



CHAPLAINS



DEAR CHAVERIM:

Rabbi David S. Goldstein

As these words are written, the Central Conference of American Rabbis is putting the finishing touches on its initiative to endorse fully qualified and invested cantors as chaplains in the U.S. Armed Services. This process has been an arduous one to say the least. Its inception came out of the awareness of the low numbers of Reform (and Conservative) chaplains on duty and the higher standards that have been in place in those two movements in recent years for investiture as a cantor. There was a

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Chaplain Howard Fields, USA, (hands folded, center) leads candle-lighting on the first night of Hanukkah in Baghdad.

JWB MILITARY LAY LEADER WORKSHOP AT NAVAL STATION NORFOLK INSPIRES 18 ATTENDEES FROM GERMANY TO JAPAN AND ACROSS THE CONTINENTAL USA

Recipe for success: Take one highly-skilled, thoroughly professional, very experienced, deeply committed Jewish Navy chaplain to serve as host and program director. Add one consummate professional, high-ranking, exemplary Jewish Army chaplain to act in tandem throughout the workshop, providing expertise on every level, including presentations on serving our service members (Chaplain Maurice Kaprow, USN); how do we serve? (Chaplain Kenneth J. Leinwand, USA) including Constitutional requirements, resources, the DOD system, privileged and confidential communications, funds and resource management. Mix in 18 certified Jewish military lay leaders from all branches of the Armed Forces, and one USAF Academy cadet, coming from as far away as Germany and Japan and bases all across the continental United States, with varying degrees of experience as voluntary Jewish lay leaders, some attending at their own expense, ready, eager and willing to actively involve themselves and cooperate with one another in all phases of the program. Provide a comfortable, supportive environment. Add input from local professionals

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EIGHT CHAPLAINS TO BE DEPLOYED IN THE MIDDLE EAST FOR PASSOVER

In addition to Chaplain Howard Fields, USA, in Iraq, and Mitchell Schranz, USN, with the Sixth Fleet in the Persian Gulf, Chaplain Seth Phillips, currently stationed at Groton, CT, is being deployed to Iraq, as well as Jeremy Steinberg, USAR; Ira Kronenberg, Ft. Dix, NJ is scheduled to go to Afghanistan, Donald Levy, Ramstein AB, GE to Qatar, Daniella Kolodny, Bethesda, MD to Bahrain, Bonnie Koppell, USAR to Kuwait.

JCCs of North America
מרכזים קהילתיים יהודיים בצפון אמריקה



The JWB Jewish Chaplains Council is a U.S. government-accredited agency for serving the religious and social needs of Jewish military personnel, their families, and patients in VA hospitals. It is a vital component of JCC Association of North America, the leadership network of—and central agency for—350 JCC, YM-YWHA and JCC camp sites in the U.S. and Canada, who annually serve more than one million members. JCC Association offers a wide range of services and resources enabling its affiliates to provide educational, cultural and recreational programs to enhance the lives of North American Jewry.



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time when cantors acquired their titles through arbitrary criteria, often grandfathered in by time in service, or given the title by the love and admiration of their congregations, regardless of formal training and schooling. That surely defined the Reform and Conservative cantorate for decades.

Today five years of postgraduate theological studies are required just as with rabbis. Training covers not only liturgical arts but classical and modern studies, not to mention pastoral care. A wide variety of additional clergy functions have elevated the distinction of the cantorate to unprecedented heights. Add to this new Department of Defense definitions of chaplaincy qualifications and we can readily conclude that our invested cantors are more than well qualified, indeed overqualified by DOD standards, and especially so in light of the acute shortage we currently face.

As always, once we have an official go-ahead, careful interviewing procedures will be put in place for cantorial candidates, just as for rabbinical ones. But we are hopeful that the vision and courage of the CCAR and the JWB Chaplains Council will bear fruit as our Jewish servicemen and servicewomen are strengthened and uplifted by our newest chaplains. May their service be a blessing to them, to those they serve and to our Jewish people.

Rabbi David S. Goldstein
Head, CCAR Delegation
JWB Jewish Chaplains Council

RABBI SIMEON SAYS:

There are three crowns—
the crown of Torah,
the crown of priesthood,
and the crown of sovereignty—
but the crown of a good name
transcends them all.

Ethics of the Fathers
(Pirke Avot) 4:19

JWB MILITARY LAY LEADER WORKSHOP (continued from page 1)

who provide support for the Jewish military community (Norfolk Rabbi Michael Panitz, JCC of Tidewater Executive Vice-President Carole Kravitz). Enrich with positive reinforcement for lay leaders from supervisory Christian chaplains and their staff (CAPT Stephen Gragg, CHC, RPCS Michael D. Callahan). Provide opportunities for lay leaders to contribute by conducting all services, delivering *Divrei Torah*, engaging in discussions centering on up-dating the JWB Guide for Jewish Military Lay Leaders in the Armed Forces of the United States, and share their successful programs as well as build networks for future communications. Garnish with a trip to the local Simon Family JCC in Virginia Beach and a tour of the new facilities hosted by Carole Kravitz. Supplement with a briefing (Rabbi Nathan M. Landman, Deputy Director) on the history of the JWB (JCC Association) connection to the military and the current system of endorsing chaplains, certifying lay leaders, providing liaison to the offices of the Chiefs of Chaplains through the Endorsers Conference, and contact for the American Jewish community in general.

Since the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council took over the sponsorship of Jewish Military Lay Leader Workshops held in the continental United States in 1996, this workshop must rank as the finest ever presented, both from a perspective of logistics and content.

Lay leader attendees: Neil Block, Ft. Benning, GA, Teri Brady, Vandenberg AFB, CA, John Dikun, Virginia Beach, VA, Isaac Faibisoff, Scott AFB, IL, Karen Fitzgerald, McChord AFB, WA, Robert Gersh, Naval Station Brunswick, ME, Lisa Holstein, Wiesbaden, GE, Joy Houston, Camp LeJeune, NC, Stephanie King, USAF Academy, CO, Samantha Klotz, Hanscom AFB, MA, Samuel Korson, HQ USCG, DC, Daniel Minkow, Travis AFB, CA, Tobe Pilato, Yokosuka Naval Base, JA, Jonathan Shoenholz, Ft. Gordon, GA, Daniel Silverman, USS ENTERPRISE, VA, Betty Simmons, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, Randee Van Ness, Vandenberg AFB, CA, Jeffrey Yarvis, Heidelberg, GE, Steven York, Ramstein AB, GE.

LAY LEADER COMMENTS:

“I expected to learn what is expected of me as a lay leader and get the tools to accomplish that. I believe I did.” —LT Joy Houston

“Received the opportunity to get in front of a new and more advanced crowd to gain more confidence and experience. The davening went above my expectations. Having the food and lodging already accommodated and accounted for made things much easier to go TAD.” —LTJG Toby Pilato

“Good info, speakers were good and pertinent. Services were good. Open and frank discussions also were good.” —Sam Korson, USCG

“Thorough and effective coverage of essential topics.” —MAJ Jonathan Shoenholz

“Gathering a great group of organizers and lay leaders for excellent discussions and a really great learning experience.” —Samantha Klotz

“Productive, informative... Informality, comfort, atmosphere, good location, accommodations conducive to exchange.” —CAPT/Ret Neil Block

“Topics covered by Rabbis Kaprow and Leinwand were essential. Hearing their experiences and having the ability to tap their experiences was informative and humbling. It’s rare to receive that kind of mentorship from senior officers.” —MAJ Jeffrey Yarvis.

SCENES FROM THE JWB JEWISH MILITARY LAY LEADERS CONFERENCE NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, VA



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1. Mrs. Carole Kravitz, executive vice-president, Simon Family JCC, addresses Jewish military lay leaders on services provided by the JCC to the military community.
2. Rabbi Nathan M. Landman, Deputy Director, JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, presents a copy of Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's The Book of Jewish Values to Lisa Holstein, Jewish lay leader from Wiesbaden, GE at the conclusion of the lay leader workshop.
3. Army, Air Force, and Navy lay leaders engage in a problem-solving exercise at the Jewish military lay leaders workshop.
4. Jewish lay leaders visit Noah's Ark in the outdoor pool area of the Simon Family JCC.
5. Chaplain Stephen Gragg, USN, delineates supervisory Christian Chaplains' responsibilities to Jewish personnel.
6. Rabbi Michael Panitz of Norfolk, (brother of Chaplain Jonathan Panitz, USN) describes co-operation provided by Norfolk synagogues for the military community of greater Norfolk.

HANUKKAH CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE GLOBE: FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND KOREA



Above: Chaplain Joshua Narrowe (center) celebrates the first night of Hanukkah with candle-lighting of outdoor menorah at RAF Mildenhall, UK. **Right:** Chaplain Brett Oxman (right) leads candle-lighting for Jewish troops and their families in Seoul, Korea.



Above: Mrs. Connie Adelman, lay leader, Aviano AB, IT, leads Sukkoth celebration.



Right: Chaplain Robert Roffman (center) stands before the Lackland AFB Hanukkah menorah with local personnel.



Above: At a menorah-lighting ceremony at the White House on the third night of Hanukkah, President and Mrs. George W. Bush presided as Menachem, Chaim, and Miriam Felzenberg, children of Chaplain and Mrs. Shmuel Felzenberg, USA, lit the candles. (Chaplain Felzenberg was in Iraq.)



CHAPLAIN MITCHELL SCHRANZ, USN, WRITES FROM AFGHANISTAN AT HANUKKAH:

My trip to Afghanistan was one I'll never forget. Because I was a non-combatant, the Army assigned a soldier to accompany me everywhere, and to provide protection. He is a fine young sergeant, and when leaving I told him he did a good job because we were both in one piece. Together we had traveled many miles across Afghanistan to visit as many soldiers as possible. At one base we could find one Jewish soldier. The sergeant said he was sorry I had to make the long trip since there weren't a lot of Jewish personnel there. I told him that if we had to travel 1,000 miles to see that soldier it was well worth the time and effort. In fact, wherever you go, you run into soldiers from every corner of America, and even the globe, from different cultures, different religions; some from well-to-do families, others from urban slums—all with one focus as American service personnel: they love their country. It is obvious that there is as lot of work ahead for the Afghani people, and for the American forces deployed there. Still, I could not



Chaplain Mitchell Schranz (in talit) with Jewish personnel in Kabul, Afghanistan, celebrating Hanukkah.

help but think that these young Americans in Afghanistan and Iraq are carrying out a mission, not unlike the struggle of Judah Maccabee and his brothers—fighting for freedom and the right of ordinary people to live their lives with dignity. One cannot help but be in awe of the dedication and sacrifice that you see in the faces of our young men and women in uniform. They believe in the mission and know they are doing something important. May God watch over them all!



PERSONALS

Congratulations to:

CHAPLAIN DENNIS BECK-BERMAN, USAR on his retirement on October 15, 2004.

CHAPLAIN HOWARD M. FIELDS, USA, on his selection for promotion to the rank of MAJOR, projected for June, 2005.

CHAPLAIN and MRS. SHIMON FELD, USAR, on the marriage of their son **YOSSI**, to **RACHEL MINDY**, on December 28.

CHAPLAIN and MRS. SHELLY GOLDSMITH, USAR, on the birth of a grand-daughter, **SARAH B'RACHA D'VORAH**, on December 31.

RABBI and MRS. DAVID S. GOLDSTEIN, head of the CCAR delegation to the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, on the marriage of their daughter **SARAH** to **HOWARD ALTSCHUL** on December 12.

CHAPLAIN IRA KRONENBERG, Ft. Dix, NJ, selected for promotion to the rank of (COL) USA, on the list released on March 3.

CHAPLAIN SEYMOUR MOSCOWITZ, USA/Ret. On the publication of his historical novel *Falcon of the Quraysh* depicting the eighth-century Muslim conquest of Andalusia, Spain and the helpful role of the Jewish community, which enabled the great Ahmed Abd ar Rahman I set the stage for ushering in the Golden Age of Spain. (Available at Barnes & Noble, paperback \$25.)

CHAPLAIN HERSCHEL PORTNOY, USAR, on his retirement on October 20, 2004.

CHAPLAIN PAUL SWERDLOW, VA, Northport, NY on being awarded the VISN 3 Palliative Care Council Individual Achievement Award for his contributions to the Palliative Care Initiative in VISN 3 on January 18. (VISN3 is a network of Veteran Affairs medical centers in metropolitan New York and New Jersey.) He was specifically cited for his leadership in the development of the Chaplain Palliative Care Spiritual Assessment Tool, Palliative Care Competencies for Chaplains, and contributions on the VACO (Veteran Affairs Central Office) Field Advisory Bereavement Task Force.

MRS. RANDEE VAN NESS, lay leader, Vandenberg AFB, CA on being named 30th Space Wing Chapel, Family Member Volunteer of the Year.

CHAPLAIN and MRS. AVI WEISS on the marriage of their son **AKIVA** to **YAARAH ALON** at Kibbutz Tirat Tsvi, Israel on Feb. 9.

CHAPLAIN HERBERT YOSKOWITZ, John D. Dingle VA Medical Center, MI, upon receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for his participation in the Great Lakes National Cemetery Memorial Service Network IV ceremony on October 14, 2004, and upon receiving a certification of recognition for his ten years of VA service.

JWB JEWISH CHAPLAINS COUNCIL SENDS SOLO SEDER KITS TO OVERSEAS MILITARY POSTS GRATIS UPON REQUEST

“The JWB Jewish Chaplains Council has sent Solo Seder Kits for Passover gratis to requesting overseas military installations and ships at sea in order to assure that isolated Jewish personnel will have a ‘taste of Pesach’ this year,” announced Council Director Rabbi David Lapp. Shipments have circled the globe from England, Germany, Italy, and Turkey in Europe to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait in the Middle East, to Korea, Japan, and

Okinawa in the Far East as well as many ships at sea. The kits contain two cans chicken soup w/ matzoh balls, two bottles of grape juice, two cans gefilte fish or tuna fish, one package matzoh, one Hagaddah, one Passover leaflet. This year we added a \$10 gift phone card so that recipients can call home, and a gray suede yarmulke.

HOUSTON CUB SCOUTS LIGHT UP HANUKKAH FOR LAY LEADER IN IRAQ

As part of a service project Cub Scout Pack 1190 from Congregation Emanuel, Houston, TX, prepared care packages with Hanukkah candles, menorahs and dreidels—giving SPC Joseph Lowit and 150 other soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait a way to mark the holiday. “Thanks to them I can, and I

am very grateful”, Lowitt, a 26-year-old infantryman from Miami, responded. Lowit, who helps patrol Iraqi towns, said the scouts’ concern for fellow soldiers made him smile. He has even become “pen pals” with one of the youngsters. “I love kids and to know that Pack 1190 supports us was great. It really touched my heart.”

RABBI LAPP IN THE FIELD



Above: Rabbi David Lapp, director, JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, meets with Chaplain Donald Levy (top row right) and Jewish personnel at Ramstein AB, GE.

Right: On a visit to Ft. Dix, Rabbi Lapp conferred with Chaplain Ira Kronenberg (left) and discussed the upcoming Jewish Unity Live program, which was scheduled for March 1, with Chairman Aaron Wolfson and Chap. Menashe Miller, USAFR. Over 30 military communities were scheduled to participate.



Below: Rabbi Lapp (left) meets with Jewish Chaplain Robert Roffman, Lackland AFB, TX Center Chaplain, Wayne Knutson, and Jewish lay leader CMSGT/ret. Steve Nemrow on a visit to the basic training center.



Above: Rabbi Lapp with Jewish lay leader, Dr. Jacob Hen-Tov and his wife Jessica at Garmisch, GE



Left: Rabbi Lapp meets with Chaplain Jeremy Steinberg, USAF, (left) and Chaplain Donald Strong, HQ USAREUR Command Chaplain in Heidelberg, GE



CHAPLAIN MORDECHAI SCHWAB ORGANIZES FIRST TU B'SHEVAT CELEBRATION IN OVER 20 YEARS AT WIESBADEN ARMY AIRFIELD, GE, JAN. 25.

A night of food, fun and Torah learning characterized the first celebration of Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees, in over 20 years at Wiesbaden Army Air Field, GE led by Chaplain Mordechai Schwab, chaplain of the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion,

on January 25. Jewish personnel who gathered for the occasion also gave *tsedakah* to purchase trees to be planted in Israel, a traditional way of commemorating the day.

JEWISH LAY LEADER NOAH GREEN REPORTS FROM GUAM

By SK1(sw) Noah Green, US Naval Forces, Marianas (GUAM)

This was a pretty good period (July 1-December 31, 2004) for the military community on Guam. In August Rabbi Peter Tarlow, Texas A & M University Hillel, who was visiting Guam, led a service for us, the first time we have had a rabbi for a couple of years. For the High Holy Days a Marine Corps pilot who was passing through blew the Shofar and did a wonderful job. For Sukkoth the chapel purchased a tent for us, which we decorated with palm fronds, and arts and crafts. We held a potluck dinner in the Sukkah. At Hanukkah we held the third annual lighting of the

Latte Stone Menorah. The Jewish community of Guam, including its lay leader, Joel Schiff, led us in song after we lit the seven-foot tall menorah. We then returned to the synagogue and enjoyed latkes prepared by my wife, Helene. Additionally I spoke about Hanukkah at my daughter's school, McCool Elementary/Middle School; my wife made latkes in the classroom, and we distributed dreidels and Hanukkah gelt there and at a presentation to Girl Scout Troop 123.

WE GET LETTERS:

Dear Rabbi Landman,

As a member of the second year class at HUC JIR, I heard your presentation on military chaplaincy. Regrettably, I am too old to take advantage of the opportunity, but then I did take advantage of the military when I was even younger than my classmates. Two of my years of service were spent in Germany, which means that I can also claim to be the only member of my class who saw the Berlin Wall from the other side. After your presentation I read an article about the shortage of rabbis in Iraq. If there was something I could do to help in that regard, I would. Thank you for your presentation. I have thought about the soldiers since then. It is a shame that those who need rabbis the most have so few of them within thousands of miles. Take care.

Joe Murray

Dear JCC Association,

Thank you for the thoughtful care package. You have truly made my holiday season in Iraq a joyful and memorable one. I apologize for the impersonal nature of this form letter, but I have been blessed to receive many Hanukkah packages from so many thoughtful people across the U.S. that I would have to stay here an extra year to find time to write everyone separately. As you recall the story of the Maccabees who fought for freedom against those who would otherwise see them enslaved and oppressed. I hope you will think of all our brave soldiers over here fighting for Iraqi freedom. Happy Hanukkah and best wishes this holiday season!

B'Shalom
Victor S. Olshansky
Captain, United States Army

CHAPLAIN BRUCE BUBLICK PROVIDES HANUKKAH COVERAGE AT THE USMA PREPARATORY SCHOOL, FT. MONMOUTH IN RESPONSE TO A PARENT'S ENQUIRY

In response to an enquiry by Mrs. Bonnie Korn of Monroeville, NY, whose son Erik is a current Cadet Candidate at the USMA Preparatory School in Ft. Monmouth, NJ, Chaplain Bruce Bublick, ANG, led a menorah-lighting ceremony on the

second night of Hanukkah, December 8, attended by a small, but appreciative crowd of Ft. Monmouth personnel. As a result, plans are underway for Chaplain Bublick to provide monthly visits to Ft. Monmouth and the Prep School.

MRS. BEA SACKS OF OAK PARK, MI, HONORED AS ONE OF "8 OVER 80" IN MICHIGAN, FOR OVER 50 YEARS OF SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

Mrs. Bea Sacks, a Brooklynite transplanted to Oak Park, MI, who served in the Red Cross Ambulance Corps in World War II, was honored as one of "8 Over 80" who has spent a lifetime in a variety of religious, civic, and governmental service activities. Over the past few years, she has raised funds to provide chocolates for Jewish military personnel distributed by the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council at Hanukkah, and most recently provided musical CD's for wounded soldiers at Walter Reed

Army Medical Center in Washington, DC and National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. For many years she was secretary to Senator Carl Levin, when he was head of the Senate Armed Forces Committee. At age 85, she says, "My favorite parable is from Rabbi Tarfon who said, 'You are not required to finish the work, neither are you at liberty to abstain from it.' In the spirit of *tikkun olam*, I hope I will still find some needy places to fill those empty spaces in my life."



NATE'S NOTES: Rabbi Nathan M. Landman

JPS TORAH AND TANACH

Thanks to the initiative of Ft. Benning Jewish Lay Leader Neil Block, the Jewish Publication Society has informed us that military personnel may order the JPS Torah (paperback) 4x6, 620 pages, English for \$7.50. The reference number is ISBN: 0-8276-0680-X. The complete TANACH (paperback edition) 4x6, 2030 pages, Hebrew-English is \$10.00. The reference number is: ISBN 0-8276-0766-0. The contact person at JPS is Dolores Verbit (e-mail: dverbit@jewishpub.org). JPS is also offering Rabbi Maurice Lamm's book, *Consolation*, for \$9.00.

350th ANNIVERSARY OF JEWS IN THE AMERICAN MILITARY

Sy Brody of the Jewish War Veterans has produced a 44-page book on line and a curriculum and study guide for the history of the Jews in the American military from the time of Asher Levy. To see it and other information log on to: www.jwv.org.

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST, MAY 1-8

Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) falls on Thursday, May 5. The official week for observance of Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust, a DOD sponsored event, is May 1-8. This is not a Jewish program, but is sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity under the Department of Defense. We have a few copies of the original Guide, published by the DOD.

JEWS IN GREEN

2LT Jason Rubin, USMC, Jewish Lay Leader at NAS Kingsville, TX, keeps Jews in the military informed on his website www.JewsinGreen.com. It's worth taking a look.



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