for seniors and military members. The museum is open from Noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information call 904-366-6911 or visit <https://mocajacksonville.unf.edu/>.

Head out to the Ballpark

The Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp are the Double-A affiliate of the Miami Marlins. They have evening home games August 22 through August 27. The games on Saturday and Sunday start at 6:35 p.m., the weekday games start at 7:05 p.m. For ticket information call 904-358-2846 or visit <https://www.milb.com/jacksonville>.



The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens

This museum in the historic Riverside neighborhood houses more than 5,000 works of art, including significant European and American paintings, as well as a renowned Meissen porcelain collections. Visitors can also tour the formal gardens which overlook the St. Johns River. The museum is open on Sunday from Noon to 4 p.m., closed on Monday, open Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission costs \$10 for adults and \$6 for seniors and active duty military members. For more information call 904-356-6857 or visit www.cummer-museum.org.

St. Johns River Taxi and Tours

The easiest ways for visitors to get on the water is via the River Taxi. The taxi has multiple stops along the St. Johns River in the city's downtown area, and also offers sunset cruises and ecotours. You can ride all day for just \$10.00. For information call 904-860-8294 or visit www.jaxrivertaxi.com.

Here's a quick look at some of this year's Convention meetings and events!

Sunday, August 23

National Museum of American Jewish Military History Event

Monday, August 24

NEC Meeting
Convention Opening
Partners Club
JWVA Pound Auction

Tuesday, August 25

JWVA National President's Reception and Banquet

Wednesday, August 26

JWVA Double Chai Luncheon
Vietnam Veterans Night Out

Thursday, August 27

NMAJMH Meeting
Elections
National Commander's Banquet

**Schedule subject to change*

Make a Difference!

We challenge you to make a difference in JWV's future by identifying key issues affecting our Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, and female veterans.

Writing a resolution is a great way to become involved in JWV on a national scale.

Resolutions approved at convention become part of the National agenda when JWV's National Commander testifies before Congress every year.

Need help writing a resolution? Go to: www.jwv.org/communications/national_resolutions

JWV
125th

Annual National Convention

August 23-28, 2020 • Jacksonville, Florida

Omni Jacksonville Hotel • 245 Water Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202
• Phone (904) 355-6664 • www.omnihotels.com/hotels/jacksonville

JWVA
92nd

Hotel registration deadline is **Wed. July 15**

A one night (\$159/single or double) deposit is required for all hotel registrations.

A 3-night minimum stay is required.

Hotel reservations must be made through JWV.

There is a **\$175 Convention surcharge for JWV + JWVA members not staying at the hotel.**

Local members living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.

JWVA events are open to everyone!

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

JWV Member Name: _____ **Post #:** _____

JWVA Member Name: _____ **Aux. #:** _____

Address: _____ **Dept.:** _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Room will be shared with: _____

Arriving on: _____ / _____ **Departing on:** _____ / _____ **Total nights:** _____

Registration for both JWV + JWVA	Cost	QTY.	Amount
Rooms Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds <i>Please note that handicap rooms will be assigned by JWV on an as need priority.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I need a Handicap room. 3 rd Person in a room	\$159.00 per night <i>Breakfast is included!</i> \$79.50 per night		
JWV Member Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel	\$175.00 per member		
National Commander's Banquet • Thurs, Aug. 27 _____ Flat Iron Steak _____ Salmon _____ Sugar-free Dessert	\$47.50 per person		
National Ladies Auxiliary Registration Fee (\$50.00 at Convention)	\$45.00 per member		
Partners Club (\$50 new members/\$25 renewal) • Mon, Aug. 24	\$50.00 \$25.00		
National President's Reception and Banquet • Tues, Aug. 25 _____ Fish _____ Sliced Flank Steak _____ Sugar-free Dessert	\$47.50 per person		
Double Chai Club Luncheon • Wed, Aug 26 _____ Roast Turkey Sandwich _____ Veggie Wrap _____ Sugar-Free Dessert _____ This is my first Double Chai Luncheon _____ I already have 15 stones on my pin _____ I am happy with the Double Chai Pin I have now I have _____ on my pin and will need one more (15 stones max)	\$36.00 per person <i>You don't need to belong to the Ladies Auxiliary to attend our Double Chai Luncheon. Everyone is welcome! You will have a great time!</i>		
Raffle Tickets • \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00	JWV		
Raffle Tickets • \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00	JWVA		
Total			
All events must be pre-paid in full		Amount paying now:	
I am paying by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No. _____		Exp. _____ / _____	
Signature _____			



Voting Eligibility at the 2020 National Convention

To be in good standing and eligible to vote at the National Convention, all Posts must have complied with the following items:

- Complete IRS Form 990-N (or 990 or 990 EZ) and submit a copy to National Headquarters.
- Submit a completed Installation Form (Warrant) to National Headquarters.
- Submit a completed Financial Report, which must then be approved by the Finance Board Chairman.
- Proof of Fidelity Bond and post liability insurance

Vietnam Veterans Night Out!

Wednesday, August 26 • 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Food • Fun • Friends

This dinner is an annual event when we come together to share good food and great fun with old and new friends.

Everyone is Welcome - But attendance is limited to the first 80 reservations received!
\$45 per person (includes tax and tip) if you check is received by August 20.

\$55/cash per person if you pay at the hotel.

Contact Jerry Alperstein at 212-477-3131 or 646-825-1694 or go to jwv.org for more details.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Members of Post 753 in San Antonio, Texas served cookies, ice cream, and popsicles to patients and staff at the Audie Murphy VA Medical Center on December 25. From Left: Ken Ashworth, Garland Scott, Jeff Hoffman, Herschel Sheiness, and Norton Schectman.



The Martin Hochster Jewish War Veteran Post 755 in Fort Worth installed its new officers on Sunday, January 5. From Left: Quartermaster Michael Ross, Officer of the Day Fred Korngut, Staff Judge Advocate Laurin Baum, Commander Nana Atkins, Sr. Vice Commander Phil Kabakoff, and Aide de Camp Will Kutler.



Members of Post 760 of Anaheim, California made its annual Gifts for a Yank donation to the Tibor Rubin VA Hospital in Long Beach, California in December. From Left: Glenn Karter, Diane Field, Steve Field, Janet Karter, and Army National Guard members.



On Sunday, January 26, JWV Post 256 in Dallas, Texas awarded the distinguished medal of merit coin to member Max Glauben for his dedication and commitment to holocaust education and the fight against anti-Semitism.

A Special Birthday Celebration

By Barry Lischinsky

On Sunday, December 15, members of JWV and the JWVA gathered to celebrate North Shore Post 220 member Lillian Aronson's 102nd birthday. At the age of 26, Aronson volunteered to join the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). She became a career soldier, spending the next 20 years on active duty and achieving the rank of a Sergeant First Class. During the birthday celebration,



JWV National Commander Harvey Weiner presented her with a Centenarian Certificate and a JWV Commander's Coin. JWV MA Department Commander Jeffrey Blonder presented Aronson with a certificate from Massachusetts Senator Edward Markey and JWV MA North Shore Post 220 Commander Alan Lehman presented her with a certificate from Massachusetts Congressman Seth Moulton. Aronson is still an active member of both the Jewish War Veterans and the Disabled American Veterans.



The Department of Wisconsin co-sponsored a Menorah Factory at Home Depot with Chabad Mequon.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



New Jersey Commander Jeff Sohn and Sr. Vice Commander Chuck Greenberg attended the annual Hanukkah party hosted by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy.



More than 40 members of Post 256 and our Ladies Auxiliary, along with 'home for the holidays' extended family helped to make our annual Christmas Mitzvah at the Dallas VA Hospital a success on December 25. We distributed 200 gift bags to patients and family members staying at the nearby Fisher House. From Left: Art Kaplan and Barry Gluck.



Sr. Vice Commander Mel Cohen of Post 336 participated in the annual Employee Appreciation Breakfast at the Calverton Long Island National Cemetery on December 12.



Commander Gary Ginsburg of Post 41 in Rochester, New York assisted local volunteers who created and distributed 20 lap robes to veterans at the Richards House. From Left: Nancy Van Apeldoorn and Ginsberg.



Commander Jerome Cohen of Post 567 in Maryland delivered toys to the annual Toys for Kids drive at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C.



Members of Ben Katz Post 580 in New Orleans, Louisiana joined the Chabad Center of Metairie to light a menorah at the New Orleans VA Hospital. The event also included latkes for everyone and Hanukkah songs. From Left: Lt. Col. Carol Berman, Dr. Louis Trachtman, Rabbi Josh Pernick, Post Commander Judge Sol Gothard, Joel Picker, CEO and President of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans Arnie Fielkow, and Rabbi Mendel Ceitlin.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On February 5, representatives of Post 735 in Sharon, Massachusetts presented \$1,125 to the Brockton Campus of the VA Boston Healthcare System. The post collected these funds during their Veterans Day fundraising. Since 2009, the post has raised and contributed more than \$25,000 to this organization. From Left: Richard Albert, Paul Triber, Chief Voluntary Service of the VA Brockton Campus Jason Gray, Post Commander Jeffrey Weitzenkorn, and Paul Maltzman.



15 Members from JWV Post 29 in Highland Park, Illinois participated in firearms training at the Caliber Gun Range in Waukegan. From Left: Sid Stein, Jeff Sacks, and Bruce Rapa.



Post 740 in Livingston, New York attended a ceremony on February 2 to honor the four chaplains killed when a U-Boat sunk the S.S. Dorchester in World War II. From Left: Tom Ciccone, Post Commander Steve Hoffman, Peter Brady, and Charles Quinn.



On Sunday, February 2, the Department of Massachusetts held its 66th Annual Brotherhood Breakfast at Lombardo's in Randolph. The event honored 54 students from high schools throughout the Commonwealth. This year's guest speakers included Consul General of Israel to New England Ambassador Ze'ev Boker and Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services Francisco Urena. From Left: Jeffrey Blonder, National Commander Harvey Weiner, and Urena.



Krieger-Loube Post 567 in Leisure World, Maryland celebrated Hanukkah with its annual Menorah Lighting ceremony at the local Signal Financial Credit Union on December 23.



20 members of the Department of Michigan spent December 25 at the Battle Creek Hospital. They delivered gifts of food and socks and spent time playing bingo with the patients.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Post 105 in Albany, New York joined the First Reformed Church of Schenectady to honor the 55th recipient of the Four Chaplains' Brotherhood Award on Sunday, February 23. The Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award furthers the spirit of "unity without uniformity" by encouraging goodwill and cooperation among all people. The non-denominational award honors people whose deeds symbolize the legacy of the Four Chaplains.

From Left: Post Commander Fred Altman, award recipient Bill Schaaf, and Capital District Council Commander Rich Goldenberg.



On January 12, the Department of Florida held its mid-Winter conference at the Delray Beach Golf Club. Both National Commander Harvey Weiner and National Auxiliary President Sandra Cantor attended the conference. From Left: David Patlak, Larry Jasper, PNC David Magidson, PNC Ainslee Ferdie, NC Harvey Weiner, Steven Jockers Jr., Roger Snyder, and Alan Paley.



Members of Post 373 presented the colors at the Tampa Bay Lightning hockey game on Jewish Appreciation Night in December. From Left: Jack Rudowsky, Larry Jasper, Steve Falkowitz, Jim Marenus, and Georgi Jasper.



Lou Michaels of Post 354 is the new Commander of the Department of Minnesota. From Left: Outgoing Commander Peter Nickitas and Michaels.

The Warrior Canine Connection brought a litter of nine, seven-week-old Labrador retriever puppies to spend time with JWV and JWVA members at NEC 2020 in Arlington, Virginia. The puppies will undergo training with veterans who suffer from PTSD and then they will become service dogs for veterans with disabilities.



Sandra Cantor



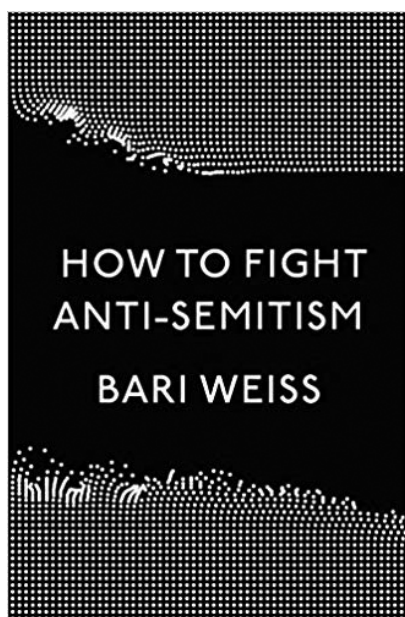
Jeff Sacks



Jon Sacks



Herb Rosenbleeth



By Harrison Heller

“How to Fight Anti-Semitism” is a must read. Whether you are Jewish or not, this recounting of anti-Semitism and how to fight back is essential. In today’s America, where we thought anti-Semitism was an afterthought until Charlottesville and Pittsburgh, author Bari Weiss gives a chilling and thought-provoking look at this thought virus.

Before diving in to the book, it’s important to understand the meaning of anti-Semitism. According to Merriam-Webster, anti-Semitism is “hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group.” This is the correct definition, but in her book, Weiss describes anti-Semitism as “not even a solid idea or singular theory. It is a shape-shifting worldview that slithers away just as you think you have it pinned down and, in so doing, stays several steps ahead of anyone trying to clobber it.” We should also define Judaism. Is Judaism a religion? An ethnicity? A way of life? Weiss says, “Judaism is not merely a

religion, and it is not merely an ethnicity. Judaism is a people. More specifically, it is a people with a language, a culture, a literature, and a particular set of ideas, beliefs, texts, and legal practices.”

Many Americans put anti-Semitism and racism in the same basket. Is anti-Semitism the same as racism or is it a subset of racism? In American society, Jews are considered white. However Weiss asks, “Were there laws in Maryland saying that Jews couldn’t hold public office? Yes. Was that the same as human beings in the Old Line State being bought and sold as property? Absolutely not.” She continues, “Are Jews barred from country clubs? Yes. But are Jews singled out and discriminated against, not least by law enforcement, because of an immutable physical characteristic? Most definitely not.” According to Weiss, if anti-Semitism is a subset of racism, it whitewashes the Jewish people. The majority of Israel’s Jewish population is of Mizrahi decent (Middle Eastern and North African heritage) and 12-15 percent of America’s Jewish population is comprised of people of color. She explains the difference between anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish prejudice. One example she gives is that of a gentile father who prefers his daughter not marry a Jew. This is anti-Jewish prejudice. However, this man does not hold the belief that the Jews hold a secret control over the government. That belief would be anti-Semitic. Weiss closes her definition of anti-Semitism by stating, “In the eyes of the racist, the person of color is inferior. In the eyes of the misogynist, the woman is something less than human. In the eyes of the anti-Semite, the Jew is... everything. He is whatever the anti-Semite needs him to be.”

One area frequently discussed is whether anti-Semitism is unique to the left or to the right. The answer is simple - it has found a home on both extreme ends of the political spectrum.

Weiss notes that on the extreme left, anti-Sem-

itism exploits the moral fear within people. They place sole blame for the continued conflict between Israelis and Palestinians on the Jewish State. This moral fear causes some Jews to downplay their sympathies, or entirely abandon their support for Israel. The Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) Movement, focuses on getting governments around the world pull their support of Israel. The group does not protest Israeli policies, but they wish to isolate and pressure Israel until the Jewish State collapses. Omar Barghouti, co-founder of BDS said, “We oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine... [only] a sellout Palestinian would accept a Jewish state in Palestine.” Some far-left groups also use the extreme end of victimhood to shame Jewish business owners and academic leaders of their Jewishness and their support for Israel.

Those on the far-right use tactics such as fear, neo-fascism, and Nazi ideology to instill fear in the community. George Lincoln Rockwell, a U.S. Navy veteran who served during World War II and the Korean War, founded the American Nazi Party in 1959. Inspired by Black Muslims, those on the far-right started to merge religion with white supremacy, and thus gave rise to such Christian Identity groups as The Order and America’s Promise Ministries. Today, these groups have merged and found a home in what is now called “The Alt-Right.” These groups instill fear by promoting the conspiracy theory that the Jews control the government and Hollywood. Far-right white nationalist groups are starting to find homes on college campuses across the country.

On both extreme ends of the political spectrum, it is the lack of knowledge and compassion that led people down these various paths. While these sound like different paths, they are one in the same. As far as how to fight back against anti-Semitism, I don’t wish to include any spoilers in this review, but simply encourage you to read Weiss’ book.

Searching for Jewish Heroes Along the Seine

By Sheldon Goldberg, Ph.D.

A special cruise tour brings together individuals from World War II allied nations for a trip on the Seine from Paris to Normandy.

I participated in the inaugural cruise as a lecturer in October of 2017. The passengers on this cruise were from the U.S., Great Britain, Israel, and several other countries, but all were Jewish. The trip included visits to the American Military Cemetery in Coleville-sur-Mar, Normandy, Omaha Beach, the Somme battlefield, as well as Rouen and several other picturesque towns along the Seine. One key focus of the cruise was to counter historical anti-Semitic claims that Jews do not fight or, if they do, they serve in the Quartermaster Army as supply clerks, logisticians, lawyers, and doctors, etc., but not combat troops. This cruise highlighted the Jews who served in the armed forces during World Wars I and II, their actions, and their heroism.

The tour company, KTreks & Kosher River Cruises, is co-owned by American David Lawrence, who also served three years in the Israeli Defense Forces, and Londoner Malcolm Green, a long-time executive chef and kosher ca-

terer. They founded the company to provide Jews with a first-class travel experience that meets



their religious and spiritual requirements.

The Wiesenthal Center sponsored the inaugural voyage, and I participated due to my position as Docent and Historian at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Joining me as a lecturer was David Kraus, the European Operations Director for the tour from Prague. Kraus is a historian of European Jewish life and a researcher at the Jewish Museum of Prague.

Throughout the cruise, Kraus discussed Jewish life in Europe during World War I and the interwar period. I lectured on the participation of American Jewish soldiers in both World War I and II. I also spoke about Jewish Medal of Honor recipients and Jewish military service in the American Civil War.

The company has invited me to participate in its next cruise which will take place from October 22 to October 29. I invite you to join me on this wonderful trip to explore the beautiful Normandy countryside and learn about Jewish life and the role American Jews played in two world wars.

If you are interested in being part of this adventure, contact me at fitrg8tr@verizon.net.

Operation Benjamin: Honoring Fallen Jewish Servicemen With The Right Headstones

Continued from page 8

cult and we applaud them for making it as difficult as they do.”

It all starts with combing through tens of thousands of names of American war dead who are buried overseas and identifying ones that are very obviously Jewish names. Then the team has to determine whether that individual is buried under a Latin Cross or a Jewish Star. Then they have to determine why using a family history — an enormous information-gathering task. The all-volunteer team visits cemeteries all over the world trying to track the family history of these soldiers. Are the parents buried in an exclusively Jewish cemetery? What’s written on the gravestones? What was the soldier’s upbringing like?

“Once we identify a soldier, that’s only stage one,” Lamm said. “Stage two is we need to contact a descendant. There’s almost never a direct descendant because these were young men who weren’t married and 99 percent of the time didn’t have kids. So this is often a great-niece or great-nephew. In one case we’re dealing with a half-sister.”

And, at the end of the day, it’s always the family member’s prerogative to choose whether or not to change the headstone.

“Contacting the family isn’t always an easy thing, and the decision is up to them. But most of the time they didn’t know a lot of the information about their soldier that we bring to them,” Lamm said.

Once the team has gathered all the evidence it can find, it presents the case to the ABMC. So far, they’ve submitted 11 cases — and all 11 have been approved.

“We were moved to see the Star of David over the graves of our uncles,” said Lin Soloman, the relative of two brothers who were buried under headstones corrected by Operation Benjamin. “When we were first given the possibility we knew it was the right thing to do. The Jewish military fallen, like our uncles, are particularly poignant because of the terrible slaughter suffered by the Jewish people in that period. We are grateful.”

“At the end of the day, our mission is truth. All we’re trying to do is get at the truth,” Lamm said.

Just last week, Operation Benjamin commem-

orated the changing of five headstones of Jewish soldiers buried at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial. Two of the service members spent more than two years as Prisoners of War in Japanese camps.

“To be able to go and honor them after all this time and make it right, bring their stories to light, reintroduce them to their own families — I pinch myself. How lucky can I be to make this happen,” Lamm said.

“Today, we gathered on the sacred grounds of Manila American Cemetery to correct the historical narratives of five of our honored dead,” said William M. Matz, secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission. “These young men left their families, the comfort of their homes and their faith communities, to answer their nation’s call. While we might never know exactly how the errors to their narratives were made — whether it was the chaos of conflict, a clerical error or personal omission due to the persecution of the Jewish people by the enemy — today, we erased those errors.”

“Those who fought and died so proudly for America but were Jewish — we believe they should be remembered by their ancestral faith,” Lamm said. “We do this only in concert with the families. It’s very moving. And one of the beautiful things about it is we take young guys who were killed 74, 75, 76 years ago and we’re bringing those stories back to life both to their families and to the public at large.”

The five service members now buried under corrected headstones were:

Pvt. Louis Wolf

Age: 25

Place of birth: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Enlistment: March 19, 1941, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Assignment: 454th Ordnance Company (Aviation), 27th Bombardment Group (Light), V Bomber Command

Date of Death: March 17, 1945

Circumstances of death: Taken prisoner at Corregidor on May 6, 1942, died of malnutrition and dehydration at a Japanese POW camp

Pvt. Arthur Waldman

Age: 27

Place of birth: Detroit, Michigan

Enlistment: 1940, Michigan

Assignment: 200th Coast Artillery Regiment

Date of death: January 17, 1944

Circumstances of death: After enduring the infamous Bataan Death March, died of beriberi heart failure (generally associated with starvation) at a Japanese POW camp in Tokyo

1Lt. Robert S. Fink

Age: 25

Place of birth: New York, New York

Enlistment: July 22, 1941, Fort Jay (Governor’s Island), New York

Assignment: 583rd Signal Air Warning Battalion, Company “C”

Date of death: June 1, 1944

Circumstances of death: Succumbed to scrub typhus at the 2nd Station Hospital in Nadzab, Papua New Guinea on his 25th birthday

Pvt. Allan C. Franken

Age: 20

Place of birth: New York, New York

Enlistment: April 14, 1943, Hartford, Connecticut

Assignment: 24th Infantry Division, 21st Infantry Regiment, Company “C”

Date of death: May 24, 1945

Circumstances of death: Died from a gunshot wound at the 52nd Field Hospital in Tugbok, Mindanao, Philippines

Award(s): Purple Heart

Sgt. Jack Gilbert

Age: 37

Place of birth: Przemyśl, Poland

Drafted: 1942, New York

Assignment: 161st Signal Photographic Company, Unit #7

Date of death: February 16, 1944

Circumstances of death: Hit by enemy shell fire on the island of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea

Award(s): Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster

This article was reprinted with permission from Connectingvets.com

Personal Financial Security Tips

By PNC Carl Singer, Homeland Security Committee Chairman

In a previous issue of The Jewish Veteran, I discussed building security and safety, including tips for local synagogues. The Homeland Security Committee also wants to make sure members focus on their personal financial security.

As you go about your daily life you have lots of things on your mind. However, the people who are trying to harm you are only focused on one thing — hurting you.

Personal financial security is primarily about avoiding scams. Scammers are well practiced and will pick the time and place for their encounter in order to catch you off guard.

So what can you do?

Never participate in any transaction you did not initiate. Also, take your time. Do not put yourself into a situation where you are pressured into acting before you are ready.

If someone comes to your door, look before opening it. If engaged, simply say, “No, thank you.”

A letter in the mail is best to ignore. If it’s from an institution you know, look up their phone number instead of relying on the number provided in the letter. If you need to verify it, contact the institution by phone.

Never open an email from an address you do not recognize and never click on any links an unknown person provides.

If you receive a phone call from an unknown person, tell them you’re busy and ask for their phone number so you can call them back. If they say it’s an emergency or try to continue the conversation just hang up. If you want to call back, verify the number. You can type the number into a search engine to see what feedback you get. Also, make sure the area code is in the United States. There are many scams that would have you call another country. If the person calling claims to be from your bank, call back using the phone number you have on file, not the number they provide.

When it comes to robocalls, the do not call registry has not worked. When I get a phone call, I

lift the receiver or press the speaker button without saying anything. If it’s a robocall, they’ll hang up after five seconds. If it’s a real person, they’ll begin by saying hello.

Do not rely on caller-ID, the number could be manipulated or fake.

When it comes to charities, look them up on <https://www.charitynavigator.org/> before donating. As much as you might want to give, resist the person on the phone who says, “Can I put you down for \$18.”

Above all, the most important point to remember is never be pushed into doing something that makes you uncomfortable.

Stay in touch with JWV!

[Facebook.com/JewishWarVeterans](https://www.facebook.com/JewishWarVeterans)

twitter.com/JewishWarVets



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



NATIONAL PRESIDENT SANDRA CANTOR

Dear Sisters,

In today's current environment I must admit I am a bit pessimistic about the future. Between anti-Semitism on the rise, virulent political discourse, disrespect of our fellow human beings, social media used to bully and lie about facts, etc., I am saddened by it all! Recently, however, I have had some experiences that have allowed me to hope that all is not as bad as I fear.

Some years back I began collecting Swarovski crystal figurines and one of the shops I frequented is owned by a Palestinian man. One day he commented on the Star of David that I always wear, which started a discussion about Israel. I am an ardent Zionist and he felt we stole his land. We had some obviously heated disagreements and, thank goodness, it never got too ugly. However, I was not going to change my mind nor would he change his. As I left his shop, he'd always say, "Goodbye, cousin." We both understood that we indeed were cousins, his people descended from Ishmael, mine from Isaac, and both children of Abraham. As in many families, everyone doesn't always get along. I continue to go to his shop and each time we greet each other with a smile and a, "Hi, cousin". This situation made me look at Muslims with a different view than just as people I had always considered my adversaries.

Fast forward to the last couple of NEC meetings in Washington, D.C., where I observed in a large group of Muslims, shoes off, prostrating themselves in prayer. In the meeting room next door, our JWV Comrades were wearing Stars of David on their caps. As we all passed each other in the hall there were no glares of disgust, no words under our breath, no outward disdain, and maybe even a few smiles – it was coexistence to be sure!

While traveling the country as your National President, I had an experience that opened my eyes and heart affecting my view of Christians as well. During my New Jersey visit we went to the Menlo Park Soldiers Home. As we were leaving a Priest came over and asked if there was a Rabbi in our group. He explained he'd just given last rites to a Jewish veteran but felt prayers should come from

someone connected religiously to the patient. I realized this Priest was a real mensch. He was respecting the Jewish faith, the veteran, and his family, and understood the value of the Jewish soul needing Jewish

prayers and connection before he entered Olam Ha Ba (The world to come). Of course, we complied and recited our own prayers for his soul.

The next day we went to the Chapel of the Four Chaplains which proved to me we are all more alike than we are different. In WWII, soldiers were being transported to the battlefield on a ship called the Dorchester. On the ship were four clergy: a Rabbi, a Priest, and two Protestant Ministers. The ship was torpedoed and sinking fast. Men were scrambling to get life vests and gloves and jumping into the life boats. Unfortunately, most of the gloves and vests were below deck and couldn't be accessed. The four chaplains handed out all of the supplies they had and then took off their own gloves and life vests and gave them to random soldiers. Realizing their end was near, they stood arm in arm with each other singing and reciting prayers as they bravely went down with the ship together.

So sisters and comrades, if a Jew and a Palestinian can disagree but call each other cousins, if Jews and Muslims can use the same space in a hotel and coexist, if a Priest can recognize the need for religious compassion for another belief and if, like the Four Chaplains, in the spirit of cooperation to save others, knowing it means death for themselves, still provide solace and prayers to all regardless of religious persuasion, then maybe I can be more optimistic about our future. As Ellen DeGeneres says at the end of her shows, "Be kind to one another!"

Loyally Yours,
Sandra Cantor, NP



A Dollar's Worth of History

By Iris Goldwasser, PNP/Editor

Most of us are unaware of how our U.S. currency was developed when the U.S. was in its infancy. How was the one dollar bill designed? What do all its symbols mean? Some of our history can be explained by understanding the various parts described in this issue and more will be explained in the next Veteran.

On the back of the one dollar bill you will see two circles comprising the Great Seal of the U.S. The first Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of leaders come up with a seal, which took four years to accomplish and two more to get approved. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do this alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything.

If you look at the left-hand circle you will notice a Pyramid; the face is lit and the western side is dark, indicating that this country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. Inside the capstone is the all-seeing eye, an ancient form of divinity. "In God We Trust" is on the currency. The Latin above the pyramid, Annuit Coeptis, means, God has favored our undertaking. The Latin below the pyramid, Novus Ordo Seclorum means a new order has begun. At the base of the pyramid is the Roman numeral for 1776 (MDCCCLXXVI).

If you look at the right-hand circle, you will notice the seal of the President of the U.S. slightly modified, which is also visible at every National Cemetery. The bald eagle was selected as a symbol of victory because it is strong and smart; it wears no crown because we had just broken away from England. The shield is unsupported, symbolizing that this country can stand on its own. In the eagle's beak you can read E Pluribus Unum, meaning one from many. In the eagle's talons are an olive branch and arrows. The eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the talons. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace.

More to come!

Consumer Affairs

By Marcia Jacobs, AP/Chairman

Many veterans and their families are not aware of certain benefits that may be available to them. Veterans enrolled in VA health care, their families, and VA employees have access to ShopVCS.com. Creating an account is free. Start saving on thousands of products from hundreds of top brands. Among the member benefits are savings on shopping, tires, tickets and travel.

The motto of VCS is, "Benefits You've Earned, Service You Deserve." VCS stands for Veterans Canteen Service. You should go on-line today at ShopVCS.com and start saving.

Armed Forces/USO

By Debbie Mellitz, Chairman

The United States Organization (USO) was founded in 1941 after a request from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide morale and recreation services to the U.S. uniformed military personnel. The initial USO brought together six separate civilian support groups: the Salvation Army, the YMCA and YWCA, National Catholic Community Service, National Travelers Aid Association, and the National Jewish Welfare Board. All six were consolidated as one organization to support U.S. troops, both domestically and overseas. Roosevelt, elected as the chartered honorary chairman, said he wanted, "these private organizations to handle the

on-leave recreation of the men in the armed forces."

The USO clubs were places to go for dances, social events, movies, and for a quiet place for members of the armed forces to talk or just write a letter home. The USO brought Hollywood celebrities such as Bob Hope, Marilyn Monroe, Debbie Reynolds, Connie Stevens, Ann-Margaret, and other volunteer entertainers to perform for the troops.

JWVA supports USOs at the National, Department, and Auxiliary levels and we encourage all echelons to assist this organization in support of our active duty troops and retired veterans whenever and wherever possible.

♥ ♥ ♥ Rita Panitz Memorial Teddy Bear Program ♥ ♥ ♥

Bears here, bears there, big ones, small ones! Bears bring big smiles and happy faces!



Think of all the smiles on the faces of the children as they cuddle one of the bears you have donated. Now is the time to start collecting bears. Every bear can be a friend to a child in need. Let's make it our number one priority to bring happiness to the children who are our future.

On Monday, August 24, we have made arrangements to donate the bears to the Sheriff's Department, Children's Hospital, and the Ronald McDonald House. Think of the thanks we will receive when the residents in the Jacksonville area notice the label attached to each bear that reads, "National Ladies Auxiliary, Jewish War Veterans."

"Let's aim high! Bring or mail your bears to convention. We hope that each Auxiliary will send one, that every sister will bring one. Please ask your Posts to help with this wonderful program.

If you would like to make a donation to the Bear Program, send your check to: Elaine Bernstein, PNP, 9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872.

♥ ♥ ♥ *Let's make this the BEST Bear Convention ever!* ♥ ♥ ♥

JWVA
National President's Banquet
honoring

National President
Sandra Cantor

Tuesday, August 25

Reception 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join us
for a delicious meal and
delightful celebration!

You will have a FESTIVE evening!

\$47.50 per person

DOUBLE CHAI CLUB

Join Us For a Luncheon!

Wednesday, August 26

The Double Chai Club has a special meaning for all of us. We rededicate ourselves annually to our purpose -- service to the veteran and his/her family.

Join us at an outstanding luncheon!

Become a member of
our "Double Chai Circle."

This luncheon is open to everyone.
We look forward to seeing you there!



\$36 per person



Let's do it again!

Our Pound Auction is always a popular event at the convention. Everyone has such a great time and so we are going to do it again.

Please bring a pound of anything, and put it in a brown lunch bag. If you don't have a brown bag, we'll have extras.

Start looking now! Examples are candy, erasers, popcorn, etc. Use your imagination. As long as it weighs a pound. You won't know what you are bidding on. Follow the clues of the auctioneer.

See Joanne Blum at the convention or call her at 860-869-2982, and give her your item for the auction.

Admission is \$2 • Snacks will be served

It will be an evening of fun and laughter!



Rhea Sahl

Memorial Baby Shower
For Pregnant Military Women

We're holding a baby shower for pregnant military women during our National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida on Monday, August 24. It is one way that we can say "Thank You" to these women for serving our country.

We would like to fill baskets for each pregnant mom-to-be with items needed for a newborn, such as: diapers, bath towels, wash cloths, bibs, onesies, bottles, baby lotion, pacifiers, burp cloths, crib sheets, receiving blankets, night clothes, etc. Each basket averages at least \$100.00 and we plan on presenting 12.

If you would like to purchase these items yourself you may do so. If you would like to make a donation for the baby shower, send your check to PNP Elaine Bernstein to purchase any items for the Rhea Sahl Memorial Baby Shower Program. Make your checks payable to: Elaine Bernstein, PNP.



Please send your items and donations for the Baby Shower and/or the Teddy Bear Program directly to the hotel, between August 17 and August 21. Address packages to: Omni Jacksonville Hotel, 245 Water Street, Jacksonville, FL, 32202. Attention: Elaine Bernstein, PNP, Convention Chairman JWVA.

Partners Club

Please join us at the Convention
on Monday, August 24 at 5:00 p.m.
for a wine and cheese get-together.

The purpose of this program is to help our administration function. The funds collected help keep our Washington office operating. Remember, anyone can be a partner member. If you know people who would like to support our cause, please ask them to join.

The cost to join is \$50.00, and \$25.00 to renew every year after the first year. I hope all the members who originally joined will renew and continue to help our National Ladies Auxiliary.



L'DOR V'DOR • HONORING OUR PAST & PROMOTING OUR FUTURE

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

It's great that our annual Hanukkah event has become a real tradition. We welcomed large crowds for latkes and sufganiyot to celebrate the holiday. It's important to see the continuing of the tradition of the Maccabees, with the stories of the more modern Jewish warriors whose history we tell. We celebrate the holiday with food and song, while we try to ensure that people recognize the contributions of Jewish Americans to their country. This year we featured World War I Hanukkah

stories and Chaplain Laurence Bazer shared his memories of celebrating Hanukkah in Afghanistan.

Of particular importance that night was the opportunity to remember our museum chaplain, Rabbi Michael Bloom, who passed away in November. For many years, Bloom was the featured speaker at the Hanukkah event. He was a tremendous asset for our museum for a long time. He had deep knowledge of the religious aspects of war. He gave insightful talks here on many

topics including the history of military siddurim. He also served as a Torah reader at the Pentagon chapel. His talks there on Purim and other occasions provided accessible ways to understand how ancient Jewish traditions still matter in modern times. He was a great advocate for our museum and helped spread the word in seniors' homes, synagogues, coffee shops, and wherever his travels brought him. May his memory be a blessing.



Music and Menorahs are a tradition at our annual Hanukkah party.



Chaplain Laurence Bazer

Speaker Program

We continue to bring in some excellent speakers to the museum. On January 16, we welcomed Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Eric Lichtblau to the museum. Lichtblau's latest book is "Return to the Reich: A Holocaust Refugee's Secret Mission to Defeat the Nazis." Freddy Mayer was a German-born Jew who escaped Germany in 1938. After initially being rejected as an enemy alien when he tried to enlist in the U.S. Army after Pearl Harbor,



Eric Lichtblau

Mayer was allowed to join. While training in the Army, he was recruited to the OSS, the wartime precursor to the CIA. Mayer returned to Europe as an OSS spy. Along with his friend Hans Wynberg, another Jewish European refugee, he parachuted onto an Austrian glacier to begin his mission. Mayer posed as a Nazi officer and a French POW. The intelligence he provided was incredibly valuable. He was eventually captured by the Gestapo. Remarkably, this ended with Mayer accepting the surrender of his captor.

Author-signed copies of the book are available in the museum store. A recording of Eric Lichtblau's talk is available on our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg>.



As a reminder, "Spirit, Courage, and Conviction: A Tour of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History," is available to your JWV echelon.

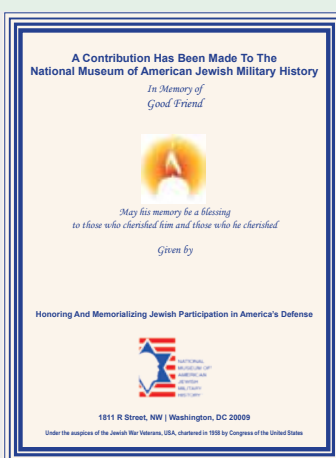
To receive a DVD copy of this video, contact Michael Rugel at 202-265-6280 or mrugel@nmajmh.org. You can also watch this video on our YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg.



As of printing, the museum is closed as a health precaution. But you can always visit the museum from your home with our video tour.

Introduced by Medal of Honor Recipient Colonel Jack Jacobs, we bring our museum and exhibits to you. Watch at nmajmh.org or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/9vn7N2YJO4M>.

You can also keep in touch by visiting our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NMAJMH/>



Make a donation to the Museum in honor or in memory of someone important to you, and we will send that person (or their loved ones) a certificate with a personalized message from you. Whether you want to recognize a life, a birthday, an anniversary, or a special accomplishment, we will create a customized certificate for any occasion. We offer a variety of sizes and presentations, and we can also send you or your organization blank certificates to fill in and hand out at your own convenience.

Forms are available at <https://nmajmh.org/support-the-museum/certificates/> or information can be input with a donation at <https://nmajmh.org/support-the-museum/donate/>. You can call us to request a certificate at 202-265-6280.

By Pam Elbe • Collections, Archives, & Exhibits Coordinator

Dr. Clara Raven: A Pioneer and a True Woman of Valor

While conducting research on Jewish women in the U.S. armed forces, I stumbled across the story of an amazing woman whose story I just had to share. Dr. Clara Raven, who served as an Army Colonel and a Deputy Chief Medical Examiner of Wayne County, Michigan, was a true pioneer in the military, the medical field, and in women's rights.

Born in Russia in 1905, Raven and her family immigrated to the United States in 1916 and settled in Youngstown, Ohio. After graduating from the University of Michigan with Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees, she became the only female student in her freshman class at Duke University Medical School. She transferred as a sophomore to Northwestern University Medical School under a quota system that allowed only four female students into the medical school. She graduated from Northwestern in 1936 (some sources say 1938).

In 1938, Raven started studying bacteriology as a John Garrett International research fellow at the University of Liverpool in England. Her research on how typhoid fever spread through drinking water led to new methods of water purification in England. Just days after her return to the U.S., World War II began in Europe and she volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army. The Army told her she would have to serve in the Nurse Corps, as there were no female doctors allowed in the Army. Instead of joining, she taught pathology at the University of Illinois and the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania and conducted research at the University of Michigan, Detroit Public Health, and the University of Chicago. She also worked as a pathologist at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. A newspaper article from the time also mentioned that she did translation work in French, German, Spanish, and Italian.

The Sparkman-Johnson Bill, which allowed female physicians to join the U.S. Army Medical Corps became law in 1943. Raven was one of the first six female physicians commissioned, and she served under the rank of Captain.

Raven deployed to Europe during World War II, where she spent time in Chalons and Paris during the combat phase of the war. She transferred to Berlin in the summer of 1945 to serve as chief of laboratory services at the 279th Station Hospital. She led a staff of 35 physicians in the research of hepatitis infections in servicemen in Europe. She attended the Nuremberg trials in Germany and served briefly on the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in Hiroshima, Japan. By 1946, she had transferred to the 147th (Old Tripler) General Hospital in Hawaii to direct its lab.

When the wartime emergency bill authorizing the Army and Navy to commission women physicians in the reserves was automatically repealed in 1947, there were only four female doctors in the Army, including Raven. Army Surgeon General Raymond Bliss knew these physicians would be hard to replace and tried to find a loophole in military regulations that would allow him to keep these physicians, but Congress denied his request.



LTC Raven in uniform, 1947. Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania Photograph Collection.

The Army Medical Corp involuntarily discharged Raven in 1948. She moved to Dayton, Ohio and became chief pathologist at the city's Veterans Administration Center.

The Korean War changed the Army's attitude toward female physicians, and in 1951 Raven returned to active duty. She started work at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C. and then went to Japan. She served as director of the laboratory at the U.S. Army hospital in Osaka, researching hepatitis and epidemic hemorrhagic fever in Korea. After the war in Korea ended, she returned to Washington.

In 1961, she became the first female physician to achieve the rank of full colonel in the Army Medical Corps. In a 1958 newspaper article she discussed how the 1951 legislation that once again allowed female physicians to be commissioned in the Medical Corps led to a conspiracy by some army men to get rid of her and others like her:

"Although my manner of performance has been as good or better than during World War II, my efficiency reports have been far below the average for officers of my branch and grade. Regardless of how well I have done, there has always been a 'but' with an irrelevant remark based entirely on personal feelings, easily explained by personal prejudice.... I discussed my predicament with the... Office of Surgeon General and they finally admitted that the difficulty was that I was a trail blazer and a female and that I had too much rank and that it was not a question of ability or manner of performance at all."

Raven became Deputy Chief Medical Examiner of Wayne County, Michigan, in 1958. One of her biggest disappointments in her 12 years at the medical examiner's office was repeatedly being passed

over to become chief medical examiner. Her brother recounted that she was told, "as a woman, she was incapable of dealing with the heavy bodies that she would have to move, something she had been doing for years." Despite that disappointment, she put her all into her more than 20 years of research into the cause of crib death or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), something she encountered both as a military pathologist at Fort Rucker and Fort Sill and as a civilian pathologist in Detroit. In the early 1970s, she testified before a Senate subcommittee to encourage funding for SIDS research and counseling of the bereaved. She also testified, in 1971, before the Michigan State House Committee on Social Services in favor of abortion reform. She died in 1994, and her grave is inscribed with the words, "A True Woman of Valor." Raven's life included many firsts and awards: the first physicians to be commissioned by the U.S. Army; the first female doctor to be a full colonel in the Army Medical Corps; the first female officer to become a member of the Military Order of World Wars and the Association of Military Surgeons; in 1962 she received the Northwestern Alumni Merit Award; in 1983 she received the Elizabeth Blackwell Award which is awarded to a female physician who has made the most outstanding contributions to the cause of women in the field of medicine; in 1987 she was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame; and she also received the Michigan State Medical Flag Award.

At the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) we are working to make sure that stories of Raven and other female veterans are told, but to do that we need your help. Nearly all the materials in the museum's collection were acquired through the generosity of veterans and their families, making our collection one that truly reflects the diverse experiences of Jewish Americans in the U.S. armed forces. Approximately 85 percent of the materials in our collection pertaining to women's service in the U.S. military are the World War II era.

If you are a woman who has served in the U.S. armed forces in the post-WWII era, the NMAJMH wants your stories and photos. Whether you served in Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, or during peacetime, we need your help to show that Jewish women have served and continue to serve in the American military. You do not need to be a member of JWV to be included (though we would love to have you as a member).

Items of interest to the museum include photographs, correspondence, military records, and memoirs, but we may also be interested in ephemera, military equipment, and uniforms. If you have material that you are willing to donate to the NMAJMH, please contact Pamela Elbe, Collections, Archives, and Exhibitions Coordinator at pelbe@nmajmh.org. We also have a veteran questionnaire we can send you if you do not have materials to donate but would like your story to be included in the museum.

Help Find the Families of USS Olympia Crew Members



By John Brady, Flagship Olympia Foundation
Board of Directors President

The year 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The first soldier buried in the Tomb served in World War I. The USS Olympia, a former Navy cruiser, brought the remains of the World War I Unknown Soldier home from Europe. His burial took place at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11, 1921. Rabbi Morris Samuel Lazon is one of the four chaplains who participated in the service.

Two months after the United States entered World War I in April 1917, Rabbi Lazon filled out a military registration card. The card, which can be found in the National Archives, notes Lazon was working as a rabbi in Baltimore, Maryland at the time and supporting his wife, baby, and parents.

Additional information about Rabbi Lazon can be found on the American Jewish Archives website. Lazon served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army Officer's Reserve Corps from 1917 until 1953. He was one of four military chaplains officiating at the burial of the World War I Unknown

Soldier in 1921. Rabbi Lazon died in London, England on June 5, 1979.

The Flagship Olympia Foundation is helping to plan commemoration events for 2021. We have researched Rabbi Lazon as part of this effort. However, we want to learn more about the men who brought the World War I Unknown Soldier home from Europe. We also want to make sure the families of these service members are invited to commemoration events.

The 1921 USS Olympia crew list is located at the National Archives. We're comparing the names on this list to information included in the Ancestry.com website. Some of the individuals and their families are easier to find because they have distinctive names. Others are not because they have the same names as several others who served during World War I.

The Flagship Olympia Foundation would appreciate the assistance of JWV members in identifying the 1921 USS Olympia crew. An electronic copy of the list is posted on our website. Are any of the men on the list your great-grandfather, grandfather, or great-uncle? If so, do you have photos or diaries about their service aboard the USS Olympia in 1921 that you would be willing to share with us?

Last year, the granddaughter of one of the members of the 1921 crew reached out to us. She shared her grandfather's story and we now have it on our website. We'd like to do the same with other crew members. They brought home a son, grandson, nephew, and father. His name is known to no one, but his sacrifice is known to all.

Photo: Detroit Publishing Co., P., Hart, E. H., photographer. U.S.S. Olympia. , None. [Between 1895 and 1901] [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2016818457/>.

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, baseball caps and jackets!



Post Banners and Flags!



Pins!



Poppies!

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

For JWV caps, call Keystone Uniform Cap Corporation

Phone: 215-821-3434 • Fax: 215-821-3438
www.keystoneuniformcap.com/Jewish-War-Veteran-Caps.html



TAPS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Berk, Jerome - Post 100
Chernus, Leonard - Post 100
Greene, Sheldon H. - Post 100
Heyman, Thomas - Post 180
Jacobs, Robert R. - Post 100
Kanner, Milton - Post 100
Shainis, Murray J. - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Buch, Louis N. - Post 138
Feinhandler, Harry - Post 760
Kantor, Norman - Post 118
Levine, Daniel - Post 60
Spinner, Cornelius N. - Post 603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Katz, Harold - Post 45
Spiegelman, Irwin - Post 45

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Baklor, Armand - Post 639
Blum, Fred M. - Post 819
Chepenik, Stephen - Post 243
Farb, Myron - Post 300
Goldberg, Harold L. - Post 246
Kirschner, Seymour - Post 440
Luber, Howard A. - Post 265
Orlove, William S. - Post 202
Pavloff, Murry - Post 321
Rosenberg, Paul M. - Post 321
Trachtman, Al - Post 300
Warshawsky, Rudolph - Post 631
Winick, Alexander - Post 819
Zimmer, Herbert - Post 400

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Kraus, Harold H. - Post 153

Rosenthal, Howard - Post 800

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Blum, Benjamin - Post 167

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Bieler, Irving - Post 735
Michelman, Leonard S. - Post 26
Salzmann, Harold - Post 140
Spector, Irving - Post 735
Weiss, Marvin L. - Post 140

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Bleifeld, Leon - Post 474
Brody, Robert - Post 474
Ring, Milton - Post 474
Ross, Donald - Post 474
Walkon, Sidney J. - Post 135
Zweigle, Warren - Post 510

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Deutch, Louis - Post 644

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Riemerman, William - Post 162
Ringer, Sherman - Post 162

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Tarr, Charles - Post 65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Bard, Sheldon - Post 126
Behar, Sabetay - Post 47
Fleisher, Martin O. - Post 740
Gartenberg, Jacob - Post 740
Greene, Murry - Post 740
Kaye, Bert - Post 178
Korach, Robert S. - Post 126
Krupnick, Sydney - Post 178
Lesiger, Lawrence R. - Post 126

Mattenson, Erwin - Post 126

Moses, Harold - Post 178
Perlmutter, Michael - Post 178
Recht, Edward A. - Post 126
Rifkind, Howard - Post 740
Weil, Jack - Post 609
Weiniger, Joseph - Post 125

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Albert, Dennis L. - Post 250
Alpert, Howard - Post 105
Bandler, Eugene V. - Post 652
Baron, Gershon M. - Post 25
Birnbaum, Julius - Post 258
Deiber, Jack - Post 106
Frankl, Robert - Post 425
Friedman, William - Post 191
Gevirtz, Sanford - Post 425
Grau, Gilbert - Post 425
Greenfield, Jack J. - Post 717
Herman, Herbert W. - Post 425
Isaacson, Norman - Post 425
Kantor, Nathan - Post 655
Kass, Eugene J. - Post 415
Kaufman, Paul - Post 1
Koffer, Morris - Post 488
Kornreich, Ivan - Post 625
Lester, Edwin - Post 625
Levy, Gerald - Post 488
Mindlin, Irving - Post 41
Noskin, Arthur J. - Post 488
Reinhertz, Murray - Post 68
Ressel, Leonard A. - Post 41
Seidman, Stanley - Post 191
Sherman, Michael P. - Post 6
Small, Dr Arthur M. - Post 425
Sperber, Arthur - Post 68

Tanenbaum, Joseph - Post 415
Weisman, Gilbert - Post 425
Wertenteil, Jack - Post 655

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Boxerbaum, Bernard - Post 44
Edelman, Aaron - Post 122
Gill, Sanford - Post 44
Loeb, Sheldon - Post 44
Shack, Sol - Post 44
Stan, Edward - Post 122

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Abrams, Stuart L. - Post 212
Daskal, Herbert - Post 697
Harris, Samuel E. - Post 165
Lieberman, Sheldon - Post 165
Rosoff, Maurice - Post 706
Rottman, Howard - Post 212

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Weinstein, Lewis E. - Post 406

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Glassman, Sidney - Post 112
Wolff, Irwin - Post 112

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Adelman, Norman - Post 194
Lasner, Harvey - Post 194
Soblick, Benjamin - Post 375

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Dworkin, Bernie - Post 256
Gurievsky, Joseph - Post 580
Lewis, Ben T. - Post 574
Night, Ralph - Post 574
Rubenstein, Leon - Post 256
Schermann, Maurice - Post 256



I SERVED FOR

my family's safety

USAA members who bundled Auto and Home Insurance saved over \$589 million combined in a single year.¹ Bundle today to help protect what matters to you and what you have worked so hard to build. With USAA insurance, enjoy an unrivaled level of service because we know what it means to serve.

GET A QUOTE TODAY.

CALL 800-292-8JWV (8598) OR VISIT [USAA.COM/JWV](https://usaa.com/jwv)



WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO QUOTE ANY INDIVIDUAL A PREMIUM RATE FOR THE INSURANCE ADVERTISED HEREIN. ¹Savings figure based on 2018 savings earned when members combined USAA auto and home insurance products. Multiple product savings do not apply in all states or to all situations. Savings subject to change. Restrictions apply. Use of the term "member" or "membership" refers to membership in USAA Membership Services and does not convey any legal or ownership rights in USAA. Restrictions apply and are subject to change. Property and casualty insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, based in San Antonio, TX; USAA Limited (UK) and USAA S.A. (Europe) and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. Jewish War Veterans of the United States receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2020 USAA. 267271-0120-JWV



Happy Passover!

Chag Pesach Sameach!

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

Allan & Sheila Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

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

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ
Chag Sameach

PDC Ed & PDP Louise 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 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

**In Memory of Carol C. Frank
and Fred Heinrich**

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

In Honor of all who have served!

Good Health & Happiness to All!

Greetings to all of our Friends

PNC/PNP Edwin & Iris Goldwasser
We salute those who serve

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

Herbert L. & Beth Gopman
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

Jason A & Petra C. Kaatz
Good Health to All!

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

PNC Sheldon Ohren
L'Chaim - To Life

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

Dr. Jack Porter
In Memory of My Wife

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

Norman Schnitzer, PDC
In memory of Harriett

Irv Schildkraut • JWV Post 440
From Strength to Strength
PNC Dr. Barry J. Schneider

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

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

Thank you for All You Do
to Help Veterans and Soldiers

In Memorial to Joan & Louise Weinstein

In Memory of Philip & Jolin Weinstein

Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute
www.msawi.org

National Chaplain Shirley Zak
In Memory of PDC Jon Zak

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**

In Honor of WWII, Korea, VVW JWV Vets
Brookline-Newton MA Post 211

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Card #: Exp: _____ / _____

1st line: _____

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

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

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