

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DEDICATION WEEKEND  
SEPTEMBER 16th - 18th, 2005

Friday, September 16	Saturday, September 17	Sunday, September 18
Evening Services in the Chapel	Morning Services in the Chapel	Morning Services in the Chapel
Oneg Shabbat following Services	Kiddush following Services	Official Dedication of the Commodore Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel
	Afternoon Chapel Services	Reception following Dedication
	Tours of the Levy Center during the day	

Please make your hotel reservations at the following hotels as soon as possible as hotel space is limited in Annapolis:

Loews Hotel (800-526-2593) – Official Hotel – 1 mile from USNA

O'Callaghan Hotel (410-263-7700) – 1 mile from USNA

Radisson Hotel (800-266-7631) – 3 miles from USNA

Country Inn Suites (410-571-6700) – 4 miles from USNA

Mention the block of rooms for the Friends of the Jewish Chapel/Uriah P. Levy Center

Parking at the Naval Academy for all events will be limited.

Please park at the Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium on Rowe Boulevard.

Shuttle buses will be available throughout the weekend for transportation from the stadium to events on the yard.

fojcusna@covad.net  
fax 410-268-1799  
telephone 410-268-0169  
Annapolis, MD 21403  
326 First Street • Suite 11

at the United States Naval Academy

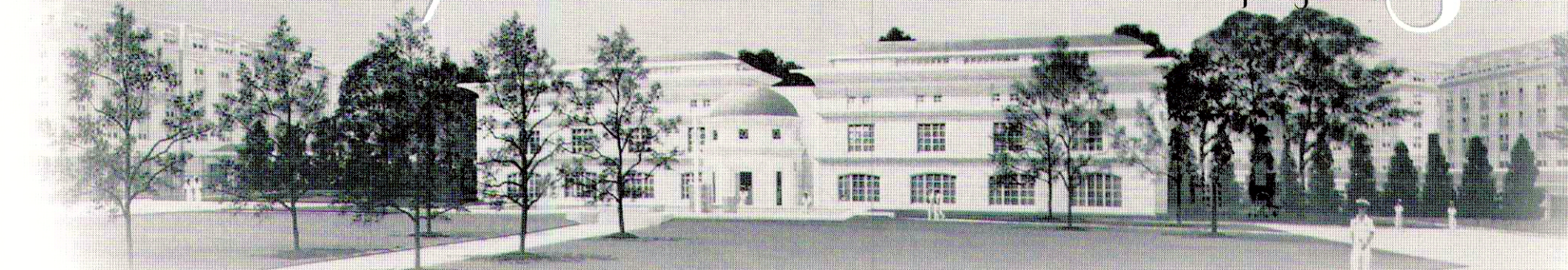
FRIENDS  
OF THE  
JEWISH  
CHAPEL



our triumphs remembered...  
our contribution celebrated

# Levy Center Tidings

Spring 2005 Fourth Edition



## COMMODORE URIAH P. LEVY CENTER AND JEWISH CHAPEL

Howard Pinsky  
President FOJC

Almost eleven years ago, a group of involved and committed men and women, some who were Naval Academy graduates, met with the Naval Academy Jewish chaplain, Rabbi Robert Feinberg, and founded the Friends of the Jewish Chapel (FOJC). The initial purpose of this organization was to raise funds so that the Jewish Chaplain at the Academy could provide religious, cultural, social and educational programs not provided for by the Navy, to Jewish midshipmen and members of the Brigade.

The program aspect of the FOJC has been in existence since 1994, but our mission evolved and expanded to include a substantial gift to the Naval Academy to plan, design, construct, equip and maintain the Commodore Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel. This 31,000 square foot facility, named after an American Jewish naval hero, is almost completed and will be dedicated on September 18, 2005.

Together we have achieved a significant milestone. We are continuing to raise funds for our program endowment. With your continued support, this facility and its endowment will achieve their full potential by providing the site and the programs that will enrich the lives of the midshipmen and all participants.

Margaret Meade said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Jewish Chapel, I thank you for your support and look forward to seeing many of you at the dedication on Sunday, 18 September 2005.

Facing the Severn River, The Commodore Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel with the Star of David on the pavilion, is an impressive addition to the landscape of the United States Naval Academy. It is appropriate that this building displays a symbol that pays tribute to the many thousands of Jewish men and women who have served with honor and distinction in the armed forces of the United States.

On September 18, 2005, we will gather to dedicate this building and celebrate the efforts of many dedicated people who gave their time, talents and financial resources to make this historic endeavor a reality. The exterior of the building was completed last winter. Each

week the vision of the architect becomes set in stone as you can see by the pictures in this newsletter.

The beautiful copper roof of the Levy Center shines in the sunlight. The pavilion, which is an adaptation of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, stands proudly in front to welcome all who enter.

A twelve-foot Star of David skylight will illuminate the atrium and highlight the beautiful mosaic tile work on the floor. The design is a double spiral, which is one of the most complex mosaic patterns to install. The spirals are laid using a technique called "the way of the worm" in which the lines of the spirals are traced by the infill stones. This is how most old hand-laid mosaics

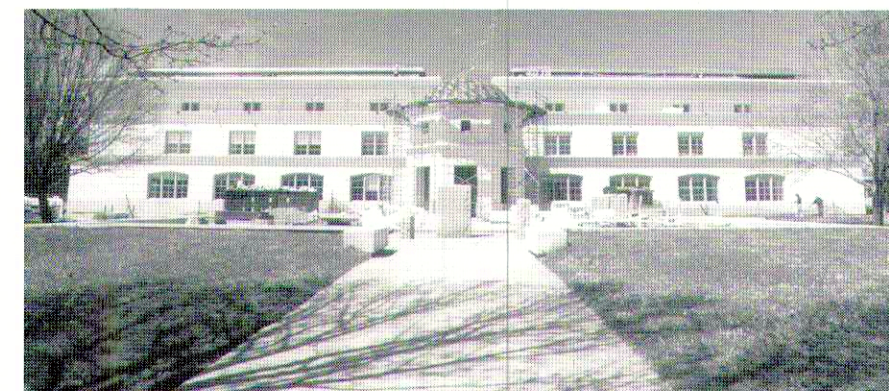
(continued on page 2)

Commander Joel D. Newman  
Chaplain Corps, USN

It is hard to believe that my three years at the Naval Academy are drawing to a close. After spending eleven years in the fleet before arriving at USNA, twelve deployments and life changing experiences with Marines and sailors, I was not sure what the Academy had in store for me and my family when we arrived in the summer of 2002.

Three plebe summers later, hundreds of Shabbat services and holidays and the privilege of getting to know so many midshipmen has made this tour the most memorable of my career. The opportunity to walk through Bancroft Hall at all hours and be a part of the midshipmen's lives, enter into their classroom and be their Ethics Instructor for six semesters and stand on the bimah each Friday night as their rabbi, has made me a better person for having been here.

Now it is time to continue my career with the Fleet in San Diego. It is an exciting move for my family, but, even more so, because of all the midshipmen we know we will see for years to come. Thank you for all you have done through your contributions to the FOJC that have built a Jewish Chapel and supported our midshipmen. Your lives touched theirs and they, as future naval officers, will soon touch the lives of thousands.



LEVY CENTER AND CHAPEL UNDER CONSTRUCTION  
APRIL 2005

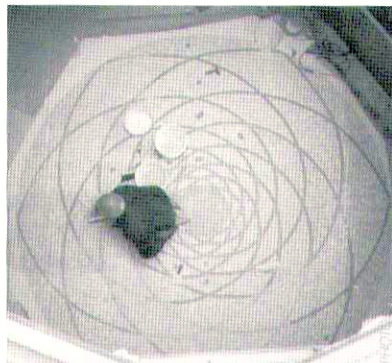
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## LEVY CENTER (continued from page 1)



DOUBLE SPIRAL MOSAIC TILE  
IN ATRIUM

throughout the world are set. The tile itself is a "broken mosaic tile." The pieces are tumbled to age the surface and then are broken and have a rough "old world" appearance.

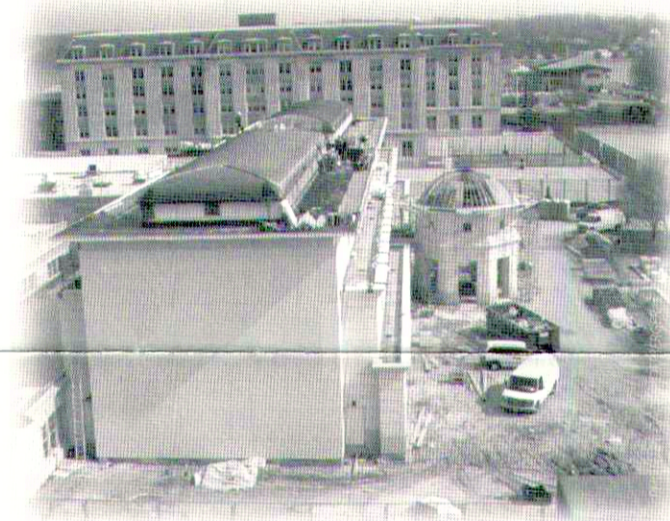
These unique tiles were quarried in Israel. The beautiful shades of red, grey, gold and bone are used at specific sites in the pavilion, atrium and chapel.

In the chapel, the Jerusalem stone wall, which is a replica of the Western Wall in Jerusalem, reaches almost from floor to ceiling, a height of 45 feet, and is a prominent symbol of our rich cultural heritage. Within the Jerusalem

stone wall, behind the bimah, there is a mosaic-arched wall that continues the design in the pavilion interior, representing the heavens, and the atrium floor, representing the earth. This creates a niche for the ark and represents the spiritual aspects of this site.

Thin sheets of silver leaf were brushed onto the ceiling by hand and softly reflect the natural light in the chapel.

Mesh scrims will reach from above the mezzanine towards the middle of the ceiling to form the "Hands of God" design of the architect. This truly will



BANCROFT HALL OVERLOOKING  
THE LEVY CENTER

## Levy Center Chapel Dedicated

Through a generous gift from Jerry and Laura Miller, both board members of the Friends of the Jewish Chapel, the 425 seat Jewish Chapel will be dedicated as the Esther and William Miller Chapel, in memory of Jerry's parents. Jerry's thoughts are as follows:

Like many first generation American Jews, both of my parents were children of Russian immigrants who came to this country at a very young age with nothing but hope and dreams of freedom and opportunity. Born in the early 1920's, my parents' lives were filled with sacrifice as they lived through the Great Depression. My father joined his peers of young, brave Americans and heroically served in World War II. Returning from the war, he met and married my mother. Life was a struggle but they worked together raising their five children to practice the values of honesty, hard work, respect for others and reverence to God. They were dedicated Jews and great Americans.

My family is humbled and truly honored to dedicate the Jewish Chapel in the Uriah P. Levy Center at the United States Naval Academy in memory of my parents, Esther and William Miller.

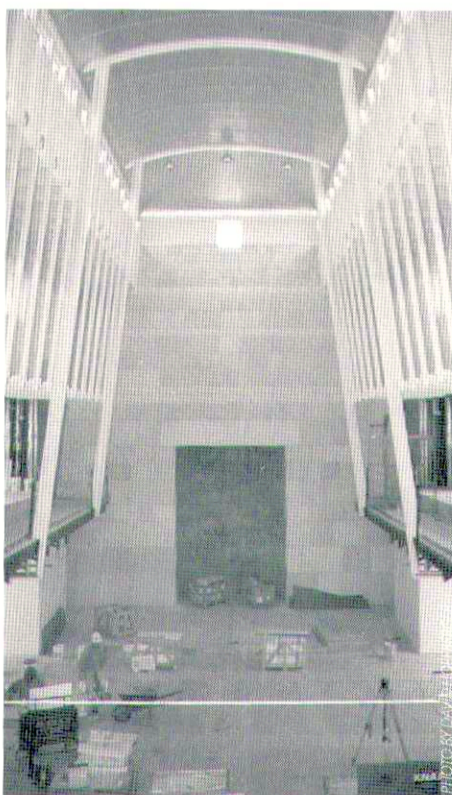


SILVER LEAF BEING APPLIED BY HAND  
TO CHAPEL CEILING

be a unique place for all to come for reflection and contemplation.

The official dedication is scheduled for September 18, 2005. A weekend of events is being planned. As the events and times become more specific, we will inform the members of the FOJC in a summer 2005 edition of the Levy Center Tidings. (Please see "Tentative Schedule for Dedication Weekend" on the back page.)

Jerry Miller, USNA, Class of 1977



ESTHER AND WILLIAM MILLER CHAPEL  
"A WORK IN PROGRESS"

## JEWISH MIDSHIPMEN CLUB NEWS

The Jewish Midshipmen Club continues to grow in numbers and strength. Through heavy snowfalls and torrential rain, our Jewish midshipmen found warmth this winter in their Tuesday night meetings, where they shared a dialogue with guest speakers, enjoyed some pizza and made new friends.



NEILA AT SEA

One of the most important aspects of the weekly meetings is to provide an opportunity to impart the "wisdom of those more senior in academic years," so those rising through the ranks can learn the ropes and make life-long friends.

There is great anticipation among the midshipmen about the completion of the Levy Center. The Commodore Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel was a dream to those that came before them and a

reality to those who have been on the Yard this past year. They have watched it grow, stone by stone.

One of our Jewish midshipmen recently commented, "While I know that once I get out to the Fleet, there will not be a Jewish Chapel on my ship or in the desert, having one here at the Academy, even if just for four years, will allow my Jewish "roots" to grow deeply, strengthening my commitment to my faith."

This past December, Luce Hall was packed with Jewish midshipmen who celebrated Hanukkah by lighting the candles of the menorah and sharing a Chinese (that's what they asked for) Hanukkah dinner! The kosher-for-Passover meals for the



PASSOVER MIDSHIPMEN'S SEDER

eight-day holiday are planned and greatly anticipated by the midshipmen. With spring finally in the air, baccalaureate, graduation and a summer with the Fleet are on the minds of all.



TASHLICH  
"CAST YOUR SINS UPON THE SEA"

Commander Irving Elson will be returning for a second tour as the Jewish Chaplain at the Naval Academy this June. Rabbi Elson and his family are eager to be a part of the Brigade of Midshipmen again and excited to be at the Academy for the dedication of the Levy Center.

Rabbi Newman will depart with his family in June for his new position in San Diego. We wish him fair winds and flowing seas.

## LEVY'S GHOST

No, we are not worried about apparitions appearing in the Levy Center! We did want to let you know about a play that will be performed on the spar deck (the top, open deck that will include a canopy for inclement weather) of the 1854 sloop-of-war USS Constellation that is docked in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. The play is being produced during the 350th anniversary of Jewish life in North America. This exciting two-act drama explores the life of Commodore Uriah P. Levy. Levy and Thomas Jefferson come to life on stage, where they confront the ghosts of Levy's past, and fight to restore Levy's honor and reclaim his rank in the Navy. The play will be performed at 6 p.m. on June 5, 19, 26, July 10 and 17, 2005. For information contact Laura Givens at 410-539-1797, ext. 432 or lgivens@constellation.org.

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