



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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Coming Home

By Lance Allen Wang, Editor

This month's issue is dedicated to the theme "Coming Home," an important aspect of the wartime experience. It is sometimes an occasion for celebration. It is also sometimes its own devastating crucible. I had the distinct honor and privilege of writing the foreword to a book about my Uncle Julie's experiences as a World War II B-17 navigator, *One of Thousands* (Lulu Publishing, 2015). I recounted my experiences growing up in awe of this man, and he was perhaps the most important influence in my donning the uniform. But I closed with these lines:

"... But equally, what I wanted to know from him coming home from Iraq was how to be a war vet. Things change. Perspectives change. How do you wear something so much larger than yourself, those moments of fear, those moments of boredom in a foreign land, those 'crowded hours,' and incorporate them into who you are? Perhaps I expected more of Uncle Julie in this regard than he could provide. What did Uncle Julie do with his experiences of Europe? Where does it all go?"

No one teaches you how to be a veteran. My experience with redeployment programs found far more "check the block" than anything else (now,



Julius Zlasner, left, with Lance Wang.



Julius Zlasner in a B-17 bomber circa 1943.

granted, things may have changed in the nearly 10 years since I left the Army). They were simply mundane briefings to bored, fidgety soldiers who just wanted to go home. Back in my Uncle Julie's time, the decompression of redeployment was eased in some ways by extended journeys home on troop ships. The culture shock of Vietnam veterans – "Two days before I was in Vietnam – then all of the sudden I was in a college classroom," as one vet described it to me – was eased for World War II veterans by the shared experience of being on a troop ship with your comrades. Technological progress in transportation created its own set of problems.

Part of my coming home was eased by my search for historical perspective on coming home. Actually, the interviews that resulted in the book, *One of Thousands*, was part of that search – I'd developed my rapport anew with my Uncle while I was overseas. He began a correspondence with me, drawing the parallels between the experiences I wrote about overseas with his own when he was stationed in Nuthampstead, England, home of his 602nd Squadron, 398th Bomb Group (Heavy).

My search for perspective was also to view the 1946 Best Picture winner, *The Best Years of Our Lives*, which I

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CPL Morris Meshulam: Coming Home After 67 Years

By Anna Selman, Programs and Public Relations Coordinator

On June 4, 2018, JWV received a notification from the U.S. Army that the remains of CPL Morris Meshulam had been identified. CPL Meshulam, who died 67 years earlier, was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on July 11, 1931 to Sam and Pauline Meshulam. His parents were founding members of the Etz Chaim Congregation, which is a small community of Sephardic Jews in Indianapolis. According to the family, Morris dropped out of High School when he was 18 to sign up for the Army.

The little that we know of CPL Meshulam, or Moe as he liked to be called, comes from his surviving family – his sister Rose and his nephews Sam and Morris. Rose was contacted by the Army a couple of weeks ago, and she was in "total shock" that her baby brother was finally found. CPL Meshulam's brother, Jack and his twin sister Rae gave their DNA to DOD officials in 2006 to help identify Moe's body. Finally, Jack, Moe and Rae will be brought together in the family plot in Indianapolis later this year.

From what we do know about



CPL Morris Meshulam

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D'verei HaShomrim

All Israel Has a Portion in The World to Come

Near the end of the Passover Seder, we play a table game called "Who knows...?" including "Who knows six? Six sections the Mishnah has!" Following Passover, we begin reading one chapter a week of Mishnah Tractate Avoth, which translated means "Ethics of the Fathers". Avoth consists mostly of sage moral advice, aphorisms and a bit of theology attributed to the Tanna'im, the Rabbis of the land of Israel who lived up to around 200 CE. Tractate Avoth is the source for many of our most familiar rabbinic dictums such as Hillel's statement, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am for myself alone what am I? And if not now, when?" We read one of its six chapters each week for six weeks, traditionally after concluding the reading we repeat the cycle until the High Holidays. Consequently, the entire tractate is found in most weekly Jewish Prayerbooks. During this post Passover reading cycle, each Chapter is preceded by a prologue, a passage from an otherwise more difficult legal tractate, Sanhedrin. "All Israel have a portion in the world to come," as it is said in Isaiah 60; 'And all thy people shall be all righteous, they shall inherit the land for ever...' Thus, affirming redemption and resurrection to eternal life in a perfected world- for all our people.

But our weekly reading of Sanhedrin is only an out of context snippet. In its original context, the Sanhedrin passage deals with Israelites condemned to death by the court and affirms their punishment is only human, not divine, and that in the end of days the Holy One will redeem them along with the rest of us. Moreover, the Tractate Sanhedrin passage continues by listing the exceptions, those categories of Israelites such as an apikoros, a heretic, who do not have a place in the world to come. More detail on apikorsim, also known as hertics, will be given later. Included amongst the categories is a very short list of seven individually named unworthy Israelites. Curiously, the list of unworthy Israelites singled out by name includes Balaam, the primary protagonist of the upcoming Torah portion entitled Balak, set to be read on 30 June 2018. Balaam was a non-Israelite prophet hired in by Balak, the King of Moab, to curse the Israelites in the wilderness. However, each time he opened his mouth to curse the Israelite encampment a blessing came forth instead. In fact, we recite his "blessing" each time we enter our synagogues for worship in the familiar refrain; "Mah tovu ohalecha Ya-akov, mishcanotecha Yisrael," "How goodly are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel?"

Balaam's inclusion in the list of the unredeemed is curious for at least two reasons.

First, he was not Jewish, so why would we cite him in a list of Israelites excluded from life eternal in the world to come? This appears to be clear evidence that our sages believed the righteous of all nations would be redeemed. Judaism teaches non-Jews who follow the seven laws given to Noah are redeemed, "saved," just as righteous Jews are "saved."

Second, it is curious that the rabbis condemn as unworthy of redemption the author of one of our most familiar and beloved liturgical poems. Why? Because as the text in Torah makes clear, Balaam knew

full well his intended curse was false, not God's. Indeed, even the donkey upon which he rode could see the folly of his mission to curse Israel and tried to steer him off his fateful misadventure. Balaam clearly knew the truth, but tried to recite falsehoods. It seems Balaam's willingness to say whatever suited the temporal powers around him, and his total disregard for truth and what is right makes him worthy of clear condemnation despite his beautiful liturgical poem, the one bit of truth that he uttered only when coerced. Parenthetically, in Avoth, the rabbis declare the donkey's ability to talk as not a miracle but one of the ten wonders built into creation itself just as the first Shabbat approached.

Now more information about apikorsim- heretics. It's not easy to be an apikoros. You might imagine Judaism would declare an atheist, one who declares a non-belief in God or one without any faith to be an apikoros, to be outside the fold. Yet many of our most esteemed Zionists, such as Golda Meir, David Ben-Gurion and Berl Katznelson, who was a leading founder and early intellectual leader of Labor Zionism, were avowed socialist atheists. In their day, some argued they were apikorsim, but who amongst us today would declare these greats of Jewish history to be outside the fold? Unlike these giants of our history, one who accepts some other faith is called a mishumad, an apostate, meaning one who lamentably has chosen to leave the fold.

Many years ago, I was a representative of the Central Conference of American Rabbis to a conference on Education of the Consolidated Kibbutz Movement held at the kibbutz movement education and conference center, Bet Berl, named so after the aforementioned Berl Katznelson. The director of education for the Kibbutz movement, also named Berl in honor of Katznelson, began by relating that his father kept him from studying traditional Jewish texts such as Mishnah because he wanted to raise him to be an apikoros, a heretic. What he got instead was an *am ha-aretz*, an ignorant one. An *am ha-aretz* could be learned in many fields but was ignorant of our tradition and its meaning, perhaps knowing a bit here as there as is taught to children, but not really understanding the whole of Jewish tradition on an adult level. Much like Balaam, the cursed prophet who knew the truth and tried to reject it, one must really know Jewish tradition and consciously reject it to be considered an apikoros. Anyone can be an *am-haretz*, but you must aspire to be knowledgeable enough, learned enough, to be an apikoros. I do not wish for a generation of apikorsim, but it would be wonderful to be amongst those sufficiently knowledgeable to qualify for the title.



RADM Harold Robinson,
USN Ret.



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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Paul D. Warner, Ph.D.



Dear Friends and Comrades,

As I come into my final term as your National Commander, one Veteran's issue seems to be on my mind more than the rest – the problem of Veteran Homelessness.

"About 40,000 Veterans are homeless in the U.S. and any sign of an increase means the [Department of Veterans Affairs] needs to rethink its approach to combating the problem." VA former Secretary Dr. David Shulkin told members of Congress. "The key," he said, "is getting veterans employed and into sustainable housing."

Each year, VA's specialized homelessness programs provide healthcare to almost 150,000 homeless veterans and other services to more than 112,000 veterans. Additionally, more than 40,000 homeless veterans receive compensation or pension benefits each month.

There are many factors influencing all homelessness: (1) extreme shortage of affordable housing; (2) livable income and access to health care; (3) a large number of homeless and at-risk veterans suffer from PTSD and substance abuse, which are compounded by a lack of family and social support networks; and (4) compounding this is the inability of many veterans to obtain adequate civilian jobs since military training is not always transferable to the civilian workforce.

The VA has many programs to address homelessness, but most lack permanent authorization. Unfortunately, they are not properly integrated. What is sorely needed is a complete comprehensive package which can be uniformly applied. Currently, there are almost 100 individual proposals coming from the Senate and the House. There does not appear to be a single comprehensive proposal designed to address all of the veterans' homelessness problems.

The following are some of the more promising stand-alone congressional proposals:

Senate Bill 1072 is a comprehensive bill that seeks

to improve services for homeless veterans. Some of its features are: (1) Authorizing per diem payments for the care for a dependent of a homeless veteran while the veteran receives services from a VA grant and per diem recipient; (2) Having public and private entities provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness; (3) Authorizing the VA to provide dental care to certain eligible homeless veterans who are enrolled for care, and who are receiving housing assistance or care provided by or paid for by the VA; (4) Permanently authorizing the VA's referral and counseling programs for veterans at risk of homelessness; (5) Extending authority for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing; and (6) Requiring a GAO study of the effectiveness of the VA's homeless veterans' programs and improvement in addressing the care standards for women veterans.

It is interesting to note that it includes dental care in the middle of provisions for counseling and legal services. Better organization is necessary.

In the House of Representatives, there are a few bills being introduced that will help Veteran Homelessness if passed:

H.R.104 Helping Homeless Veterans Act of 2017, makes the following Department of Veterans Affairs programs and services permanent: (1) homeless veterans' reintegration programs; (2) referral and counseling services for veterans at risk of homelessness; (3) financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing; (4) a grant program for homeless veterans with special needs; (5) treatment and rehabilitation for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans; (6) housing assistance for homeless veterans; and (7) the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.

H.R.734 amends the Internal Revenue Code to provide a refundable credit against tax for landlords

of veterans receiving rental assistance under the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing.

H.R.1993 directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into partnerships with public or private entities in order to fund a portion of the legal services provided by them for housing, family law, income support, and criminal defense.

The most effective programs for homeless and at-risk veterans appear to be community-based, nonprofit, "veterans helping veterans" groups. Programs that seem to work best feature transitional housing, with the camaraderie of living in structured, substance-free environments with fellow veterans who are succeeding at bettering themselves.

It is critical, therefore, that we support community groups which reach out to help provide the support, resources and opportunities that most Americans take for granted: housing, employment and health care. Veterans who participate in collaborative programs are afforded more services and have higher chances of becoming tax-paying, productive citizens again. Information on local community groups can be obtained from your mayor's office and local politicians.

I hope that what I wrote inspires you to look at the issue of Veteran Homelessness as well. Whether it is writing a resolution for JWV on this issue or coming to Capitol Hill Action Day next spring to fight for our Veterans, I hope to see you out there on the front lines with me fighting this very important issue with me. As always, I hope to see you all at Convention this year.



National Achievement Program

Four grants will be awarded for the 2018 academic year:

Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grants: \$2,500 & \$1,000

Max R. & Irene Rubenstein Memorial Grant: \$1,500

Leon Brooks Memorial Grant: \$1,000

Eligibility:

JWVF sponsors an annual essay contest for current service members and veterans who plan to attend or are currently attending an accredited Associates, Bachelor's nursing, or graduate-degree program.

The **National Achievement Program** is open to anyone regardless of race, religion, creed, or culture. All veterans are eligible and must be legal residents of the USA.

Requirements:

Essays should be between 500-750 words. They must be written in English, and typed essays are preferred. Please read the question carefully to ensure that your essay

covers both parts of the theme.

2018 Essay Theme: What was your military experience AND how will that experience help you pursue your academic studies?

The essay will be assessed along the following criteria:

25% - Logic and coherence of the essay's organization

25% - Description of relevant military experience

50% - Answering both pieces of the essay question clearly and fully.

Applicants must also submit his or her most recent transcript (high school or college),



a copy of a college acceptance letter, and proof of honorable military service, such as a copy of a DD-214, military ID card, etc.

Send completed applications to:

Jewish War Veterans of the USA
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
Attn: Anna Selman

Due Date: July 17, 2018

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Selman in the Programs Department at 202-265-6280 or aselman@jwv.org.

Good luck to all applicants!

Robert Wilkie Nominated for VA Secretary

By Herb Rosenbleeth, National Executive Director

Robert L. Wilkie, who is currently serving as the Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs, while also serving as the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, has been nominated by the President to be the Secretary of the VA. About a week ago, I attended a meeting of the Veterans Day National Committee at which Acting Secretary Wilkie participated. He told us that no one was more surprised than he was when he was selected to be the Acting VA Secretary. He said he had absolutely no idea who might be selected to be the Secretary and that he had no reason whatsoever to think it might be him. He said he was taking one day at a time and doing the best he could each and every day.

Acting Secretary Wilkie said he has three major goals. First, to calm the waters at the VA. He said when VA employees say it is difficult to work not knowing who is going to be in charge, he tells them it is their job to take care of veterans, that it doesn't matter who is going to be in charge. Second, Wilkie said he wants to finalize the electronic record system of the VA and combine it with that of the Department of Defense (DoD), and third, he said he wants to see legislation passed which would provide the same benefits for caregivers of those veterans who became disabled before 9/11 as is now authorized for those veterans disabled after 9/11.

Wilkie, the son of an Army artillery officer, was born in Frankfurt, West Germany. His father, Robert Leon Wilkie Sr. (1938-2017) retired from the U.S.



Robert L. Wilkie

Army as a lieutenant colonel. Wilkie grew up in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, graduating from Fayetteville, North Carolina's Reid Ross Senior High School. Wilkie Jr. received his bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University in North Carolina. He later obtained his law degree from Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans and a Master of Laws in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. He also holds a Master of Science (MS) degree from the United States Army War College.

Mr. Wilkie has an outstanding professional background. He first served on Capitol Hill as Counsel to Senator Jesse Helms and later as legislative director for Rep. David Funderburk of North Carolina. He served on the Committee on International Relations and the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Later, he served as counsel and advisor on international security affairs to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott.

An intelligence officer in the United States Naval Reserve, Wilkie served as special assistant to the President for national security affairs and as a senior director of the National Security Council where he was a senior policy advisor to then-National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice as well to her successor, Stephen Hadley. Wilkie developed strategic planning for the implementation of the Moscow Treaty, the Millennium Challenge Account, Iraqi Reconstruction and NATO Expansion. In 2009, Wilkie was awarded the Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest civilian award of the Department of Defense.

Wilkie was nominated to be Under Secretary for Personnel and readiness by President Trump on July 25, 2017. This nomination was confirmed by the Senate on November 16, 2017. If confirmed by the Senate as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Robert Wilkie would be the tenth Secretary of that Department. He will bring a strong Department of Defense background to the position at a time when the VA and DoD are seeking to work more closely together.

The Salcido Affair

By Steve Krant, Post 256 Commander

Jose Luis Reyes, a Vietnam combat-tested Marine and member of Dallas' Jewish War Veterans Post 256, recently experienced a whirlwind trip to Washington, DC and the White House. The events leading up to a meeting in the Oval Office began with an incident involving his grand-nephew, Victor Quiñonez, a high school student in Pico Rivera, a rural community southeast of Los Angeles.

Victor, from a family with a long history of military service (11 Marines and counting), came to class one late January day wearing a Marine Corps sweatshirt, his intended destination after graduation. That apparently triggered one of his teachers, Gregory Salcido, into launching a profanity-laced anti-military rant. He told his captive class of seniors that service members are "the frickin' lowest of the low ... desperate [and with] no other options," and derided Victor in particular for bragging about his "damned Uncle Louie (Jose Reyes)."

Victor covertly recorded the tirade on his phone; a relative later posted it to social media, where it went viral almost immediately. The "Salcido Incident" caught the attention and ire of veteran groups throughout the country, and especially that of John Kelly, the retired four-star Marine general and Chief of Staff to President Donald Trump. Kelly promptly extended an invitation to Victor and his family to visit the White House and Pentagon as a token of his appreciation for

Victor's resolve and patriotism, as well as to honor Jose's service and leadership by example.

Since the incident occurred, we found out that Salcido has since been fired by the school district. In a report released on April 18th, Mr. Salcido was found to follow a pattern of bullying where his students were white, Asian, pro-military, Christian or gay. In addition, pornographic pictures were found on his work computer. However, Mr. Salcido is still currently serving as a Councilman for the City of Pico Rivera, but there is a recall petition in progress.

On Feb. 23, Victor and Jose, accompanied by family members, toured the White House, escorted by Vice President Mike Pence and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Ronald Green. The Sergeant Major offered to be Victor's personal recruiter when he graduates. Highlighting their visit was a stop in the Oval Office for a chat and photo opportunity with President Trump. As a sign of pride in his Jewish War Veterans' membership, Jose wore his Post cap throughout the day's activities, even in the Oval Office. Afterwards, the group received a VIP tour of the Pentagon and vis-



In the Oval Office, from left, are Vice President Mike Pence, Jose Reyes, Vincent Quiñonez (Victor's father, a Marine & Afghanistan vet), Victor Quiñonez, President Donald Trump, Karen Rodriguez (Victor's mother), Sandi Reyes, Anthony Quiñonez (Victor's younger brother), Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Ronald Green, and White House Chief-of-Staff Gen. John Kelly. Photo by Shealah Craighead.

ited the nearby National Museum of American Jewish Military History, co-located with JWV's National Headquarters. On March 25, Jose shared the experience with his fellow JWV Post 256 members, the post Auxiliary, and guests at the group's monthly lox and bagel breakfast at the Aaron Family JCC.

The Military Coalition Tours Express Scripts Factory and Innovation Center

By Anna Selman, Programs and Public Relations Coordinator

Members of the Healthcare Committee of The Military Coalition (TMC) got an opportunity to tour Express Scripts's Factory and Innovation Center at its headquarters in St. Louis, MO. For those of you unfamiliar with Express Scripts, they fill mail-order prescriptions for our active duty, veterans and their families—about 1.2 billion prescriptions a year for about 80 million patients.

The chief impetus for this invitation was recent changes to TRICARE, especially for our retirees. Congress passed new legislation regarding TRICARE that took effect on January 1, 2018. TRICARE Standard was renamed TRICARE Select, and with the new name, comes new changes. The first major change is that there is an annual enrollment period. If you miss the window to enroll, you will have to wait until the next year. Currently, there are no enrollment fees, but in 2020, enrollment fees will begin. The second major change is the pricing. For example, there is now a standard price for prescriptions throughout TRICARE, regardless of where you get your prescription filled.

This is the major reason why Express Scripts invited the Military Coalition to their facility in St. Louis. They wanted to see what our members had to say about the changes, and they wanted to see if there were any suggestions on areas they should be working on.

From their own data, Express Scripts found out that most beneficiaries were unaware of the changes in TRICARE, even though they led a massive information campaign. They also found a huge trend of beneficiaries moving their prescriptions to Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) pharmacies and to retail pharmacies. As with every change, people tend to move to what is familiar, but from what our trip showed, familiar might not always be better.

Their St. Louis facility was very impressive. Their assembly line was remarkably efficient, and you could see thousands of prescriptions being filled within the hour that we toured the facility. Throughout the line, you could see thousands of checks being done from the name of the bottle, the pill size, the pill color, the weight of the bottle and so much more! Their main prescription errors came in the shipping process, but they were overall lower than the average error rate for your retail pharmacy.

In the afternoon, we got to see the Express Scripts Innovation and Technology Center, where they were inventing some really great advances in the pharmacy world. One of the products that I found interesting was a "narcotic deactivator." Basically, it was a small charcoal-activated bag that you could put your leftover

narcotics in, and once sealed and crushed in the bag, would completely deactivate all the narcotics. This could be an amazing advancement in our opioid crisis. Currently, Express Scripts is working on patenting the product before it can be available to the public.

The second advancement that I found interesting was the Kiosk system that is currently being rolled out in the Arizona area. Basically, it would be a glorified pill-vending machine. Your physician could send the prescription into the system, and all you would have to do is scan the code you received from your provider and pay through an ATM-like card reader. Then, the pills would dispense, and you could go on with your day. If you had any questions on your prescriptions,



TMC Healthcare Committee members tour the Express Scripts factory assembly line.

there would be a calling system where you could speak with a live pharmacist. Currently, Express Scripts is looking to market the product to military bases, where the machines could drastically improve wait times.

The day ended with the members of their team asking the members of TMC where they should focus their efforts in the future. A large portion of the Committee suggested that they should be looking at the effects of prescription pills and suicide – possibly looking into doing a study with DOD and the VA.

One suggestion that I made was looking into helping the VA with its female health care issues. For those of you that were not aware, a piece of legislation recently passed that guaranteed female veterans the right to fertility care if their ability to conceive was affected by their service. Currently, women are lucky enough if they can find an OB/GYN at their local VA. They are going to have a tough time finding a fertility specialist and getting their specialty medications. This is really an area in which Express Scripts can help our female veterans.

Overall, I found the trip very informative. If you have not heard about the changes in your TRICARE benefits, I highly suggest you visit the VA website for more information and make sure you do not miss the 2019 enrollment period. In addition, you should look at your TRICARE plan and see what the best plan is for you and your family.

Post Office to Be Named After Fallen Jewish Hero

By Ben Kane, Programs Assistant

When a servicemember dies, his or her family will grieve and celebrate the life of their loved one in different ways. Some choose not to publicize their grief, and some families choose to go in the opposite direction, to find public ways to memorialize and remember their loved one. Some ways fallen servicemembers have been remembered is by the naming of streets, parks and buildings after them. Staff Sergeant Peter Taub is one such fallen servicemember to be given such posthumous recognition. A post office has been officially slated to be renamed the *Staff Sergeant Peter Taub Post Office Building*.

SSgt Taub was killed by a suicide bomber while on tour in Afghanistan in December, 2015. In his home town, Wyncote, Pennsylvania, the way to memorialize him and celebrate his life has been made official. A bill to authorize renaming the post office after SSgt Taub was put through the House of Representatives by Congressman Brendan Boyle (PA-13). "Staff Sergeant Peter Taub was a shining example of the best our country has to offer. In his service to our nation, he exemplified unwavering patriotism and heroic bravery. Renaming this post office in his home town is the least we can do to honor him; a small but important symbol of our eternal thanks," Boyle said.

SSgt Taub was posthumously awarded several medals, including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

Taub, who was married and with a second child on the way when he was killed, had planned to help run the family business- a beloved sandwich shop in downtown Washington D.C. called Bub and Pop's, once he had returned from active duty. Sadly, Taub's plans of a complete family and working in a place he loved were to be unfulfilled, and his family was devastated by his death. Eventually, time will help mend the wounds his loved ones have suffered. But until then, and long after, a small part of SSgt Taub's legacy will exist for generations to come.



Staff Sergeant Peter Taub, USAF

COMING HOME

Making a Difference for Jewish Service Members Coming Home

By Gavin Ellman, Post 112

Unsurprisingly, it was hot in Iraq the day I left. The first thing I felt when we landed back home was profound joy; the second was profound cold since I was standing outside in the middle of an Alaskan winter night. Thus began the first of many conflicting emotions.

Of course, returning home is wonderful. My first weeks home from my tours were times of happiness. There was so much I'd missed. From the little conveniences of just being in air conditioning, to the big celebrations of seeing the people I loved and missed so much. But there was also the struggle to adjust, which crept into my life as the excitement started to fade.

At first it was little things. I missed the convenience of free water bottles in every office or truck. I had to find an apartment and, occasionally, buy groceries. There were bills, chores, and all those little headaches of life, but there was also something big missing.

Overseas, and in the military in general, I knew what to do. I had a place and I had a purpose. I didn't appreciate it fully when I was there, but I felt its absence more and more the longer I was home. 12-hour



Gavin Ellman, pictured here at Fort Benning.

patrols were grueling, but they were familiar burdens. I knew who to count on and who counted on me.

After my first tour, the pressures of military life and the promise of the next tour meant I didn't have to fully confront this uncomfortable absence for long. But when I finally did transition from active duty, there was no avoiding it: what was I going to do with this freedom I'd apparently been fighting for?

I left Fort Benning for the last time in August 2015 and in many ways, it was more difficult than re-deploying from Iraq or Afghanistan. I was heading for Atlanta and a new life. I wasn't coming back. After 10 years of active service, I hadn't realized how comfortable I'd become in the Army. The thought that "this is my last paycheck" rattled me. What was I going to do? How would I fit back into a community where I'd always be "the Army guy"? For months, even my haircut still said I was in the Army. I did eventually give up the reflective belt, at least.

There are many resources out there to help, of course. The Army has its required classes. There are countless companies and organizations reaching out. But those didn't help me feel any less alone. Classes and forms can't help with that. Only people could.

There was my wife, who was with me for every step of the journey. She believed in me and in our shared future. I knew I could count on her and, even better, I knew she counted on me.

And there were those that went before me to start new lives and careers outside the service. A retired chaplain introduced me to the Jewish community of Atlanta, where we now make our home. My former engineering instructor coached me through the painful process of applying to business school, where I met other veterans on similar paths. Beyond the practical help we could offer each other, just knowing there were others made all the difference.



Gavin Ellman, pictured here with his wife and two children.

And that's why I believe in Jewish War Veterans. Not only are we connected by common service, we are connected by our shared faith, culture, and bond as a people. JWV brings together all branches and generations and can bridge the gap between those in service, those who have served, and the vibrant Jewish communities that exist throughout the country.

We know there's much work to do. We need to build the bridges between the younger generation of Jewish American Warriors and the historical membership base of JWV. Our differences are real. We communicate in different ways, are at different phases of life, and perhaps expect different things from our local post. But I know that which binds us—our service and our Jewish identity—counts for far, far more.

With so many young Jewish veterans struggling as they come home, it's time for JWV to come home and take its place at the intersection of Jewish military and civilian life.

Coming Home

Continued from page 1

still consider one of the best pictures about returning service members and the new battles which begin when the uniform comes off. Prior to this film, much of the return of the veteran was captured for the public in the famous idealized Saturday Evening Post Norman Rockwell covers such as 1919's, *When Johnny Comes Marching Home* and 1945's *Homecoming GI* and *Homecoming Marine*. *The Best Years of our Lives* was based on a book about returning service members which was actually written as an extended poem because the author felt that he couldn't capture the topic in mere prose. And the movie, which was brutal in its depiction of what the returnees faced, actually was cleaned up in some ways – the book showed the veteran Homer, who is missing his hands following the torpedoing of his ship in the Navy, as actually suffering from nervous spasticity.

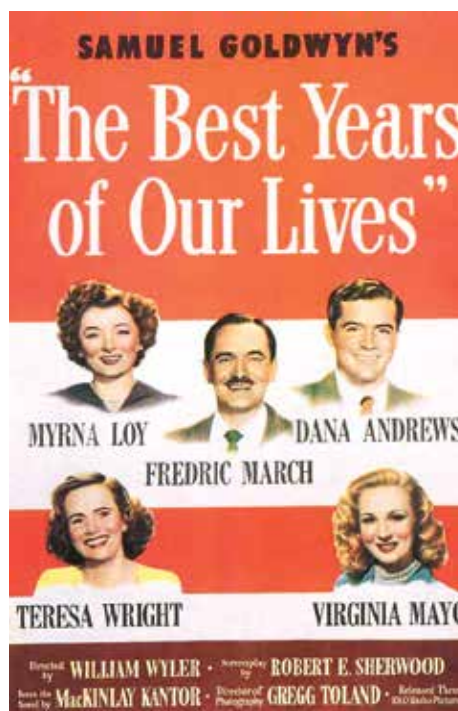
The movie broke a number of taboos – it was the first to show alcoholism, infidelity, "combat fatigue" (as PTSD was known at the time), and those on the home front who profited from the war. It showed veterans denied loans, and it showed civilians who called

those who fought "suckers." It showed strained and broken marriages. It showed the complete incompat-

ibility of the wartime experience with "polite society."

It is important to note that this movie takes place in the context of America's first "total war" – with full mobilization of the nation's industrial might and civilian population to support the war. While there is a disconnect between the service member's experience and that of the general population, it is not a complete disconnect. Today's wars, which are fought by a volunteer military made up of an insignificant proportion of the population, sadly results in a far more complete disconnect. It is that disconnect which makes the struggle of the post-World War II veteran even more severe.

This makes the role of Veteran Service Organizations such as Jewish War Veterans more important in order to help the returnee find others with whom to share the burden of coming home, and it is incumbent on us to continue our outreach to our war veteran brothers and sisters, and continue to find more effective ways of doing so.



Official Movie Poster from the 1946 movie "The Best Years of Our Lives."

COMING HOME

USCGC Nathan Bruckenthal Docking At Its Homeport For The First Time

By Ben Kane, Programs Assistant

A new Fast-Response Cutter (FRC) named after fallen servicemember DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal is set to be put into service in July 2018. The purpose of the FRC is to serve as a patrol vessel and carry out ship boardings, coastal security missions, search and rescue missions, and general national defense missions. The naming of this FRC after Bruckenthal continues the Coast Guard tradition of naming these ships after Coast Guard enlisted heroes. The naming of this particular cutter after Bruckenthal was announced by Admiral Robert Papp, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, on the 10th anniversary of Bruckenthal's death.

Nathan was born on July 17, 1979 and grew up in Stony Brook, New York. After a period of service with the Ridgefield, Connecticut Volunteer Fire Department following his high school graduation,



Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Bruckenthal during his deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

he joined the Coast Guard in 1998, quickly demonstrating his talent and commitment to his country. In his spare time, Nathan volunteered for a variety of tasks to help the local Native American reservation where he was stationed. Nathan

volunteered as a police officer, firefighter, EMT, and assistant high school football coach - demonstrating his love of the country, its citizens, and his willingness to serve and improve his community. Following several years of commendable service while sta-

tioned in New York, Virginia and Washington State, he began serving in an elite tactical law enforcement program. In recognition of his talent during his service, Nathan Bruckenthal was among the first Coast Guardsmen chosen to be deployed to Iraq in 2003 during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His responsibility during the conflict was to help patrol the North Arabian Gulf and conduct safety and security searches on vessels. The searches began as early as the morning after the initial naval bombardment of Iraq, when Bruckenthal and his team boarded a group of tugs who said they were stranded. The ships were found to contain a supply of automatic weapons and sea mines, and the Iraqi military personnel were arrested. After more patrols, boardings and trainings, Bruckenthal decided to remain in the Gulf for a second tour of duty.

One of Bruckenthal's responsibilities was to instruct navy personnel on how to best conduct maritime operations. During a standard patrol of an important oil terminal in April 2004, several local fishing vessels approached and were turned away from the area by the U.S. forces. However, one vessel ignored the warnings, approached the oil terminal, and prompted servicemembers, including Bruckenthal, to board the ship. The insurgents aboard the ship, knowing they would not be able to proceed to their destination, detonated the explosives in the cargo bay of their ship, resulting in an explosion that fatally wounded Bruckenthal. Thus, Nathan Bruckenthal became not only one of the first Coast Guardsmen to serve in the Iraq war, but the only Coast Guardsman to die in the Iraq War or in any conflict since the Vietnam War. The actions of Bruckenthal and his men prevented the terrorists from approaching and harming the men on the nearby U.S.S. Firebolt, the oil platform and the oil terminal. As a result of his sacrifice, Bruckenthal was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star medal



The fast response cutter USCGC Nathan Bruckenthal, seen here docked in Bollinger Shipyards.

with Combat "V" for Valor, the Purple Heart, his second Combat Action Ribbon, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

As a testament to the respect and love that Nathan's friends, family, and fellow servicemembers had for him, several other buildings, scholarships, and plaques have been named and placed in his honor. Among other honors, the barracks where he first served has been renamed in his honor, and a non-profit baby pantry was established to provide aid to military and civilian employees in Baltimore. In addition, a fund, originally established to ensure his family would be cared for, has since been able to donate to causes like the Wounded Warrior Project, the Coast Guard Foundation, and Brooke Army Medical Center's Center for the Intrepid.

Nathan Bruckenthal left behind a pregnant wife who gave birth to their daughter, Harper Natalie Bruckenthal, in November 2004. DC3 Bruckenthal's sacrifice for the sake of the United States and in defense of his fellow countrymen serves as an example for all who choose to enter the armed services. We invite all members of JWV to come to the USCGC Nathan Bruckenthal's commissioning on July 25, 2018 in Alexandria, VA. We hope to see you there.

CPL Morris Meshulam

Continued from page 1

CPL Meshulam's service, he completed basic training, and afterwards, he was sent to Korea to be part of Battery D of the 82nd Anti-Aircraft Battalion in the 2nd Infantry Regiment in July of 1950. His first battle must have been on August 31st when the North Koreans attacked their position on the Nantong River Line, which resulted in a 16-day battle that ended up with the unit gaining more territory for UN forces. It is likely that after this battle Meshulam was promoted to Corporal.

His Division was within fifty miles of the Manchurian border when Chinese forces entered the fight, and during the Battle of the Ch'ongch'on River, his unit's mission was to protect the rear and right flank of the Eighth Army as it retreated to the South. After this battle, while surrounded and outgunned, CPL Meshulam's Battery fought through what later was known as "The Gauntlet" - a valley where UN

forces faced road blocks and heavy fire from Chinese forces. His unit lost nearly one third of its remaining soldiers. CPL Meshulam was captured in the Gauntlet near Kunu-ri on December 1, 1950 and taken as a Prisoner of War. He later died on January 11th of 1951 either from severe malnutrition or injuries that he received during the battle.

The remains of soldiers that died in North Korea were returned by the North Koreans in two waves: one in 1954 (also known as Operation Glory) and another from 1992-1994. It is estimated that out of the 4,219 bodies that were returned, 416 bodies were unable to be identified. All unidentified soldiers were placed in the Punchbowl Cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii. The DoD has led a massive effort to identify the remains of these soldiers - about 90 military researchers are currently working at labs in Hawaii, Nebraska and Ohio to identify the bones of Americans as we speak. The number varies from year to year, but they approx-

imately identify around 30-50 remains a year through advanced DNA techniques. Since CPL Meshulam's remains have been accounted for, a rosette will be placed next to his name on the "Court of the Missing" at the Honolulu Memorial to mark that he now rests in a known gravesite.

JWV is grateful to the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army and the Korean War Project for ensuring that CPL Morris Meshulam can finally come home. Although we do not have a date yet, we have been in contact with the family, and we have shared our sympathies and support for them. We have been in contact with the Department Commander of Ohio, who has stated that they are committed to being at the funeral when it takes place. Our goal at JWV is to ensure that each and every veteran is able to come home, and we are so glad that after 67 years, we can finally say that CPL Morris Meshulam is coming home.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

“Here is an idea...” “If Every JWV Member Gets a Member, We Can Double Our Membership.” I know....some may think this is a crazy idea. Now that I have your curiosity, let me start by defining two military terms that we are all so familiar with.

First Term: Mission. The specific task, duty, or operation that is assigned by a higher headquarters to an individual or unit. If you recall, we have all been trained in the military to understand the importance of the word mission and that the mission always comes first.

Second Term: Force Multiplier. In military science, a force multiplier refers to a factor or a combination of factors that dramatically increases (hence "multiplies") the effectiveness of an item or group. Remember, we have all been trained in the military to understand that the mission always comes first. Well, here is your mission... **Each JWV Member**

has 365 days to recruit one qualified JWV Member into your Post. You can utilize unlimited resources to help you complete your mission such as: spiritual leaders, family members, friends, and Members of an Allied Veterans' Organization. Our mission is only completed once every JWV Member gets a Member, so we may need to help each other. 365 days, and unlimited resources. Hmmmm.....

Here is where the term force multiplier comes into play. Let me start by saying, I am only the National Chairman for Membership. I can only suggest or recommend. I cannot make policy or approve. So, here is my suggestion. This suggestion would first have to be approved by your JWV Department/County and then implemented by your JWV Post. For every Jewish War Veteran that brings in a new qualified member within the 365 days the Jewish War Veterans' Department/County or Post picks up the cost for one year's free membership to our National Museum of American

Jewish Military History (NMAJMH). This action is truly a force multiplier in the fact that every echelon of the Jewish War Veterans wins, JWV USA, JWV Department/County, JWV Post and JWV Members.

Together, we all agree that we have an obligation to always keep our National Museum of Jewish Military History fully operational.

One JWV action causing multiple winners, a true example of a JWV Force Multiplier.



COL Barry Lischinsky
Membership Chairman

7 Questions with a JWV Member

Member: BG Donald Schenk (USA, Ret)

Post: 1LT Raymond Zussman Post 135

Current Residence: Bloomfield Hills, MI

Military Service: US Army 1969-2004;
Operation Desert Storm

Member Since Year: 2011

1. What's your military story?

It's a 35-year story beginning with my enlistment in the Army Reserves when I contracted as an Advanced Course ROTC Cadet in college in 1969. I was commissioned in Armor in 1971, and had a string of assignments in and around tanks for the next 33 years. My career was about equally divided between assignments considered "operational" (with and around troops in tank units from platoon through division or other training roles), and the business or acquisition side of the Army as a program manager for some of the Army and Marine Corps' most significant modernization programs. I served in Kansas, Kentucky, Texas, Maryland, the Pentagon, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, and Michigan.

During Operation Desert Shield I was Executive Officer of 2d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized) and deployed from Ft. Riley, Kansas to Saudi Arabia over New Years in 1991. When the air campaign started on 17 January 1991, and Operation Desert Storm commenced, all of our equipment was still en route from Kansas and was in ships southeast of the Straits of Hormuz. Immediately after its arrival we deployed into the desert along the Saudi-Iraq border to begin rehearsals for our upcoming operations should Saddam not yield to the demands of the United Nations. Early in the morning of 24 February 1991 we conducted a deliberate combat breach into the Iraqi defenses as the VII (US) Corps main effort brigade. We continued the attack for the next four days and ultimately were called upon to secure the airfield of Safwan, Iraq at which GEN Schwarzkopf dictated terms to the Iraqi army for its surrender.



BG Donald Schenk (USA, Ret)

2. Do you have a favorite Jewish military holiday story?

At Pesach in 1991 (5752), after direct combat operations in Iraq had ceased, I was able to surprise my wife and our extended family by calling into the Seder at her parents' home in New Jersey. This was before the proliferation of mobile phones and was done from a telephone center courtesy of one of the larger US-based phone companies. The call lasted only about 5 minutes because there was a line of Soldiers calling home (the first night coincided with Easter), and it has never been forgotten. As it happens, at that point I was only about 60 or so miles from Ur, birthplace of our patriarch Abraham. All things considered, it was quite a memorable call looking out at the stars in the early morning desert while recalling the story of Passover.

3. What made you decide to join JWV?

I retired from the US Army in 2004 and transitioned into a business career. Along the way, my family grew older and we transitioned into the less hectic lifestyle of a civilian family. In 2011, I was asked to speak at the Veterans Day Shabbat at my synagogue in Michigan. A member of JWV who was helping orga-

nize the event, which included not only a color guard but also a procession of Veterans into the sanctuary, approached and asked if I was a JWV member (at the moment I was not). I decided to sign up on the spot. It just made sense to me to select one VSO with which to associate, and JWV was the right choice. It was also a choice I wish I'd made earlier in my life. I've made many friends along the way, and I'm still associated with the man that asked me to join—Marty Levine—not only thru JWV, but also in the Veteran-focused not-for-profit I lead today.

4. What causes would you like JWV to work on?

I think JWV really needs to focus on youth and vitality if we're to keep this organization operating as a going concern. We need to recruit and retain members from the post-Vietnam era (Cold War, ODS/OEF/OIF/OND) remembering that our numbers from those eras are likely to be found in the professional ranks (e.g. doctors, lawyers, mental health fields) more so than traditional rank-and-file. We need to educate both clergy and lay leaders about our organization because they are in touch with their membership base and can advocate for us. Those leaders, too, are getting younger and probably neither know nor appreciate on a personal level the service of Jewish Veterans. We need also to be present on high school and college campuses telling our story at day schools and Hillels in our community, planting the seeds of awareness of the organization and service to the Nation early and often. Our Jewish Chaplains must advocate as well to the Jews on active duty so they join JWV and we keep their membership after leaving the military. More work sharing best practices thru a web-based platform could assist in spreading good ideas, as well as lessons learned in the "not so good" department. We're going to be around for a long time—here for good so to speak—and there is a role for everyone.

5. Who would you say is your most influential mentor in JWV?

I have several mentors in JWV. One would have to be our Department of Michigan Senior Vice Commander,

Art Fishman (Post 510). Art is a World War II sailor who spent his time on destroyers. He's extremely—and justifiably—proud of his service on 'Tin Cans.' Don't ever let his era of service or age fool you—he is a dynamo of activity and the most knowledgeable man I know in JWV. He really sets the pace and standard for what right looks like in Michigan. The other is Ed Hirsch (Post 474). Interesting story—a Special Forces Dentist with some remarkable service in Southeast Asia, all of Southeast Asia it seems. He'll tell you much of it, but not all of it. Ed was recently elected as Commander of the Department of Michigan. He and Art will both be at Tampa in August. Look them up.

6. What advice would you have for new JWV members?

My advice to new members is get actively involved. Volunteer to lead in your Post and your community. Listen to the older members because their stories are important to our history, and remember they want to hear from you as well since your experience in 2018 is just as important as theirs of 1948 or 1968 or 1998. There is more that unites the various age groups than separates them. While all of our experiences might be different, none are less meaningful for the country.

7. Last question, Hamentaschen or Latkes?

Hamentaschen...less cholesterol, more options. Plus, Purim is just a more adult party anyway.

Want to know what your everyday JWV member is like? Then let's play 7 questions! Contact the Membership Department (membership@jwv.org) if you wish to be featured.

Project Maggid

By Ben Kane, Programs Assistant

The known history of humankind comes not just through academics and books, but through oral testimonies. As of late, they are often recorded for posterity through writing or filming, but long ago these stories and the lessons within them were passed down through entire generations. Oral testimonies provide crucial glimpses into the past, into a different world, into a world that often times humanity would be wise to avoid creating again. Using these stories as sources, and through the lessons in the stories of those who came before, humankind can plot a course into the future that allows for peace to flourish.

Oral histories have been shared to communities around the world since before written history became the norm. Thanks to the technological improvements of the 20th and 21st centuries, humanity has expressed a renewed interest in oral histories, in no small part because they can be recorded for future generations. Even if the sharing of your specific story is not video recorded, the resurgence in popularity of oral histories ensures that finding an audience for your story won't be too difficult, if you simply look in the right places. Jewish community centers, local high schools, local colleges and college Hillels are just a few of the places where it would be wise for a veteran to share his or her story.

JWV members have been sharing their stories with their communities for years, but the hope here

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Blumenthal, Susan - Post 100
Portman, David J. - Post 100
Posner, Larry H. - Post 344
Rosenthal, Lawrence M. - Post 100
Vager, Maxine - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Propp, Bob R. - Post 385

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Aaron, Robert C. - Post 941
Arkin, Jason L. - Post 941
Barry, Norman - Post 819
Buchweitz, James M. - Post 202
Citrin, David A. - Post 202
Davidson, Allan - Post 941
Deutch, James A. - Post 352
Gordon, Joel L. - Post 172
Isenberg, Lawrence T. - Post 941
Koren, Murray - Post 172
Lahn, Gerard C. - Post 941
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Lyon, Irving - Post 941
Mallinger, Jack A. - Post 941
Miller, Alan I. - Post 730
Phillips, Peter M. - Post 941
Shoub, Steven L. - Post 941
Spieler, Milton S. - Post 941
Waltzer, Fred - Post 440
Werner, Henry H. - Post 941
Wolpin, Harvey G. - Post 639

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Molodow, Bennett G. - Post 89

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Abraham, Tamyla - Post 380
Blazzkowsky, Rachel - Post 692
Cohen, Hyman K. - Post 117
Goldstein, Jack - Post 380

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Stambovsky, Robert A. - Post 26

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Beck, Sidney B. - Post 510
Edelson, Joseph G. - Post 474
Edelson, Sheila C. - Post 474
Garbeil, Sidney L. - Post 510

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Hill, Kenneth V. - Post 64
Shapiro, Bernard - Post 65
Siegel, Robert F. - Post 65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Frankel, Herbert - Post 47
Levin, Bonnie L. - Post 126
Morgenbesser, Theodore - Post 536

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Aronstein, Jesse - Post 106
Baranoff, Barry G. - Post 717
Gazes, Henry - Post 652
Jaffe, William A. - Post 106
Josefsberg, Steven E. - Post 717
Margulis, Herbert - Post 652
Sagor, Elliot G. - Post 1

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Spallone, Michael - Post 44

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Lipschutz, Gil - Post 706

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Allen, Rebekah A. - Post 112
Baldwin, Reece - Post 112
Bingham, Jeff - Post 112
Brooks, Jonathan - Post 112
Burgos, Jose - Post 112
Calkins, Brian - Post 112
Castillo, Claudia T. - Post 112
Collazo, Jessica - Post 112
Corbin, Esa - Post 112
Cruz, Tianna Lyn C. - Post 112
Emerson Benjamin - Post 112
Fink, Nicholas - Post 112
Fogle, Ginikwan - Post 112

Friedman, Andrew - Post 112
Gardinoli, Carlos - Post 112
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Hart, Johnathan S. - Post 112
Hochberger, Joshua - Post 112
Hogan, Alex - Post 112
Holton, Cody - Post 112
Jacob, Emma Leigh - Post 112
Kistner, Nathan - Post 112
Lee, Bryan - Post 112
Lohr, Noah - Post 112
Lynah, Cameron - Post 112
Medina, Douglas - Post 112
Meuse, David - Post 112
Milan, Edward - Post 112
Moore, Gregory - Post 112
Morris, Raphael - Post 112
Murray, Sean - Post 112
Norusel, Raffi - Post 112
Nuxoll, Damian - Post 112
Olson, Andrew - Post 112
Posin, Yaakov - Post 112
Ravara, Andrew - Post 112
Rosen, Ronald - Post 112
Russell, Ethan - Post 112
Saunders, James - Post 112
Stellmaoher, John - Post 112
Stilson, James - Post 112
Walsh, Nathaniel - Post 112
Williamson, Zachary - Post 112

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Akop, Louis - Post 256
Davidsohn, Eli - Post 256
Dickey, Maurine P. - Post 256
Meyer, Frank W. - Post 256
Rosenblum, Charles A. - Post 757
Saxton, Richard M. - Post 757
Wilkerson, John W. - Post 618

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Merims, Michael H. - Post 765



Col. Peter Gleichenhause seen here speaking at a local event.

their stories as well after watching you speak. You may also introduce citizens and communities to our organization who otherwise may never have heard of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. There are many reasons to share your story, and we invite you to do so!

Any veteran interested in sharing their story and who wants to take the next step can contact JWV Headquarters and we will be able to assist you. Upon request, the Programs Department at JWV Headquarters can provide additional direction on how to shape your story into something that listeners from all walks of life can appreciate.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

Finding Jewish War Veterans in Dutchess County

By Martin C. Hochhauser, Post 625 NY

Private Herman Siegel JWV Post 625 Poughkeepsie, NY, embarked on a project to identify as many Jewish veterans as possible who lived in Dutchess County, NY; not just living veterans, but as many veterans as possible from all prior eras. During our search we contacted a representative from Arlington High School who told us of their memorial to all war veterans who had attended that school.

The senior officers of Post 625 NY paid a visit to the school to view their "Arlington High School Wall of Remembrance" display, which takes up a significant portion of a wall near their main entrance. The Wall is dedicated to Arlingtonians who perished during military service to our country during World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War and Afghanistan War. The one Jewish veteran we found on the wall was Phillip E. Budd, who was killed during WW II. (Our namesake Herman Siegel was not listed because he attended Poughkeepsie HS).

A special portion of the wall is dedicated to Silver Star recipient PFC Charlie Johnson who graduated AHS in 1951 and died heroically during the Korean War. He is widely known for single-handedly holding off enemy forces who overran Outpost Harry throughout an eight-day battle, personally saving nine wounded comrades including fellow AHS gradu-



Senior Officers of Post 626 visit Arlington High School Wall of Remembrance.

ate Don Dingee. A sculpture on display at the high school shows Johnson dragging the wounded Dingee to safety.

The Arlington High School Wall of Remembrance is an eloquent and meaningful display honoring those who served and gave the ultimate sacrifice. JWV Post 625 is grateful that we had the opportunity to visit, understand and appreciate the sacrifices of Dutchess County's youth in times of war. Attending were (from left) Presiding Officer Rob Rubin, Commander Ron Markowitz, Past Post Commander Robert L. Morrison, Past Post Commander Ralph Schwartz, and Chief of Staff Martin Hochhauser.

Post 210-AZ Keeps Busy This Spring

By Steven Troy, Post 210 AZ

In the late afternoon on Saturday, April 7th, Scottsdale, Arizona JWV Post 210 celebrated the last day of Passover 2018 with Jewish Veterans at the Arizona State Veterans Home in Phoenix. Of the three Jewish residents, only two were available to attend the Seder. This is the fourth Passover Seder that Post 210 has held at the Veterans Home.

The Seder was led by Michael and Ahuva Chambers and began with a short Havdalah Service (Havdalah is Hebrew for "separation" and refers to the verbal declaration made at the end of Shabbat), followed by the traditional following of the Passover Haggadah. The Haggadah follows our exodus from

Egypt and our escape from slavery more than 3,000 years ago. The Veterans attending the service were Jay Lowenthal and Larry Chesin. Post 210 members attending were Juli Altman, Jonathan Sorrell, Bernie Kaplan, Fred & Terry Lipovitch, Michael & Ahuva Chambers, Commander Rochel Hayman, & Steven Troy. The kitchen at the Veterans Home prepared the Passover meal that consisted of chicken soup, gefilte fish, baked chicken and potatoes and of course matzos. The Seder was enjoyed by all and Post 210 will continue to hold them at the Veterans Home as long as there are Jewish Veterans there.

Sunday April 8, JWV Post 210 presented the colors at the community-wide Yom Hashoah Commemoration that was held at Beth El Congregation. It is observed as a day of commemoration for the approximately six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust as a result of the actions carried out by Nazi Germany and its collaborators, and for the Jewish resistance in that period. This event was presented by the Phoenix Holocaust Survivors Association. The Holocaust Survivors led the procession into the packed hall followed by JWV Commander Rochel Hayman leading the Color Guard, which consisted of Michael Chambers carrying the American Flag and Fred Lipovitch carrying the Israeli Flag. The service following was very heartfelt and reiterated the need for everyone to remember what happened and to ensure "NEVER AGAIN."



Michael and Ahuva Chambers lead the Passover service at the Arizona State Veterans Home.

He Represents the "Greatest Generation"

By COL Carl Singer, PNC

I wanted to briefly tell you about Alvin Sussman. I'm humble and proud to call Alvin my friend – to me he represents the "Greatest Generation." Alvin is a World War II combat veteran who, like many, came home from the war and then helped build this great nation.

2016: Alvin and I met over lunch – he has quite a story to tell. Alvin is a sharp dresser, soft spoken, articulate. He doesn't like to talk about himself, but I learned that Alvin was a most successful entertainment executive. He headed Group W Productions at Westinghouse. Among his many credits are two popular variety shows, "The Merv Griffin Show" and "The Mike Douglas Show." And I learned more.

1944: The Battle of the Bulge. Alvin was a young rifleman with G Company, 424 Regiment, 106th Infantry Division — he survived the frozen Ardennes Forest and the German attack that intelligence said would not happen. He has vivid memories and paints a gripping, first hand picture of that historic time – 41 days in hell.

2010: One more thing about Alvin – he is driven. He works hard to get what he wants. Alvin wanted a monument to commemorate the Battle of the Bulge. Many thought it was a pipe dream – not Alvin. He persisted and raised over \$15,000. He worked with the mayor and city council of his town and they donated park land for this monument. Alvin, job well done!



Alvin Sussman stands in front of the monument to commemorate the Battle of the Bulge.

The next JWV Mission to Israel is being planned now!

If you would like to receive information about the trip as soon as it becomes available, please contact Christy Turner at cturner@jwv.org or at (202) 265-6280 and she'll add your name to the list.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

Fleet Week at the Manhattan VA

By Jerry Alperstein, Post 1 NY

Fleet Week came to the Manhattan VA Medical Center on Sunday, May 27, with JWV Post 1 NY's annual Reception for Sailors & Marines at the Manhattan VA Medical Center.

Approximately 35 Navy and Marine Corps personnel attended the reception including Lieutenant General Mark Brilakis, Commander, Marine Corps Forces Command, with his wife Kate. The Navy personnel were from the USS Arlington [LPD 24], the USS Mitcher [DDG 35], and the Naval Investigative Service. The Marine Corps personnel were from Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and from General Brilakis' staff.



Marine Corps Lieutenant General Mark Brilakis greets Rabbi Nisson Shulman, (CAPT, USNR, Ret.) of Post 1 NY.

They were joined by 13 members and patrons of Post 1 with four spouses; three VA Chaplains including Rabbi Andrew Scheer; and the local member of Congress, Representative Carolyn Maloney.

Attending from Post 1 were members Gerald Abrams, National Executive Committee member Jerry Alperstein, Seymour Beder, Army LTC Retired Robert Farkas, Michael Henken, Post 1 Commander Edward Hochman, Murray Newman, Harold Schaeffer and Rabbi [Captain USNR Retired] Nisson Shulman; patrons Janet Alperstein, Max Alperstein, Diana Glass and Gail Levine-Fried; and spouses Bea Beder, Diana Farkas, Robert Fried and Rywka Shulman.

This reception has been held during each New York City Fleet Week since 2006. The military personnel, the veterans and other civilian guests sit around tables enjoying ice cream cake and telling sea stories.

North Shore Post 220-MA and Boy Scouts Troop 119 Participate in Memorial Day Events

JWV and JWVA members of North Shore Post 220-MA participated in the Annual Memorial Day Parade held in Peabody, Massachusetts. This year members of the Boy Scouts of America Troop 119 assisted by carrying the JWV Post Banner while Jr.-Vice Department Commander Jeffrey Blonder, an Afghanistan War Veteran, carried the JWV Post 220 flag. From left: Patron Richard Pekin, Colonel (Ret.) Alan Lehman, JWVA Charlotte Gross, Martin Nellhaus, Commander Mark Tolpin, 4 Members of BSA Troop 119, and Department of MA Junior Vice Commander Jeffrey Blonder.

Jewish War Veterans Department of Illinois Begins Massive JROTC Program

By Dr. Jerry Field Post 710 IL Commander

Just three months ago, the Illinois JWV Posts assigned a small group of members to begin a massive program to undertake the management of the JWV JROTC program in Chicago. The JROTC team consists of: Dr. Jerry Field, Post 710 Cmdr. team leader; Robert F. Nussbaum, Dept. Cmdr.; Jeffery Sacks, Post 153 Cmdr.; Bruce Mayor, Post 54 Cmdr.; and Howard Goldstein, Past Post 54 Cmdr.

Leading the group is Dr. Jerry Field, Commander, Chicago Lakeview Post 710 who had worked as a civilian resource for the JROTC and the Chicago Public Schools (CPS). He is familiar with the current Chicago JROTC command as well as the ROTC Chicago area Commander.

In just three weeks, the program was approved by Colonel Daniel Baggio, CPS commander of the 14 school unit with 11,000 JROTC cadets. All schools were contacted; more than a dozen schools welcomed the addition of the JWV program to their graduation ceremony and our participation in the JROTC Honors Award Program. Most JROTC cadet units have their own graduation at a formal Military Ball.

One deserving cadet from each unit is awarded a Bronze Achievement Medal, the corresponding Bar Ribbon and two copies of the JWV certificate, one for the cadet to keep at home and another suitable for attaching to their college entrance applications.

At each Military Ball, a member of JWV Illinois is there to present the award. In detailing the parameters of the award, it is stressed that a Cadet does not have to be Jewish to merit the award. They are recommended by the Cadre Commander who forwards the pertinent information about the cadet, the unit and the Cadre Commander to Dr. Field. This begins the process of printing the certificate and ordering the medal and ribbon. The certificate, medal and bar ribbon are delivered to the JWV member who makes the presentation at the awards ceremony.

Six JROTC schools participated this year, and next year all 14 schools will participate in the program. The CPS System has one Navy, one Marine, ten Army units and two military academies.



Dr. Jerry Field, Commander of Post 710, presents the JWV Americanism Medal to CDT Areley Quintero.

JWV was instrumental in naming the Navy unit at Senn High School the Admiral Hyman Rickover Naval JROTC High School.

Illinois Commander Robert F. Nussbaum, said "this is another effort of behalf of the Illinois JWV to become more involved with our community, especially the military segment. We found that the program gives us an opportunity meet the parents of the Jewish cadets and ask them to join JWV. As a result of this opportunity, a couple of donors called Patrons joined JWV as they felt that the \$50.00 annual membership dues was a good investment on behalf of their cadet.

The JROTC also participated in the annual dinner for the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) this year.

This is just one of several ways designed by our outreach committee to become more involved in our community. In addition, the Department participates every year in several region-wide Jewish events.



JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

Post 1-NY conducts Megillah Reading for Manhattan VA

By Jerry Alperstein

Purim was celebrated at the Manhattan VA Medical Center (VAMC) on Purim morning, March 1, with the reading of the Purim Megillah, live Purim music by the MazelTones and hamentashen. The event was organized by VAMC Jewish Chaplain Rabbi Andrew Scheer and was sponsored by Jewish War Veterans [JWV] Manhattan-Cooper-Lieutenant Colonel Larry Epstein-Florence Greenwald Post 1, the oldest veterans echelon in the United States.

The Megillah reading has been an annual occurrence at the VAMC for many decades. JWV has been sponsoring the event for approximately the last 15 years by providing the Megillah books, the groggers and the hamentashen. Approximately 25 people attended the Megillah reading, which included Post 1 members and patrons as well as VAMC staff and patients. Among JWV members and patrons attending were National Executive Committee member Jerry Alperstein, Sara Alperstein, Seymour Beder, Jonah Berman, Michael Henken, Robert Iskowitz, Mitchell Mernick, Harold Schaeffer, Simon Spiegelman and JWV Department of New York Hospital Committee Chair Mort Weinstein. The Megillah reader was David Waxman, a member of our community.

Following the Megillah reading, five flavors of hamentashen (apricot, chocolate, mango, pomegranate and raspberry) were served while two members of the MazelTones of New York Band, including



Approximately 25 members and patrons of JWV Manhattan-Cooper-Epstein-Greenwald Post 1 NY and Manhattan VA Medical Center [VAMC] staff and patients attended the annual reading of the Purim Megillah at the VAMC on March 1. The service was organized by VA Chaplain Rabbi Andrew Scheer and was sponsored by JWV Post 1 NY. Among the Post 1 members and VA Chaplaincy staff attending included (from left) Harold Schaeffer, Morton Weinstein, Jonah Berman, Robert Iskowitz, Chaplain Elizabeth Putnam, Rabbi Scheer, Chaplain Intern Herman NG, Sy Spiegelman, Michael Henken, and National Executive Committee member, Jerry Alperstein.

Jerry Alperstein on trumpet, performed Purim music. Among the VAMC staff attending from the Chaplaincy Department in addition to Rabbi Scheer were Chaplain Elizabeth Putnam and Chaplain Intern Harold Ng.

After the hamentashen eating and Purim music were completed, a Post 1 meeting was held at the VA including the election and installation of officers for the 2018-2019 year.

Post 692 MD Remembers By LTC (ret) Sheldon Goldberg, Post 692

On 27 May, Post 692-MD held its third annual Memorial Day program at the American-Jewish Veterans Memorial on the grounds of the Bender Jewish Community Center in Rockville, Maryland. Approximately 50 friends and members of the local Jewish Community attended the program. Among the honored guests were Mr. Robert Finn, Maryland's Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs who presented acting Post Commander Walter Gold with a Proclamation from the Governor of Maryland, Larry Hogan. Also present was Mr. Randy Stone, Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans,



Lt. Col. Sheldon Goldberg of Post 692 speaks at Memorial Day event.



Post Commander Walter Gold holds a proclamation with Robert Finn, Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Colonel Erwin Burtnick, Commander, Department of Maryland, JWV, and Chief Scott Goldstein, Chief of the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department representing County Executive Isiah Leggett.

Rabbi Moishe Kavka gave the invocation and Rabbi Paul Levenson, a WW II Army chaplain, sang El Moleh at the conclusion. Lt Col. Sheldon Goldberg, (USAF, Ret) Docent/Historian at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History was the keynote speaker. Vocalist Kassie Sandacz, president of Voices of Vets opened the program with the National Anthem and ended it with God Bless America.

Following the outdoor program, the video True Honor, the story of Jewish Medal of Honor recipients

was screened for those in attendance. The screening was preceded by a short history of the Medal of Honor and afterward, Col. Goldberg provided a brief description of the actions of several of the early Jewish Medal of Honor recipients that did not appear in the video.

Memorial Day Wreath Laying at Vietnam Veterans Wall



JWVA Past National President Elaine Bernstein and JWV Past National Commander Michael Berman presented a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall ceremony on Memorial Day.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

Post 601 NJ Honors High School Athletes

By Samuel Levy, Post 601 NJ

Jewish War Veterans Memorial Post No. 601 honored four top scholar/athletes from Cumberland County High School, on Sunday, June 3, at the 45th Annual Olympiad Awards Breakfast, at Beth Israel Congregation, in Vineland, NJ.

The ceremony, catered and co-sponsored by the Beth Israel Congregation's Men's Club, has been held each year since 1974 to memorialize the nine Israeli athletes who were brutally murdered by Arab terrorists at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany. It publicly recognizes and honors the top scholar/athlete seniors from the five county high schools. Jewish War Veterans Memorial Post 601 member Gerald Batt emceed the ceremony.

This year's winners and the sports in which they specialized in addition to their scholastics were: Alesandro Valdez (football, winter and spring track), Bridgeton High School; Sara Loew (cross-country, winter and spring track), Cumberland Regional High School; Morgan Giordano (girls soccer, girls basketball), Millville High School; and Tess Fisher (tennis), Vineland High School.

Each received commendations and proclamations at the ceremony from national, state, county, and local officials.

The winners, according to Stephen Paull, Commander of Jewish War Veterans Memorial Post 601, are selected by their respective schools, based on both scholastic and athletic achievements, as well as leadership, cooperation, civic contributions, and all-around good citizenship. The schools rely on input from guidance counselors, teachers, athletic direc-



Cumberland County High School honorees in front row, from left: Morgan Giordano, Alesandro Valdez and Sara Loew.

tors, coaches, and principals. The winning students must be seniors, must have lettered in two or more varsity sports, and must be considered prime examples of good citizenship and leadership.

The students are all near or at the top of their classes. A number of past winners have been valedictorians and several have won appointments to various United States service academies.

The Beth Israel Congregation Men's Club has been catering this breakfast since the event's inception.

"We are proud and honored to have been part of this annual tradition for so long—an event that calls the public's attention to our outstanding youngsters in the community who are true role models," said Men's Club President Elliot Terris. "Our Men's Club, which

has had many Jewish War Veterans as members, has done much over the years for our synagogue, our Jewish community, and the community at large—not only on our own, but also collaborating with other organizations such as the Jewish War Veterans."

Paull said the students being recognized present a fine example for the future.

"The origins of this ceremony came out of a great tragedy of terrorism and murder. The students honored over the years at this ceremony are examples of the kindness and goodness that we hope will replace hatred," he said. "We hope that they, in turn, will be the parents of and advocates for outstanding scholar/athletes honored at a future Olympiad Awards ceremony."

South Florida Jewish War Veterans Return From Mission To Israel

By Marvin Glassman

South Florida Jewish War Veterans Stan Glanz of Pompano Beach and Richard Rosenzweig of Deerfield Beach met with officials from the Israel Defense Forces during the recent Jewish War Veterans 31st Annual Mission to Israel.

Joined by their wives Myra Glanz and Vera Rosenzweig, both couples met with the U.S. military attache and IDF officials in learning about the military preparations of Israel.

"We had journeys both to Kibbutz Misgav Am near the Lebanon border and had a special talk with an IDF official about the security situation from an observation point where we can see Lebanon," said Richard Rosenzweig.

"We also went up the Golan Heights for a view of Syria with a talk about Syria from a former IDF soldier who was in the bunker near the Golan Heights," said Rosenzweig.

"What made the trip even more special is knowing that we were celebrating the 70th anniversary of Israel on this mission," said Stan Glanz.

Among other highlights of the JWV Mission to Israel was a tour of Jerusalem on Shabbat as well as a tour of Tel Aviv, including visits to Independence Hall and the Israel Museum, among other sites.

"It is truly a miracle what has been accomplished

in Israel over the last 70 years," said Glanz.

Glanz served in the U.S. Army between 1948 to 1952 and was stationed in Germany setting up a dental lab hospital. He has been active with the Jewish War Veterans organization for most of his life and has lived in Pompano Beach for the past two years.

Rosenzweig served in the U.S. Naval Reserve between 1955 and 1963 during the era of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

In addition to being a Life Member with Jewish War Veterans, Rosenzweig is also on the Board Of Directors with the National Museum Of American Jewish Military History and is currently Co-President of Temple Beth Israel in Deerfield Beach.

Rosenzweig was elected in 2013 to the City Commission of Deerfield Beach and served for four years and was vice mayor for one year.



South Florida Jewish War Veterans during their visit to Tel Aviv.

This article was originally published in the Florida Jewish Journal.

To learn more about Jewish War Veterans membership and posts in South Florida, contact Michael Corbett at 561-742-8016 or email him at OSCSMC@hotmail.com.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

The American Jewish War Heroes Yahrzeit Program By David Laskin

The epiphany that inspired the American Jewish War Heroes Yahrzeit Program came to Ellis Corets on the Shabbat before Veterans Day, 2011. Corets, a native of the Bronx who moved to the Seattle area in 1962 to work in engineering and finance, had served as a first lieutenant in the Air Force during the Korean War. On that Veterans Day, when the rabbi at Mercer Island's Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation asked veterans to stand and be recognized, Corets found himself contemplating all the service men and women who did not come home from foreign wars. "How," he wondered, "do you remember these kids who may not have anyone saying the kaddish for them?"

Corets, now 86, had lost his beloved wife Roberta in May, 2011, so issues around death and memory were much on his mind that year. As he recalls now, "It occurred to me, as I attended weekly Shabbat services and we stood for the Mourner's Kaddish, that a synagogue is not only a place of assembly, worship and education – but also a place of remembrance." After that Veterans Day epiphany, Corets's late wife Roberta became his silent partner in the mission to extend remembrance to all who gave their lives for their country. The American Jewish War Heroes Yahrzeit Program, conceived in grief and reverence, is the fulfillment of that mission.

Fusing computer technology and old-fashioned page-by-page research, Corets (with a little help from his daughters Eva and Marilyn) has assembled a database of some 3,650 Jewish-American service personnel killed or missing in action in World Wars I and II who were buried or whose names appear on the Tablets of the Missing in America's overseas military cemeteries. Corets's databases, available free online to all Jewish organizations, include each soldier's name, home town, and date of death (in both the Hebrew and secular calendars). Participating rabbis can thus include a local hero in their weekly yahrzeit lists, drawing on the information Corets has assembled to sketch



JWV members Ellis Corets and Robert Shay participate in the flagging of the graves of Jewish Servicemembers.

in a brief bio of the fallen Jewish soldier.

Corets's project received a huge boost in May, 2012, after a chance encounter with Robert "Bob" Shay, Commander, Pacific NW Post 686 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States and co-founder of the Jewish Veterans Remembrance Project. Shay, a six-year Navy Veteran who served with the Pacific Fleet during the Vietnam War, has undertaken a decades-long project of placing American flags on the graves of every known Northwest area Jewish military veteran on Memorial Day. Shay happened to be present at Herzl Memorial Park the day of the unveiling of Corets's wife tombstone and the two Jewish veterans got to talking. When Corets mentioned the Yahrzeit Program, Shay provided him with a series of vintage books listing Jewish war casualties and advised him to contact the American Battlefield Monuments Commission (ABMC), a small government agency responsible for the establishment and maintenance of American war cemeteries and monument overseas. Corets now had a mountain of raw data to work with. By cross-referencing half a million names listed in Bob's vintage books with infor-

mation on fallen or missing Jewish soldiers provided by ABMC cemeteries, he painstakingly expanded his database soldier by soldier. "It took years to input the data," says Corets. "Each night, I started working after midnight and I would not sleep until I found at least one name."

Shay has shown the same doggedness in his flag-placement project, which has grown over the years to include the graves of some 950 local Jewish servicemen and women in six cemeteries.

Why this passion to commemorate the sacrifice of Jewish American soldiers? Bob Shay turns to the memory of a boyhood friend who was Killed In Action in Vietnam and a duty passed on to him by another veteran who said that it is the responsibility of those who return from war to remember those who did not come home, and now that he has picked up that mantle, Bob says he will not put it down for as long as G-d allows me to fulfill my duty.

For Ellis Corets, the motivation is emotional. "I get choked up every time I'm in shul and I hear one of our Jewish war heroes honored and remembered. It hits me hard."

So far, half a dozen synagogues have availed themselves of Corets's databases on a weekly basis, but the list is sure to grow as awareness of the project spreads.

This extended version is reprinted with permission from the editor of the April-May edition of the Jewish In Seattle magazine.



PFC Hans Politz's grave marker at the ABMC Manila American Cemetery.

A Small Post With a Big Mission By Larry Jasper, Post Commander of 373

Post 373 was founded 31 May 1949, in Tampa, Florida, and is named for Albert S. Aronowitz, son of Emanuel and Rose Aronowitz. Albert was a PFC with the 135th Infantry, 34th Division, in WWII. Albert died on June 1, 1944, of wounds sustained at Anzio, Italy. He was 21.

We are a small post with a big mission: to support ill and paralyzed veterans. We work closely with the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital and the Haley's Cove Rehab Center and Nursing Home in Tampa. We take our ill and disabled vets to many outings, such as baseball and hockey games, museums, state fairs, MOSI (Museum of Science and Industry), auto shows, aquariums, lunch at local restaurants, and many other events. We also provide them with everyday needs, as well as periodic entertainment.

We also have a large presence in the community. We provide an Honor Guard for the Tampa Bay Lightning and the Tampa Bay Storm, both at the Amalie Arena in Tampa; the Tampa Bay Rays at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg; and the local JCC Israel Independence Day celebrations. We participate in the Massing of the

Colors in St. Petersburg as well as activities at MacDill AFB.

For Memorial Day and Veterans Day, we place flags on veterans' graves in various local cemeteries. We hold various fundraisers on those occasions to help support the post's activities for the veterans.

We were recently chosen to provide the Honor Guard for one of the Lightning play-off games (see photo taken prior to moving onto the ice – from left to right, Peter Stark, Larry Jasper, Sonya Bryson (who sings the National Anthem), MacDill Wing Commander Air Force Col. April Vogel (honored guest), Jim Marenus, and Georgi Jasper).

Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month in the SCI (Spinal Cord Injury) unit of the James A. Haley VA Hospital, 13000 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33612. Bagels, lox, cream cheese and other items are available at 9:30AM and the meeting starts at 10:00AM.



Members of Post 373 provide an Honor Guard for the Tampa Bay Lightning and Tampa Bay Storm games.

We are honored to have 2 members who are WWII veterans and we have members who have served in all conflicts since WWII. One of our WWII members served in the liberation of France and at the Battle of the Bulge. He was recently honored by the French government for his service.

By Harrison Heller, Membership Coordinator

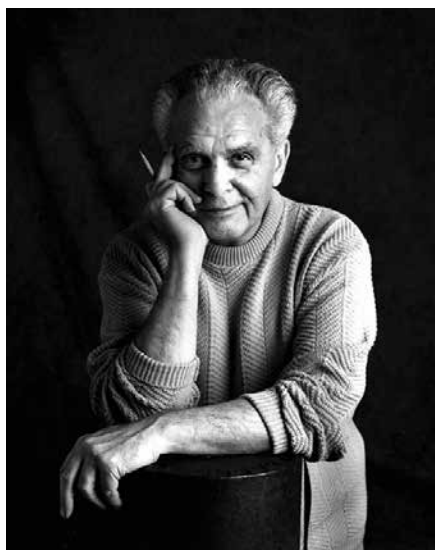
It has been ten years since the start of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, which puts together the world's mightiest superheroes. It all began with the introduction of Iron Man and now has culminated with the largest collection of superheroes on the big screen. It was definitely worth the wait.

One of the founders of Marvel Comics, Jack Kirby, is considered to be "The King of Comics," and he created a lot of the characters that fans have come to admire. However, most people do not know about Kirby's Jewish military past:

Kirby was born Jacob Kurtzberg in 1917 to Austrian Jewish immigrants. Growing up during the Great Depression on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, Kirby's life was rough to say the least. Street fights were common, but he found relief in reading the colorful pages of comic books. He was also a gifted storyteller by all accounts, which is probably something he got from listening to his parent's stories growing up. He had all the makings of a great comic book creator.

After a few stints drawing comic strips for newspapers, Kirby finally landed a big-time job at Timely Comics, which would eventually turn into the Marvel Comics we have all come to love. At Timely, Kirby was already rolling up his sleeves and fighting with American Nazis that came to the building looking for Jews to beat up. This fighting spirit of his carried over to his work. On the first cover of Captain America, "Cap" is punching Hitler right in the face. Throughout the early issues of Captain America, you can see Cap fighting time and time again with Hitler as the central villain.

On June 7, 1943, Jack Kirby was called away from the drawing board and drafted into the Army to fight Hitler off the page. After doing his time in basic training, Kirby was sent to Europe on the front lines. On arriving there, Kirby's Lieutenant learned who he was, and he asked Kirby if he was the creator of Captain America. Kirby enthusiastically responded "Yes sir. I drew Captain America," and he made Kirby a Scout on the spot, telling him "You go into these towns that we don't have and see if there is any-



Jack Kirby

body there. Draw maps and pictures of what you see and come back and tell us if you find anything."

His time overseas deeply affected him. Being a scout, Kirby saw the worst humanity had to offer. The time that affected him the most was his experience liberating a concentration camp. Kirby recalled, "There were mostly women and some men; they looked like they hadn't eaten for I don't know how long. They were scrawny. Their clothes were all tattered and dirty. The Germans didn't give a s*** for anything. They just left the place; just like leaving a dog behind to starve. I was standing there for a long time just watching thinking to myself, 'What do I do?' Just thinking about it makes my stomach turn. All I could say was, 'Oh, God.'"

There are various rumors on whether this was the actual occasion that Kirby finally punched a Nazi in the face. What is known is that you can see the themes fascism and the Holocaust throughout his works. One great example of this influence is in the X-Men character Magneto. Magneto's origins as a Holocaust survivor as well as the civil rights issues his character presents throughout the series clearly came from Kirby's experiences during World War II. Most of his villains embody some sort of fascism and are hell-bent on "perfecting" this world at whatever cost, which brings us back to Infinity War.

Avengers: Infinity War was released April 27, 2018 to huge fanfare. The film tells the story of Thanos and his quest for the Infinity Stones, six stones that date back to the creation of the universe. The stones include the Space Stone, Time Stone, Soul Stone, Power Stone, Mind Stone, and Reality Stone. If Thanos collects all six stones, he has the power to eliminate half of the life in the universe with a snap of his fingers. He believes that this plan will lead to a higher quality of life for those who survived.

The movie starts off with the members of the Avengers divided, due to the events of the film Captain America: Civil War (currently available on Netflix). When the Black Order arrives and attempts to collect the Mind Stone from Vision and the Time Stone from Dr. Strange, the Avengers unite to take on Thanos and his army. The film concludes with the Battle of Wakanda where Thanos collects the sixth and final Infinity Stone, the Mind Stone. Thanos escapes and snaps his fingers. As people are dying, they turn to ash. Keeping in mind that most the characters fea-

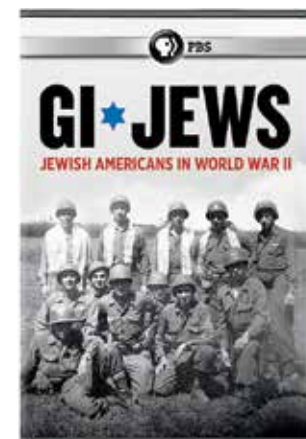
ture were created by Jack Kirby, this is just another example of how the themes of the Holocaust and fascism were written into his work.

The film does a phenomenal job of pairing the characters where their personalities work well with one another. You have Captain America, The Winter Soldier, Hulk/Bruce Banner, Black Panther, Scarlet Witch, Vision, and Black Widow in Wakanda, a fictionalized African country. Rocket Raccoon and Groot, of The Guardians of the Galaxy, with Thor getting Stormbreaker, Thor's new hammer. Star Lord, Mantis, and Drax, of The Guardians of the Galaxy, with Iron Man/Tony Stark, Spiderman, and Dr. Strange on Titan preparing for the first encounter with Thanos.

Avengers Infinity War is a must see and is the epitome of a summer blockbuster. When the movie starts, it steps on the gas and never lets up. In honor of the late Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert, I give this movie 2 thumbs way up. Nevertheless, we at the Jewish War Veterans know this movie would have not been possible without Kirby's Jewish military experiences, and to that, we tip our hat to you Mr. Kirby.

GI JEWS

Jewish Americans in WWII



We first heard about the GI Jews documentary in 2014. Producer/Director Lisa Ades contacted Jordana Greene of the JWV staff looking for leads on WWII veterans who would be available to interview. Lisa visited the museum while they were still searching for funding, but had established connections with PBS,

National Endowment for the Humanities and other organizations. They'd already conducted interviews with Hollywood legends and WWII veterans Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner. Lisa toured the museum and we shared our stories and discussed the history of American Jews in World War II.

On May 23rd, 2016, the film crew came to the museum and spent the day here conducting interviews with staff and veterans. In 2017, we got to see a new trailer that illustrated what the film would look like. It became clear that the film would be widely distributed. The world premiere was on January 14th, 2018 at the Miami Jewish Film Festival.

On April 4th, I got a chance to attend the New York City premiere at the Center for Jewish History and finally got to see the film in full. I was happy not only to see myself on screen along with many images from the museum's collections. I was thrilled at the excellent storytelling and how powerfully Jewish veterans were portrayed in the film.

After it aired on PBS on April 11th, the feedback was tremendous. We've received a steady flow of phone calls, emails and visitors saying they heard about the museum via PBS.



Photo courtesy of Marvel Comics

We Welcome You to JWV's 123rd Annual Convention!

JWV will be in beautiful Tampa, Florida, from August 9th to August 13th. Our Convention is where members of the Jewish military and veteran community come together to speak and solve issues within their community. From fighting anti-Semitism in the military to speaking with Jewish youth on the merits of military service, JWV is the only place that issues facing Jewish American military personnel and veterans are being addressed, which is why it is so important that we have you there!

► Friday, August 10th will be the opening day of the Convention. We are excited to say that **Representative Ted Deutch** and **Brigadier General Cindy Jebb** will be speaking at our Opening Ceremonies at 11:30 AM.

► Saturday, August 11th brings **Pamela Smith-Beatty of the VA's Women Healthcare Initiative** as well as a special screening of *The Space Between Us*, a special project JWV worked on Gold Star Families.

► Sunday, August 12th is an exciting day full of panels of youth groups, JROTC cadets and enlisted Jewish service members to tell us their stories. It

will also be the evening of our **Veterans Night Out!**

► Monday, August 13th will be the last day of Convention, and we excited to say that we have some great speakers lined up. We will also finalize any business and elect the National Commander! Don't forget the **National Commander's Banquet** that night, which should be a lot of fun, and maybe, TALO will bring out their cowboy hats again!

Overall, we are very proud of this year's schedule, and we cannot wait for you to join us. All you have to do is call the National Office at 202-265-6280 to sign up!



Representative Ted Deutch



Brigadier General Cindy Jebb



DR. BARRY SCHNEIDER ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY FOR NATIONAL COMMANDER

Dr. Barry Schneider is a retired Air Force Major with 20 years of active military service. His assignments included: NORAD IG Team; Combat Crew Commander; Instructor Crew Commander and Standardization Evaluator for both Titan II and Minuteman Strategic Missile Weapon Systems; Commander of the 44th Strategic Missile Wing Headquarters Squadron and the Chief Administrative and Logistic Services at the Morocco US Liaison Office United States Embassy in Rabat, Morocco; Commander of the 57th Fighter Interceptor Headquarters Squadron in Keflavik, Iceland and Commander of the 7th Combat Support Group Headquarters Squadron in Texas. He graduated from the Squadron Officers School, Air Command & Staff College, Command Staff Officers Course and Defense Institute for Security Assistance Management.

Barry worked for the Fort Worth Independent School District for 16 years, serving as a Central Office Administrator in the Human Resources Department and became a Certified Records Manager. He completely revamped the procedure for maintaining and preserving employee records for the FWISD. He served as a board member of the Texas State Library Records and Archives Commission.

In 1994, Barry joined Jewish War Veterans Post 755 in Fort Worth, TX and became a Life Member. He is also a life member of National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH). He served as Post Commander from 2005-2007 and received the Post Member of the Year Award in 2007. He served as Department Commander for Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas (TALO) from 2012-2014 and National Executive Committee member from 2014-2016. He developed and organized two JWV Posts in Oklahoma City, OK and Shreveport, LA in 2013 and



a new Ladies Auxiliary in Fort Worth, TX in 2016.

Barry served as Chairman of Vietnam Veterans Committee, Chairman of the Scouting Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Youth Achievement Committee, Convention Committee member, Personnel Committee member, Resolutions Committee member, Awards Committee member, NMAJMH Representative and the JWV Representative at the annual Jewish Warrior Weekend at Texas A&M 2017 and 2018. Barry has been a lifelong Boy Scout. As a youth, he earned the Eagle Scout award and the Ner Tamid Jewish religious emblem. As an adult, he served as Assistant District Commissioner for BSA Transatlantic Council in Turkey and Morocco. He was awarded the Silver Beaver award for sustained exemplary service and the Shofar Jewish religious award

for service to Jewish Scouting. Barry was selected to serve as a staff leader at several National Jamborees working in the Jewish emblems booth, director of the Kosher kitchen and teaching Reading Merit Badge.

The Jewish Community is paramount to Barry. He was selected as the B'nai B'rith Jewish Person of the Year for Fort Worth and Tarrant County in 2010. He has served as President of Temple Beth Shalom in Arlington, TX; President of Fort Worth chapter of B'nai B'rith; Campaign Chairman and President of the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County; President of Men's Club Congregation Ahavath Shalom, Fort Worth, TX; Vice President of the Tarrant County, TX Hebrew Free Loan Society; Vice President of the B'nai B'rith and Tarrant County Senior Housing complex in Fort Worth, TX. Barry served as a Board member of the Fort Worth Jewish Day School and the Fort Worth and Tarrant County Jewish Family Services. In addition, he serves with Fort Worth Citizens on Patrol with the Police Department. Barry was a founding board member of the Orchard Theater of Texas, a nonprofit professional theater offering innovative and classic productions.

Barry earned a BA in History from California State College in 1967, MEd in Guidance and Counseling from South Dakota State University in 1976, MA in Management from Webster University in 1986 and Ed.D in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in 1996.

Barry was born and raised in St. Louis, Mo. He was married to Dolores (Finkelstein) for 49 years. Dolores passed away in 2015. They have two children, daughter Myla and son Eric and two grandchildren. Myla and her husband Gary have two children, Eli and Coby.

**Here is a sneak peak
at the 123rd Annual
Convention Schedule:**

Thursday, August 9

GI Jews Screening

Friday, August 10

NEC Meeting

Joint Opening Ceremony
National Service Officer
Open House

Saturday, August 11

Jewish Warrior Weekend
Experiences

Gold Star Families
Experiences

Creating Connections
Between Yom HaZikaron
and Memorial Day

Military Spouse
Employment Panel

JWVA's
National President's
Banquet

Sunday, August 12

Working with JROTC Units

Creating Connections
With Youth Groups

Iraq & Afghanistan
Committee Meeting

Gulf War Committee
Meeting

JWVA's Double Chai
Luncheon

Veterans Night Out:
Dinner at

Cooper Hawk's Winery

Monday, August 13

How Do We Preserve Iraqi
Jewish Artifacts?

Creating Post Events
for Iraq & Afghanistan
Veterans

Vietnam Veterans
Committee Meeting

Women in the Military
Committee Meeting

National Commander's
Banquet

**Times and speakers are
subject to change. Please
check the JWV website for
more information.*

**JWV 123rd Annual
National Convention**

**August 9-14, 2018
Tampa, Florida**

**JWVA 90th Annual
National Convention**

Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore • 2225 N. Lois Ave, Tampa, FL 33607
Phone 813-877-6688 • Fax 813-879-3264 • www.tampaairport.hilton.com

**Hotel registration
deadline is
Monday, July 9.
A one night
(\$155/single or
double) deposit
is required for all
hotel registrations.
A 3-night minimum
stay is required.**

**Hotel reservations
must be made
through JWV.**

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

**A surcharge will
be assessed and
attendance at
meetings will not
be allowed.**

**Local members
living within a 50
mile radius are
exempt.**

**JWVA events are
open to everyone!**

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

JWV Name: _____ Post #: _____

Ladies Auxiliary Name: _____ Aux. #: _____

Address: _____ Dept.: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Room will be shared with: _____

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

NEW! JWV and JWVA Registration	Cost	QTY.	Amount
Rooms Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds	\$155.00 per night		
<i>Please note that handicap rooms are first come-first served and cannot be guaranteed.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I need a Handicap room.			
3 rd Person in a room	\$77.50 per night		
JWV Member Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel	\$175.00 per member		
National Commander's Banquet • Monday, Aug. 13 ____ Beef ____ Salmon ____ Kosher ____ Sugar-Free Dessert	\$45.00 per person		
National Ladies Auxiliary Registration Fee (\$50.00 at Convention)	\$45.00 per member		
Partners Club (\$50 new members / \$25 renewal) • August 10	\$50.00 \$25.00		
National President's Reception and Banquet • August 11 ____ Grouper ____ N.Y. Strip Steak ____ Dietetic Dessert	\$45.00 per person		
Double Chai Club Luncheon • August 12 ____ Beef Burger ____ Salmon Burger ____ Dietetic ____ Turkey Burger ____ Turkey Sandwich ____ Dessert ____ This is my first Double Chai Luncheon ____ I already have 15 stones on my pin ____ I am happy with the Double Chai Pin I have now I have _____ on my pin and will need one more (15 stones max)	\$36.00 per person <i>You don't need to belong to the Ladies Auxiliary to attend our Double Chai Luncheon. Everyone is welcome! All will have a good time!</i>		
Raffle Tickets ____ JWV ____ JWVA	\$5.00 Each 3 for \$10.00		
Total			
All events must be pre-paid in full		Amount paying now:	
I am paying by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No. _____		Exp. ____/____/____	
Signature _____			

Veterans Night Out at Cooper's Hawk

Sunday, August 12 • 6:00 -8:00 PM

\$45.00 Per Person (includes tax and tip)

Food • Fun • Friends • Everyone is welcome!

Contact Jerry Alperstein at 212-477-3131 for details.

Make a Difference! We challenge you to make a difference in JWV's future by identifying key issues affecting our Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, and female veterans. Writing a resolution is a great way to become involved in JWV on a national scale. Resolutions approved at convention become part of the National agenda when JWV's National Commander testifies before Congress every year.

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



NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY of the JWV

National President Iris Goldwasser



Dear Sisters,

It is with a little sadness that I approach the writing of this message, my last to you as your National President. Those of us who are lucky enough to have been elected to this honored position occupy this prestigious office for just one year. Time seems to just fly by and there never seems to be enough time to accomplish all you hope. So, although a year is a long period of time for some, for others, like me, it is far too short. In August, when enthusiasms were at their peak, time seemed aplenty; by April, I began to feel there was just not enough of it.

Thanks to all of you, however, we succeeded in our goals; we proudly promoted the National Ladies Auxiliary through our services to others and maintained all of our existing programs. In addition, we added a new project to Child Welfare named our "PICU/NICU Emergency Kits for Families" and renamed our teddy bear program in memory of PNP Rita A. Panitz, who initiated the program in 1997. I would also like to import that any measure of success that has been achieved by my administration is the direct result of the efforts of all my fellow officers and chairmen, as it is a well-known fact that no President can achieve success alone.

As I look back in time and reflect upon this year many thoughts come to mind. As I visited your Auxiliaries during these many months it became

more apparent than ever to me that you are a special group of women. You represent my theme this year, "Helping Hands Bring Smiles" – you're givers, selfless persons always remembering those less fortunate. By your interaction with others, you bring smiles to those isolated from their community or their loved ones. You make me proud to be your National President.

I would like to leave you with the following sentiments that have guided me through the years.

DO SOMETHING

Do something today to bring gladness
To someone whose pleasures are few,
Do something to drive off sadness
Or cause someone's dream to come true.

Find time for a neighborly greeting
And time to delight an old friend
Remember – the years are fleeting
And life's latest day will soon end!

Do something today that tomorrow
Will prove to be really worthwhile,
Help someone to conquer sorrow
And greet the new dawn with a smile.

For only through kindness and giving
Of service and friendship and cheer,
We learn the pure joy of living
And find heaven's happiness here.

In conclusion, my dear Sisters, I do hope and fervently wish that the future brings you all good health, happiness and continued commitment to the goals and aims of the National Ladies Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans.

Loyally,
Iris Goldwasser

Student Award Recipient Says Thank You

Dear Linda Colón and JoAnn Lifshitz:

WOW, thank you so much!

When I received your letter telling me that I had been awarded this scholarship I was driving back to school from home and my mom called to tell me the news. I was so excited that I had to pull over and call my grandma right away; needless to say she was just as excited as I was.

Thank you for the kind words and recognition of my hard work in high school; I will be sure to carry that on in college. I'm so glad that you guys enjoyed and understood the path that I am choosing to take in the future, and recognize that it is something that the world will be in need of very soon.

Again, thank you so much for this opportunity and hopefully in the near future I can materialize these aspirations that this award is helping me achieve.

Billy Achtman

DID YOU KNOW? By Iris Goldwasser

Sometimes informative and interesting stories come across my desk that I believe should be shared with all of you. I hope you will agree that they merit retelling.

Not long ago I learned something from an enlightening article I read featuring the Radio City Rockettes and their Jewish connection. It seems that the founders of the annual Radio City holiday events, which originated in 1932, were Jewish men brought together by Samuel "Roxy" Rothafel. At that time Roxy managed great Manhattan movie houses which also featured a dance group called the "Roxyettes". Their name changed to the "Rockettes" when this creative team and the dancers moved their home base to the Radio City Music Hall. Not only did this original group of producer Leon Leonidoff, composer Charles Previn (uncle of Andre Previn), conductor Gruo Rapee and corporate producer David Sarnoff (a Jewish Russian immigrant himself) create the Christmas spectacular and the traditional Easter pageant but also a short-lived "Kol Nidre" stage show for the High Holidays.

In addition to this Jewish beginning the dancers all wore dance shoes manufactured by a Jewish firm named Capezio. There were several Jewish dancers among the Rockettes over the years but two, Rhonda Kaufman Malkin and later Megan Levinson, really attracted attention to themselves by observing the traditions of Chanukah when they lit their Menorahs backstage between performances of their Christmas shows. It is also reported that the Rockettes performed at the inauguration of President Trump last year, dancing to a medley of songs written by another Russian Jewish immigrant named Israel Beilin, better known to us as Irving Berlin.

THANK YOU! PNP Freda Rosenshein would like to express her appreciation and say thank you to all the Sisters of JWVA who sent her good wishes and donations during her recent illness. She is happy to report she is doing much better.

THE BENEFITS OF GIVING ARE NOT ONE SIDED By Iris Goldwasser

Several weeks ago I learned of an important milestone that was reached in June 2016 when President Obama nominated Col. Cindy Jebb as the new academic dean at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. She has since been promoted to Brigadier General and is the first female in the 200 yr. history of West Point to serve in this position. This appointment came on the anniversary of the Academy marking its 40th year of admitting women as Cadets. Brig. Gen. Jebb is herself a West Point graduate, class of 1989.

My family and I knew Cindy during her years as a Cadet. At that time she was a teenager named Cindy Glazier and a member of the Jewish Chapel Squad. My husband, Ed, and myself were active at West Point at that time and were even called Mom and Pop by some of the Jewish Cadets. We tried to bring a sense of home and Yiddishkeit as well as traditional food for Onegs after Friday night services and special foods to celebrate our Jewish holidays.

Our 20 years of service at the U.S. Military

Academy, from 1972-1992, were a very rewarding and memorable experience. We still keep in touch with some graduates, some of who are grandparents now and some who have retired from the military and moved on to private careers. We have some wonderful memories of weddings, of a Bar Mitzvah arranged by JWV/JWVA for a Cadet who never had one, of hugs as the Cadets greeted us on Fridays; some things you never forget.

I know that some people believe that providing a service is a one-sided experience, that those on the receiving end are the winners, but that is definitely not so. The givers receive much more from giving than the receivers do. We are a service organization and our service brings us pleasure as well. If your Auxiliary is near enough to a military academy or a military base or unit, perhaps you too can bring this experience to Jewish personnel on active duty. To bring joy, happiness and a touch of home is such a mitzvah and is accompanied by unforgettable memories for you.

HELPING HANDS BRING SMILES

Rhea Sahl
Memorial Baby Shower
For Pregnant Military Women

We're holding a baby shower for our pregnant military women during our National Convention in Tampa, Florida on Friday, August 10, 2018. It is one way that we can say "Thank You" to these women for serving our country.



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

If you would like to make a donation for the baby shower, send your check to PNP Elaine Bernstein to purchase any items for the Rhea Sahl Memorial Baby Shower Program. Make your checks payable to: Elaine Bernstein, PNP, 9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872.



You can send your items and donations for the Baby Shower and/or the Teddy Bear Program directly to the hotel, between August 4 and August 7, 2018. Address packages to: Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore Hotel, 2225 N Lois Ave., Tampa, Florida 33607-2355. Attention: Elaine Bernstein, PNP, Convention Chairman JWVA.

Partners Club

By Esther Rosenshein, PAP, Partners Chairman

Please join us at the Convention on Friday, August 10th at 5:30 pm for a wine & cheese get together.

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

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

Please make your checks payable to JWVA and send to the office and earmark Partners.

Sisters, if you have any questions, email me at estherruth519@gmail.com or call me at 971-404-6264.

Join Us for our 90th Annual National Convention!

• August 9 – 14, 2018 •

Take an adventure back in time and unlock some of Tampa's rich history and hidden gems. As the nation's 54th largest city, Tampa offers a unique and exciting experience for everyone.

Tampa has an enormous variety of attractions and activities for visitors. Waterside cafes, Busch Gardens, the Florida Aquarium, Channelside shopping, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Devil Rays, and Lightning are just a few of the biggest attractions. Then there's Ybor City, where visitors can find hand-rolled cigars and Cuban sandwiches. Don't forget the ocean and the white sand beaches which offers people the chance to participate in jet skiing, parasailing,



sport fishing, boating, sunning and relaxation.

The Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore Hotel is a perfect place to stay while you experience Tampa. Easy access to area attractions makes this hotel a popular choice for visitors. The hotel offers shuttle service within a three mile radius, which includes two

lovely malls with a multitude of restaurants.

We look forward to getting together once again to find ways of increasing our membership, exchanging ideas on how to best service the veteran, their family, the servicemember, the child in need, the community at large, and keeping the National Ladies Auxiliary functioning in a most successful manner.

Let's do it again! Our Pounds Auction at the last convention was surely something to talk about! Everyone had such a great time, we are going to do it again. Please bring a pound of anything, and put it in a brown lunch bag. If you don't have a brown bag, we'll have extras.

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

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

Admission is \$2 • Snacks will be served • Come down for an evening of fun and laughter!



Rita Panitz Memorial
Teddy Bear Program

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



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

On Friday, August 10th, we have made arrangements to donate the bears to the Fire Department, Police Department, Children's Hospital, and the Ronald McDonald House. Think of the thanks we will receive when the residents in the Tampa area notice the label attached to each bear that reads, "National Ladies Auxiliary, Jewish War Veterans."

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

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

Let's make this the
BEST Bear Convention ever!

JWVA
National President's Banquet
honoring
National President
Iris Goldwasser

Saturday, August 11
 6:00pm Reception • 7:00pm Dinner

There will be great food and wonderful entertainment! Everyone is welcome!

You will have a SUPER evening!

\$45 / \$50 at the door

DOUBLE CHAI CLUB
JOIN US FOR LUNCH!
August 12 • \$36

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

Become a member of our "Double Chai Circle". Join us at an outstanding luncheon.

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

HELPING HANDS BRING SMILES

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

This Spring At the Museum

On March 25th, National Medal of Honor Day we screened the film True Honor, created by the Jewish War Veterans Department of California. The film features Jewish American recipients of the Medal of Honor. After the film, our historian Sheldon Goldberg discussed the Civil War Medal of Honor recipients. These are among our most important stories and we'll continue to discuss the extraordinary courage of the Jewish Medal of Honor recipients in every way we can.

We hosted two events with our friends from Sephardic Heritage in DC. One was a Purim talk from Laurel Victoria Gray who discussed the similarities between Purim and Persian Nowruz. The other was a Mimouna event on April 15th. Mimouna is a Moroccan tradition marking the end of Passover and the return to eating chametz. We celebrated with Moufletas and other great food, music and dancing.

The April 11th debut of the documentary film GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II on PBS brought a lot of attention to the museum. The film features many images from the museum collections and interviews conducted at the museum. The filmmakers did a great job and it was a pleasure to be a part of it. If you missed it on PBS, it's now available on DVD and digital download. See <http://www.pbs.org/show/gi-jews/> for more information about the film.

Sunday, May 6th was a busy day at the museum. In the afternoon, we hosted the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington, who toured the museum before holding their meeting in our education center. It was great to have the building filled with people with an intense interest in Jewish history, almost all of



Director Lisa Ades and Producer Amanda Bonavita with NMAJMH's Michael Rugel at GI Jews reception.



A representative brings greeting from the Embassy of Morocco at Mimouna celebration.

35th Annual Dupont-Kalorama Museum Walk Brings Lots of Visitors

This year our museum again participated in the 35th Annual Dupont Kalorama Museum Walk. On June 2nd and 3rd, diverse museums in our Dupont Circle area neighborhood opened their doors free of charge for a weekend long celebration. The participating museums this year included the Anderson House, Dumbarton House, National Museum of American Jewish Military History, The Phillips Collection, and

the President Woodrow Wilson House.

It's always a great day to get new faces into our museum that might not come in otherwise. This year, we saw a steady stream of visitors despite constant rain. From out of towners to neighborhood locals, visitors had the chance to view the museum on their own, or to receive a guided tour by Mike Rugel, the museum Programs and Content Coordinator, or from museum docent Robin Blum.

Visitors don't need to wait until next June to check us out. The Museum is open 9-5 every weekday and admittance is always free.



A group of visitors receiving a tour from Museum Programs Coordinator Mike Rugel, during the 35th Annual Dupont Kalorama Museum Walk Weekend. Photo credit by Jeanne Einhorn.



Sixteen year old visitor Robert Rozental examines one of the exhibits in the Museum's Hall of Heroes. Photo credit by Jeanne Einhorn.

who had a personal connection to the military in their immediate family.

That night, we held a meet and greet reception at the museum with the filmmakers who created GI Jews. The film screened as part of the Washington Jewish Film Festival. After they showed it at the Edlavitch DC Jewish Community Center, people came to the museum for the reception. WWII veteran Sam Kessler was here as were the film's director Lisa Ades and producer Amada Bonavita. Kessler shared his remarkable WWII story of parachuting out of his B-24. His parachute became stuck on the top of a church steeple, trapping Kessler. Sure that he was dead, Kessler said Kaddish for himself. About twenty minutes later, the trap door of the church steeple opened and villagers were there to help Kessler into the building and save his life.

We're completing the museum tour video that was sponsored by the Department of New York. It's a 26-minute video that will take you through the museum and through the history of Jews in the American military. We plan to premiere it at the J WV Convention in August and then make it available to everyone after that.

As always, keep an eye on the museum website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We continue to add stories and information all the time.

Spread the Word!

We rely on word of mouth to help get out the news that NMAJMH is a great place to visit. Tell you friends family and neighbors. Recommend a school send their classes here. Tell a seniors center to bring a group for a tour. Your testimony is the best way to ensure we continue to get more visitors through our door!

Shop the Museum Store!

There are great items for sale in the museum and on our website, at NMAJMH.org. Along with books and DVDs, we sell Judaic jewelry and notecards. Here are just a few of the products you can purchase today:

- **A Survivor's Haggadah** - In the winter of 1945-1946, Holocaust survivors in displaced persons camps around Munich created an extraordinary illustrated Haggadah in preparation for the first Passover after liberation. This was published by the U.S. Army under the direction of Chaplain Abraham Klausner.



- **Pocket Guide to Jewish Sites in Arlington National Cemetery.** This pocket-sized book highlights memorials and individual burials of Jewish interest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Rabbi Michael Aaronsohn: Light Through the Darkness

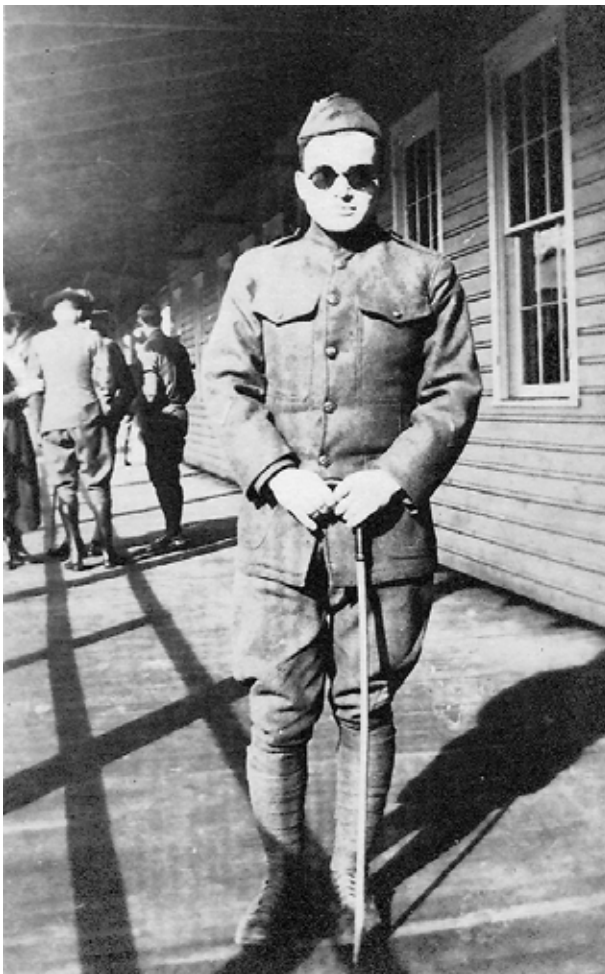
Michael Aaronsohn, son of Polish immigrants, was born in Baltimore, MD, in 1896. He was educated in Baltimore, graduating from Baltimore City College in 1913. From 1913 until 1916 he was a social worker at the Jewish Education Alliance in Baltimore. In 1916 he enrolled as a student at the University of Cincinnati and Hebrew Union College to study theology.

As a student he was entitled to a draft exemption, but he decided that he could not go through life feeling that at a time of war, when his country called for volunteers, he stayed home. He enlisted in the First Regiment, Ohio National Guard, which later became part of the 147th Infantry. He trained at Camp Sheridan and had been promoted to Sergeant Major when he went overseas on July 5, 1918.

While in France, serving as Battalion Sergeant Major for the 2d Battalion, he was wounded in the Meuse-Argonne drive and as a result lost the sight in both his eyes. He was with the Regimental Adjutant when he heard someone calling for help. Close to the edge of the woods a member of his unit had been struck down by a German shell. Aaronsohn hesitated as it was against orders to go out under fire to carry the wounded back, thus endangering another life. Yet he felt that the soldier could not be left there to be killed by another shell. Aaronsohn went to him and was carrying the injured comrade to safety when a German shell hit nearby. An explosion, clouds of dust, darkness, and then black. The shell killed the wounded man and blinded Aaronsohn for life. Hours later Aaronsohn woke up at a dressing station wondering why the sounds of battle were so far away. Some time later he learned the truth in a letter from a fellow soldier which was read to him:

"It seems ages ago since I last spoke to you, and what a parting it was... both of your eyes shot out and, as ever, you smiled. God, that smile went through me like a knife. There you stood, both eyes gone, and still you could smile."

For the first few months after he was blinded he felt that it would have been better to have died on the battlefield. Then, in the hospital in Savenay, France, he summoned the determination to carry on. Instruction in reading Braille had begun, and the world of reading and communication opened back up for him. A year after he had been wounded, Aaronsohn returned to the United States to spend a few months at the Red Cross School for the Blind at Evergreen in Baltimore. Some facial operations were necessary and so he was sent to General Hospital No. 2 at Fort McHenry, where he remained for six months.



Aaronsohn while recovering from his injuries, ca. 1919.

In the fall of 1919 he returned to Cincinnati to resume his studies at the University of Cincinnati and Hebrew Union College. By coincidence, he crossed paths with someone he knew during the war. When he was wounded, Aaronsohn was carried off the field in a French cart and later cared for by Charles Quitman, of the medical detachment of his outfit. Because of the wounds to Aaronsohn's head, Quitman could not make out his features and forgot the incident after he had delivered Aaronsohn to the base hospital. Two years later, while both men were attending the University of Cincinnati, they were companions on a boat trip on the Ohio River. They were recalling war experiences and Quitman told of carrying a blinded buddy from the field in the Argonne Forest. Further conversation convinced the two men that they had met before.

Aaronsohn's sister Dora played an important role in his rehabilitation and success. She went to school with him, secured a position as secretary to the faculty, chiefly that she might accompany him to his

classes, study with him, be his eyes and guiding hand. His classmates also helped him with his extensive theological reading and study. Aaronsohn took most of his college exams on the typewriter, upon which he had become proficient before the war.

Aaronsohn graduated in the summer of 1923 with academic honors and the love of his fellow students. At the graduation ceremony at the University of Cincinnati, Aaronsohn was awarded the McKibbin medal. This medal was bestowed annually upon a student of the graduating class who, during their four years at the university, has "kept before him the high ideals of manhood." Immediately after his graduation he went on a speaking tour organized by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. While on his speaking tour, his sister traveled with him as his secretary. For seven years the brother and sister traveled together, covering 100,000 miles and visiting 287 cities.

In 1937, Rabbi Aaronsohn was one of three American clergymen called on to officiate at the dedication of American war monuments, chapels, and cemeteries in France, Belgium, and England. From 1954 until 1974, Rabbi Aaronsohn was the visiting chaplain at the VA hospitals in Cincinnati and Fort Thomas, KY. For six successive terms he was elected the national chaplain of the Disabled American Veterans. He also served as National Chaplain of the VFW and Chaplain of the Department of Ohio, American Legion.

Rabbi Aaronsohn died in 1976, leaving behind two daughters, a son, and an impressive legacy of resilience and determination.



Rabbi Aaronsohn at the start of his national speaking tour, 1923.

What Post Records are Kept in the Archives at National HQ?

Records in the archives at National vary greatly post to post, and there is no information available on many posts. We only have those records that have been sent to us by the post, and generally only after a post has closed or merged with another post. This means that we generally are not able to provide post histories or information about whom the post was named for, who was the commander during a specific time, etc..

While we have limited space in the archives at National, we are able to accept certain things pertaining to echelon history and activities. These include:

- Charters
- Meeting minutes
- Compiled history of your post
- Newsletters

If you have these sort of records to donate, or have

questions, please contact Pamela Elbe at pelbe@jwv.org or by calling 202.265.6280. Please do not send anything without first contacting Pam first.

We are not able to accept things like scrapbooks, photo albums, plaques, banners, flags, or altar cloths. Please consider donating these sort of materials to your local historical society, as they document the activities of the organization within your community.

Recent Military Aviation Accidents Take One of Our Own

By Anna Selman, Programs and Public Relations Coordinator
On April 3, 2018, Marine Captain Samuel Schultz passed away in during a military aviation training accident in Southern California. He was 28 years old. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Capt. Schultz was described as “fearless” and “a driven individual”. He joined the military 6 years ago – following in the footsteps of his family with that same fearless attitude.

His funeral was held in his hometown of Philadelphia, PA on April 15, 2018, and the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. was there. According to Post Commander Bruce Kanis, “1,100 people were at the Funeral Chapel ranging from a 4 Star USMC General Magnus to Admirals to Lance Corporals to many of his friends from both coasts. We (JWV) provided a full JWV service along with another Gold Star Memorial Plaque from Post 215 to the family. At the grave, I presented a full Veteran Detail of JWV, American Legion, Marine Leatherneck, and Warrior Watch members who gave proper salute and honors during the service in conjunction with a full Marine Honor and Firing Detail.”

However, questions on why and how this happened has overwhelmed military leadership. Since training season began in the spring, at least 27 US service members have died in noncombat-related crashes of military aircraft and more injured. It has plagued all the services – Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force alike. So, the question is why is this happening and why now?

As in all military accidents, investigations into each individual accident started with each crash.

However, each individual investigation will not look into the magnitude of the situation. As I am typing this, a proposal to create an independent national commission on military aviation safety, offered by HASC Ranking Member Adam Smith just passed the committee by a unanimous voice vote – meaning there will be a Congressional review of all military aviation accidents from 2013 to 2018.

Why 2013? That is because 2013 is the year that the Sequestration started to ramp up. According to a report by the Military Times, the Sequestration disproportionately affected maintenance and operations budgets – cutting the budget by 1 trillion dollars during its effect. The military decided to cut flight hours, maintenance on heavy aircraft and to delay replacing old equipment. Military personnel, such as ground maintenance crews, were let go, and we are now starting to see the effects of those decisions.

However, operational requirements did not change from 2012 to 2013, which means that pilots were flying the same amount of missions with a smaller amount of aircraft and a smaller group of pilots and maintenance crews. In 2016, the problem started show itself. The Air Force realized that it was facing a shortage of 700 fighter pilots and a shortage of 2,500 ground-maintenance workers.

The aircraft that Captain Schultz flew on April 3rd was a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter. The Marine Corps currently has 143 CH-53Es in its inventory, despite having a requirement for 200 heavy-lift helicopters. On average, only 37 percent of them are flyable at any given time. Difficulties in keeping the aircraft



Capt. Samuel A. Schultz.
US Marine Corps photo.

airworthy, in turn making it hard for pilots to get in adequate flying hours to remain proficient in the various tasks the helicopter performs, have undoubtedly contributed to a string of deadly accidents with the type.

In turn, we have seen deadly accidents coming from stateside training exercise increase the past couple of years. We know service members sign up for the military knowing full well that they might die in combat, but what they do not sign up for is dying in a training accident. The best way we can honor Captain Schultz’s memory is to make sure that our service members have proper equipment and training before we send them out to the field.

TAPS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Goldstein, Edith - Post 100
Lehr, Herbert - Post 686

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Kaplan, Ilene - Post 512
Meskin, Barney - Post 603
Tor, Harold - Post 760
Wagman, Julius - Post 512

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Fischler, Sidney O. - Post 45
Gordon, Mark W. - Post 45
Himmelstein, Morgan - Post 45
Parade, Emanuel - Post 45
Pinsky, Leo - Post 45
Waldman, Arthur L. - Post 51

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

Seidenstat, Irwin - Post 767

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Agulnek, Meyer - Post 440
Bell, Joseph E. - Post 177
Cohen, Harry - Post 606
DeAngelis, Perry T. - Post 502
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We Regret the Error

We regret that Theodore Lavoot, of Post 760 CA, was incorrectly listed in Taps in a previous issue of *The Jewish Veteran*. We are delighted that he can be counted on as an active member of his Post. We apologize for the error.



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Happy Independence Day!

Allan & Sheila Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

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

SFC Lillian Aronson, USA (Ret)
In honor of my 100th Birthday

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

Chag Sameach
Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ

PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw
Eugene Baraw • Post 336

Allan & Nikki Berger
In Memory of Bert Stoller

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

Post 202 • Naples, Florida
Warm Greetings to All JWV Members
In memory of PDP Adele Bilker

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

PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749

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

Diane & Marshall Duberstein

Greetings • Gerald Elkan

Greetings! Jerry Farris, PDC-PA
In Memory of Lorraine Engelmann
Loving wife, mother, grandmother

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

In Memory of Carol C. Frank
In Memory of Fred Hiendrick

Jim Friedlander, PC • Post 99-ME
In memory of Mel Stone, Late QM/PPC

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

Sidney B. Goldberg, PDC • Post 510
Abe Cohen - Lehman Memorial

PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg
In Honor of PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg
In Memory of Leo & Anita Gilbert

PNC Edwin & NP Iris Goldwasser
Honoring Veterans

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

PNC Sam & PNP Barbara Greenberg
Happy Holidays to All

Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321/69
National Adjutant • 2017-2018

In Honor of all who have served!

PNP Petra C. & Jason A. Kaatz

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

CMDR Laurence & Marilyn Kaufman
Saluting the Men & Women of Post 46

Jack Kent (Kantrovitz)
n Memory of wife Marilyn Shapiro Kent

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

Eva Mangeim, WWII
Walkie Talkie Quality Control Inspector

Best Commander - George Marshal
Post 211, Newton-MA

PNC Sheldon & Judith Ohren
L'Chaim - To Life

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

Dr. Jack N. Porter • Post 211-MA
In memory of my dad, Irving Porter

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

PNP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein
Good Health & Happy Holidays

Stephen & Helen Sax
Harriet & Norman Schnitzer, PDC
In Memory of Ralph Leon Shear
Lubert/Shear Families - All 22 of us!

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

Barry Schneider
Best Wishes to all JWV & JWVA members

PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

PDP Linda & Stuart Singer
In memory of PDC Bill Singer

PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129 NY

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

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

The Tarnofsky Family
In memory of Len Klanit - Post 440

NC Paul and Norma Warner

NJA Harvey & Linda Weiner
Be Well!

In Memory of Joan & Louise Weinstein

Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute
www.msawi.org

Jeri Zweiman
In loving memory of PNC Robert Zweiman

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