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This past year Judy and I hosted Harvey Stein at our home in Mechanicsburg. He told us about how he worked for years to execute his vision of a Jewish chapel at the Academy. I marveled at his tenacity. I also participated in last year's Passover Seder at the Levy Center and saw firsthand the impact that Rabbi Sherwin has on the midshipmen. I want to thank everyone who has contributed to strengthening the spirit of Jews at the Naval Academy. Religion remains an important element of readiness and the religious grounding I received at Annapolis gave me the resilience that I needed throughout my career.

The Book of Daniel tells us, "And those who lead the many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever." The role of the Jewish community of Annapolis and the Friends of the Jewish Chapel in nurturing all midshipmen is truly remarkable. May you continue to support the Navy's rich traditions of service and sacrifice and the brave men and women who fly our aircraft, submerge our submarines, get our ships and aircraft carriers underway and serve in expeditionary environments with the mission to keep our nation safe and free.

At my retirement, Rabbi Henry Soussan, now a Major and the Rabbi at the US Military Academy at West Point, offered both the invocation and the benediction. I beamed with pride as he spoke of my commitment to my religion and Judaism. For the past 34 years, I have worn the uniform of a naval officer with an equal measure of pride and humility, grateful for the privilege to serve. I would do it all over if I had the chance!

Thank you and God bless America!



Rabbi Harold Kushner, author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, and many more books spoke at the Naval Academy in March regarding his latest book *Overcoming Life's Disappointments*. Along with the Superintendent, VADM Mike Miller, there was an attentive audience of midshipmen, USNA faculty and staff, members of FOJC and others from the community.



Rabbi (CDR) Joel Newman's retirement ceremony aboard former USS Midway in San Diego. Rabbi Newman, LT Jason Adler, RADM Paul Becker, Capt. Alyssa Saunders, Rabbi Irv Elson. We wish Rabbi Newman "fair winds and following seas".

FOJC

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

June 2014

LEVY CENTER TIDINGS

SHALOM L'KULAM!

by Rabbi Josh Sherwin

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone, but as we bid fair winds and following seas to the class of 2014 and its Jewish members, it is fitting that we pause to look back and to reflect over the year.

Over the past year, members of the Jewish Midshipmen Club have travelled all over the world and have seen and experienced some incredible moments. Our Midshipmen have studied abroad, traveled to Israel on our annual Spring Break trip, toured the Israeli embassy, and brought a taste of Judaism to Bancroft Hall with our first annual Latkefest. They have earned academic awards, excelled in various sports and through it all have stayed committed to their Judaism and to being excellent to each other. They have served as leaders in the Brigade of Midshipmen and have set the pace for next year to be even more successful.

Personally, two events from the past year stand out. First was the opportunity to take 30 Midshipmen to Israel on our annual Spring break trip. Together with our Officer Representative, CDR David Durkin, his wife Professor Sara Durkin, and FOJC President Howard Pinskey, we spent 10 days travelling through the land and learning about it from an historical, religious and military perspective. Towards the end of the trip, we had the opportunity to observe Shabbat

in Jerusalem. Thirty four of us gathered at Robinson's Arch, the egalitarian portion of the Western Wall, sharing memories of the past week and those parts that we were most looking forward to bringing home with us. As the sun set over Jerusalem, we began to sing and to let the spirit of Shabbat wash over us, bringing all the individual experiences together in one, uniting experience.

The second major event was the opportunity to take two Jewish Midshipmen to the annual White House Hanukah party. These Midshipmen were given the opportunity to interact with Senators, Congressmen, Supreme Court Justices, various celebrities and were able to meet and speak with President and Mrs. Obama. At the end of the evening, it was not only clear that the Midshipmen had benefitted from the experience, but that everyone in attendance had truly enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the Midshipmen as well.

Now that we are through graduation and looking towards welcoming the class of 2018, we are also looking forward to a fresh, new year of programming and building at the USNA. As always, we thank each and every one of you for your continued support, and thank you for everything you have made possible for our Midshipmen.

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A building of spirit...a building of strength

AT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

FRIENDS OF THE JEWISH CHAPEL

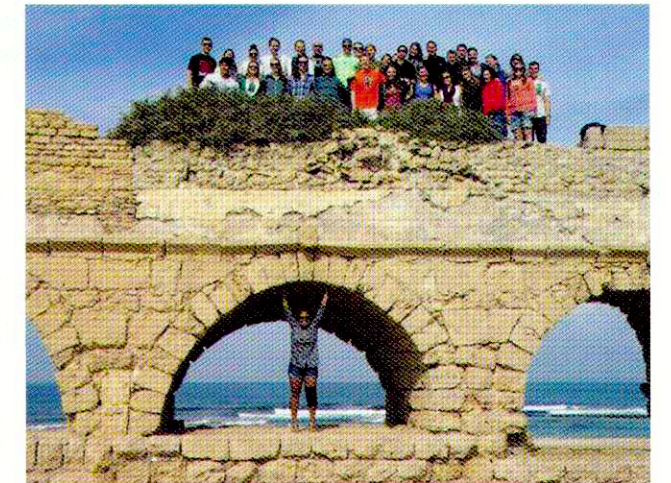
FOJC



Midshipmen grated potatoes and cooked the latkes in the Levy Center.



Jewish Warrior Weekend participants from West Point and Air Force Academy join the Jewish Midshipmen.



On the Roman aqueduct in Caesarea.



Midshipmen travelled to West Point for Jewish Warrior Weekend.

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GREETINGS FROM ANNAPOLIS

Last month almost 1,075 young men and women graduated from the Naval Academy to begin their service to the country in the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, was the graduation speaker at this time-honored ceremony steeped in tradition. The flyover by the Blue Angel pilots at the beginning and the tossing of the hats in the air at the end of the ceremony excited the more than 30,000 attendees at this outdoor ceremony. Among these graduates were Jewish midshipmen that successfully completed the rigorous academic, leadership and athletic four-year course at the Academy. Congratulations to the Class of 2014 and we wish them “fair winds and following seas.”

FOJC sponsored the Baccalaureate service at the Levy Center’s Miller Chapel where over 125 people came to honor these Jewish graduates and their families and friends. RADM Paul Becker, Class of 1983, gave a stirring and moving speech followed by numerous awards, presentations and a grand Oneg Shabbat sendoff.

The Class of 2018 comes to Annapolis on July 2nd and we look forward to meeting and welcoming them to the Naval Academy and into the FOJC organization. Rabbi Josh Sherwin (R-10) is planning for their arrival and will teach and guide them through the rigors of plebe summer.

I again would like to thank all of our donors, friends and volunteers who make the mission of the FOJC possible. With your generous support, we are able to assist the Jewish Chaplain and midshipmen, the brigade and Academy in general, with numerous programs, events and activities that we support throughout the year.

Incidentally, this August marks the 20th year of the founding of the Friends of the Jewish Chapel. We look back on these years with great pride and accomplishment. Just think what we can and will achieve in the next 20 years with your generous help and support.

I hope you all have a healthy and enjoyable summer. Again, thank you and BEAT ARMY!

Howard S. Pinskey, USNA '62
President



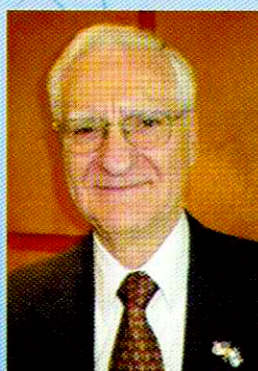
RADM Paul Becker with 6 of the Jewish Class of 2014 midshipmen.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
JEWISH MIDSHIPMEN
OF THE CLASS OF 2014

- Ensign Benjamin Berkey, USN
- Ensign Eli Bronshteyn, USN
- 2nd LT Kerstin Caesar, USMC
- Ensign Alexander Fishman, USN
- 2nd LT Benjamin Freedman, USMC
- 2nd LT Juliann Hitt, USMC
- Ensign Polly Kisin, USN
- Ensign Samuel Lilek, USN
- Ensign Eric Mahler, USN
- David Ochy — Panama
- Ensign Elizabeth Rubin, USN

MIDN Alex Fishman was presented with the LT Darin Pontell Sword award.
MIDN Samuel Lilek received the Robert E. Yager Memorial Academic Award. The Jewish War Veterans presented each graduate with an engraved Kiddush cup and the Jewish Welfare Board gave each graduate a book entitled *Jewish Literacy*.

IN MEMORIAM



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Rabbi Aaron Landes on Saturday, April 19, 2014. Rabbi Landes was a retired Rear Admiral in the Naval Reserves having served his country with distinction as a Chaplain for over 34 years and was also a founding Board member of the Friends of the Jewish Chapel. As such, he was instrumental in helping to secure government approval and private funding for the construction of the Levy Center. He is survived by his wife, Sora Landes and his children Rena (Elliot) Rank, Rebecca (Timothy Kolman), Joshua (Bryna), and Tamar (Dr. Steven Rapaport) and 12 grandchildren.

We are also saddened to report the passing of Willard Hackerman, CEO of Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, the company that built the Levy Center. Mr. Hackerman lived a long, creative, philanthropic and meaningful life, and he was a major contributor to the FOJC. He is survived by his wife, Lillian, his son, Steven and daughter, Nancy.

May their memory be forever a blessing.

REFLECTIONS OF THE 46TH CHIEF OF SUPPLY CORPS

By RADM Mark Heinrich, USN (Ret.)

I can take a breath now. This past November, I completed my Navy career and retired with full honors. Now I’m reflecting on the blur that represents 34 ½ years of service since my graduation from Annapolis. I served as a Flag Officer for over 8 years and was in command for nearly all of it.

I completed my career on 30 November 2013 after serving for nearly 2 ½ years as the Commander of NAVSUP and the 46th Chief of Supply Corps. My career has been an amazing journey and I am proud to have had role models like RADM Herschel Goldberg. RADM Goldberg graduated from USNA in 1935 and was appointed as the 1st Commander of the Naval Supply Systems Command and 29th Chief of Supply Corps in 1966. I fulfilled my dream when I followed in his footsteps in 2011, albeit 45 years after RADM Goldberg.

The experience of Jewish midshipmen at Annapolis has been an evolution that has taken place before our very eyes. I marvel at the positive changes that are making Jewish culture and religion a part of the fabric of every Jewish midshipman’s life. The Hebrew word for “sacrifice” korbon, is composed of the same root letters in the word kiruv – to draw close. Military service draws from both words and our Oath of Office compels us to defend America against all enemies, “so help me God.” The significance of this testament is important and it’s why religion and naval service are so intertwined and why the Levy Center is so critical today.

My religious journey has had both ebbs and flows. Following my Bar Mitzvah in December of 1970, I generally stopped going to synagogue to concentrate on my swimming career. Travel, meets and practices got in the way. Despite the absence of organized religion in my high school years, I still felt grounded, thanks to my parents, teachers, coaches and many others. My parents naturally had the greatest impact. The sacrifices they made, the lessons they imparted and the never-ending support were a key to my success in the disciplined environment of Annapolis. As a result, I was ready to have the seed of Judaism “re-sown” at the Naval Academy.

My class joined the Brigade of Midshipmen on the 7 July 1975 during the malaise that was a part of the post-Vietnam era after Saigon fell just 3 months prior. It was a transformational time much as the military is in yet another transformation today. At the conclusion of the Vietnam conflict, the military turned its attention to the professionalization and modernization of its forces. During this time, it became apparent that some of the spiritual needs of sailors were not being met. Chaplains were more focused during that time on strengthening the readiness and cohesion of the force. They were assisting in developing and implementing drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs, organization effectiveness training and seminars in overcoming racism and sexism. Our Chaplains were helping to teach ethics and moral leadership. These are skills that are still incredibly relevant in these times of fast-paced societal change, however, there was no Rabbi to inspire us like Rabbi Sherwin inspires the midshipmen of today as he blends Jewish traditions with military tradition for the next generation of young Jewish men and women who chose to serve their God and their country. With no Rabbi assigned to the Academy while I was a midshipman, our Jewish culture was the responsibility of the Annapolis Jewish community which was ably led by Harry and Thea Lindauer. Our Sunday morning “Jewish Church Party” trips to synagogue were scheduled to coincide with the church services on base and the onegs that followed the short service were the foundation of our fellowship.

I also discovered Judaism in the pool. In 1977 I was honored to be selected as a member of the National team to represent the United States at the Tenth Maccabiah Games in Tel Aviv, Israel. I won 8 medals including 3 gold medals and established a new Maccabiah record in the men’s 100 meter backstroke with a time of 1 minute 57 seconds. I continued to swim at the Academy and was selected to be the Captain of the Men’s Varsity Swim Team for my 78/79 senior season. I have many fond memories from my swimming career, but the ’77 Maccabiah games are at the top of the list. I donated my 3 gold medals from the games to the Levy Center.

My class of Jewish midshipmen was noteworthy in that we were the last all male class and we felt that this legacy was important enough that our class seal had the Latin phrase “Omnes Viri” (all men) inscribed on it. My classmates and I have seen incredible change during our Naval Service. We have lived – even driven – much of that change. When we entered the Academy, women were not permitted to join the brigade of Midshipmen. Today we have the first female officers completing successful tours

on board nuclear submarines and a female graduate of the Academy preparing to assume the duties of Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Irrespective of who comprises each class at the Naval Academy and who leads the Naval Academy Jewish community, the leadership challenges are the same from a religious point of view. There are a wide range of Jews entering military service today – from the “near-yeshiva” scholars to completely assimilated Americans – and everything in between. I was commissioned as a Supply Corps Officer due to color blindness that was discovered my plebe year. During my career, and especially my sea assignments on a destroyer, a cruiser and an aircraft carrier, I had little time to think about my faith and few opportunities to practice it.

What the Lindauers and the Annapolis community did for us in the late 1970’s was to plant seeds. The seeds that were planted at the Academy at that time are the same seeds that are being planted today by Rabbi Sherwin and others. The Jewish Midshipman Club is the fertile field where the “seeds” will be sown to enable future naval officers to maintain their Jewish heritage as they grow in their military careers, despite the external pressures of years of assimilation, intermarriage and hyper-secular culture.

My wife, Judy, and I were married in 1987 by Rabbi Morris Cohn who was an icon of the San Diego Jewish community. He was a retired Navy chaplain who survived a crash after the transport plane in which he was riding was shot down in WWII. Judy and I have 2 wonderful sons. Jared is 25 and Colin is 24. They were competitive swimmers when they were growing up and the challenges of their workout and meet schedules combined with my work environment resulted in sacrifices with regard to our Judaism that were all too recognizable from my youth. However, those seeds that were sown so carefully by the Lindauers and others did eventually sprout. In 2008 I was stationed at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait as the Director of the US Central Command’s Deployment and Distribution Operations Center. It was a job that kept me incredibly busy but I found time to let Rabbi Henry Soussan into my life. Rabbi Soussan was Camp Arifjan’s Rabbi and he had established “Kehilat Or Hamidbar” which means Congregation in the Light of the Desert and I looked forward to his “Dear Chavura” note every week and the opportunity to gather with other members of our congregation and celebrate the Sabbath and participate in an Oneg. It was an important event that truly marked the end of the week for those of us in the groundhog day environment of our deployment. We even got used to the portable Ark and altar!



Rabbi Soussan was an incredible example to every Jew in Camp Arifjan. He was visibly and publicly Jewish in Kuwait of all places! It wasn’t just that he wore a kippah in uniform. He led by example and he sent a powerful message that it’s OK to be Jewish and to freely practice our religion. He enabled us all to

participate in Jewish activities whether it was a simple Oneg or the opportunity to build a Sukkah and shake the Lulav. Rabbi Soussan reminded me what I had learned during the many previous tours of duty on ships and military bases. It’s important to make congregants feel comfortable and worship and also celebrate Jewish religious holidays. As a naval officer I know that this is especially true aboard ships and at small bases where a supportive Jewish civilian community is usually not present.

He also insisted on correcting a sin of the past. Like many, my Bar Mitzvah date was based on scheduling to allow our New York relatives to travel to southern California in December, 2 months after my 14 October birthday. When he discovered this, Rabbi Soussan ensured that I received an “opportunity” to recite the ‘correct’ Bar Mitzvah Parshah on my birthday in October 2008 – Bereshit Genesis 1:1-6:8. My Hebrew was a little rusty but his tutoring made me successful. I may as well have been thirteen years old all over again. My pride was boundless.

When I returned to the states, I visited the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington, DC. It reinforced to me the importance of my religion. I urge you to visit. There are countless Jewish American veterans whose lives are celebrated at the museum and the museum’s Hall of Heroes tells the story of the American Jewish heroes who have earned this nation’s highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor. The names and stories of those Jewish American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines killed in the line of duty in our current conflict are displayed as well – a sad but critical reminder.