



General Martin Dempsey, USA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is pictured with FOJC board members Jerry Miller, USNA '77 and Howard Pinskey, USNA '62, at the NAVY/ARMY game in Baltimore last December. We all know who won that game!!! GO NAVY - BEAT ARMY for the 14th time in 2015!



MIDN 1/C Andrea Howard being ceremoniously tossed into the water after the last parade. As tradition goes, all of the company commanders are thrown in the drink at the last parade as a new crop will be assigned next semester.



MIDN 2/C Heidi Zisselman leads the Shabbat service on a Friday night in February 2015. These opportunities prepare the midshipmen for being lay leaders in the field when a Rabbi is not present.

FOJJC

FRIENDS OF THE JEWISH CHAPEL
AT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
A building of spirit...a building of strength

February 2015

LEVY CENTER TIDINGS

A NOTE FROM RABBI JOSH SHERWIN

Shalom L'Kulam!

Traditionally, spring officially begins with the celebration of Tu B'Shvat in February, but it really kicks off with the month of Adar and the holiday of Purim. The Rabbis of the Talmud teach us, Mi She'Nichnas Adar Marbim B'Simcha, whoever welcomes the month of Adar increases the joy in the world. As the winter begins to wind down and spring approaches, we here at the Naval Academy find ourselves looking forward to the warmer weather and excited about all of the opportunities to rejoice with our Naval Academy family.

This year, we are especially looking forward to taking 31 Midshipmen on their first trip to Israel, accompanied by our Jewish Midshipmen Club Officer Representative, Captain Audrey Callanan (USNA '08), Captain Alyssa Saunders (USNA '06), and FOJC President Howard Pinskey (USNA '62). These Midshipmen have been carefully selected to participate in this trip, and are extremely excited about this unique opportunity that would not normally have been available to them.

Over the past year, members of the Jewish Midshipmen Club have travelled all over the world and have seen and experienced some incredible moments. They have been leaders of the brigade, excelled in their sports, and participated in many outstanding programs. This year, the JMC has taken it upon itself to learn more

about Judaism, and to take ownership of our services and rituals. Every month, Midshipmen are given the opportunity to lead services, experimenting with different styles of leadership and developing the skills they will need to serve as lay leaders in the fleet. Many of them have made their own Tallitot, purchasing fabric that they find meaningful, and coming together to tie the Tzitzit on the corners, creating a garment that they will take with them beyond graduation reminding them of the bonds and friendships they have developed here at the USNA. We are digging deeper into current events in Israel, debating hot topics in current events, and working to create that unique, close-knit community that can only be found at places like this.

As we gear up for the spring semester and get ready to say goodbye to the class of 2015, we thank you for your continued support of JMC activities and the Levy Center, and hope to see you at one of the many services and events here at the yard.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Josh Sherwin

MIDN David Silver with his "Best Buddies" - helping special needs children.



Midshipmen building the Sukkah in front of the Levy Center.



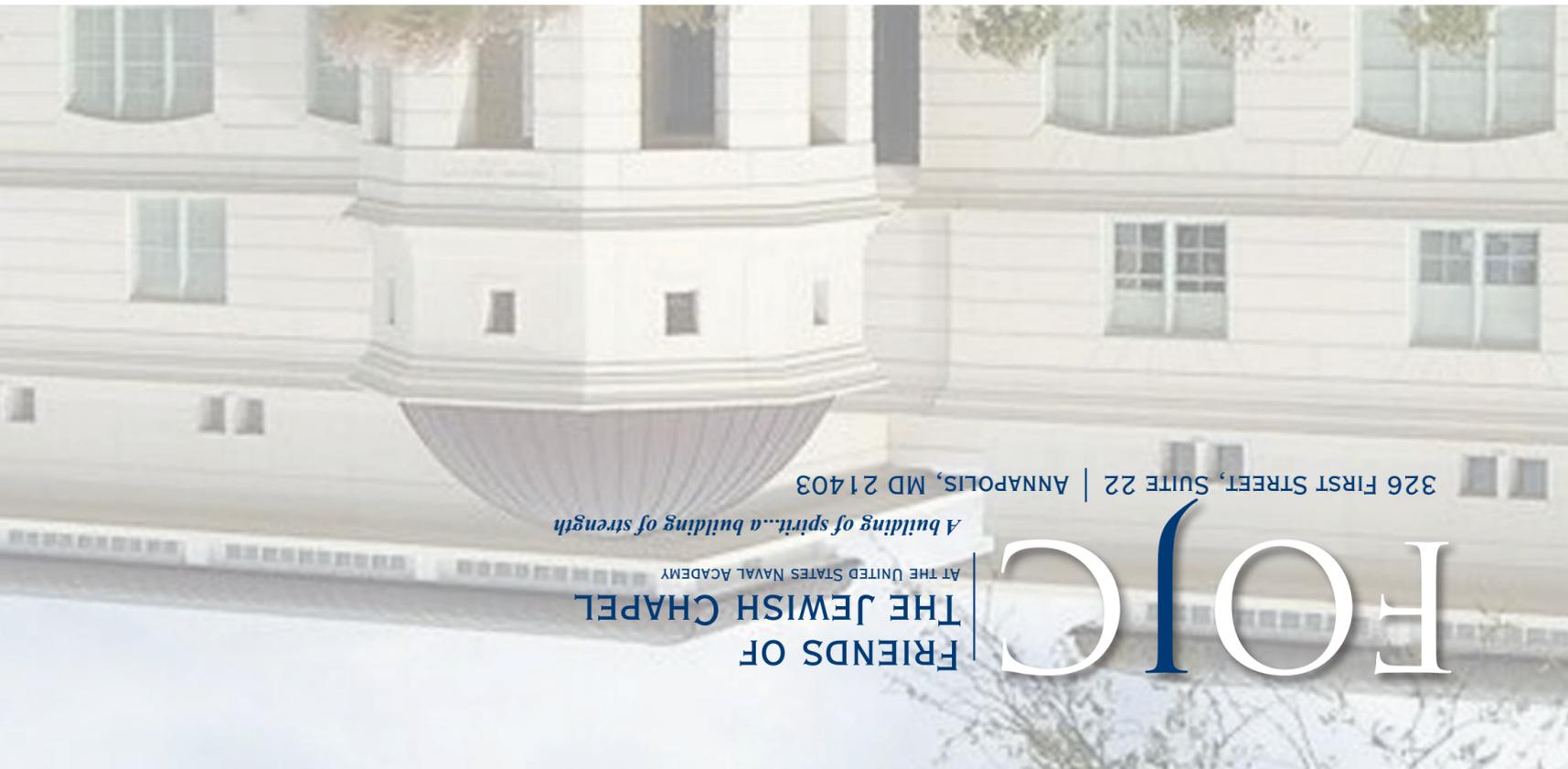
High Holiday services at the Levy Center.



Camp Sukkot complete!



Rabbi Sherwin (R10) presents Rabbi Robert Feinberg (R3) with his official football jersey. Rabbi Feinberg was the 3rd Rabbi assigned to the Naval Academy.



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EDITOR
Jan Zlockie

326 First Street, Suite 22
Annapolis, MD 21403
Phone: 410-268-0169
Fax: 410-268-1799
info@fojcusna.org
www.fojcusna.org

GREETINGS FROM ANNAPOLIS

The cold weather is still with us but spring is only a few weeks away. Early in March, the Jewish Midshipmen Club will sponsor the 13th spring break trip to Israel. Because of your ongoing generosity, the FOJC has been able to contribute greatly to this project. This year, 31 midshipmen of all faiths will travel to Israel accompanied by Rabbi Sherwin and two Marine Corps officers. As in previous trips, we will publish photos and testimonials from the midshipmen in our next newsletter.

In early January, our next Jewish Chaplain, Rabbi Yoni Warren (R-11) along with his wife, Leora, and new baby girl, Calanit, reported to the Academy. He will serve as a battalion chaplain until he relieves Rabbi Josh Sherwin (R-10) in June. Rabbi Sherwin will be reporting to DESRON 1 in San Diego for his next assignment.

This year's commissioning takes place on 22 May with approximately 1,100 young men and women receiving their Ensign and Second Lieutenant's bars. As part of the graduation week, the FOJC will sponsor the Jewish Baccalaureate service in the Miller Chapel on 15 May at 7:15 p.m. honoring these graduates and their families. Interesting speakers, Academy officials, awards, presentations and gifts, along with a great Oneg Shabbat, are planned. All of the activities, events, trips and meals are made possible by your support throughout the year. The FOJC, Jewish Chaplain and the midshipmen greatly appreciate your generosity.

September 18th this year marks the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the Levy Center and Jewish Chapel. As events are planned and finalized to celebrate this accomplishment, we will keep you informed. Tempus Fugit!!

Until our next issue of the Levy Center Tidings, I hope you all enjoy good health and happiness during the spring and summer months. If you are in the Annapolis area, stop by the Levy Center for a visit and perhaps a tour and come to a Friday night service. Call our office, 410-268-0169, for details.

Again, thank you for your generous support of the FOJC and the Naval Academy midshipmen. BEAT ARMY!!

Howard S. Pinsky, USNA '62
President



The Jewish Midshipmen Club participated in their annual Heritage Trip to New York City. During the trip, midshipmen had falafel and hummus for Shabbat dinner, attended a Shabbat morning service in Midtown and toured the 9/11 Memorial Museum. The midshipmen had an amazing time and want to thank the FOJC and you, our donors, for your generous support.

MGEN ROBERT ROSENBERG



MGEN Robert Rosenberg, USAF (Ret.) and graduate of the Naval Academy Class of 1957, was surprised at a Friday evening service with midshipmen, family and friends celebrating his 80th birthday. MGEN Rosenberg and his wife, Marge, along with his guests, both personal and professional, engaged with the midshipmen and shared their military and life experiences. Just before graduating, he was informed by the Navy that he could not be a pilot due to his eyesight. He chose to have a career in the Air Force where an innovative field of aerospace engineering was available. After MGEN Rosenberg's 30 year career in the military, he remains in semi-retirement spending time on National Security Advisory Boards and continuing his passion to support our military serving in harm's way. We are looking forward to his returning to speak with the midshipmen.



CAPT Gabriel Sganga, USMC, MIDN 4/C Joe Shavel, MIDN 1/C Alec Eiber and JMC Officer Representative, CAPT Audrey Callanan, USMC, at the White House during Hannukah.



VADM Ted Carter, Superintendent of the Naval Academy, and his wife, Barbara, spin the dreidel with the Midshipmen in the Levy Center during Hannukah.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

L'dor V'dor
by David A. Isquith, USN (Ret.) – USNA '57



Jewish boy, I ask you would ever want to join the Navy, let alone think of entering the Naval Academy and becoming a professional naval officer? Uncle Sol, all 5'4" of him, was that nice, little Jewish boy.

Sol's first attempt to pass the physical for the Naval Academy was a bust. He was too short. Prior to reporting for a second attempt the next morning, he spent the night at our Brooklyn brownstone with flat irons tied to his ankles and hung over the end of the bed. Sol may have been short in build, but he was no dummy. He realized that the human form shrinks during the day, due to gravity; thus, flat irons or no, he would be at his tallest in the early morning, and he was. Sol was accepted into the Class of 1920.

After being commissioned an Ensign, in 1919 (the class graduated a year early due to WWI) Sol served in the Far East and European arenas. At the outbreak of WWII he was in the Pacific Fleet and was a LCDR and the Engineering Officer on the USS UTAH. His ship was homeported at Pearl Harbor and used as a target ship for dive bombing practice (using dummy bombs) by the US Army Air Corps. The USS UTAH, mistaken by Japanese intelligence to be an aircraft carrier at Pearl Harbor, was the first ship sunk during the attack on 7 December 1941. As UTAH heeled over, Sol escaped through a porthole. Once clear of his ship, he organized a team of survivors and, while under fire from enemy aircraft, crossed the harbor in a small boat to ships that had "turned turtle" (capsized). Once alongside, he and his team, with torches, cut holes through the capsized hulls, allowing trapped crew members to escape. For his heroism under fire, Uncle Sol was awarded the Navy Cross (second only to the Medal of Honor) and Purple Heart. Following the attack (22 years after graduating the Naval Academy), he was promoted to the rank of Commander and used his engineering expertise to raise sunken warships in the Pacific. He commanded several ships in the Pacific Theater and was elevated to the rank of Captain and further was promoted to the two-star rank of Rear Admiral and given the job as Commander of the Brooklyn Naval Ship Yard. He retired after 30 years of service, completed law school and held a seat on the New York Stock Exchange.



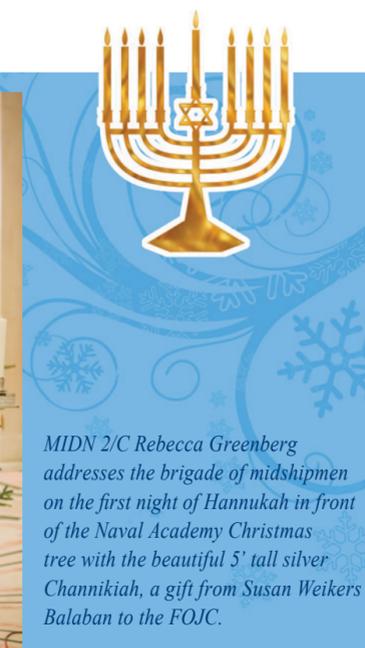
There was a lot for the Isquith family to be proud of. We would see my Uncle Sol only on rare occasions when he stayed with us in New York. In 1947 or 1948, my family did a road trip across the country to visit relatives. At that time, Uncle Sol

was a Commodore, with his flag on the troop ship USS NOBEL, in San Diego. We were greeted by the Captain of the NOBEL, as we were being piped-aboard, passing through the Honor Guard on the quarterdeck. We were then escorted into the Wardroom, where my Uncle Solomon was, and offered refreshments. It was all spit and polish, starched white uniforms with shiny brass buttons and gold-braided officer caps and I immediately fell in love with the smell and the sound of the ship.

It is my opinion that a Naval Academy education is not only a uniquely incredible life experience, in terms of education, physical conditioning, travel, self-confidence, patriotism exposure to high-level dignitaries that one would not normally otherwise be exposed to, but a Naval Academy education also prepares one to successfully meet the challenges of both military and civilian life to the degree that no other college graduate is prepared for. Earning a commission is something that is highly valuable and will be respected and will stay with you throughout your lifetime. Of course, it is important for Jewish men and women at Annapolis and whatever branch of the service they serve to remain true to their faith, in the manner they see fit.



NOTE: CAPT David Isquith is a proud member of just one Jewish generational family to attend the Naval Academy. His memories as a 12 year old boy on board a ship, helped guide him to his own destiny. After further service and civilian positions, he is now the Marketing Manager for his wife's travel agency in Sedona, AZ.



MIDN 2/C Rebecca Greenberg addresses the brigade of midshipmen on the first night of Hannukah in front of the Naval Academy Christmas tree with the beautiful 5' tall silver Channikah, a gift from Susan Weikers Balaban to the FOJC.