President’s Message

We have a new Haman on our hands and we need to be sure his plot is foiled as was that of the original Haman. The new Haman may be tougher, has lots of money and a terrible agenda. He is Mel Gibson, son of an avowed Holocaust denier. His film *The Passion of the Christ* is indifferent to history and even distorts the Gospel version of events. Gibson’s purpose, aside from profit, is to inflame the passions of radical Christian zealots against Jews.

It would be a mistake to sit back and do nothing and repeat the folly of the ’30s. I believe that we, as veterans of WWII and Israel’s War of Independence have a special voice. We should write letters to the editors of the local and national press denouncing Gibson and his intentions. The first Haman was foiled and punished. May this one be as well.

Jerry Rosenberg

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Recent Events

MACHAL MEMORIAL STATUE AT LATRUN
Friday January 23, 2004

The unveiling of the statue dedicated to Machal was quite an outstanding and laudable occasion. The statue stands in the Armoured Corps Museum complex at Latrun, at the entrance to the intended “Museum for the Jewish Soldier in World War II”. (The present temporary Museum will be replaced by a permanent one). The episode of the statue relates to one of the most bloody and unsuccessful battles in May 1948, when an attempt was made to conquer the Taggart Fortress which was heavily defended by the Arab Legion. A Machalnik, from an English-speaking country, whose name is unknown to us, was gravely wounded in the battle, and in an attempt to save his life, the

continued on Page 2

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How They are Remembered

Obituaries highlight the wartime service of deceased members of Machal. Those who survived service lived to become fathers and mothers of families, conduct businesses and professions and serve as active members of their communities. This section provides an opportunity for their survivors to recall the lives they lived in the years after the war or service is aliya bet. In most cases we have a photograph of the veteran with his or her spouse or family. Sometimes we have a photograph provided by the family of the veteran near the time of the War of Independence.

Arthur Goldberg & Family

Arthur Goldberg was one of Vancouver’s valiant volunteers who went in 1947 to fight for the establishment of the state of Israel. Later on took part in the Yom Kippur war and stayed on to become an Israeli tourism pioneer and innovative driving force in the Jewish state for five decades. He succumbed on July 29, 2001.

His goals were to help found the state, to build it and to bring peace to the area where he would raise his 3 children and 8 grandchildren. He launched innovations in modern tourism. He put the first rental cars on the road, ordered the first modern tour buses and established the first international group tours for both Jews and Christians.

The companies he founded, together with fellow Canadian Lionel Druker, were Tiyulim, which later on became Sightseeing/Greentours Ltd. and United Tours Ltd. Leumith Goldberg

Sam Lewis

DUES REMINDER

If you have not done so, please remit your $36 dues payment for the year 2004 without further delay. There are fewer of us this year and we must count on all members to contribute their share if we are to continue our work.

Thank You,

Dave Gerard, Treasurer

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WINTER 2004 - THE AVI NEWSLETTER

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AVI Website
www.sas.upenn.edu/~sklausne/aviweb.html

Recent Events
continued from Page 1

late Reuven Huber carried the wounded man
on his back for over four hours, but when they
arrived at Hulda the Machalnik had already died.
As I said in my speech, this episode must have
been etched so vividly on Reuven's mind, that
he was impelled to direct the executors of his
Will to erect a statue in memory of and in
honour of the Machal Volunteers.

General Chaim Erez (Chairman of the Board
of the Armoured Corps Museum), as well as
Brigadiers Pundak and Ben-Onn, were most
complimentary and laudatory in regard to
Machal's contribution to the War of Indepen-
dence. The audience of about 250 men, women,
and children, listened to the speeches with rapt
attention, and when the statue was unveiled,
we saw how vividly it portrays the heroic story
of Reuven and the Machalnik.

For the guidance of visitors to the site of the
statue, we prepared a brief summary of the mili-
tary branches in which Machalniks had served.
The summary is available in Hebrew, English,
French, and Spanish, and a Russian translation
is under way. This synopsis gives the visitors an
idea of Machal's role in the Army, Air Force,
and Navy. I'm attaching a copy of the English ver-
sion of the summary for your information. I'm
also attaching a scanned copy of the article
which appeared in the Jerusalem Post edition
of 25th January, together with a copy of the
short speech which I delivered at the ceremony.
We will be sending you photographs which
were taken by the Army photographer.

In conclusion, I want to mention the very
special contribution made by our Machalnik Col.
(Ret.) David “Migdal” Teperson. World Machal
wishes to thank “Migdal” for arranging for the
statue to be erected at the Armoured Corps
Museum, which is probably the most-visited
military museum in Israel. He served as the li-
aison between the Huber Family, the Armoured
Corps Museum, the Museum for the Jewish Sol-
dier in World War II, and the sculptor. “Migdal”
also took responsibility for building a beautiful
base for the statue. The sculptor, Ardyn Halter,
an Oleh from England, truly did a magnificent
How They are Remembered
continued from Page 1

I am Sandra Brown, my sis-
ter is Elaine Aronoff; and we are
the daughters of Sam Lewis. Our
mother, Jean Lewis, died almost
three years ago. Our mother and
father lived in Israel for around
35 years, participating in a full
rich social and cultural life.

My sister and I have always
been very proud of the involve-
ment of our father, Sam Lewis,
in the ‘48 War. Though he was never one to boast
or promote himself, he told wonderful stories of his ad-
ventures which I eventually recorded on audio and video
tape for the family, including his role as Chief Pilot in the
transporting of C-46s from Los Angeles to Panama; the
“airline” set-up in Panama while pilots were trained
there; transporting arms and ammunition and planes
from Czechoslovakia to Palestine/Israel; flying missions
in the early air force and so on.

After the trial in Los Angeles of those involved in the
“smuggling” operation, Sam became the first Chief Pilot
of El Al and remained a captain with El Al until manda-
tory retirement at age 60. He flew for Israel Aircraft In-
dustries in various capacities for another ten years.

Sam’s grandchildren and great-grandchildren have
also carried the same pride in his heroic efforts in the
establishment of the State of Israel. Even his youngest
great-grandchild, who unfortunately never knew him,
loves hearing the war stories.

The photo shows our father and Sandra at Burbank
Airport (Los Angeles) in front of the first Constellation
sold to El Al, around 1949 or 1950.

Sandra Brown, Elaine Aronoff

Saunders Finard (1919-1991)

Saunders Finard served as an officer in the
United States Navy 1941-1946. He rose to
the rank of Lt. Commander in the Submarine
Service. Saunders (known as Sandy) returned to civil-
ian life and in 1948, was con-
tacted by Teddy Kollek, a shleikh at the time, in New
York. Arrangements for Saunders' recruitment were not
completed until 1950. At that time he and his new wife,
Miriam, and his two-year-old son, Gil, departed for the
new State of Israel. In the fledgling Israeli Navy he be-
came Chief of Naval Operations serving under Paul
Shulman, Commander of the Navy.

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Machal in New York. For us who were in New York, it was a highlight of this year.
How They are Rememered continued from Page 2

Eventually, the two of them left the Navy to form a
civil engineering business in Israel, which they conducted
for several years. With a slowing of the Israeli economy, Saunder
decided to return to the United States, with his
wife and four sons. In the U.S. Sandy worked as an engi-
neer in the New York-New Jersey area.

We hoped to return to live in Israel one day but we
could never make it happen. Saunder’s father-in-law was an
early Zionist and had moved his family to Palestine in
1931. We made many visits and our hearts were always there. Eventually, one of our sons, Rohn, made aliyah. All of
our sons and their families have remained involved with Israel, where we have many special friends and rela-
tives.

Miriam Finard

Barnet Cohen

“My name is Barnet Cohen, and I come from Brook-
yln, and my father is a baker,” he said and clicked his heels.
I looked up at his cocked head, his outstretched hand, his grin
and jaunty manner, and cried laughing, “A Baker! I always
said I’d…’ I did not complete the sentence, realizing I
might scare him off and I so wanted to be with him. I was going to say “I’d marry a baker” because that is what I told my mother, because she never baked enough cakes to satisfy my inexhaust-
ible appetite for pastries.

The year was 1948 and the place was the air force base
at Ekron, south of Tel Aviv, where hundreds of air
force men and women gathered, packed like sardines to
celebrate in a Purim ball. I almost missed that ball (long
yearly).

Barnet was a prince of a man, to the very end. Our three
children, Shira, an artist and a teacher, Adee (Didi), a psy-
chotherapist, and Jordan, a physician, adored him. They
were lucky to have such a model of a man as their father.
As for me, he was the love of my life, who made my every
day with him a holiday. we both shared a passion for Is-
rael, which I carry out alone now, though always with
my dear memories of him, by volunteer involvements for
Israel. I have a second home in Jerusalem, which I visit
yearly.

David Boxer, 1923-1990

David enlisted in the US
Air Force the day after Pearl
Harbor; the first to be accepted
from Michigan. After the war,
he volunteered to go to France
with Machal. He came to Israel
on a fishing boat, arriving in Tel
Aviv while the Altalena was
burning in the harbor. Dave
joined the Israeli Army. He
served in Rosh Pina, and was
in the Negev and Beer Sheva.

His son Mark was in the Israeli army in 1970. My
granddaughter’s graduation present was to go to Israel
for the first time at 18 years old. I go to Israel almost
ever two years to see my family.

Naomi Cohen

Izzy Cohen

I met Izzy in 1949 after he returned from Israel. We
were married in 1950. Of course when he told me about be-
ing a volunteer and going to Israel and fighting for Is-
rael, I was very proud.

When my children were born and learned about their
father they also were very proud. I was very fortunate to
go to Israel with AVI and one trip to visit our daughter
when she lived there; her husband is an Israeli. She met
him when she was in Israel during the Yom Kippur War.
She is an attor-
ney and repre-
sents Tadiran in
the U.S. and
also did when
she lived in Israel for
two years. I also visited
Israel with my younger
daughter and my twin
sister.

In 1990, my son and
Izzy joined the Israeli
army on the volunteer
program. They defended an armored base in the Negev
Desert and since they had some knowledge of diesel
engines, were placed in the mechanical shop. They
worked on very large tank engines, Detroit Diesel &
Allison Transmissions.

My son was very excited on his first trip to Israel and
met volunteers from all over the world. After the pro-
gram, Izzy and Russell toured the whole country.

My family is very proud of their father. I do keep in
touch with Joe Woolf and Izzy & I were very dear friends
of Harry Eisner.

Elaine Cohen

Max Alper

When I met Max in
New York we spent
six months getting to
know each other. He
told me about his in-
volve-
ment in
Zi-
onism and his Haganah experience. I was
overwhelmed to meet a man who had risked his life for an ideal. He
was a heroic figure to me in addition to being extremely
dand charming. I thought I had better not let
him out of my sight so I married him.

Because he had dropped out of UCLA to join the
Haganah, ostensibly as a student at Technion, he had two
years more of university. We had our first child, Joshua,
who attended Max’s graduation ceremony with me.
Max’s training as a mechanic on B-29’s during World War
II, led to his work in the aerospace industry as a mechani-
cal designer. He was the founding member of Californians
for Technion whose membership was entirely of engi-
combat. Mentsch, courageous, optimistic, and cheerful. Wherever
he went, people’s spirits would be lifted. He made people
smile, children scream with delight, dogs in the street, wa-
g their tails. He had a magical quality that made ev-
everyone he came in contact with love him. He was an in-
veterate storyteller. His string of memories and stories of
his Machal years in Israel colored many of our family
times together as well many gatherings of friends that we
attended.

He would relate how in Kibbutz Cabaret they used
help his mother raise his younger brother David and his younger sister. Times were hard then, but Norm worked so the family could survive. He worked in the Sanitation department since the pay was good, and became a fireman in Brooklyn where he grew up. From 25,000 applicants, my Norm came out #2 which didn’t please him since he wanted to be the best - #1, but on the day of the test, he had the flu and his “brain didn’t function too well,” he said.

He joined the Air Force in September ’44 and was discharged in ’48. After his military duty he did “the most unselfish thing in my life;” he stated. He joined a group of volunteers, mostly Jews, (the Haganah) to make Israel a state - an independent State, and they succeeded. I think it was the most incredible thing those men accomplished in their lives. Thanks to those men, the State of Israel was born and celebrated its 50th birthday in May 1998. From this experience, these men formed a lifetime bond with each other and their friendship lasted forever. We are still in contact with a lot of them - many of Norm’s best friends are from that time.

After the Independence War, Norm stayed in Israel with his first wife, Lillian. Their marriage produced 5 children, Michael, Leslie, Robin, Susan and Rick. Norm flew with El Al, and decided later to come back to New York to work as a test pilot for Lockheed and later signed a contract with Lufthansa, the German Airline in Frankfurt. That’s where I met him on a sunny Sunday in July 1966, and our life together began.

His contract was finished in 1968; he came back to the States to California and flew for Trans International Airlines, which later became Trans American Airlines, from which he retired in 1981 as a DC-10 Captain. After he retired he ran the New York marathon in 1982 at the age of 61, bought a BMW bike, sailed, wind surfed, went downhill skiing, cross country skiing and telemark skiing. We traveled, we had fun. Like I said - life was never boring, it was good.

In 1988, we moved to the Carson Valley. We bought a camper Van in 1989, and took a trip around the States in 1990 for 6 months. On the way back, he had an emergency surgery in Phoenix with a bleeding ulcer, and his medical problems began. But - he always bounced back, we never gave up. The last two years Norm was plagued with failing health. Finally, his body just shut down and he died at home in my arms on June 18, 1998.

He was an incredible man - I will always love him and he will be missed.

Renate Moonitz

How They are Remembered

continued from Page 3

neers. Many were the lectures I attended, listening to matters far beyond my ability to understand.

Max’s commitment to Israel and Judaism was the primary passion of his political life. He filled every level of leadership in the Labor Zionist Alliance, and was active in the American Zionist Federation, Histadrut, American Habonim Association, patron of the University of Judaism, established the Shalom Club at TRW, President of the Institute of Jewish Education and a founding member of the Union of Soviet Jewry. He was Board Chairman of Adat Shalom synagogue and was instrumental in raising funds for the redesigning of the facility.

Max made many trips to Israel; our second child, Laurie, came with us and another time Max and Joshua made the trip together. I was given the honor of pinning a medal on his lapel when he and others in Machal West made the trip together. I was given the honor of pinning a medal on his lapel when he and others in Machal West made the trip together.

When Max retired at age sixty-two he built a studio and spent the next fourteen years making art. He won first prize in a group show for a major work in 1998. His work as a test pilot for Lockheed and later signed a contract with Lufthansa, the German Airline in Frankfurt. That’s where I met him on a sunny Sunday in July 1966, and our life together began.

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Renate Moonitz

Herbert Fischbein

Herb sailed to Israel with “Displaced Persons,” Jews, and a cargo of guns and ammunition on a United Fruit Company boat no longer fit for Bananas. On this, they crossed the Mediterranean. Once in Israel they became part of the army as a natural sequence. He found these Jews arriving from the Devastation of Europe, those living in British mandated Palestine and others from all over the world joined by the imperative of Jewish survival. He loved this spirit. It inspired him. It formed him as a man and so it became an anchor to our family life as Jews.

I loved him for it when I met him, when I married him, for the forty-nine years of our marriage and as his widow.

Rudy’s participation in the Aliyah Bet was one of the most important experiences of his life that he shared with family and friends. Our children and grandchildren and numerous friends learned of the early history of the Jewish State; basically, though Rudy, history that they would otherwise not have known. Our two sons have always been proud of what their dad did and helped to get his book ready for publication. After returning from Israel Rudy worked as a printer for the Gary Post Tribune, and subsequently was moved to the West Coast where he returned to sea as Captain of oil exploration vessels in various parts of the world, a job he enjoyed immensely. He retired at age 71, still loving the sea.

In 1995 Rudy’s book Running the Palestine Blockade, The Last Voyage of the Paducah was published by the Naval Press. Paducah shipmates and others will remember the wonderful meeting at the U.S., Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. where many recalled their experiences. Rudy spoke at numerous community meetings, synagogues, organizations, bookstores including Barnes and Noble, and the Holocaust Museum in Michigan, where many of our family live. The Simon Wiesenthal Institute in California honored Rudy, and he was selected by the Jewish Congregation in Atlanta, GA for their Person of the Year Memorial Plaque. When Rudy died in Jan. 2000, we received an incredible number of
Spiegelman Visits AVI Archives—His report

Chairman of the AVI Executive Board, Simon Spiegelman visited the AVI Archives at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Here are his comments.

PURPOSE OF MEETINGS AT UF IN GAINESVILLE
In 1990 the AVI Board of Directors committed the organization to support the Aliyah Bet and Machal Archives project at the University of Florida. The Archives are a repository for historical and biographical material on the participation of North Americans in the Israel War of Independence. It is also a repository of organizational records and the AVI Newsletter. Our Archivist, Ralph Lowenstein, has been the driving force behind the Archives for the past fifteen years, interacting on a day to day basis with associates at the University. As the years pass there are concerns about the future direction/management of the Archives as no formal/legal framework exists directing how the Archives will be maintained and under whose direction in the event Ralph’s activities cease. As we now created an ‘AVI Board of Trustees’ to handle our business at some future date, it becomes essential to have formal understandings with the University that will permit the Trustees to effectively discharge their fiduciary as well as program oversight obligations as successors. With this purpose in mind, Ralph arranged meetings at the University to discuss the drafts of several letters of understanding addressing our concerns. Following is my report on these discussions.


COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATIONS
Dr. Terry Hynes, Dean and Professor, College of Journalism and Communications.

GEORGE A. SMATHERS LIBRARIES
Dale Canelas, Director of University Libraries
Sandra Melching, Director of Development
George A. Smathers Libraries, Robert Singerman, Librarian, Price Library of Judaica
Dr. Robert Shaddy, University Librarian and Chair, Department of Special and Area Studies Collections.
Robert Ingram, Head of Special Collections.
Carl Van Ness, Archivist, Special Collections
Kathy Mook, Head of Preservation Dept. Special Collections.
John Freund, Preservationist- Special Collections

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA FOUNDATION, INC.
Paul Robell, Vice President.
Susan Goffman, Attorney
Daniel D. Ott, Director of Planned Giving (gift annuities)

AMERICAN VETERANS OF ISRAEL
Dr. Ralph Lowenstein, Archivist, Aliyah Bet and Machal Archives SI Spiegelman, Chair, AVI Executive Committee

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDINGS.
Previous letters of understanding binding at this time are as follows:
1. A letter of understanding dated February 28, 1990 signed by Robert R. Lindgren, Vice President-Development and Alumni Affairs of the University of Florida addressed to Dean Ralph Lowenstein. The letter confirms an association of the University of Florida with “Operation Machal.” (This, in effect, serves to create a tax-deductible “umbrella” for funds contributed to the Archives through the University of Florida Foundation.)
2. A letter dated April 3, 1990 signed for AVI by Lola Sprinzeles (President) and Joe Landow (Chairman, Archives Committee) to Dr. Ralph Lowenstein, Dean. The letter is addressed to the University of Florida. AVI agreed to have ‘the University of Florida serve as the repository of all funds contributed to it and are glad that the Foundation has agreed to undertake that supervision.’ The last paragraph reads: ‘Operation Machal (name of the Archives project in 1990) has been discussed fully by the Executive Board of AVI. The project has AVI’s whole-hearted support. We look forward to working with you on it.’
3. A “Fund Information Form” dated September 2, 2003 prepared by the University of Florida Foundation, Inc. specifies that…”Machal Fund monies may be used only for activities directly associated with the acquisition of materials and maintenance of existing collections, data bases and various internet projects of the Aliyah Bet and Machal Archives in special collections at the George A. Smathers Libraries. Descendants of American and Canadian Aliyah Bet and Machal veterans of the Israeli War of Independence will enjoy full access, on an annual basis, to information about the finances and expenditures related to this fund.”

SUMMARY OF UNDERSTANDINGS NOW DRAFTED
Following is a summary of additional understandings between AVI and the University of Florida, with respect to the Aliyah Bet and Machal Archives, to be signed at this time by respective University of Florida officials.
1. From Dr. Terry Hynes, Dean, College of Journalism Agreement to transfer two Machal Funds (Endowment and Operating) to the George A. Smathers Libraries when Ralph Lowenstein is no longer actively associated with the Aliyah Bet and Machal Archives Project. Till then, the College of Journalism and Communications, will administer financial and other functions for Ralph’s convenience.

Note: Much of the Archives are currently stored in filing cabinets located in or near Ralph’s office. Some of the material is needed daily for the ongoing work on databases and rosters as well as the virtual museum. Once catalogued and inseted in acetate protective sleeves (photographs), the material will be transferred to the Special Selections stacks of the George A. Smathers Libraries.
2. From Dale Canelas, Director, University Libraries. Agreement to act as proprietary custodians of the AVI

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Spiegelman Visits AVI continued from Page 5

archival material held in the Special Collections stacks. The archives will be maintained ‘per best practices and standard professional procedures’ with respect to preserving the material and in making the archives readily accessible to students, scholars and researchers. Further, the George A. Smathers Libraries will commit the proceeds of the Machal endowed account exclusively to acquisition of materials and maintenance (including cataloging) of existing collections, databases and various internet projects of the Aliyah Bet and Machal Archives. The designated AVI Trustees will have full access to management and financial information. It is understood that these functions will be performed in perpetuity.

Notes: The Special Section staff at the University Libraries associated with the AVI archives is managed by the Head of Special Collections, reporting to the University Librarian and Chair. He is assisted by the Archivist, Special Collections. All three participated in the meeting, chaired by Dale Canelas, the Director of the University Libraries. It is understood that this group will carry on Ralph’s functions within the University when necessary in collaboration with the designated AVI Trustees.

The Special Collections section stores and preserves rare documents, books and special archival materials. Large filing racks are located in a climate-controlled room (stacks) with secured access. The material is ordered by researchers from a computerized index, retrieved by authorized staff from the stacks and viewed in a separate temperature-controlled reference room. Facilities exist for microfilming and transmitting materials electronically.

3. From Paul Robell, Vice President, University of Florida Foundation. Agreement of the Foundation to manage and oversee the Machal Operating Fund and Machal Endowment Fund with the understanding that the funds will be exclusively spent for the Aliyah Bet and Machal Archives Project; i.e., acquisition of materials and maintenance of existing collections, databases and various internet projects of the Aliyah Bet and Machal Archives. Periodic financial reports will be provided to the AVI President or designated AVI Trustees. It is understood that the above functions will be performed in perpetuity.

Notes: The University of Florida Foundation acts as a combination investment house and private bank with close to one billion dollars under management. It makes investment decisions and oversees the distribution and usage of funds collected for the benefit of the activities and programs within the scope of the University of Florida, Thus Fund no. 11482 identifies the Machal Operating Fund and Fund no. 11481 concerns the Machal Endowed Fund.

The purpose of the Machal Operating Fund is to support current tasks described by Ralph Lowenstein in the Fall 2003 - AVI Newsletter, page 4. An outline of the tasks is attached to this report. This fund consists of cash contributions and pledges from AVI members and friends (including foundations). To date, the fund collected $73,500 against the goal of $105,000 which is what Ralph estimates it will take to complete the Archives over the next five years.

The purpose of the Machal Endowed Fund is to provide future income for the maintenance of the Archives in perpetuity. It is supported by willed bequests and gift annuities credited to the Endowed Machal Fund at the death of the annuitant. The annual income rate of the Machal Endowed Fund is currently 4%. Contributions to date amount to $42,000 against a goal of $100,000. ($22,000 is in the Endowment Fund through a bequest, while $20,000 is in an annuity).

Observations

1. All the participants showed an enthusiastic support for storing and maintaining the Aliyah Bet and Machal Archives at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

2. The library infrastructure as well as the ample staff and their diverse skills bode well for an association with the University.

3. The Price Judaica library (containing 80,000 books) and the major Hillel Center under construction ($7 million dollars in donations) bordering the campus makes the University Libraries an important and promising venue. The University of Florida has 6000 Jewish students, making it one of the largest Jewish student populations in the nation.

4. Researchers visit the Special Section after selecting from the index the material they need to examine. The reading room is open to the general public but it is not intended to be a museum where archival material is displayed for viewing. With current technology breakthroughs much information can be gleaned electronically and the University has the capability to support this option.

5. Two part-time assistants now work a total 25 hours per week on the current tasks. One of the two part-time assistants can be assigned exclusively to cataloging and preparing the collected materials for transfer to the stacks of Special Collections.

6. We should designate two members of the AVI Executive Committee to be actively involved with the collection of additional archival material and responses to questionnaires from the membership. The notices printed in our Newsletter have not produced the desired results and we should now contact our members by phone. Ralph would direct this effort.

7. We should designate two members of the Board of Trustees to be informed on an ongoing basis on the development of the Archives project.

8. The sponsors of the Hillel House under construction are prepared to design and install a 40-foot display case at the entrance focused on Aliyah Bet and Machal. The cost is estimated between $30–50,000. (Ralph is working with the architects and construction management to get a more precise cost estimate.) We would have to raise the funds from major benefactors. The display, once designed and installed, could be replicated to serve as a traveling exhibition to other universities as well as Jewish museums.

9. We should pursue the charitable gift annuity option described by Ralph in the Fall 2003 - AVI newsletter. Sandra Melching offered to prepare a brochure and handle the mailing to our membership. Dan Ott would handle the contract with annuitants. (minimum is $5000 in principal). Considering the age range of our members, the annuity pays between 7% and 9% annually for life depending on the annuitant’s age. The principal is deposited into the University of Florida Foundation and guaranteed by the Foundation. Upon the death of the annuitant, the principal is transferred to the Machal Endowed Fund supporting the maintenance of the Archives in perpetuity. From 44% to 53% of the sum contributed is tax deductible. The Foundation is associated with the Mellon Bank. Any person interested in establishing such a charitable gift annuity or who wants more information about the annuity should contact Ralph Lowenstein at (352) 392-6525 by phone or (rlowenstein@jou.ufl.edu) via e-mail.

10. Propose to Machal West a joint effort for the memberships to donate material and provide financial support for the Archives Project.

New Book

Abraham Rabinovich, brother of AVI former President, Sidney Rabinovich, has published The Yom Kippur War. The work traces the political and military history of that conflict. It was reviewed favorably in the New York Times Book Review on Sunday, February 15, 2004.

Machal France: Some Discussions

Under the guidance of Maurice Fajerman, Machal France publishes their Bulletin des Ma’hallniks. The last issue, Number 14, dated January 1, 2004 reports a discussion among members on the new French law requiring that major religious symbols not be worn by students in public schools. They support the government position noting that the Republic is one and inseparable and all whom it shelters should support civic rights. They comment on displays of anti-semitism in the broadcast media. They call for contributions to support the Israeli kwon kae do team.
To the Editor:

The article appearing in the fall ’03 AVI Newsletter “Bill Bernstein Remembered…” calls to mind the other U.S. crew among the casualties in the confrontation with the British sailors who boarded the Exodus ’47 (while sailing in international waters). Murray Aronoff suffered wounds to the head after being clubbed and Bill Millman was shot in the face, the bullet fracturing his jawbone.

A correction is also in order so as to perceive the importance of the Exodus ’47 saga from a broad historical perspective. The statement that “passengers and crew were sent to detention camps in Cyprus” is not correct. Some of the 1947 passengers in need of medical care were taken to hospitals. The rest sailed on three British prison ships (Ocean Vigour, Empire Rival and Runnymede Park) to Hamburg, Germany via Marseilles, France. They were interned in Poppendorf, a former Nazi concentration camp. The world-wide reaction condemning Britain hastened the end of the British mandate and helped pave the way for the founding of the State of Israel. Soon thereafter, most of the passengers immigrated to Israel.

I commend Rachel Kron for remembering our fallen comrade Bill Bernstein. He was truly among the best we had.

Murray Aronoff
Third Engineer, The Exodus

To the Editor—

David Macarov’s letter in the A.V.I. Newsletter, Fall 2003 was a prejudicial insult to the underground (machteret) that paved the way for the creation of The State of Israel. Referring to the Lechi, or fighters for the freedom of Israel, as the Stern Gang, The Cambridge Dictionary gives the definition of Gang as Gang of roughs or criminals. Several Mahalniks were killed or wounded fighting in 1947 & 48 with the Irgun. As for the Machteter Lechi & Irgun please note Winston Churchill’s comment which follows: enclosed.

During one of his visits to New York in the late forties, Sir Winston Churchill spoke to Billy Rose in the home of Bernard Baruch. He said he had heard that Mr. Rose had been involved in some fashion in the Palestinian fracas. Billy Rose, who had worked with me in the Irgun propagandist committees, was the greatest man. “Yes,” said Billy Rose, “I became involved through my friend Ben Hecht in that Irgun business, without quite knowing what was going on,” which was the truth. Churchill answered: “If you were interested in the establishment of an Israeli Nation, you were involved with the right people. It was the Irgun that made the English quit Palestine. They did it by raising so much hell that we had to put eighty thousand soldiers into Palestine to cope with the situation. The military costs were too high for our economy. And it was the Irgun that ran them up.”

Excerpt from “PERFIDY”,by Ben Hecht

Harold Kraushar, Past President of the A.V.I.

To the Editor—

I am planning another printing of The Jews Secret Fleet. It should be within this year. If there are some corrections, I would like to hear from the men. Also if I left out some crewmember’s name or if there is a name without a ship I would appreciate a comment. I noticed now that I have no vessel for Ira. Could he send me the information. This is the 5th printing and it keeps selling. In fact, it seems to be the only comprehensive cover for what we did.

Murray Greenfield

To the Editor—

I am writing in reference to an article printed in your magazine by Mr. Dov Mills, a resident of Israel. He submitted a poem which you accepted concerning his experience as a crew member of the Exodus in 1947.

I told him about a visit I made to Baltimore MD about 1998. While there I visited a museum where I saw a model of the ship President Warfield, which had been converted to the Exodus. It was sitting in an enclosed display case with a brief history of its role in bringing displaced persons of Palestine. Mr. Mills tells me that the model was not in Baltimore but in Washington, DC. Can you look into this matter?

Eve Nelson
Cherry Hill, NJ

To the Editor—

In relation to the poem by Dov Mills, there is, indeed a replica of the Exodus at a museum in a former synagogue in what had been the Jewish section of Baltimore. I was there when this model was presented at the museum. At about the same time a tapestry and a choral work was also dedicated to the ship.

Frank Lavine
Medford, MA

Frank Lavine sent along an offset print of an article published in the Baltimore Jewish Times January 28, 1996. The article tells of the unveiling of a five-foot model of the celebrated Chesapeake Bay Steamer, the President Warfield, later renamed Exodus 1947. Among the 200 people attending the gathering were four American members of the Exodus crew: Frank Lavine, Nat Nadler, Bernie Marks, and Murray Aronoff. The model was displayed in the Lloyd Street Synagogue for about a month and then became part of the Jewish Historical Society’s Hall of Light Exhibit.

Shepard Rifkin of Tel Aviv has sent submitted several photographs of the new memorial to the ha’apalah in Gan London along the Yarkon. He also sends along an architectural critique of the installation by Esther Zandberg which appeared in the English edition of Ha’aretz in October 2003. Zandberg recalls the dedication of Gan London in 1942 as an expression of admiration of the citizens of London who were enduring the blitz. She writes, “What was once a pause in the continuity of urban construction has now become, on completion of the planning and construction, a fortified, built-up site, adorned with architectural and design gestures and extraverted, unrestrained symbolism. Regrettably, more than honoring a fateful chapter in Israeli history, the park seems rather to commemorate bad taste and disproportion.”

Alice Miliatekowsky

In the fall 2003 issue of the AVI Newsletter Aaron Kanot wrote that, throughout the war and until our discharge in May 1949 we never saw or heard of Ben Steuerman.” Steuerman has provided documentation of his military service in Israel at that time. These documents will be filed in the AVI Archives in Gainesville, FL. Meanwhile, here is a translation of the essential elements of these documents.

1. Discharge certificate issued to Benymin Hagai (the name he used at the time) dated July 7, 1949. His date of letters continued on Page 8
To the Editor—

Eric Ray, an international authority on Jewish art, illuminated Hebrew manuscripts, synagogal architecture and ancient Hebrew script, was the scheduled speaker at the New York AVI Hanukkah party in December. He became ill and, at the eleventh hour, Ruth Gruber agreed to substitute as speaker. As usual she charmed her audience. Ruth at 93 is still writing. She has published two volumes of her memoirs, both illustrated with photographs from her remarkable life. She has been nominated for a Pulitzer prize in literature. Her two books are entitled In- side of Time: My Journey from Alaska to Israel and My Early Years as a Foreign Correspondent and Inside of Time: My Journey from Alaska to Israel.

I have read both of the books. George Goldman, an aliya bet veteran and current President of the American Merchant Marine Veterans, told me that he had bought six copies of Inside of Time as gifts to inspire young women.

Naomi Kantey

How They are Remembered continued from Page 4

letters and condolences from people all over the country who had read his book or read the obituary in the NY Times and found inspiration in the humanitarian role he and others played in the Aliyah Bet.

Theresa Patzert

Paul Orringer

Paul was one of the finest and most heroic people anyone could hope to meet. Married, with a baby boy under a year old, we went to Bermuda on a second honeymoon.

We were on the beach, when there was a commotion. A man was being pulled out by the current. There was a crowd on the beach and Paul swam out to help him. The current, which was very strong, pulled them both out. Paul, as always, kept his head, and an employee, with a rope around his waist, swam out into the surf. Paul, young and in good condition, survived, the older man perished.

Paul had been a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Force and a captain in the reserves. He was a pilot for Pan American Airways and died in a plane crash. As a volunteer in Israel, he supplied the Kibbutz’s with supplies needed to survive. As Eli, a past AVI president once said of Paul, he was a real hero. Those planes were put together with spit and rubber bands. They were constantly in danger.

My son lives in Washington, D.C. and is an official of the government. He has many of his father’s best traits. He is steadfast, modest, generous, and heroic. My daughter has a high level position in finance. She is married with a wonderful 2½-year-old daughter. They are a great credit to their father’s memory.

P.S. We were honored at West Point by the Israeli government several years ago.

Shelly Orringer

Joseph Heckelman

In the winter of 1947-8, after our wedding in December, we followed the news in Eretz Yisrael closely. When Joe learned of the need for Machal personnel who had technical knowledge in repairing the radar equipment the British had left behind, he simply announced – “We’ll go in June.” The year we both spent in the IAFI at Tel Nof in communications, he, in the Weizman Institute in Rehovot, became the cornerstone of our marriage.

We returned to New York and Joe entered the business his father had founded, industrial safety clothing. But our shared love of Am Yisrael and Torah Yisrael led him to a mid-life change. At 35, with our son and daughter already pre-teens, he began studies for the rabbinate that culminated in 1966. For ten years, he served as a conservative rabbi in Waterbury Connecticut and then we took the step that represented the flowering of our connection with the State of Israel – we made aliyah.

He chose Tsfat as the place to build a community, Kehilat Shalva. It continues to this day demonstrating that Judaism can continue to be relevant and meaningful to modern Israelis.

Our son and daughter now live in Jerusalem - he is the owner of a bookshop and spiritual center, and she as a real-estate agent. Both of them offered vital support to me in the absence of Joe, may he rest in peace and may his memory be for blessing.

Zipporah Heckelman

Harold Jaffer

Harold and I were married for twenty-five years. I had been in the WAC 1943-46. I was very proud of Harold’s enormous influence when Israel became a state. Leonard Silver mentions Harold four times in The Pledge. I sent the book to our son Aubrey. (Our other son is missing.) Harold and I traveled to Israel many times. We saw the memorial to the Machalniks. At the dedication I sounded taps on a bugle, which I had carried in my suitcase.

Adah S. Jaffer

Joseph & Zipporah Heckelman & daughter
OBITUARIES

Reuven Huber, Veteran of Latrun

Reuven Huber was born in Poland in 1923. In 1926 he emigrated to Mexico with his parents. In 1930 he emigrated to Palestine with his mother and brother, Josef. Subsequently, they moved to the Neveh-Zedek neighborhood in Tel Aviv.

In 1947 Reuven joined the Israeli Army. At first he escorted convoys to Jerusalem, later he joined “Samson’s Foxes” in Battalion 54 of the Giv’ati Brigade and fought in the Negev. He took part in the battles of Latrun, where he was together with the Machal boys and carried a wounded Machal back to the field hospital who died on the way. The bronze statue was constructed (see Recent Events) in his honor of him and that of the Machal soldier. He was cited for bravery for this act. He also took part in the battles stopping the Egyptians from advancing toward Tel-Aviv, and other battles in the Negev till the end of the war. In 1950, after leaving the Army he worked as 3rd Engineer on the cargo ship “Tel-Aviv”.

In 1953 he opened a workshop to construct machines in Petah-Tikvah. In 1954 he married Aliza. Subsequently, in 1961, Reuven and Aliza traveled to Mexico to visit his father and his uncles. Reuven became interested in the production of plastics and decided to stay in Mexico where he worked as an advisor in the plastics industry. In 1966 he and 3 Mexican partners set up two factories for production of plastic. They employed some 700 workers.

In 1975 the family returned to Israel. Their eldest daughter, Ruth, had been in Israel since 1973 and served in the Army. Our decision was influenced by the “Yom-Kippur” war (October 1973). Reuven kept the factories and commuted between Israel and Mexico.

Their two daughters, Ruth and Orna, were born in Israel, their son, Oded, was born in Mexico.

Reuven was an honest, courageous, loving man, and above all - reliable. He died of cancer aged 79 on December 10, 2002.

Aliza Huber

Kalman Michaeli, Seabee

Murray Greenfield of Tel Aviv writes that Kalman Michaeli and his wife, Marga, were hit by a car while crossing the street near their home. Kalman was killed instantly, November 10, 2003, while Marga continues to recuperate.

Kalman, from Brooklyn, served in the Seabees in the United States Navy and, following his discharge, volunteered for service in aliya bet. He was a member of the crew of the Haim Arlozeroff. Later he joined Kibbutz Ein Dor. After some years in the kibbutz he studied at the Bezalel school in Jerusalem. He married Marga, an artist from Holland and Holocaust survivor. Her paintings have been exhibited in Israel and abroad.

Kalman was employed by the Israel Aircraft Industries from which he retired several years ago. Avocationally, he sang in the choir associated with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. He and Marga were members of the Conservative Congregation Tiferet Shalom in Ramat Aviv.

Condolences may be expressed to Marga Michaeli Rehov Blum 9, 69461, Tel Aviv 03-699-4659 kalmarmi@bezeqint.net

The following is taken from a eulogy by Kalman’s friend, Mike Koenig

Kalman:

We met thirty-three years ago, shortly after my arrival in Israel. From the very beginning of our friendship I came to appreciate your intellect. In our conversations, whenever I would broach a new subject, be it in history, the arts, music, or any other field, I would listen with amazement as you rapidly drew from your memory names of places, of people and other details related to it. I wondered, “Where is all this knowledge coming from?” I found the answer when I watched you reading books. I was amazed to see your turn anew page every few seconds. You practically devoured the written word page after page, book after book. You read all your life. You learned all your life.

...You and I were both veterans of the United States Navy. You served in the Construction Battalion in World War II in the Pacific. I joined the Navy some twelve years later...Towards the end of 1946 you left your native city of New York and volunteered to serve as a crew member on the ship Arlozeroff- one of the vessels in the illegal immigration fleet of aliya bet. Today, I, a Holocaust survivor, stand at your gravesite and salute you for having taken part in this heroic endeavor which contributed so greatly to the establishment of the State of Israel.

You loved music, the classical kind, but not exclusively. Just a few days ago you told me that you like the Beatles. Twenty-three years ago you convinced me to show up for an audition at the Philharmonic Choir. I was accepted and we sang together for a number of years. Then it was my turn. I brought you to the “Fa-Mi-La” classical choir. There for a number of years, you sat to the left of me in rehearsals and stood to the left of me in concerts...
job. His sculpture depicts authentically the ethos of this heroic episode, and one also feels the special relationship between the Diaspora and Israel. In summary, World Machal has good reason to be very grateful to all the entities referred to above.

Take good care you guys, and keep pedalling. As there is still work to be done, we members of an “endangered species”, have got to stay in the race.

Smoky Simon

Excerpt of Comments by Smokey Simon

As Chairman of World Machal, I wish to express Machal's deepest gratitude to Mrs. Aliza Huber and her family; to Mr. Ardy Halter, the sculptor of this beautiful statue; to Aluf (Mil.) Erez; to Tat-Aluf (Mil.) Menashe Inbar; to Tat-Aluf (Mil.) Kantor; and to Aluf-Mishne (Mil.) David (Migdal) Teperson. Migdal Teperson represents Machal on the Committee of the Museum of the Jewish Soldier in World War II, and in regard to the Machal statue, he has served as the liaison between the Huber Family, the sculptor, the Armoured Corps Museum, and the Museum of the Jewish Soldier.

Whilst I had never met the Late Reuven Huber, I salute him for the noble and humanitarian concept that he expressed in his Will, by directing his executors to erect a statue in honour of Machal. It is clear that Reuven’s heart went out to the Machalnik who lost his life in battle, and whose life Reuven had tried to save. What makes the story so poignant, is the fact that Reuven probably did not really know this Machalnik, but he had the greatness and nobility to recognize that this man, from a foreign land, had come to help the Jewish People in a life-and-death struggle for its survival, and to risk his own life.

By this noble act, Reuven has also honoured World Machal, and has helped to perpetuate the Machal story as part of Jewish and Israeli history. This statue, which has a place of honour in the world-famous Armoured Corps Museum, will encourage visitors to hear the story of the 3,500 Machalniks who came from 43 countries to fight shoulder-to-shoulder with their brethren in Israel, and who not only made a significant contribution towards winning the War of Independence, but also helped to establish the foundations on which the Israel Army, Air Force, and Navy have been built.

Tribute to Holocaust Survivors

On November 1 and 2, 2003 the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. marked its 10th anniversary with a Tribute to Survivors. Holocaust survivors and their families, and their rescuers and liberators were invited to the Tribute. The museum also invited AVI members who are veterans of Aliya Bet. We sent 16 invitations to Aliya Betniks who requested them and 6 others to Machal veterans who were themselves survivors and AVI members involved in rescue operations during and immediately after World War II.

The reunion of survivors and rescuers was profoundly moving. The organizers of the Tribute had expected about 1500 guests while over 6000 came from all over the United States and Canada. Many survivors came with their children and grandchildren. To accommodate the numbers two huge white tents were erected on the grounds of the museum. To facilitate reunion, the tents were furnished with many round tables and chairs, with signs on the tables naming European towns and cities - and the names of concentration camps. Our table was labeled “Aliya Bet”.

One of our members, Eric Kay, who was smuggled into Dachau at war’s end to forge documents to enable survivors to leave the camp was reunited with a man who was able to leave Dachau with an Eric Ray forgery. There were fine speeches and entertainers at the event, but what meant the most to all of us was the privilege of sharing in the Tribute to those we helped so many years ago.

Naomi Kantey

NY Hanukkah Party

On Sunday December 21, 2003, the New York AVI held its annual Hanukkah party at the B’nai Zion building in New York. The featured speaker was Dr. Ruth Gruber. David Gerard was in charge of arrangements. (See Naomi Kantey’s Letter to the Editor).
Future Events

**WINGATE MEMORIAL AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETARY**

**Sunday, April 25, 2004, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**  
Wreath Laying at Tomb of the Unknowns, 1:30 pm

Please join the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America and the American Veterans of Israel as we honor the memory of Orde Charles Wingate, a great soldier and friend of the Jewish people who dedicated his life to the cause of freedom. The ceremony will take place in the Memorial Amphitheatre of Arlington National Cemetery.

Orde Wingate helped to organize the precursor to the Israel Defense Forces while serving as an officer in Palestine in the late 1930’s. Moshe Dayan and Yigal Allon, among others, have credited Wingate with being the spiritual father of the IDF. During the Second World War, Wingate led the British-Ethiopian Gideon Force in the liberation of Ethiopia in one of the few bright moments for the democracies during the early years of the war. From 1942 until his untimely death in March 1944, he organized and led the famed British-Indian “Chindits” in Burma against the Japanese, courageously assisted by the U.S. Army Air Force’s 1st Air Commando Group. Winston Churchill hailed Wingate as “a man of genius who might well have become also a man of destiny.” We remember Orde Wingate, a British patriot, a proud Zionist, a righteous Christian, and a defender of freedom.

Sponsored by: Jewish War Veterans of the USA (Paul Bernstein, National Commander)  
JWV Department DC (Jack Macfadden, Department Commander)  
Supported by: American Veterans of Israel  
Note: AVI members and families: Access to the location is a bit complex. Request driving directions from Paul Kaye suet@webspan.net 718 489 3809

**YOM HA’zikaron-2004 ISRAEL CONSULATE GENERAL (NEW YORK)**

A one-hour memorial to the fallen will take place at the auspices of the Israel Consulate General in New York. All AVI members are invited. No tickets are required. Because of security considerations it is suggested that you come early and bring photo ID.  
- **Date:** Sunday, April 25, 2004  
- **Time:** 6:00 PM  
- **Venue:** Park East Synagogue, 68th Street between Lexington and Third Avenues  
- **Program:** Yizkor and Memorial Candle Lighting; Israeli Memorial Songs, address by Consul General Alon Pinkas.  
- **Questions? Please call Si Spiegelman, (212) 685-8548**

**WEST POINT MEMORIAL**

- **Date:** Sunday, May 2, 2004  
- **Time:** The service will start in the Chapel at 11:00 AM and conclude at the nearby military cemetery around 1:00 PM. A coffee hour will precede the event starting at 10:00 AM.  
- **Venue:** West Point Academy Jewish Chapel and the graveside of Colonel David (Mickey) Marcus.  
- **Program:** Typically, the observance consists of a memorial in the Jewish Cadet Chapel with a presentation of colors by members of the Jewish War Veterans, a statement by one of our officers, a prayer by the Jewish Chaplain of Cadets, an address by a guest speaker and some cantorial and Israeli musical renditions. At the graveside of Col. Marcus and his wife Emma, we lay wreaths, recall all our fallen who are then honored by a 21-gun salute and the sounding of taps.  
- **Chair:** Sidney Rabinovich, (718) 896-1102  
- **Co-chair:** David Gerard, (631) 499-4327

**SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE**

- **Date:** May 23, 2004  
- **Time:** 12:00 Noon  
- **Further announcements will be mailed**  
- **Chair:** David Gerard, (631) 499-4327

**AVI/MACHAL REUNION (DECEMBER 6-10, 2004)**

We are planning a joint membership reunion with our Machal West chaverim as part of a cruise to Mexico. Four days (Monday to Friday) with a stop at Catalina, a day in Ensenada, Mexico and the rest of the time at sea is offered to us at a special rate of $392 for ocean view cabins, double occupancy (including prepaid tips and travel insurance). Airfare is separate.  
- **Departure is from Long Beach, CA.**  
- **Flights from the East Coast would be arranged by each individual to take advantage of special fares.**  
- **This trip is ideal for a reunion with plenty of time for socializing, conferences, getting away from the cold weather in the East and just relaxing.**  
- **Family members and friends are welcome to join us.**  
- **More information to follow.**  
- **Chair:** Ira Feinberg  (201) 886-1188  
- **Co-chair:** Bill Gelberg (561)278-7392
Future Events Continued

WORLD MACHAL’S YOM HAZICHARON SERVICE
TUESDAY, 6TH MAY, 2003

ORDER OF SERVICE

MASTER OF CEREMONY: Eddy Kaplansky

10.50  Calling the Machalniks to be seated.
10.56  Lowering the Flag - George Gasman (France). Eddy will play the bugle call.
11.00  Siren - 2 minutes.
11.02  Lighting the Memorial Flame - Shmuel Adar (South America).
11.04  Laying of Wreath - Yaakov Doron (France) and Leumit Goldberg (widow of Arthur Goldberg, Canada).
11.07  Reading of Names of the 119 Fallen Machalniks, and the countries from which they came - Joe Woolf (South Africa).
11.13  Psalms and short address by Rabbi Ephraim Shach.
11.19  Collective Kaddish - led by Rabbi Shach.
11.21  El Maleh Rachamim - Rabbi Shach.
11.24  Hatikva (led by Leah Kaplansky).
11.26  End of Ceremony.

For directions to the ceremony call the office of World Machal in Tel Aviv 03 621 2724. A picnic will following the ceremony and then a tour of the Latrun Armoured Corps Museum and the Machal Statue will be led by “Migdal” Teperson.