

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



Founded 1937

SHOMRIM - Means Guardian

- * *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, March 8, 2007, 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: We wish all a **Happy Purim**, welcome to **Daylight Saving Time and Spring Time**.

If a bad guy by the name of Hamen should show up, kick him in the "touchas" and throw him out, but don't forget to crank up your "grogger." Anyhow, Happy Purim to you all. Have a hummentashin and a "glazeillah" tea on me.

As you know, we are now three short months to our 70th annual banquet. As we have been telling you, this will be a special one, and I want to see all our members in attendance. **Jimmy Binns**, our **Person of the Year** and **Bob and Shelby Ford** our **Humanitarian awardees**. And don't forget to sell those ads. Remember, the money we take in from the ads is the cash flow for the year. So, again, sell those ads.

Last week **Mike Gilbert** called me with a great idea for an award to be given posthumously to Staff Sergeant Michael Levin of the IDF, who was killed in the line of duty August 1, 2006, in a clash with the Hezbollah bastards in Southern Lebanon. Sergeant Levin grew up in the Philadelphia Area (Bucks County), and if I am not mistaken, he was a graduate of Council Rock High School. So this is another good reason to show support and attend the banquet. For more on Sergeant Levin, google his name - it's very interesting.

Last month's meeting with **Bryan Lynch** on agro-terrorism was excellent and **Howard Rabinovitch** has again set up another fine program for this month's meeting. FBI Special Agent **Geoffrey Kent** will be informing us about Weapons of Mass Destruction and Hazardous Materials Response Team programs.

And how about that pizza for our nosh? Well, it was a hit and we will be doing it again. And another part will be our 50-50 raffle with a lucky member taking home some money.

I have been told that the 2007 dues are slowly coming in. If you haven't already done so, don't forget to send your tax deductible dues in for the year. I'm also asking our life-members to donate \$10.00 to help defray the cost of printing and mailing the Herald.

See you at the meeting and, again, a fun and happy Purim to you all.

Merrill

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25. Frances **Goldstein**
26. Morris **Lederhandler**
28. Rebecca G. **Richman**
29. Stephanie **Gilbert**
Aayna **Frank**

MARCH HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

8. Elliott & Dorothy **Feldman** -
15. Robert & Judy **Duboff** - 43 years
16. David & Beth **Wolfson** - 16 years
18. Robert & Karen **Rosenberg** - 33 years
21. Wendy & Kurt **Alloy** - 25 years

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

If you have not been included on Birthday and/or Anniversary listings, please forward the information to the Editor for future listings - Thank you.

The Scholarship Committee: We will again offer two scholarships at our annual banquet. Application, which was included in the January and February **HERALDS**, is to be submitted by April 15, 2007. 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.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET?

on the town

Get well soon: Merrill Kelem's father was back in the hospital for a short stay. Hopefully everything will be O.K.

Condolences to: The family of **George Ardelean**, a life member who passed away in November, 2006. Also to the family of life member **Irwin Pitkoff**, who passed away on January 19, 2007. Also to the family of **Jacob Lebofsky**, who passed away on February 13, 2007, father of Shomrim life member, **Howard Lebofsky**. Trees will be planted in **Israel** in their memory.

Annual Banquet: Wednesday, 6/6/07, will again be at **Har Zion** this year. Your editor, now living in sunny Florida, is making plans to attend. I hope to see many, no, make that **ALL** of you there. Call **Mike Gilbert** for tickets and to place an ad in the year book.

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GUEST SPEAKER: Our guest speaker this month will be **Geoffrey Kent**, Special Agent, FBI, Philadelphia Field Office. He has been assigned to the Philadelphia area for the past seven years. He is currently serving as the coordinator for both the Weapons of Mass Destruction and Hazardous Materials Response teams. He also participates in the FBI's Operational Medicine program as an Advanced Capability Paramedic. He will speak about Weapons of Mass Destruction and Hazardous Materials Response Team programs. He will also answer questions from the floor. So bring your family and friends and let's have a great turnout for this interesting speaker with important topics at this meeting .

PURIM
Feast of Esther

Submitted by **Michael Roeshman**

As we approach Purim, evening of March 3 and Sunday, March 4, 2007, I have been reading about Esther of Susa or as she was known by her Jewish name, Hadassah.

It is, of course, a wonderful story of how G-d used an orphan girl to save His people from genocide at the hands of a powerful and highly placed madman named Haman.

As I was reading the familiar story of Queen Esther I was reminded of some things that I had forgotten - one being that this took place in ancient Iraq.

And what I learned was that evil has always feared Esther's story. Even Hitler and the Nazi concentration camp commanders feared the power of the book of Esther. In fact, they banned it in their death camps!

One writer noted:

Anti-Semites have always hated the book and the Nazis forbade its reading in the crematoria and the concentration camps. In the dark days before their deaths, Jewish inmates of Auschwitz, Dachau, Treblinka and Bergen-Belson wrote the book of Esther from memory and read it in secret on Purim. Both they and their brutal foes understood its message. This unforgettable book teaches that Jewish resistance to annihilation, then as now, represents the service of G-d and devotion to His cause. In every age, martyrs and heroes, as well as ordinary men and women, have seen in it not merely a record of past deliverance but a prophecy of future salvation.

This Purim, let us all remember the story of Hadassah and thank and honor G-d for the love and mercy that He shows to His people.

Mike Margolis, Shomrim member, sent the following:

The first Jewish Mayor elected in Ireland was **Mr. William Annals**. Since then **Sir Otto Yaffe** was Lord Mayor of Belfast in 1899. **Mr. Robert Briscoe** was Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1956 and 1961. His son, **Ben Briscoe** was Lord Mayor in 1988. **Mr. Gerald Goldberg** was Lord Mayor of Cork in 1977. **I always wear green on St. Patrick's Day because I love the Irish people.**

Mike also forwarded the following from the 'net:

Jewish Ireland in the Age of Joyce: A Socioeconomic History.
by **Cormac O. Grada**, Princeton University Press, 320 pages, \$35.00.

This economic chronicle traces the history of the Jews in Ireland from 1079, when they first arrived, up to the present day. The book's main focus is the Jewish community from the 1870's through the 1940's, roughly during the "Ulysses" author, **James Joyce's**, lifetime. While much has been written about the Jewishness of Joyce's **Leopold Bloom**, one of the most famous characters in all of literature, few know anything about the remarkable community in Ireland that inspired Joyce to create him.

According to the author, Jews from Kovno, Lithuania, began arriving in Ireland in the early 1870's, quickly dwarfing any previous Jewish population. At this time, only 22% of Ireland's population was foreign born; more people were emigrating from Ireland than from any other country in Europe. Nevertheless, it's Jewish population climbed to 5,148 in 1911 from 285 in 1871. The Jews were the biggest group of nonimmigrants from the United Kingdom in Ireland.

The first generation of Lithuanian Jewish immigrants were peddlers and moneylenders. The peddlers sold holy pictures of Jesus and Mary, as well as sewing supplies and tea. Known as shilling-a-week men, they sold on credit, visiting households weekly to collect payment. "It was the very poverty of the so many Irish families that created a market for the trades in which the immigrant Litvaks specialized," Grada wrote. The Hebrew Philanthropic Loan Society provided startup capital to the Jewish emigrants who arrived in Ireland penniless, something no Irish bank would do for its Irish counterparts. Although there were Jewish communities in Cork, Limerick and Belfast, more than half of Ireland's Jews lived in Dublin.

An upwardly mobile community, its members moved within a decade to middle-class housing from the tenements. The children of peddlers, moneylenders and tailors became dentists, doctors and lawyers. The Irish moneylender **Avrom Behr Appel** had two sons and 11 grandsons, all doctors. By 1901, one in two Jewish households employed a domestic servant. The community supported dozens of different groups, ranging from the Montefiore Musical and Dramatic Club to the Dublin Jewish Athletic Association.

The Irish Jews were prominent both in cultural and political life. Novelist **David Marcus** was an editor and advocate for fiction written in Irish Gaelic. Such patriots as **Jacob Elyan, Michael Noyk and Estelle Solomon** fought for Ireland's freedom from British rule. Dublin had two Jewish mayors - **Robert Briscoe and his son Benjamin**. In the 1980's there was a Jewish minister of parliament in every one of Ireland's three major political parties. **Chaim Herzog**, the sixth president of Israel, was born in Belfast. His father, **Yitzhak Halevy Herzog**, was Ireland's chief Rabbi and later Israel's. Furthermore, according to the 1911 census, Dublin's Jews were more prosperous than their London counterparts.

This history discusses characteristics common to all diasporic Jews, such as lower infant mortality rate, higher literacy among their male population and superior cleanliness as a result of the kashrut laws. Education was highly prized, and many Jewish students distinguished themselves in Irish school system. Similar to relations between the German and Yiddish speaking Jews in New York, there was tension between the English Jews and new arrivals from Eastern Europe, who were looked down upon. Additionally, Ireland's Jews were extremely Orthodox and avoided intermarriage to a greater extent than other diaspora populations.

By and large, the Jews were welcomed in Ireland. **Grada** points to several reasons for this - among them, the relatively small size of the community, the peoples willingness to adapt to Irish society and to take on jobs that no one else wanted. He quotes Jewish memoirist **Jessie Bloom**, who writes of the "acceptance of our Irish playmates, no wonder many of them could speak Yiddish as good as we did, and knew as much of the important religious observances as we did..."

Is **Leopold Bloom**, then, the typical Irish Jew? Not really, according to Grada. He married outside the faith; his father was an apostate. But he was born in Little Jerusalem, the Jewish area of Dublin, and peddled advertising. He suggests that **Bloom** had more in common with the Jews of Trieste, where 20% of the Jewish population had given up their faith and where **Joyce** lived from 1904 to 1915.

Grada's "Jewish Ireland in the Age of Joyce" is a scholarly comprehensive tome full of hard facts and anecdotal tidbits on the little known chapter in the story of the Ashkenazic Diaspora that will appeal to history buffs and literary fanatics alike.

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