

## *Twenty Years Of Fighting For Your Freedoms*

Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership recognizes its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Here is an interview with JPFO's founder Aaron Zelman. Aaron is questioned by contributing writer Kirby Ferris.

**KF:** Socially speaking, what is your original background with firearms?

**AARON:** I was raised in Tucson, Arizona, where, I like to say, there were more guns than cactuses. Like most rural youths, I fired a .22 when I was ten or twelve. Ironically this was at a Jewish day camp in Tucson! I seriously doubt that this would be happening today, because liberal Judaism has become so widespread. Additionally, one of the nation's experts on ammunition reloading lived across the street from me.

I bought my first guns via mail order. Obviously, today's America isn't what I grew up with. Additionally, many in Arizona's Jewish community were the ancestors of pioneers who came to the Southwest in covered wagons. In nearly every photo of the descendents in the book "We Were There" the pioneer Jews are armed. Many of these Jews came from Eastern Europe or Russia and were probably very grateful to finally be on the right end of a gun.

**KF:** When did you first suspect that American politicians and cultural leaders were beginning to subvert the intent of the Second Amendment?

**AARON:** It was when the Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA '68) was passed. How could such an ill conceived, draconian collection of anti-American laws be instituted in a nation founded upon the ideal of an armed citizenry?

**KF:** So, some twenty years later, in 1989, you decided to form Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership. Why even say "Jews"? Why not "Americans for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership"?

**AARON:** An unsettling transformation had taken place in the ranks of "gun control" advocates. GCA '68 was the brainchild of Thomas Dodd, who was not Jewish. The political and emotional advocates of GCA '68, like Lyndon Johnson, Ramsey Clark, the Kennedy family, Jesse Jackson and the Martin Luther King family, were not Jewish.

But then, somewhere during the expansion of "gun control" in America, liberal Jewish politicians and spokesmen became a disturbingly large percentage of the high profile gun prohibitionists. The myopically, arrogant viewpoints of Charles Schumer and Howard Metzenbaum began to seriously alarm me.

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**KF:** In my conversations over the years, when I mention JPFO by its full name, people are a bit startled, but then so many of them say: "Well, that makes sense, seeing what Jews have historically been through."

**AARON:** That non Jews seem to comprehend that in greater percentages than Jews, continues to disturb and disappoint me, considering that Jews are commanded to choose self defense. The