



# The Jewish Veteran

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

## JWV to Hold First Ever Hybrid National Convention

By Cara Rinkoff, Programs and Public Relations Director  
For the first time in its history, the Jewish War Veterans is taking advantage of technology to provide members with a unique way to attend National Convention. This summer, members will be able to get almost a complete convention experience without hopping on a plane.

While we would love to see all of you in Savannah this August, we understand not everyone can travel there and spend a full week with us.

JWV plans to use Zoom to allow members to participate from their homes in nearly all meetings and other sessions scheduled for the 127th conven-

tion in Savannah, Georgia.

“The hybrid option provides an opportunity for many of our members to view the many meetings held during our national conventions,” National Commander Alan Paley said. “Those that were previously not able to attend (for a variety of reasons), can now participate at arm’s length and see firsthand our national officers, and how the organization functions.”

This will be different than the live streams made available in the past. Registrants will be able to participate fully in the meetings and sessions. We will allow voting online, as well as opportunities to

speak – the same as those who attend in person.

At the National Executive Committee meeting in January, the Convention Committee decided to charge a fee of \$54.00 in addition to the \$50.00 convention registration fee for those who want to attend the online portion of the convention.

If you want to participate in this hybrid convention from the comfort of your home, you will only be allowed to register online at [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org).

If you plan to join us in person August 7-12, you can download the registration form from our website, or mail in the form on page 11 of this edition of The Jewish Veteran.

## Honoring Vietnam War Veterans

By Kate Logan, The United States of America  
Vietnam War Commemoration

March 29 marks the 5th anniversary of National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Five years ago, the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act created this national observance. This act designated March 29, in perpetuity, as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. This special day joins six other military-centric annual observances codified in Title 4 of the United States Code §6, including Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day.

Many ask, why March 29? It is a fitting choice for a day honoring Vietnam veterans. On March 29, 1973 the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam was disestablished. It’s also the day the last U.S. combat troops left Vietnam, and the same day Hanoi released the last of its acknowledged prisoners of war.

On March 29 in Washington, D.C., the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration has arranged a wreath-laying ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, each accompanied by a Vietnam War Gold Star family member, plan to participate in this ceremony. All whose names are etched in the black granite of “The Wall” will be honored, along with their families. Plans include livestreaming this event on the Commemoration Facebook page.

In recognition of the 5th anniversary of National Vietnam War Veterans Day, the commemoration published a new poster highlighting the many faces—then and now—of Vietnam vet-



erans who nobly served our Nation. Their courage, collective sacrifice and heroism inspires a deep respect and reverence in the hearts of Americans everywhere!

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched

by President Obama in 2012, will continue through Veterans Day 2025.

Congress laid out five objectives for this commemoration, with the primary goal being to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice, with distinct recognition of former prisoners of war and families of those still listed as missing in action and unaccounted for.

The four objectives include highlighting the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war, paying tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens, highlighting technology, science and medical advances made during the war, and recognizing contributions by our Allies.

This commemoration honors all veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location. There is no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve, and none could self-determine where they would serve. All were seen in the same way by a country that could not separate the war from the warrior, and each person who served during this period deserves the Nation’s profound thanks.

Of those who served during this timeframe, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates today there are six million U.S. Vietnam veterans living in America and abroad, along with nine million families.

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# D'verei HaShomrim

## How My Failure in Boy Scouts Taught Me the Meaning of Honor

By Rabbi Levi Welton

Long before I had the honor of serving in the United States Air Force, I was just a boy in Troop 613, the local Jewish Boy Scouts of America chapter in Berkeley, California. It was founded by George Brummer, Lenny Berman, and my childhood Rabbi Ferris. We met regularly on the second floor of the Berkeley Chabad House. This was how I came to know Berman, or Scoutmaster Lenny. Although he hadn't been a scout as a boy, Scoutmaster Lenny taught our troop to cherish outdoorsmanship and do a good turn daily. He also made all of us get the Ner Tamid Jewish merit badge, telling us we had to be proud Jewish Boy Scouts.

Berman was a disciplined, bristly-bearded software developer who walked over four miles every Shabbos to attend services at the Chabad House (Orthodox Jews don't use cars on Shabbos because driving is considered a violation of the 39 categories of prohibited melachos or work). Nor did he do it alone. He was accompanied by his wife, daughter, and three sons.

At the crack of dawn on school days, Berman would wake up his children and teach them Torah and Talmud. Then they'd head off to public school. In 2012, when President Obama's ambassador to Israel toured the largest Yeshiva in the world, the prestigious Mir Yeshiva in Jerusalem, he was photographed studying Torah with Eitan Berman, my former scout-mate.

I never made it to the rank of Eagle Scout. I spent way too much time having fun at the Scout Camp rifle range. I got a couple of merit badges, like the woodworking one and the leatherwork one, but I did it because I thought it was fun, not because I was competitive about achieving Eagle status. Nevertheless, Berman gave me a solid Boy Scout education. He taught me how to use a compass, which comes in handy as Jews must face Jerusalem when praying three times a day. He also instructed our Troop in the art of pitching a tent, packing a sleeping bag, and safely kindling a fire from scratch. Most of all, he constantly lectured us on what it means to have Scout Honor and do my best to do "my duty to G-d and my country."

Unfortunately, my best wasn't always good enough. For example, I failed to get the swimming merit badge. I badly wanted it because that badge allowed a scout to use the kayaks at the camp lake. I might have succeeded had it not been for my lanky chicken legs, pencil-thin arms, and the sharks. Well, not real sharks as I was swimming hundreds of miles inland. But my overactive imagination kept interpreting every oblong shadow underwater as a Great White gleefully zooming towards me to the ominous soundtrack of "Jaws."

So, after a lot of frenzied splashing, I was told to get out and dry myself off with a towel. Apparently, in my zeal to escape the sharks, I swam in the completely wrong direction and had a second chance to jump back in and try again. I shook my head with a definitive no and made a silent pact with the sharks that I would never again step into their turf as long as they wouldn't step on mine. To this day, both parties have honored this arrangement.

But I'm getting lost in the brush of my understory and must return to the trailhead of the narrative, Scoutmaster Lenny. I want to tell you how he im-



**Rabbi Levi Welton**  
Photo Credit: Mauricio Campino

printed upon me the meaning of honor. It happened when our troop was deep in the forest, camping with hundreds of other troops.

One morning, it was our troop's turn to raise the flag in front of the entire assembly. We had practiced with Berman for an hour the night before. But I was still nervous. A sea of eyes stared at us with laser focus. Eitan and I marched in tandem next to each other, gripping the sides of the flag, and trying to remember all the instructions our scoutmaster had drilled into our brains. My hands trembled as we hoisted the flag.

Suddenly, the bugler, who was also our assigned guide, sputtered. He rushed over to us.

"The flag is upside down," he whispered in horror. He snatched the halyard from me. I frantically looked up. The great grizzly bear of the California flag lying flat on her back with four paws fluttering awkwardly upside down in the wind for all to see.

Snickers echoed around the grassy meadow. Shame burned on my cheeks and for the next three days, we were the laughingstock of the Boy Scouts. I remember spending most of the time studying the tips of my sneakers and avoiding eye contact with anyone outside my troop.

Then, on the dawn of the third day, Yossi Ferris, the rabbi's son, was called up in front of the entire assembly for an honor. He had achieved the highest score at the rifle range and was given the marksmanship award. He marched up - proudly wearing his yarmulke for all to see—and received his accolades and his trophy, a box of chocolate M&M's. But Yossi wasn't the only one who held his head high. Our entire troop did. From then on, no one laughed at us. Our dignity was restored.

But what I remember now was how, during those three days after our epic flag-failure, Scoutmaster Lenny made us march to reveille as if we were his children marching to Shul on Shabbos. He didn't utter a word about our failure and walked among the other Scout Leaders with confidence, as if nothing had occurred. I'm sure he noticed the sneers and smirks of the other kids. But he made us march and made us endure it, one step at a time. In this way, he taught me that honor means you keep marching forward, even when your flag is upside down.

In comic books, heroes are clean-shaven and wear red capes. In real life, heroes need neither a costume nor a cape. They can have a bristly beard



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and simply show a child it's ok to make a mistake. On that fateful flag day, Berman showed me that I didn't need to be an Eagle to fly.

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 **Veterans Crisis Line**  
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For 24/7 confidential support,  
call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1,  
chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat),  
or text 838255 today.

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](mailto:editor@jwv.org).

You can find more information about guidelines for article and photo submissions on [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org). The deadline for the next issue of The Jewish Veteran is June 2 at noon, EDT.

National Commander Alan D. Paley

## Unless You Ask – Nothing Happens

We all talk about our membership, and how so many Jewish veterans do not belong to our organization. But do we ask? Do we approach friends, neighbors, co-workers or members of other groups or organizations that we belong to and ask them to join our ranks?

It appears to me that many of us do not.

We just never think about it or are intimidated about asking.

So here is an interesting story about an ask, and perhaps after you read what I have to say, you will consider asking the next time you engage with someone who may be an eligible member or potential patron of our organization.

For those who attended NEC in 2020, during the Policy Committee meeting we had a guest speaker who proposed a fund raising project involving the JWV Torah. For those of you that do not know, JWV has a Torah, and it travels to both our NEC and National Conventions. We read from it on Mondays and Thursdays, and again on Shabbat when our meetings carry over onto a weekend. A while ago, it was determined the Torah was in desperate need of repair, and if those required repairs were not completed sooner rather than later, the Torah would not be able to be used again. This is what created the need for our speaker at the Policy Committee meeting during the convention. The speaker, a Rabbi from the Miami area, told us that instead of repairing the existing Torah, we should consider a project to write a new Torah. The writing of a Torah is an exciting project, and the idea was to travel across the country and write the Torah as it stopped in each Department. They would even take the Torah down to Post level to enable our members to purchase a letter, a verse or even an entire Parsha. Synagogues across the country undertake these same projects, and very often they become successful fundraising events. However, the leadership of our organization, after hearing this proposal voted not to move forward with this idea. We would look for other alternatives. So, the idea of writing a new Torah was shelved.

A few months later, during a small leadership meeting, the Torah project was again brought up, and a lengthy discussion followed. It was decided that we would not repair the existing Torah. An alternative idea was brought up to see if we could approach some local synagogues and ask them to consider donating one of their unused Torahs to our organization. Most at that meeting were skeptical.

A few more months passed and, again the topic was brought up. We had to fix the current Torah, or we could not use it anymore.

So, I asked the question. I approached my Rabbi and asked for consideration towards the donation of one of their many Torahs. This request did take my Rabbi by surprise, as no one had ever asked for a donation of a Torah. Some organizations have asked to borrow one from time to time, but they were always returned and placed back in the Ark, standing ready for the next time they would be used. My synagogue had a total of 13 Torahs.

Over the years, and especially since the pandemic, the number of members attending High Holiday and Shabbat services has declined, and our need to have these services split into separate areas of the synagogue was no longer necessary. Therefore, we no longer needed all our Torahs.

So, the Rabbi spoke with our President and the idea fascinated him. This would be a wonderful mitzvah for our synagogue to help another Jewish organization, but the President and Rabbi could not make the decision alone. It had to be brought to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

On December 14, 2021, my synagogue held its first in person Board of Directors meeting in more than 19 months and I was asked to state my case and ask the Board for that donation. I did, and the Board voted unanimously to donate one of their Torahs to the Jewish War Veterans.

I did it, by simply asking the question.

There are many Jewish men and women who are eligible for membership in JWV, but they have never been asked, or have not been asked recently.

I urge you to ask.

You may be pleasantly surprised at the answer you get.

Our membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Let's keep it growing.

I want to continue highlighting our Department Commanders and am pleased to focus on Ron Sivernell, the new Department Commander of TALO (Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma).

Sivernell joined JWV Post 755 in Fort Worth, Texas as a life member in 2005. He has served in multiple leadership roles, including Post Commander, the National Membership Committee, Vietnam Veterans Committee, Homeless Veterans Committee, and Committee for the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

He served in the Army from 1971-1974. After

have JWV credit cards, what type of expenses are acceptable, and the procedures to request reimbursement.

### **Jewish War Veterans of the United States Expense Reimbursement Policy Effective March 1, 2022**

This policy explains the guidelines for the reimbursement of expenses related to the general operation of JWV. This policy applies to the professional staff and volunteers in the performance of their duties on behalf of JWV.

Except as noted below, reimbursement for expenses by volunteers incurred on behalf of JWV



basic training at Fort Ord, California, he spent a year in Electronics Training School at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey to learn cryptographic repair. He was assigned to the Presidio in San Francisco and Fort Baker, California. After the military, Sivernell spent ten years with the Fort Worth, Texas Police Department and worked as a probation officer for 32 years. He also completed a master's degree and received a counselor license allowing him to run treatment programs in the probation department.

He and his wife Nelda have been married for almost 43 years. They have three children and four grandchildren.



**Ron Sivernell**

If you have never been featured in The Jewish Veteran before, and you are currently serving as a Department Commander, please send me a picture wearing your Department Commander Cap, as well as a short bio, and we will publish it in the next issue of The Jewish Veteran.

## NEC 2022 Roundup

By PNC Dr. Barry Schneider

The National Executive Committee met in January in Orlando, Florida. While attendance was slightly less than usual, 33 members attended in person with an additional 20 NEC members via zoom.

The highlight of the NEC meeting itself was the acceptance of two new policies recommended by the Policy Committee. Both reflect a huge change in our operations and a clarity to our ongoing efforts to become more transparent.

The most significant policy deals with reimbursement of expenses by staff and volunteers. With extreme clarity, the policy lays out who can

must be approved by the National Executive Director (NED) in advance of the event.

JWV owned debit or credit cards are tightly controlled and limited only to short term use. These cards will be issued to the NED, Director of Operations, National Commander, Coordinating Committee Chairman, and National Vice Commander. Cards for both the National Commander and National Vice Commander can only be used during their term of office. The following JWV members are eligible for expense reimbursement:

*Continued on page 8*

By Cara Rinkoff, Programs and Public Relations Director

JWV has been involved in many efforts with other Veteran Service Organizations to advance your legislative priorities.

Over the past few months, we have participated in meetings for The Military Coalition, the Zero Prostate Cancer Working Group, the Vietnam War and Vietnam Veterans Commemoration, the National Military and Veterans Alliance, and so many more.

## MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT

As a member of the Star Act Working Group, JWV has joined other VSOs to get cosponsors for the Major Richard Star Act. Our goal is to get this legislation included in the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The Star Act would support more than 50,000 combat-injured veterans by allowing concurrent receipt of vested longevity pay and VA disability. These individuals are subject to an offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received and, in some cases, their retirement pay is eliminated. Please contact me if you are willing to help this group gain more support among members of the U.S. House and Senate by calling or writing to your legislators.

## PACT ACT

In February, JWV joined 41 military and veteran service organizations in a letter to the Democratic

and Republican leaders of the U.S. House, calling for their support of the Honoring Our PACT Act (H.R. 3967). This bill would shift the burden of proof, giving veterans with effects of conditions from burn pits the benefit of the doubt when seeking help from the VA. It would also establish a presumption of connection between 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers and service personnel's exposure to burn pits and airborne hazards. The U.S. House passed the PACT Act on March 3 by a vote of 256 to 174. The U.S. Senate has its own version of the bill, but it is narrower in scope than the House version.

On March 1, the VA announced it would start processing claims for toxic-exposed veterans with nine rare respiratory cancers.

## REMOTE ACT

On December 21, President Biden signed the Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions or REMOTE Act into law. The law extends the various COVID-19 protections for GI Bill students who were attending a course that was converted to online training because of COVID-19, and were getting paid the resident rate, may continue to train online, and will continue to receive the resident housing rate until June 1, 2022. Additionally, the law authorizes rounding out, which allows students to enroll in additional classes in order to be more than half-time and get monthly housing allowance (MHA) payments during the

student's final semester, term, or academic year. It also extends all other COVID protections included in the Johnny Isakson and David P. Rose, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 from December 21, 2021 to June 1, 2022.

## CAREGIVER REGULATIONS

JWV joined 20 other organizations on a petition to the VA in February which calls for rulemaking to amend the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Caregivers (PCAFC) regulations restricting access to certain benefits offered to veterans and their caregivers. The proposed rules would eliminate prohibition on work and replace it with certain eligibility criteria of activities of daily living and the need for supervision, protection, and instruction. It also called for eliminating the requirement for a caregiver to engage 100% of their time to provide care to a veteran, relax the strict requirement for a veteran to fail 100% of their activities of daily living and allow for the extended period for reassessment of catastrophically disabled veterans.

Your weekly email newsletter from JWV headquarters will contain the latest information on all of this legislation and other work JWV is doing in Washington, D.C. If you are not receiving the weekly e-newsletter, please contact JWV Communications Director Iryna Apple at [iapple@jwv.org](mailto:iapple@jwv.org).

## Honoring Vietnam War Veterans

*Continued from page 1*

Since 2012, more than 3.2 million who served between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, and their families, have been publicly thanked by friends and neighbors during nearly 22,000 ceremonies hosted by our dedicated Commemorative Partners – but there is still more to do.

The commemoration staff encourages every American to show their deep gratitude to this generation of warriors and their families. Visit [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com) to learn how your organization can become a Commemorative Partner, gain access to commemorative materials, including Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins for presentations to Vietnam veterans and their families, and contribute to this noble mission.

Finally, help the nation reach Vietnam veterans who may be living in isolated conditions, those physically unable to attend commemorative events, and those in assisted living or care facilities. Honoring these warriors is simply the right thing to do and they have earned it!

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

### VA Supports Veterans Who Experienced Military Sexual Trauma

By Jessica Keith, Ph.D., Clinical Programs and Practices Lead, Veterans Health Administration Military Sexual Trauma Support Team

Every April during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) supplements its year-round outreach with a campaign to show support for survivors of military sexual trauma (MST).

MST refers to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. MST can occur at any time or place, whether on or off duty or on or off base. The perpetrator or perpetrators may or may not be known to the survivor and may be fellow service members or civilians. Veterans of all genders, racial and ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, physical sizes, and eras and branches of service have experienced MST.

For MST survivors, it can be tremendously healing to learn that someone believes they experienced trauma and understands the different ways MST can affect them. That's why VA's message for this Sexual Assault Awareness Month expresses support for MST survivors and confidence in their strength and resilience: "We believe you, and we believe in you."

Many survivors are understandably hesitant to tell others that they experienced MST. Some worry about being judged or not being believed. Some can't imagine how treatment could help them heal. VA wants to convey to all veterans who experienced MST that healing is possible, MST was not their fault, they are not alone, and VA is ready to help. Please help us spread this message of support to veterans and let them know that VA

offers free services for any mental and physical health condition related to the experience of MST.

Although MST can be a life-changing experience, survivors are remarkably resilient. Some recover from the experience of MST on their own. Many, however, are fighting quiet battles as they cope with MST's impact on their mental and physical health, work, and relationships — even many



years after the experience. The difficulties MST survivors experience may include overwhelming emotions and reminders of trauma, sleep disturbances, trust issues, self-doubt, unsafe coping behaviors, and physical health effects. The type and severity of difficulties may depend on factors like whether the MST happened once or was repeated, how other people responded at the time, and whether the survivor experienced additional stressful life events, such as discrimination or other traumas.

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, VA redoubles its efforts to let all MST survivors know about VA's free services to support survivors' healing and recovery. Eligibility for VA's MST-related care is expansive. No documentation of the MST experience is required. Veterans do not need to

have reported the MST experience at the time, to have sought care within a certain time frame, or to have applied for service connection for an MST-related condition to get care.

To learn more, veterans should contact their local VA medical center and ask to speak with the facility's MST Coordinator, a professional who specializes in connecting survivors with the MST-related care and services that are right for them. Veterans can also speak with a VA health care provider.

Visit [www.MentalHealth.va.gov/SAAM](http://www.MentalHealth.va.gov/SAAM) to find resources and materials to share with veterans and their supporters during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## GULF WAR COMMITTEE

By Chairwoman Rochel Hayman

The Gulf War Committee/Network has had very nice turnouts at our recent meetings with discussions ranging from the latest general happenings in JWV, to specific brainstorming for the National Convention. Some are fundraising centered, while others are discussions on the kinds of projects we'd like to work on and/or support. While some members who were active during the Gulf War era are retired, many are still working full time and/or have young families. We're developing leadership positions with manageable responsibilities to entice as many as possible to get involved. If your in-service dates include the timeframe of 1990 and 2001, please reach out to JWVGWC@gmail.com and apply to the closed Facebook group, JWV Vet Network. The Gulf War Committee continues to meet online the first Wednesday of every month.

## MARKETING COMMITTEE

By Chairman Howard Goldstein

The Resource Center is up and running after numerous delays, albeit with limited capabilities. If there is something you think might be of interest to others, such as presentations, marketing materials, documents, ads, etc., use the Resource Center submission form, which can be found on our website.

Our Branding Guide is out with clear-cut graphic standards, instructions and template files. If you tried it, we would appreciate your feedback on ease of use and how you used it. If you aren't aware of these materials, please ask your Department Commander or any member of the Marketing Committee for copies. The guide is also available in the resource center and under the membership forms tab. It is important to have a consistent look and feel for JWV across all echelons and show one face to the public.

As previously noted, there will be no brand police to enforce the use of the guide, nor will you have to get permission from the Marketing Committee or headquarters staff to revise parts of the templates that do not involve the look and feel of the brand. Changes to wording and pictures are okay and encouraged. Using the guide and templates helps assure JWV is presented in a professional and consistent manner.

We also have a booth designed to promote JWV at national and regional meetings where there are large numbers of Jews or veterans.

Any echelon can order the booth, but all Post and Department requests must have Department Commander approval. Shipping costs will be shared with the Marketing Committee. Once a request is received, the committee will review it prior to authorizing the booth's use. Please submit requests at least 30 days prior to the event.

We are moving ahead with developing a communications strategy to get our name out there. We need to be more proactive in getting our message and accomplishments out to Jews, veterans, and the general public. The committee has begun discussions with some outside resources to help in this. We are considering various ways to conduct local and regional PR and advertising campaigns. This could include creating materials for use at the national, regional and/or local level. This could include templates and best practices for social media or how to use vendors to help you locally or how to use Facebook to help get our name out there. On a broader scale we are looking into digital marketing methods to find Jewish veterans on the internet and push ads out to them. We'll have more on this soon.

Please feel free to contact any member of the committee with ideas, recommendations, or constructive comments.

## POST-9/11 VETERANS

By Chairman Jeffrey Blonder

The Post-9/11 Veterans Committee continues to sponsor quality and relevant programs for its members. This quarter the committee had three meetings. In January, Rabbi Eli Estrin from the Aleph Institute spoke to our membership. He spoke about the Aleph Institute's programs for members of the military. The Aleph Institute provides materials to assist Jewish service members and helps them celebrate Jewish holidays while they are stationed away from home. The Aleph Institute also publishes a bi-monthly magazine called "The Jewish American Warrior."

In March, the committee held two meetings. In early March, we received a briefing from Steve Bohn, a staff member from Congressman Seth Moulton's office, on the situation in Ukraine. Bohn is an Army veteran who served in Afghanistan and now serves as Rep. Moulton's veteran liaison. Later in March, Chanan Weissman, President Joe Biden's liaison to the Jewish community spoke to us about Israeli-American Relations under the Biden administration. The committee continues to meet on

the second Monday each month. Our meetings are open to all JWV members. For more information you can contact us at [post911committee@jwv.org](mailto:post911committee@jwv.org).

## VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Bob Jacobs

On May 5, 2022, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History will officially dedicate a new exhibit on Jewish Military Service During Vietnam. A number of committee members took part in gathering materials and funds for it, as did our hard-working museum staff.

Thinking ahead to this summer's convention in Savannah, we should be looking ahead to the 50th anniversary of the end of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The date for that is March 29, 2023. As luck would have it, the NEC will be back in the Washington area next year. It is possible that we could coordinate a commemoration or other event with our national organization. Get your thinking caps on and bring your suggestions to the convention. On the same subject, the town of Barnegat, New Jersey erected a memorial to Vietnam veterans three years ago. It was presented in gratitude by the state's Vietnamese community. Al Adler and I will be attending a ceremony at the memorial on National Vietnam War Veterans Day which is March 29. If there is a memorial in your area, make every effort to attend.

If you haven't already purchased a copy of the disc book "Jewish Americans in Military Service During Vietnam" from our museum, it can be ordered for \$20 directly on the museum's website. You can also buy it on Amazon, but the museum won't receive as much of a profit from that sale.

I mentioned the National Convention in Savannah this summer. As always, Jerry Alperstein made reservations at the Pirate House. We had the Vietnam Veterans Night Out there on our last Savannah convention and it was wonderful. It will be on Wednesday, August 10. If you are on the committee e-mail list, you should have received a reservation form. Don't wait until the last minute as we expect a sold-out evening. As in the past, we will be inviting the leader of the local Vietnam Veterans of America chapter as our guest. We will get an update on VVA's activities in the area.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy Passover and hoping to see you in both Washington, for the opening of the Vietnam exhibit at the NMAJMH and in Savannah.

## Scholarships for Veterans and JWV Members' Descendants

As it has for many years, JWV is once again offering two types of scholarships. The Jewish War Veterans of the USA Foundation is offering \$16,000 in scholarships to veterans and active-duty personnel for their education. You do not need to be a member of JWV to apply for the National Veteran Achievement Program.

Direct descendants of JWV members who are seniors in high school are eligible for three scholarships. You can find the applications at [www.jwvusafoundation.org](http://www.jwvusafoundation.org). If you have any questions, please call Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at 202-265-6280 ext. 413 or email [crinkoff@jwv.org](mailto:crinkoff@jwv.org)

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## 2023 JWV Calendar

The theme of JWV's 2023 calendar is Families of Service. Are there multiple generations of your family who have served our country (Grandparents, Parents, Siblings, Children, etc.)? If so, we want you to be featured in next year's calendar.

Please submit pictures and stories of you and your family members to JWV National Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff by May 1. If you have any questions, call (202) 265-6280 ext. 413 or email [crinkoff@jwv.org](mailto:crinkoff@jwv.org).

# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

## Memorial Day, A Day of Remembrance

This Memorial Day is fast approaching. It's time for you to consider holding a Day of Remembrance at your local community Shuls, Congregations, Temples, Chabad, etc. This is the ideal time to interact with your local Jewish Community and your local Jewish media. Remind your congregation that Jewish veterans live among them. Most of all, we are looking for Jewish veterans to fill our ranks. We need them to stand and serve with us.

Here is a five-step plan. First, plan to honor the name and memory of your Post Members who have died in the last two years – since the start of the pandemic. Invite their family members to participate in this special Memorial Day event. Ask the family members if they need a ride to the event. Let them witness first-hand that our deceased JWV members are not forgotten. As cited in our Mission Statement of 1896, we seek “To preserve the memories and records of patriotic service performed by the men and women of our faith.” Their names should not be forgotten. Second, to have a successful Day of Remembrance, you must publi-

cize the event well in advance. Start publishing the location, date, and time of the event in your JWV newsletters, your place of worship, and your local community media outlets. Third, before you read the names of our departed, the local JWV Echelon Commander should remind the congregation that members of our faith have served honorably with dedication and duty in every U.S. war since the establishment of our nation. Our service even predates the Revolutionary War. As far back as 1654, Asser Levy is first mentioned in public records in New Amsterdam (later known as New York) in connection with a group of 23 Jews who arrived as refugees from Brazil. Levy fought for Jewish rights in the Dutch colony and is famous for winning the right for Jews to serve guard duty for the colony. Fourth, after the names are read, have the Rabbi or Lay Leader recite the Mourner's Kaddish. And fifth, the Senior Echelon Commander should ask that all the veterans in the room remain standing. Thank them for their service. Let them know we need them to stand within our ranks.

The ingredients for a successful recruiting initiative are to ask them to join your local JWV Post, personally hand each Jewish veteran an application and make sure you retrieve their contact information, and immediately follow-up with a phone call. On the call when you invite the Jewish veteran to come to your next gathering, ask if they need a ride. This is the most critical ingredient that can bind the entire process. Finally, thank the family members for attending and the sacrifices that they made throughout the years in support of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America.



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky  
Membership Chairman

### 2022 JWV NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

#### GOAL:

Most new members signed up from January 1 to May 31, 2022

#### RULES:

- Contestant must be a member in good standing during the entire period of contest
- All entries will be reviewed by the Director of Membership and the National Membership Committee
- When submitting membership forms make sure the contestant and their post are listed as sponsors on the form
- Only new paid members will be counted (Transfers, Renewals and Patrons will not be counted).
- Write across the top of the new membership form that this submission should be counted for the 2022 membership contest

#### FIRST PRIZE

2022 National Convention in Savannah, GA. package includes:

- 2022 Convention registration fees
- Hotel room at the host facility for the dates of the convention (up to five nights)
- Two tickets for the National Commander's Banquet

(All travel and other expenses are the responsibility of the contestant)

#### SECOND PRIZE

2022 National Convention in Savannah, GA. package includes:

- 2022 Convention registration fees
- Two tickets for the National Commander's Banquet

(All travel and other expenses are the responsibility of the contestant)

#### THIRD PRIZE

- Two tickets for the National Commander's Banquet

## JWV Member Creates National Organization Honoring High School Enlistees



2018 OCS of Palm Beach High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony

In 2009, while serving on his local school board, JWV Post 126 member Dr. Kenneth Hartman noticed his school district in Cherry Hill, New Jersey did not honor graduating high school seniors who planned to enlist in the military after graduation. As both a soldier and son of a holocaust survivor, Hartman decided to take action. He founded Our Community Salutes (OCS).

For the past 14 years since Hartman founded OCS, the organization has held hundreds of recognition ceremonies across the country for high school enlistees. Tens of thousands of people have attended or spoken at OCS ceremonies; truly a testimony to the appreciation for the young men and women entering the military, as well as their families.

The organizing body of OCS includes community leaders, educators, business leaders, veterans, and patriotic Americans who feel strongly about honoring these young enlistees, the importance of community support and recognition for the courageous and patriotic young adults who will serve in the U.S. Armed Services after graduation, and the 1% of young Americans who take a solemn oath to protect our liberties and freedoms.

When COVID restrictions forced the cancellation of nearly all OCS Ceremonies in 2020, Hartman conceived of and obtained funding to produce and broadcast America Salutes 2020, a star-studded broadcast to honor our nation's high

school enlistees.

The broadcast in 2021 reached over 20 million people in more than 160 different countries. This year, in addition to live ceremonies, America Salutes 2022 will premiere on May 19 with actor Gary Sinise joining as one of the celebrity hosts.

“Our mission and activities have never been more timely or important. Our nation faces a true national security threat due to a dangerously low troop strength,” said OCS Board Member Julie Strauss Levin. “There is an alarming increase of suicides among veterans, as well. We must do much better to honor these young men and women who are willing to serve our country. They and their families deserve our support and respect, and OCS is the only entity spearheading this crucial action.”

OCS is the only national organization bringing communities together to honor and support the 150,000 high school seniors planning to enlist in the military following graduation each year.

OCS ceremonies also provide much needed transitional resources to new enlistees - 75% of whom will only serve for 48 months. Now more than ever, military-bound high school seniors and their families need to know that the country stands with them in their selfless decision to serve our great nation. To learn more about how to support OCS and sign a virtual thank you card for the class of 2022, log onto [www.OCSUSA.org](http://www.OCSUSA.org).

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Hannah Deutch

By Larry Jasper, National Editor

Meet Hannah Deutch. She grew up in Post-World War I Germany. Her father fought in the German Army during the war.

In her younger days she belonged to the Reichsbund Judischer Frontsoldaten, or RJF, a veterans' organization of German-Jewish soldiers, founded in 1919, to demonstrate Jewish loyalty to the former German Empire. This was a version of the American Jewish War Veterans. They had a large gym, cafeteria, room for men to play cards, and many other activities. Hannah joined when she was only 8 years old. There were no other facilities, such as restaurants and movies that were open to German Jews at the time.

Despite her father's death from influenza when she was just seven, Hannah said life was good until Kristallnacht on November 9, 1938. That night, mobs, spurred on by Nazi Party officials, attacked Jewish owned stores, homes, and synagogues. Hannah said, "I woke up by my bed shaking and my room was filled with light." The light came from the burning synagogue behind her home. The night of broken glass resulted in the burning of 267 synagogues and the destruction of 7,000 Jewish businesses. More than 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps. They were released within six weeks because the camps were not ready to hold them.

The handwriting was on the wall and the lucky ones were able to get out before the Nazi's decided to start killing Jews in concentration camps. Hannah was among the lucky ones. She left for England as part of the Kindertransport on February 2, 1939. After Kristallnacht, the British government allowed children to leave the Reich and come to England as refugees. "Only my mother survived," Hannah said. "All the rest of my family perished in the camps." Hannah was 16 years old when she arrived in England, but she started training as a nurse, and served in the British Army from 1941 until 1944.

Hannah married a Canadian soldier and at the end of 1944 she emigrated to Canada as a war bride. She had her first son in 1945. He later served in the IDF and fought in the Six-Day War. After some time in Israel, he joined his mother in New York. During the Vietnam War, that son moved to Canada after learning his IDF service did not



**Hannah Deutch**  
Photo Credit: Julie Rothschild



exempt him from the draft. Hannah's second son, born in 1947, currently lives in New Hampshire. Hannah's husband died in 1949 from wounds he sustained on D-Day.

Hannah came to the United States in 1962 and joined both JWV and the National Museum

of American Jewish Military History. She is still an active member of both organizations.

In 1963 she joined Hadassah and B'nai B'rith. B'nai B'rith had chapters in Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Austria. Her parents belonged to the chapter in Germany, and she joined that group when many of its members moved to the United States.

For 17 years Hannah visited the United Nations on Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, proudly wearing her JWV cap. During those visits, she took many of her fellow JWV members with her to the event.

Through a speaker's bureau, Hannah continues to teach about the Holocaust to synagogues and other organizations, including many school children.

Through JWV, Hannah volunteered at St. Albans VA Medical Center in Queens, New York. For 12 years she helped provide Jewish services and a Kiddush to the patients each Wednesday.

Hannah served in many leadership roles during her time in JWV, including Post Commander of Post 209, Queens County Commander, Department Chaplain, and the Chair of the National Holocaust Committee. Hannah is currently a member of Post 1 in Manhattan.

On July 3, Hannah turns 100 years young. Be sure to wish her a very happy birthday!

## Project Maggid Storyteller Program



Interested in sharing the story of your military service with students and other groups? Join the JWV Project Maggid Storyteller program today and help fight the myth that Jews don't serve in the American armed forces. For information on how to be part of the program, please contact Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at 202-265-6280 ext. 413.

## NEW MEMBERS

### DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Kaplan, Sanford S. - Post 344  
MacDonald, Spencer - Post 100  
Rothschild, Michael S. - Post 344

### DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Altman, Cole - Post 501  
Cohen, George - Post 631  
Kovac, Alexander - Post 631  
Ringer, Rook E. - Post 300  
Simon, Jeffrey S. - Post 373  
Solomon, Buzz - Post 501  
Stone, Robert M. - Post 400

### DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Greenberg, E. Barry - Post 54  
Mayer, Martin Jay - Post 54  
Solis, Spenser - Post 29

### DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Altman, Andrew E. - Post 167  
Freedman, Ernest A. - Post 567

Gold, Jonathan P. - Post 360  
Newman, Alan H. - Post 567

### DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Lawson, Noel S. - Post 474

### DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Haller, Leah - Post 605  
Hollander, Barry M. - Post 644

### DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Dean, Lester - Post 331

### DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Fefferman, Michael K. - Post 21  
Shafraun, Robert H. - Post 65

### DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Braun, Steven E. - Post 609  
Goldmintz, Victor - Post 609  
Rausch, Michael H. - Post 609  
Rosenblum, Austin H. - Post 178  
Stern, Barry P. - Post 311

Thomas, James - Post 311

### DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Auerbach, Karl - Post 106  
Finkelstein, Martin G. - Post 625  
Gold, John M. - Post 106  
Goldstein, Stanley - Post 191  
Haberman, David - Post 425  
Saminsky, Robert L. - Post 717  
Sherman, Stanley P. - Post 2  
Strauss, Jacob M. - Post 425  
Strosberg, James - Post 106  
Sull, Nathan - Post 41

### DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Schulman, Alvin D. - Post 98  
Fishman, Justin C. - Post 215

### DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Kurtzman, Ronald D. - Post 406

### DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Guthrie, Bryan L. - Post 320

Shatz, Stuart - Post 320

### DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Goldman, Ronald - Post 210  
Segall, Stewart R. - Post 210  
Wolin, Kenneth Scott - Post 619

### DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Abels, Nicole - Post 755  
Blechman, Jordan W. - Post 755  
Fairbanks, Elaine M. - Post 581  
Jacobitz, Jerry Ellis - Post 749  
Sopher, Michael M. - Post 574  
Wainstein, David - Post 256  
Williams, Megan - Post 753

### DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Rochlis, Steven M. - Post 95  
Sears, Ryan - Post 765

## NEC 2022 Roundup

Continued from page 3

### National Commander

The National Commander is JWV's Chief Executive Officer and ambassador, and as such, is entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses while conducting JWV business. Each year a budget for these expenses is developed and included as part of the annual JWV budget.

Room charges for both the National Commander and traveling companion (spouse, significant other and Chief of Staff) will be comped or reimbursed at standard room rates. Travel by personal vehicle will be reimbursed at the standard mileage rate as determined by the IRS for that particular year. Airfare and or travel by rail will be reimbursed at standard coach rates. Rental car reimbursement will include daily or weekly rental, insurance (if needed and not covered by personal auto insurance policy or credit card), gasoline and tolls (with proper receipts).

### The National Executive Director will:

The NED will be responsible for reviewing and approving reimbursement requests by the professional staff.

Devise an official "Expense Reimbursement Form" for use by all members and the staff requesting reimbursement.

Individuals will be required to complete the form and submit it to the NED for review and approval.

Standard retention policy must be followed for processed Expense Reimbursement Forms, and these forms must be made available for inspection should the need arise.

Request for inspection must be made in advance to the NED and must not interfere with the daily operation of the organization.

### JWV Travel Reimbursement Policies for Officers and members Conducting JWV Business:

Requests for reimbursement must be submitted to the NED. Where possible, these expenses should be approved in advance. Receipts are required to receive reimbursement.

Hotel charges will be reimbursed at the standard room rate.

Reasonable food expense will be reimbursed with required receipts. Under no circumstances will alcoholic beverages be reimbursed.

Train/Airfare will be reimbursed at the lowest coach rate.



Department of Florida members presented NC Alan Paley with a proclamation declaring Jewish War Veterans Day in Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami. From left: PNC David Magidon, NC Paley, PNC Ainslee Ferdie, Joshua Ochs, and Larry Jasper. Photo Courtesy: Jerry Alperstein.



NEC 2022 in Orlando, Florida. Photo Courtesy: Jerry Alperstein

**Convention Chair – JWV** – Expenses related to inspection of properties prior to the actual convention and or NEC. Room charges, prior to these gatherings will be comped or reimbursed at standard room rates.

Receipts for all expenses are required.

**Air Travel** – advanced reservations should be made as far in advance as possible. All air travel must be by the least expensive coach price. Where possible, rooms provided free by the hotel should be used as follows for the following individuals.

- National Commander
- National Vice Commander
- Coordinating Committee Chairman
- Convention Chairman
- JWVA Convention Chairman
- Museum President
- JWV and National Museum staff.

**Meals** – reimbursement for meals will be made only when the Convention Committee is visiting properties for the purpose of inspecting and selecting sites for future conventions or NEC meetings.

Meals during the National Convention and NEC meetings will not be reimbursed, with the following exceptions:

National Commander for the National President's Banquet and National Commander's Banquet will be paid by JWV in advance of the event. Spouse, or significant other (if any) will also be paid by JWV.

**Official Meals for Honored Guests** – Cost of meal for any honored guest(s) will be reimbursed for the following:

- Honored guest, spouse or significant other
- National Commander, spouse or significant other
- National Vice Commander, spouse or significant other
- National President, spouse or significant other
- JWV Convention Chair, spouse or significant other
- JWVA Convention Chair, spouse or significant other

**Alcoholic Beverages** – There shall be no reimbursement for alcoholic beverages. Other attendees desiring alcoholic beverages must be paid for by the individual.

The second policy approved was a clarification of the hat policy for National Officers.

### Jewish War Veterans of the USA Policy For Official Head Gear

This policy shall apply to the following past current and future National Officers of JWV and become effective upon approval by the Policy Committee.

The approved policy shall immediately be posted to the Manual of Ceremonies as prescribed in the Constitution and By Laws

### JWV National Office will procure official hats for all National Officers.

1. The National Commander's hat shall be embroidered with 4 stars and the lettering: NATIONAL COMMANDER XXXX-XXXX
2. The National Vice Commander's hat shall be embroidered with 3 stars and the lettering: NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER XXXX-XXXX
3. The National Judge Advocate hats shall be embroidered with 2 stars and the lettering: NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE no date will added to the hat due to an undetermined length of service.
4. The Chief National Chaplain's hat shall be embroidered with 2 stars and may have a date of service if appropriate
5. The National Chief of Staff's hat shall be embroidered with 1 star and the lettering: NATIONAL CHIEF of STAFF XXXX-XXXX
6. The National Officer of the Day's hat shall be embroidered with 1 star and the lettering: NATIONAL OFFICER of the DAY no date will added to the hat due to an undetermined length of service.
7. A cap will be provided to the National Executive Director, either the member or patron cap as appropriate and embroidered with the words NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.
8. The National Aide de Camp's hat shall be embroidered with 1 star and the lettering: NATIONAL AIDE DE CAMP XXXX-XXXX.
9. The National Quartermaster's hat shall be embroidered with 1 star and the lettering NATIONAL QUARTERMASTER XXXX-XXXX.

These policies will be added to the Manual of Ceremonies as directed by our Constitution. The effort by the NEC under the leadership of President Jerry Blum are to be applauded as we continue to improve transparency and move our organization in to the 21st century.

What are we doing wrong? Or should I begin with - what are we doing right?

Why does it seem like the American Legion and VFW are growing and JWV is shrinking? Is it because most of their posts have their own buildings with bars and food service? Is it because they have a larger pool of veterans to recruit from? Is it because they are more welcoming to younger veterans? All of these add to their success. So what are we to do?

JWV began 125 years ago with 64 Civil War veterans. Between both sides, there were approximately 10,000 Jewish Americans who fought in that war. In WWII about 550,000 Jewish Americans served; in Korea approximately 150,000; in Vietnam approximately 30,000; and today about 10,000 Jewish Americans serve in our military. In the post WWII years JWV had about 50,000 members. Today our paid membership is barely over 10% of the post WWII numbers. And we continually see Posts closing and Departments shrinking. Why?

We have many members who have been in JWV for 30, 40, 50 or more years. They have made great contributions to JWV. But many of them refuse to change with the times and refuse to welcome younger veterans. (Before you start complaining that you are not like that, I did not say all.) Think about what many of our posts do

for meetings. They serve lox and bagels (nothing wrong with that!), and they meet during daytime hours during the week. Younger veterans cannot make those meetings. What do the younger veterans see and hear when they do walk into a meeting? Mostly gray hair and old war stories or politics. Their first impression is that this is an old guy's club, and they walk out.

Our leadership at all levels need to make room for women and younger veterans of all persuasions and make them feel welcome.

If you normally hold meetings on a weekday morning, try to have a meeting on Sunday morning as well. Advertise for local Jewish vets to join you for a picnic or other event. Ask what they want or are looking for. Ask what they need. Ask what you can do for them. Most importantly, listen to them and make them feel welcome. And lastly, make the ask – for them to join.

JWV, like most major Veteran Service Organizations (VSO), provides many benefits. We meet with our local, state, and federal legislators to advocate for all veterans. We work to improve the military quality of life, to provide for educational and employment opportunities assistance, to reduce and someday eliminate homelessness, to get better health care for veterans, to get the VA to recognize and treat medical issues brought on by things like the burn pits, we help with disability claims and

memorial affairs, and many more things. Promote these things.

If your Post or Department is having success with recruiting, share what you are doing.

We need to recognize that we have a smaller pool of potential members to work with than other VSOs and work with that to our advantage. We need to emphasize the positives. We need to be more welcoming. We need to let Jewish veterans know why we exist and why they should join us. We need to make them realize that we exist to continue to let the world know that Jews serve proudly, and we are their voice. That the Jewish veteran can feel at home in JWV by being among veterans who share a common thread. If we do all this, then the buildings, bars, and other things that the larger VSOs offer will not matter.



Larry Jasper, National Editor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Your recent article on the Ethiopian Jewish celebration of Sigd was well written. However, there were two areas that I believe would have added additional information to the article.

The article states "Since Ethiopian Jews were unaware of the oral law, they were not familiar with any of the practices, rituals, and interpretations developed over the centuries by the rabbis..." While this was true for the Ethiopian Jews who initially made Aliyah to Israel during Operation Moses (1984) and Operation Solomon (1991), since 1991 Rabbinic Judaism has been introduced and practiced by the Jewish population residing in Ethiopia.

The article implies that they are no longer any Jews residing in Ethiopia. This is not true. In 2017 my wife and I traveled to Ethiopia with an English Jewish charity (Meketa) and celebrated Shabbat with the Jewish population in Gondor; a thriving Jewish community served by Rabbis from Israel who travel to Ethiopia on a regular basis. A November 2021 article in the Jerusalem Post states that activists estimate there are approximately 3,000 Jews residing in Addis Ababa and approximately 11,000 Jews residing in Gondor. These Jews are waiting to make Aliyah to Israel.

Michael Baum, Col, USAF (retired)  
Post 757 in Austin, Texas

Dear Editor,

Although our organization is Jewish War Veterans, I don't think we want to restart the Wars of the Jews. I find the letter by Rabbi Matlow in the past edition of The Jewish War Veteran, exceedingly inappropriate. It is simply a fact of history and demography that most of our Jewish Veterans are old

(G-d bless us) and of the male gender. For proof of this read the Taps Roster. Therefore, it is entirely natural and appropriate that the preponderance of coverage in this publication be about them and not influenced by this current trend of "wokeism" demanding equal coverage for all. I trust our editor to report what is important, newsworthy, and appropriate, regardless of the age or sex of the individuals involved.

Secondly even more upsetting is her attack of Chabad Rabbis which is an example of "lashon ha'rah", something a Rabbi ought to be aware of. I am not orthodox, but I do appreciate the fact that Chabad is there for all Jews of any degree of observance and is a tremendous asset to the Jewish Community both civilian and in the Military. Perhaps the influx of Chabad chaplains is because as a group, they are more willing to serve.

Arthur H. Mensch, M.D., (former Captain MC USAR)  
Post 380, Department of Maryland

Dear Editor,

Re: Michael Rugel's column

You will be interested to know that the book "A Doorway to Heaven" that is reviewed so strongly in this column is also discussed on the national radio show "Too Jewish" where the author Rabbi Romberg was interviewed by my son Rabbi Sam Cohon. Your bookstore customers may want to hear it. The podcast is available at TooJewishRadio.com.

As always, I found your latest edition well worth reading.

All the best,  
Baruch Cohon, Post 118

## Phoenix's own Family Cub Pack 210 continues to make scouting accessible to Jewish families

By Michelle Talsma Everson, Jewish News of Greater Phoenix

Shari Judah has fond memories of being a Girl Scout growing up – unfortunately though, after a time, she had to leave the program because its events conflicted with her keeping Shabbat. "If you can't go to many of the events, it's not as fun," Judah recalled.

In 2018, wanting scouting to be accessible for her own children, Judah and friend Seth Rosenberg co-founded a kosher Shomer Shabbat family cub pack in Phoenix – known as Family Cub Pack 210 – which is chartered by the Jewish War Veterans of Scottsdale. Fast forward to today and it's only a matter of paperwork before the pack also has its own official Boy Scout Troop 210.

"Seth (Rosenberg) is officially our current cubmaster and I'm the assistant cubmaster," Judah said. "But once paperwork is approved for our troop, he will go ahead and be scoutmaster for our Boy Scout troop and I will become cubmaster for our cub scouts."

Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was created in 1910 and has undergone many changes in its time. For example, the organization did not allow women in leadership positions until 1988. In 2013, it announced the group would admit openly gay youths, ending a policy it had since its founding. In 2017, BSA announced it would accept transgender youth into its scouting programs and allow women to join as scouts starting in 2018. In 2019, the Boy Scouts – the program for 11-17-year-olds – announced it would change its name to Scouts BSA. (The parent organization remains Boy Scouts of America and the Cub Scouts, for children from kindergarten through fifth grade, kept its name as well.)

As of 2014, only 0.13% of the more than 2.4

Continued on page 17

# Welcome to Savannah!

JWV is returning to Savannah, Georgia for its 127th Annual National Convention. We are returning to this historic Southern city for the first time since 2016.

Known for its Southern hospitality and charm, Savannah invites visitors to explore its architecture, history, and culture.

Established in 1733, Savannah is the oldest city in the state of Georgia and known as America's first planned city. The city is laid out in a series of grids which allowed open streets intertwined with public squares and parks. Savannah originally had 24 squares – 22 of which are still in existence today in the Historic Landmark District.

Agriculture and trade were essential to the city's early years, and the Port of Savannah became one of the busiest ports in the country. In the early 1900s, shipbuilding also became an important industry.

During the Civil War, Savannah negotiated a peaceful surrender, so it avoided the fate suffered by other large southern cities during General Sherman's infamous "March to the Sea."

By the start of the 20th century, the cotton industry was again thriving in Savannah, but the Great



Depression took its toll on the city. Savannah did not experience a full recovery until after World War II. In the 1950s, a group of women worked to preserve historic structures, creating the Historic Savannah Foundation. That group is credited with saving much of the city's architecture. Savannah's Historic District was designated a

National Historic Landmark in 1966. It is one of the largest historic landmarks in the country. In this hub of downtown Savannah, you'll not only find the hotel for our convention, but you can explore museums, monuments, restored 18th-century homes, boutiques, and more than 100 restaurants.



## Telfair Museums

Encompassing three spaces, the Telfair Museums include Telfair Academy, the first public art museum in the South, the 1818 Owen-Thomas House museum, and The Jepson Center for contemporary art exhibits. The museums are open from 10am-5pm daily. You can find more information at [www.telfair.org](http://www.telfair.org) or call 920-790-8800.



## American Prohibition Museum

The first and only museum in the United States dedicated to the history of Prohibition. While here, guests will travel back in time to the early 1900s, as anti-alcohol rallies swept the nation and the "booze problem" was pushed to the forefront of American politics. The true story of America's struggle with the liquor question, the passing of the 18th Amendment, its impact on the nation, and the far-reaching consequences of the 14 years of Prohibition all come to life within the walls of this museum.

Open daily from 10am – 4:15pm. More information available at [www.americanprohibitionmuseum.com](http://www.americanprohibitionmuseum.com) or 912-559-3981.



## Congregation Mickve Israel

As the third oldest Jewish congregation in America and the first synagogue built in Georgia, Congregation Mickve Israel has a rich history. In our award-winning Lawrence & Nancy Gutstein Museum, visitors can find unique artifacts dating back to when the congregation was founded in 1733, including the oldest Torah in North America, letters to our congregation from presidents, and much more.



## Webb Military Museum

Located in Historic Downtown Savannah, Webb Military Museum features military artifacts from the American Civil War to Desert Storm. Original uniforms, headgear, and equipment are displayed in a walk-through setting. The museum honors our servicemen from all wars and branches. Many of

the displays contain named groupings of servicemen highlighting their stories of service. Open Monday – Saturday from 11am-5pm and Sunday from 12pm – 4:00pm. More information available at [www.webbmilitarymuseum.com](http://www.webbmilitarymuseum.com) or 912-663-0398. **JWV members will have free admission to this museum during our convention week.**

## Chippewa Square

This is the spot where Forrest Gump sat on a bench and shared his life story with strangers. The bench was a movie prop, but visitors still love to pose with the statue of General Oglethorpe in the background. Today, you can see the bench at the Savannah History Museum on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

## DOT Shuttle

The DOT is a fare-free service to help visitors and residents get around downtown Savannah. Included in the system are shuttles serving 18 stops in the Historic District and the Savannah Belles Ferry. Use the free shuttle from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays; and 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on holidays (excludes Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's Day.) For the most updated information, visit [www.connectonthedot.com](http://www.connectonthedot.com).

## Old Town Trolley Tours

With a stop located near our hotel, these trolleys offer a hop-on, hop-off feature that will allow you to take a narrated tour of Savannah's Historic District on your schedule. The entire loop takes 90 minutes and covers nine miles of the city, with stops at 15 different locations. You can find more information at [www.trolleytours.com/savannah](http://www.trolleytours.com/savannah) or call 855-234-9822. **JWV members will receive an extra discount when booking online. For the special promo code, contact Cara Rinkoff at 202-265-6285 or check your welcome bag after arriving at convention.**

This year JWV members will also be able to attend the convention online. To register for the online version of the 2022 convention, you must log onto our website, [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org), and fill out the online form.

**This form will NOT be accepted as registration for the virtual convention.**

**JWV 2022  
National Convention  
Schedule**

*\*Schedule times  
subject to change\**  
(All times are Eastern)

**Sunday, August 7**  
Constitution & Bylaws  
Committee  
3:00pm

Museum Event  
8:00pm-10:00pm

**Monday, Aug. 8**  
NEC Meeting  
9:00am

JWV/JWVA Joint  
Convention Opening  
11:30am-12:30pm

Resolutions Committee  
2:00 pm

1st Business Session  
4:00pm-6:00pm

JWVA Pound Auction  
8:30pm

**Tuesday, Aug. 9**  
Resolutions Committee  
8:00am

Membership Committee  
10:00am

Free Time • 11:30am

JWVA National President's  
Reception & Banquet  
6:00pm

**Wednesday, Aug. 10**  
JWVA Double Chai  
Breakfast  
8:00am

2nd Business Session  
10:00am

Holocaust Education  
Session  
12:30pm

Free Time • 1:00pm

Vietnam Veterans  
Night Out  
6:00pm

**Thursday, Aug. 11**  
Ideas Roundtable  
9:30am

Closing Nominations  
and Elections  
10:30am

National Museum of  
American Jewish Military  
History Board Meeting  
1:30pm

Legislative Advocacy  
Session  
3:30pm

JWV National  
Commander's Banquet  
6:00pm

**Convention will  
be held at  
The DeSoto  
Savannah  
Hotel**  
15 East Liberty St.  
Savannah, GA  
31401

Hotel registration  
deadline is  
Thursday, June 30

A one night  
(\$165/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 and JWVA  
members not  
staying at the hotel.

Local members  
living within a 50 mile  
radius are exempt.

Hotel reservations can  
be canceled without  
penalty prior to  
convention.

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
<b>Rooms</b> Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds <i>Please note that handicap rooms will be assigned on a first come, first served basis</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I need a Handicap room. <input type="checkbox"/> Third Person in Room.	\$165.00 per night		
	\$85/per night		
<b>JWV Member Convention Registration Fee</b>	\$50.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel	\$175.00 per member		
National Commander's Banquet • Thurs, Aug. 11 _____ London Broil _____ Mahi Mahi _____ Kosher _____ Sugar-free Dessert	\$50.00 per person		
<b>National Ladies Auxiliary Registration Fee</b>	\$50.00 per member		
Partners Club (\$50 new members /\$25 renewal) • Mon, Aug.8	\$50.00 \$25.00		
National President's Reception and Banquet • Tues, Aug. 9 _____ Petit Filet _____ Salmon _____ Kosher _____ Sugar-free Dessert	\$50.00 per person		
Double Chai Club Breakfast • Wed, Aug 10 _____ This is my first Double Chai Breakfast _____ 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 Breakfast. Everyone is welcome! You will have a great time!</i>		
<b>Raffle Tickets \$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00</b>	JWVA		
	JWV		
<b>Total \$</b>			
<b>All events and raffle tickets must be pre-paid in full. Amount paying now: \$</b>			
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 _____			

**PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

- All proposed resolutions must be submitted to the respective Department for approval before being sent to the committee.
- Once approved by the Department, all proposed resolutions will be sent via email to: [Resolutions@JWV.org](mailto:Resolutions@JWV.org) or to the attention of Christy Turner at JWV National, 1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.
- All proposed resolutions will contain the name and post number of the requestor and the dated approval signature of the Department Commander.
- All proposed resolutions must be submitted no later than 30 days prior to the commencement of the National Convention.
- Proposed resolutions of an emergent nature may be accepted at the start of the Resolutions Committee session with the approval of the Chairperson.
- Proposed resolutions will be formatted as follows:
  - At the top of the page state the title of the proposed resolution.
  - Whereas – this will explain what action is being requested and why. There may be as many “Whereas” as necessary.
  - Proposed resolutions will conclude with “Therefore” – this will state: “The Jewish War Veterans of the USA requests” (Secretary of Defense, Congress, etc.) to take the action requested.
- Any questions should be directed as indicated in #2 above.

# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On Friday, December 17, JWV member Ari Tessler invited his friends and family to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History for his promotion ceremony. Tessler is now a Major in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. Photo credit: Christy Turner.



Scottsdale, Arizona Post 210 held its annual Super Bowl party on February 13 at the Arizona State Veterans Home in Phoenix. This is the first indoor activity the post has been able to hold since the start of the COVID pandemic. Photo credit: Ahuva Chambers.



Drizin-Weiss Post 215 in Philadelphia celebrated the 101st birthday of World War II veteran Joseph Shrager on December 1. From Left: Andy Waskie, Nelson Mellitz, Jack Liebermman, Dr. Michael Mittelman, Shrager, Bryan Tiley, Bret Workman, Albert El, and M.B. Kanis.



On January 14, Post 510 member Guy Stern received the JWV Centenarian Certificate of Achievement in honor of his 100th birthday. The ceremony took place at the Zekelman Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan. From left: Ted Gittleman, Guy Stern, and Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld.



Members of JWV's Capital District Council were able to support Operation Jingle Bells despite the COVID pandemic. This is the council's annual tradition of visiting staff and patients at the Stratton VA Medical Center on Christmas Eve. Instead of in-person visits, this year Albany Post 105 and Schenectady Post 106 donated \$720, which they presented to the VA center on December 22. JWV has supported Operation Jingle Bells for more than 30 years. From left: Rich Dollins, Harlan Harrison, Paul Zonderman, Richard Goldenberg, Stratton VA Volunteer Services Manager Michael Fitzpatrick, Fred Altman, Gene Altman, and Bill Jaffe.

# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Charlie and Frances Koppelman represented **JWV Post 609 Monroe Township, New Jersey** at the Fort Dix-McGuire-Lakehurst Hanukkah party.



Nearly two dozen volunteers helped the Department of California pack 1,000 gift bags to bring holiday cheer to hospitalized veterans in Long Beach, California. This year marked the 75th anniversary of the Gift for a Yank program. This year the effort included **Tibor Rubin Post 786, Post 118 in Santa Monica** and **Post 760 in Orange County**. The bags included scarves, beanie caps, socks, hygiene products, games, and a holiday card.



On Feb 4, officers and members of **JWV Department of Maryland and Maryland Free State Post 167** attended a Dignified Burial Ceremony for Unaccompanied Veterans at Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery in Owings Mills. Seven veterans were interred during the ceremony. From left: Michael Zippert, Charles Jay, Charles Sandler, Edward Rothstein, and Erwin Burtnick.



On December 3, Captain Judah Epstein from **Post 256** and his EOD colleagues at Nellis Air Force Base used explosives to light a Hanukkah menorah.



Members of the **Department of New York** joined cadets at West Point to celebrate Hanukkah on December 3.

# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



**San Fernando Valley Post 603** and **Edwin D. Klein Post 138** in **Van Nuys, California** joined forces to raise funds in order to deliver cooking utensils and grocery cards each month to 30 veterans the Sepulveda VA identified as being food insecure. Members collected more than \$1,700 for this project at a booth they set up on February 27 at the Encino Farmers Market. From left: Charles Feistman and Bob Lee.



JWV National Commander Alan Paley participated in the 80th Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony on December 7 in Phoenix, Arizona. He spoke at the ceremony during his visit to the **Department of the Southwest**. The Department, **Scottsdale Post 210**, **Copper State Post 619** and **Tucson Post 201** also co-sponsored the event. Paley's speech focused on the sacrifices made that day by the Navy personnel and our country's reaction to the attack. Those military personnel who survived witnessed horrific losses and many went on to serve in other critical battles in the Pacific. From left: Captain Lauralee Ozzello of the 161st Air Refueling Wing, Paley, Arizona Dept of Veterans' Services Director Wanda Wright, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey, and Commander Kevin Kahl. Photo Credit: Marion Cartland.



Despite the temperature of just nine degrees and more than a foot of snow on the ground, on February 6, Gary Ginsburg represented **Rochester, NY Post 41** at a remembrance ceremony at the Four Chaplains memorial in White Haven Cemetery.



**Bardin-Seiden-Kaufman Post 444** in Windsor, New Jersey held a rededication ceremony on December 7. The post added Bardin to its name in honor of its former Post Commander Irwin Bardin. The post invited members, Bardin's family and friends, and local officials to this special breakfast. From left: Aaron Sears, Rick Klein, Assemblyman Daniel Benson, and Cheryl Bardin.



On February 10, New York State Senator Sue Serino presented **JWV Post 625** with a proclamation in honor of JWV's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. From left: Serino's aide, Ralph Schwartz, Martin Hochhauser, Serino, Ron Markowitz, Robert Morrison, and a second aide to the State Senator.



Two members of **JWV Post 202** participated in an Honor Guard at the Freedom Wall in Naples, Florida on December 28 in support of VFW Post 7721. The first person on the left is Harvey Sturm and Dr. Samuel Oshry is on the far right.

# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



**Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256** and its Auxiliary donated a variety of personal hygiene items to both the Bonham and Dallas VA hospitals on December 20 and 21. They also donated 20 blankets knitted by the Yarn Yenta's of Congregation Shearith Israel. From left: Art Kaplan, Allan Cantor, Bonham VA Hospital's Tina McDaniel, Jo Reingold, and JWVA National President Sandra Cantor.



**Maryland Free State Post 167** presented a check and other items to Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital (MWPB) on December 7. From left: Andrew Wolkstein, Charley Jay, MWPB Director of Philanthropy Paula Bragg, and Charles Sandler.

Installation of the new officers of the **Department of TALO** during the department's convention in Fort Worth, Texas in January.



On December 13 the Dutchess County Legislature issued a proclamation acknowledging the 125th anniversary of the Jewish War Veterans and expressed its appreciation to **Poughkeepsie's Pvt. Herman Siegel Post 625** for its service to the community, veterans, and the nation. From left: Rob Rubin, Martin Hochhauser, and Dutchess County Legislature Chairman Gregg Pulver.



On Friday, December 3, **Post 749** participated in a Shabbat/Hanukkah celebration at **Ft. Bliss**. 1st Lt. Scott Klein led the service. There were 30 people in attendance for both the Shabbat service and menorah lighting. Following the service, post members joined together for a meal that included homemade latkes and sufganiyot.



**Post 753 in San Antonio, Texas** showed its support for the local community with a donation to the Torah Academy of San Antonio. The donation will help defray costs for the two military families who send their children to the school. From left: Rabbi Yossi Marrus, Herschel Sheiness, Maria Karp, Daniel Karp, Rachel Karp, Loreleigha Glassburner, Jeremiah Glassburner, and Felix Gonzales.

# On My Honor: A Passionate Plea to Save Our Afghan Allies

By Marc Erich Wolf, Post 4

Never again?

Well, it's happening again in Afghanistan. And now is the time to act.

As a third-generation Holocaust survivor and U.S. Navy veteran who served two tours in Afghanistan, I write to say that we – as Americans and as Jews – have a moral obligation not to abandon the thousands of our Afghan allies and their families who remain stranded in Afghanistan, fearing for their lives.

For the last six months, in addition to my job with the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC-NY), I have spent countless hours volunteering for the veteran-led Citizen Liaison Networks (CLN), a kind of digital underground railroad operating day and night to save, rescue, relocate and resettle Afghans who fought shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. and NATO forces since 2001.

We are working tirelessly to honor a promise to never leave our Afghan allies behind. We are painfully aware that the combination of the ongoing Taliban surge, food shortage and starvation during a harsh winter could add to the tragedy we have already witnessed.

There have been numerous reports of Taliban atrocities – murders of citizens and of women raped and killed – as part of an effort to subdue and control the nearly 40 million people in Afghanistan.

The U.S. managed to airlift 120,000 Afghans out of the country since the Taliban takeover last summer, but thousands have been unable to leave. Some are fortunate enough to be in safe-houses where our task force is providing food, shelter, and other social assistance as they await approval for departure. Others are on the run, like common criminals, painfully aware that the violence has escalated in recent months amid reports of beatings, beheadings, and hangings.

Can America Be Trusted To Keep Its Promises?

Sadly, we have been here before. At the end of the long Vietnam war more than four decades ago, a little-known group of valiant Montagnards (French for “mountain men”), who were Polynesians living in the mountains of Vietnam and had chosen to fight with the Americans for more than a decade, were left behind to suffer at the hands of the Viet Cong. Their suffering continues today. The Montagnards numbered between 2 million and 5 million in 1950; today there are less than 500,000. If ethnic cleansing and genocide continues, by the end of the decade, they will be extinct in their homeland – a terrible price to pay for a people who wanted to be left alone.

We are more familiar with the fate of the millions of European Jews who perished in the Holocaust. How many of us have pledged to speak out in the face of the brutalization of innocents? Now is our chance to act.

If America does not provide safe passage for our allies in Afghanistan, we will have learned nothing from the last century – other than that one generation's promise means nothing to those who come after.

I fear our insufficient response to those trusting men and women who now languish in Afghanistan means America can no longer be trusted to keep its promises. Beyond Afghanistan, the world is



Marc Erich Wolf

watching us and our actions, or lack thereof. Our enemies and allies are waiting to see if and how we respond to this test of integrity.

As a teenager, I learned through my involvement with the Boy Scouts what it means to honor a promise. The Scout Oath begins, “On my honor...” and may well be the most important words of a sacred oath to defend God and country.

Those of us who have volunteered to give voice to the voiceless are steadfast in our resolve to leave no one behind. We believe this will be the most important mission of our lives; and because the Afghans are like family, we would move mountains to get them out of harm's way and bring them home.

Pikuach nefesh, saving a life, is the most important mitzvah (good deed) anyone can undertake. Last fall, my rabbis at Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan gave me a pass from High Holiday services to perform this mitzvah. Someone else would have to sound the shofar; I was doing all I could to sound the alarm for those innocent souls languishing in Afghanistan.

Last November, I attended a retreat in Carlsbad, CA sponsored by the Jewish Federations of North America's National Young Leadership Cabinet. Seeing my long face and graying beard, my friends asked if I was in mourning or had become devout. In truth, recalling that the Talmud says a man finds strength in his beard, I had let mine grow while devoting myself to help those brave men and women in Afghanistan. It was fitting that the conference theme was ometz lev (courage of the heart). I see such courage every day in my fellow veterans who are doing all they can to save and preserve the lives of those who deserve better.

I am thankful my paternal grandmother, Madeleine Leibmann Wolf, was rescued from Nazi Germany during the Holocaust as part of a Kindertransport and was resettled in the U.S. by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS). In recent decades, American Jewish organizations played a key role in rescuing a million Soviet Jews from the tyranny of the USSR and tens of thousands of Ethiopian Jews who dreamed of coming to the land of Israel.

Today, it is admirable that many Jewish organizations are, once again, focused on resettlement – this time for Afghan families in the diaspora who are leaving visa processing stations around the world. However, we are only clapping with one hand if we focus solely on resettlement. As

the State Department phases out these “lily pads” (overseas processing stations), more at-risk families are desperate for safe passage to avoid starvation and the brutal Taliban purge.

We are hopeful an arrangement can be made to have the government of Guam establish a temporary processing facility and host more than 30,000 active-duty Special Operations Forces, trained by U.S. forces, which includes their families.

Guam has a history of supporting American allies, beginning with the Vietnamese and, most recently, the Kurds. The governor of Guam, Lou Guerrero, has indicated her government's willingness to take in these allies and is awaiting approval from Washington.

‘This Is The Hardest Thing’

Though exhausted at times, and often disheartened, I find my strength in knowing I am not alone, part of a group of dedicated, weary warriors. We were young men and women when we went to war, and now we are grown up, trying to mend scars that have been reopened, suppressing the demons inside from losses suffered during our many deployments. Still, this is the hardest thing any of us have ever done, struggling to maintain family and work obligations while doing all we can to save those left behind in Afghanistan.

How can we convince the world, and ourselves, that the U.S. is not morally bankrupt? How can we make good on our promises and create a groundswell of support for this vital mission?

This is not a Jewish problem. This is a global problem; but given our history, the Jewish community has the moral responsibility to speak up and to act. Our sages' mandate of centuries ago in Pirkei Avot, the Ethics of the Fathers, speaks to us today: “You are not required to finish the work, yet neither are you permitted to desist from it.”

Let us be reminded of how we as a Jewish community have rallied behind the people in need in the past, from Moscow to Morocco to Darfur. On behalf of our Afghan allies, we need to encourage our government leaders to request that Guam host in the resettlement process, and advocate for reform in our immigration policy to welcome those who fought with us.

Let us honorably end the war, recalling that our Afghan allies were there for us then and we must be for them now. They are waiting. The clock is ticking.

“On my honor...” On our honor.

*This essay first appeared in Gary Rosenblatt's "Between The Lines" column at GaryRosenblatt.substack.com.*

**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!

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

## Phoenix's own Family Cub Pack 210

Continued from page 9

million youth involved in BSA were affiliated with a synagogue or Jewish chartered organization, according to a BSA fact sheet on chartered organizations. In 2019, there were 2 million youth involved in BSA, according to its most recent annual report. Last year, the Boy Scouts of America's Grand Canyon Council (GCC), an independent nonprofit organization chartered by the Boy Scouts of America in Arizona, celebrated 100 years of scouting. "This anniversary is a major accomplishment; for 100 years, GCC has been supporting the future leaders of Arizona, providing outdoor adventures, teaching them outdoor skills and instilling the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law," said Andy Price, CEO, and scout executive of GCC.

"The process to becoming an official BSA pack and program took several years, but it is so worth it for the experiences our children get to have in the program," Judah said. "Scouting helps to teach self-confidence, leadership skills, the importance of a strong community, how to work together and more."

Like Judah, Rosenberg grew up in scouting and wanted a similar experience for his son. Both

cite that there are many reasons why a Jewish child may not be comfortable joining a BSA pack or troop associated with another faith, including not being able to participate in many of the activities or eat kosher on outings.

"Scouting is a valuable program, and our pack gives scouts the ability to be a part of the scouting program without taking away from their Jewish experience and understanding," he said.

Some of the things that make Family Cub Pack 210 different from non-Jewish affiliated BSA groups are that they observe Shabbat, eat kosher on BSA outings and observe Jewish holidays, among other details. Both Rosenberg and Judah emphasize that the pack takes "more of a global approach" and welcomes members from all Jewish traditions.

Pesach Lattin, Judah's husband, also grew up in scouts but did so before converting to Orthodox Judaism. He believes that many tenants of scouting are in line with his faith. He also shared that the pack not only is a positive influence on its young members, but their partnership with the Jewish War Veterans has impacted multiple generations.

"Being chartered by the JWV has benefited both

sides – we've been in the Veterans Day parade multiple times and the veterans have been able to spend time with the kids and share their stories," Lattin said. "For these kids to be able to hear directly from Jewish veterans is a gift."

Like many organizations, the pandemic has taken its toll on what activities Family Cub Pack 210 has been able to do, but they hope to be more active and continue to grow as time moves forward.

"Scouting is basically a leadership program that teaches important qualities compatible with the Jewish experience; how to have respect, be a respectful community citizen, leave no trace, having a gentle impact on the earth," Rosenberg said. "Our pack is a great way for a child to be fully observant and still be a scout."

*This article was reprinted with permission from the Jewish News of Greater Phoenix.*

## Intent-to-File Now Available for VA Supplemental Claims

By Lonnie S. Keene, Esq.

Veterans planning to file a supplemental claim can now take advantage of the intent-to-file framework to preserve an earlier effective date. That is the decision issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in its July 30, 2021 precedential decision, *Military-Veterans Advocacy v. Secretary of Veterans Affairs*.

In the new decision review process under the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act (AMA) that took effect in February 2019, supplemental claims are used by veterans to either request readjudication of a VA disability claim based on new and relevant evidence within one year of denial of the initial claim or to reopen a claim after more than one year has passed since the regional office's decision to deny. Prior to the court's decision, VA regulations prevented veterans from using the intent-to-file process in conjunction with supplemental claims. In this case, the court found the exclusion of supplemental claims from the intent-to-file framework to be arbitrary and capricious.

Now, by signaling to the VA that a veteran intends to file a supplemental claim for benefits within a year, the veteran can be afforded an effective date as of the date the intent-to-file was submitted, so long as the completed supplemental claim is subsequently received by the VA within one year of the intent-to-file. There are three ways for a veteran to signal a preliminary intent to file a supplemental claim. The first is to initiate and save an electronic application within the VA on-line claims application system, the second is to file VA Form 21-0966, or third, to communicate oral intent to designated VA personnel.

Veterans contemplating filing a supplemental claim to appeal a VA claim denial issued in the past year, or to reopen a final decision issued more than a year ago, may want to consider taking advantage of the intent-to-file process to preserve an earlier effective date and give themselves additional time to gather evidence in support of their claim and to complete their supplemental claim filing.

*Lonnie S. Keene is a life member of JWV, an accredited attorney representing veterans before the VA, and admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.*

## Update from the JWV VSOs

*The need for Empathy Training for Veteran Service Officers and Professionals working with Veterans*

By Kim Queen

How often when hearing of someone having a bad day or going through a personal crisis do you hear yourself saying "I know just how you feel." Can you know just how someone else feels?

The answer is NO! We cannot know how someone feels, it's physiologically impossible. Yet people do it all the time. As a combat veteran I take great exception to someone telling me they know how I feel when discussing my military experiences. This is a common theme even between veterans, those who may have been stationed in some cushy assignment during their service as opposed to those who have seen the horrors of armed conflict.

Why is knowing the difference between empathy and sympathy important when working with veterans? As a Veteran Service Officer (VSO), you first must understand each veteran has reacted differently to their personal military experience and its aftermath. As a rule, veterans have some distrust in the system and as a VSO, your most important task is to get the veterans you are working to trust you. You do this by understanding empathy and its use.

So what's the difference between sympathy and empathy? Dr. Brené Brown, a renowned researcher, professor, and author has a good explanation of empathy vs. sympathy, and why empathy is so important. Brown says "Empathy fuels connection. Sympathy drives disconnection."

Brown discusses the four key steps to showing empathy:

1. Perspective taking or putting yourself in someone else's shoes.
2. Staying out of judgement and listening.
3. Recognizing emotion in another person that you have may have felt before.
4. Communicating that you can recognize that emotion.

Brown says the challenge is that empathy requires the VSO to recall or reflect on feelings that

are uncomfortable. Choosing empathy over sympathy or complete disengagement is often more challenging in the short term, but the long-term reward is much greater. "Rarely can a response make something better. What makes something better is connection," Brown says.

When veterans in need are facing a challenge or dealing with a difficult situation, they aren't looking for a magic response. They may be looking for someone who can help them feel like they aren't alone in solving the problem. They may be looking for someone who has been through a process or challenge themselves. One way to do this is to try to ask the person open ended questions that allow them to elaborate on their situation. Make it clear that you, the VSO, cares about what happened to them. They are definitely looking for a connection, and that's what empathy is all about.

The Veterans Advocacy Council and Recovery Coordinator and Staff Psychiatrist Dr. Michael McBride created a program at the Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It's a program that provides clinicians and medical students the opportunity to understand empathy and improve their skills.

McBride says, "Through our lived experience's we believe empathy is the single most factor in the care of veterans."

This program pairs a veteran who has had some coaching with staff or medical students from local colleges. The veterans talk about their service and experiences and what has affected them. The students then ask questions about what concerns them when dealing with veterans' issues and care. These sessions usually last three hours and are concluded with a review by staff and participants. This program also helps participating veterans with PTSD open up about their traumas.

As VSO's, our goal is to help veterans come into the system for the care they have earned by serving our country. To best do this we must understand empathy and how to use it effectively.

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



## NATIONAL PRESIDENT SANDRA CANTOR

Dear Sisters,

Since my last article, many things have changed in my universe. Thankfully Covid has begun to wane and mask wearing restrictions are loosening. Travel is starting to rebound, although it has impacted my visits to the Departments of Florida and Massachusetts, as well as our in-person NEC.

In addition, there was the hostage situation at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas – another incident in a string of antisemitic incidents targeting the Jewish community, but this time it was in “my own back yard”. I did not realize how much it affected me until a few weeks later.

The TALO convention was held in Fort Worth one week after a deranged gunman terrorized four hostages for eleven plus hours. While attending the Convention, JWV/JWVA participated in Friday night and Saturday morning services at the Reform and Conservative congregations where both Rabbis spoke about what had occurred the previous Shabbat. The entire community was shaken to its core, realizing that something like that could happen here. What I did not know at the time was that the incoming TALO Commander, Ron Sivernell, was a member of Congregation Beth Israel. His emotions were evident when he spoke at the installation as his voice cracked, and he explained his feelings over the last week and how the event affected him.

Some time has passed since then and unfortunately the local news has reported that antisemitic flyers were distributed in Colleyville and surround-

ing suburbs in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. These occurrences and other similar ones are disconcerting and disturbing to me; it is a call for all of us to be aware, to not be apathetic, and to fight bigotry that targets anyone for their race, religion, sexuality, etc.

The most important thing that has happened in my “universe” is the loss of my younger brother, David Cohen. He had been sick for some time, so his death was not entirely unexpected, however the timing coinciding with our NEC was indeed not expected! I want to thank all those who stepped in during my absence at the NEC, especially PNP Natalie Blank who read my President’s Report, and PNPs Elaine Bernstein and Petra C. Kaatz, who were the technology mavens and agenda supervisors and kept everything running on schedule. Also, thanks to all Sisters who participated in the NEC virtually.

In closing, thank you to all the Sisters and Comrades who have sent condolences. I appreciate all your support during this difficult time.  
Loyally yours,  
Sandra Cantor



## BEWARE

By PNP Iris Goldwasser

The following new information came across my computer recently regarding phone scammers from outside the U.S. and I would like to pass it on to our membership.

Phone scammers are becoming smarter, but so are we, the unsuspecting targets! We have become smarter as well by never answering or returning a phone call from a number we do not recognize.

Scammers can create various phone numbers from many area codes and try to tempt us with various stories to entice us to respond. Accepting these stories as “emes” can lead to “tzuris” and loss of money. Do not fall for these scams!

One of the most troubling scams involves a friend or family member who is in distress somewhere. An individual in that situation would (or should) request a call to the local police or an American Consulate if in a foreign country. The scammers don’t know the proper names of your family. I, myself, have received a phone call in the past. When I posed personal questions to the caller (to which grandson he was referring, although I only have one), he couldn’t respond correctly.

Many scam calls originate in the U.S. with various area codes, some you might recognize and others that you do not. Believe it or not, some area codes are spoofed from foreign countries! Unfortunately, you could be charged for accepting a call from any foreign country, according to AARP. Plus, scammers can swindle you out of money through phony vacation promises or fake stories about danger or money problems.

Be on the alert for possible scam phone numbers with the following international area codes:

- 232 - Sierra Leone
- 242 - Bahamas
- 246 - Barbados
- 268 - Antigua
- 234 - British Virgin Islands
- 345 - Cayman Island
- 441 - Bermuda
- 473 - Grenada, Carriacou / Petit Martinique
- 721 - St. Maarten
- 758 - St. Lucia
- 767 - Dominica
- 784 - St. Vincent and Grenadines
- 809/829/845 - Dominican Republic
- 868 - Trinidad & Tobago
- 869 - St. Kitts
- 876 - Jamaica

Remember you could be scammed for thousands of dollars if you believe these scammers! A good rule of thumb is if you do not recognize a phone number, don’t pick up your phone; let the call go to voice mail! A family member or friend will leave you a message, a scammer will not!



## AMERICANISM

By Co-DP Carol Adler, Chairman

Americanism can be described as showing respect for our country, its customs, practices, political principles and policies; it means being patriotic and adhering to its guiding ideals.

Our American national culture was born on a foundation of allegiance, loyalty and respect for one another, even when we do not always see “eye to eye”. Our Founding Fathers did not always agree with each other but managed to compose a Constitution that has “stood us in good stead” for almost 250 years.

We respect and salute our American Flag as a symbol of our free nation. Let us be proud to be Americans and respect our country and all its people as well. Since the birth of our nation we have observed other young nations hoping to be free emulate us and our Constitution as ours is the oldest surviving constitutional democracy in history. We must be doing something right!



## NEW CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM

By Rosalind Kaplan, Chairman

I am so excited to report that at the 2022 NEC we approved a new program for Child Welfare. It is a national program sponsored by the LEGO Company. According to their website you can collect new or used legos, then go to <http://www.lego.com/replay>, print out a shipping label, box up your legos and bring them to the post office to be shipped. You can also visit one of the LEGOS Stores to get a free shipping label or drop your donation off in person. The donated legos are then cleaned, refurbished if necessary, and donated to organizations like Teach for America and Boys and Girls Clubs. There is more information about the program on the website.

So clean out the closets and look for those old legos that your kids have out grown, box them up and send them to the LEGO Company so they can distribute them to underserved children in the community. This is a great new project in which your Auxiliary can participate.

## Join us in Savannah! • August 7-12, 2022



### National President's Banquet

honoring

## National President Sandra Cantor

**Tuesday, August 9**

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!**

\$50 per person



### Rita Panitz Memorial Teddy Bear Program

Bears here, Bears there,  
big bears, small bears!

#### Bears bring big smiles and happy faces!

The children of our country are our most important asset and we need to provide for them. We live in a world that is constantly changing and it is sometimes difficult for them to cope. Each day children may be subjected to violent or emotional situations through no fault of their own. The Rita Panitz Teddy Bear Program was established to help children deal with these unfortunate events.

Our donations of Teddy Bears or Stuffed Animals during our National Convention to the local Fire Department, Police Department, Children's Hospital, and Ronald McDonald House has made a difference in these communities. Providing a new friend for a child to hug can put a smile on their face and is a true mitzvah.

Each item that is donated to the first responders and other organizations has a tag attached to it recognizing JWVA as a donor. We need the support of all our members to continue putting smiles on children's faces.

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



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



### DOUBLE CHAI CLUB

#### Join Us For Breakfast!

Wednesday, August 10 at 8:00 am

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.



Become a member of  
our "Double Chai Club."



**This breakfast is open to everyone.  
We look forward to seeing you there!**  
\$36 per person

The Historic District of Savannah is the heart of one of the most beautiful cities in the world, with cobblestone streets, manicured gardens, and oak-shaded parks drizzling with silvery Spanish Moss. This is the perfect Georgia vacation destination for all ages - abuzz with art, culture, festivals, concerts, live theater, outdoor cafes, gourmet restaurants, and true Southern hospitality. The largest National Historic Landmark District in the United States, Savannah contains more than twenty city squares filled with museums, churches, mansions, monuments and famous forts of the Revolutionary and Civil War eras.

River Street is a multi-faceted gem along the broad Savannah River. The century old buildings, once cotton warehouses, have been converted to antique shops, distinctive boutiques, spectacular galleries, fabulous restaurants, elegant inns and hotels. Bustling with welcoming hospitality, it's also the place to see Savannah from the river that made her famous by taking a cruise or watching ships from around the globe sail into one of the busiest ports in America.

We will be having a constitutional convention, so please go over your Constitution. More information to follow. Make your plans now, Savannah is calling you for a well-deserved chance to revisit, not just the city, but each other. We look forward to getting together once again to find ways of increasing our membership, to exchange ideas on how to best serve the veteran, his or her family, the servicemember, the child in need, the community at large, and to keep the National Ladies Auxiliary functioning successfully.

### Partners Club

**Please join us at the Convention 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.

### 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 \$2.00

*It will be an evening of fun and laughter!*



**Rhea Sahl**

### Memorial Baby Shower For Pregnant Military Women Monday, August 8

We're holding a baby shower for pregnant military women during our National Convention in Savannah on Monday, August 8. 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 to purchase any items for the Rhea Sahl Memorial Baby Shower Program, send a check payable to: PNP Elaine Bernstein, 9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872.

Please send your items and donations for the Baby Shower and/or the Teddy Bear Program directly to the hotel, between August 3 and August 5.

Address packages to: The DeSoto Hotel  
15 E. Liberty Street  
Savannah, GA 31401  
Attention: PNP Elaine Bernstein,  
Convention Chairman JWVA.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History recently had a webinar with W. Jack Romberg who wrote about his great uncle, Richard Stern, in the book “A Doorway to Heroism.” Approximately 100 members and others participated. We were able to share “A Jewish Chaplain’s Vietnam Memoir,” with the author, Rabbi Sheldon Lewis, about his letters home regarding his experiences in the Vietnam Highlands. You can go to the museum’s website to look at upcoming events. Thank you to Mike Rugel for finding these fascinating presenters and authors.

We are very excited for May 5, and the official ribbon cutting ceremony for our newest exhibit “The Jewish Experience During Vietnam” Accolades go out to Pam Elbe for her professionalism and dedication in putting together an exhibit that will make our museum an even better place to visit. The official opening of the exhibit

is on May 5. If you are in the area, stop in and see the exhibit for yourself and enjoy a reception at the museum. The reception will mark the opening of the exhibit and the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the precursor to the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. We hope to see many of our members and friends at the event.

We are beginning to plan our next new exhibit “Jewish Women in the Military.” Rochel Hayman of Arizona will be heading up this effort. She will be contacting other female veterans for their assistance. We will be looking for memorabilia, letters, awards, and more.

The outside of our building is rather drab, but that will soon change. We are planting a memorial garden outside, thanks to the efforts of Ed and Iris Goldwasser. The garden will contain a memorial light to remind us of the ultimate sacrifice made by soldiers to preserve the American way of life.

There will be opportunities to sponsor various sections of this project. We hope you will find the garden a place to reflect and remember and we hope you will help bring this project to fruition.

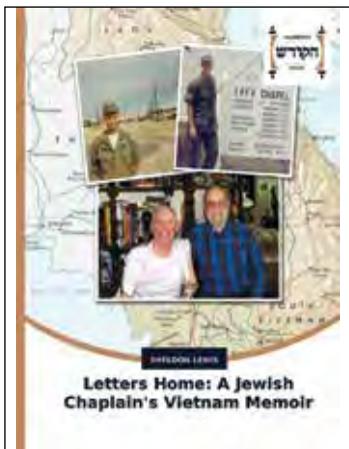
We will have our next museum meeting toward the end of April or the beginning of May. Please check the museum’s website for updates on meetings, exhibits and programs.



PNC Michael B. Berman

## Updates By Michael Rugel • Director of Programs and Content

Rabbi Sheldon Lewis joined us on Thursday, February 10 for a webinar discussing his book “Letters Home: A Jewish Chaplain’s Vietnam Memoir.” Lewis served in Vietnam in 1970 and 1971 as a chaplain in II Corps. He described his decision to volunteer for service despite his personal beliefs against the war. He felt it was his duty and responsibility to help the men and women fighting the war.



Among the powerful experiences he described were being by the side of soldiers, including Lloyd Kantor, as he was fighting for his life in a hospital bed after being seriously wounded. The two men developed a lifelong friendship. It was

a pleasure to have Kantor attending the webinar and speak about how important the work of Lewis was to him in Vietnam and afterwards. It was also amazing that during the webinar we were able to make a connection with another veteran who had helped with Kantor’s care. Just connecting these two made the program more than worthwhile.

Other fascinating experiences described by Lewis included developing a relationship with Sgt. Gunther Haase. Haase was born in Germany and had served in the Luftwaffe in World War II. After being taken as a prisoner of war, he appreciated the humane treatment he received from Americans. He immigrated after the war and enlisted in the U.S. Army. When Lewis was preparing for Sukkot in 1970, Haase volunteered to design and build the Sukkah. The unique nature of the Sukkah designed and built by a German WWII veteran, assisted by Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant American soldiers, was important to Lewis.

It was also a pleasure to have the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council as a partner for the program. JWB Director Rabbi Irving Elson spoke about his

admiration for Lewis and described the continuing work that JWB and Jewish chaplains do for Jewish service members. A video recording of the talk is available on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg> and the book is available in the museum store <https://nmajmh.org/shop/>.

We’re starting to bring more group events back to the building, but we’ll always include an online component for any public programs when possible. Upcoming programs include:

Thursday, April 7, Robert K. Sutton – “Nazis on the Potomac: The Top-Secret Intelligence Operation that Helped Win World War II.” The first full account of the crucial work done at Fort Hunt, Virginia during World War II, where the highest-level German prisoners were interrogated and captured documents analyzed. The American servicemen who interrogated German prisoners or translated captured German documents were young, bright, hardworking, and absolutely dedicated to their work. Many of them were Jews who had escaped Nazi Germany as children.

## Ways to Give to the Museum - Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA

By Mathew Millen

Congress allows people to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from their traditional IRA using their minimum required distribution directly to a 501(c)(3). This is a win-win. You satisfy the requirement to withdraw the minimum required distribution, but the money withdrawn is not taxable if donated directly to a 501(c)(3) charity.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution can be counted toward satisfying your minimum required distribution for the year as long as certain rules are met. The rules for making a Qualified Charitable Distribution with your minimum required distribution are as follows:

1. You must be 70½ or older to be eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution.
2. Qualified Charitable Distributions are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income.
3. The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a Qualified Charitable Distribution is \$100,000.
4. For a Qualified Charitable Distribution to count towards your current year’s Mandatory Required Distribution, the funds must come directly out of your traditional IRA by your Mandatory Required Distribution deadline, generally December 31.
5. Any amount donated from your IRA above your Mandatory Required Distribution does not count toward satisfying a future year’s Mandatory Required Distribution.
6. Funds distributed from your traditional IRA directly to you, the IRA owner, and which you then give to charity do not qualify as a Qualified Charitable Distribution.
7. The charity must be a 501(c)(3) organization,

eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.

When making a Qualified Charitable Distribution, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History will send you a letter acknowledging the donation. Almost all the mutual funds have a special form to direct your Mandatory Required Distribution be paid directly to the 501(c)(3) charity of your choice. For example, Fidelity instructs their shareholders to make the Mandatory Required Distribution check payable to the name of the charity. Fidelity sends the check to the account holder, who then mails the check directly to the charity. This way, the charity will send the acknowledgment letter back to the donor. This article is not meant to provide legal or tax advice. A tax advisor can help you determine if both your IRA and your charity qualify for the contribution of your mandatory required distribution to a qualified charitable distribution for a tax deduction

By Pam Elbe • Director of Collections, Archives, and Exhibitions

## Franz Bierman: A German Jewish Refugee in the U.S. Army During World War II

As I write this, thousands of people are fleeing their homes in Ukraine because of the Russian invasion. I wanted to share the story of a refugee, albeit from a different place and time, from the NMAJMH's collection. Here at the museum, we have the collection of Franz Biermann, a Germany immigrant who joined the U.S. military in 1943 after fleeing Nazi Germany. While his family's story is not necessarily unique, the degree to which it was documented is special. The story of their escape from Germany, life as refugees, American citizens and, for Franz, a military officer, is told through hundreds of letters and documents.

In 1933 Hitler rose to power in Germany and with his Nazi Party came an ever-increasing tide of anti-Semitism. Subject to threats and persecution, the initial response to the Nazi takeover was a substantial wave of emigration. More than 117,000 Jews left Austria and more than 300,000 left Germany by the end of 1939. Initially, Germany encouraged Jews to leave, then they restricted the amount of money they could take from German banks and imposed high emigration taxes.

Franz Joseph Biermann was born in 1915 in Fürth, Bavaria. By the time that World War II was imminent, Biermann had lost both of his parents. His father died in 1931 and his mother in 1938. In 1939, just five months before the Nazi invasion of Poland, Biermann married Ruth Schwarz in Berlin. Their wedding was officiated by the noted rabbi and theologian Leo Baeck. Prior to their marriage Biermann began trying to arrange passage for the couple to the United States. The couple had family in Florida, so with their help Biermann tried to arrange for passage to the U.S. via Cuba. They also tried to convince Schwarz's mother to leave with them. Just a few weeks before their ship was to sail from Liverpool to Havana, they learned from the Hilfsverein der Juden in Deutschland (Jewish Aid in Germany) that they did not have the required visas to enter Cuba.

As anti-Semitism increased in Nazi Germany and the threat to Jews grew more imminent, the Biermanns fled to England to await their American visas. The Nazi government required the family to pay a *Judenvermögensabgabe* (Jewish Capital Levy or Jewish Assets Tax). This was an arbitrary special tax that German Jews had to pay during the National Socialist era after the assassination of the German Legation Secretary Ernst Eduard vom Rath by a Polish-German Jew. Hermann Göring demanded a contribution payment of one billion Reichsmark (RM) as atonement by the Jews toward the German people. All Jews with assets of more than 5,000RM had to pay 20% of it in four installments to their tax office by the August 15, 1939. Biermann's levy alone was 8400RM, or roughly \$500,000 in today's U.S. currency.

The Biermann family arrived in Dover on the southern coast of England on August 26, 1939. After World War II was declared just a few days later, Britain no longer allowed emigration from Nazi-controlled countries. The family made it to the UK with less than a week to spare. They still



LT Biermann in the FIAT offices, Berlin, 1945.

did not have their American visas, so they settled in Bournemouth until those visas came through. In May of 1940 the Biermann's, along with Schwarz's mother, immigrated to the United States. They travelled on the SS Samaria and reached New York harbor on June 1, 1940.

After arriving in the United States, Rosa Schwarz, settled in Tampa where her brothers owned Maas Brothers Department Store. Biermann and his wife stayed in New York where he started graduate work at Columbia University. In 1941 he received a Master of Arts degree from Columbia, and he continued his graduate work there until the fall of 1943, when he enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Biermann escaped Germany, but he had many family members left behind. One of those was Biermann's maternal grandmother, Dina Schweizer. Though they had spent most of their money trying

to get out of Germany, Biermann still tried to send money to his grandmother, who was elderly and fearful of spending what little money she had left given the uncertainty of the times. They were able to correspond by sending letters through neutral countries like Sweden. Unfortunately, the Nazis sent Schweizer to Theresienstadt on September 10, 1942. She died there on October 18, 1942.

In the fall of 1943, Biermann joined the Army as a private. He received basic training at Fort Belvoir and military intelligence training at Camp Ritchie. In the spring of 1944, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and in May 1944 transferred to the European theater. During WWII he was the chief of a combat intel/document team. In May 1945 he was transferred to the Office of Military Government/Field Information Agency (Technical) (also known as FIAT) and became involved and partly responsible for the collection and publication of German scientific papers which had been prepared during the war and had either not been published or had not become accessible to the rest of the world. The main result of FIAT was to publicize many of the technical and scientific advances made by the German and Axis governments during World War II. During his active service he was stationed in England, France, Luxembourg, and Germany. He received the Bronze Star, European Theater Medal with 5 Battle Stars, WWII Victory Medal, German Occupation Medal, and Reserve Medal.

In 1947 he was discharged, transferred to the inactive reserve, and became special advisor to the chief scientific advisor on General Lucius Clay's staff at the Office of Military Government in occupied Germany. During the years of the Berlin Blockade a large share of his work included caring for and supporting the West Berlin German scientific community. Biermann completed his work in Germany in 1954 and returned to the U.S.

While he remained an employee of the Department of Defense, Biermann often worked closely with the State Department. He became the chief of a unit whose task was to gather and analyze all material on the then-emerging African nations. To become better acquainted with the area, he took a three-month trip to Africa in 1957. During his long career Biermann also worked on the applications and uses of computers. He worked on the development and application of a computer system designed to store and retrieve data on various groups of people. Contrary to the more mathematical uses of computers, such sociological use was then in its beginning.

There is a wealth of information contained in the letters and documents that Biermann saved. I have only been able to touch the surface of this collection, but it is quite clear it is a treasure. The letters and documents provide insight into the lives of a German Jewish family forced to flee Nazi persecution and are just waiting for a researcher to take advantage of this great resource.



**Certificate from the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Training Center (MITC) at Camp Ritchie, Maryland, certifying that Franz Biermann completed his training in 1944. Thousands of servicemen, most with high fluency in multiple European languages and many German-Jewish refugees, were trained at Camp Ritchie for frontline interrogation, battle-field intelligence, investigation, counterintelligence, and related work.**

By PNC Carl Singer

Like many JWV posts, Essex-Preiskel-Miller-Glassberg Post 47 strives to honor our fallen comrades by putting out flags prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day. We focus on two cemeteries in northern New Jersey, Menorah Cemetery in Passaic and the King Solomon Cemetery in Clifton. To accomplish this mission, we are helped by numerous community volunteers and Scouts BSA (formerly the Boy Scouts).

The King Solomon Cemetery is a large facility with over 50,000 graves. This past November the scouts who were assisting us found two graves with what we thought were logos for the Royal Air Force. We, of course, wanted to do right to honor these allied veterans.



**King Solomon Cemetery in Clifton, New Jersey**

It was a circuitous path to make this happen. Unable to reach the appropriate personnel at the

British Embassy, I contacted my Congressman's Chief of Staff, who in turn contacted the Congressional Liaison to the British Embassy. A Group Captain at the British Embassy who serves as their Assistant Air and Space Attaché contacted me. His sharp eyes determined the logos on the headstone were actually RCAF, for the Royal Canadian Air Force. He forwarded my request to his Canadian counterpart.

I was contacted by a Lieutenant-Colonel who is the Assistant Canadian Forces and Space Attaché. In turn, I contacted the Poppy & Remembrance Director at The Royal Canadian Legion.

Our post then purchased the appropriate Canadian flags so we could put them on the two graves. Mission Accomplished.

## From Our Archives...

This article was first published in The Jewish War Veteran, February 2003, Volume 56, Number 1.

### A Seder in Tokyo – Thanks to Gen. Douglas MacArthur

By Harry Burgeman, JWV Post 258

I was a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and I had arrived in the Philippines in September, 1945, just as World War II had ended. I received orders to fly to Japan to serve on Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff. I arrived there in January, 1946.

My impression of Gen. McArthur, at this time, was one of tremendous respect. But, like many other G.I.s, I felt he was pompous and a man with a great vanity. This was soon to be confirmed to me. During my first week in Tokyo, as a courier, I had to deliver some documents to Gen. MacArthur's office which was located in the Dai Itchi building, Japan's largest structure.

As I was walking up the stairs, a 2nd Lieutenant approached my and told me that Gen. MacArthur would be in the area. If I saw him that I should immediately come to attention with a hand salute.

"Of course, I will comply," I told him. My respect and admiration for Gen. MacArthur grew as I witnessed the way he handled his job as the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in the Pacific. His policy during the Occupation of Japan was one of firmness, but also of respect and dignity toward the Japanese people.

With Passover arriving in April, 1946, I was happy to learn that Gen. MacArthur was inviting all the Jewish G.I.s and officers in the Pacific area to a Seder in his building.

There were over 1,000 of us seated at long tables. Each person had a Hagadah, a bottle of Manischewitz wine and a one pound box of matzo (which kept me going for the rest of the holiday). There was chicken soup with matzo balls and all the trimmings for a festive Passover meal; thanks to the Jewish Welfare Board.

At the Seder there were 12 Jewish Chaplains; Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. Many of us present were asked to participate. The singing didn't end until midnight. To me it was a memorable and happy Seder.

My assignment on Gen. MacArthur's staff was chief of an auditing team. We visited the various P.X.s in Japan and rendered financial and statistical reports to Headquarters in Tokyo.

One of our trips took us South where we had the occasion to stop off at Hiroshima. This was March, 1946, some months after the bomb was dropped.

The city was completely destroyed. People were living in tin shacks under the most primitive conditions.

The Seder in Japan and Hiroshima will always be my important memories of World War II.

## TAPS

### DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Dickstein, Irwin L. - Post 344  
Gilman, Arnold - Post 100  
Kramer, Jerome F. - Post 100  
Pincus, Bernard - Post 100  
Sacks, Gerard - Post 100  
Silverman, Samuel - Post 100  
Stern, Charles M. - Post 859  
Tufel, Sherman - Post 100  
Werksman, Albert - Post 718

### DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Karter, Glenn B. - Post 760  
Mellner, Max B. - Post 385  
Pathman, Jack R. - Post 603  
Waldman, Leon - Post 603

### DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Ashen, Louis - Post 142  
Winter, Gerald D. - Post 142  
Wollner, Martin - Post 142

### DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Abrams, Jerry M. - Post 639  
Bernstein, Bernard - Post 549  
Cohen, Kenneth - Post 819  
Cohen, Sanford - Post 400  
Eisenberg, Seymour J. - Post 698  
Warsaw, Robert - Post 202  
Yegelwell, Howard - Post 941  
Zucker, Leonard C. - Post 684

### DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Baruch, David - Post 54

### DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Bauman, Jerome - Post 692  
Kessler, Robert - Post 567  
Pollack, Julius M. - Post 167  
Rashbaum, Harry L. - Post 167

### DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mack, Lester - Post 74  
Rosenberg, Joseph - Post 220  
Salus, Alan - Post 220  
Westerman, David Irving - Post 74

### DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Milgrom, Myron L. - Post 474

### DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Gruenebaum, Herbert - Post 605

### DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Kamin, Melvin M. - Post 354  
Levin, Donald D. - Post 331

### DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Bader, Alan M. - Post 740  
Berman, Edward Wallace - Post 538  
Brandt, Sanford - Post 972  
Epstein, Leonard - Post 609  
Flomenberg, Harry - Post 126  
Gertner, Jerome - Post 178  
Lenner, Ira - Post 311  
Marshall, Sidney - Post 125  
Sherman, Alan H. - Post 125  
Topal, J. George - Post 125

### DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Beder, Seymour J. - Post 1  
Berger, Gary H. - Post 41  
Eichen, Louis H. - Post 258  
Gerwin, Arthur - Post 425  
Glickman, Philip - Post 652  
Hermon, Eliot S. - Post 425  
Honig, Leonard - Post 652  
Katz, Samuel A. - Post 41  
Kravetz, Sidney - Post 41  
Kremer, William - Post 425  
Mirotnik, Bernard - Post 652  
Perry, Bernard - Post 425  
Pfeifer, Louis W. - Post 425  
Pincus, Sherman - Post 68  
Roschelle, Irving - Post 191  
Rosenthal, Bernard H. - Post 41  
Schechter, Lawrence - Post 652  
Seiden, Harold - Post 3  
Steinberg, Milton - Post 425  
Van Clief, Helene M. - Post 3  
Weinstein, George - Post 191  
Wolf, Tobias - Post 652

### DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Dobrow, David A. - Post 222  
Samuels, Larry S. - Post 122

### DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Bernfeld, Gerald Edward - Post 215  
Coren, David M. - Post 305  
Fisher, Harold - Post 697  
Leibowitz, Bernard - Post 305

Piatetsky, Louis I. - Post 98

### DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Kessler, Morton - Post 23

### DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Mazer, Jacob B. - Post 608

### DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Shapiro, Harold - Post 201  
Talvy, Joseph S. - Post 201

### DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Dulitz, Harris M. - Post 580  
Gurkoff, Jerry - Post 755

### DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Berlin, Ben - Post 487  
Chester, Fred A. - Post 701  
Glick, Harold - Post 487  
Melton, Howard - Post 701  
Miller, Joseph H. - Post 145  
Rosenberg, Milton H. - Post 487  
Weprinsky, Paul C. - Post 487

In the last edition of The Jewish Veteran, we mistakenly listed Frank Hurwitz of Post 45 and Stan Nathanson of Post 29 in TAPS. Both are alive and well and we regret the error.

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# Happy Passover!



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

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

**PDP Gloria Abramson**  
*In memory of PNC Lou & SVP Brenda*

**PDC Edward & PDP Louise Baraw**  
*In Memory of Eugene Baraw*

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

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

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

**Greetings to All • Dr. Gerald H. Elkan**

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

**In loving memory of Dr. Richard Glugeth**  
*My husband and WWII veteran*

**Nathan Goldberg-In recognition of my election**  
*as National Commander in 1978*

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

**In Loving Memory of My Husband, Code**  
*Jerry Gomberg & Daughters*

**Past State Commander 1970-1972**  
*Herbert Gopman*

**In Memory of Philip Dorf, Post 6**

**In Honor of Dick Golden • Post 202**  
*By Marty Rubin*

**Best Wishes for a Good Year!**

**In Memory of the Veterans of Korea**

**Alan J. Gould Post 105**  
*In memory of Sam Gould, Post CMDR*

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

**In memory of my wonderful husband, Walter**  
*Dorothy D. Greenwald, PDP 204*

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

**Our Museum Needs Your Support!**  
*Who else will tell our stories?*

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

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

**MAJ GEN Pierre David Lax (RET) & Jhonna Lax**  
*We Wish All Health, Strength & a Happy Life*

**In Memory of our Parents**

**The Paley Family**  
*In loving memory of Jayne Wasserman*

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

**IMO Bella, Allen, and my wife Rayisa**

**PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky**  
*Happy Holidays*

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

**In Memory of Don Rothman, PC Post 44**  
*By Bernice Rothman, PAP Aux. 44*

**Stephen & Helen Sax**  
*Live Long and Prosper*

**Irv Schildkraut**  
*USMC USNR USA*

**Good Health - To Life!**

**Best Wishes to all JWV & JWVA**  
*Members PNC Barry & Charwynne Schneider*

**To Life!**

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

**Col. (R) Matt + Ms. Meg Segal**  
*In memory of our parents*

**Morris Shapiro 40<sup>th</sup> Fusiliers**  
*Jewish Legion WWI in honor of son Sam*

**In Memory of Norman Smith-Post 129**

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

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

**South Phila-Ladies Auxiliary 98**  
*Good Health + Happiness to All*

**In Memory of Harriet Tarnofsky**

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

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

**In Memory of Louise & Joan Weinstein**  
*Philip & Julia Weinstein*

**Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute**  
*www.msawi.org*

**Shirley Zak NJVP**  
*In Loving Memory of Jon Zak DC*

**In memory of my mother, Adele Zucker, PNP**

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

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

**Good Health & Happiness to All!**

**Mazel Tov Army Staff Sgt. Robert Maran**  
*97 years young•JWV Post 112 is prouf of you!*

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