

# The Synagogue Journal

## 1856-2006

November 10, 2006

HistoricalJournal@KaneStreet.org

Shabbat Vayeira

### Issue 45 Wartime

#### In this issue ...

Kane Street Synagogue commemorates Veteran's Day on November 11<sup>th</sup> in honor of the men and women of the congregation who served our nation. The Torah portion, while not directly discussing warfare, touches on many of the moral issues surrounding war. In Chapter 19 God decides to destroy the people of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their ubiquitous violence, corruption and xenophobia. God confides this decision to Abraham who argues against it, wondering if the societies might be saved for fifty, forty, thirty, twenty, even ten righteous people. Sadly, these are not to be found. For Jewish moral thinkers, the stories raise issues of collective responsibility to protect civilians, collective punishment and the possibility of moral renewal even in evil societies.

Congregation Baith Israel was organized five years before the onset of the Civil War. Trustee minutes then were in German and our information about the Congregation's war effort is limited. A few facts surface: Solomon Furst, the synagogue's first President, was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Calvary of the 70<sup>th</sup> Company of the New York Militia; Our women's group, the Daughters of Israel, had a booth at the Sanitary Fair held at Packer Institute; Bernhard Schellenberg made uniforms for the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment and sold them from his tailor's shop at 119 Myrtle Avenue; Leopold C. Newman, an attorney and President of the Young Men's Democratic Society, entered the war at the outbreak and commandeered the 31<sup>st</sup> Regiment of New York Volunteers. The Journal documents Newman's life and death, using sources from *The Brooklyn Eagle*, *The New York Times* and the website of the New York State Military Museum and Research Center. Judy Greenwald reports on the Civil War hero and her quest to find his grave.

The Journal provides a commentary by Rabbi Goldfarb on patriotism during the congregation's first one hundred years, articles about commemorative events held in gratitude to those who served, a ticket to the Victory Ball and photographs of commemorative markers. Next time you're at Kane Street Synagogue look at the bronze tablet in the Sanctuary Lobby with the heading, "In honor of those who served for the cause of 'Liberty, Justice & Democracy' in the great War – 1914-1919." We include a list of one hundred eleven men who served in WWI.

Please note that Rabbi Goldfarb compiled a Jewish hymnal, which was distributed to the US troops in World War II. The title of the hymnal is unknown. Synagogue Historians would greatly appreciate information from Journal readers about how the publication came to be written, distributed and used, and if a copy is available.

The congregation offers gratitude to all veterans who have undertaken "collective responsibility to protect civilians." Esther Levine-Brill, a veteran of the Gulf War, reflects on her experience in, "What's a Nice Jewish Girl Like You Doing in Combat Boots." Esther ends her article with, "We all felt we would do it again, if called upon."

Special thanks to: Rabbi Weintraub; Judith R. Greenwald; Esther Levine-Brill; Brooklyn Daily Eagle Online™, Brooklyn Public Library; [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle), New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center, <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/reghist/civil/infantry/31stInf/31stInfPersonNewman.htm>

Shalom,

Carol Levin, Editor  
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### **Photograph of Lt. Col. Leopold C. Newman**

Credit: New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center

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"An injury in the foot...incapacitates him at least temporarily from continuing on active duty."

Credit: *The Brooklyn Eagle*

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Credit: *The Brooklyn Eagle*

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"Please rectify the mistake of the burial place..."

Credit: *The Brooklyn Eagle*

### **The Jews True Patriots**, May 8, 1899

Credit: *The New York Times*

This article addresses "The Conspicuous Part They Took in All the Wars in Which the United States Has Been Engaged" and tells of heroes such as, "Lieut. Col. Leopold C. Newman, to whose dying bed President Lincoln brought his commission, promoting him to the rank of Brigadier General."

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Credit: *The Brooklyn Eagle*

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Credit: *The Brooklyn Eagle*



## **Our Service to Our Country**

*The Centennial Banquet Journal from 1956 included Rabbi Israel Goldfarb's history of Congregation Baith Israel Anshei. The following excerpt recounts our war efforts.*

"Not only did our congregation distinguish itself by its loyalty to the God of Israel and its adherence to the traditions of our people, but also by its intense patriotism and love of our country.

In keeping with the teaching of Judaism which urges upon us to "Pray for the peace of the government," Baith Israel Anshei Emes was ever ready to respond to the call of the country and to rally to the defense of its flag.

On the congregation's old cemetery, at Union Field, one may still find evidences of Baith Israel's sacrifices on the altar of patriotism during the Civil War. On an old gravestone one can still read the simple story of Lieutenant Colonel Leo C. Newman who fought with the army of the Potomac, was mortally wounded in the battle of Fredericksburg and died at Washington in 1863.

Again in the World War I, when our beloved country summoned its sons to rally around the Stars and Stripes, to the defense of Democracy, 111 of our boys responded to the call, four of whom made the Supreme Sacrifice. The impressive ceremony of the "Service Flag Presentation" held in our Synagogue on February 24, 1918, was most moving and soul stirring. The inspiring addresses of Mr. Louis Marshall and Commander Albert Moritz of the Camden Navy Yard, were filled with intense Jewish loyalty and with patriotic fervor. Together with our fellow citizens of other faiths we participated in the various Liberty Loans and Welfare Campaigns, contributing to all agencies that cooperated with the Government in serving the religious, social and recreational needs of the boys in camp.

It was a great and joyous day when, on October 12, 1919, a "Grand Jubilee" was held at our Synagogue in honor of our boys' homecoming, when we unveiled the Bronze Memorial Tablet and presented each veteran with a suitably inscribed Bible as a memento of his service. The arrangements of this Grand Jubilee were in charge of that indefatigable worker, Mr. Samuel Cohn."

## **Darkness and Dawn**

"The years of prosperity and peace that followed the Country's recovery from the economic depression were short-lived, however. New clouds, dark and ominous, began to gather again on the political skies. The storm which had its origin in Germany, with the sudden rise to power of Adolph Hitler and his Nazi hangmen was destined to engulf all nations and to shake the very foundations of the world.

World War II which followed as a result of the Nazi maniac's ambitions, was the greatest and most devastating human conflict that the world had ever seen. The battle was extended to every continent and over every sea, on land, sea and in the sky. The losses in human life and property were staggering. The blackest chapter in the history of this war was, however, the inhuman extermination, by cremation in Nazi gas and torture chambers, of 6,000,000 Jews, and the destruction of their many hundreds of Synagogue, Schools, cultural and philanthropic institutions.

During this dark period Congregation B.I.A.E. was a source of great comfort, hope and encouragement to our people. Together with other Synagogues in our City and country we called for protest and prayer meetings. We held special services of intercession. We raised funds for the relief of the war sufferers and engaged in rescue work. When our country was drawn into the conflict by the sneak attack of the Japanese on Pearl Harbor, over 400 of our youth joined the armed forces of the U.S.A."

## Our Civil War Hero

by Judith R. Greenwald

*Judith R. Greenwald has been an active member of Kane Street since 1966, taking leadership positions on the Kiddush, Journal, Dinner-Dance, Building and Renewal Campaign Committees, and as Secretary, Vice-President and President. She also has served as the Synagogue's Archivist and Historian and Editor of The Scroll.*

The word "hero" is not used often anymore and little attention is paid to brave soldiers when they return from battle in body bags. Such was not the case during the Civil War and in the early years of our Congregation. In 1863, our member Lieutenant-Colonel Leopold Charles Newman, lying on his death bed in the National Hotel in Washington, D.C., was visited by President Abraham Lincoln who brought him a commission to the rank of brigadier-general, earned for valor.

Leopold Charles Newman was born in Brooklyn on July 26, 1839. His parents were Charles Newman and Eliza Morange, who were married on October 3, 1838 in a New York synagogue by Reverend Edward Miers. (In 1879 Congregation Baith Israel engaged Rabbi Miers.) Nothing is known of Newman's early childhood, his schooling, or his family's circumstances, other than that when Leopold was about eight years old his father served as a colonel in the Mexican War. Newman was sixteen when his mother died, nine days after she gave birth to his sister Victoria. There is an indication in war pension correspondence with the Department of the Interior that Newman also had a younger brother Isidore who died in childhood. Newman resided with his father and sister at 177 Court Street, and supported the family. Charles Newman suffered from kidney disease and impaired vision, and was unable to do manual work. It is not known when Newman and his father joined our Synagogue, which was founded in 1856, one year after his mother's death.

On May 27th, 1861 just six weeks after the fall of Fort Sumter, Newman and two close friends were among the first to enlist in the 31st Infantry Regiment of New York Volunteers. Organized in Williamsburgh, the regiment was mustered in on May 24, 1861 under Col. Calvin E. Pratt. At the time of his enlistment, Newman was twenty-two and engaged to be married. He was well known as a good orator, a man of ability, and a lawyer of merit and distinction. More importantly, he displayed leadership, for he was a founding member of the Young Men's Democratic Association of Brooklyn. Unlike Manhattan Democrats, the Democrats of Brooklyn, chief among them Walt Whitman, supported the war.

Newman was commissioned as a lieutenant in Company B of the 31st Regiment. After a four-week training period on Riker's Island in Hardee's light infantry tactics, the Regiment was transported by train to Washington D.C. where it joined the Army of the Potomac and entered combat. Two years later on June 4, 1863 the Regiment was mustered out. By one account it had suffered the loss of 379 officers and men: 71 dead, 168 wounded and 140 missing. By another account the 1,000-man regiment had been reduced to 300. In the battle of Maryse' Heights alone, in two days of battle 12 men were killed, 58 were wounded and 87 were missing. See, *New York in the War of the Rebellion*, 3rd ed., Frederick Phisterer, Albany: J. B. Lyon Company, 1912;

Newman's regiment engaged in sixteen battles. In Virginia it fought at Fairfax Court House, Blackburn's Ford, Bull Run, Munson's Hill, Springfield Station, West Point, Gaines Mill, Garnett and Golding's Farm, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Burke's Station, Fredericksburg, and Mary's Heights and Salem Church. In Maryland it battled at Crampton's Pass and Antietam. Newman was in every one of these battles and he achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel by two promotions earned for valor. With only a few weeks left to serve, he returned home on leave only to be peremptorily recalled. "I'll be home in a week father," he said as he returned to Virginia for battle at Fredericksburg. There, General Sedgwick ordered the 31st to carry Maryse' Heights, saying "You may lose all your men, but you will save the corps." Newman, turning to his men cried, "Now gentlemen, over with you" and with banner in one hand and sword in the other he dashed into battle. The effort was successful, with the 31st Regiment making two of the most brilliant charges of the entire campaign and its flag the first to reach the rebels' works, but Newman suffered a severe grape shot wound in his left foot. [See, <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/reghist/civil/infantry/31stInf/31stInfCWN.htm>, *31st Regiment New York Volunteers Civil War Newspaper Clippings*, New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center.]

The shot broke several bones. At that time such an injury required amputation. The pain of surgery could be ameliorated only by surgical speed, for there was never enough chloroform to go around. With skill a leg could be removed in twelve seconds, an arm in nine. [See, E. L. Doctorow, *The March*, p. 58.] It is not clear if Newman was operated on in the field or at the National Hotel, in Washington D. C. to which he was evacuated. He died there on June 7th. President Abraham Lincoln arrived at Newman's bedside either as he lay dying or just after he died and reportedly delivered to him his commission as a Brigadier-General.

Newman was buried with military honors in our Synagogue's first cemetery "Union Field" in Cypress Hills. The Twenty-eighth Regiment of the National Guard with band and drum corps attended, together with numerous citizens and many discharged and furloughed soldiers. His tombstone read "He fought for his Country with the Army of the Potomac in every battle from Bull Run to that in which he fell leading his regiment in the storming of Morys Heights."

Modern attempts to pay respects to this hero, which began in 1981 so far have failed. In Rabbi Goldfarb's history of the congregation, he is specific as to the name and general location of the cemetery in which Newman's body rests, but there are several cemeteries named Union Field in Cypress Hills. None of the cemeteries bearing the name Union Field has records of Newman's interment. And while our Synagogue's own cemetery records and maps are complete for all of the grounds it acquired since 1875, records before that time have been lost. Currently we await the renovation of Shearith Israel synagogue and the retrieval of that congregation's archives from storage. Since our Congregation purchased Union Fields from Shearith Israel, its archives should hold a metes and bounds description of the purchase to help locate the spot. Meanwhile many unsuccessful trips have been made to Cypress Hills to find the grave. The area is vast and the oldest stones, which are made of soft sand stone, are illegible. For example, the grave of Leopold Newman's father, Charles, who died in 1885, is located in our ground at Machpelah Cemetery in Cypress Hills. When first located in 1981 it was legible, but by 2006, it was not.

Fortunately, through Rabbi Goldfarb's written histories and the preservation of records and documents by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs and the National Archives, the heroism of our remarkable member Leopold C. Newman is preserved. As stated in one of his obituaries on file with the *31st Regiment New York Volunteers Civil War Newspaper Clippings*, he was "a loving and dutiful son, a kind brother, a warm friend, an iron-hearted soldier...."

**WOUNDED AT THE BATTLE OF CHANCELLORSVILLE.**—Among the list of wounded at the late battle of Chancellorsville is the name of Lieut. Col. Leopold C. Newman, of the 31st Regiment, N. Y. S. V., who received an injury in the foot which incapacitates him at least temporarily from continuing on active duty. He assisted in the formation of regiment, and went out as Captain. His soldierly qualities soon attracted attention and he was promoted to Major; afterward, to the Lieutenant Colonelcy. The regiment was commanded by Col. Pratt, (who, with Lieut. Col. Newman, are residents of Brooklyn) who has been promoted to the position of Brigadier General for gallant service. No regiment has done better than the 31st.

**LIEUT. COL. NEWMAN.**—We learn that Lieut. Col. Leopold C. Newman, of the 31<sup>st</sup> regiment, has suffered amputation of one of his legs in one of the hospitals in Washington. Col. Newman is a resident of this city, and was well known as a promising politician. During the last Presidential campaign he was President of the Young Men's Democratic Club of this city, and was very active in working for the interest of the party. When the war broke out he procured a commission as Lieutenant in one of the companies of the 31<sup>st</sup> regiment, and served with the regiment during its two years service with the army of the Potomac, being engaged in every battle fought by that army. He was rapidly promoted through all the grades until he attained the position of Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment. He escaped unscathed through all the terrible conflicts in which his regiment was engaged, but just a day or two before the service of his regiment expired the disastrous battle of Chancellorsville occurred, in which he was wounded with a piece of shell in the leg, making a compound fracture, which rendered amputation necessary. The regiment was mustered out of service a few days since. We are glad to know that Mr. Newman is recovering rapidly.

Brooklyn Eagle; Jun 13, 1863; Page 2

**The Late Lieut.-Col. Newman.**

*To the Editor of the Brooklyn Eagle :*

Please rectify the mistake of the burial place of Lieut.-Col. Newman. He was buried at the Union Cemetery by the Congregation Baith Israel, with the military honors due to an officer of his rank. He led the 81st Regiment New York Volunteers on the charge on Mary's Heights, Fredericksburg, Va. He was a lawyer of distinction at the New York bar; also, President of the Young Men's Democratic Society. He entered the war at the outbreak of this rebellion as Captain. He commanded the Third Brigade at the battle of Antietam, Maryland, after which he was promoted to the Lieut.-Colonelcy of the Regiment which he commanded to the day of his death. He was born in the City of New York.

P. MANN.



# THE JEWS TRUE PATRIOTS

## Dr. Madison C. Peters Says History Does Not Tell of Braver Men.

### HARSH TREATMENT IN GERMANY

The Conspicuous Part They Took in All the Wars in Which the United States Has Been Engaged.

The Rev. Dr. Madison C. Peters of the Bloomingdale Reformed Church began last night a series of Sunday evening lectures on "What Christendom Owes to the Jew." Dr. Peters took for his subject "The Jew as a Patriot." He said: "One of the gravest charges ever brought against the Jew is that he is not and cannot be a patriot. A distinguished English writer some years ago declared 'The Jews have now been everywhere made voters; to make them patriots while they remain genuine Jews is beyond the legislator's power.'

"You can hardly expect a race to love their country when during the Middle Ages the Kings and Princes of Europe assumed the ownership of their dependent Jews, presented them as gifts, or mortgaged them like inanimate property to other rulers or imperial cities. Massacred, pillaged, and expelled by the wholesale from their oldest settlements, they had no refuge but the grave, and yet in those benighted ages the Jews were not wanting in patriotism in those countries where the Governments occasionally treated them like human beings.

"In the Spanish battles they fought as bravest knights. Forty thousand were arrayed against Alfonso VIII. Alfonso of Castile rewarded them en masse for their assistance against Seville, and gave them, when the enemy's land was divided, a village which was called Aldea de los Judeos. They fought heroically for Don Pedro, even after the Black Prince had forsaken him, defending Burgos to the last man. King Philip the Handsome of France is said to have had 30,000 Jews in his army in his expedition against Count Guy of Flanders, in 1297.

"Notwithstanding the light of the Reformation, pillages and expulsions of the Jews continued to be the order of the day. But always and everywhere, where the Jew found a friend in his country, the country found a friend in him. History does not tell the story of a braver defense than that of the Polish territory put up by the Jews during the onslaught of the Cossacks into Poland during the Thirty Years' War.

"The Germans are among the greatest Jew baiters in the world, and look upon Jews as foreigners in Germany, forgetting the fact that Caesar found the Jews residing on the Rhine enjoying the comforts of civilization when the ancestors of the German Gentiles were roaming wild in the forests, clad in boarskins and chasing the aurochs.

#### THEIR STRUGGLES IN GERMANY.

"The Jews are the most anciently cultivated people in the world, and when the ancestors of the European Kings, Queens, and nobles were reveling in coarseness or ignorantly bending their backs to the commands of their superiors the Jews were the torchbearers of the world. The Jews occupy the most important professional chairs in the German universities, they possess more wealth than their non-Jewish neighbors, drive the best horses and handsomest carriages, and inhabit the most splendid mansions, all of which are at the bottom of the anti-Semitic agitation in Germany.

"Cremieux said: 'If you persecute you make slaves; only by declaring equal rights for all you will make good citizens.' King Frederick William III. had no sooner given the Jews of Prussia equality with their Christian fellow-citizens, in 1812, than they responded readily to the summons of their King. In 1815 Hardenburg, the Prussian Chancellor, in a letter to Count von Grote, speaking of the Jews 'gloriously braving the dangers of war,' added: 'The rest of the Jewish inhabitants, especially the ladies, vied with the Christians in all kinds of patriotic sacrifices.'

"And what reward did the Jews receive for their sacrifices to the country? They were denied public employment, they could not get appointments as teachers, serve as jurors, or practice law unless they submitted to baptism. They were not even allowed to be druggists. In the newly won French provinces the same laws were made to apply.

#### IN EUROPEAN ARMIES.

"Since that time the German Jews, in the Franco-Prussian war, have showed their love for the Fatherland in an unexampled degree. The year 1793 guaranteed to the Jews of France equality with French citizens, but, as the Dreyfus affair shows, the liberty of and justice to the Jew have not even yet passed from the statute into reality. Yet, in spite of all, the Jews of France rallied with equal promptness under the banner of the empire and the republic when the safety of their country was imperiled.

"Even Napoleon, one of whose Marshals, Massena, (whose real name was Manasseh,) was a Jew, and by him surnamed 'The Child of Victory,' did not regard the Jews as citizens until 1806. In 1892 there were about 300 Jewish officers serving in the French Army.

"The first soldiers that stormed Plevna were Roumanian Jews, and the Generals on both sides were Jews. In the last war with Turkey and Greece Giuseppe Misan, a Jew, received the first wound. In Italy 1.4 per cent. of all Italian Jews are in the army, against 1.1 per cent. of all Italians, and out of every five Jews serving in the Italian Army one is an officer, against one in twelve in the Italian Army as a whole.

"On the 31st of August, 1290, Edward I. banished all the Jews from England—16,511—pitilessly driven from a country inhabited by their ancestors as far back as the eighth century. You could hardly expect them to love England—and yet no sooner had favorable legislation restored them to citizenship than they proved their love of country.

"The complete emancipation of the Jews in England was not brought about until 1858, when by the act of Parliament the oath 'on the faith of a true Christian' was dispensed with, and Baron Lionel de Rothschild was permitted to take his seat and the practical persecution of the Jew was ended. For, as Macaulay said: 'Persecution it is to inflict penalties on account of religious opinions.'

"Not only has the Jewish race produced a Major General, Albert Goldsmid, and two Lieutenant Generals, Sir Jacob Adolphus and Sir David Ximenes, in the English Army, and Sir Alexander Shomberg, who distinguished himself in the British Navy, but we find to-day fully 700 Jews of all ranks serving in the various branches of her Majesty's forces, 144 of whom are officers. There are 51,000 Jews in the Russian Army.

#### SUPPORT IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

"That the Jews furnished more than their proportion of supporters to the colonial cause we have unimpeachable authority. They gave their lives for independence and aided with their money to equip and maintain armies of the Revolution. The Non-Importation Resolution in 1765, the first organized movement in the agitation for separation from the mother country, a document still preserved in Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia, contains nine Jewish names.

"In 1769, a corps of volunteer infantry was raised in Charleston, S. C., composed chiefly of Hebrews, under command of Capt. Lushington, and which afterward fought with great bravery under Gen. Moultrie at Beaufort. The decision reached in New York, in 1770, to make more stringent the Non-Importation Agreement, which the colonists adopted to bring England to terms on the taxation question, had among its signers six Jews.

"At a time when the sinews of war were essential to success, Haym Solomon of Philadelphia responded with \$300,000, and, it is estimated, gave, all told, \$600,000, not a penny of which has ever been repaid to his heirs. Haym Solomon was not the only Jew who sacrificed his fortune for independence, for we find among the signers of the Bills of Credit for the Continental Congress in 1770, Benjamin Levy of Philadelphia and Benjamin Jacobs. Samuel Lyon of New York was among the signers of similar bills in 1779.

"Isaac Moses of Philadelphia contributed

\$15,000 to the Colonial Treasury, and Herman Levy, another Philadelphian, repeatedly advanced considerable sums for the support of the army in the field. Manuel Mordecai Noah of South Carolina not only served in the army as an officer on Washington's staff, and likewise with Gen. Marion, but gave \$100,000 to further the cause in which he was enlisted.

#### BUNKER HILL MONUMENT GIFT.

"Mr. Gomez of New York proposed to a member of the Continental Congress to form a company of soldiers for service, and was remonstrated with on the score of age. Mr. Gomez, who was then sixty-eight, replied that he 'could stop a bullet as well as a younger man.'

"Col. Isaac Franks, aide de camp to Washington; Major Benjamin Moses, who served on the staffs of both Washington and Lafayette; Col. David S. Franks, Gen. Arnold's aide de camp; Philip Moses Russell, whom Washington commended for his 'assiduous attentions to the sick and wounded,' and Col. Jacob De La Motta are only a few names of the Jews who distinguished themselves upon the battlefields of the Revolution.

"The commemoration of the first battle-field of the Revolutionary War was made possible through a Jew. Upon learning that Amos Lawrence of Boston had pledged himself to give \$10,000 to complete the Bunker Hill monument, if any person could be found to give a like amount, Judah Touro of New Orleans, who came to the aid of Andrew Jackson during the memorable defense of that city, immediately sent a check for that amount.

"At a dinner given at Faneuil Hall on June 13, 1843, to celebrate the completion of the monument, the two great benefactors of the association were remembered by the following toast:

Amos and Judah, venerated names,  
Patriarch and Prophet, press their equal claims,  
Like generous coursers, running "neck and neck."

Each aids the other by giving it a check.  
Christian and Jew, they carry out one plan,  
For though of different faiths, each is in heart a man.

"One of the most distinguished soldiers of the War of 1812 was Brig. Gen. Joseph Bloomfield.

#### IN MEXICAN AND CIVIL WARS.

"Gen. David De Leon twice took the place of commanding officers who had been killed or disabled by wounds, and twice received the thanks of Congress for his gallantry and ability. Surgeon General Moses Albert Levy, Col. Leon Dyer, Quartermaster General under Gen. Winfield Scott; Lieut. Henry Seligson, who was sent for by Gen. Taylor and by him complimented for his conspicuous bravery at Monterey, are the names of a few of the sons of Israel who left valuable evidences of their patriotism in the Mexican war.

"From the earliest period of the Republic to the present time the Jew has been a conspicuous figure in our regular army and navy, and in every branch of the service he has made an honorable record.

"Major Alfred Mordecai is a recognized authority in the military world, in the field of scientific research, and in the practical application of mechanical deduction to war uses. Commodore Uriah Phillips Levy at the time of his death, 1862, was the highest ranking officer (flag officer) in our navy, and upon his tombstone at Cypress Hills is recorded the fact that 'He was the father of the law of abolition of the barbarous practices of corporal punishment in the United States Navy.'

"In the civil war the part the Jew took is so conspicuous that it is difficult to pick out the most prominent men in the conflict. Jews served on the staffs of Grant, Pope, Rosecrans, and Howard. New York alone furnished 1,900 soldiers. Fourteen Jewish families sent fifty-three men to both armies. Seven thousand seven hundred and eighty-four Jews served in the Union and Confederate armies. Frederick Knefler enlisted as a private in the Seventy-ninth Indiana, and fought his way up to Colonelcy, soon rising to the rank of Brigadier General, and then Brevet Major General for meritorious services at Chickamauga. He fought under Rosecrans, Thomas, and Grant, and took part in all the conflicts under Sherman's march to the sea.

#### SOME OF THE HEROES.

Edward S. Solomon, Colonel of the Eighty-second Illinois; Leopold Blumberg, Colonel of the Fifth Maryland and brevetted Brigadier General for bravery at Antietam; Philip J. Joachimsen, who organized the Fifty-ninth New York Volunteer Regiment and went to the front with it as a Colonel, and was brevetted Brigadier General by Gov. Fenton in acknowledgment of his eminent services; Col. Simon Levy of the First New York Volunteers, and his three sons; Col. Marcus M. Spiegel of the One Hundred and Twentieth Ohio Infantry, who died before he could receive the promotion to a Brigadier Generalship, for which his superior officers recommended him for his bravery at Vicksburg and Snaggy Point.

"Max Einstein, Colonel of the Twenty-seventh Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers; Col. H. A. Seligson of Vermont, Col. Max Freedman of the Fifth Pennsylvania Cavalry, Lieut. Col. Israel Moses of Sickles's Brigade, Isaac Moses, Adjutant General of the Third Army Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

"Lieut. Col. Leopold C. Newman, to whose dying bed President Lincoln brought his commission, promoting him to the rank of Brigadier General; Col. Ansel Hamburg of the Twelfth Pennsylvania Infantry; Abraham Hart, brigade Adjutant General of the Seventy-third Pennsylvania Infantry; Col. H. Newbold of the Fourteenth Iowa, killed at Red River; Adolph A. Meyer, Inspector General, by special appointment of President Lincoln, and transferred by him from New Mexico to Pennsylvania.

"David Mannheim, Colonel First Nevada Cavalry, and Herman Bendell, Sergeant Eighty-sixth New York Infantry, brevetted Lieutenant Colonel for meritorious and honorable conduct, are a few names of Jews who distinguished themselves upon the battlefields of the war for the Union. In the political movements for the abolition of slavery the Jews also took a leading part in creating public opinion.

#### FOUGHT AGAINST SPAIN.

"The records of the War Department show that there were over 4,000 Hebrews in the American armies during the war with Spain. It is a matter of history that they fought as bravely before Manila and Santiago de Cuba as they did at Leipsic and Waterloo, under Kossuth and Garibaldi, before Sebastopol, Sadowa, and Sedan. The first man to fall in the attack on Manila was Sergt. Maurice Justh of the First California Volunteers, (which regiment numbered 100 Jews.)

"Theodore Roosevelt, the intrepid leader of the Rough Riders, declared that in that brave regiment, which has challenged the admiration of the world, the most astonishing courage was displayed by the seven Jewish Rough Riders, one of whom became a Lieutenant. The Astor Battery numbered ten Jews among its ninety-nine men.

"Fifteen Jews went down to death in the Maine, destroyed in the Harbor of Havana, the most infamous crime in all the world, and there was no engagement during the war with Spain and in the Philippines in which the Hebrews did not take part, and many Jewish names appear on the list of killed and wounded. The much-maligned Russian Jews furnished more than double their share of volunteers.

"Lieut. Commander Marix, a Hebrew, was Judge Advocate of the Maine disaster board of Inquiry, and many causes could be cited where Americans of Hebrew extraction performed gallant and meritorious service under the flag."



## What's a Nice Jewish Girl Like You Doing in Combat Boots?

by Esther Levine-Brill

*Esther Brill served as an army nurse during the Gulf War in 1991. She and her husband Ed have been Kane Street members since 1980, and their son Alex attended the Hebrew school and was a Bar Mitzvah there. Esther is a tenured professor at Long Island University where she teaches in both the graduate and undergraduate nursing program.*

Right before my fortieth birthday, I was approached by some recruiters about joining the Army Reserves. I told them I was too old, but they assured me that they took recruits up to age forty. I first considered joining right after college, but six years seemed too long a commitment then, especially if I found that I didn't like it. Added to that was I wondered if I would ever be able to meet a Jewish man in the army, or be able to keep kosher. But here, as I approached forty, I quit smoking and was into fitness. Suddenly the idea of joining was not so ludicrous anymore. In fact, I remember thinking "Hey, here's one thing I don't have to be sorry that I never did."

Never did I think I would be called up for war, however. I was joining the army anticipating great opportunities. Suddenly though, just before Ed and I were to celebrate our twentieth anniversary and our son was nine-years-old, I was off to war. The night before I was to leave several of my friends, including many from the synagogue, gave me a going away party. One of my presents from Tucky Druker and Arlene Schneider was a green leather bound diary. In it I started taking down notes. I later found that I had the basis of what was to become my doctoral dissertation on women reservists' reactions to being called up. But that's getting ahead of myself.

No, I never got to the Middle East; I spent my nine months on active duty stateside at Fort Monmouth and in Washington, DC. Although I had orders to go to Germany, the war ended before we were sent. My active duty station however, despite the one-army concept, had separate IDs for reservists who were active army and the "real active army". We were constantly reminded that we were only reservists. As a Jewish woman, I remember thinking of what it must have felt like in Nazi Germany, where the Jews had to wear yellow stars to set them apart.

Family and friends were very supportive throughout. One warm memory is receiving Purim *mishloah manot*, from Rabbi Debby Cantor and the shul. I still have that Purim cup because it made me feel close to home. Getting to come home for Pesach was another important event.

Life in the army was very different than what many of us had been used to, however I remember feeling that I was going so my son would never have to. As I look around now at all the sons of mothers who have had to go for this latest war, I am saddened and horrified at the loss of life despite one acquaintance telling me "we still haven't reached the numbers we lost in Viet Nam." We in the Gulf War came home to parades and much acclaim. Like Viet Nam, I don't think the soldiers of today will get their parade either. While those of us against the war should continue to oppose it, I hope we all remember, the sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters who are serving so the rest of us don't have to go.

Just as transitioning to army life was difficult, returning to civilian life was problematical as well. Being part of a unit, where we were all supporting each other and had similar experiences and for many of the women, a sense of purpose. Life had gone on, and we were not there for many of the important life events of family and friends. I remember my son telling me, "we do things differently now." Yes, they did, we were all different. We had lost and gained many things. The transition from home to army and back again was a journey, one which many of my compatriots shared with me, and which I proudly told in my dissertation. We all felt we would do it again, if called upon.

Victory Ball and Entertainment  
— OF —  
Congregation Baith Israel Anshei Emes  
AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Sunday evening, March twenty-third, 1919

AT THE IMPERIAL  
FULTON STREET AND RED HOOK LANE, BROOKLYN

PROCEEDS WILL BE DEVOTED TO REPAIR AND ALTERATION OF SYNAGOGUE BUILDINGS  
AND TO THE RECEPTION OF OUR GALLANT BOYS FROM "OVER THERE"

TICKET, ADMITTING GENTLEMAN AND LADY, ONE DOLLAR

# TABLET UNVEILED FOR OVERSEAS MEN

Congregation Baith Israel Anshei Emes Honors Returned War Sons—Abram I. Elkus Speaks.

5-3  
Of the 104 soldier boys of the Congregation Baith Israel Anshei Emes, Harrison, and Court sts., who served their country during the war, 104 from overseas met again last night at the big welcome home celebration held in their honor by the members of the synagogue. Five of the service men made the supreme sacrifice. They were Abraham Blalkin, Isadore Clark, Joseph Katzman, William H. Kirschner and Jacob...

1919  
The program consisted of addresses, an entertainment of music and songs, a buffet dinner and a dance. A beautiful tablet on which were inscribed the names of the 104 service men was unveiled by Miss Arnette Cohn, as the Goddess of Liberty. During the entertainment the choir, led by Miss Cohn, marched into the synagogue singing "The Star Spangled Banner." The audience joined in the singing of the national anthem.

Abram I. Elkus, former Ambassador to Turkey, made a brief address in which he described the sufferings of millions of that country, especially the Jews, at the hands of the Central Powers. Others who spoke were District Attorney Harry L. Lewis, Barrister George A. Wingate, Philip Weinberg and Albert Moritz.

Members of the Girl Scouts, Troop No. 23, besides furnishing the flowers for the occasion, served the dinner to the service men. Assisting at the tables were the Boy Scouts, Troop No. 104. They also acted as ushers for the large attendance at the celebration. After the dinner a reception was given to the soldier guests by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the synagogue.

The committee in charge consisted of Samuel Cohn, chairman; Mrs. A. Wolfe, Dr. Norman Salt, Abe Freitag, Eva Rumpel and Isaac P. Busch. On the reception committee were Harry G. Anderson, Lee Kantrowitz, Louis Moss, I. E. Jaspán, Julius Kahn, Michael Cohen and Mary Kaplan. Aaron Danglo, Samuel Cohn, Isaac P. Busch, and Abe Freitag comprised the tablet committee. The choir was under the direction of Samuel Goldfarb.

## "Our Heroes"

Roy Autor	Joseph Fiskoff	Abraham Neushatz
Joseph Barko	Morris Fox	Jesse Pasternak
Robert Barko	Irving Framan	*Joseph Rice
Harry Baslet	Murray Framan	Bernard Rosenthal
Louis Baskin	Julien Friedman	Al Rumples
Sidney Beach	John Gabey	Maurice Salit
Samuel Bergman	David Gallop	Samuel Salit
Nathan Bergman	Larry Geller	Peter Samuels
Leo Berkman	Herman Goldberg	William Schneider
Charles Berlin	David L. Goldman	Harry Schpoot
*Abraham Bialkin	Herman Goldstein	Barnett Shagan
Morris Blinder	Jack Goldstein	Bob Shane
Aaron Block	Jacob D. Goldstein	Simeon Shapiro
Joe Bogart	Nat Goldstein	Nancy Shore
Lewis C. Brown	Harry Goodman	Henry Shevlovitz
Jack Bruder	Leo Gottlieb	Eugene Shoen
Louis Budin	Louis C. Gutman	H. H. Silverburg
Leo Bruder	Pincus Hersheff	David Silverman
Morris Bruder	Samuel Horowitz	Henry Sroinfeld
Samuel Bruder	Davis Ishtutsky	Henry Summer
Abraham Chast	Samuel Kaplan	Irving Swigold
Samuel Chetken	*Joseph Kataman	Frank Teerlip
*Isadore Clark	David Kataman	Jerome Traub
Samuel Cohen	Frank Kirschner	Milton Traub
Sol Cohen	Samuel Kirschner	Samuel Waldman
Jerome Cohen	*William R. Kirschner	Jacob Weinberg
Jack Cohn	Milton Klapper	Mortimer R. Weinberg
David Cohn	Isadore Koss	Henry Weiss
Leon Copland	Lester Lebowitz	Nathan Weiss
Harry Curley	Charles Lebowitz	Lester Welsh
Jerome Davis	Jerome A. Lederman	Dr. Arthur Wildman
Harry Dickinson	Nathan M. Levy	L. Wiseman
Joseph Eskowitz	Sigmund Lilic	Martin Wiseman
Dr. L. Feinblatt	Max Martin	Charles Wolf
Herman Fierchaun	William A. Mastrov	Herman Wolf
Herbert Fierchaun	Sam Meyer	
Philip Fishman	Charles Miller	

# Oldest Boro Temple Welcomes GIs Back

A familiar ceremony was repeated last night at the Congregation Beth Israel, 236 King St., oldest synagogue in Brooklyn, as 180 World War II veterans were officially welcomed. The congregation in the past has greeted the return of members from the Civil War, Spanish-American War and World War I.

Rabbi Israel Goldfarb, spiritual leader of Beth Israel for 40 years, told the gathering of 600: "This is both a thanksgiving and a memorial service. We are thankful all the boys of our congregation returned safe, but let us not forget the untold numbers of all races, creeds and colors who will never return."

"We must not forget the ideals for which they fought and died. We must strive to spread and perpetuate the ideals of democracy for a world in which all can live in peace and harmony."

Other speakers were Jacob Hertz, president of the congregation, and Harold L. Turk, ex-president. Oscar Hertz, chairman of the veterans' committee, was in charge of arrangements.