

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

October 2012

LEVY CENTER TIDINGS

A NOTE FROM RABBI JOSH SHERWIN

Shalom L'Kulam! Though I had been told repeatedly about the Academy's wonderful history and sense of tradition, nothing could have prepared me for the experiences that I have already had as I have joined the Naval Academy family and begun to make myself at home here. From the very beginning, even as I struggled to learn the lay of the land and the language, the Levy Center and the Jewish Chapel quickly became my rock and shelter in the stormy seas of Plebe Summer. I was quickly thrown into the mix as I stepped into the role of R-10, the tenth Rabbi to have the privilege of serving the Midshipmen here at the USNA.

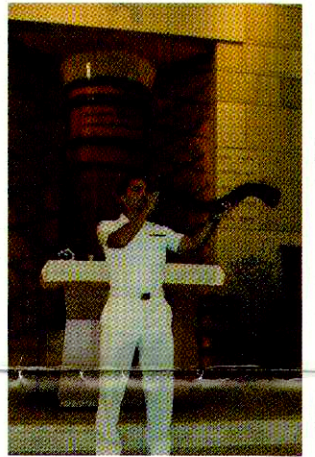
Since then, I have found my footing, and even made progress in feeling comfortable and in navigating the maze of Bancroft Hall. I met the Midshipmen who make up the Brigade, and I have gotten close to those who call the Miller Chapel their spiritual home. I have gone from being R-10, just one in a chain, to being R-X, not only number 10, but also your spiritual prescription. I have learned as much (if not more) from the Midshipmen in a few months as I would have expected to learn in my entire time here.

As the High Holy days approach, I find myself looking forward to the year with ever growing excitement. The Jewish Midshipmen Club has had their initial events, and is already busy planning for the year. It's all thanks to you, the Friends of the Jewish Chapel and your continued support of the JMC. It is your support that allows us to provide the Oneg Shabbat following services every week, the opportunities to experience Warrior weekend alongside the Jewish Cadets of West Point and the Air Force Academy, and most importantly, our annual trip to Israel.

As R-X, I sincerely thank you for your continued support and look forward to meeting many of you in the years to come.

Shana Tova, and a happy and healthy year to us all.

Rabbi Josh Sherwin

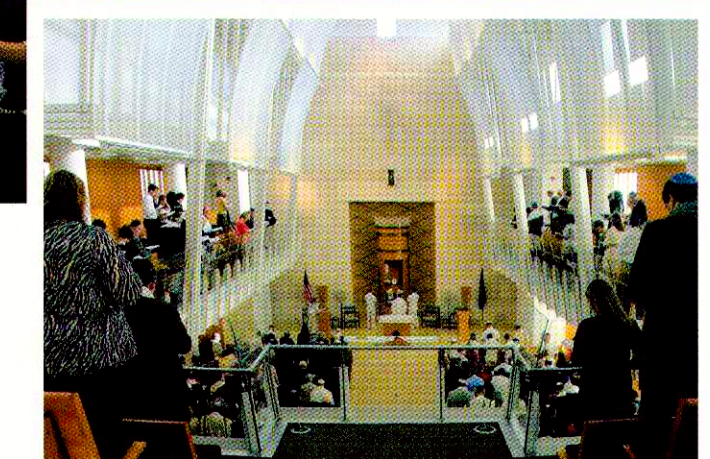


Sukkah Construction and Service



Midshipmen, friends and family tossing their sins on the water during Tashlich.

High Holidays



FOJC

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Photos courtesy of
David Hoffberger

GREETINGS FROM ANNAPOLIS

I hope this Fall 2012 issue of the Levy Center Tidings finds you and your family in good health and spirits.

A change in the Jewish chaplain leadership occurred recently when Lt. Joshua Sherwin relieved LCDR Seth Phillips, who retired after 20 years of service with the Navy. Rabbi Sherwin, affectionately called R-10 (the tenth Rabbi assigned to the Academy since 1986) reported in from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, after a tour as a chaplain with the Marines, and began his three-year Academy tour with the induction of the Class of 2016 in early July.

The FOJC has initiated a new program to support the Naval Academy. We (along with the Schusterman Foundation) are sponsoring a visiting Israeli professor for two years who will be teaching in the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies. Our board worked in conjunction with the Academy's academic dean to bring this program to fruition. The midshipmen will benefit greatly from this academic endeavor.

Two new changes have occurred at the Levy Center. Through a generous bequest of a long-time donor, we secured funds to provide outside lighting for the entire building and grounds. These lights enhance the beauty of our facility and provide a dramatic scene at night. Across the hall from the Miller Chapel, on the second deck above the Stein Fellowship Hall, the Academy has established the Center for Academic Excellence. This is a perfect example where the Levy Center facilities are being used for the benefit of the midshipmen and the brigade.

Your continuing generous support for the FOJC allows us to accomplish our mission to provide support to the Jewish chaplain, the midshipmen and the brigade. We strive to enrich the educational, cultural, spiritual and social life of these spirited and unique young men and women who will be the future leaders of our military, government and business organizations.

Visit our website (www.fojcusna.org) or call our office for more information about the FOJC and inquire about the various opportunities available to support the midshipmen. If you are in Annapolis, please visit the Levy Center or attend a Friday night service and Oneg Shabbat. Again, thank you for your support and, as always – BEAT ARMY.

Howard S. Pinsky, USNA '62
President of the FOJC



Israel Trip

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JEWISH GRADUATES USNA CLASS OF 2012

- 2nd Lt. Brendan Aronson, U.S. Marine Corps
- Ensign Phillip Castiel, U. S. Navy
- Ensign Elizabeth Decker, U.S. Navy
- 2nd Lt. Seth Freedman, U.S. Marine Corps
- Ensign Nicolas Garcia, U. S. Navy
- Ensign Amber Jeter, U.S. Navy
- 2nd Lt. Adam Levey, U.S. Marine Corps
- Ensign Alex Lichtenfeld, U.S. Navy
- Ensign Chantill Norris, U. S. Navy
- 2nd Lt. Ari Polivy, U.S. Marine Corps
- Ensign Mor Rosenberg, U.S. Navy
- 2nd Lt. Ari Schiff, U.S. Marine Corps
- 2nd Lt. Zachary Schwartz, U.S. Marine Corps
- Ensign Holden S. Shalov, U.S. Navy



At the 2012 Baccalaureate service, the president of the Jewish Midshipmen Club, MIDN Alex Lichtenfeld, received the Pontell Sword Award. Also, MIDN Ari Schiff presented Howard Pinsky, President of the FOJC and Link-In-The-Chain Class of 1962 alumnus, with an embroidered Naval Academy windbreaker from the Class of 2012 in appreciation for his dedication to the Academy and the brigade of midshipmen. The Baccalaureate address was given by BGEN Thomas V. Draude, USMC (Ret.) . President and CEO of the Marine Corps University Foundation and 1962 graduate of the Naval Academy.

Levy Center at Night



WELCOME TO PROFESSOR DANIEL ZISENWINE



In conjunction with the American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE), the Naval Academy welcomes Professor Daniel Zisenwine as a visiting faculty member. Dr. Zisenwine was born in the United States and has lived in Israel since childhood. After obtaining his Ph.D. in history from Tel Aviv University in 2005, Dr. Zisenwine has been a research fellow at Tel Aviv University's Moshe Dayan Center for Middle East and African Studies

As a core component of FOJC's mission to enhance the educational experience of all midshipmen, we have committed \$50,000 towards this initiative to bring an Israeli professor to the Academy. If you would like to be a part of this important effort, please send your donation in the newsletter envelope noting its use to support our efforts in providing an Israeli professor this academic year and next. A recent donation towards this goal was made by a family in honor of their parent's 50th wedding anniversary as educational experiences are of importance to their beliefs in understanding the issues and culture of the region.

The value of being an integral part of the education of these future Navy and Marine Corps leaders is priceless.

WONDERING WHERE RABBI PHILLIPS IS?



Congratulations to Rabbi Seth Phillips on his appointment as Interim Rabbi at Congregation Keneseth Israel in Allentown, PA. After chaperoning a group of midshipmen in China during the month of July, Rabbi Phillips retired from the Navy in August and he and his wife, Marge Kramer, moved to Pennsylvania. You can send a note to Rabbi Phillips at Congregation Keneseth Israel, 2227 W. Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104. We wish them all the best!



USNA alumni and FOJC members RDML Paul Becker ('83) and MGEN (Ret.) "Rosie" and Marge Rosenberg ('57) got together in Oahu in advance of the holidays and send greetings of Aloha.

Mt. Annapurna, Nepal



Traveling to Mt. Annapurna, Nepal, the 15th highest peak in the world, former Naval Academy chaplain, Rabbi Irv Elson and his son, Jacob, dedicated their summer climb to the Semper Fi Fund. Every step they took (and there were a lot of them) they did in honor of our wounded veterans. Great job!!



A JEWISH MIDSHIPMAN'S EXPERIENCE

Ever since my earliest memories, being Jewish has defined my experiences. The culture, the religion, the history, the community – I grew up proud and enthusiastic of my Jewish heritage. I couldn't fathom having to give up a huge part of what makes me, me. Luckily, I didn't have to.

Upon arriving at USNA, the very first officer I met was none other than Rabbi Seth Phillips. I had no idea he was Jewish, an officer, or his rank; all I knew was that today was Induction Day and I was waiting my turn to enter Alumni Hall and change my life forever. Since that meeting more than three years ago, I have been privileged to learn from Jewish sailors and Marines with vast experiences and knowledge. I am able to join with classmates on a weekly basis to celebrate Shabbat and our culture. I have the joy of sharing Judaism with a large number of non-Jewish midshipmen, both in Bancroft Hall and in Israel. But I recognize most of these experiences aren't possible without the support of the FOJC.

This truly hit home while on summer training. One night (amongst many) onboard the U.S.S. Maryland, I became involved in a discussion with the Supply Officer on how difficult it is to keep kosher in the Fleet. This led to a conversation where it was revealed said officer was the president of the JMC in 2004! I was eager to swap experiences and stories and gain some leverage to better lead the JMC in the coming year – it had completely escaped me that the Jewish Chapel hadn't even been built by the time this gentleman graduated.

Since its inception, every midshipman has at one point walked past the Levy Center and Jewish Chapel. The brigade is aware Jews exist, learn some of our heritage every week, and know Jewish midshipmen are here to stay and will always be around to serve. I thank the Jewish service members who paved the way, the current service members who continuously make the dream a reality, and the Friends of the Jewish Chapel for ascertaining that reality never fades. To all the readers, your support is and always will be, greatly appreciated and truly cherished.