

# 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, December 10, 2009, 7:30 PM, Jewish "Y", Room 218, Red Lion Road and Jamison Avenue "Support Shomrim, Get Involved, Attend Meetings"

Refreshments will be served





## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, Larry Nodiff Shalom:

I want to wish all of you and your families a **Happy Chanukah**. Also, **remember Pearl Harbor Day** and all of our fallen heroes from that terrible day, December 7, 1941. And **welcome to winter**.

First, I want to thank everyone for your support over the past year. Along with the Board of Directors, we tried to make **Shomrim** a better organization, recruit new members, and to work hard with all of the other ethnic organizations to make Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley a better place for all. So to all of our members, thank you.

At last month's meeting, our speaker was the Vice-Consul of the Consulate General for Israel for the Philadelphia Region. He spoke for over an hour and then our members asked great questions and also talked to him while enjoying refreshments after the meeting. He was very interesting and I was honored with his presence.

Unfortunately, we will not have a speaker this meeting. Our scheduled speaker cancelled but will be able to speak at the January meeting but we have not been able to get a replacement for this meeting.

We have had several requests to change our monthly meeting night. We are checking our alternate dates and attempting to schedule with the Klein Jewish Center. The December meeting will be the 2nd Thursday, 12/10/09.

I am available to any member to prepare for the upcoming Sergeant's Oral Presentation portion of the test. The FOP Lodge #5 expects the Police Contract to be issued by the arbitrators "Any day now."

This month is election time for a trustee. Nominations will be taken and voted on at this meeting.

The 73rd Annual Banquet will be June 9, 2010 and we are asking for nominees for our **Person of the Year** and for our **Humanitarian Award.** I'm asking that all members sell at least one ad for this year's book.

Once again, thank you for everything, have a Happy Chanukah, a safe holiday season, and a Happy and Healthy 2010.

We will be serving an assortment of sandwiches and refreshments at the December meeting. I hope to see everyone there.

#### Larry

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#### DECEMBER HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

- 1. Craig Pogash
  Jaynee Polis
  Lewis Schifreen
- 4. Carole Anne Brown Diane Shapiro
- 5. Noah Gusdorff
- 6. Dorothy Feldman
  Stephen Levin
  William Howard
- 7. Bernard Margulis
  David W. Rinik
  Justin J. Frank
- 9. Gail Blum
- 10. Harriet Gross
- 12. Elliot Feldman
- 13. Samuel Paris
- 15. Bonnie Steiner Jason Cohn

- 16. Bradford Richman Jenna Lerman
- 17. Molly Goldsmith Warren Rosen
- 18. Adele Harrison
- 19. Martin Moskowitz
- 20. Jonathan Schiffman Ginny Wolf
- 21. Norman Genoy
- 22. Eileen Shannen
- 25. Norman **Goldberg** Tracy **Cohen**
- 27. Mindy Pollack
- 28. Michael Brown Brian Shapiro
- 29. Allison Grosser
- 30. Rita Slotnick

#### DECEMBER...HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 6. Sam & Ruth Leshansky 57 years
- 16. James & Judith Rubino 32 years
- 22. Michael & Judy **Brister** 36 years Bernard & Harriet **Gross** - **52** years
- 25. Jerome & Anita Pressman 61 years
- 28. Alexander & Connie Blair 35 years Cordell and Linda Castenova - 16 years

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**Condolences to:** The family of life member **Carl Oslick** who passed on 11/21/09. Trees will be planted in Israel in his memory.

Members corner:

#### Message from our Vice-President:

#### To all Shomrim members:

As we finish the year 2009, let's celebrate together with our last meeting at 7:30 PM. There will be sandwiches, pastries, hot and cold drinks. We can shmooze, eat, drink and wish each other the best in the coming New Year.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Mitchell Spritzler:

#### Message from your Editor:

I am waiting for a date in December to come to Philly to take care of some business. I'm hoping that it will be scheduled near the meeting date. If so, I will also look forward to attending the meeting. **Bernie Margulis** 

Message from **Art Gravitz**:

Jean and I have not had a healthy year, but we do look forward to attending this meeting.

#### **Upcoming events:**

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SHOMRIM SOCIETIES, INC., 51st ANNIVERSARY 2009 CONVENTION AT SEA.

Sails: January 7, 2010 from Miami. 4 nights aboard the Royal Caribbean cruise line, "NAVIGATOR OF THE SEAS". \$50.00 per cabin onboard credit. **Subject to availability** 

\$200.00 DEPOSIT PER CABIN DUE AT TIME OF BOOKING. For information and reservations please contact Murray Ellman, 718-543-4825 or Marty Turetzky, 212-777-7809.

- \* If rates decrease lower rate will prevail.
- \*\* All prices include all taxes and fees.

73rd ANNUAL SHOMRIM BANQUET - Scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, 2010.

Come to the meetings as we will be looking for suggestions for "The Person of the Year" and the "Humanitarian" awardee as well. We will again be considering taking applications for Scholarships to be awarded at the banquet. Also, again, its not too early for all members to start getting ads for the ad book.



2010 SHOMRIM ANNUAL BANQUET
73rd Anniversary,
Wednesday, June 9, 2010
at the Har Zion
"MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND"



#### A message from our Chaplain, Alan Edwards

#### HANUKKAH HEROES

From Friday, December 11, 2009 to Saturday, December 19, 2009, Jews around the world will be celebrating the festival of Hanukkah which recalls the moment from the 2nd century B.C.E. when one of the temple priests searched through the rubble of the vandalized sanctuary and in the midst of the chaos wrought by the attackers, he miraculously found a single container of oil. Surrounded by the wreckage, and in an hour of despair, simply pouring the oil into the tarnished Menorah candelabra and pausing to relight it was an act of hope and renewal.

The candles are not lighted directly but from an intermediate "servant" called the Shamash. The rabbis of old taught that through this we have "the Wisdom of service to another."

The first candle is placed on the far right as you face the Menorah. On the second and on each succeeding night, the candle which preceded it is lit first. The candles are then lit from left to right.

This festival is the embodiment of supremacy of right over might, of the delivery of the strong into the hands of the weak, the corrupt into the hands of the pure, the wicked into the hands of the righteous, the arrogant into the hands of the students of the Torah.

All of this is accomplished because God stood by His people in their time of trouble, championed their causes, defended their rights and punished their enemies.

Newspapers around the country carried the story of a rescuer, finding the American flag in the rubble, broke free from the collective sense of anguish to affirm life. There is definitely a correlation between the flag at Ground Zero and the Menorah as both became a symbol that the devastation that was wreaked in lower Manhattan would not succeed in defeating the spirit of a resilient people.

Permit me to share with you part of an article written by Rabbi Daniel S. Brenner, entitled "Celebration" - "Light Eight Candles to Honor our Heroes."

#### FIRST NIGHT:

Fire fighters, police officers and everyday citizens who gave their lives to save others. SECOND NIGHT:

Doctors, counselors, chaplains, volunteers with the Red Cross and Salvation Army who were called on to heal, comfort and support those individuals and families who have suffered unbearable loss. THIRD NIGHT:

Government and community leaders who transcended ideological differences to build national strength and unity.

#### FOUTH NIGHT:

Parents and teachers, who with calm and empathy, helped children cope with new fears.

#### FIFTH NIGHT:

Rabbis, priests, ministers, imams and other religious leaders who used their traditions to bring people together to affirm our common humanity, and to nurture life.

#### SIXTH NIGHT:

Men and women who have been called up to national service, who will not be with their families this year so that they may protect us all.

#### SEVENTH NIGHT:

Allies around the world, who have been outspoken in their condemnation of terror.

#### **EIGHTH NIGHT:**

All of us who, through our daily actions, have insisted that we will valiantly move on, strengthening America's commitment to diversity and pluralism, ensuring that the religious freedoms that we have fought for will continue to be a light unto all nations.

On this Hanukkah festival O God, send thy blessings of peace to all the members of Shomrim, both near and far, and may this season of Hanukkah illuminate all of our lives with the blessings of hope, love and courage.

#### CHANUKAH FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

**Chanukah**, the Jewish festival of lights, is a holiday of renewed dedication, faith, hope and spiritual light. As with all celebrations involving candles, fire prevention is the standard. A few safety rules to remember include:

- Keep the menorah out of children's reach.
- Never leave curious youngsters alone in a room with a lit candle(s).
- Always use a menorah with a sturdy base to reduce the possibility of it tipping over.
- If a child is lighting the Chanukah candles, keep his/her hair back and out of the way.
- Never allow a child to reach over one candle to light another, as their clothing may catch fire.
- Keep matches, lighters and candles up high and out of reach of children.
- Don't place lighted candles in windows where blinds, curtains and draperies can catch fire.
- Do not place a menorah on or near anything that might catch fire.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- And not only for Chanukah, but for everyday safety:
- 1. Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it frequently and make sure your smoke detectors are in working order and have fresh batteries.
- 2. If you must use space heaters, keep them away from combustible items such as curtains, bedding, upholstered furniture and newspapers. Also be aware that a kerosene fueled space heater is a dangerous fire hazard and can give off deadly fumes if not ventilated properly.

Practice home fire safety, so that you and your loved ones can have a beautiful and safe Chanukah.

#### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

#### Children!

- 1- You spend the first two years of their lives teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen years telling them to sit down and shut up!
- 2 Grandchildren are G-d's reward for not killing your own children.
- 3 Mothers of teens know why some animals eat their young.
- 4 Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
- 5 The main purpose of having birthday parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.
- 6 We child-proof our homes, BUT THEY STILL GET IN!

#### **ADVICE FOR THE DAY:**

Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home some day!

And finally: If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle:

'TAKE TWO ASPIRIN' AND 'KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN'!!!!!

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