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*Shomrim of Philadelphia*  
*and the Delaware Valley*



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- \* *Is formed to promote the religious spirit of members of the police, fire, and other law enforcement agencies of the Jewish faith and their families*
- \* *To promote social well-being, strengthen friendships and promote welfare of all our members and their loved ones*
- \* *To develop general welfare in our community and cooperate with all those who would have us make progress*  
*Affiliated with the National Conference of Shomrim Societies and Jewish Community Relations Council*



**Meeting Notice**  
**Thursday, February 10, 2005, 7:30 PM**  
**Jewish "Y" Center, Red Lion Road and Jamison Avenue**  
**"Support Shomrim, Get Involved, Attend Meetings"**  
**"Refreshments will be served"**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - 6:30 PM, at the "Y"**



**MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, Merrill Kelem**

**Shalom**

I hope everyone is having a **healthy, happy and joyous New Year**. This is the month of **President's Day**, as well as **Valentine's Day**.

Here we are into February and I'm ready for summer. Hasn't this weather been a pain in the "tookus!" Yet when we are sweating in the 90 plus degree days with the 90 plus humidity in July and August, we wish it were February. Either way we look at it, we still have at least 2 more months of winter ahead of us.

Hey, how about those **Eagles**? As of this writing they are 7 point underdogs to the **Patriots**, but let us all think positive. **"GO EAGLES!"** Isn't it a coincidence that the owners of both teams are Jewish?

Our congratulations again to **Mike Gilbert** on being elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors. Hey, I thought **Frank Sinatra** was the Chairman of the Board! Hey Mike, can you sing us a tune? Which reminds me of a story on my days on the road with the "Man", but I'll tell that at one of the meetings if **Howard Rabinovitch** needs me to fill in as the speaker. By the way, talking about speakers, **Lynne Abraham's** office has been in touch with me, and we expect that she will be coming to speak to us very soon. If I'm not mistaken, Lynne should be up for re-election this year, and I feel that Philadelphia must have Lynne as their **District Attorney** for the next four years.

A quick note on what is going on at the **National Shomrim**. It's a shame how one or two men can ruin a brotherhood and cause a lot of headaches to all the chapters of **National Shomrim**. I know that the **South Florida** chapter is in the process of removing these members from their chapter and that they also withdrew from **National Shomrim**. This must stop. We all look forward to seeing everyone at the December convention and at other events during the year, and now, who knows? **Art Krinsky**, the National President, has to do a conference call and attempt to get **South Florida** back into the National organization.

Now, on the brighter side, the **banquet** is coming up fast. Wednesday, June 1, 2005 to be exact. Let's get your reservations in for this wonderful event and please start selling ads. The ad book allows us to sponsor Jewish goals, help other organizations as they help us, and to keep our treasury solvent. If you have received any commendations or awards, please forward the information to me so that you can be recognized at the banquet. Remember, this is your Shomrim and you make it what it is. Let's support our organization - **GET INVOLVED!**

Hope to see everyone at the meeting, Thursday, February 10.

*Merrill*

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**FEBRUARY...HAPPY BIRTHDAYS**

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27. Janet Oslick  
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**FEBRUARY...HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

9. Bruce & Gail Blum, (20 years)
12. Floyd & Frances Zonenstein (47 years)
15. Rabbi Abraham & Florence Novitsky (52 years)  
Eileen & Michael Shannon, (36 years)
27. Alan & Shelly Wismer, (40 years)

**FUTURE GUEST SPEAKER**

Thomas Gibbons, Inquirer reporter, will talk to us about his experiences as a Phila. Policer Officer and reporter at the April 14, 2005 meeting. Make plans to attend!

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:** Please call Marty Borowsky, 215-342-7045 about any members who are ill or hospitalized.

**The Scholarship Committee:** We will again offer two scholarships at our annual banquet. Application, which was included in the January **HERALD**, is to be submitted by April 15, 2005. Mail completed application(s) to the Scholarship Committee, Shomrim of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley, P.O. Box 14543, Philadelphia, PA 19115. For additional applications, contact the Secretary.

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## Message from our Chaplain, **Cantor Alan Edwards**

### **Presidents' Day**

On February 21, 2005 we will be celebrating the birthday of two presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. I would like to share with you the relationships of these two men to the Jewish citizens of their time.

### **George Washington**

Serious disagreements were developing between the colonies and the British government. The colonists were not allowed to be elected to the British Parliament in London; nevertheless the Parliament demanded the colonists pay taxes. In April of 1775, the thirteen colonies revolted against the British and the American Revolution had begun.

The Jews in America were divided on the views of the revolution. Some were loyal to the crown, even though life in America was better than it had been under the crown. About 100 Jews fought under George Washington. The most famous of them all was Hayam Solomon, who was George Washington's financial advisor and assistant. During the cold winter at Valley Forge when the American soldiers were freezing and running out of food, it was Hayam Solomon who marshalled Jews in America and Europe to provide money. He personally gave Washington \$300,000.00, which was an immense fortune in those days, to provide food and clothing to the stranded troops and in so doing, turned the course of history. Without his help, our "army" would have perished before they could have defeated the British. In 1893, a bill was presented before the 52nd Congress ordering a gold medal be struck in recognition of Hayam Solomon's contribution to the United States.

It is hard to tell how many Jews fought in Washington's Army as religion was not listed in the Army records. We do find such names in the Regimental records as Cohen, Franks, Goldman, Israel, Levy, Meyers and Moses.

There were Jewish Army doctors. One was Dr. Phillip Moses Russell of Virginia who lived through the winter at Valley Forge with Washington.

The Minis and Sheftall families were among the famous patriots of Georgia. Phillip Minis fought with great bravery in the Revolution. Mordecai Sheftall was called by the British "a very great rebel." His son, who was only eighteen at the time, was the Captain of a ship that brought food to the American prisoners at Charleston.

On August 17, 1790, George Washington sent a letter to Moses Seixes who was the warden of Congregation Kahal Kodesh of Newport, Rhode Island. In it he wrote "*May the children of the stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants; while every one shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid.*" The letter was signed "G. Washington."

The congregation later changed its name to the Touro Synagogue and each year the congregation reads the letter at a public ceremony.

### **Abraham Lincoln**

When the Civil War began in 1861, there were nearly 7000 Jewish soldiers in the Union Army and approximately 3000 in the Confederate Army.

In 1862 President Lincoln made it possible for Rabbis to serve as military chaplains. He did this by signing an Act of Congress which changed the law that had barred all but Christian clergymen from chaplaincy.

On December 17, 1862, General Ulysses S. Grant, who was Military Governor of all captured territory, issued an order which was titled General Order 11. This order required the expulsion, without a trial or a hearing, of "All Jews as a class within twenty-four hours," from the area that we know today as northern Mississippi, Kentucky and western Tennessee.

Needless to say, the Jewish communities of this area were extremely angry. A man by the name of Cesar Kaskal, with the help of Congressman Gurley from Ohio, met with the President. It quickly became clear the Lincoln knew nothing of this matter. Kaskel had brought documentation with him. After listening to both men Lincoln asked, "and so the children of Israel were driven from the land of Canaan?" Kaskel replied "Yes, and that is why we have come unto our Father Abraham's Bosom, asking for protection." Lincoln replied "And this protection they shall have at once!" Lincoln then ordered that General Order 11 be immediately revoked.

The rest is history.

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the *Herald* published by  
*Shomrim of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley*

February, 2005 issue

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