

## **In Memory of Aryeh Malkin**

Eulogy By

**David Gottlieb**

Though being 85 years of age, I cannot escape the realities of the aging process. Yet when it came to Aryeh, I never, despite his frailties, jumped into some demographic category and concluded his days were numbered. I could not in my mind visualize a world without Aryeh front and center with a microphone in his hands. Aryeh was always present and giving a lecture, or the one who would be there to present or receive some WW-II veteran or Machal – Aliya Bet/Palyam award.

In summary, over a long period our relationship was such that we referred to each other as "Brother" though we never physically met one another. We served together on the Hagana Ship Josiah Wedgewood – one of a dozen of such ships which challenged the British Navy blockade of what at that time in 1946 was Palestine.

We almost met 55 years later when I made a return to the former Atlit Detention Camp and completed there a questionnaire regarding my Wedgewood experience. But several years later, Aryeh and I discovered the old connection between us thanks to the Palyam and Aliya Bet Website (one could never be certain just how many connections Aryeh had; his connections with this website's staff just one example). The result was to dedicate ourselves to making Americans, Jews and Christians, knowledgeable about the major role played by volunteers who gambled with losing their citizenship and perhaps their lives in order to transport Holocaust survivors to the one land in the world which would welcome them.

Finally, after much thought, it suddenly came to me that Aryeh was the original Zelig – the character created by Woody Allen who would appear out suddenly, from where no one could fathom, in the center of photos of the most powerful and influential figures of our century. Further evidence, of our beloved hero Aryeh whose tenacity and passion proves my conviction, that the actions of one can make a world of difference.

Shalom and lehitra'ot my dear brother.

## **"Actions of One Can Make a World of Difference"**

David Gottlieb and other people from his community in The Woodlands, Texas, via a non-profit educational organization named "The Actions of One", decided to honor the memory and many good deeds of Aryeh by establishing an annual event where the Aryeh Malkin Annual "Actions of One Can Make a World of Difference" Plaque is awarded to the person who has been judged to having made the most significant contribution to Jewish and Christian Relations for that year.

Here is David's account of the 1<sup>st</sup> award recipient and his contribution: "On this past Shabbat evening (June 30, 2014) our first ever recipient of The Award was Rabbi Jan Brahms of The Congregation Beth Shalom in The Woodlands, Texas. Rabbi Brahms provided the leadership in a major community wide effort to rescue and redeem a 150 year old Holy Torah that was found in Dachau and later sent to London where it was placed in secure storage with hundreds of other sacred Jewish religious symbols and objects looted from synagogue's and schools by the German military. Obviously, after so many years and lack of proper care and attention, when the Torah arrived in America it required total restoration – a new parchment with the entire Torah content printed word by word with pen and quill, new wood rollers for the Torah, as well as silver pointer and new velvet cover.

The total cost for transportation, insurance, printing the entire Torah and all other related items was in excess of \$300,000. The Rabbi and several others came up with the idea that the redemption of the Torah should be a joint effort by both the Jewish and Christian community, with both not only making financial contributions but working together in creating a hands on educational curriculum entitled The Journey Home Begins – which begins with the end of the war and the start of what was known as Aliya Bet where many American and Canadian volunteers took part in the efforts to transport Holocaust survivors to their Jewish homeland.

With the restored and redeemed Torah now in its new home, all members of the community who had joined in this effort were invited to a special service and

celebration honoring our new Torah which had become a symbol of interfaith and brotherhood. We later learned that this community in The Woodlands Texas was the first that had ever done anything comparable. That is another reason why Rabbi Brahms was the perfect choice for the Aryeh Malkin Award.



*The Aryeh Malkin Annual "Actions of One Can Make a World of Difference" Plaque, 2014*

*Plaque's design: Theresa G. Thornhill, Artist, Digital Accents LLC*