




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, April 10, 2008, 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.

Greetings:

Wow! Here we are - it's Pesach time. A "**Zeizen Pesach**" to all our members, friends and families. And it's "play ball" time again. Let's hope the Phillies have a great season and bring home a pennant. And, Oh yes, don't forget to get out and vote April 22nd. Make sure you make the right choice in picking a candidate who is a friend of Israel..

I have to apologize to you who sent in their scholarship applications for 2008. I have to ask you to re-submit them. I put the applications in a wrong pile of papers and unfortunately, they were shredded by accident. So please re-submit, and we'll take care of business.

And don't forget, we are asking all our members to get in at least one ad and oh yes, a ticket for the 71st annual banquet, June 4, at the Har Zion. This will be the best banquet ever! **Mitch Spritzler and Lee Newman** are doing a great job putting this banquet together. So please be there and support your **Shomrim**.

I was reading a very interesting article on Kosher food being processed in, of all places, China. I'll bet you did not know that half of China's \$2.5 billion in exports of food products to the United States are Kosher. The most common Kosher product out of China, believe it or not, is canned, frozen and dried fruits & veggies. This article was in the Atlantic County Jewish Times. I'll bet you also didn't know that many of our drug companies are now producing their chemicals in China. What happened to MADE IN THE U.S.A.?

I will keep everyone posted on a seminar we will be sponsoring along with the IAJPS in October. The location is still to be determined, but I believe Atlantic City will be the locale. The three day seminar will be on Agro-terrorism. **Howard Rabinovitch** is lining up the guest lecturers and putting the course together. This conference is a U.S. Department of Justice certified course, so yes, you will get credit for attending.

Don't forget the banquet and don't forget to send in your 2008 dues.

See you at the meeting on April 10.

Enjoy your **Pesach** and "**Let's go Phillies**" and bring us home a pennant for 2008.

Shalom, **Merrill**

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| Steve Blitzstein | 29. Terri Essen |
| Jeffrey Lerman | Jacob Sweed |
| 17. Norma Brill | |

APRIL...HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- | |
|--|
| 4. Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kirshbaum - 38 years |
| 8. Howard & Diann Rabinovitch - 41 Years |
| 9. William & Shannon Howard - 2 Years |
| 12. Joel & Katherine Labman - 45 Years |
| 14. William & Michelle Fleisher - 34 Years |
| Arthur & Linda Marion - 46 Years |
| 19. Donald & Helen Miller - 38 years |
| 23. Kevin & Barbera Feiner - 25 Years |
| 24. Jonathon & Amy Schiffman - 31 Years |
| 27. Alan & Elaine Coggan - 15 Years |
| Scot & Marie Rittenberg - 18 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 **HERALD**, is to be submitted by April 15, 2008. 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, either contact the Secretary or go to our web site.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET?

on the town

Upcoming events:

Philadelphia Police & Fire Memorial Service, Wednesday, May 7, 2008, 12 Noon, Franklin Square. Survivor's Luncheon(s) immediately follows. The FOP will also be serving a light breakfast and refreshments from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the FOP.

F.O.P. 11th Annual Police Survivor's Fund Benefit. Saturday. May 17, 2008, 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Finnegan's Wake, 3rd & Spring Garden Streets. Call the F.O.P. Lodge 5 for tickets - 215-629-3600.

Shomrim of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley Presents the 71st Annual Dinner / Dance, Wednesday, June 4, 2008, at the Har Zion Temple, 1500 Hagys Ford Road, Penn Valley, PA 19072. Tickets are \$ 65.00 per person. Call Mitchell Spritzler, 267-235-1287 for tickets.

National Shomrim Convention: Tentative dates - December 4 through December 8, 2008. It looks as if it might be another cruise. Further details will follow.

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Chaplain's Corner:

Passover, 5768

*"And you shall explain to your child on that day,
It is because what the L—d did for me when I went forth from Egypt"
Exodus 13:8*

The festival of *Passover* will begin on Saturday, April 19th, at sundown and last traditionally for eight days (or seven in Israel and for certain Jews in the Diaspora). It is one of most important festivals of the year and commemorates the exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt. For the entire festival of *Passover*, we eat *matsah*, unleavened bread, as a reminder of the hurried departure that our ancestors experienced when they left Egypt, and did not have time to wait for their bread to rise. Before this exodus though, the Bible tells us of the plagues that G-d brought upon Pharaoh and his people in order to persuade him to let the Israelites go free.

The telling of Exodus story is the main activity of the *Passover Seder* (ritual meal, the word Seder means "order"). This home ritual is scripted in a book called the "*Haggadah*", meaning the telling. The book leads the participants through the rituals that involves traditional songs, stories and symbolic foods. A *Haggadah* is put at each place setting along with a goblet of wine. During the Seder, everyone drinks a cup of wine at four specified times to recall the four promises of redemption made by G-d to the Israelites. (1) I will bring you out (2) I will deliver you (3) I will redeem you (4) I will take you to be my people. Each of these four cups marks a distinct stage of our liberation from slavery (that is related in Exodus 6:66-7.) There are several notable themes that are woven throughout the *Haggadah* where the number four is found. (1) The four questions asked by the youngest child of Hebrew school age (2) Four cups of wine (3) The four Sons - the wise, the wicked, the simple and the one who does not know how to ask.

The symbolic foods that are eaten:

Matzah, the unleavened bread. Three matzot slipped into a special three part cover, are placed at the head of the table. They represent the three groups of Jews in ancient Israel: The Kohanim (the priestly class), Levites (who assisted the priests), and the Israelites (everyone else). The three together symbolize the the unity of the Jewish people.

Afikomen, the piece of matzah serves to mark the end of the meal. It comes from one-half of the middle of the three matzot and it is set aside deliberately for this purpose. It is a custom that this piece of matzah be wrapped in a napkin and hidden during the meal. The children are invited to search for the Afikomen. The child who finds it is given a reward.

Ka'arah is the decorative plate on which the ceremonial foods are placed.

Maror, bitter herbs, usually horseradish, symbolizes the enslavement of the Israelites in Egypt.

Haroset, a mixture of apples, nuts, wine and cinnamon, which stands for the mortar and bricks used by the Jewish slaves to build Egyptian cities.

Z'roah, the roasted lamb bone, signifies the paschal lamb offered on Passover night when the Temple was in existence.

Beytza, the roasted egg, which denotes the festival offering brought to the temple to supplement the paschal lamb.

Salt water, represents the bitter tears shed by the Jewish slaves.

Karpas, parsley, celery or potatoes, dipped in salt water before eating is a two-fold symbol. It stands for both the poor diet of the Jewish people while they were slaves and for springtime.

One of the most important symbols is the *Cup of Elijah*, a special, often very decorative goblet of wine from which no one drinks. It is left for the prophet of hope and faith. The door to the home is opened and the entire assemblage rises in honor of the prophet Elijah. Throughout Jewish history, Elijah is associated with Israel's redemption.

The *Haggadah* makes it very clear - our children are the repositories of hope. By carrying the story of our Exodus from Egyptian slavery and retelling it every year, they carry the hope for the future of wholeness, of goodness and of peace. It is for the sake of our children that we continue to tell the story.

On behalf of myself and my dear family, we wish all of our fellow members, families and friends a beautiful, sweet, peaceful and happy *Pesach*.

Chaplain Alan Edwards

GUEST SPEAKER:

Our guest speaker this month will be the **Philadelphia Police Commissioner, Charles H. Ramsey**. He served in the Chicago P.D. for 30 years, rising to the rank of Deputy Superintendent. In 1998 he was appointed Chief of the Washington, DC Police Department, serving there until 2006. In January, 2008 he became our new Commissioner. This will be a great opportunity to meet our new Commissioner. He will also answer questions from the floor. So let's bring our significant other and friends to the meeting to give our guest a great Shomrim greeting.

Mike Gilbert informs that re: **Golden Slipper Camp in the Pocono's**. This is a great overnight camp that gives a Jewish experience as well. They have scholarships available for children and grandchildren of our members if they would like to participate. As it is open to all of our members, any member can call **Jenn or Nancy at 610-660-0520**.

Forwarded from the 'net by **Merrill Kelem** -
This is why I love being Jewish!

We have never been better off! It's only TV and the media that make people think that the end of our world is coming.

Only 68 years ago they were leading Jews to their death like sheep to the slaughter! No country, no army, 60 years ago!

Seven Arab countries declared war on the small Jewish state, only a few hours old. We were then 650,000 Jews against the rest of the Arab world! No IDF, No mighty Air Force. Just tough people with nowhere to go!

Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Libya and Saudi Arabia all attacked us at once. The country the UN "gave us" was 65% desert. The country started from scratch.

41 years ago, we fought the three strongest armies in the Middle East and wiped them out in six days.

We fought against different coalitions of Arab Countries with modern armies and masses of Soviet Russian weapons, and we still won!

We have today a country, an army, a strong Air Force, a Hi-tech economy, exporting millions. Intel, Microsoft, IBM develop their stuff here.

Our doctors win world prizes for medical developments. We made the desert flourish, selling oranges and vegetables to the world.

Israel has sent satellites into space, becoming one of the few countries to have done so.

Israel is in the world nuclear power family.

To think that only 68 years ago, we were led, shameful, with no hope, to our death.

We crawled out of the burning ashes of Europe, we won our wars here with less than nothing, we built an empire out of nothing!

We celebrate Passover. Let's not forget what the story is all about. We overcame Pharaoh, the Greeks, the Romans, the inquisition in Spain, the Pogroms in Russia, Hitler, the Germans, the Holocaust and the Arab armies.

And look at us. The Nation from the bible. From slavery in Egypt. We are still here, speaking the same language! Right here, right now! The Arabs don't know it yet, but there is only one G-d!

Yes, our morale is low. So what! It's only because we weep for our dead while they enjoy the blood. This is the same reason why we will win after all!

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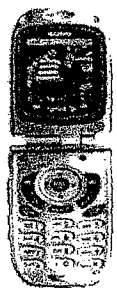
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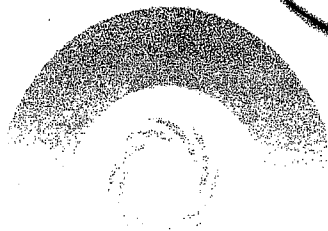


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