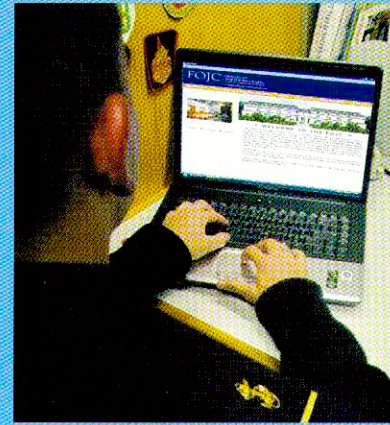


VISIT US AT WWW.FOJCUSNA.ORG

Have you met our Rabbi? Do you know when Jewish midshipmen were finally permitted to go to a synagogue on Sunday mornings, instead of the Christian chapel service? The FOJC website provides a detailed history of the organization and its many efforts and reflects the FOJC's role in promoting the Levy Center to the broadest of audiences. The site highlights Jewish Midshipmen Club activities, Friday night services and Onegs, board members, Chaplains and members of the Academy's Brigade in action. From the Navy football halftime Kiddush to a unique exhibit on The Dreyfus Affair, the website emphasizes naval life as it is seamlessly intertwined with a Jewish existence.



Visitors can ask for additional information to be sent to them, make credit card donations online and have acknowledgement cards sent in honor or memory of specific individuals. Current and previous newsletters, directions to the Naval Academy and the Levy Center and information on supporting the FOJC's efforts are available online at www.fojcusna.org. For further information, please contact the FOJC office at info@fojcusna.org or 410-268-0169.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

The Friends of the Jewish Chapel (FOJC), through the contributions of our generous donors, supports the religious, cultural, social and educational programs established by the Naval Academy Jewish Chaplain. As you have read in this issue, Rabbi Seth Phillips and the Jewish midshipmen include all of their shipmates at the Naval Academy in experiencing and sharing their Jewish heritage. Donors will be pleased to know that FOJC has weathered the difficult financial crisis without losses to our Program Endowment as a result of conservative investment practices. We continue to review our investment portfolio with the goal of preserving capital with a reasonable amount of long-term growth without undue exposure to risk. To continue our programs for these future military officers, we need your help. Please consider the numerous opportunities for donors to contribute funds that will meet your individual financial and estate planning needs.

There are a variety of meaningful ways for you to recognize, honor and memorialize individuals at the Levy Center

- **Site Dedication:** Honor a family member, friend or graduate by creating a legacy in a unique setting.
- **Dedication Walls:** Donors' names are carved in Jerusalem stones and set into the walls of the Berlin Atrium of the Levy Center.
- **Alumni Wall:** Names of alumni are etched on this wall by class graduation year. This honor can be donated by friends and families of midshipmen and alumni.
- **Weekly Shabbat Onegs:** Hosted by the FOJC at the Stein Fellowship Hall for the midshipmen and guests. Onegs can be sponsored by individuals, families or organizations.

All donors are listed in the electronic FOJC Book of Friends located just outside the entrance to Stein Fellowship Hall. Please contact the FOJC office at 410-268-0169 or info@fojcusna.org if you have any questions.

June 2011

LEVY CENTER TIDINGS

NAVAL ACADEMY HAPPENINGS

By Rabbi Seth D. Phillips

There are two questions that I am always asked by visitors to the Levy Center or when I am speaking to Jewish groups. Knowing that the Miller Chapel seats over 400, the obvious first question is "How many Jewish midshipmen are there at the Academy?" The second bespeaks historic Jewish bad experiences at the hands of oppressive militaries, "So how-uh -friendly' is the Academy to our people?" After Baccalaureate on 20 May, I can give the definitive answer to you, the loyal and supportive Friends of the Jewish Chapel.

Nine out of eleven self-identified Jewish first-class midshipmen participated in the ceremony and received mazal tovs and presents from the FOJC, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council and the Baltimore and local Jewish communities. That number has remained consistent over the last few years. The total membership of the Jewish Midshipmen Club is higher than 40-50, but that larger number is a testimony to the quality of the programs and pizza offered on Tuesday nights.

The answer to the second question comes from the brilliant positioning of the Levy Center itself. If your familiarity with the Academy comes only from a visit to the Miller Chapel, then you may not realize that it is situated at a highly visible crossroads of student life. Going from King Hall where all midshipmen eat to the Rip Miller and other practice fields where everyone plays sports, midshipmen walk past the Jewish chapel. The Ottenstein Grand Lobby is very air conditioned and cools fevered brows after study or practice; the balcony provides a respite "far from the madding crowd." Tuesday afternoon finds the Scottish dancers practicing in the Stein Fellowship Hall. Amidst the visible signs of Jewish participation in the Navy from the exhibitions in Stein Fellowship Hall, various Christian Bible studies are held. In short, one can't be at the Academy beyond I-Day without knowing that a Jewish presence is part of the very fabric of Academy life. Friendly to our people? - you bet.

For the Jewish Baccalaureate, Christian members of the Glee Club came back from leave early to perform a selection from Handel's Messiah. (There is no greater act of sacrifice or tribute than a midshipmen giving up leave.) And lest you might think that a selection from The Messiah might have a hidden agenda, it was the familiar words from King David's Psalm 24 that welcomed the Jewish midshipmen as they entered. "O gates, lift up your heads. Up high, you everlasting doors...Who is the King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle." For the Class of 2011, while our prayer is that they may not know war, "the LORD mighty in battle" and the honor shown by their classmates will sustain them. Go forth and take your place in the Fleet, the few, the proud, the Jewish.

"WELCOME HOME" SPRING BREAK TRIP TO ISRAEL

Twenty four midshipmen accompanied FOJC President, Howard Pinskey, on his 9th trip to Israel and explored the beauty of the country from Dan to Beersheba and from the Med to the Dead (Sea) over Spring Break. FOJC Board members, Jerry and Laura Miller prepared the midshipmen for the "trip of a lifetime," by giving them personally inscribed copies of Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle by Dan Senor and Saul Singer. Naval Academy professor of Middle East Studies, CDR Jeff Macris, USN, accompanied the group on the trip and provided political and historical context.

Annapolis midshipmen were impressed by their visit to the Haifa Navy Base and had lunch with future Israeli naval officers. They raced to the top of Masada (ah, youth), experienced the health benefits (or camouflage possibilities) of Dead Sea mud, walked in the steps of Jesus and welcomed Shabbat at the Western Wall. "Those Israelis have some moves," said an admiring Christian

continued on next page



Atop an ancient aqueduct in Caesarea on the Mediterranean Sea.



In Jerusalem, midshipmen from the Naval Academy and soldiers from the Israel Defense Force, many of whom were their age, shared their experiences.



FOJC

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midshipman about the dancing at the Wall. Standing above the Western Wall and looking across to the Dome of the Rock or seeing the towers of Tel Aviv on one side of the bus and the mountains of Jordan on the other, these future military officers experienced first-hand Israel's lack of strategic depth.

FOJC donors can take satisfaction that their generous sponsorship of 24 midshipmen earned the ultimate accolade. More than one midshipman was heard to say, "Can I choose the IDF for my service selection?"



Dead Sea mud makes excellent camouflage!



On top of Masada!

JEWISH BACCALAUREATE SERVICE USNA CLASS OF 2011

This year's Jewish Baccalaureate service was held on Friday evening, 20 May in the Miller Chapel of the Levy Center. Rabbi Seth Phillips led the service and the graduating midshipmen were addressed by FOJC board member Jerry Miller, USNA Class of 1977. Harvey Stein, President Emeritus of the FOJC presented each graduate with a gift from the FOJC. ENS Michael Wallace received the Lt. Darin Pontel award. Arthur Schwartz presented ENS Jesse Marder with the Robert E. Yager academic award on behalf of Temple Beth Shalom in Arnold, MD. Flanking the Jewish graduates of the Class of 2011 are Earl Diamond and Paul Lang, USNA graduates from the Class of 1961.

Jewish graduates for the Class of 2011 are ENS LeShay Bernstein, ENS Jeffrey Brauser, ENS Andrew Garber, 2nd Lt Sarah Grant, ENS Frances Hess, ENS Andy Kramer, ENS Jesse Marder, ENS Samuel Stein, ENS Neil Tublin and ENS Michael P. Wallace.



JEWISH INVOLVEMENT IN THE CIVIL WAR APRIL 12, 1861: THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

By David Hoffberger

With the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, we reflect upon its connection to Jewish America. The civil war began in Charleston, South Carolina with confederate troops firing upon federal forces at Fort Sumter. The commonly accepted causes of the war were slavery, state's rights and the economy. So just what does the Civil War have to do with Jewish midshipmen or American Jewry?

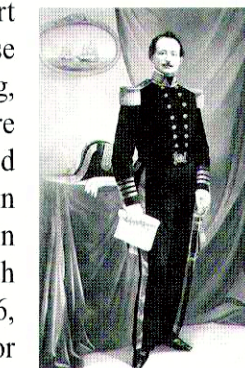
As succession started, midshipmen at the Naval Academy dealt with the same loyalties to their home states that all other Americans wrestled with in the early 1860's. One of those midshipmen, Raphael J. Moses, Jr., the first Jew known to have attended the Academy, resigned his appointment to the Naval Academy to join the confederate Navy. Moses was one of 21 members of the Class of 1864 to become officers and midshipmen in the CSN. Moses was likely to have been the only Jewish member of the group. In 1864, Adolph Marix was appointed from Iowa, graduated in 1868, earned acclaim in the Spanish-American War and retired as a Rear Admiral. An estimated 3,000 Jews fought for the south and 7,000 for the north. Among those that served were 9 generals, 21 colonels and 25 surgeons who were Jewish.

David Levy Yulee was elected to the U.S. Congress as a Territorial Delegate (FL) in 1841. When Florida gained statehood in 1845, he was then elected to the U. S. Senate, the first Jew to so serve. He resigned when Florida seceded from the Union. Louisiana's **Judah Benjamin** became the most notable Jew in the war. In 1861 he resigned from the senate when Louisiana seceded from the Union. He served as an advisor, Attorney General, Secretary of War and Secretary of State in the confederate government. Evading capture after the war, Benjamin went to England for the remainder of his life.

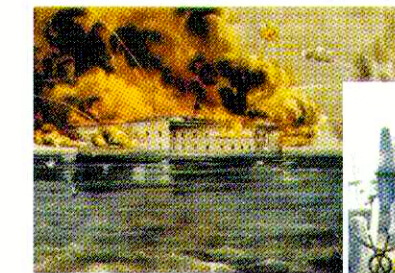


As the Jewish population increased in America, anti-Semitism also grew. In 1862 Ulysses S. Grant, in a moment of poor judgment, authorized General Order Number 11. Grant was the Union commander of the Department of Tennessee. In an attempt to squash the black market of southern cotton "attributed to Jews and other unprincipled traders", the order directed that all Jews were to leave the district immediately. Weeks later, President Lincoln instructed Grant to revoke the order. The reality is that Grant was not anti-Semitic. He appointed several Jews to high office while President and is considered to have done more for Jews than any other president up to that time.

One of the ugliest examples of anti-semitism in the war was the refusal of the cemeteries in Fredericksburg and at the Spotsylvania Court House to allow Jewish soldiers who died for the southern cause to be buried on either site. Killed in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and the Wilderness, these 30 soldiers were taken to Richmond where they were buried in a self-contained area of the Hebrew Cemetery. The plot is surrounded by an iron fence and remains the only Jewish military cemetery in the world, outside of Israel. The Civil War also saw the death of **Commodore Uriah P. Levy** who passed away on March 26, 1862, while serving as President of the Court Marital Board for President Lincoln.



Six Jews in the Union Army were recipients of the Medal of Honor during the Civil War. When the war began, there were only 30 chaplains in the Army and none were Jewish. On July 22, 1861, Congress allowed every regiment to have one chaplain each who "was to be an ordained Christian clergyman, selected by the officers of the Regiment." One year later, Congress modified that legislation to say that chaplains be "a regularly ordained minister of some religious denomination." Finally, Jewish clergy could now provide to the spiritual needs of those in the military. Cantor, Rev. Jacob Frankel was commissioned September 12, 1862, becoming America's first Jewish military chaplain.



Fort Sumter



Cemetery Gate at Hebrew Cemetery

IN MEMORIAM

Mel Fisher, USNA 1955



Mel Fisher, Campaign Chairman and FOJC board member, passed away in November 2010. Mr. Fisher was deeply involved in Jewish and general philanthropy nationally and around the world. Mel worked a lifetime founding and building companies. He was often called "the chief" for his influential leadership, but was also known for his caring

and warmth. Mel graduated from the Naval Academy in 1955 and 50 years later successfully led the campaign to build a Jewish chapel at his beloved Academy. The Commodore Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel was dedicated on 18 September 2005.

Mel is survived by his wife, Roberta Fisher, and his five sons and their families, including 14 grandchildren. Mel's son, Bobby, currently serves on the FOJC Board of Directors.

May his memory be forever as a blessing.

GREETINGS FROM ANNAPOLIS

The three upper classes of the brigade of midshipmen are scattered far and wide, both here in the United States and around the world, conducting their annual two months of on-the-job training. The new "Plebe" Class of 2015 arrived on the yard on June 30th.

In today's uncertain and tumultuous times, it is an exciting and interesting period to be training at the Academy for future roles as military leaders and officers in our far-reaching Navy and Marine Corps. The FOJC plays a small but not insignificant role in this training by supporting the Jewish Chaplain at the Naval Academy. In his daily contact with the midshipmen, he has insight and positive influence into the educational, religious, military and cultural lives of the Jewish, as well as, non-Jewish midshipmen.

Your continued support of the FOJC is necessary and greatly appreciated in these difficult economic times. Your investment in these exceptional men and women at the Academy will pay long-term dividends for generations to come.

Please visit our website or call the FOJC office if you need information concerning the programs we sponsor and the opportunities that exist for you to participate in these activities.

Howard Pinskey, USNA '62
President of FOJC

