

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, April 24, 2020

SPECIAL FEATURE: Days of Remembrance & Holocaust Remembrance Day

[President Donald J. Trump Proclamation on Days Of Remembrance Of Victims Of The Holocaust, 2020](#) [Issued on: April 17, 2020]

As this year's Yom HaShoah commences, let us remember the millions of lives extinguished in the Holocaust, including those of Jewish, Polish, and Slavic ancestry, Roma and Sinti, individuals with mental and physical disabilities, gays, political dissidents, and dozens of other groups, and let us reaffirm our commitment to preserving and carrying forward their stories so that such repugnant acts of evil never occur again.

[Lives Lost: A man who studied darkness, but beamed light](#) [Matt Sedensky, Associated Press, 22 April 2020]

Isaiah Kuperstein was the encyclopedic Holocaust scholar who helped transform how children were taught a subject many thought too gruesome to broach. His most lasting work likely was as the first education director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, where he undertook a then-daring goal to teach children about something even many adults knew little about. The resulting work, "Remember the Children," debuted at the Capital Children's Museum in 1988, then toured the country. It became part of the U.S. Holocaust Museum when it opened in 1993.

[Coronavirus lockdown deepens Holocaust survivors' loneliness](#) [Maayan Lubell, Reuters, 21 April 2020]

Elias Feinzilberg, a 102-year-old Holocaust survivor, had to commemorate Israel's annual memorial day for the six million Jewish dead on Tuesday separated from his family because of the coronavirus lockdown. Feinzilberg, born in Poland in 1917, was imprisoned with his family in the Lodz ghetto after the Nazi German invasion at the start of World War Two in 1939. His father perished there and his mother and sisters were murdered at the Chelmno death camp.

[Coronavirus Offers Glimpse Into Future of Holocaust Remembrance](#) [Allison Kaplan Sommer, Haaretz, April 20, 2020]

The lack of in-person testimony by survivors at Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorations this year is particularly tragic at a time when they are becoming more rare and precious than ever before. With survivors passing away daily, the coming years are the younger generations' final opportunities to hear about the Holocaust from those like Lev who actually lived through it and witnessed events personally.

[A Holocaust Survivor's Celebration Of Liberation Day Is Colored By Coronavirus](#) [Sam Gringlas, NPR, 20 April 2020]

My grandpa Sol Gringlas was born in August. But every year, on April 11, I drop by his house in Michigan, or call him on the phone, to wish him a happy birthday. That's because my grandpa considers April 11 his "second birthday." It's the day in 1945 when his life started over again — when he was liberated from the Nordhausen concentration camp in Nazi Germany by American

soldiers. The day has always been special to my grandpa, and I never miss the ritual birthday greeting. But this year — the 75th anniversary — is different. Because of the coronavirus, assisted-living communities such as the one where my grandpa lives are closed to visitors.

[No. 4 Street of Our Lady // The Amazing Polish Woman Who Hid and Saved 16 Jews—and One German—in Her House](#) [Judy Maltz, *Haaretz*, April 19, 2020]

Though she died without revealing her secret war-time efforts, Franciszka Halamajowa and her daughter were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations—watch the full documentary about her [here](#).

[Holocaust Remembrance Day goes online](#) [Barry Davis, *The Jerusalem Post*, 18 April 2020]

The memorial events run the gamut of traditionally-learning activities to survivors relating first-hand stories of their horrific wartime experiences and musical creations.

CULTURE

[Cheryl A. Wall, 71, Dies; Champion of Black Literary Women](#) [Sam Roberts, *The New York Times*, 23 April 2020]

Cheryl A. Wall, an author and longtime Rutgers University professor who helped elevate Zora Neale Hurston and other Black women into English literature curriculums, died on April 4 at her home in Highland Park, N.J. She was 71. In a teaching career of nearly five decades, Dr. Wall championed racial diversity both in the curriculum and the classroom. She encouraged more Black students to major in English and pursue postgraduate degrees. And she widened the scope of literary scholarship to include Black novelists, poets and nonfiction authors as well as essayists, whom she considered central to the Black literary tradition.

[Army Eyes Permanent Shift to Distance Learning for Some PME Courses](#) [Matthew Cox, *Military.com*, 22 April 2020]

U.S. Army training officials are studying how the service's increased dependence on distance learning during the novel coronavirus pandemic may become a permanent part of leader education. The Army's Cyber Center of Excellence has increased its use of distance learning to "roughly 70% based on this COVID-19 pandemic," said Maj. Gen. Hersey, commander of the Cyber Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia. "Using distance learning works really well for individual technical work and, really, many aspects of training and education that would require that type of effort," he said. "But I would also say that this experience has reinforced that distance learning is not the right technique for every learning outcome or every instructional methodology."

[Alaska Native group sues Neiman Marcus over coat's design](#) [Rachel D'Oro, *Associated Press*, 21 April 2020]

An Alaska Native cultural organization is suing luxury retailer Neiman Marcus, saying the Dallas-based company violated copyright and American Indian arts protection laws in selling a knit coat with a geometric design borrowed from indigenous culture. The plaintiffs say the Ravenstail term and style has been associated for hundreds of years with Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian tribes. According to the lawsuit, the coat also mimics a Ravenstail coat created by a Tlingit weaver nearly a quarter century ago.

[Theodore Gaffney, who photographed the Freedom Riders as they protested segregation, dies of Covid-19 complications](#) [Harmeet Kaur, *CNN*, 21 April 2020]

In his 92 years, Theodore Gaffney witnessed some of the most consequential moments in history. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. One of the first Black photographers in the White House, he took photos of U.S. Presidents Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, as well as Queen Elizabeth II. But he was perhaps best known for an assignment he undertook for Jet Magazine in 1961: documenting the Freedom Riders as they journeyed to the Deep South to challenge racial segregation.

[Army Enlists Nine Inch Nails for New Coronavirus-Themed Recruiting Video](#) [Matthew Cox, *Military.com*, 20 April 2020]

The U.S. Army recently released a [new advertising video](#) targeting young people living in a society crippled by the novel coronavirus pandemic. The short video, titled “Unbelievable,” is the latest addition to the “What’s Your Warrior” ad campaign, which is designed to show members of Generation Z how their service is needed.

[“Want a job resembling Joe Exotic” — recruiter hopes “Tiger King” will entice prospects](#) [J.D. Simkins, *Air Force Times*, 17 April 2020]

An Air Force recruiting office in Ohio is hoping the scintillating popularity of Joseph Allen Maldonado-Passage, better known as the bleach-blond mullet aficionado Joe Exotic, will yield results as recruiters struggle to keep up in an evolving landscape beset by COVID-19.

DISCRIMINATION

[Suit: Hundreds of women received less pay at Virginia agency](#) [Associated Press, 23 April 2020]

*A pay discrimination lawsuit has been filed on behalf of about 250 women who worked for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality prior to 2019. The suit was filed Monday by two former and two current employees who said the agency violated the Equal Pay Act of 1963 by paying female employees less than male employees, *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* [reported](#).*

DIVERSITY

[Marine Corps details fitness requirements, training exemptions for pregnant troops in updated policy](#) [Caitlin M. Kenney, *Stars and Stripes*, 23 April 2020]

Marine mothers now are expected to continue physical fitness during their pregnancies, as directed in a new policy focused on parenthood and pregnancy. The new, [44-page document](#) lays out specific guidance on the whole spectrum of parenthood topics from pregnancy to postnatal care, as well as adoption and loss of a child.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Neighbors Not Practicing Social Distancing? Here’s What to Do](#) [Jen A. Miller, *The New York Times*, 17 April 2020]

“It’s challenging because what we’re being left to do is pretty much police ourselves,” said Elaine Swann, a lifestyle and etiquette expert. If someone is putting you at risk, such as by ignoring six-foot

markers while waiting in line to pay at a grocery store, speak up. “We have to be very forward with making sure that we communicate with the individual,” Ms. Swann said. “Turn to that individual and, very frankly, very honestly, with respect and consideration, say, ‘Will you please take a few steps back? I would like to make sure I’m protecting both you and me.’”

MISCELLANEOUS

[OPM Issues Guidance on Additional Paid Sick Leave for Feds During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

[Erich Wagner, *Govexec*, 23 April 2020]

The federal government’s human resources agency confirmed this week that most federal workers are eligible to take up to two additional weeks of paid sick leave this year related to COVID-19. In a [memo](#) posted to the OPM website Wednesday the agency confirmed that, with few exceptions, federal employees are entitled to two weeks of paid sick leave through the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act if they contract the coronavirus or are instructed to quarantine after being exposed to the virus.

[Supreme Court decision on unanimous jury verdicts leaves military out](#) [Nancy Montgomery, *Stars and Stripes*, 23 April 2020]

A Supreme Court opinion this week banning non-unanimous verdicts in state criminal cases leaves the military as the sole American jurisdiction that allows them.

[Top Marine suspends PFT](#) [Shawn Snow, *Marine Corps Times*, 21 April 2020]

Less than 24-hours after the Marine Corps said there would be no Corps-wide suspension of the Physical Fitness Test the top Marine announced the semi-annual fitness test for the current period is canceled. “Marines, the PFT requirement for this semi-annual period is cancelled in accordance with COVID-19 prevention guidelines,” Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. David Berger announced [via Twitter](#) Tuesday.

[Tutor.com Extends Free Tutoring for Military Families](#) [Rebecca Alwine, *Military.com*, 21 April 2020]

Details on eligibility are [here](#) but they are pretty broad. It includes spouses, children and service members. It also includes Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserve families. The only ones who aren’t eligible for the free resources are retirees, veterans and their families.

[Airman and Marine Will Head to Space in First U.S. Manned Launch Since 2011](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 20 April 2020]

For the first time since the space shuttles were retired in 2011, a manned space vehicle will go on a mission to the International Space Station, tentatively set for liftoff from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on May 27, NASA announced Friday. Air Force Col. Bob Behnken, 49, of Creve Coeur, Missouri, and retired Marine Col. Doug Hurley, 53, of Endicott, New York, both test pilots and veterans of space shuttle flights, are to be at the controls of the Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon spacecraft owned and operated by SpaceX, the firm founded by technology entrepreneur Elon Musk.

[Here’s the plan for sending federal employees back into the office](#) [Andrew Eversden, *Federal Times*, 20 April 2020]

Plans to return federal employees to the office amid the coronavirus pandemic will be based on public health conditions in the states where an agency has operations, according to a [memo](#) to agency heads released jointly April 20 by the Office of Personnel Management Office of Management and Budget.

[SEE ALSO] [1](#), [2](#)

[This is the Navy's plan for launching its new community college \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [John R. Kroger, *Navy Times*, 19 April 2020]

In February, the Department of the Navy released Education for Seapower Strategy 2020, a joint Navy-Marine Corps strategy to boost the intellectual and technological capabilities of our force. One of the key elements of that strategy is to create a new [United States Naval Community College](#), which will dramatically expand educational opportunities for our enlisted force.

MISCONDUCT

[Marines Drop Charges, Boot Recruit Who Was Confined More than 2 Years Without Trial](#) [Andrew Dyer, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, 17 April 2020]

A Marine recruit who spent the last 27 months confined without trial after striking a San Diego drill instructor has been administratively discharged from the service with all charges dismissed, the Marines said Wednesday. Bethany Payton-O'Brien, Ruiz's civilian lawyer, says his ordeal exposes flaws in how the military justice system handles mental health issues and flaws in the screening process recruits go through before shipping off to boot camp.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Navy boots sailor who allegedly served as recruiter for neo-Nazi group](#) [Jeff Schogol, *Task & Purpose*, 17 April 2020]

A sailor who was investigated for allegedly serving as a recruiter for a neo-Nazi group has been administratively separated from the Navy, said Cmdr. Ron Flanders, a spokesman for Naval Air Forces.

RACISM

[Marines' Top General Opens Up About Decision to Ban Confederate Flag Displays](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 23 April 2020]

The Marine Corps' top general has issued a rallying cry for leathernecks to unite around symbols that bring them together, rather than those that divide, as he moves to prohibit the Confederate flag on all installations. Commandant Gen. David Berger issued a letter to Marines on Thursday explaining his reasoning for banning all public displays of Confederate paraphernalia. It is a leader's responsibility, he said, to address anything that threatens unit cohesion head-on.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Minorities Often Work These Jobs. They Were Among First To Go In Coronavirus Layoffs](#)

[Danielle Kurtzleben, *NPR*, 22 April 2020]

The March jobs data show a number of racial and ethnic disparities in the economic impact of coronavirus. For example: the share of Whites who are employed fell by 1.1% last month. That rate

fell by substantially more for Blacks (a 1.6% drop), Asian-Americans (1.7%), and Latinos (2.1%). Economist Christian Weller highlighted these data and others [at Forbes](#) earlier this month.

[After Carrollton High students expelled, viral video stirs renewed questions about race](#) [Asia Simone Burns, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 21 April 2020]

As school and community leaders in Carrollton continue to grapple with the shocking incident that led to two expulsions, countless angry phone calls and a slew of negative headlines, some of those closest to the controversy are questioning if the offensive attitudes voiced in the video reflect “normal” views and if enough is being done to address them. The video, initially posted to the social media platform TikTok on Thursday, showed the two Carrollton High seniors using the n-word and making disparaging remarks about Black people.

[New Report Notes Rise In Coronavirus-Linked Anti-Semitic Hate Speech](#) [Daniel Estrin, *NPR*, 21 April 2020]

Israeli researchers have tracked a global trend of anti-Semitic hate speech blaming Jews and Israelis for the coronavirus. But they stress that Jews are not the only target of virus-related conspiracy theories. Coronavirus-related slurs against Jews are promoted mainly by “extreme rightists, ultra-conservative Christian circles, Islamists, and to a minor extent by the far-left,” according to an annual [report](#) on global anti-Semitism by the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University. This year’s report, which notes an 18% increase in anti-Semitic violence in 2019, was issued on Monday, ahead of Israel’s annual commemoration of victims of the Holocaust.

[SEE ALSO] [1](#), [2](#)

[Two-thirds of U.S. Jews say they are less safe than a year ago, ADL finds](#) [Jeremy Sharon, *The Jerusalem Post*, 21 April 2020]

Two-thirds of U.S. Jews believe they are less safe today than they were a decade ago, according to a new [survey](#) published on Tuesday by the Anti-Defamation League. The results of the study come following the Tree of Life Synagogue massacre in 2018, the Poway Synagogue shooting in April 2019, and the shootings and stabbings in Jersey City, New Jersey and Monsey, New York in December 2019.

[U.S. Must Avoid Building Racial Bias Into COVID-19 Emergency Guidance \[OPINION\]](#) [Jossie Carreras Tartak and Hazar Khidir, *NPR*, 21 April 2020]

*Across the United States, we are seeing alarming statistics about the disproportionate toll of COVID-19 on Latino and Black people. In New York City, the *New York Times* tells us, coronavirus is [twice as deadly](#) for these minorities as for their White counterparts. In both Chicago and Louisiana, [Black patients account for 70%](#) of coronavirus deaths, even though they make up roughly a third of the population.*

[Why the Virus Is a Civil Rights Issue: “The Pain Will Not Be Shared Equally”](#) [Audra D. S. Burch, *The New York Times*, 20 April 2020]

Rallies and marches and other traditional forms of protest are out, given the social distancing restrictions now in place from coast to coast, but activists are organizing campaigns nonetheless

aimed at what is emerging as the latest front in the country's civil rights struggle: the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on communities of color.

RELIGION

[Report: Fort Drum prayer videos taken down after group complains](#) [WWNY, 23 April 2020]

The prayer videos of two Army chaplains were removed from the 10th Mountain Division Sustainment Brigade's Facebook page after a group complained about them, Fox News [reported](#) Thursday. The videos - made by Captain Amy Smith and Major Scott Ingram - were targeted by the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, which complained the videos were "illicit proselytizing" of Christianity.

[If Liquor Stores Are Essential, Why Isn't Church? \[OPINION\]](#) [Michael W. McConnell and Max Raskin, *The New York Times*, 21 April 2020]

Churches and synagogues were tragically empty two weekends ago, among the holiest days of the year for America's Christians and Jews. With few exceptions, the nation's faithful found solace via computer screens and in solitary prayer, acquiescing to restrictions on their constitutional liberty that would have seemed unthinkable a few months ago. But in the days ahead, religious leaders and public health officials will need to find new ways to deal with the novel conundrums forced on us by this novel coronavirus. Fortunately, these new arrangements can be fashioned with some very old materials: the centuries-old principles of the First Amendment.

[Muslims try to keep Ramadan spirit amid virus restrictions](#) [Samy Magdy and Lee Keath, *Associated Press*, 21 April 2020]

As Ramadan begins with the new moon later this week, Muslims around the world are trying to maintain the cherished rituals of Islam's holiest month without further spreading the outbreak. At the heart of Ramadan is the sunrise-to-sunset fast, meant to instill contemplation of God. But alongside the hardship of abstaining from food and drink for hours every day, the month sweeps everyone up into a communal spirit.

[Judge doubts Kansas COVID-19 rule, blocks it for 2 churches](#) [John Hanna, *Associated Press*, 19 April 2020]

A federal judge signaled that he believes there's a good chance that Kansas is violating religious freedom and free speech rights with a coronavirus-inspired 10-person limit on in-person attendance at religious services or activities and he blocked its enforcement against two churches that sued over it.

[Kentucky church denied bid to block gathering restrictions](#) [*Associated Press*, 19 April 2020]

A federal judge has denied a Kentucky church's bid to block enforcement of the governor's restrictions on faith-based gatherings due to the coronavirus pandemic. Maryville Baptist Church and its pastor, Jack Roberts, filed the federal lawsuit Friday, arguing that Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear's administration infringed on the congregation's constitutional rights.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

SEXISM

[Coronavirus could hurt women the most. Here's how to prevent a patriarchal pandemic. \[OPINION\]](#)

[Soraya Chemaly, *NBC News*, 21 April 2020]

Now that the reality of self-isolation, social distancing and quarantines is setting in, so, too, is a growing awareness that women, the culture-holders of care, are stressed to the limit. A [study released in March](#) described the potential consequences this pandemic could have for women's lives and gender equality more broadly. Women's economic lives, the authors predict, will be negatively affected disproportionately over time.

[Why Are So Few Women Being Selected for Army Battalion Command? \[OPINION\]](#) [Audrey

Atwell, Kyle Atwell, Nadege Benoit and Julia Means, *Military.com*, 20 April 2020]

The Army just announced its next generation of battalion commanders, and the number of women selected is concerning. Battalion command is a pivotal milestone in an Army officer's career, and an important step on the path to becoming a general officer. Why were so few women selected this year? Is this year an exception, or part of a broader trend? Most importantly, what signal do these numbers send about the chances of career advancement to junior female officers?

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[A California County Allows Sexual Assault Victims to Perform Their Own Forensic Exams During the Pandemic](#) [Kate Elizabeth Queram, *Route Fifty*, 20 April 2020]

Some sexual assault victims in Northern California are being allowed to collect evidence at home with video direction from a nurse, a temporary protocol put in place amid staff shortages and fears of infection during the coronavirus pandemic. The policy was adopted last week by the sexual assault response team in Monterey County, several weeks after California Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a statewide shelter-in-place order.

SUICIDE

[One Air Force spouse's take on suicide, depression and mental health concerns in the military](#)

[COMMENTARY] [Aleha Landry, *Military Times*, 22 Apr 2020]

I am an Air Force wife. My husband battles persistent depression and suicidal ideation. As many are acutely aware, suicide and depression is at an all-time high among our military men and women, and unfortunately, my husband is not an exception.

VETERANS

[A 100-year-old WWII veteran died of Covid-19. His twin brother died 100 years earlier in the flu pandemic](#) [Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio, *CNN*, 23 April 2020]

A 100-year-old World War II veteran who died from Covid-19 lost a twin brother to the 1918 pandemic a century earlier, his grandson said. Kahn and his twin brother, Samuel, were born on December 5, 1919. His brother died weeks later, his grandson said. Philip Kahn is the oldest veteran in Nassau County, New York, according to his family, and had been fearful of another pandemic happening in his lifetime, his grandson, Warren Zysman, told CNN.

[VA to Distribute Thousands of Facebook Portals to Vets and Caregivers in Isolation](#) [Brandi Vincent, *Nextgov*, 20 April 2020]

Facebook recently donated 7,488 Portal video-calling devices to the Veterans Affairs Department, which the agency will soon distribute to qualifying veterans and caregivers—free of charge—who might be lonely due to recent COVID-19-driven social distancing measures. The devices will be distributed in pairs to connect qualifying veterans and caregivers during the pandemic.

[World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle celebrated as “the GI reporter”](#) [William Cole, *The Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, 18 April 2020]

Seventy-five years ago today, famed war correspondent Ernie Pyle was felled by a Japanese machine gun on Ie Shima off Okinawa in the waning days of World War II. Pyle related much truth from the battlefield, but not the full extent of the carnage. He wrote about the “horrible waste of war” from the Normandy beachhead following the D-Day invasion in 1944. “It was a lovely day for strolling along the seashore. Men were sleeping on the sand, some of them sleeping forever. Men were floating in the water, but they didn’t know they were in the water, for they were dead. The water was full of squishy little jellyfish about the size of your hand. Millions of them. In the center each of them had a green design exactly like a four-leaf clover. The good-luck emblem. Sure. Hell yes.”

[\[REPRINT\]](#)