

The Shofar

Words from Jay Jupiter

To All Fort Belvoir Jewish Congregation:

As the Jewish Congregation Council Chair, I would like to inform you of some fiscal changes that are occurring in the Fort Belvoir Jewish Congregation. We are currently without a Rabbi contract and have a stop gap contract for the JAC. This letter is to solicit comments on if you want your past and future donations to be used for fund the JAC, Hebrew Teacher, both or neither of the positions for which the CTOF Jewish funds must now pay.

To meet our clergy requirements, the RSD is offering to provide for a contract Rabbi and Cantor from the Appropriated Funds. The JAC and Hebrew School teacher are

seen as additional support by the RSD (Garrison Chaplains Office) and will not be funded through APF. Like the Catholic and Protestants, if the Jewish congregation wants to have a Jewish Coordinator it can be paid out of NAF by the Jewish Sub Account.

The Council made an initial decision use our funds of CTOF Jewish to pay the JAC position for two months. Going forward, if we want to have a JAC and Hebrew School teacher, the costs will come out of our donations. The council is seeking the congregation's input and donations to fund these positions as well as continuing to fund the other activities we have been using the donations for—designated offer-

ings, Solider funds, holiday observances and receptions, Onegs, Honorariums and gifts.

The cost to fund the JAC would be about \$22,000 and Hebrew School will be about \$6,000 per year depending on the bidders. Historically, the congregation averages about \$22,000-\$25,000 in donations during the year, but primarily during the High Holidays. This historical level of donations has been adequate to fund our past activities without the added expense of funding a JAC and Hebrew Teacher, thus our needs would almost double. The historic level of donations will not support our congregation's traditional activities with the addition of the fiscal change of implementing JAC funding. The JAC contract covers having a person supporting the congregation (continued page 2)

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Rosh Hashanah begins on Sunday, October 2nd!

Services at Belvoir Chapel. See info inside! Come experience the magic of FBJC

News from Mike Bloom—Spirit of 1776 and Judaism

This year, the Fourth of July is about three weeks before the 17th of Tammuz (observed on Sunday, the 18th of Tammuz, or July 24th). This commemorates the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem by Nevuchadnetzar at the time of the 1st Temple, and by Titus at the

time of the second.

In the Torah reading from the Book of Numbers in the afternoon on Shabbat afternoon, July 23rd, we begin the portion of Pinchas, and we learn how Pinchas took the initiative to stop an injustice, thereby preventing the destruction of his people;

we complete the portion the following Shabbat where we read of the argument for a more equitable law of inheritance made by the Daughters of Tzelaphchad. We observe Moses preparing for transfer of leadership to Joshua by performing 'laying of the hands'. In this

Haftorah we start the practice of praying for the country in which one lives, a custom we follow today, two and half millennia later, with the recitation of the Prayer for the Government of the United States.

JCC message, continued

The JAC contract covers having a person supporting the congregation on a weekly basis, Friday night and Saturday service preparation and execution, Holiday Observance events, Shofar newsletter, High Holiday support, and other activities. The JAC has been the glue that has kept the Fort Belvoir Jewish Congregation stay vibrant and be among the largest Jewish Military Congregations in the Department of Defense.

If the congregation doesn't deem that their donations should go to this effort, we will have to expect a great deal of volunteerism to support these

activities. Items like the Shofar, and other Jewish coordination events will cease to exist.

So that we can move ahead with the consensus from the Congregation, I am requesting that you write or email me with your thoughts on funding the JAC through our donations. Additionally as a show of support to fund these contracts with donations, I am asking everyone to please send in donations, as a token in the amount of \$18, to note the support for the contracts. Please advise what action you have taken so we can act in accordance with the Congregations expressed wishes.

Prospectively, I hope that the upcoming High Holidays you will double your normal contributions to fund this new expense. Please note on your donation for payment to *CTDF Jewish*.

Please respond as quickly as possible to me so we can proceed with an acknowledged consensus.

Shalom,

COL (Ret) Jay Jupiter

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Adult Education Committee is having a Funeral Panel this summer!

We are all guilty of pushing the bad stuff to plan aside and not think about it. However, we all know that life is short and planning for the unspeakable is a good idea. Fort Belvoir Jewish Congregation is planning on having another funeral panel on August 7th. Watch for emails and

flyers so you don't miss out on this valuable information. On the panel we will have someone from area synagogues, Arlington Cemetery, Funeral homes, and more. It will be on a Sunday afternoon—we hope you can join us.!



High Holidays 5777

People say that the High Holy Days are early or late this year—depending on the Gregorian calendar. Actually, they are right where they are supposed to be— on

1 Tishrei. It is the same time every year. On the non-Jewish calendar, it

is late —Sunday, October 2. See the attached High Holy Days schedule. Kol Nidre is Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30 PM. All services will be held at Belvoir Chapel. Make your reservations for Break the Fast, Wednesday, October 12 . High Holiday information will

be mailed soon. We will be having Rabbi Barry Baron, Army Reserve Rabbi leading our services this year.



Community news

We would like to thank the following families for sponsoring Oneg Shabbat meal lately:

Leah Choper, Susan Salzburg, Bea Kleier, Herb Sprung, Julie McKenzie, and all the people who have signed up to sponsor a future Oneg Shab-

bat. We appreciate you!

Please let the office know if you have a significant life cycle event—birth, death, or celebration—we are here for you!

Being part of a 'kehillah' or community means we take care of each other.

Hebrew School

We have begun the process of advertising for a Hebrew School Director. This person would be responsible for teaching your children and

all that goes with it. Stay tuned for more information about start dates and times. There will be a children's service for the High Holidays.

Monday, October 3 for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur— Wednesday, October 12th.



Fort Belvoir Jewish Congregation Vision Statement

We will create and sustain a learning and participatory congregation that will enhance the congregants' appreciation of liturgy, Torah and holidays. We will enhance congregational fellowship and a sense of community and project our Jewish presence to the surrounding communities . Our congregation will effectively plan and conduct religious services as well as cultural, social and other activities that encourage the participation and fulfill the broad spectrum of needs of our DoD congregants.

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