



# AMERICAN VETERANS OF ISRAEL

VOLUNTEERS IN ISRAEL'S WAR OF INDEPENDENCE  
 UNITED STATES & CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS  
 136 East 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10016

## 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*

## 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*

## Recent Events



*Machal Statue at Latrun*

**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

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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**

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 busses 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**

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### AVI Website

[www.sas.upenn.edu/~sklausne/aviweb.html](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~sklausne/aviweb.html)

### Recent Events

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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 Independence. 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 military 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 version 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 liaison between the Huber Family, the Armoured Corps Museum, the Museum for the Jewish Soldier 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

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### How They are Remembered

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Sam Lewis with daughter, Sandra

I am Sandra Brown, my sister 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 involvement 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 adventures 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 mandatory retirement at age 60. He flew for Israel Aircraft Industries 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 civilian life and in 1948, was contacted by Teddy Kollek, a *shaleakh at the time*, in New York. Arrangements for Saunders's 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 became Chief of Naval Operations serving under Paul Shulman, Commander of the Navy.

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**How They are Remebered**  
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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 engineer 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 aliya. All of our sons and their families have remained involved with Israel, where we have many special friends and relatives.

Miriam Finard

**Barnet Cohen**

"My name is Barnet Cohen, and I come from Brooklyn, 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



Naomi & Barnet Cohen

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 inexhaustible 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 story) but since God designed him for me, somehow he propelled me there, and we danced together the whole night through. Later I learned that he was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Coney Island, fighting the Irish and Italian gangs of the day. He was a maverick, a true *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, wag their tails. He had a magical quality that made everyone he came in contact with love him. He was an inveterate 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

to patch up small aircraft parts that were shipped from Czechoslovakia and miraculously turn them into fighter aircraft; stories about his friends' flight escapades, some tragic, some humorous. Barney had a way of singling out the odd, unique, original, feature in every situation, which rendered his stories with a particularly riveting and or amusing cast. At every party we attended, people would gather around to listen to his stories, mesmerised.

We were married in NYC in 1950 and after a four-year stint in that city, we decided to make Israel our home. Barney was immediately hired at Israel Aircraft Industries, where he trained hundreds of people in aircraft building, mostly new immigrants that were pouring into the country during that time. He was also an FAI inspector during that time. In 1967 he was sent to represent IAI at McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Co., in Long Beach, California where he was in charge of the offset program. Barney passed away in September 1997 after a long illness.

He was a prince of a man, to the very end. Our three children, Shira, an artist and a teacher, Adee (Didi), a psychotherapist, 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 Israel, 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.

Naomi Cohen

**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 every two years to see my family.



David Boxer

Shifra Boxer

**Izzy Cohen**

I met Izzy in 1949 after he returned from Israel. We were married in 1950. Of course when he told me about being a volunteer and going to Israel and fighting for Israel, 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 attorney and represents Tadiran in the U.S. and also did when



L-R Beth Elaine, Russell, Susan

Elaine & Russell Cohen

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 worked on 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 program, 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 involvement in Zionism 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 handsome and charming. I thought I had better not let him out of my sight so I married him.



Max Alper Receives Award from

Shifra Cohen. 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 handsome and 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-29s during World War II, led to his work in the aerospace industry as a mechanical designer. He was the founding member of Californians for Technion whose membership was entirely of engi-

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How They are Remembered  
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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 were honored by the government of Israel. In a book on Israel's volunteers in the War of Independence by D. Jason Fenton and another on the subject by Jeffrey Weiss and Craig Weiss, it was established that Max, at Sdeh-Dov, had shot down the first enemy fighter plane.

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 activities involving Israel were only slightly curtailed. But the studio was his place of complete happiness; he had earned this time and he used it well. I frequently required repeated requests to invite him to come in to dinner. And sometimes he just wouldn't show up.

My life was enormously enhanced by Max's devotion to the causes of Israel and Judaism. He was a remarkable man whose impact went far beyond our family. His diplomacy, rational thinking and cogent summing up of issues of dissension were of enormous value to the colleagues who shared his interests.

Floss Alper

**Norman Arthur Moonitz 1921- 1998**

Norman Moonitz was a truly unique man and I was proud to be his wife. We spent almost 32 years together, and I must say - there was NEVER a boring moment. Whoever knew him will never forget him, and I am sure everybody has a funny story to tell about him. Everyone could rely on him - he was as loyal as they come.

Norm was born in Amenia, Upstate New York in his Aunt Lena's beautiful house in her bed, which made him "so special," she said. His mother Ethel had three more sisters, Fanny, Rifka, Bashke, and a brother Louis. The sisters were very close. They immigrated from Russia, and Norm grew up loved by all of them. They nicked named Norm "Sonny" and thought he was special to their dying days. His father got sick when Norm was very young, and spent 15 years in a Veterans Hospital. Norm had to take his father's role when he was just a teenager, working while going to high school and Cooper Union College to

help his mother raise his younger brother David and his young 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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

**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.



Herbert Fischbein

Gillian Fischbein

**Rudolph Patzert**



Andrew Rudolph & Bill Patzert

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, through 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

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*Mahal 2000 Volunteer Recruits*

## MAHAL2000 – Today's Overseas Volunteers in the IDF

The Machal tradition continues today with young Jewish volunteers from all over the world volunteering for the IDF as part of a program called Mahal2000. This program enables Jews living in the Diaspora to join in the experience of defending the Jewish state and being involved in the war against terror. Over 1,000 young men and women between the ages of 18-25 from over 40 countries have participated in the Mahal2000 program and served in the IDF, mostly in combat units, such as the infantry Nahal Brigade.

The program calls for 14 and half months of active service in the IDF. Initially, the overseas volunteers are grouped together, but on completion of the basic training period they are assigned to regular units in the IDF, serving alongside Israeli conscripts. They learn to speak Hebrew and gain an inside perspective on Israeli society which eases their integration process if they decide to make Aliyah and settle in Israel as new immigrants. As part of the program many volunteers return to their home country after completing army service and serve as emissaries to their local Jewish community, promoting Israel and playing an important role in helping the community. Organizers of the Mahal2000 program work closely with Jewish organizations such as the Jewish Agency. Avi Naor is the director and moving spirit behind the program..

"Apart from being an absolutely fascinating experience, Mahal2000 is probably one of the best and most exciting things a young Jew from overseas can do," explained Raphael Katz, a Mahal2000 volunteer from Germany, who served in the IDF spokesperson's unit and also acts as a volunteer webmaster for the Mahal2000 website ([www.mahal2000.com](http://www.mahal2000.com)). This website provides all pertinent information about the program with the possibility of on-line enlistment for those who are interested in serving in the IDF.

Even as you read these lines, Mahal2000 overseas volunteers are on a combat mission somewhere in Israel.

*Zipporah Porath*  
World Machal Committee

## 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.

### **PARTICIPANTS IN THE DISCUSSIONS HELD AT VARIOUS MEETINGS AND TOURS OF THE FACILITIES ON FEBRUARY 12-13, 2004..**

#### 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 wholehearted 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 inserted 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

## 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, data bases 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 ([rlowenste@jou.ufl.edu](mailto:rlowenste@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.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

*Nat Nadler*

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 *Machteret 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 captained by Peter Bergson and Samuel Merlin, stuck to his guns, but a bit modestly, before England's 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 offprint 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 extroverted, unrefined symbolism. Regrettably, more than honoring a fateful chapter in Israeli history, the park seems rather to commemorate bad taste and disproportion."



*Alice Mileikowsky*

To the Editor-

In preparation for our memorial section we wrote to Alice Mileikowsky in Puerto Rico. Our records showed her to be a widow. We are pleased to say that our record was incorrect and, happily, both Alice and Hovav are alive and well. Alice wrote the following letter:

I received your request. But, as to your interest in Hovav, you will have to be satisfied with me. Hovav was an Army Air Force mechanic and there is no proof of that at all. We are both alive and well and going on 80.

Hovav has had a business for ten years selling steel. I, myself, was in the US Army for one and a half years and, in 1946, sailed for Israel when I joined the Israeli Army. I was sent to learn Morse Code, as did my sister, Sarah Plex.

I was hitching a ride with a man who had come to take my sister to Tel Aviv. She couldn't go and so I went in her place. Hovav was waiting on the road and we have been together ever since.

*Alice Mileikowsky*

*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 Benyamin Hagai (the name he used at the time) dated July 7, 1949. His date of

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED

enlistment is shown as July 1, 1948. It shows his military ID to have been 126250 and his rank at the time of discharge was *katsin, hovel rishon I*.

2. Certificate of Appointment in the Israeli Navy with task designated as *katsin horaot b'makhleket pikud al ha'oniot* (Naval instructor). The certificate is dated September 1, 1948.

3. A letter dated April 9, 1949 from Headquarters, Israeli Navy, recommending the promotion of Ben Hagai to the rank of Instructional Officer, *hovel rishon*.

4. Letter from the Aliya Institute, dated October 20, 1949, and directed to the Housing Committee of the Histadrut. The text reads, "with this we confirm that Benyamin Hagai (Steuerman) served in *aliya bet* between the years 1946-1948 in Europe and America. We request that this be considered in granting him a dwelling in *shikun havatikim*." *Editor*

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 *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 fathers' best traits. He is steadfast, modest, generous, and heroic. My daughter has a high level position in finance. She is married with a wonderful 20-year-old daughter. They are a great credit to their fathers' 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 corner stone 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 *Torat Yisreal* led him to a mid-life change. At 35, with our son and daughter already pre-teenagers, 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 (with rifle)*

## 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](mailto: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....

From me, from Ami and Steve and from Nami, who respected and loved you as much as I did. I say now—Good Bye, Friend! Shalom, Chaver.

## Milton Rubinfeld



*Milton Rubinfeld*

Milton Rubinfeld died on February 21, 2004 in Sarasota, FL at the age of 84. In his high school years, Milton was

an Eagle Scout. He was also a lifeguard who saved lives. He went to college at both NYU and the University of New Mexico to study art. In New Mexico he hunted rattlesnakes. He wanted to fight in World War Two before the U.S. entered the war so he joined the Royal Air Force, leaving there to join the United States Air Force when the U.S. involvement started. In 1948 he and a small group of Americans helped establish the State of Israel and joined the nascent Israeli Air Force. Milton flew the Messerschmitt 109 as a member of the 101st Squadron. In 1951 he fell in love and married his wife of 52 years, Judy. They owned a Lincoln-Mercury dealership in Oneonta New York. In the basement of their house he built a stage for his son and a boat for his daughter. He always disliked shoveling snow and dreamed of moving to Florida and living on the water. In 1960 he moved his family, which now included a second son, to Sarasota. He is the father of three children—Paul, Abby and Luke. Paul is the actor better known as Pee-wee Herman. Abby is a prominent civil rights attorney and mother to his two grandchildren, Lily and Sarah.

Milton had a great sense of humor and loved to laugh and be funny. He was a very modest man who did not like to talk about his many accomplishments. In the 1980's he was honored in Israel for his heroism and leadership during the very earliest beginnings of the Israeli Air Force—his plane has been preserved and is displayed outside the airport in Tel Aviv with a plaque bearing his name.

He was rarely seen without a cigar. He never took "no" for an answer and lived his life with great gusto and swagger.

*Contributions in his memory may be made to:  
Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation - Israel only  
580 McIntosh Road South, Sarasota, Florida 34232 or  
Hospice of Southwest Florida  
5955 Rand Blvd, Sarasota, Florida 34238  
Condolences to Judy Rubinfeld,  
3711 Meridale Rd., Sarasota, FL 34238-2545*

Recent Events

continued from Page 2

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).



*NY Hanukkah: Susan and Paul Kaye*



*NY Hanukkah: David Hanovice (R) and Guests*



*NY Hanukkah: David Gerard Introducing Ruth Gruber*

## 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](mailto:suet@webspan.net) 718 489 3809

### YOM HAZIKARON- 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 offers those so inclined to extend their stay in the West to visit friends and family.
- 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

<u>10.50</u>	Calling the Machalniks to be seated.
<u>10.56</u>	Lowering the Flag - George Gasman (France). Eddy will play the bugle call.
<u>11.00</u>	Siren - 2 minutes.
<u>11.2</u>	Lighting the Memorial Flame - Shmuel Adar (South America).
<u>11.04</u>	Laying of Wreath - Yaakov Doron (France) and Leumit Goldberg (widow of Arthur Goldberg, Canada).
<u>11.7</u>	Reading of Names of the 119 Fallen Machalniks, and the countries from which they came - Joe Woolf (South Africa).
<u>11.13</u>	Psalms and short address by Rabbi Ephraim Shach.
<u>11.19</u>	Collective Kaddish - led by Rabbi Shach.
<u>11.21</u>	El Maleh Rachamim - Rabbi Shach.
<u>11.24</u>	Hatikva (led by Leah Kaplansky).
<u>11.26</u>	End of Ceremony.

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

