

The Shofar

FBJC; Office of the Staff Chaplain; 5950 12th St, #101, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 5539

Jan Feb Mar 2016

Words from Rabbi Randy Brown

Tevet/Shevat/Adar/AdarII 5776

Although we are experiencing an unusually balmy winter, domestic and international geopolitical tensions are heating up. Rhetoric for the 2016 Presidential election is in full swing and our nation is still reeling from the tragic terrorist attack in San Bernardino on December 2, 2015. Two terrorists acted on their distorted interpretation of Islam and ruthlessly killed 14 people and injured another 22 people. Moreover, another 7 Muslim extremists in Paris surreptitiously conducted 6 attacks on November 13th that killed 130 people and injured another 368 people. Americans are engaged in the critical and timeless debate of balancing the values of freedom and security. Do we show compassion to Syrian refugees fleeing tyranny or do we err on the side of isolationism to protect the homeland?

I do not claim to have the answers for these complicated questions and I am most skeptical of anyone who myopically claims to have the panacea for combating terrorism. The distressing fact is that this seems to be our new reality. Last October, I traveled to Jerusalem as a delegate in the 37th World

Zionist Congress. I was astonished to see Israelis in a most vulnerable state as they looked over their shoulder for the next random act of violence. This was the most distressed I have seen Israeli citizens since I first visited Israel in 1994. My dear friends of Fort Belvoir, we have entered into a new paradigm of national security.

The general American public has forgotten and is finally understanding something that you and your dedicated families know all too well. We are a country at war. I do not say this to be an alarmist or sensationalize matters. However, the harsh fact is that we have soldiers overseas in harm's way who are dying on a weekly basis. I have come to dread reading the weekly announcements and discover we have lost treasured young men and women who proudly wear your beloved uniform.

As we near the end of Gregorian Year 2015, we hope our darkest moments which will soon be brightened by the rebirth of nature on Tu B'Shevat. Also, it is not too early to remember the decree from the Purim holiday, "Zachor" Remember what Amalek did to us in trying to blot out Jewish life, history and memory. I encourage us all to remain vigilant and be sure to shower our active duty members with extra

support in this difficult time. Let us renew our personal and professional commitments and revisit resolutions that we vowed during the High Holidays.

Ken Yi Ratzon! May this be G-d's Will!

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Randy Brown

Community News

We would like to thank the following people for sponsoring our Oneg Shabbat fellowships:

The Fox family, Ryan Ferrell, Bea Kleier, and Evan Krauss. We would also like to thank everyone who helps with set up and clean up.

Our condolences to Sandra, Dan and Lauren Mickelson on the passing of Murray Scheine—long time member and wonderful person and volunteer. Murray served with the council for many years—as a Budget chair and Ritual chair. He will be missed by all. May his memory be

of a blessing. Please see the back page of some great photos of Murray with his family and beautiful granddaughter, Lauren.

If you have given names for the Get Well list recently, and those people have recovered or passed, please let Sara know in the office so she can revise the list.



Tu B'Shevat

We will celebrate Tu B'Shevat at our Oneg Shabbat on Friday, January 22. We will taste the fruits and nuts from Israel and conduct a short Tu B'Shevat Seder.



Designated Offering Information

For some of our events, we advertise that the donations collected will go to a 'designated organization or charity'. For this year, the council decided to donate to the following Jewish charities:

National Museum of American Jewish Military History (a great

museum located at 1811 R Street, in DC (202 265-6280) if you would like to visit.

Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington (this organization oversees Jewish funeral practices) we will be having a panel on this subject.

Watch for a date.

Adas Israel Mikvah (Conservative Ritual bath)

Project Welcome Home (a project with the JCCNV) to support service-members when they return home from deployment.

Purim

We will be reading the Megillah and having a Costume contest, so dress up as Esther, Queen Vashti or Haman! Our Purim Extravaganza will be on Wednesday, March 23 at 7 PM in the Belvoir Chapel. We will be having hamentashen, a light nosh, and loads of fun!

Be Happy—Adar is soon!
Hebrew School will be doing a Purim program on Sunday, March 20th at the regular time—10-11:30AM



Adult Education is BACK!

We will be having some Adult Education programs—Jewish Funeral Practices Panel, Movie—“Above and Beyond”, and other events. Watch for more info on the weekly email blasts and flyers in the mail!

If you have any ideas of programs you would like to see, let Sara know and we can make it happen!



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Hebrew School

We have met a few times on Sunday's in the RE Building (10-11:30 AM) - we learned all of the letters, with vowels, and are starting to decode words. We made Hanukkah crafts, played dreidel and ate donuts. We will

be meeting on the following Sunday's—if anyone wants to check us out: Jan 10 and 24; Feb 7; March 6 and 20. We also meet during the services on Saturdays' .

We have 8-12 students and

are enjoying learning and have formed friendships with other students.

JAC

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Chaim Tovim - Life is Good!

The logo for Fort Belvoir Jewish Congregation (FBJC) is a black oval with the letters "FBJC" in white, serif font.

FBJC

Fort Belvoir Jewish Congregation Mission Statement

We will create and sustain a learning and participatory congregation that will enhance the congregants' appreciation of liturgy, Torah and holidays, 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.

