



*South Huntington Jewish Center*

*Paul Kaye*

It's rare to be in the presence of a genuine hero, but you are when you are in the same room as Paul Kaye. As a very young veteran of the U.S. Navy, he volunteered for a dangerous mission at the request of the Mosad Haganah in 1947. He would serve on a ship which would try to take survivors of the Holocaust from Europe to Palestine where they would live in a new homeland. The British had other ideas, and every ship was captured before it could make Haifa port. Everyone, including the volunteer Americans, were taken as prisoners and were interned in Cyprus for several months before they were allowed to enter Palestine. The Americans did not reveal their true identities for fear of punishment, not only by the British, but possibly later on by America.

Paul stayed on in the new State of Israel as one of the first Navy Seals. He returned home to New York afterwards and attended NYU, graduating with a degree in physical education, but circumstances turned him towards business, and he became a manufacturer's rep of small home appliances. All the while, he was called upon to speak for fund raising organizations such as UJA and Hadassah. The little known story of American volunteers who helped make Israel a state was getting out. Paul's first wife died in 1994. He was about to take the presidency of Temple Hillel in North Woodmere. Fate stepped in. His stockbroker was a congregant at South Huntington Jewish Center where it was well known that the synagogue president, Susan Turner, was a widow. He introduced Paul to Susan. Three years later, they were married. So Paul is happily a Men's Club member at both synagogues. He has spoken for each of them, and each time he tells his story, everyone is thrilled all over again. So, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that South Huntington Jewish Center's Men's Club has chosen Paul Kaye to be their Man of the Year.