

**ROSH HASHANA
SEPTEMBER 23 & 24, 2006**

The Jewish New Year, which ushers in the penitential season, traditionally marks the birthday of the world. Though observed only by Jews, its theme is a universal one. On the two days of *Rosh Hashanah* G-d's kingship over all people is reaffirmed. We also pray for the time when "Everyone will come to serve You and bless Your glorious Name."

The most important symbol of the holy day is the ram's horn or *shofar*, which was used in antiquity for the purpose of calling the people to battle or to announce the fiftieth year jubilee. It was also used at the coronation of the Kings of Israel. According to tradition, the *shofar* is linked to the story of the ram that was sacrificed by the patriarch Abraham in his son's, Isaac, stead.

It is blown on *Rosh Hashanah* to exhort the people to a life of sacrificial devotion to G-d and to humankind. Its call is also intended to arouse the people to examine their deeds and to repent for the misdeeds of the past year. During these days of penitence we are required to scrutinize our actions and to make resolutions of self-improvement.

The nature of the holiday is such that the Jew is filled with confidence in his or her ability to change misfortune into blessing, for "prayer, repentance and charity can avert the severe decree."

Hats Off!

A Rabbi was walking, slowly, out of a shul in New York, when a gust of wind blew his hat off and down the street. He was an old man, who walked with the aid of a cane, and he couldn't run after the hat. Across the street, a young gentile man saw what was happening, rushed over and grabbed the hat. He then returned it to the Rabbi. "I don't think I could have retrieved my hat by myself," said the Rabbi. "Thank you very much!" He then placed his hand on the man's shoulder and said, "May God bless you."

The young man thought to himself, "I've been blessed by the Rabbi, this must be my lucky day!" He decided then and there to go to the racetrack. In the first race he noticed a horse named 'Stetson' at 20 to 1. He bet \$50 and, sure enough, the horse came in first. In the second race, a horse named 'Fedora' was at 30 to 1, so he bet all his money on that horse. Fedora came in first, as well. At the end of the day the man returned home to his wife. She asked him where he'd been. He explained about catching the Rabbi's hat, and being blessed by him, and how he then went to the track and did so well betting on horses named after hats.

"So where's the money?" she said. "I lost it all in the ninth race. I bet on a horse named 'Chateau' and it lost." "You fool," exclaimed his wife, 'Chateau' is a house, 'chapeau' is a hat!" "It doesn't matter," he said, "the winner was some Japanese horse named 'Yarmulka'."

**YOM KIPPUR
2006**

OCTOBER 2, MY YEARLY PHYSICAL

The week following *Rosh Hashanah* is spent in soul-searching and repentance, culminating in the *Day of Atonement*, *Yom Kippur*, which marks the end of the penitential period. The most significant aspect of the day is the twenty-four hour fast, in which every adult Jew is required to participate. Fasting, sincerely observed, helps to provide an exalted mood, enabling us to spend a complete day in the atmosphere of the synagogue. It helps us to solidify the people of Israel through a united act. It serves to strengthen us in our struggle to overcome temptation. It teaches us the necessity for self-denial, which is essential to self-improvement

At every service on the *Day of Atonement* the congregation repeats the Confessional, which contains a list of sins to which the average person is subject: lying, exploiting one's neighbor, stubbornness, etc.- for all these we ask G-d to pardon and forgive us. The Confessional is recited in the first person plural, indicating one of the basic concepts of Judaism: each of us is responsible for all the sins of our society, either by our own acts of commission or by our passively accepting conditions that lead to crime and lawlessness

Yom Kippur is replete with historic memories. The *Yizkor* Memorial Service is recited, calling to mind the passing of dear ones; the Temple service as it was observed two thousand years ago is reenacted by the congregation. The cantor and, in traditional synagogues, the elders even fall to the floor four times in the same way as the community gathered in the ancient Temple used to prostrate itself whenever the Divine Name was pronounced at the service. The most solemn note of the *Yom Kippur* service is struck when the congregation recalls the martyrdom of ten great rabbis who died at the hands of the Romans in the year 135 C.E

As the sun sets, the fast draws to a close with the *Ne'ilah* service, evoking an image of the gates of repentance that are being closed but reminding us that we still have the opportunity to reconcile ourselves with G-d through sincere atonement.

I went to the doctor for my yearly physical. The nurse started with the basics.

How much do you weigh?" she asked. "115," I say. The nurse puts me on the scale. It turns out my weight is 140.

The nurse asks, "Your height?" "5 foot 8," I say. The nurse checks and sees that I only measure 5' 5".

She then takes my blood pressure and tells me it is very high.

"Of course it's high!" I screamed.

"When I came in here I was "Tall and Slender! Now I'm short and fat!"

She put me on Prozac !

South Florida Shomrim Society
4200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

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REGULAR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW AND MAIL THIS PAGE
WITH YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE \$36 DUES TO:
BEVERLY MORSHENSON, 600 NE 36 STREET #405, MIAMI, FLORIDA 33137

"HASIDIC COP" Continued from Page 2

It was at the sheriff's suggestion that Mr. Koenig applied to the academy. He took 600 hours of training, graduated last year with good grades and donned the tan uniform and silver star of the Rockland force, which has about 65 full-time officers and several part-time ones like Mr. Koenig.

At the academy, certain arrangements had to be made. Saturday classes were out for Mr. Koenig because of the Jewish Sabbath. Some of his fellow recruits shared their notes with him. Then there was the beard. Beards are forbidden by the department. Not having one is forbidden to Hasidic Jews. Mr. Koenig got a waiver.

Carrying a gun presents no ethical problem for Mr. Koenig. As for using it, he says: "You're not allowed to murder, but self-defense is not murder." Then there's the language problem. Many of Rockland's Hasidic Jews do not speak English well and few police officers know Yiddish. Mr. Koenig is putting together a collection of useful phrases:

- "*Vas is dan numen (What's your name)?*"
- "*Is ales in ordernung (Are you all right)?*"
- "*Vi azoi hot er oizgesen (What did he look like)?*"

Mr. Koenig says that in a sense, his job is part of his religion -- a "mitzvah," or good deed.

"I'm a Jew first, a police officer second," he says. "I still try to live on my own in my smaller world. I try to do my studying, my praying, the religious education of my kids. I also try to be a sheriff. I have to be able to work with society, and I try to do that."

SOUTH FLORIDA SHOMRIM SOCIETY AUGUST 2006
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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 Scott Rakow, Miami Beach PD
 Rabbi Jeremiah Burstyn, Spiritual Adv

NEXT MEETING
August 27, 2006

10:00AM

Aventura Police Station
 19200 W. Country Club Dr
 Aventura, Florida

MAZEL TOV:

Marvin & Adele Goldsmith celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on August 26, 2006

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Brother David Zbik. David is an officer with Miami-Dade P. D. assigned to the Hammocks District. David and his wife Casey are expecting their first child later this year

Brother Scott Linder. Scott is a Lieutenant with the Miami-Dade P.D. assigned to the Intracoastal District.

IGET WELL:

To our Sister Rhonda Bornstein (member and wife of 2nd VP Lou Bornstein)

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE:

CHAIRMAN: BARRY MANKES

MEMBERS: Helen Baimel, Beverly Morshenson, Nancy Wolff

The plans for the Annual Dinner Dance, scheduled for November 9, 2006, are progressing well. (November 10th is the celebrated holiday)

2006 dues checks may be made out to the
South Florida Shomrim Society and mailed to:
Beverly Morshenson, 600 NE 36 Street #405, Miami Florida 33137

NOMINATIONS FOR THE OCTOBER 2006 ELECTION
WILL BE TAKEN AT THE AUGUST 27, 2006 MEETING AT
THE AVENTURA POLICE STATION

WHAT YOU MISSED BY NOT BEING AT THE LAST MEETING

This was the meeting that the Officers, Board of Directors, and members look forward to each year - the awarding of the South Florida Shomrim Scholarships. This year we again awarded the Dr. Mark I. Siller Scholarship Award (to Timothy VerStraten, son of members Gail and Kevin VerStraten) with the help of the Siller-Lasry family. The 1st Captain Hyman P. Galbut Memorial Scholarship Award was presented by the wife and children of the late awards namesake to Stefanie, Krystina and Brandon Leibowitz (children of members Linda and immediate past Chapter President Steve Leibowitz). The South Florida Shomrim Society Chapter's Scholarship Awards were presented to Thomas Waldman (son of longtime member and local representative of Parents of Murdered Children Richard Waldman); to Lindsay Singer (daughter of Lucy and former 15 year Chapter President Robert "Bob" Singer); and Douglas Portner (son of members Marcie and former National Conference of Shomrim Societies President Stuart Portner).

Chapter President Gregg Glasel announced that the elections were upon us and that the nominations would be taken in August at the meeting at the Aventura Police Station and the election held at the October meeting at the Federation Building. Chapter Executive Vice President Barry Mankes told the more than 50 people in attendance that the Dinner Dance was solid again this year - the Band that brought such acclaim last year was going to return; the flowers were set; the caterer was set and the price for the tickets was set. This year the newly elected officers will be sworn in and the South Florida Shomrim Society Officer of the Year and Person of the Year Awards will be presented.

The Treasurer's Report showed we were still healthy. We were told that the IAJPSE Conference was being planned for March 2007 at a beautiful hotel on the water in Sunny Isles Beach.

Rabbi Weberman, our Spiritual Advisor, left us with words of wisdom and hope. We adjourned

THE SOUTH FLORIDA SHOMRIM SOCIETY

is proud to announce the

2006 Annual Dinner Dance

Thursday, November 9, 2006

(November 10th is a Legal Holiday - Veteran's Day)

at the

Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center

20400 NE 30 Avenue, Aventura, Florida

Hors D'ouerves at 6:30 pm Dinner at 7:30pm

Open Bar Music and Dancing Convenient Parking

Honoring our

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

&

Person of the Year

(Recipients will be announced at the August 27th meeting)

For ticket information call Barry Mankes at (786)355-4670

or

E-mail: barry.shomrim@gmail.com



Hasidic Cop bridges two worlds in New York (AP)

Rockland County Police Academy in New York had never seen anything Like it.

"A guy walks in with a bowler hat on, a beard, a coat coming down to his knees," says Sheriff James Kralik. "He looks like something out of 'Fiddler on the Roof.'" It was Shlomo Koenig, now Deputy Shlomo Koenig, perhaps the only Hasidic police officer in the nation."

Mr. Koenig, 35, who runs a business that makes plastic shopping bags, had long been an unofficial liaison between the sheriff's department and Rockland's growing but insular Orthodox Jewish community. He helped translate into Yiddish or explained the customs of one group to the other.

Thirteen percent of the county's 275,000 people are Orthodox Jews, including Hasidic and other ultra-Orthodox sects, and that percentage is growing because of high birth rates and overcrowding back in Brooklyn, about an hour's drive away.

Rockland's Orthodox Jews to some degree live outside the modern world. They don't send their children to public schools, they avoid television, they wear simple dark clothes like those worn by their ancestors in 18th-century Poland, and they have formed their own villages, away from larger towns.

(Continued on Page 4 "Hasidic Cop")

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Rabbi Pinchas Weberman is the spiritual leader of Temple Ohev Shalom and the South Florida Shomrim Society. He is also a Chaplain for Miami Beach PD, ATF and MDPD.

Nations have entered Your Inheritance, the defiled Your Holy Sanctuary (Psalm 79:10)

The Above Scripture describes why we fast and mourn on Tisha B'av. To this day, unfortunately, the Temple mount is still in the same condition. We place some of our hopes in fervent prayer, in fasting and in observing the rituals of mourning. We need to refer to the words of the Prophet Zechariah (8:19) to find an area of additional effort to change the situation: *"They shall be for joy and gladness and good festivals, love truth and peace."* The message is for each and every one of us to apply the principles of truth and peace in the conduct of our personal lives.

The evil instinct within us clouds the concept of truth and leaves us false impressions. It makes us think that greed, lust and vanity will work in our best interest bringing wealth, pleasure, peace of mind, good health, recognition and respect. The facts are to the contrary.

A person whose business practices are done with fraud, misrepresentation, dishonesty and unethical means might for a time gain wealth. But it will be short lived. It will not take long for people to abandon the dishonest businessman for the honest one.

A dishonest worker who does not give his employer an honest day's work will in time remain unemployed. A professional who gives poor performance will end up with few clients and patients. So much for the greed.

Overindulgence might bring a moment of great pleasure. The aftermath of gluttony is the loss of sensation and actual pain. So much for lust.

A person who imagines that lowering another's dignity will earn him respect makes a similar mistake. The illusion of honor is shattered in a short time when everyone scorns him. So much for vanity allowing greed, lust and vanity to dwell within our minds and hearts is the parallel of aliens occupying our Holy Sanctuary. We must learn to love truth and peace. We must moderate our ambitions with honesty and ethics. We must indulge our appetites with sensible restraint. We must earn respect by respecting others.

Purging our personal sanctuary from evil elements prepares us to sincerely offer our fervent prayer, fasting and observance of the rituals of mourning to the All-Merciful One. Imbued with truth and peace personally, we hope that our love of truth and peace will change these days to *joy and gladness and good festivals*.

He turned to the entreaty of the prayerful (Psalm 102:18)

DUES ARE DUE
 Please send your dues in now.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 2006