

FOJC

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

LEVY CENTER TIDINGS



Dr. Ruth Westheimer visited the Levy Center and vividly shared her experiences during the Holocaust. Her Mother sent her to Switzerland as part of the Kindertransport after her father was taken by the Nazis. Both parents perished in the Holocaust. When she was 17 she moved to Israel and joined the Haganah (precursor to the IDF) as a sniper and scout.

Howard and Susan Zemser generously donated this bimah cover in loving memory of their son, MIDN 2/C Justin Zemser, Class of 2017. Midshipmen from the Jewish Midshipmen Club and Justin's 17th company shipmates, accompanied Rabbi Warren and Capt. Audrey Callanan, USMC, to Long Island in May for the unveiling of his memorial stone. His memory will be forever a blessing.

July 2016

A NOTE FROM RABBI YONI WARREN

One and a half years through my three-year tour at the Naval Academy. I am looking forward to experiencing all of our programs with the incoming USNA class of 2020 who arrived last month.

This is just a few of the many opportunities your generous support provides. As the High Holidays approach, we are grateful for FOJC's financial support for a cantor. Our midshipmen participate with cadets from West Point and ROTC students from area colleges in a Jewish Warrior Weekend bonding experience. Last year the midshipmen attended the national menorah illumination in Washington, were hosted by the JWV at the FIDF gala and supplied Passover care packages to Jewish service men and women serving overseas.

The highlight of our year is the spring break trip to Israel. In 10 days, we hope to perform a miracle. Arriving on a Thursday, we take 30 Midshipmen – Jewish, Christian, and otherwise – to the Land of our forefathers...and we want them to see it all in just 10 days.

We bring them to Tel Aviv and Israel's Coastal Plain. There they encounter Israel's food and nightlife for the first time. From the Shuk at Carmel to the Palmach Museum, most of the Midshipmen will understand for the first time the true nature of the modern State of Israel. This diverse group of Midshipmen were brought to Israel's Coastal Zone, the birthplace of the Modern State. In Tel Aviv and in Haifa,

they are introduced to a truly Israeli sense of Judaism, sense of constant struggle for survival, sense of community, and, for many, the shocking diversity within Israeli society.

We move north to the Galilee and the Golan Heights. Then down to Masada. The ancient cities and streets of Greco-Roman era Israel come alive in the synagogues and churches that connect the Midshipmen to their joint history. They dip their toes in the Sea of Galilee. The dive a world of yesteryear.

And then, they climb. From Masada and the Dead Sea, the road rises through the mountains up to Jerusalem, where we hope they fall in love with this city. Modern Israel, ancient sites, archaeology and artwork come together. We want them to see it all, and to engrain it in their souls. As the Psalmist beseeched of the pilgrim, when journeying to Jerusalem: "Count her towers, examine her ramparts and citadels. Then tell her story to a next generation..." (Psalm 48).

In 10 days, we hope to perform a miracle. In 10 days, we hope to transform souls, to ignite the fires of return, to connect them to the heart of the Jewish people. That they will tell their story, that they will tell Israel's story, for years to come.

We hope you enjoy the pictures in this newsletter showing many of the activities made possible with your generous support. Your involvement with the Jewish midshipmen and the entire brigade will make a difference in not only their lives, but yours as well. Thank you!!

FOJC | FRIENDS OF THE JEWISH CHAPEL
AT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
326 FIRST STREET, SUITE 22 | ANNAPOLIS, MD 21403
A building of spirit...a building of strength



Midshipmen at FIDF Gala



National Menorah



Shofar Service High Holidays



Eating lunch in the Israeli Naval Base Mess Hall with two senior Israeli Personnel.



At a Syrian bunker in the Golan Heights. Before the Six-Day war, Syrians would snipe Israeli farmers from the heights. Now they can enjoy the beauty of a peaceful land.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Howard S. Pinskey
USNA '62
President

Harvey Stein
Secretary
President Emeritus

W. Michael Weinstein
USNA '88
Treasurer

VADM David Architzel
USN (Ret.) – USNA '73

Shoshana Bryen

Robert W. Fisher

Benno Gerson
USNA '61

Joseph I. Goldstein, Esq.

Jerrold Miller
USNA '77

Laura Miller

The Honorable James G. Roche

The Honorable Dov S. Zakheim

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 summer season is in full swing in Annapolis. Tourists and boaters abound. A great time to visit before your hectic fall schedule begins.

The Class of 2016 graduated in May and the FOJC sponsored the Baccalaureate and awards service attended by over 150 people. Rabbi (Captain) Irv Elson, Deputy Chaplain of the Marine Corps, gave a stirring keynote address to the graduating Jewish Midshipmen as they begin their careers in the Navy.

The new class of 2020 arrived on the yard on June 30th and Rabbi Warren tells us that there are 15 plebes who identify as being of the Jewish faith. We welcome them into the brigade.

The spring break trip to Israel, the 14th trip to that country and the 17th annual overseas trip since the founding of the FOJC, was a great success. Twenty nine midshipmen visited one of the most dynamic and important countries in the Middle East. Their experiences will last a lifetime. Thanks to your past and continued support, these trips and other religious, social, cultural and military activities and events led by our Jewish Chaplain, benefit not only the Jewish Midshipmen and the local service-wide community, but the entire brigade of 4,400 midshipmen in general. As always, we thank you.

If you have any questions concerning the FOJC or need any information regarding our organization and its activities, please call, write or email us at any time. We are a charitable 501(c)(3) organization in existence for 22 years, still going and growing strong to support the fine young men and women of our Jewish Midshipmen's Club and the Naval Academy. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Navy football season starts in early September and as always, we say around here – BEAT ARMY!

Howard S. Pinskey, USNA '62
President



It is with a heavy heart we inform you of the passing of Seymour Einstein, USNA Class of 1941, at the wonderful age of 97 on 17 May in Tucson, AZ. Seymour was one of the co-founders of the Jewish Church Party.

We will be forever grateful for his, and Howard Schoenbaum's, Class of 1941, seminal efforts at the age of 19 to promote the idea of a Jewish Church Party to the Superintendent which laid the groundwork 65 years later for the Levy Center. His memory will be forever a blessing to us all.

AT THE LEVY CENTER



Ambassador Ron Dermer, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, attended a prayer service at the Levy Center on 3 May and answered questions from the midshipmen. He later addressed the brigade of midshipmen and discussed the challenges in the Middle East today.



MIDN 3/C Adeana Steinlauf celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at the Levy Center earlier this spring. In attendance were CAPT & Mrs. Marcus Friedman, USN (Ret.); CDR and Mrs. Sam Werbel, USN (Ret.) and VADM and Mrs. Herman Shelanski, USN.



Steve Dix, member of the USNA Class of 1972 (on the right) and a member of the Congregation Etz Chaim (on the left) in Marietta, GA, presented Rabbi Albert Slomovitz, CAPT, CHC, USN (Ret.) in the center, with his official "Rabbi 2" football jersey just a few days after Veterans Day. Rabbi Slomovitz served as the "2nd" Rabbi at the Naval Academy from 1989 to 1992. Each Rabbi since has received a jersey with their number that corresponds to their place in the line of Jewish chaplains at the Naval Academy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES
USNA CLASS OF 2016

The Jewish Baccalaureate service was held on Friday evening, 20 May 2016. CAPT Irv Elson, CHC, USN (also known as Rabbi Elson) was the guest speaker. Also in attendance were RADM Paul Becker, USN, FOJC Board members, midshipmen family members and shipmates and our chapel family. The graduates and their assignments are:

Ensign Dantaun Bernstein – Surface Warfare (Oceanography)

Ensign Joseph Chilbert – Medical Corps

Ensign Connor Chroman – Surface Warfare

Ensign Joseph Curtis – Special Warfare (SEALS)

Ensign Melissa Felman – Naval Flight Officer

Ensign Jesse Fine – Naval Aviation

Ensign Darren Freedman – Naval Flight Officer

Ensign Frances Gale – Surface Warfare

Ensign Taylor George – Surface Warfare

Ensign Max Goldwasser – Information Warfare

Ensign Rebecca Greenberg – Submarines

Ensign Kai Hinton – Submarines

Ensign Teodoro Ledesma – Surface Warfare

Ensign Chris Lewis – Information Warfare

Ensign Jonathan Lomberg – Naval Aviation

Ensign Venus Molony – Surface Warfare (Nuclear)

Ensign Katelyn Orchard – Surface Warfare

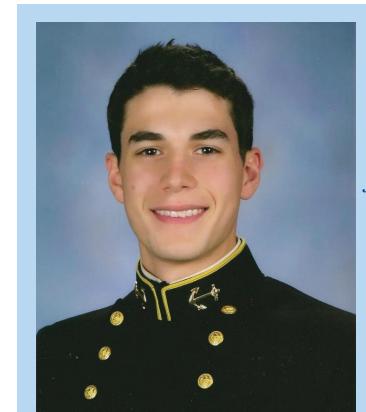
Ensign Jacob Rothstein – Submarines

Ensign David Silver – Intelligence

Ensign Keely Simonson – Surface Warfare



The Col. Harry Lindauer Lay Leadership award was given to MIDN 1/C Rebecca Greenberg. The Robert E. Yager Memorial Award for highest academic average was also presented to MIDN 1/C Rebecca Greenberg. MIDN 2/C Daniel Jonas received the Rabbi Morris D. Rosenblatt Memorial award for his involvement in Jewish activities and MIDN 4/C Natalie Stahl received the Joanna Simer award for being the most involved plebe within the Jewish Midshipmen Club. The LT Darin Pontell "Good Guy" award, which is a sword, was presented by LT Pontell's in-laws, Herbert and Betsy Wolk, to MIDN 1/C David Silver. We wish fair winds and following seas to these young men and women.



1st Lt Ari Schiff, USMC, USNA Class of 2012
Our own R II, Rabbi Yoni Warren, led Sukkot festivities aboard the USS Germantown (LSD 42), which was undergoing joint forces exercises in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility. Among the congregation of sailors and marines was 1st Lt Ari Schiff, USMC. While

at the Naval Academy, Ari personified 'l'kun olam. He was his company's Protocol Officer, a member of the Midshipmen Action Group, the Jewish Midshipmen Club and was involved with America's VetDogs. Today, his interests beyond the responsibilities of a Weapons Platoon Commander, Today, his interests beyond the responsibilities of a Weapons Platoon Commander, include support of the Friends of the IDF, the Jewish National Fund and he remains involved with America's VetDogs. Ari has just completed his second tour in Japan and the Far East. With two years left to his active duty commitment, his plans for the next chapter in his life will be graduate business school.



LCDR Alexa Forsyth Jenkins, USN, USNA Class of 2004
If Alexa paid attention to her dad, which she did, she knew she was destined for a distinguished career in the Navy. Bob Forsyth is a Marine through and through. The daughter learned well. Alexa became a Surface Warfare Officer where she has served as gunnery officer, Combat Information Center Officer, Operations Officer and Flag Aid to CTF 151/Expeditionary Strike Group 2 for the first U.S. Flag-led counter piracy coalition. Her shore duty assignment was with the NROTC program at UNC Chapel Hill. While at UNC, she completed her Joint Professional Military Education Phase One (JPMEI) and earned a MBA from the Flagler School of Business. During the summer of 2015, Alexa returned to the Levy Center where she married Rod Jenkins. Soon after the wedding, she assumed command of the USS Tornado (PC-14). With the Tornado in port, Alexa was temporarily assigned to the USS CHINOOK PC9 in Bahrain conducting joint exercises with the Saudi Navy. Her awards include the four Navy Achievement Medals and five Navy Commendation Medals.

Provided by David Hoffberger