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[Home](#)

[home](#) : [arts](#) : [arts](#)

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**News & Features**  
**Arts**

**Beltway**  
**Mideast Report**  
**Jewish World**  
**Opinion**

**Celebrations**  
**Sports**

**Synagogues and Chavurot**

**The Guide to Jewish Life**

**Advertising Info**  
**Submissions**

**Search**  
**Feedback**  
**Subscription**

**Reader Survey**

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## Exhibit: U.S. Jewry was not silent during Nazi era

He had always heard that American Jews did not speak up for their counterparts in Europe after the Nazis took power in Germany in January 1933. So when David Magidson saw a photo of a mass march in New York in March 1933 that contradicted that impression, he decided to sponsor an exhibit to set the record straight.

The result is the Jewish War Veterans' Protest March Against Nazi Germany-75th Anniversary, which will open tomorrow at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in the District.

"The Jewish War Veterans, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars marched together to protest what was going in Germany after Hitler came to power, to call for a boycott of German goods and allow German Jews to emigrate to Palestine," says Magidson, the museum's vice president.

Estimated to have included almost a million marchers and spectators, the protest parade went from St. Marks Place in Manhattan to City Hall where the then JWV commander, J. George Friedman, presented Mayor John P. O'Brien with a resolution calling for severing diplomatic relations with Germany.

Speaking at the protest, Friedman said, as reported in The New York Times: "On behalf of 250,000 Jewish boys who saw service in the Great War [World War I], I am here to say we are going to spread out opposition to present conditions in Germany throughout the United States. ... We hope by our demonstration that we have proved to the world that Hitlerism can no longer exist. Hitler must go."

Other Jewish organizations wanted to object silently, fearing that German Jews would suffer if demonstrators visibly pressured the Nazi regime.

Magidson wants the exhibit to show people both that silence is not the way to protest and that the Jewish War Veterans spoke out loudly in the 1930s.

The exhibit, with some 40 items, includes photographs, a one-minute newsreel of the march, newspaper articles and materials relating to the proposed boycott of German goods, says curator Pamela Elbe.

She says the exhibit will be up for at least one year. ◀ Aaron Leibel

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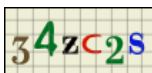
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