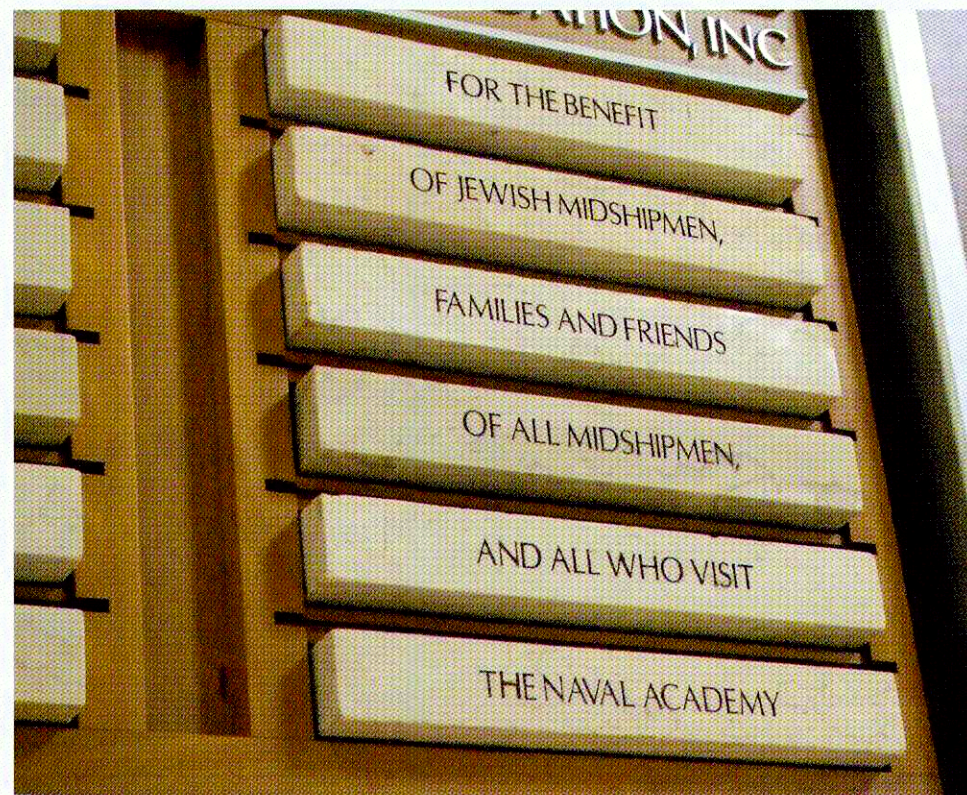


HOW CAN I BE A PART?

The Friends of the Jewish Chapel (FOJC), through the contributions of our donors, supports the religious, cultural, social and educational programs established by the Naval Academy Jewish chaplain. As you have read in this issue, Rabbi Josh Sherwin and the Jewish midshipmen include all of their shipmates at the Naval Academy to experience and learn about their Jewish heritage. To do more for these young men and women, we need your help. 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. Instead of recycling this newsletter, please pass it to a friend who may be interested. Contact the FOJC office at 410-268-0169 or info@fojcusna.org if you have any questions.



FOJC

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

June 2013

LEVY CENTER TIDINGS

A NOTE FROM RABBI JOSH SHERWIN

Shalom L'Kulam!

As I prepare to conclude my first year here at the Academy, I cannot believe how quickly the time has gone by. I vividly recall a moment when I was standing on the Bima on Yom Kippur and looked at the faces of the Midshipmen and hundreds of members of our community as they filled the Miller Chapel to its capacity. As I stood there, I thought about how lucky we are to have such a strong, committed community and a Chapel that truly takes one's breath away, and I thought about how excited I was to be beginning the year with this group of Midshipmen.

As the year went by, I watched the Jewish Midshipmen Club come together to celebrate holidays and to participate in Jewish programming. We built a Sukkah on the grass outside the Levy Center. We lit the Hanukah candles. We studied the

story of Esther and toured the Israeli Embassy in D.C. We sang our way through the Passover Seder. Twenty eight Midshipmen went on our annual Spring Break trip to Israel. Jewish Midshipmen went on a Jewish Warrior Weekend to the Air Force Academy. Through it all, the JMC continued to meet every week to socialize and to talk about the issues facing our country today and those facing us as Jewish members of the Armed Forces.

With graduation behind us and Plebe Summer rapidly approaching, I am looking forward to continuing to learn and to grow with the Jewish Midshipmen Club and with the Brigade. On behalf of the Midshipmen, I thank you for your generous support. Please join me in welcoming the class of 2017 and I look forward to seeing you all at High Holidays and in the coming year.

Respectfully,
Rabbi Josh Sherwin



Israeli Knesset Menorah



Overlooking Jerusalem



Jewish Midshipmen Club accompanied by FOJC board members, Howard Pinskey, Mike Weinstein and David Hoffberger (our photographer) met with Ambassador Barukh Binah, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC in February.



Wreath at Yad Vashem - Jerusalem

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GREETINGS FROM ANNAPOLIS

Spring in Annapolis and on the Academy yard is especially a beautiful time of the year. The Class of 2013 just graduated on 24 May with President Obama offering the graduation address. The men and women of this great class will join the thousands of others who have graduated since the Academy's founding in 1845 and serve their country admirably in the Navy and Marine Corps. Continuing the "long blue chain" will be the Class of 2017 who's Induction Day will be 27 June. Tradition!!

Over these past four years, one mother of a midshipman, Anita Kotler, has made and baked the challah for our Shabbat service and onegs on Friday nights. Anita is a full-time lawyer and a wonderful cook. She wanted the midshipmen at the Academy to have a touch of home-made cooking during their academic year. Anita lives in Fort Lauderdale, FL. She makes the challah from scratch on Wednesday evening, bakes it early Thursday and takes it to FedEx later that morning. The challahs are delivered to the FOJC office on Friday morning. A loving act that is greatly appreciated by the midshipmen and others who attend the Shabbat service.

The annual Baccalaureate service was held on 17 May at the Levy Center honoring this year's graduating Jewish midshipmen. Over 150 midshipmen, families, friends and congregants were on hand to offer good wishes as these graduates go forward to serve their country in these perilous times. Everyone enjoyed the great Oneg Shabbat following the awards ceremony.

The FOJC co-sponsored visiting Israeli professor program completed its first year with great success. We look forward to continuing this relationship with the Academy's academic department for many years in the future.

This past March, 28 midshipmen, of all faith groups, embarked on an eleven-day spring break journey to Israel. They traveled the length and breadth of this magnificent, historical land and enjoyed the military, religious, political and social aspects of the country and its people. Truly a life-altering experience. This was the fifteenth overseas trip partially funded and supported by the FOJC since its founding, made possible by your generous contributions. It is one of the most respected and popular overseas cultural trips offered to the midshipmen. As always, your support is vital to maintain and grow the numerous and varied programs offered to the midshipmen and the Academy, through the leadership of our Jewish Chaplain. The Academy has a most important mission to perform and in no small measure the FOJC and the Levy Center contributes to this effort.

We appreciate your involvement and contributions. Please visit our website (www.fojcusna.org) or contact our office for the various opportunities available for you to support these efforts. Also, your financial or tax consultant can explain this year's government programs to contribute tax-free IRA monies to charitable organizations.

As always, we invite you to visit the Naval Academy and especially the Levy Center and experience firsthand what you have helped to create.

Have a great summer and BEAT ARMY!

Howard S. Pinsky, USNA '62
President



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JEWISH GRADUATES USNA CLASS OF 2013

- Ensign Max Cutchen, USN
- Ensign Adam Drucker, USN
- Ensign Steven Glick, USN
- Ensign Frank Goldstein, USN
- Ensign Alan Hansen, USN
- Ensign Dennis Hooks, USN
- Ensign Joshua Kotler, USN
- 2nd Lt. Alexander Kovensky, USMC
- Ensign Cory Leviton, USN
- 2nd Lt. Andrew Paulmeno, USMC
- Ensign Stephen Scales, USN
- Ensign Charles Talisse, USN



CAPT W. Spencer Johnson, USN (Ret.), USNA Class of 1963 - A Link in the Chain with the Class of 2013 - 50 years - gave the Baccalaureate address to the Midshipmen.



MIDN Cory Leviton, USNA Class of 2013 and the President of the Jewish Midshipmen Club with Rabbi Josh Sherwin. MIDN Leviton was the recipient of the Lt. Darin Pontell "Good Guy" Sword Award.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LEVY CENTER'S 2ND FLOOR?

Way back when, as we were determining how the three floors of the west wing of the Levy Center would be used, the idea of an Ethics Center was put on the table. Ethics! It's the root of Jewish law, custom and tradition. That second floor? It would become the home of the Naval Academy's ethics program. Ethics and Jewish ritual in the same building - great idea!

Unfortunately for the Levy Center but good for the Academy, the *Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership* outgrew the second floor before we broke ground for the building. When we dedicated the Levy Center in 2005, our tenants were members of the Chaplain's staff plus the protocol advisor to the Commandant. Classrooms and a large meeting room were also on that floor.

Just as the ethics program needed more space, so did the Academy's Academic Center. The Class of 1963 (who also funded the Levy Center's Media Center) underwrote the support of the Academic Center, whose mission benefits the *Naval Academy by providing the highest quality academic support programs for all Midshipmen seeking to improve their academic performance. From the academic all-star to the struggling student, we support all Midshipmen.*

Whether Midshipmen are trying to increase their grades from a C- to a B or from an A- to an A, approximately 2,000 members of the Brigade go to the Center each year for help with specific subjects, study and time management skills.

As for the top floor, the 3rd deck continues to be used as the Honor Court. This is the site where Midshipmen who violate the school's honor concepts are adjudicated. Here, ethics are practiced at its highest degree. The court room is named in honor of Harvey Stein who was president of the Friends of the Jewish Chapel during the formative years of the Levy Center's development.

As times change, so do our priorities. But in the case of the Commodore Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel, the support of Midshipmen's religious, ethical and educational pursuits remain consistent with Levy's principles and with the Naval Academy's mission. Our purpose is "B'shert." We are meant to be.

David Hoffberger



Center for Academic Excellence



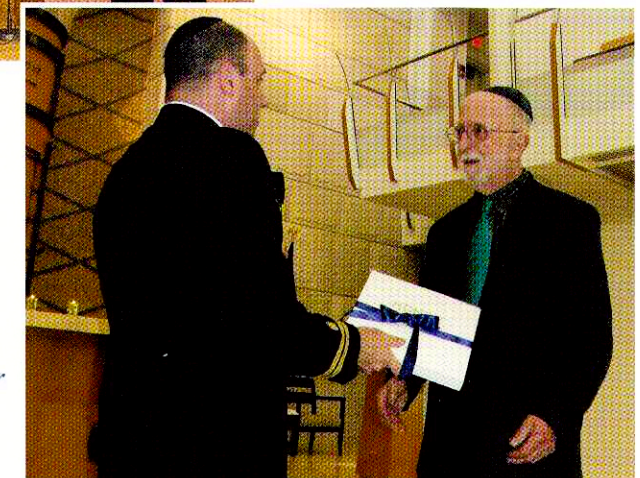
Congratulations to CDR (Select) Dave Durkin, USN, the Jewish Midshipmen Club Officer Representative.

YOM HASHOAH REMEMBRANCE

On 7 April 2013 the Jewish Midshipmen Club led by Rabbi Josh Sherwin, hosted area congregations and their Rabbis, our Chapel family, members of the USNA brigade and USNA faculty and others who joined us in remembrance of the Holocaust. Area resident scholar, scientist, sage and steward, Paul Schatzberg, shared his first-hand experience as a young boy in Austria. In 1938, he and his 4th grade Jewish classmates were forced to leave their elementary school and attend a school designated for Jewish children only. After his father's retail store was confiscated, his family moved to Belgium. He, his mother and brother having been born in Austria, fled to the United States. His father who was born in Poland had to wait due to immigration restrictions. They were later reunited in 1941. We lit the memorial candles and reflected on the history of the Jewish people and our families including survivors who are a treasured resource of this story that should always be told and never forgotten.



Representatives from area congregations, USNA midshipmen and St. John's College light the candles of remembrance.



Rabbi Sherwin presents Paul Schatzberg with a Levy Center HONOR book.