

The *Herald* published by *Shomrim of Philadelphia*



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

Observe

Yom

Kippur

Meeting Notice

Thursday, September 8, 2011, 7:30 PM, Jewish "Y"

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"

*Rosh
Hashanah
GREETINGS*

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, *Judi Buch*

Shalom, wishing all a happy Labor Day, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and hello to autumn.

I regret to announce that **Mitchell Spritzler** has submitted his resignation as **Shomrim** President and Board Member. He wanted members to know that he felt he had ongoing conflicts with some members of the Board that could not be resolved. I have reluctantly accepted the role as President, at this point in time. We wish Mitchell and his family well and look forward to seeing him at meetings in the future. You should also know that the Board is fully committed to promoting positive change and doing all it can to advance the lives and careers of our members.

As the SEPTEMBER 8th meeting- **2nd Thursday**- at the JCC approaches, I would like to ask each of you to please make the time to attend. We have come to a crossroads at **Shomrim of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley**. Attendance has diminished and we need to put our heads together to come up with ideas to recruit new members- full members and associate members. We also need to increase meeting attendance. **Howard Rabinovitch** works hard to give us great speakers; it would be nice to have a larger audience for them. If you care about **Shomrim**, you will make a strong effort to join us at the next meeting.

New ideas for membership, fundraising, activities and programs are welcome. As you know, we do not solicit our members for donations (like many other organizations) and have no plans to start. We are more committed to fellowship and good public relations for the Jewish public safety community.

On a good note, we had a WONDERFUL banquet!! It was a lot of fun. **Mitchell Spritzler and Lee Newman** did a sensational job!! We will begin thinking about and working on the 2012 banquet, as that's our main fundraiser.

Please join us at 7:30 PM on 9/8/11 at the JCC for some food, friends and brainstorming.

Judi

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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. Also, due to space limitations, we do not list children past 18 years of age. Thank you

SEPTEMBER...HAPPY BIRTHDAYS *BIRTHSTONES - SAPPHIRE, CHRYSOLITE, STAR SAPPHIRE*

2. Gregory Malone
3. Phyllis Schifreen
4. Beatrice Chazin
Deborah Wolfson
5. Erin Moskowitz
7. Robert Grossman
9. Jeff Katz
11. Samantha Belsky
12. Mark Gilbert
Daniel Gilbert
14. William Arch
15. Steve Arch
16. Howard Farkas
Matthew Freedman
17. Sandra McCreesh
Robert Sweed
19. Linda Levine
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Ray Weinstein
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23. Walter I. Hofman
24. Nechama Feldman
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25. Linda Castenova
John Kubiak
26. Ireland Smith
27. Karl N. Schwarzl
David Wolfson
28. Leonard Cohen
Jean Gravitz
Robert Rovner
Caren Schiffman
29. Paul Paris
30. Ginger Sayegh

SEPTEMBER...HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES *FLOWERS - ASTER, MORNING GLORY*

1. Michelle Seidner & I. Steven Levy (26 years)
3. Leonard & Carol Lebowitz (44 Years)
6. Robert & Rebecca Desoi (14 years)
12. Robert & Sandy Grossman (24 years)
13. Joseph & Lorraine Eiven (47 years)
17. Louis Lappen & Jennifer Heller (11 years)
18. Arthur & Jean Gravitz - Still going strong!
30. Justin & Jennifer Frank (11 years)

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET?

on the town

Get well soon: Arthur Gravitz on the mend after some serious heart surgery. He and Jean were missed at the banquet.

Also - Our Chalain, Alan Edwards, has undergone rotator cuff surgery. Wishing him a speedy recovery.

Upcoming events:

Monday, September 5, 2011 - Labor Day

Saturday, September 10, 2011 - Police and Fire Family Day Picnic, Police Academy, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Balloons, face painters, food, drinks, entertainment, demonstrations by the Police and Fire Departments, etc. **All Free. Shomrim volunteers are needed to help run the affair. Try to be there by 10:00 AM**

Sunday, September 11, 2011 - 10th Anniversary of America's tragedy - Now called Patriot's Day

Sunday, September 11, 2011 - Grandparent's Day

Saturday, September 17, 2011 - Hero Thrill Show 2011. Rain date, Sunday, 9/18/2011

Friday, September 23, 2011 - First day of fall

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 - Phillies regular season ends in Atlanta

Thursday, September 29, 2011 - First day of Rosh Hashanah (starts evening before)

Saturday, October 8, 2011 - First day of Yom Kippur (starts evening before)

Monday, October 10, 2011 - Columbus Day observed - (traditional Wednesday, 10/12/2011)

Monday, October 24, 2011 - United Nations Day

Monday, October 31, 2011 - Halloween

Sunday, November 6, 2011 - Daylight Savings Time ends.

Thursday, November 10, 2011 - Marine Corps Birthday - 236 years

Friday, November 11, 2011 - Veteran's Day

Thursday, November 24, 2011 - Thanksgiving day

Wednesday, December 7, 2011 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day - 70 years

Wednesday, December 21, 2011 - First day of Chanukah (starts evening before)

Thursday, December 22, 2011 - First day of winter

Saturday, December 31, 2011 - New Year's Eve

2012 - National Conference of Shomrim Societies - For information and reservations call Murray Ellman, 718-543-4825 or Marty Turetzky, 212-777-7809

Message from Michael Cooney:

My third **Mickey Devlin** novel, *Dublin Odyssey*, is now available via Infinity Publishing, Amazon, B & N, eBooks and at the F.O.P.

All three of my books are available in the Cop Shop at the F.O.P. If any are purchased there, half of the profits go to the Survivors Fund.

My fourth book, *Imperfect Contrition*, set in the Fightin' 3rd District, is due out in early 2012.

Thanks, Mike

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

REFLECTIONS AND FORGIVENESS

5772

The High Holyday period, the two days of Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, usher in the Ten Days of Penitence, also known as the Days of Awe, which culminates in the major fast of Yom Kippur, The Day of Atonement.

Sir Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew congregations of the British Commonwealth stated, "On Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, the Jewish High Holydays, we do more than pray speaking to G-d. We reflect on how we live and what are our ultimate values. For Jews and non-Jews alike - faith is more than time out from our daily schedule. Faith is our lexicon of ideals, the horizon of our journey, the landscape in which we choose a path; it shapes what we do and who we aspire to be."

For some in our beloved organization, this has been a year of joy and happiness, for others, of sorrow and sadness. Yet each and every one of us has indeed so much to be thankful for. I for one can attest to this. In the Jewish tradition, we are bidden to thank G-d each and every day that we can experience the world and its pleasures.. "Blessed is G-d each day and every day."

Rosh Hashana commemorates G-d's creation of the world, but also the Day of Judgment, when G-d remembers and judges all human deeds. Except on the Sabbath, we hear the powerful and awe-inspiring tones of the shofar, the ram's horn, which recalls the tried and tested faith of our father Abraham. The shofar is also mindful of the biblical story of Abraham binding his son Isaac, when a ram was caught in the thicket and sacrificed in Isaac's stead. The shofar is sounded one hundred times during the course of the Rosh Hashana service.

The days between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are known as the "Ten Days of Penitence." These days are devoted to repentance or literally "returning." The Hebrew word "chet", translated as "sin" also has the meaning of "missed the mark," so that we can return to our truest self.

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is a day designed to bring the Jewish people closer to G-d and encourages us to return to him through the process of repentance. A Jew must consider very carefully what he/she has done and how to go about improving his/her ways. Only after searching out the true causes of wrong doing can he/she hope to honestly to repent. It is incumbent that each individual map out a program for his/her own rehabilitation.

The liturgy of Yom Kippur is completely centered in the synagogue. In all traditional synagogues, one wears a tallit, a prayer shawl, at all times, even at the Kol Nidre service. Yom Kippur is ushered in while it is still light, with a powerful legal formula called Kol Nidre, "All Vows", in which the congregation asks that all vows made under duress during the past year become null and void before G-d. The overarching theme of Yom Kippur is Repentance. During the holiday all thoughts are supposed to be centered on this theme.

Though Yom Kippur atones for transgressions against G-d, it does not however include wrongs committed against our fellow human beings. In order that we may be inscribed in the Book of Life for the coming year, it is incumbent upon each of us to apologize and seek forgiveness from any friends, relatives, or acquaintances whom we have harmed.

Another overarching theme of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur is "change." To change from what we were before and become better individuals. What we say verbally or written has an impact on everyone. We are responsible for our actions. We do not live in a vacuum. Yom Kippur represents the potential for human beings to change their ways.

As we begin this New Year 5772, let us pray for a year of health, happiness and prosperity for all our members and their dear families. To all members of our armed forces may the Almighty watch over them and reunite them, safe and sound, with their dear families.

On behalf of my dear wife Norma, our dear children and grandchildren, we wish all our members and your dear families a Happy and Healthy New Year. May you be inscribed in the Book of Life.

Chaplain Alan Edwards

Article from the NY Times, June 9, 2011

Honoring a Century of Service by Jewish Chaplains -

Early last century, many of the increasing number of Jewish immigrants to the United States were making their homes in New York city. Many of these people, in turn, were making starts in new careers, including Policing.

By 1911, there were 500 or so Jewish police officers and detectives in the New York Police Department, whose leaders at that time embraced the first Jewish chaplain to help give the officers a spiritual footing. That man, **Rabbi Abraham Blum**, served until 1921. Since then, only two other men ascended to the the highest position in the department's Jewish police chaplaincy. **Chaplain Cantor Isidore Frank** held the position from 1922 until 1966. And in 1966, the current Jewish chaplain, **Rabbi Alvin Kass**, took the helm. He oversaw the swearing in ceremony in which Police Commissioner **Raymond W. Kelly** became an officer.

In June, 2011, police officials and a Jewish fraternal organization known as the **Shomrim Society**, held a ceremony at Police Headquarters in Lower Manhattan to celebrate "100 years of Jewish Chaplains in the N.Y.P.D.."

In addition, family members of the two previous Jewish Chaplains will be honored, according to Detective **Paul R. Daniel**, an official with the **Shomrim Society**, who is assigned to the 109th Precinct detective squad. Detective Daniel, in researching the topic, came to learn lot about the former chaplains for Jewish officers and about their ranks in the nation's largest police department.

Detective Daniel, who has more than 24 years on the force, said the Jewish chaplains provided a vital function in administering to Jewish officers.

"We're happy to know there are Jewish chaplains to keep our faith in the right direction" he said. "If we need guidance, they are there for us."

In a statement released by the department's top spokesman, Commissioner Kelly said: "It says something about the N.Y.P.D. that it had a Jewish chaplain a century ago, when probably 90 percent of the Police Department was Irish Catholic. While the department is significantly more diverse these days, the prominent religion remains Catholic, yet the Chief Chaplain, **Rabbi Dr. Alvin Kass**, is Jewish. That's because the N.Y.P.D. recognizes talent and seniority, and it excels at diversity."

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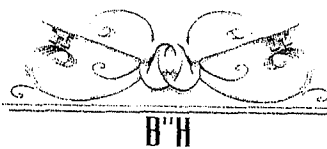
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September, 2011 issue

INSIDE.....

President's message - - -

September Birthday and Anniversary greetings - - -

On the Town - - -

Chaplain's message - - -

Upcoming Events - - -

E-mail Addresses and other items of interest - - -



Welcome to Autumn

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AND THE DELAWARE VALLEY**

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