



# THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 70 • Number 4 • 2016

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February 15-19, 2017  
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## Times Are Changing - and We Must Keep Up!

By PNC Norman Rosenshein,  
Coordinating Committee Chairman

It is no secret that the Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV) is struggling. Many of the nation's veterans' service organizations are fighting for survival. With an aging veteran population, no draft, and fewer enlistments, our membership levels are the lowest they've ever been. It is time for change.

Over the next few years, things will be different. They have to be, for our survival. Here are some of the things you can expect:

► Our NEC meeting in February 2017 (see page 6) will be part of what we are rebranding as a Leadership Conference. Are you a leader in your Post or Department, or hope to someday hold a leadership role? Then this is for you.



► There is a brand new schedule, with workshops and trainings on topics such as fundraising, non-profit management, and Post administration.

► There will be very few committee meetings. Our committees have become defunct. Many of the chairmen hold the position in name only.

► From now on, there will be expectations and requirements

for committees. If you want to hold a position, you have to follow through. You have to be a real leader.

► Our 2017 Convention in San Antonio, TX, is our first ever five-day convention. There will be committee meetings, but only for those committees who prove in the months between NEC and Convention that they can work together to be productive. We recognize that as our first shorter convention, it won't be perfect.

► The results of the Convention survey that was sent out in September (see page 15) further detail some of the discrepancies that we at National face when planning such an event. In order to create change, we need you to attend-

*Continued on page 14*

## Survey: Women Troops Feel Undervalued and Unappreciated

By Leo Shane III, Military Times  
*Originally published November 14, 2016. Reprinted with permission from Military Times, www.military-times.com*

Female troops and veterans want the public to know their military service is much more than just discussion of sexual assault in the ranks, according to a new survey released Monday.

Almost three in four women in the new Service Women's Action Network survey said they do not believe their military service is understood or valued among the gen-

eral public, and only 24 percent said they think military leadership does enough to publicize their work.

While 42 percent of women surveyed saw sexual harassment and assault as a common issue confronting the female servicemember community, far fewer listed it as a personal obstacle to their service.

Instead, 43 percent said their biggest military hurdle is assignments and job opportunities, 35 percent said family policies, and 36 percent said general gender bias problems.

And despite the perception of widespread problems for women



serving in the military, 80 percent said they would recommend enlisting to other women.

"We were pleasantly surprised

*Continued on page 16*

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## Get Social with JWV!

Use JWV's social media to share pictures and keep in touch with JWV members and friends.



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- 1) Go to [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org). On the right hand side about halfway down the page, there's a box that says "Stay Connected." Enter your email, and you're on the list!
- 2) Send an email to [jwv@jwv.org](mailto:jwv@jwv.org) requesting to be added, and one of our staffers will send you a subscription email. Click the link and you're good to go!

### A few things to be aware of:

- We will never sell or share your email address
- If you hit "unsubscribe," then you stop receiving ALL of our emails. If that wasn't your intention, follow one of the two steps above. If you think we send too many emails, please let us know!

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Contact Melody Jackson at JWV Headquarters for prices and ordering information. 202-265-6280



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## THE JEWISH VETERAN

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## Jewish Chaplains in the Military

I am an observant Jew who spent 26 years of active duty in the U.S. Army. I had the greatest opportunity to attend Shabbat services on many posts throughout the world. I found that most Jewish military cannot read Hebrew, were not Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and couldn't explain the simplest parts of the Torah, holidays, or the Jewish belief system. In fact, we were lucky to have ten people attend the Friday evening Shabbat service and almost no one came to the Saturday morning Torah readings. My Jewish religious needs were never met in the military. I had to attend a synagogue off post for services, holidays, and programs.

I now read in the paper that the military is sadly deficient in Jewish chaplains. In order to attract more rabbis into the chaplaincy, restrictions are being lifted and regulations are changing. Beards for Jewish chaplains are now allowed, opening the door for Orthodox rabbis. Scholarships for rabbinical students are being offered. Cantors now have a pathway to become chaplains.

I want to voice my strong objections to allowing Jewish chaplains to grow beards. This could result in a very negative attitude towards Jews in the military. No career military man or woman will accept a man in uniform with a beard!

There are other ways of solving this program. Trained Jewish lay leaders, reservists, and volunteers as well as cantors might assume these roles. The Jewish Chaplains should change and adapt to the military culture instead of the military adapting to Orthodox rabbis. Allowing a military officer to grow a beard is wrong!

All chaplains are officers and should have leadership ability. Therefore, they should be able to pass the PT test by running two miles in less than 18 minutes, do 20 pushups and 20 sit-ups at one time. This is what the military demands of its leaders.

The JWB Jewish Chaplains Council can do a better job for the 100,000 Jewish men and women serving our great country.

*Joel Batalsky, US Army retired  
Member of JWV, Post 256*

## Combatting PTSD

As a veteran U.S. Army Officer and former Executive Director of the New England Region of the Friends of the IDF (FIDF), I read with great interest Adam Lammon's article in vol. 70, no. 3, "Israeli Innovations in Combatting Veteran PTSD."

Similar to the U.S. Armed Forces, the IDF has recognized PTSD as a neurobiological and psychophysiological condition that can afflict veterans exposed to any traumatic situation--wheth-

er or not combat related. While Mr. Lammon's article described some of the programs the IDF has initiated to help their servicemen and women who suffer from the debilitating effects of PTSD, he glossed over a fundamental difference in how our two countries seek to reduce, recognize and ultimately treat PTSD.

In Israel, about 60% of the population serves in the military. Combat soldiers have a high social standing. When these warriors return to civilian life, most Israelis understand what they experienced under fire. By contrast, in the U.S., only 1% of the population serves in the military. When a soldier returns to civilian life, only a handful of people can relate to what he or she has endured. Expected to "fit in" and misunderstood when they don't, returning U.S. combat soldiers have few resources who understand the true nature of their service and sacrifice. In the U.S., war is a world away. In Israel, war is next door.

No article on Israeli innovations in combatting veteran PTSD is complete without highlighting the consequential efforts nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and in Israel are undertaking to complement those of our respective militaries.

In most cases, these nonprofit efforts are conceived, designed, implemented and operated by veterans (or families of veterans) who are personally familiar with or affected by PTSD: Prominent among these are Achim L'Chaim (Brothers for Life), Heroes to Heroes, Shoulder to Shoulder, and many others (large and small) which bring together veterans from both countries who suffer from PTSD.

These gatherings are "safe zones" for PTSD sufferers; through candid discussions, inspirational group activities, and ongoing correspondence, PTSD sufferers advance their personal recovery and healing and aid the recoveries of fellow warriors. These organizations also play a major ancillary role in strengthening unofficial ties between our two militaries.

Earlier this year I attended an Achim L'Chaim event at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts. Hosted by the Kraft Family Foundation, the event was part of a week-long series of activities that connected in meaningful and enduring ways wounded warriors from the IDF and the U.S. Armed Forces. I was incredibly moved by the authenticity of their interaction and the nurturing care offered by organizational representatives.

Those who served at the tip of the spear understand the unique bond combat veterans share--a bond that transcends country, race, and religion. These organizations understand the healing that can be drawn from the strength of this bond, and they tap that strength to help those with visible and invisible combat injuries.

Organizations like Achim L'Chaim bring together IDF and U.S. military veterans in structured settings to aid their respective recoveries. They are worth further mention and endorsement in publications such as *The Jewish Veteran*.

*Bruce Mendelsohn, The Hired Pen  
LinkedIn@brm90*



## National Achievement Program

Did you know that The Jewish War Veterans of the USA Foundation (JWVF) sponsors an annual essay contest for current service members and veterans who plan to attend (or are currently attending) an accredited Associate's, Bachelor's, nursing, or graduate-degree program? Selected winners will be awarded one of four grants.

All veterans or active duty service members are eligible regardless of race, religion, creed or culture. The 2017 essay theme is "What was your military experience AND how will that experience help you pursue your academic studies?"

The application and more information can be found at [jwvusaoundation.org](http://jwvusaoundation.org). Click on "National Achievement Program" under "Grants." The deadline is **May 30, 2017**.



## National Youth Achievement Program

Attention high school seniors! The Jewish War Veterans of the USA Foundation's (JWVF) annual grant program is now accepting applications and our committee is eagerly awaiting your submissions. JWVF is offering three grants to graduating high school seniors who are a direct descendant of a JWV member in good standing.

**What a fantastic opportunity! Where can I find the application and the eligibility requirements?**

Go to [jwvusaoundation.org](http://jwvusaoundation.org) and click on the tab "National Youth Achievement Program" under "Grants." On this same page you will see a link labeled "Department Commander" which contains the contact information for your relevant Commander, to whom you will submit your application.

**When is the application due?**

All required application materials (listed in the application) are due to the appropriate Department Commander by **May 27, 2017**.



# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander COL Carl A. Singer

I finally fulfilled every Jewish mother's dream and went to medical school – but I was only visiting. JWV was invited to participate in a dedication ceremony in memory of Dr. Mathew Francis Olstein, who was killed in World War I. It was my privilege to represent our organization and say a few words. My hosts were the NYC Health + Hospitals / Metropolitan Hospital and New York Medical College (NYMC), a member of the Touro College and University System.

First, let me tell you about Dr. Olstein. For this I thank Edward C. Haperin, MD, MA, a physician, scholar, and historian who is Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Medical College for his in-depth presentation.

A 1916 graduate of Albany (New York) Medical College, Dr. Olstein traveled to Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn to begin his internship. He was welcomed not with open arms, but with closed fists – bound, gagged, and thrown onto a train out of town with the warning that should he ever come back he would end up in the East River. Such were the times – Jews and Catholics were not welcome – the first question on applications asked for your religion.

My hosts, it turns out, were welcoming to Dr. Olstein. Founded in 1860, the New York Medical College (and later the Metropolitan Hospital founded by members of the college) welcomed Jews, Catholics, women, blacks, and other minorities. This long tradition of inclusion continues today.

Dr. Olstein served with the 314th Infantry Regiment of the 79th Division. He was killed by a German artillery shell a scant three months before the war ended. He is buried in the Jewish Cemetery in Courtland Manor, New York.

Let me tell you a bit more about the “military history” of Metropolitan Hospital. There is evidence that nurses and physicians from the Metropolitan Hospital served in the Spanish-American War. During World War I, they established a U.S. Base Hospital in France and stayed until the war ended. After Pearl Harbor, the entire class at New York Medical College signed up for reserve commissions. Some joined the Army, some the Navy.

During the Korean War, Dr. Walter Mersheimer, then the Chief of Surgery at Metropolitan Hospital and a combat surgeon, was credited with the introduction of the MASH unit – a 100 bed surgical field hospital that could be folded up onto a truck and moved. During the Vietnam War, Dr. Joseph Dursi received a Bronze Star for operating his MASH unit while under heavy enemy fire. Dr. Louis Del Guercio enlisted at age 65 and served as a frontline trauma surgeon during Desert Storm.

I truly felt that I was among fellow veterans and friends when I showed up at NYMC. Many physicians and dentists have served. When I arrived at the ceremony, I struck up a conversation with Dr. Bill Frishman, an Army Medical Corps veteran of both the Vietnam and Desert Storm eras and chairman of the Department of Medicine and professor of pharmacology at New York Medical College. Bill served both on active duty and in the reserves. He told me that “it was a great privilege and honor to serve my country as a physician caring for active duty personnel, the bravest of the brave, their spouses, their children, and retired veterans of all branches of the military.”

In my presentation, I noted that Jews have suffered discrimination in the military, including in the awarding of medals for honorable and heroic actions. I spoke of William Shemin, a WWI soldier who posthumously received the Medal of Honor – but it took an act of Congress over 90 years later. A similar situation occurred with Tibor Rubin, a Korean War Veteran.

I spoke of the founding of JWV, about how although Jews fought on both sides during the American Civil War and six Jews received the Medal of Honor, despite that Mark Twain and others said that Jews didn't serve. To fight that lie, in 1896 Jewish Civil War veterans organized the Hebrew Union Veterans – at the old Lexington Opera House – today a DoubleTree Hotel stands at that site, 51st & Lexington Avenue in New York City. I invited those in at-

tendance to stop by and see the plaque in the lobby.

The medical profession and the military profession may seem to be at odds with one another. Physicians are the healers in our society – both preventing illness and treating disease and injuries. The military is a means of projecting national power – often through the use of violence. Yes, there are military missions that help in times of disaster, or to protect innocent civilians in the face of aggression – and between hospital ships and aircraft carriers there is significant medical capability afloat. But still, the two professions are not necessarily bosom buddies. One might say that the military assures a free society, where physicians practice and the medical world keeps our military healthy and alive.

Lastly, there is another tie-in. Of necessity, the military has been a source of medical advancements. We associate Army Major Walter Reed, MD, with combating yellow fever. For better or worse, the cauldron of war has also been an incubator of medical advances. I highlighted two:

- One lasting legacy of the Vietnam War is the popularization of medical evacuation helicopters and other means to expedite medical care for those in need.

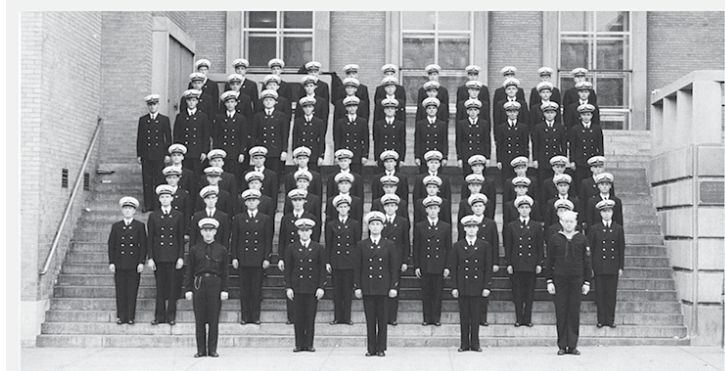
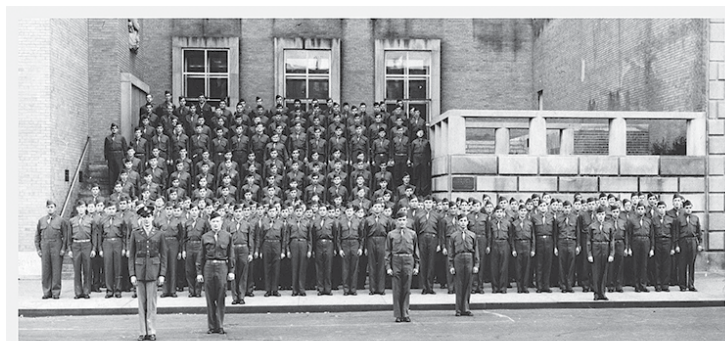


**Dr. William Frishman dismounting a Huey. Photo courtesy of Dr. Frishman**

- In the mid-1980s when I reported to the Chief Scientist of the Army, I worked on projects under an umbrella called telemedicine. How can a physician in an Army field hospital get timely advice and guidance from a specialist who is stateside? Analogously, how can a physician in a rural hospital obtain needed guidance from a specialist at a major teaching/research hospital? Digital x-rays and high definition video are part of this solution.

In war and in peace, countless lives have been saved because of such lessons learned.

And thus went my trip to medical school.



**Medical school class after they joined the Army and Navy in the wake of Pearl Harbor. Photos courtesy of the New York Medical College Archives.**



# DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

PNC Monroe Mayer, National Editor

We have recently elected a new President. Some of us were glad and some were unhappy, but that is the United States for all Americans. By the time you are reading this Veteran, adjustments will have been made and we will get on with our lives. The major focus for us at JWV is the treatment and care of our veterans, the homeless, the inability to make timely appointments at VA Medical Centers, and the delay with new veterans and finally receiving treatment. The major talk is reducing taxes, but that in and of itself will affect treatment at the VA.

A common refrain on Capitol Hill is that all veterans will be taken care of. We will seek to hold our politicians to that promise. Our focus is to bring that message to all of Congress when we meet at the next National Executive Committee meeting in February.

If you have never attended a NEC, you are urged to consider this immediately and make arrangements to join us so that this message can be brought to the new Congress. At the same time, if you haven't visited our nation's capital at this time of the year, all of the most fascinating museums

and public buildings are merely a Metro station away.

Join with us for your benefit, see all our comrades together again, learn about this organization, and send the most important message to Congress- that we will always stand up and fight for our veterans.

See you in Washington, D.C.!



## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Herb Rosenbleeth, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret)

With 2017 quickly approaching, it is time to focus on our Capitol Hill Action Days (February 15-16), which takes place at the beginning of our National Executive Committee meeting and Leadership Conference. Don't forget to mark the dates on your calendar- February 15-19, 2017, at the Crystal City Marriott in Arlington, VA. The link to book your hotel rooms in on our website at [jwv.org](http://jwv.org).

We need the assistance of all of our members, both locally, and those who live further away. By contacting your Washington representatives you lay the foundation that helps JWV fulfill its objectives.

Members of JWV wearing their caps in the halls of the Senate and House Office Buildings is always a special thrill to see. Even more exhilarating is when someone from another veterans' organization, or someone who works on the Capitol Hill, says, "Herb, I saw your guys in the halls of Congress."

By February, the first session of the 115th Congress will be well underway. Many of us will have newly elected Senators and a new Representative trying to find their way around the Capitol and Washington. Unfortunately, what we will not find are very many veterans among our elected officials. Representation is even lower among Congressional staffers, where less than one percent are veterans, and their support for the VA is low due to their personal experiences with it. For many years, this trend has been gradually worsening and it is unlikely to change any time soon.

There are several people with whom you should try to meet. Each one of them is very important to JWV:

- ▶ Your two Senators and their staff person responsible for veterans' issues and staff person responsible for foreign policy issues.
- ▶ Your Representative and his/her staff member responsible for veterans' issues and staff

member responsible for foreign policy issues.

An in-depth meeting with a staff member can often have as great or even greater impact than a visit with member of Congress.

Before the meeting, be sure to make your appointment well in advance. Be on time and dress appropriately. Know your issue. When visiting as a group it is best to choose one person to do most of the speaking.

During the meeting, be friendly and concise. It is best to ask for a specific action on the part of the member of Congress, and show appreciation if he/she agrees with you. Leave behind an information sheet with your name and contact information.

Congressmen/women and their staffers have busy schedules and short attention spans. That is why we would like you to focus on three main issues in your meetings:

### 1. Renaming the VAMC in Long Branch, CA in honor of Corporal Tibor Rubin.

Corporal Rubin was the only Holocaust survivor to receive the Medal of Honor for his heroic service in the Korean War, although it took 50 years for him to be awarded with this honor. He epitomizes JWV's principles of dedicated service, patriotism, and life goal of preventing anti-Semitism. Recently, Bill H.R. 6323 was introduced to the House of Representatives proposing to do just that. It now needs our support to get past the Senate. (As we go to press, this legislation has been passed in the House).

### 2. VA Healthcare: Disability Claims Processing and Appointment Wait Time

It is appalling that the VA's backlog of disability claims exceeds 75,000 cases as of this past January. Although improvements have been made, inefficiencies persist due to the VA's lack of a uniform record management system, gaps between paper and electronic records, and un-

checked spending.

We strongly support the VA's continued shift to an electronic system and urge Congress to require a uniform electronic medical records system across all VA facilities.

### 3. Veteran Homelessness

Although tremendous progress has been made, nearly 50,000 veterans are still homeless. We must urge Congress to continue funding successful programs like the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers and the Dept. of Labor's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and develop fresh concepts to help reduce veteran homelessness.

After the meeting, send thank you letters to every individual who took the time to meet with you. In the letter, it is advisable to repeat any items on which there was agreement. Additionally, fill out your JWV Congressional Evaluation form and submit it to me at the JWV National Office. There will also be a debriefing session with our National Commander on Wednesday night (2/15), marking the start of the new NEC and Leadership Conference.

As I stated above, Capitol Hill Action Day is one of the most vital programs JWV orchestrates because it gives us a voice on the Hill and fosters personal relationships with Congress. It shows that JWV is committed to fighting for veterans' issues and expresses our dissatisfaction with current policies. Please participate in any way that you can so we can achieve our objectives.

*More information can be found on our website [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org) under "Events" and "NEC/ Capitol Hill Action Day."*





# An Evening Honoring Gold Star Families

By Dr. Robert Pickard, PNC

On February 18, 2017, the J WV Foundation, Inc. will host an evening to honor Gold Star Families at the Crystal City Marriott Hotel Grand Ballroom. The Keynote speaker for the event will be Mrs. Karen Kelly, wife of General John F. Kelly, and mother of 1st Lt. Robert Kelly who was killed in action in 2010. Mrs. Kelly is a much sought after speaker who can electrify an audience made up of representatives of members of J WV USA from all departments, states and regions of America, many who have come to our annual National Executive Committee meeting and/or to lobby Congress for all veterans' issues. There will be music provided by Pershing's Own, a sumptuous cocktail party with open bar and delicious food all to honor our fallen heroes, our sons and daughters who gave their last measure of selfless service so that we can all enjoy the freedoms of democracy here in America.

The Gold Star Wives of America (GSW) will be a beneficiary of this event. The GSW are widows/widowers whose spouses died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, or as the result of service-connected disabilities. Members of Gold Star Wives appear before various House and Senate Committees on issues concerning compensation, educational benefits, medical care and other programs pertaining to the welfare of military survivors.



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GSW have members and local chapters in all parts of the United States. Their programs help the children and families of Gold Star families.

All J WV echelons, posts, individuals, departments, states, regions, counties, etc. are encouraged to support this stupendous patriotic evening honoring not only our own Jewish fallen heroes, but all sons and daughters who have been killed in action in all our wars and the sacrifices of those heroes' families.

If you are not able to attend this event in person, please know that seats and tables purchased for this evening which would be empty otherwise will be filled with active duty personnel from the DC area who are asked to attend free

of charge to witness and learn about Gold Star families and those like J WV Foundation, Inc. which would honor them.

The history of a blue star displayed in the window of a home where a son or daughter was serving in the US Armed Forces is a tradition going back to WWI. The Gold Star was applied over the blue star should a member of the family be killed in action starting in WWI. American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was started by Grace Seibold whose son, George, was killed in action in 1917. Mrs. Seibold understood that self-contained grief is self-destructive. To just sit around mourning and feeling understandable grief over the loss of her son was not her style. This gracious lady donated time and energy to visiting servicemen coming home from Flanders' Fields. She formed the American Gold Star Mothers with the purpose of comforting her fellow grieving parents, but also to give loving care to hospitalized veterans, thereby honoring their dead children. In 1936, the last Sunday of September was designated by the President and Congress as official Gold Star Mother's Day.

Please put this Evening to Honor Gold Star Families on your Post's agenda, and your counties' agendas, and departments', states', regions', and all other echelons of J WV USA. Remember that we honor all Gold Star families, Jewish and non-Jewish, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity etc. We are veterans all and we stand by our families. Stand with us, please!

**Join us in Arlington, Virginia, for our Capitol Hill Action Days, NEC meeting, and new workshops! Our hotel is located only a mile from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) and is a short metro ride away from downtown Washington, DC, and the National Mall.**

The full schedule will soon be available on our website, but here's a peek:

## **February 15-16**

**Storm the Hill! - Capitol Hill Action Days**

## **February 16-17**

**National Executive Committee Meeting & Leadership Conference**

Meetings include:

- Capitol Hill Action Day Debriefing session (evening of 2/15)
- A brand new Policy meeting, featuring a panel on Veterans and Mental Health! (2/16)
- National Executive Committee meeting (2/17)
- Finance Board/Filing Post Taxes workshop (2/17)
- Non-profit management training (2/17)
- Fundraising workshop (2/17)
- Partnering and Networking seminar (2/17)

## **February 18**

**National Museum of American Jewish Military History Board Meeting**

**An Evening to Honor Gold Star Families**  
(learn more at [jwvusafoundation.org](http://jwvusafoundation.org)).

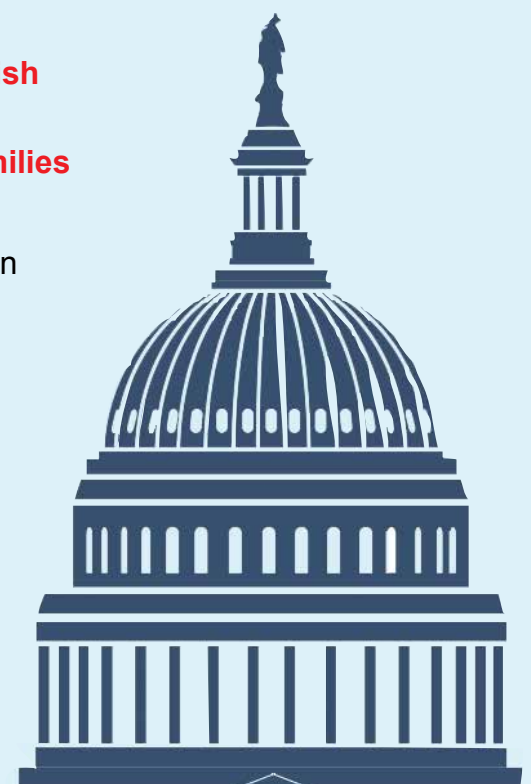
**Where:** Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport  
1999 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202

**When:** February 15-19, 2017

**Price:** \$155/night

**Contact:** To book over the phone call 703-413-5500, say you're with the Jewish War Veterans or go to the reservation link [jwv.org](http://jwv.org).

Book by **January 6, 2017** to reserve your space!





## Passing on the Torch: YOU can be the National Membership Chair

The National Manual of Ceremonies tasks the Membership Committee to “plan membership campaigns, properly induct new members, and maintain their interest and their development for leadership” (pg. 32). The Membership Committee could then alternatively be titled the Recruitment Committee. Workers (you must be dedicated to getting your hands dirty) on this Committee not only recruit new members, but also mobilize current members to take part in Post administration and leadership. The Committee Chair need not be a Commander, but certainly a member who is enthusiastically involved with JWV.

If you are that type of member, then now is the time to step up to the national level! JWV seeks a National Membership Chair to forge new paths for recruitment and member motivation. I have thoroughly enjoyed the position – recruiting at least 500 new members during my decade-long tenure. Now I am passing the torch on. The new Chair will begin right away as my Vice-Chair, learning the process before I retire in August.

Membership Chair is a volunteer position, requiring 4 – 12 hours/week of service. The Chair engages with members, potential members, JWV leaders, and National staff. S/he must be sociable and happy to communicate through emails, teleconferences, Facebook events, in-person workshops, etc. As with any membership-based organization, the Membership Committee is the heart of the group and the Chair exudes that love.

Below are the five skills necessary to complete the job. If you possess these skills and will commit to three years of service, send a letter detailing your qualifications and your ideas for



JWV growth to [membership@jwv.org](mailto:membership@jwv.org) no later than **January 27, 2017**.

### 1. Interpersonal Skills

- Friendly demeanor – enjoys interacting with a variety of people
- Motivational speaker – comfortable speaking to crowds and getting them fired up
- Mediator – seeks to resolve conflicts and find amicable solutions for all involved

### 2. Inquisitive Mind

- Researcher – reads articles, watches films, attends talks, etc. regarding membership recruitment, active duty needs, veteran needs, and the Jewish community
- Analyst – reviews membership statistics and reports, finds areas of growth or improvement
- Experimenter – interested in trying a variety of recruitment tactics, analyzing the results,

and building a path to success

### 3. JWV Experience

- At least three years of continuous JWV membership
- At least one year of leadership – such as Post Commander, Council Sr. Vice Commander, or Department Membership Chair
- Studies JWV history – learns from local JWV historians, asks current JWV leaders about their past experiences, etc.

### 4. Commitment

- Must attend NEC meetings – held biannually in February in Washington, DC and August at National Convention
- Organize teleconferences, Facebook Live events, etc. – engage the membership across the nation in real time
- Write articles and recruit others to write articles – for our quarterly publican, *The Jewish Veteran*, and periodic e-newsletters

### 5. Comfortable with Technology

- Corresponds daily via email
- Uses Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, or other social media – might be a beginner, but is excited to learn
- Takes digital photos and/or records videos and can easily share them

Thank you for continuing the good work of JWV. Here's to the next generation of veterans!

## Retaining Members

While I have dedicated countless hours and articles to recruiting members, I do not want to neglect the importance of retention – keeping our members involved! To put it in perspective, cutting our retention losses in half is equivalent to recruiting 260 new members. Whether recruiting or retaining, our mission remains the same: keep JWV relevant, inviting, and above all else, helpful to veterans.

To accomplish our mission, we have two clear goals. One, ensure our Posts have at least two developed programs that enrich the lives of veterans and our members. Second, publicize our efforts to both our communities and our members. The latter is what the Membership Committee is turning its attention to.

What follows is an easy-to-use template for keeping current JWV members engaged with their Post. Prior to the January membership renewal letter sent by National, send this letter to all members of your Post, going back

at least 4 years, who have not renewed their membership. Type it, handwrite it, whatever means you choose, simply take the time to make it personal. Avoid using labels. Finally, be specific! Illustrate why the member should renew with the Post. Inform about all the good things the Post has done. Highlight the social aspects of the Post. Camaraderie is our ultimate appeal.

Dear (First Name),

We at Post (###) want to thank you for your membership and loyal support. Your membership renewal is vital to our Post's operations. With your involvement, our meetings remain lively and our programs continue to help our fellow veterans and active duty troops.

Our records indicate that your dues have not yet been paid. If this is incorrect please call our Quartermaster (Name) at (Phone Number) or the National Membership Department (202-265-6280) to verify your payment.

If there is a reason for not renewing your membership, please let us know so we may take corrective action. For example, if you are enduring a financial hardship, our Quartermaster may be able to help reduce your dues.

As our WWII members pass on and the next generation of veterans decline to join VSOs, JWV is in a tough spot. A robust membership gives us a strong voice with our legislators, who fund the VA and are responsive to voting blocs. To be sure, new members are a welcome breath of fresh air. But returning members like yourself? You are precious to JWV. You ensure that funding for veterans' needs are not shortchanged.

In case you missed it, here are a few of our Post's recent accomplishments:

- (List Post events and programs, use SPECIFIC numbers. Use quotes from members or those you served.)

*Continued on page 14*





# Veterans Day 2016



For Veterans Day, members of Post 112 GA fanned out across several Atlanta cemeteries to place flags on graves of Jewish American veterans and collected donations at Kroger grocery stores for veterans programs.



President Barack Obama greeted JWV National Commander Carl A. Singer at the White House on Veterans Day.



PNC Michael Berman represented JWV at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall on Veterans Day and laid a wreath in memory of the fallen.



Two members of Post 256 TX held the flags while driving down the Dallas Veterans Day Parade route. The marching group came from a local high school's JROTC program.



Post 95 VA member Alex Keisch placed a wreath on behalf of the Post during Veterans Day at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, VA.



Each year, Post 655 NY participates at the United Veterans Organization of Hicksville, NY, Veterans Day ceremony. Next year, the post will be responsible for the organization of the Memorial Day Parade with over 1,000 marchers. From left, Mike Hirsch, Jack Hayne, Leonard Saltz, Al Schein, and Bill Ovberg. Photo credit: Carol Fine.

## Brooklyn Wall of Remembrance

In Coney Island, NY, there is a remarkable memorial to the First Responders who heroically gave their lives on 9/11. That Memorial is the work of Jewish veteran Sol Moglen, who knew that he had to find some way to honor those who gave their lives that day. Along with a team of volunteers, he went to work and the first of three sections



Sol Moglen (center) with John Feal of the Fealgood Foundation, left, and Rabbi Potasnik, FDNY Chaplain.

were completed in 2003. With the 15th anniversary of 9/11 this year, the Wall of Remembrance is a testament to Sol's faith and persistence.

The new Post Commander of Kaufman-Harris-Cone Wayne Post 695 in Wayne, New Jersey, Sol Moglen was named an honorary Deputy Fire Chief for FDNY in recognition of his work in making sure the nation never forgets these heroes. Every year the Wall of Remembrance Foundation hosts a Hero's Night at MCU Stadium in conjunction with the Brooklyn Cyclones. Co-sponsored by the generosity of his Post for the last two years, 100 Wounded Warriors and military personnel from Fort Hamilton, Walter Reed, and Bethesda Naval Hospital were brought to the stadium to enjoy a baseball game at which time several people were honored in a pre-game ceremony with one of them chosen to throw out the first pitch.

The Brooklyn Wall of Remembrance is a unique memorial. Besides being the first major



The Brooklyn Wall of Remembrance.

9/11 Memorial in New York City, it has 417 granite engraved portraits of the First Responders who died that day. Today the wall is visited by people from all over the world. All it took was a promise from a Jewish veteran who never forgot.



# 7 Questions with a JWV Member

Want to know what an every-day JWV member is like? Get to know one through an easy game of 7 questions! Contact Cindy P. Chambers (cchambers@jwv.org) if you wish to be featured.

## 1. What was a special moment for you, as a Jew, serving in the military?

In 1969, I was working on the USS Ashtabula, an oiler that fueled carriers in the Gulf of Tonkin. Out of a crew of 300, I was one of eight Jews and we wanted Jewish services. There was a Catholic service and Protestant service, but no Jewish service. I went to the Christian chaplain and he let me basically serve as a lay leader. We even got a write-up in Stars and Stripes because we had 720% attendance! Meaning, the vast majority of the congregation was not Jewish. It was educational for them and meaningful for us. I was proud that I created something out of nothing.

## 2. For what one thing is JWV Post 29 best known?

Our oral history program. A local public access channel films and records our members' oral histories of their military service. These interviews are shown on the channel and copies are given to the families of the members for posterity.

## 3. What is one of your fondest JWV memories?

The process of completing the oral history project. The interviewer had me talk about my

youth and then my service. I had never pieced my history together like that or explained my military history to my family. It was reflective. Made me feel like I gave back to my community and to my family.



**Arnold Sandler**  
Post 29, Chicago, IL  
Navy Veteran, Vietnam  
JWV member since 2013

## 4. In your opinion, how could JWV serve the veteran better?

We could be better at connecting veterans to their benefits and their rights. Better at communicating and educating. I didn't know all of the benefits I was eligible for as a Vietnam veteran until I needed more medical treatment. It was confusing. We should work on helping others avoid that type of confusion.

## 5. What patriotic act occurs in your community that makes you the proudest?

JWV switches off with a few other VSOs to host Memorial Day and Veterans Day at the park. I like that we share the task of teaching the community and honoring veterans. The cooperation makes me as proud as hosting does.

## 6. What is your favorite Chanukah tradition?

Lighting the Menorah and having latkes with the grandchildren. We sing songs and spin the dreidel. It brings joy to the kids, they celebrate Jewish life. And you can't ask for anything better – Jewish children enjoying being Jewish.

## 7. Favorite Mel Brooks film?

Blazing Saddles. No question.



JWV remembered those killed 75 years ago at Pearl Harbor by laying a wreath on December 7 at the USS Arizona memorial. Pictured are Master Chief Ronny German, USCG, and JWV representative Rabbi Aryeh Oberstein. The wreath was donated by the Department of New York.

JWV Kings County Council of the Department of NY honored PNC Jerome Cohen and Disabled American Veterans Service Officer Richard Chan at its annual JWV Veterans Day Luncheon on November 10th with over 130 persons in attendance. Senator Martin Golden spoke at the event to honor Cohen for his military service in the U.S. Navy during WWII.



## Open Call for The Jewish Veteran Volunteer Committee

Dear readers of *The Jewish Veteran*, is there a topic related to JWV and veterans that you have a burning desire to write about? Have you been told that your writing prowess is second to none? Do you enjoy drafting, revising, and editing compelling articles to enlighten the masses?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this is the perfect opportunity for you to get involved in JWV's new **The Veteran Volunteer Committee**! JWV needs assistance in writing and editing substantive articles and soliciting content from members such as anecdotal stories and compelling photographs.

If you are interested, please send an email to Jordana Green Laurent at [jgreen@jwv.org](mailto:jgreen@jwv.org) or Adam Lammon at [alammon@jwv.org](mailto:alammon@jwv.org) or call 202-265-6280 and ask for the Development Department.





Members of Post 54 IL and the 9th Grade Class of Congregation Etz Chaim in Lombard, IL, clean the headstones and place flags of identified veterans at nearby Oak Ridge Jewish Cemetery. For the second year, Post 54 also spent time sharing their military experiences with the high schoolers in the classroom and at the cemetery.



At the Rocky Hill Veterans Home, Post 51 CT Arthur Meyers gave each participating veteran a certificate in honor of Veterans Day, with a U.S. postage stamp in the center reflecting the person's military service. Army veteran Pete Harder took the group photo.



Department of Minnesota Commander Peter Nickitas at an annual dinner with guest speaker, former US Senator Rudy Boschwitz and his wife. Over one hundred Jewish War Veterans members and their spouses were in attendance. Photo credit: Lou Michaels.



JWV Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth and Coordinating Committee Chairman PNC Norman Rosenshein with the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Glenn Walters (c), at the Marine Corps birthday luncheon. The Marine Corps turned 241 years old on November 10th!



On Thursday, November 10th, the Great AZ Challah Bake was held at the JCC in Scottsdale, AZ. The Jewish War Veterans had three members attending: Rochelle Hayman and Rhonna Bolton from Post 210 and Lenore Katz from Post 194.



On November 4, 2016, on board the Royal Caribbean Serenade of the Seas, Jeffrey Weitzenkorn, Commander of Post 735 MA, presented 30 copies of Siddur Likrat Shabbat to be used aboard the ship for Friday night services.



Steve Krant, left, and Marvin Huffman collecting donations at Cindi's NY Deli at the Post's Sunday Poppy Drive on Veterans Day weekend. Post 256 members staffed 14 locations in North Dallas and surrounding suburbs and collected just over \$7,000 to benefit hospitalized veterans at the Dallas VA.



Post 210 AZ had numerous members pounding the pavement to collect donations during their Veterans Day Poppy Drive. Thanks to FRY's they were able to collect funds needed to help support the Arizona State Veterans Home, The Maricopa Stand Down, Mary Ellen's House, and other Veterans Organizations in the Phoenix area. Pictured are volunteers Terry and Fred Lipovitch.





Post 239 PA assembled care packages for soldiers to have a taste of home for the upcoming holidays. Items were donated by the local Allentown Jewish community, and the Jewish Day School and JCC students made cards. Eight boxes were sent to Operation Gratitude!



Jewish War Veterans Post 178 and Auxiliary and the Department of New Jersey honored the Lakewood Police Department for their quick action in arresting juveniles who placed swastikas on a yeshiva playground this past summer. A plaque was given to the Lakewood Police chief and a \$500 donation was given to the Lakewood PBA. Pictured are PNC Michael Berman, Department President Marcia Jacobs, police chief Greg Myers, DC Al Adler, PDC Bob Jacobs, chief of staff Hal Moses and the mayor of Lakewood, NJ, Menasche Miller.



Sheldon Goldberg, Richard Shemin, Richard Goldenberg, and Erwin Burtnick, Maryland Department Commander. Elsie Shemin was in New York to speak with West Point Cadets and then the family gathered on Staten Island for the unveiling of Sgt. William Shemin's new headstone. He posthumously received the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery in action in WWI. Photo credit: Richard Goldenberg.

Members of MO-KAN Post 605 participating in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial Ceremony.



The Beachwood Historical Society and the City of Beachwood partnered to commemorate Veterans Day 2016 at Beachwood Cemetery on Sunday, November 6. Speaking is Post 14 IL member Michael Blain, a Holocaust survivor who served in Korea soon after arriving in the US, and before becoming a United States citizen.



TALO's Post 757 Honor Guard has been in existence for about four years. They honor not only the veterans, but participate in other events in the Jewish community. From left, Barry Mann, Mike London, Earle Sherrod, Mike Miller, Gregg Philipson, and Audrey Mann.



JWV Post 112 visited the US Army Fort Benning regimental chapel for their weekly Sunday morning services. What a great turn out!



# Capital District Council J WV Makes Merry with Mitzvahs

By Richard Goldenberg, Capital District Council  
Commander, Albany Post 105 Adjutant;  
Assistant Editor

There are a variety of ways that Jewish Veterans approach the calling of Tikkun Olam, the repairing of the world. Jewish War Veteran posts around the country assist in veteran homelessness, volunteer at local VA Hospitals, support active duty troops overseas and volunteer in countless ways to promote Americanism and support to veteran causes.

So why should the Christmas holiday season be any different? The ideals of J WV are big enough to share across faiths and especially in a time of holiday cheer.

Here in Upstate New York, J WV members across the Capital District Council have taken on mitzvahs to help veterans “make merry” during the holiday season. With the first lights of Chanukah falling on Christmas Eve, December 24th, it would seem that the effort makes even more sense than ever before.

The Capital District Council for J WV takes the view that no veteran, no service member, should feel alone for the holidays. We have three major efforts underway that include the support or the leadership of Jewish War Veterans, many are familiar to posts around the country and we encourage other J WV posts to adopt these ideas.

What better mitzvah than to help contribute to our service members this holiday season than to assist in the shipment of some 150 Christmas trees heading out from Upstate New York. J WV will join with volunteers from fellow veteran service organizations, elected officials and members of the National Guard on November 29 to load trees bound for military families, bringing holi-

day cheer and a visible sign that today’s veterans continue our support for the newest generation of American heroes and their families.

And just as important to the newest veterans, J WV honors the sacrifice of past generations on December 17 with another wonderful mitzvah, the Wreaths Across America campaign ([wreath-sacrossamerica.org](http://wreath-sacrossamerica.org)).



**J WV Capital District Council Commander Rich Goldenberg helps place decorations on a holiday tree in the lobby of the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany, N.Y. on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2015 as part of J WV Albany Post 105 Operation Jingle Bells. Post members visited with patients and staff at the hospital as part of the J WV focus that no veteran should be alone for the holiday.**

The corresponding ceremony, led by our local Civil Air Patrol cadets, will again bring together our full community of veteran service organizations and supporters such as the Patriot Guard Riders, as a sign of our solidarity and remembrance for veterans laid to rest at the national cemetery.

In 2015, more than 1,000 volunteers turned out for the remembrance ceremony and placed some 3,000 wreaths in the cemetery, not quite a third of the veterans laid to rest there. This year J WV and other groups have a goal of doubling that number.

Finally, the Post returns to the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany on Christmas Eve for Operation Jingle Bells. A dozen or so members will gather in the evening of December 24 to visit all of the veteran patients and VA staff at the hospital, sharing goodwill and camaraderie with those unable to be at home for their holiday.

The holiday season is a terrific reason to reach out and support our fellow veterans, noted Albany Post 105 Past Commander Dr. Howard Pressman, the coordinator for Operation Jingle Bells. Pressman spent a career at the VA as a dentist seeing patients and continues his support in arranging for the Christmas Eve visit.

The holiday season is a time for cheer and gathering with friends and loved ones. The Jewish War Veterans of the Capital District Council in Upstate New York are proud to join with fellow veteran organizations and show our own support during the holidays and extend our best wishes to J WV members and fellow veterans around the nation.

Chag Sameach!

## REDEDICATION OF JEWISH VETERANS MEMORIAL

By Dr. Sheldon Goldberg, Docent/Historian at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and member of Post 692

On a beautiful, sunny Veterans Day Weekend, the three year effort of Post 692 MD came to fruition with the re-dedication of a redesigned and enlarged American Jewish Veterans Memorial. Originally dedicated on November 11, 2008, the



memorial sculpture, created by internationally known artist Philip Ratner and donated by long-term member of Post 58, Alexander Adler and his wife Ruth, was erected on a hilly knoll on the west front of the Jewish Community Center in Rockville, Maryland. The site, however, proved inaccessible to anyone with a walking disability and was thus effectively abandoned.

In 2013, members of Post 692 formed a committee and approached the new JCC CEO, Michael Feinstein, to seek permission to improve the site. A new design that included a “Wall of Honor,” and a “Remembrance Walk” was approved but the cost to improve the existing site proved to be exorbitant. Mr. Feinstein then offered another site, on the east front of the JCC, near the main entrance that was open, level, and visible to all who came to the JCC.

Three years later, on November 13,



2016, in a ceremony attended by just over one hundred people and in the presence of the two daughters of the original donor, Mr. Feinstein accepted the enhanced memorial. The sculpture now stands in the middle of a blue stone Magen David embedded in a red brick plaza. The “Wall of Honor” faces the sculpture and the ADA compliant “Remembrance Walk” and both are available for those who wish to purchase pavers and/or plaques to honor loved ones who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces.



# The Changing Laws That Impact Us

By Colonel Nelson L Mellitz, USAF, Ret.  
JWV National Chief of Staff

Thousands of United States active duty personnel, Reserves, and National Guard are currently “forward-deployed” to 39 countries in support of U.S. combatant commanders. There are nearly 300,000 additional military members in direct support of the forward-deployed troops. Additionally, one-third of forward-deployed troops rotate to new assignments “on average” every six months. Since September 11, 2001 the United States has been actively involved in wars that have involved millions of U.S. military personnel and there is seemingly no end in sight for these wars.

As Jewish War Veterans, we have an obligation to support all active duty, Reserves, National Guard, and veterans – past, present, and future! The following are great resources for veterans and servicemembers:

- DoD Office of Warrior Care Policy Military Caregiver Support  
[warriorcare.dodlive.mil/caregiver-resources/](http://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/caregiver-resources/)
- VA Caregiver Peer Support Mentoring Program [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov)
- National Family Military Association (Young Families Overcoming Stress) [www.militaryfamily.org](http://www.militaryfamily.org)
- Military Spouse Employment Partners  
<https://msejobs.militaryonesource.mil>
- Elizabeth Dole Foundation (Camps for

Kids in Military Families)  
[www.elizabethdolefoundation.org](http://www.elizabethdolefoundation.org)

As I write this article, the federal government is operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) because the two branches of Congress have not compromised on the Fiscal Year 2017 authorization and appropriation bills. Military, veterans, and branches of the Department of Veterans Affairs are directly impacted because authorized spending under a CR is less than under the approved federal budget, and the CR could be extended through mid-March 2017. We, as military members and veterans, must be aware of changes in current military and veterans’ programs and prevent erosion of benefits whenever possible.

## Congressional Bills and Impact on Veterans

- TRICARE fee hikes (Military Retirees): The Senate bill would phase in substantial increases in fees for retirees under 65 years old.
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): Veteran Health Administration (VHA) is funded with a two-year budget and will not be “significantly” impacted by the current CR. However, the other branches of the VA including the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) claims and appeals processing could immediately be impacted.
- Defense Commissary Agency’s (DeCA’s): Congressional efforts continue to commercialize the domestic commissaries system.

Commissaries are one of the benefits that military members continue to earn by repeated combat tours and should not be reduced or eliminated.

## Fiscal Year 2017 Defense Authorization Bill

- House and Senate leaders still have to compromise on the Defense Authorization bill before it can be sent to the President for a signature. The House and Senate bills are so different that I would run out of space comparing the differences. However, one of the major blockages is use of the “Overseas Contingency Operations fund (OCO)” for domestic base defense budget operations. Both houses want to use the OCO for something that it was not initially intended to be used. Another bill stoppage is the proposed Senate defense bill cap on military pay raise of 1.6 percent compared to the House full funding (in accordance with law) of 2.1 percent.

Please refer to your Congressperson’s website for additional details.

The Jewish War Veterans appreciates your work as a member or patron to establish a national and local JWV presence. Without you, JWV would not be heard in your communities and it would be more difficult for us to support military members, veterans, Israel, and the Jewish community.

## The Government’s Fight Against Anti-Semitism

By Adam Lammon

On December 2nd, I was fortunate enough to represent JWV alongside National Chief of Staff Col Nelson Mellitz, USAF (Ret), at a quarterly meeting at the U.S. State Department to discuss the government’s most recent efforts to combat global anti-Semitism. The discussion was led by Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Ira Forman, whose office was established by the passage of the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004. As a political appointee, Mr. Forman is nearing the end of his tenure as the Special Envoy, but he assured the representatives who had gathered on that brisk Friday afternoon that the office’s work would continue under a new political appointee after the Presidential transition in January.

The meeting was primarily concerned with the U.S. government’s efforts to advance a working definition of anti-Semitism at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which represents 57 nations including the United States, Canada, Europe, and many Central Asian states. In addition to

Mr. Forman, Rabbi Andrew Baker, Director of International Jewish Affairs at the American Jewish Committee and Personal Representative of the OSCE Chair-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism, spoke at length about the difficulty of adopting a working definition due to the OSCE’s institutional bylaws which require consensus on all pending resolutions. Rabbi Baker positively noted that although requiring unanimity made this process rather arduous, the fact that these countries’ foreign ministers were deliberating a working definition for anti-Semitism showed that this issue has been elevated in importance. The OSCE’s adoption of a universally recognized working definition will be crucial towards coordinating a comprehensive push to both monitor anti-Semitic incidents over time and persecute offenders through legal and societal means.

Moreover, Special Envoy Forman was optimistic that the Office of Religion and Global Affairs’ new database compiling the “best practices” of domestic and global organizations promoting religious and cultural tolerance and fighting discrimination will lead to better coordination



among nongovernmental organizations. One of the more interesting parts of the discussion focused on the differences between punishing verbal and written anti-Semitism in Europe, which has historically relied on punitive legal measures, and the United States, where prosecution is far more difficult due to the robust free speech protections provided by the 1st Amendment. Interestingly enough, some European countries like France are looking to the United States as an example of how civil society can be inspired to organically condemn anti-Semitism so perpetra-

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# The Unesco Resolutions – Further Reducing A Toothless United Nations

By LTC (USA, Ret) Lance Allen Wang,  
Associate Editor

*Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.*

There's an old saying that "the road to hell is paved with good intentions." Probably nowhere is this more evident than in the United Nations (UN). The UN was formed with the intention of sustaining peace by promoting international cooperation. While preventing global war has been a success – indeed, it was a showdown in the UN which helped bring the Cuban Missile Crisis to a close – the organization has hardly met its full promise.

Part of the challenge of the UN is that its moral clarity is often obscured by the biases of its members. While some of the overt bias is almost laughable, such as allowing China and Saudi Arabia on the United Nations Human Rights Council, at other times the bias is dangerous. Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, freely admitted in 2013 that the UN does have a bias against Israel, although he later walked back his remarks. Regardless, Israel has inevitably found itself on the losing end against coalitions of anti-Israeli elements within the UN for many years, and considering the recent actions by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), this trend will remain unchanged.

While the recent UNESCO resolution, called "Occupied Palestine," really doesn't carry a tremendous amount of impact as it has no enforcement mechanism, it does again codify the bias that Mr. Ban spoke about. A week later, a follow-on resolution regarding the "Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls" passed with slightly more conciliatory language, only through some last-minute maneuvering by Israel. The crux of the issue in both of these resolutions is that they support Palestinian claims to Jerusalem by affirming the Islamic ties to the city- the first resolution completely negates any historical claims or ties to the city by the Jewish people, or for that matter, Christians. The second resolution did, in a shift from the first resolution, actually use some of the Jewish terms of reference for the Western Wall, but still refers to the Temple Mount solely as Al Sharam Al Sharif.

It seems terribly ironic that the UN, an organization which was born out of the ashes of



World War II, a period of great tragedy to the world in general and the Jews in particular, seems hell-bent on fomenting the type of discord which leads inevitably to more bloodshed. Prime Minister Menachem Begin said that to understand Israel, you must understand the Holocaust. So long as Hamas, one of the two major entities speaking for the Palestinian territories, keeps the destruction of Israel as one of the goals of its charter, Begin would maintain that we must take that claim seriously – "... if an enemy of our people says he seeks to destroy us, believe him. Don't doubt him for a moment. Don't make light of it." Not all destruction need be kinetic.

To delegitimize Israeli claims on ground sacred to the Jewish people is another element of Israel's destruction. With the understanding that wherever politics and religion meet is a very messy place indeed, one would hope that an organization that maintains "Educational Scientific and Cultural" in its title as a UN agency would, at the very least, acknowledge the cultural basis for Jewish interest in Jerusalem. But it is not to be - sometimes, far more can be achieved or destroyed with the scratch of a pen than has ever been done with explosives.

I still remember as a kid in the early 1970s trick-or-treating with a little box from UNICEF, collecting change to support UN programs to feed starving children. These sorts of efforts from the UN are laudable. However, the UN has zero credibility when it comes to wielding political power – they do not represent the "honest broker."

Still, despite our frustrations with the UN, all agree that it is better to have a forum for discussion than not. However, until that forum can focus on the true impediments to the peace process – such as ensuring that all parties are willing to accept that Israel has a right to exist, does exist, and will continue to exist – only then can parties move forward towards peace. For now, we are stuck with incremental delegitimizing resolutions such as we see from UNESCO, which only further diminishes an already-diminished UN.

## Times are Changing

*Continued from page 1*

your voice matters!

► We have to change the narrative- and we need your help to do it. Your opinions cannot be heard if you don't show up. On our end, we will introduce more networking opportunities, workshops, and training on JWV's policies and Post administration guides.

► Teleconferences will be held on a larger variety of topics, and led by those who are knowledgeable in that field. Being a moderator means being able to lead a valid discussion and ask insightful questions; it also means sharing advice and being honest about what works and what doesn't.

► Instead of the schedule being determined a year ahead of time, we will notify membership via email a month or two ahead of time.

Lastly, and most importantly, email matters. We live in an increasingly digital world that moves faster every day. I ask you to be flexible. Don't have email? Ask someone you know, or a grandchild, to help you create one. Only check your email once a month? Make a pact to check it once a week.

JWV regularly sends out newsletters, updates, and other important information. Your Post should also be using email to send out local information about meetings and events. We use email to communicate, ask questions, and share data. Quick responses are often needed to help produce a fast turnaround.

I understand that change is not simple, nor is it quick. But together we can create a community that lasts so that we can continue doing what we do best- helping veterans.

## Retaining Members

*Continued from page 7*

- Example: The Post fed 200 troops from the Joint Base facility on Thanksgiving Day prior to their departure to theatre.
- Example: We partnered with three local Jewish day schools to build and send 300 care packages to troops overseas.
- Example: Our very own Herb Goldspan won a \$500 recreation room remodel for Ft. Madison Veterans Memorial Home at the biannual County Bingo Competition.
- Example: Our Ladies Auxiliary volunteered 400 hours at the VA Clinic last month, hosting dance classes.

We meet on (dates/times) at (Place). Join us for some good times, good deeds, and good people. Thank you for your continued support!

Yours in comradeship,

(Name of Post Commander, Quartermaster, or person in charge of membership outreach- don't forget to include contact information!)



# JWV Convention Survey Results

This fall, we sent out an online survey to help us determine how we can best serve your needs and interests. This is especially pertinent as we head into our first year with a five day convention in San Antonio, TX. While it garnered a disappointingly low number of responses, we gathered enough data to help us determine the future of our conventions and NEC conference.

We understand that the system of meetings that may have worked ten years ago does not necessarily fit the organization we are now. However, we cannot give the membership what they want if they don't show up. Change is a difficult topic for all, and requires some compromise on both sides. You want change? Help us create it, but also understand our limitations.

Transparency is key to building understanding. We are writing about this data in an effort to move forward and give you, our members, what you want.

This survey skews older right off the bat- 80% of respondents are over the age of 65, while only 20% are below. Ninety-nine percent of respondents are male. Immediately we see that we are dealing with an older generation whose age is a major factor, and who want change but are unwilling or unable to directly participate.

Fifty percent of the survey was completed by members in New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Texas. Eighteen states in total were represented.

These statistics and responses tell us that while many people want change, they do not always see the value of certain meetings. Some workshops and meetings are necessary, however, even if they are unpopular with the attendees. We must change the conversation and the frame of reference.

For example, 13% of respondents are not interested in learning how to file their Post's taxes,



but this is essential for the Post to remain in good standing, legal with the IRS, and the Membership Department spends a large amount of time guiding people through the process. Thirty percent are not interested in the Insurance meeting, but every echelon must have insurance. Twenty-one percent see no reason for the Iraq and Afghanistan meeting, yet these are the people we are actively trying to recruit.

Sixty-four percent would like more social gatherings, but 62% want more opportunities to learn about Post administration, duties, and policies. There is simply not enough time for both. We are not ignoring your concerns and requests, but we have to be cognizant of everyone's time and purpose.

Over 50% of respondents cited their main reason for not attending Convention or NEC is due to cost. Comments ranged from geographic issues to the cost of "frills" to the use of non-hub cities as convention locations. We certainly understand the frustration, but here is our reasoning:

It's not easy to choose a Convention location. Contracts have to be signed at least a year prior, and are heavily negotiated after months of research and site visits to different locales. We have to take a number of things into consideration, including number of handicap rooms, price per night, price based on time of the week, proxim-

ity of both the airport and restaurants, food and beverage minimums, meeting space, and other concessions. Given that we have an aging membership and our Convention attendees are almost always over the age of 60, we also have to take walking and transportation into account.

To hold the Convention in a "hub city" would increase the rate per room night by \$50 or more, which adds up quickly. There is certainly a trade-off- perhaps it's a bit cheaper to fly to New York City, but it would cost a lot more overall to book a hotel block there. We are more likely to get a better turn out if the majority of our members live within a few hours of the location, whether by flight or by car. This is one of the major reasons it's been several years since a Convention was held on the West Coast.

We also found that while most respondents had attended at least one Convention, most did not attend NEC because they thought it was only open to the National Executive Committee (NEC) member from their Department. This is not the case.

We call the February conference "NEC" because it's easy to say, and because its purpose originally centered about the NEC business meeting itself- while only NEC representatives can vote at this meeting, any and all members are welcome to attend and listen! There are numerous meetings and sessions that are open to all members- in fact, 2017 will have an all new NEC schedule. There's also Capitol Hill Action Day when we "Storm the Hill" to advocate for our veterans, Shabbat services, and the NMAJMH board meeting.

Progress can be slow, and change can be difficult. We ask that you have patience with both, and if you have concerns- we want to know because your opinions, as members of this organization, matter. You can contact us at [jwv@jwv.org](mailto:jwv@jwv.org).

## The Sharon Helman Case - Why It's Not So Easy to Get Rid of Corrupt VA Employees

By Harvey Weiner, JWV National Judge Advocate

The JWV, along with eleven other veterans organizations, have intervened in the case of Sharon M. Helman v. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which is pending before the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C. According to the briefs and our own pro bono (free) counsel, the facts are as follows: Sharon Helman was a senior executive at the Phoenix VA hospital and was fired on November 25, 2014, for retaliating against a VA whistleblower, for accepting \$50,000 in gifts from federal contractors including a trip to Disney World and a ticket to a Beyoncé concert, and for filing false financial disclosure forms. She appealed her firing to the Administrative Law Judge, who affirmed her firing. In the companion criminal matter, she pled guilty in 2016 to making a false financial disclosure to the federal government and received two years'

probation.

After her various acts took place and in response to problems with the VA nationally, on September 26, 2014, the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act ("VACAA") was signed into law, which cuts off any rights of appeal for individuals like Sharon Helman after the Administrative Law Judge's decision. Formerly, she would have had a right to appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board, which reviews decisions by the Administrative Law Judge. She responded by filing an appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and argued that Congress could not take away her right of appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The major legal argument is interesting (for lawyers, anyway) and intertwined with the Constitutional balance of power between the executive and legislative branch. Sharon Helman was an appointee of the executive branch. The

second paragraph of Article II, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution ("the Appointments Clause") vests the power to appoint "Officers of the United States" (query, was Sharon Helman an "Officer"?), solely in the president. Does this act of Congress infringe upon the executive's powers under the Appointments Clause and is thereby unconstitutional? The Department of Justice apparently thinks so and has refused to defend the elimination of the appeal aspect of VACAA and the VA in court. The twelve veterans groups moved to intervene in the case so that someone would defend the statute and the VA, because they believe that they are helping veterans by upholding a statute which facilitates the prompt and final firing of incompetent or corrupt VA senior employees. It is unusual but not unprecedented for a court to allow intervention by nonparties in this type of situation.

*Continued on page 16*



# NEW MEMBERS

## DEPARTMENT AT LARGE (POST 100)

David Hyre

## DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Howard Margulis-680 • Russell Wise-118 • Bernard Cowan-138 • Peter Lister-138

## DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Lawrence Jasper-373 • Marvin Wolf-172 • Harold Rosenberg-172

## DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Harry Leventhal-89 • Marvin Fishman-153 • Sidney Weiner-153 • Jack Hornung-153

## DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Col. Beverly I. Maliner-167 • Philip Zenchoff-167 • Steven Goldberg-167 • Steven Kline-567 • Jacob Oberstein-692 • Miriam Grinberg-567

## DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Ronald Kunitz-644 • William Greenberg-605 • Alan Becker-605 • C. B. Alport-605

## DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA/ARIZONA

Charlene Bootzin-64

## DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Burton Schaffer-126 • Allan Linder-311 • Louis Oringer-609 • Jon Windholz-609 • Robert Yen-609 • Alan Klooon-609 • Max Silverstein-538 • Leonard Mayersohn-178 • Allen Delevett-133 • Harvey Urman-651 • Stanley Saal-538 • Arnold Kimmel-126

## DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Marc Sommers-336 • Bernard Artz-717 • Jack Fishman-717 • Stanley Levin-717 • Stephen Siliznol-717 • Eli Sloves-625 • Stephen Appelbaum-69 • Herbert Steinberg-336

## DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

George Goodman-697 • Stephen Salkof-697 • Jerome Gottesman-697 • Michael Shapiro-575

## DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Elliot Rubenstein-320 • Arnold Tillinger-320 • Millard Biloon-320 • Andrew Ames-320 • Martin Karp-320 • Irwin Leon Aronson-320

## DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Peter Marcus-256 • Judy Minkin-256 • Yosef Ben Yisrael-749 • Jeff Reichman-757 • Violet Lawson-795

## Survey: Women Troops

Continued from page 1

by that, because that is how most of us feel about our experiences,” said Ellen Haring, director of the SWAN’s Service Women’s Institute. “Even if you had some bad experiences, for most of us the positives have outweighed that.”

Group officials said they don’t want the results to minimize the problems with misogyny and sexual assault in the ranks. But they do hope the survey results help broaden public understanding of what female servicemembers have done while serving, and create a broader appreciation of their sacrifices.

The survey drew responses from nearly 1,200 active-duty troops, reservists and veterans over the last 45 days.

When asked to rank the three most pressing issues facing women troops and veterans, access to women-specific health care in the Defense Department, access to women-specific health care in VA and access to mental health programs topped respondents’ list.

► But when asked their own most pressing challenges, the women answered differently. About 35 percent still said access to mental health care was of top importance, but that was followed by finding ways to connect with other women veterans (32 percent) and ensuring their families’ financial stability (32 percent).

► Roughly 68 percent said the military needs to take a bigger role in improving awareness of women’s military and veterans contributions, and 57 percent said veterans groups need to do more.

► Forty-seven percent said the media needs to do a better job with that. When asked how often the entertainment industry portrays servicewomen, 78 percent said they rarely or never see those roles.

► Results of the survey are available online at SWAN’s web site.

## PEOPLE & PLACES

► On Veterans Day, Chaplain Jerry Farris of Post 239 PA conducted an afternoon service at Ann’s Choice in Warminster, PA, that focused on veterans. Later that evening, she led the National Anthem, Hatikva, and Kiddush at Shaare Shamayim Synagogue in North Philadelphia. Great work representing JWV, Jerry!



LTC (R) George Heart, WSG, of Atlanta Post 112 helping troops complete their JWV in-service membership applications. Ft. Benning, Georgia. Photo by Marc Urbach Photography.



Congratulations to Post 972 for their wonderful newsletter which focused on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor. We are so proud of their efforts to keep these veterans’ memories alive.



Post 608 AL as they get ready to ride in the 2016 Veterans Day Parade. From left to right, Commander Robert Rutstein, Phil Teninbaum, Donna Berry, and Past Commander Herb Rosenbaum.

## Sharon Helman Case

Continued from page 15

The case was argued on December 5, 2016, before the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, which took the case under advisement. Because of the importance of the issues, the Court allowed the parties to argue more than twice the normal time allotted. A decision is expected within four to six months.

If Sharon Helman wins, she is not necessarily reinstated in her job. It just means that she has a further right of appeal, but the process drags on. Veterans groups must stand up in court for veterans, particularly where it affects the most vulnerable veterans—those under the care and protection of the VA. Even if the JWV is ultimately unsuccessful, it is worth the fight. Stay tuned.



# NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

## Development Committee Report

*PNC Monte Mayer, Chairman*

I am pleased to report that the 2017 Annual Calendar is ready for your direct mail reception. Since this is the 100th anniversary of the United States entering World War I, we remember with pride those members who served this country during that conflict. There were Medal of Honor recipients and many unspoken heroes who preceded us in JWV. We honor these individuals, both male and female, who served our country in its need. From the walls in New Amsterdam to Iraq and Afghanistan today, our Jewish-American brethren have always served admirably.

Our programs for the 2016 year were well received and accomplished their primary function, raising the funds necessary for JWV to continue its activities. Our 2016 Calendar, Mailing Labels, the Defenders program for our donors only, and our High Holiday Cards are the mailings that went out this year.

We do know that the High Holiday cards were received late this year, and for that we sincerely apologize. There was a degree of circumstances out of our control, but I hope you were still able to use and appreciate the beautiful cards.

If you are a member or Patron and have not

received these mailings, then please contact JWV by mail or e-mail. Make sure to tell our Development Department that you are not on the mailing list.

If you have a story to tell, please take the time to send us a copy of your story with photos of your service so that we can consider it for publication in the Calendar or The Veteran.

## Scouting Committee Report

*Dr. Barry J. Schneider, National Scouting Chair*

The Scouting Committee is beginning to make progress because of the workshop held during National Convention. I have also received two inquiries about membership on the committee, and several requests for certifications or information on how to get certificates because of the article published in the last issue of The Veteran.

A new form to request Eagle Scout certificates was developed by JWV Program's Assistant Adam Lammon. The form will give us consistency and provide a record of recipients. You can find the form at [www.jwv.org/programs/patriotic/boy\\_scouts](http://www.jwv.org/programs/patriotic/boy_scouts) or by emailing Adam at [alammon@jwv.org](mailto:alammon@jwv.org).

I certainly recommend that we continue to have workshops at National Convention, and

that we keep publishing articles in the Veteran as events dictate. Please keep us up to date if you are active within the Boy Scout or Girl Scout community in your local area!

## NMI Certificates

*Hannah Deutch, NMI Certificates Chair*

This is the first time in a long time that I am happy to make this report. From the convention in August through November 15, we received the following requests:

JWV \$1,556 plus JWVA \$50 for a total of \$1,606. This is for a period of three months. If you keep up the good work, the nine month period ahead should give us a total of \$6,424 for a year. Please JWVA, can you try to do a little better?

If we take the figures from NEC in February until November 15, it looks quite different. JWV \$5,292 plus JWVA \$299 for a total of \$5,491 for a nine month period. Both totals take us above the requested budget.

Thank you one and all until the next report.

I wish you all a happy, safe, and joyful Chanukah!

OFFERED TO



OUR VALUED JWV MEMBERS AND SPOUSES AGE 65 AND OLDER

ATTENTION

MEMBERS!

# CAN YOU COVER WHAT YOUR COVERAGE DOES NOT?

After you're discharged from the hospital, what plan covers your costly "recovery care" services?

Possibly, your personal or retirement savings plan.

**KNOW YOUR OPTIONS! PLEASE CALL:  
1-800-503-9230 or visit [www.jwvinsure.com](http://www.jwvinsure.com)**

Hearing-impaired or voice-impaired members may call the Relay Line at 1-800-855-2881.

## GET THE FACTS — NOW!

**FACT #1** MEDICARE limits the home health care it will pay for.

**FACT #2** TRICARE has strict criteria to qualify and does not cover home health aide, homemaker or companion services at all.

**ALERT!** If you need more than what Medicare or TRICARE covers, you may either pay for it yourself — or go without.

**The JWV Hospital Income and Short Term Recovery Insurance Plan** can help put you in charge, with **CASH BENEFITS** for hospital AND at-home recovery care.

- Affordable JWV-negotiated group rates for members/spouses
- Cash benefits paid directly to you or anyone you choose, in addition to any other coverage you may have
- Use the money any way you want — no restrictions

Plan information includes costs, exclusions, limitations, reduction of benefits and terms of coverage. Coverage may not be issued in some states. All benefits are subject to the terms and conditions of the policy. Policies underwritten by Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company detail exclusions, limitations, reduction of benefits and terms under which the policies may be continued in force or discontinued.



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# NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.A.

Dear Sisters,

It has been truly a wonderful experience for me the past three months since I was elected and sworn in as your President. Your caring and commitment towards me has been selfless.

Your support of our organization shows the love we have for our country and the respect for past and present Veterans. Our community programs, our love for children and our support of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History is just a brief synopsis of what we are all about.

I have been speaking to our Past National Presidents and many of our sisters. Our PNP, Marcia Kantorwitz, shared with me that she wore her JWVA uniform on Veterans Day at her new residence.

The residents were very impressed and she shared with them her experience as President and the background of the National Ladies Auxiliary of the JWV. She was so honored to represent us and we have so much to be proud of for all the great deeds we do.

The NEC is February 16 - February 19, 2017 at the Marriott in Crystal City and I am looking forward to seeing and spending time with my JWV and JWVA family.

A very Happy Hanukkah and I am wishing for the festival of lights shine down upon you and your loved ones. May your New Year be filled with Peace, Love and Harmony. Happy New Year 2017!

Loyally,  
Linda



**Linda S. Colón**



JWVA says thank you to all JWV and JWVA members and friends who purchased a box in our annual World Series Pool. The winner of the \$250 prize was PNP Joanne Blum.

*PNP Charlene Ehrlich, Chairman*

*Thank you to all who  
remembered me after my fall.  
Your thoughts and support  
were greatly appreciated.*

*Loyally yours,  
Barbara Greenberg, PNP*

## Rhea Sahl Memorial Baby Shower for Military Women

By PNP Elaine Bernstein, Chairman

This coming year at our convention in San Antonio, Texas we will be holding our annual baby shower for the benefit of pregnant military women. It is our way of saying Thank You to these women for serving our country.

We fill the baskets with items needed for a newborn. If you would like to make a purchase of these items yourself, you may do so, but remember we need neutral colors that can be for either girls or boys. If you would like us to do the shopping, kindly send your monetary donation by check payable to PNP Rita Panitz, 858 Cardinal Pointe Cove, Sanford, FL 32771 and earmark Baby Shower.



**Baskets for baby shower prepared for our 2016 National Convention in Savannah, Georgia**



**The JWV Ladies Auxiliary National President, Linda Colon, honored at Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital Presentation.**



Dear Sisters, press releases can be submitted to your local Jewish newspaper, your neighborhood papers, city newspapers or local TV stations. Try to include pictures of recent JWVA events.

Are you Patriotic? Are you related to a Veteran? Are you sensitive to Veteran's causes?

Please consider joining the Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary. We help Veterans in the hospitals, and throughout the community. We participate in all Veterans activities at VA hospitals such as:

Stand Down, Homeless Dinners, Bingo games, Christmas Mitzvahs etc. ...

Join us at our next prospective membership event and experience the rewarding feeling of serving our Veterans.

Sandra Cantor, Chairman - Publicity

**HAND IN HAND WE STAND TALL**



## SAVE THE DATE!

**August 27 - September 1, 2017**

We will be having our National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Please set these dates aside because this will be one of the best yet! Information will be forthcoming.

Rita Panitz • PNP Convention Chairman

Barbara Greenberg • PNP Convention Co-Chairman

### WOW!

The next time you go to our Museum in Washington, check out the PNP Paver. At the Convention in Savannah, the Past National Presidents voted to buy a large paver. Join us with yours! Joanne Blum, PNP, President, PNP Club



Presentation of Charter by National Conductress, Rosalind Kaplan to President Jayne Michel of Auxiliary 755, Ft Worth, Texas. This is our newest Auxiliary!

### AID TO ISRAEL By Verna Rosenzweig, AP • Chairman, Aid to Israel



JWVA proudly supports the Chaim Sheba Medical Centre in Tel Hashomer, Israel through the purchase of bricks, donation of equipment, funds for nurses' scholarships.

The hospital was established in 1948 as Israel's first military hospital to treat casualties of Israel's War of Independence. It was founded in a cluster of abandoned military barracks and was originally known as Army Hospital No. 5. In 1953 it became a civilian hospital and Dr. Chaim Sheba became its director. Following Dr. Sheba's death the hospital was renamed in his honor.

Chaim Sheba includes an acute care hospital which is one of the largest rehabilitation hospitals in the world, a women's hospital, a children's hospital, an eating disorder clinic, a PTSD clinic for soldiers, a laboratory division, an outpatient division, and an academic campus.

Chaim Sheba Medical Centre provides services to patients from across the Middle East including many patients (especially children) from the Palestinian Authority. It also provides guidance and mentoring in the planning, construction and operation of healthcare systems and hospitals around the world.

We are asking for your support of our Aid to Israel Program and your prayers for their safety.

## \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ FUNDRAISING \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Dear Sisters,

We will have many things for sale at the NEC in February. Just think how much fun you can have choosing from many items and at the same time support your National Ladies Auxiliary.

If you knit or crochet, please take home the instructions for the crutch covers. This is our newest fundraiser which benefits the military at Camp Pendleton, California and our National Ladies Auxiliary. We will have a variety of watches, Las Vegas tear-offs and woolen scarves for sale.

Don't forget to bring your check or cash for all the change that you have collected in your "Every Penny Counts Box" since August. Then, you can start all over again collecting from the NEC until our National Convention in August.

I hope to see many Sisters from all over the Country in Crystal City, VA in February.

Loyally,  
Linda P. Singer, NJVP  
Chairman, Fundraising



Attention Knitters...please make these pictured crutch pads. Get the instructions from Linda. National will be rewarded \$5.00 per pad.



### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Be a wise consumer! This advice is more important now than ever before. Our modern technology that is so helpful, can also be a source of identity theft and scams of many types. Here are some resources to help you stay informed:

The United States General Services Administration Federal Citizen Information Center produces a wonderful Consumer Action Handbook full of information from the Federal Trade Commission about a wide range of issues. Their list of Better Business Bureaus, state and local Consumer Protection Offices, and Corporate Consumer Contacts is invaluable. They also have many other specialized brochures. Make note of your state or local Consumer Office right away for future use. You can contact the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP or [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) to order these free materials.

AARP produces an excellent series of free consumer brochures on subjects such as "The Top Frauds and Scams" and "Avoiding Investment Scams and Frauds." To order these, call 1-888-687-2277 or visit [www.aarp.org/money](http://www.aarp.org/money).

Harriet Epstein, PAP, Consumer Affairs Chairman

Editor's Note: The next deadline is February 24, 2017.

Attention all chairmen: please send captions with your photos designating the event and naming the people in the photo.

Mail to: Marion Chasen

64 Lawrence Drive, Apt. A,  
White Plains, NY 10603

OR email [marionchason@gmail.com](mailto:marionchason@gmail.com).

## HAND IN HAND WE STAND TALL



## President's Message

The connection between Jews in the American military and Israel goes way back. Isaac N. Cohen served in the Civil war from 1862 – 1865 with the 14th New Hampshire Infantry. Cohen was an immigrant born in Jerusalem. He entered the Army from Kensington, New Hampshire, where he worked as a cigar maker. His discharge paper issued at the end of the war in Savannah on July 8, 1865, lists his birthplace as Jerusalem, Syria. It's fascinating to think about what Cohen's journey from Jerusalem to the War Between the States must have been like.

It's important to maintain our connection to Israel in the tradition of Isaac Cohen. In today's America, too often Jewish service in the military is associated exclusively with Israel and the IDF. It's equally important to remember how many Jews, like Israel Cohen and every member

of the Jewish War Veterans, have contributed to the American military. That's our mission at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Help us to tell the stories of men and women who served their country. Help us to discover more about men like Isaac Cohen and those who served before and after him.

The Our Heroes photo kiosk is just one opportunity to be represented at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Support the museum by placing your photo or your hero's photo on the kiosk with a \$180 donation. This is a way to help ensure that Jewish service in the American military gets recognized. Show your place in this important history.

The easiest way to order is on our website at <https://nmajmh.org/product/our-heroes-photo-kiosk/>. You can enter the name, branch of service



**PNC Joseph Zoldan  
President, NMAJMH**

and other information directly on the website and upload a photo of you or your hero. We'll get everything printed and installed on the kiosk in the museum's exhibit space. Thanks for your continued support of the museum!

## Program Updates

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

We continued our author talk series with Douglas Stark on September 18th. Stark is the author of *The SPHAS: The Life and Times of Basketball's Greatest Jewish Team and Wartime Basketball: The Emergence of a National Sport during World War II*. He discussed the history of Jews in basketball and how war changed the game as it emerged as a professional sport. Some of the best teams in basketball during the 1940s were service squads including the Great Lakes Naval Station team. Another Navy team at Norfolk Naval Training Station included some Jewish all-time greats of the game like Red Auerbach and Red Holzman.

Author Samantha Horwitz joined us on October 16th. She wrote *The Silent Fall: A Secret*

Service Agent's Story of Tragedy and Triumph After 9/11. She took us through her dramatic experiences on 9/11. Sam was in the parking garage below One World Trade Center when the plane hit the building. She worked to evacuate people from the other buildings amid the chaos of that day. The trauma she experienced had a tremendous impact on her life. Sam described her continuing journey to overcoming the post-traumatic stress. Today, she devotes herself to helping others with PTSD, including veterans.

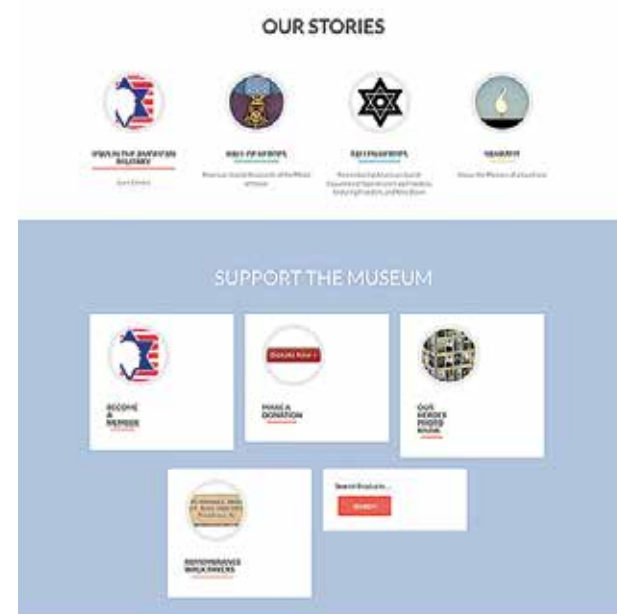
The week of Veterans Day was busy! We put together care packages for hospitalized veterans at the museum. It was nice to work with several partners on this one. Our thanks to Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital, MoEd/דעו"מ: A Jewish Afterschool Community, Sephardic Heritage in D.C., and Moishe House Capitol Hill. Our "Erev Veterans Day" activity including a concert of Sephardic music from Judith Cohen. The concert attendees brought books, games, toiletries, and other materials to include in the care packages.

On Veterans Day, we had children, adults, locals, and visitors from around the country helping with the project. It was great to see our Education Center filled with a couple hundred completed care packages by the end of the day. Thanks to all who participated!

Most of the visitors got tours of the museum and were excited to learn more about the contributions of American Jews to the military. We want to continue to use the museum to connect the Jewish community to their history as well as provide a link to living veterans. More than one visitor commented that it was great to have a Jewish connection to Veterans Day.



A Veterans Day card made by a student from MoEd/דעו"מ: A Jewish Afterschool Community.



Keep up to date with the museum at [nmajmh.org](http://nmajmh.org)! Recent additions on the website include stories on Major David Salisbury Franks and the Founding Fathers in the American Revolution and Solomon Isquith and the Attack on Pearl Harbor created via our new partnership with the Google Cultural Institute. There's also always updates on what's happening at the museum and how you can support NMAJMH.



## From Our Archives By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

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

First and foremost, one of the simplest (and arguably the most important) things that you can do to preserve your photos is to caption them. Identify who is in the picture, and when and where it was taken. When labeling photos use a felt tip pen or a pencil; many stores sell specific film and photo marking pens. A ballpoint pen can leave an impression on the reverse side of your photo, so avoid using them. If you can only do one thing to help preserve your photos, caption them. Captioning photos preserves the information about and within the photos, enabling the photo to tell its story to future generations. Keeping a photo in pristine, but unlabeled, condition is of no use to future generations if they do not know who is in the photo and when and where it was taken. If you do nothing else, caption those photos!

Store photographs in cool, dry areas. Damp conditions can encourage the growth of mold, attract insects, and cause photographs to curl or to stick together. Avoid hot attics or damp basements or garages. Hot storage conditions can speed deterioration, resulting in staining, discoloration, and embrittlement. The worst place to keep your photos is in an attic or basement as high temperatures and high relative humidity levels will accelerate deterioration.

Exposure to visible and ultraviolet light is potentially damaging to photographs. Light can cause brittleness, discoloration, and fading in prints and hand-colored surfaces. For this reason, you should avoid long-term display of pho-

tographs. If you have photographs that you are particularly concerned about preserving, consider having copies made and displaying those instead so that you can safely store (and preserve) the originals.

Small groups of photographs of the same size and type can be kept together in small groups within folders or envelopes within boxes. Use preservation-quality folders and boxes that are

ylene. Do not laminate photographs as this can permanently damage them.

Finally, many people these days are amassing huge collections of digital photographs. It is important to also think about how those photographs will survive into the future. You will want to consider having multiple copies of the photos stored on external hard drives. This will protect you in case anything catastrophic should happen

to your computer. As with print images, you will want to preserve the information about your photographs so future generations can decipher them. Create a directory structure for storing your pictures. You can organize your photos by year, location, person, or any other method that makes sense to you. Captioning is still important, and one of the easiest ways to caption a digital image is to name the files with a description of its contents, such as "jacob\_wedding.jpg" or "washington-sunset.jpg."

Make sure to delete any spaces in a file name; some programs have trouble when they encounter file-name spaces. An even better naming practice is

to include the date of the photo in the file name. "Year-month-day" is one way to do it. So, if I took a photo in Washington on November 13, 2016, I might name it "20161113-washington.jpg."

Keep in mind that if your digital photos are difficult for you to manage, how will your loved ones be able to make sense of them in the future?



Digital photo of Gregory Weiss on a Blackhawk helicopter to Balad in Iraq, 2004. The filename - "Blackhawk to Balad" - for the digital photo serves as its caption.

large enough to fully enclose and support the photographs. Avoid materials such as acidic paper or cardboard (no shoeboxes!). Choose materials that say "archival" on the label. Photographs in poor condition or that have special value can be individually stored in stable plastic sleeves made from preservation-quality polyester or polyeth-



An example of a photograph that was poorly maintained. It appears that the photo was stored folded, as evidenced by the vertical creases. As the photo aged and became more and more brittle, cracks formed and eventually the whole left side broke off. Someone tried to repair a crack on the right side with tape, causing more damage to the photo.

## Examples of a "bad" and a "good" photo

An example of a well-maintained photograph that has been captioned. Without the caption it would be difficult to know that these men are celebrating their freedom at POW Camp Omori. Caption on back: "Taken at Camp Omori, Tokyo, Japan. Aug 29, 1945. First camp to be liberated by 4th Marines." Donated by Harry C. Liskowsky, who was a POW at the camp.





**DEPARTMENT AT LARGE**

Claude Mowery-100 • Mortimer I. Gordon-344

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA**

Herbert A. Berger-118 • Manuel Fisher-185 •  
Sigmund G. Schiff-603 • Murray Codman-617  
• Martin Dash- 688 • Alan Kurchin-760 • Sadie  
Sonnenreich-786

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**Anti-Semitism**

*Continued from page 13*

tors are isolated and discredited as ignorant and abhorrent attention seekers. Proponents of the American model believe it to be both more credible and deterring than relying on legal means, which engender resistance from free speech advocates and those whom feel they are being silenced by the government.

Despite that the world has a long way to go before Jews no longer have to endure the prejudiced and conspiracy-laden diatribes of anti-Semites, the work of the U.S. government and its many allies has been instrumental in moving us towards a brighter future. On behalf of JWV, I would like to thank Special Envoy Forman and the Office of Religion and Global Affairs for their unwavering support for Jews and American values.

Worried about anti-Semitism? The Anti-Defamation League at [www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org) has educational resources and a function for reporting hate crimes.

If you would like to report an anti-Semitic incident or comment on government policies or judicial decisions, you can contact the U.S. Office for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism at [SEASinfo@state.gov](mailto:SEASinfo@state.gov). A fact sheet can also be found at <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/fs/2010/122352.htm>

**San Francisco's New Korean War Memorial Now Open to the Public**

After nearly seven years of effort, the new Korean War Memorial in the Presidio of San Francisco has now been completed. On the morning of Monday, August 1, 2016, hundreds of the dwindling number of Korean War veterans and their families and descendants gathered in the Presidio for the long-awaited Opening Ceremony. They were joined by government and business leaders, donors, supporters, and friends from all over the United States, the Republic of Korea, and other nations. In all, more than 1,000 people participated in this landmark event.

The speakers and other dignitaries in attendance included former U.S. Congressman Pete McCloskey, former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Kathleen Stephens, Republic of Korea Ambassador to the United States Ahn Ho-young, U.S. Congressman Mike Honda, and JWV member Judge Quentin L. Kopp, of Post 688 CA and current President and Chair of KWMF.

The ceremony began in the San Francisco National Cemetery, where 2,273 Americans who fought in the Korean War are buried. After re-



The main Memorial wall, polished black granite laser-etched with iconic images from the Korean War.

marks by the distinguished speakers, the crowd then moved to the adjacent Korean War Memorial for the ribbon-cutting and official opening of the Memorial to the public. Now that the Memorial has become a reality, KWMF is funding and developing an education program to ensure that today's Bay Area youth and future generations remember the so-called "Forgotten War."

The main Memorial wall, polished black granite laser-etched with iconic images from the Korean War.





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# Happy Chanukah!



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

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

**Any Jewish WWII person captured and  
sent to Aushchwitz, etc., and survived**

**PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw**

**Eugene Baraw • Post 336**

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

**Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger**  
*Naples/Denver • USFA/USASETAF*

**Jerry Berns - Chicago Post 153**  
*In Memory of my Ethyle and Evelyn*

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

**In Memory of All who gave their lives**  
*Post 652-Merrick, NY*

**In Memory of Harold Cohen • Post 212**

**PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749**

**Marshall & Diane Duberstein**

**Gerald H. Elkan • North Carolina**

**Harold Engleman, K.C.C. / NEC**

**Nat'l Chaplain Jerry Farris • Post 239**

**Arthur Fleischman • PPC 717 & 258**

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

**In Memory of Norman Goldberg, PPC #98**

**PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg • Albany 105**

**PDC Sidney B. Goldberg**  
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**Alan J. Gould Post 105**  
*In Memory of Sam Gould, Post Cmdr.*

**Happy Passover • Post 169**

**Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321/69**  
*National Adjutant • 2016-2017*

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

**PNP Petra C. & Jason A. Kaatz**

**Jack Kent (Kantrovitz) • Post 62 OH**  
*In appreciation of Rabbi&Myra Feinberg*

**In Memory of PCC Harry Kreiger, DEC**  
*Gieir-Levitt Post 655*

**L'chaim - To Life**

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

**Bernie Rader • Post's 20 and 642**  
*In loving memory of those who served*

**From Ed Robins, in Honor of Helene**  
*Your memory will stay with me forever*

**Jerry & Lea Rosenberg • Post 740 NJ**  
*Good Health & Happiness to All*

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

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

**IMO Post 42's Four Legs of the Table**  
*Marty, Morris, Murray & Warren*

**Stephen & Helen Sax**

**To the 2%**

**Irv Schildkraut PPC Post 440**  
*USMC-USNR-USA*

**Harriet & Norman Schnitzer PDC**

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

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*In memory of PDC Bill Singer*

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*Toda Shalom & Good Health to all JWV*

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

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

**To All Surviving Jewish WWII prisoners**  
*L'Chaim!*

**NEC Paul and Norma Warner**

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

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

**Jeri Zweiman**  
*In loving memory of Bob Zweiman*

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**To All Our Troops • Be Safe, Be Well!**

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