



# JEWISH WAR VETERANS

of the United States of America

Valley of the Sun - Post 194

Phoenix, Arizona

January 2017

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602-973-7682

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623-566-4466

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623-556-1217

## EDITORIAL STAFF

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623-556-1217

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

*By Michael Halperin*

Hi fellow members I hope everybody is having a good month. As everybody probably knows our meetings are normally scheduled on the the first Sunday of the month. Since our next meeting would be on Sunday, January 1, New Years Day, we've decided to cancel it. After talking to other members and also due to not being able to schedule another meeting later in the month, its been decided that we will not have a meeting during the month of January. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017 at the Veterans Home. A news letter will be sent out next month to remind everyone about the meeting in February.

However, there will be a Department meeting on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at the Veterans Home at 10:00 am. The meeting will be upstairs on the second floor. Refreshments will be served before the meeting.

At our last meeting in December, we had the honor of having as our guest speaker Rita Wilson who is the Director of the Phoenix Health Care System. She gave a very informative talk. We learned a lot of new changes and ideas that will be coming in the days ahead. I want to thank Rita Wilson and all the members and individuals that showed up for the meeting.

I hope to see as many of you that can make it to the Dpartment meeting on Sunday January 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Our next meeting will be on the first Sunday in February.

## DRONE EXPERT SHOT

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Palestinian terror group in Gaza, Hamas, said that a drone expert killed in Tunisia was one of its operatives, and blamed his death on Israel.

Mohammed Zawari was shot and killed in his car on Thursday, near the Tunisian city of Sfax, according to reports.

Hamas's armed wing, the Qassam Brigades, said that Zawari had been supervising the Hamas drone program for the last decade.

They accused Israel of assassinating Zawari and vowed revenge.

"Qassam Brigades mourns the martyr of Palestine, martyr of the Arab and Muslim nation, the Qassam leader, engineer and pilot Mohammad Zawari, who was assassinated by Zionist treacherous hands on Thursday in Sfax,"

(Continued on page 2)

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New donations must be received by the 10th of the month to be included in the next issue.

## JANUARY Birthdays



- 9 Leslie Tankel
- 11 Phyllis Jacobs
- 12 Eli Kaminsky
- 14 Eugene Cox
- 16 Michael Halperin

### Anniversaries

No information available

(Continued from page 1, Drone Expert)

a statement posted on the group's website said.

"The enemy must know the blood of the leader Zawari will not go in vain," it also said.

The Israeli military and government neither confirmed nor denied its involvement in Zawari's death, as is typical in such cases.

Four rental cars, two handguns and silencers believed to be used in the killing were seized by Tunisian authorities, according to reports. Eight Tunisian nationals also have been arrested in connection with the killing.

Zawari, 49, reportedly was a technical director in a private engineering firm and a model aircraft expert.

### WEST BANK BELONGS TO ISRAEL

A senior official in US President-elect Donald Trump's transition team visited this week and stated that the so-called "West Bank" clearly belongs to Israel.

Becky Norton Dunlop was touring the areas known biblically as Judea and Samaria when she told reporters:

"Anyone who comes and visits Judea and Samaria sees that it is an inseparable part of the State of Israel."

She went on to debunk the notion that Jewish settlers in the region are all hostile toward local Arabs.

"During the visit we saw that Arabs living in Israel are completely able to work together with their Israeli neighbors," Dunlop said. "The international community has to take note of what is really happening here instead of

listening to the mainstream media which doesn't report the news but rather invented things." Many in Israel expect the failed "two-state solution" to finally be put to bed during Trump's presidency. Senior members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet are calling for increased building in Judea and Samaria after Trump takes office.

Dunlop was joined on the tour by Republican members of the US Congress, as well as a number of European parliamentarians.

To all members:

Don't forget that this month's meeting of Post 194 will not take place. Our next meeting will take place on February 5, 2017 at the Arizona Veterans Home.

## THE EL AL AIRPLANE

The El Al plane landed at Ben Gurion Airport, and as it taxied to the terminal, the voice of the captain was heard:

"Please remain seated with your seatbelts fastened until this plane has come to a complete stop at the gate, and the seatbelt signs have been turned off.

We also remind you that cell phones may not be used until the exit doors have been opened.

"To those of you still seated, we wish you a Merry Christmas, and hope you enjoy your visit to Israel."

"To those of you standing in the aisles talking on your cell phones, Happy Hanukkah and welcome back home."

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## THE JEWISH BRA

A young Jewish man walks into the Lingerie Department. He tells the saleslady, "I would like a Jewish bra for my wife, size 34C.

With a quizzical look the saleslady asked, "What kind of bra?" He repeated, "A Jewish bra. She said to tell you that she wanted a Jewish bra, and that you would know what she wanted."

"Ah, now I remember," said the saleslady. "We don't get as many requests for them as we used to. Most of our customers lately want the Catholic bra, or the Salvation Army bra, or the Presbyterian bra."

Confused, and a little flustered, the man asked "So, what are the differences? The saleslady responded. "It is all really quite simple. The Catholic bra supports the masses, the Salvation Army lifts up the fallen,

and the Presbyterian bra keeps them staunch and upright."

He mused on that information for a minute and said: "Hmm...I know I'll regret asking, but what does the Jewish bra do?"

"Ah, the Jewish bra," she replied "makes mountains out of molehills"

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## Old Chaim

Chaim had been a faithful Jew and was in the hospital, near death. The family called their rabbi to stand with them.

As the rabbi stood next to the bed, old Chaim's condition appeared to deteriorate and he motioned frantically for something to write on.

The rabbi lovingly handed him a pen and a piece of paper, and Chaim used his last bit of energy to scribble a note, then he died.

The rabbi thought it best not to look at the note at that time, so he placed it in his jacket pocket.

At the funeral, as he was finishing the message, he realized that he was wearing the same jacket that he was wearing when Chaim died. He said, "You know, Chaim handed me a note just before he died. I haven't looked at it, but knowing Chaim, I'm sure there's a word of inspiration there for us all."

He opened the note, and read, "Hey, you're standing on my oxygen tube!"

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## Moishe, a Yeshiva Boy

Moishe, a Yeshiva boy, graduates high school and is about to go to college. He was born and lived in Brooklyn his entire life but he gets a full scholarship to the University of Montana and it is such a generous deal that his

parents who would prefer to keep him in Brooklyn forever, let him go.

Six months go by and they have not heard from him. They're frantic. They call the dorm and are told that he doesn't live there anymore. They call the Registrar who says that he is no longer enrolled. They are about to fly to Montana when a letter comes from Moishe:

'Dear Mother, Dear Father, Sorry I have been so negligent but I met the most wonderful girl and we plan to marry. That is why I dropped out of school. Little Feather is a Native American, a princess in her tribe, and her father is the Chief.

He has made me a member of the tribe. I had to leave school because of the nonsense they teach about Native Americans - the lack of respect, the distortions of history. But now I understand things better. I have decided to take a Native American name which the Chief helped me decide. From now on, please call me Running Deer. I will NOT answer correspondence addressed to Moishe.'

A few days later he gets a reply:

'Dear Running Deer. Your dad and I are pleased that you have finally found a woman to love and that you are happy on the reservation. We regret that she is not Jewish but to celebrate your new love and upcoming marriage we also have decided to take Native American names...

I am now SITTING SHIVA and your father is GOING MICHUGA.

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## **MORE NEWS FROM PHOENIX VA**

The report portrays Phoenix VA schedulers, clinicians and administrators as confused and in conflict about scheduling policies despite more than two years of reform efforts that focused on retraining.

Patients in the Phoenix VA Health Care System are still unable to get timely specialist appointments after massive reform efforts, and delayed care may be to blame for at least one more veteran's death, according to a new Office of the Inspector General probe.

The VA watchdog's latest report, issued Tuesday, says more than two years after Phoenix became the hub of a nationwide VA scandal, inspectors identified 215 deceased patients who were awaiting specialist consultations on the date of death. That included one veteran who "never received an appointment for a cardiology exam that could have prompted further definitive testing and interventions that could have forestalled his death."

The report portrays Phoenix VA clerks, clinicians and administrators as confused and in conflict about scheduling policies despite more than two years of reform and retraining.

Last year, a team of experts from the Veterans Health Administration came to Phoenix and gave instruction to 325 employees. "Despite VHA providing facility-wide scheduling and consult management training in April 2015," says the OIG report, "staff were not managing or scheduling consults according to that training."

**VA Study Finds EEG Can Help Tell Apart PTSD & Mild Traumatic Brain Injury** - A recent VA study points to a possible breakthrough in differentiating between post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI), otherwise known as a concussion. (12/20/16)

**Veterans Crisis Line Improves Service with New Call Center Opening in Atlanta** - The Department of Veteran Affairs cut the ribbon today for its new Veteran Crisis Line (VCL) satellite office in Atlanta allowing the life-saving hotline to expand capacity by nearly 600 Veterans each day essentially doubling VA's ability to help Veterans in need. (12/20/16)

**VA Grants Full Practice Authority to Advance Practice Registered Nurses** - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it is amending provider regulations to permit full practice authority to three roles of VA advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and certification, regardless of State restrictions that limit such full practice authority, except for applicable State restrictions on the authority to prescribe and administer controlled substances, when such APRNs are acting within the scope of their VA employment. (12/14/16)

**VA announces Funding Opportunity for Community Partners Working to End Veteran Homelessness** - Building on resident Announces Funding Opportunity for Community Partners Working to End Veteran Homelessness - Building on President Obama's commitment to end Veteran homelessness, the Department

the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is announcing the availability of funding for non-profit organizations and other groups that serve Veterans through VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. The SSVF program assists very low-income Veteran families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. These SSVF grants are available to current grantees seeking renewals and make new funding available for eight high-need communities. (12/13/16)

**VA Recommends 14 Future Sites for Fisher House Construction** - The Fisher House offers unique accommodations when a family member is receiving treatment at a VA medical center or military hospital. Located near the medical center or hospital, Fisher Houses offer the comforts of home at no cost to families while treatment is underway. To enable Fisher Houses to expand their good work, Department of Veterans Affairs' Secretary Robert A. McDonald recommended 14 VA medical centers become priority sites for future Fisher Houses. (12/12/16)

**New Regulation Decreases Cost of Outpatient Medication Copay for Most Veterans** - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending its regulation on copayments for Veterans' outpatient medications for non-service connected conditions. VA currently charges non-exempt Veterans either \$8 or \$9 for each 30-day or less supply of outpatient medication, and under current regulations, a calculation based on the medication of the Medical Consumer Price Index (Continued on page 5, col. 1)

(Continued from page 4, column 3)

(CPI-P) would be used to determine the copayment amount in future years. (12/12/16)

Letter to the Editor of USA Today, Dated December 8, 2016 - Letter sent to USA Today from Secretary McDonald and Deputy Secretary Gibson (12/9/16)

VA Awards Grant for Veterans Employment Pay for Success Program - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Center for Innovation, together with the Corporation for National and Community Service's Social Innovation Fund, awarded the Veterans Employment Pay for Success (VEPFS) Program grant to the social investment firm, Social Finance, Inc. (12/9/16)

VA National Cemeteries Now Offering Pre-Need Eligibility Determinations - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced it now provides eligibility determinations for interment in a VA national cemetery prior to the time of need. Through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program, upon request, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a VA national cemetery. (12/8/16)

Medical School Association Praises VA's New National Veteran Health Equity Report - The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), representing medical schools nationwide, is recognizing Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) initiatives to advance equity in health care through VA's new National Veteran Health Equity Report. The National Veteran Health Equity Report advances understanding of the many factors to be considered when treating Veterans. The

report can be used as a tool to set treatment goals for vulnerable Veterans in order to reduce health care disparities they experience. Clinicians in VA and in the private sector are already using the report to understand and better address health issues among diverse patient populations. (12/8/16)

VA Works with Veteran-Run Company ID.me to Offer Veterans More Secure, Convenient Online Services - Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that, with help from Veteran-run small business ID.me, Veterans will now be able to manage their own health care and benefits online more simply and safely. Vets.gov now meets the "Level of Assurance 3" (LOA3) information assurance standard, which will allow VA to offer Veterans more features on a single convenient site. This is the highest level of security used to protect user data and privacy, and VA is a leader in both the government and private sectors with an LOA3 logon account. (12/7/16)

VA Partners with Prostate Cancer Foundation to Expand Clinical Research - As a national leader in oncology advancement and as the largest integrated healthcare system in the nation, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced an important and substantial partnership with the Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) to prevent, screen and promote research to speed the development of treatments and cures for prostate cancer among Veterans. Announcement of the partnership was made during Launch Pad: Pathways to Cancer Innovation,

a joint VA/PCF summit held today that brings together world-class oncology experts, corporate and nonprofit partners to discuss research, big data, technology and clinical solutions to advance screening, diagnostics and care coordination for cancer and to promote the implementation of best practices across the VA healthcare system. (11/29/16)

VA Lauded by National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable for Screening Rates - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has received Hall of Fame recognition by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCR) for achieving an 82 percent colorectal cancer screening rate, which exceeds the NCCR goal of 80 percent and the national average, which is in the 60 percent range. NCCR was established in 1997 by the American Cancer Society and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a national coalition of public, private and voluntary organizations along with invited individuals. (11/22/16)

VA Celebrates New Strategic Partnerships on Veterans Day - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced nine new strategic partnerships that will provide additional health care and support services for Veterans and their families. These new formal relationships are the latest in a series of strategic partnerships developed to bring the private and public sectors together with VA to enhance the Veteran experience. (11/10/16)

The Editor and Staff wishes each of you, a very Happy, healthy and Prosperous New Year.

**In this era, a political observer will not have to look towards the statements coming out of Tel Aviv to learn the nature of Israeli-Egyptian cooperation.**

Since the first day of his inauguration, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has talked constantly his support for the option of establishing a Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem. A few months ago, in the Egyptian city of As-siut, Sisi announced his initiative to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. This initiative was received very warmly in Israel and was followed by a historic visit from the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Sameh Shoukry, to the Israeli government headquarters in Jerusalem, where he met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — an important step toward open and strong relations between Egypt and Israel in full view of the Egyptian and Arab public.

Setting another precedent in the bilateral relations between the two countries, Cairo decided to send Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry to Jerusalem to attend the funeral of the former Israeli President Shimon Peres. The visit of such a high-level Egyptian figure — the foreign minister — and his meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the heart of Jerusalem is a tacit concession regarding the rights of Palestinians in Jerusalem and, in effect, an acknowledgment of an Israeli Jerusalem.

On the Israeli side, the Jewish state expected Sisi to be similar to former President Sadat, in that he would be able and willing to take serious steps toward resolv-

ing the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, it can be said that Sadat was more easily able to create his own regional agenda. Thanks to the legitimacy provided by the October War, Sadat was able to normalize relations with Israel separately from other Arab countries— a process which culminated with his visit to Jerusalem. Meanwhile, the one visit by his successor, Hosni Mubarak , was to attend the funeral of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Egypt's ambassador in Tel Aviv, Hazem Khairat, is another example of the new state of Egyptian-Israel relations. Khairat received Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israeli President Reuven Rivlin during a celebration at the Egyptian embassy in Tel Aviv of the 64th anniversary of the July 23 Revolution. He is the first Egyptian ambassador to visit Israel since former President Mohamed Morsi recalled Ambassador Atef Salem in 2012 during Egypt's protest and opposition to the Israel military operation in Gaza (Operation Pillar of Cloud). The participation of Israeli political leadership in such a celebration at the Egyptian embassy reflects reconciliation with the Egyptian-Israel conflict's past, and movement toward a public political alliance between both countries.

Ambassador Khairat also made his mark on these bilateral relations with his significant appearance before the Jerusalem Post's annual Diplomatic Conference, where he explained Egypt's approach toward Israel and the peace process, saying that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was the primary reason why

the peace between Egypt and Israel was unpopular. He said it was possible to overcome the chilliness between the two peoples by reaching a two-state solution through the establishment of a Palestinian state, thereby ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Egyptian-Israeli relations took another positive turn when Israel accepted an offer of two Egyptian helicopters to help with the efforts to put out fires that swept Haifa recently. This incident was a breakaway from regular Egyptian-Israeli cooperation, which, previously, was centered on counter-terrorism and military cooperation in Sinai and the Gaza Strip. Many supporters of Sisi promoted the efforts to help Israel, demonstrating Egypt's sincerity in both dealing with Israel, and in expanding its role as an actor in any anticipated peace process between Palestinians and Israelis.

Egyptian-Israeli relations have remained outside the scope of publicity over the four decades which have followed the Camp David Accords. However, since the ascension of Sisi to the presidency, there has been a clear tendency to call for revitalized relations with Israel. In sum, Sisi's statements about peace and the establishment of a Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem — a concession from the traditional Egyptian diplomatic norms, which did not acknowledge the division of Jerusalem - demonstrate the Egyptian administration's new approach towards Israel.

Foreign Minister Shoukry's visit to Jerusalem and his meeting  
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(Continued from page 6, column3)

inside the Israeli government headquarters shifted Egyptian discourse from rhetorical concessions about a united Palestinian Jerusalem to a tacit acknowledgment of the current situation. This is especially true in light of the pro-regime Egyptian media's coverage of this visit, as well as its coverage of the visit by Netanyahu and Rivlin to the Egyptian embassy in Tel Aviv during the July 23 anniversary celebration.

These official, public activities, which have revived bilateral relations between the two countries — coupled with the highly-interested coverage by Egyptian official media — are strong indicators that Egypt is moving toward establishing a new era in its relations with Israel: an era based on a valuation of these relations with openly-defined features. In this era, a political observer will not have to look towards the statements coming out of Tel Aviv to learn the nature of Israeli-Egyptian cooperation.

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### **RACHEL FREIER, NY's FIRST HASIDIC FEMALE JUDGE**

(JTA) — Rachel Freier of Brooklyn officially became the first Hasidic woman to be sworn in as a judge in New York state.

Freier, a mother of six and former lawyer who practiced commercial and residential estate law, was sworn in Thursday as the Civil Court judge in Kings County's 5th judicial district, CBS reported.

She won the post in a September election. Her district encompasses the Brooklyn communities of Kensington, Sun

set Park and Windsor Terrace, among others. At the swearing-in ceremony, the Hasidic performer Lipa Schmeltzer performed the song "God Bless America" in Yiddish while wearing a white suit with colorful doodles, the vosizneias website reported.

Freier, 51, who is also known as Ruchie, worked as a legal secretary and paralegal to support her husband's Talmudic studies. She is a graduate of Touro College and Brooklyn Law School, and founded the all-female EMT hagency Ezras Nashim.

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### **A WEEK OF CONNECTION**

A week of connection began with the first day of Chanukah. The Week of Connection to Diaspora Jewry, is a week dedicated to strengthening the ties between Israel and Jews in the diaspora in light of the various challenges and complications currently facing Jewry in Israel and abroad.

According to the Diaspora Affairs Ministry's statistics, there are currently 14.4 million Jews in the world, with 6.3 million in Israel and the rest spread out over the globe.

Over 80% of Jews who do not live in Israel are either loosely affiliated or completely unaffiliated with their Jewish heritage and the State of Israel.

In addition, only 25% of the younger generation in the US feel at all connected to Israel, and Judaism is relevant to only 33% of them. This trend creates a drastic drop in the number of Jews and in the need for the State of Israel to take an active part in reaching out to Diaspora

Jews.

The Diaspora Affairs Ministry said, "The purpose of this week is to connect the Jewish nation in the diaspora, by enriching and expanding Israeli citizens' knowledge of Jews in the diaspora, and strengthening the connections between Israel's Jews and Diaspora Jews. We also aim to enhance the identification and recognition of the Diaspora Jews as a strategic resource critical to the continued existence of the State of Israel."

The week's events will include a special government meeting on Sunday on the topic of the Diaspora Jews, during which Diaspora Minister Naftali Bennett (Jewish Home) will present important statistics and explain his work in strengthening Jewish identity in Diaspora Jews.

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### **TERROR IN JERUSALEM**

A terrorist approached police officers in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City and stabbed a 35 year old police officer in the head with a screwdriver. Another officer shot and wounded the terrorist, neutralizing him. A 12 year old male resident of East Jerusalem was brought to paramedics at the scene with a head injury that he claims he got from the terrorist, but the exact cause of the injury is still not clear. The wounded police officer, terrorist and boy were all taken to Hadassah Hospital.

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### **AMONA DEMONSTRATION**

Thousands of people gathered outside of the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem last night to protest the evacuation of  
(Continued on page 8, column1)

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Amona, which is scheduled to take place on December 25th. Protestors waved flags and held signs that read “the land of Israel is not up for debate” and “we don’t give up Israel!”

The government has presented a compromise agreement by which the 40 families residing in Amona would move to an adjacent plot of land on the same mountain, on the condition that they agree to evacuate their current homes. Residents will meet today to decide whether to accept the compromise agreement.

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## PM DIPLOMACY

PM Netanyahu signed a series of agreements yesterday with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev during Netanyahu’s official visit to the country, which has a Muslim majority. Israel already exports \$4.5 billion of military equipment to Azerbaijan and imports oil. Israel hopes to export more technology, particularly in the field of agricultural.

The PM and his wife met with representatives of Azerbaijan’s Jewish community at a Chabad school. There are less than 10,000 living in the country, with six synagogues and the Chabad center. There are 70,000 Azerbaijani Jews living in Israel.

The PM continued his trip with a visit to Kazakhstan today, where he met with the countries and president and urged him to support Israel’s bid to gain a non permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

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## RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT

The right to remain silent, part of the Miranda law, is a privilege of anyone arrested in the US. Now Israel might finally give its citizens the same right.

Minister of Public Security Gilad Erdan and Minister of Justice Ayelet Shaked drafted a new law that would protect suspects from self-incrimination, giving them the right to remain silent and the right to counsel. The proposed law, called the Suspect Interrogation Law, will be submitted for government approval next week.

The law includes wording saying, “before an interrogation of a suspect, an officer will be required to clearly state to the suspect—to the extent possible under the circumstances—the main facts concerning the allegations against the suspect along with general rights to avoid self-incrimination: ‘You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be documented and used as evidence in court, but know that the court can take your silence into account. It is your right to consult with an attorney before your interrogation, subject to the restrictions prescribed by law, and it is your right to consult with a public defender if you are entitled under the law.’”

Included in the law are regulations relating to interrogations. The regulations stipulate that suspects have the right to sleep, eat and drink, take breaks during interrogations, communicate with loved ones and practice their religion.

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## NEW YORK HATE CRIMES

NEW YORK (JTA) — The New

York Police Department said it has seen a dramatic rise in hate crimes following the election of Donald Trump, with the majority of incidents directed at Jews.

There has been a 115 percent increase in bias crimes in New York City following Election Day, with Jews being targeted in 24 of the 43 incidents during that nearly monthlong period. The anti-Semitic incidents represented a threefold increase from November 2015, The New York Observer reported.

In total, hate crimes have increased 35 percent from 2015, the NYPD’s chief of detectives, Robert Boyce, said Monday morning.

“We had a huge spike right after Election Day, it’s somewhat slowed a little bit,” Boyce said. “We’re seeing across the board an increase right now.”

Besides Jews, other targeted groups included Muslims, whites and the LGBTQ community, according to Boyce.

JTA has reported on anti-Semitic incidents following the election, including acts of vandalism featuring swastikas and Trump-related themes left in public areas as well as on the homes of Jewish individuals.

Last week, the watchdog Southern Poverty Law Center said it had received reports of 100 anti-Semitic incidents occurring in the 10 days following the presidential election, representing about 12 percent of hate incidents reported to the group in the United States.

The head of the Anti-Defamation League, Jonathan Greenblatt, said recently that anti-Jewish public and political dis-

(Continued on page 9, column 1.)



(Continued from page 8, column 3)

course in America is worse than at any point since the 1930s.

The election season saw the rise of the "alt-right," a loose far-right movement whose followers raffic variously in white nationalism, anti-immigration sentiment, anti-Semitism and a disdain for "political correctness."

Many alt-right members, including prominent white nationalists, have been vocal in their support of Trump, who has called for a ban on Muslim immigration to the U.S. and likened Mexican immigrants to rapists.

The president-elect said recently that he did not want to "energize" white supremacists and denounced an alt-right conference in Washington, D.C., where speakers railed against Jews and several audience members did Hitler salutes.

### I Am A Veteran

A group of women Veterans has come together to create a series of Public Service Announcements entitled, "I Am A Veteran." The purpose of their campaign is to advance the conversation about how women are seen, both in Veteran/military circles and by the general public. All too frequently, they believe, a woman Veteran is initially dismissed as the wife or daughter of the "actual" Veteran, and they're aiming to help change that societally-ingrained misconception. The Veterans featured in the PSAs talk about what a Veteran looks like, what it means to be a Veteran, and some of their personal experiences with the general public's reaction to the discovery of their Veteran status. These PSAs are currently airing on AFN, and we'll post them as they become available.

### IRANIAN BOATS HARASS U.S. NAVY

A U.S. Navy ship in the Persian Gulf fired three warning shots at an Iranian small craft that had earlier come as close as 200 yards to another U.S. Navy vessel, and the Iranian boat sped away after the warning shots were fired, U.S. officials said.

The incident was one of three encounters  
(Continue on page 10, column 1.)



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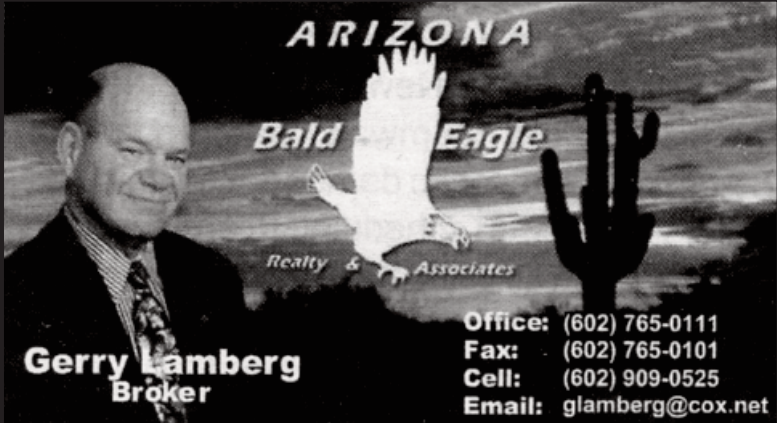
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**Gerry Lamberg**  
Broker

Office: (602) 765-0111  
Fax: (602) 765-0101  
Cell: (602) 909-0525  
Email: glamberg@cox.net

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in the Persian Gulf recently involving U.S. Navy vessels and small boats from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Navy that the Pentagon is calling "unsafe and unprofessional."

They follow another close encounter between the two navies earlier when four Iranian craft "harassed" the destroyer USS Nitze near the Strait of Hormuz, according to U.S. officials.

Thereafter, the U.S. Navy coastal patrol boat USS Squall fired three warning shots at an Iranian boat that had come within 200 yards of the USS Tempest, according to Commander William Urban, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet. U.S. officials say that at the time, the Squall and Tempest were participating in an exercise with a Kuwaiti patrol boat in the northern Persian Gulf.

The three vessels had been traveling in formation when they were approached by a Naser-class Iranian Revolutionary Guard Navy water craft at high speed, according to U.S. officials. The crew of the USS Tempest fired flares to warn off the approaching vessel and was able to make brief radio contact, but the Iranian vessel continued its approach.

The Iranian boat approached the Tempest head-on coming as close as 200 yards, forcing the American ship to alter its course to avoid a collision, U.S. officials said.

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The Iranian boat sped away after the USS Squall fired the three warning shots into the waters ahead of the speeding boat to warn it off. Earlier the two American ships had an earlier encounter with three other Iranian small craft that crossed in front of the bow three times, coming as close as 600 yards, U.S. officials said. Each time the Iranian vessels ignored warning flares and whistles used by the crew of the Tempest for them to alter their course.

In a later incident, the destroyer USS Stout received what Urban called "an unsafe intercept" from the same Iranian vehicle that had received the warning shots from the USS Squall. The Iranian vessel crossed the bow of the Stout three times. Urban said the Stout had to maneuver away each time to avoid a collision with the Iranian boat.

Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook told reporters today that the reason for the warning shots was because the American sailors had "taken steps already to try and deescalate this situation, appropriate steps, including flares, trying to, again, warn the Iranian craft away. And so they felt the need to take an additional step to try and deescalate the situation."

**Happy New Year from the Editor and Staff of the Newsletter**

## **CHINA'S FIRST AIRCRAFT CARRIER**

BEIJING — China's first aircraft carrier and five other warships passed by Taiwan and sailed into the contested South China Sea on Monday, Taiwan's Defense Ministry said.

The ships, led by the Liaoning, sailed past the Pratas Islands, also known as the Dongsha Islands, a Taiwan-controlled atoll in the northern part of the South China Sea, according to the ministry.

China's Defense Ministry said Saturday that the Liaoning had set off for a routine open-sea exercise in the Western Pacific as part of its annual training. But its entering into the politically sensitive South China Sea follows rising tensions between Beijing and Taipei over the status of the self-ruled island.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen has refused to endorse Beijing's concept that Taiwan is a part of China. Beijing claims the self-governing island as its own territory and says failing to endorse the one-China principle would destabilize relations.

The Taiwanese ministry said the Liaoning and warships had on Sunday sailed 90 nautical miles south of Taiwan in the Bashi Channel, a waterway between Taiwan and the Philippines.

Tensions have mounted in the South China Sea, where the U.S. and China accuse each other of engaging in a dangerous military buildup. China claims nearly all of the sea and is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple disputes over it

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**Rachel Freier, NY Judge**



**Iranian Patrol Boat**

(Continued from page 10, col. 3)

lands, coral reefs and lagoons. The U.S.-based Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative think tank said this month that satellite imagery showed China building large anti-aircraft guns on artificial islands in the contested waters, where China has also laid airstrips, built communications facilities and deployed suspected missiles.

China has characterized its moves as defensive in nature and accused U.S. warships of making provocative passes through the region.

The Liaoning, commissioned by the Chinese navy in 2012, first sailed to the South China Sea in 2013, when it docked at a navy base near the Chinese holiday resort of Sanya. The vessel at the time was not outfitted with a full aircraft complement.

### **ISRAEL'S NATIONAL DOG**

Like most things in the Middle East, Israel's national dog breed—the Canaan dog—has been around for a very, very long time. Adorably occupying an ecological niche based on waste .



**China's first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning**

from humans, these dogs are pretty much as canonized as it gets.

According to archaeologists, pretty much anytime a dog was mentioned in the Torah, the reference was to the Canaan dog. And evidence bears this out: First-century rock carvings in Sinai show the pup in its biblical splendor—and, in 1987, the largest dog cemetery in the ancient world was unearthed in Ashkelon, revealing 700 Canaan dog skeletons dating back 2,500 years.

Though the nationally-recognized breed numbers between

2,000 to 3,000 in the world today, we can thank the fact of their continuing survival to Viennese cynologist (“dogologist,” in more fun parlance) Dr. Rudolphina Menzel.

In the 1930s, Dr. Menzel was asked by the Haganah, the paramilitary Jewish forces of pre-State Israel, to build a service dog organization. Finding standard breeds inadequate for complicated tasks, she turned to the pariah doggy for training and breeding, relying on their strong survival instincts.

The editor's first dog looked exactly like this bred.



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**THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING IN JANUARY DUE TO THE NEW YEARS HOLIDAY AND NO OTHER DATE IN THE MONTH WAS AVAILABLE AT THE AZ VETERANS HOME.**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2017 @ 10:00 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM 4141 N.S. HERRERA WAY 3RD STREET NORTH OF INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD PHOENIX, AZ**

**The Jewish War Veterans invites any qualified veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States of America to become a member in the oldest Veterans organization in the Nation!**  
**If you are not a qualified veteran, you can join as a Patron Member and support the organization.**  
**If you are on active duty, you may join as a regular member. While on active duty, there is no requirement to pay dues. You have all the benefits of membership.**