

## HANNUKAH

December 5 - 12 , 2007

*The festival of Chanukah celebrates the Jewish peoples' struggle for religious freedom. The festival has been observed, in Israel and the Diaspora, sometimes even at the risk of life. The story behind the holiday, of how the menorah in the Holy Temple miraculously stayed lit for eight days, with very little oil, is recounted each year as we light the Chanukah candles*

The story of Chanukah actually begins in the year 336 B.C.E. when Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire which included Judea (modern day Israel). The Jews' relationship with Alexander was long and fruitful. Alexander promised the Jews that his empire would not interfere with their religious practices both in Judea and in the Diaspora. He exempted the Jews from the royal tribute and invited them to participate in the Greek army which showed that their loyalties were not suspect.

After the death of Alexander, Judea was ruled by Ptolemies of Alexandria. During this period, many of the Jews were influenced by the ideas of Hellenism and began to assimilate the Greek culture. It was at this time that King Ptolemy, to promote a better understanding of the Jews, commissioned the famous Greek translation of the Bible known as the Septuagint.

Later, the Ptolemaic Empire of Egypt and the Seleucid Empire of Syria fought to gain control of Judea. The Seleucids won. Judea was ruled by the Syrian king Antiochus IV who did not allow the Jews to freely worship one God but demanded that everyone bow down to the many idols of Greek religion.

(Continued in the next column)

A strong-willed old priest named Mattathias grew increasingly outraged with the Syrian dictate. He stirred up the passions of his people, urging them to fight against the religious oppression. With his five sons and a band of Jewish settlers - mostly farmers and shepherds - Mattathias fled the town of Modin, outside Jerusalem, and gathered the 'troops' in the Judean Hills. Here, Mattathias' son, Judah the Maccabee ("The Hammer") took over as leader of the small army and led the men in guerrilla warfare against the Syrian army.

Judah's brilliance as a fighter and commander cannot be overlooked. Against all odds, and after many battles, the Jews gained victory over the Syrian soldiers. When the Maccabees and their army returned to Jerusalem they found their Temple in ruins. They scrubbed, cleaned and put it to order again. On the 25th day of Kislev, Judah called the people together to re-dedicate the Temple

When it came time to re-light the Menorah only one small jar of oil that had not been defiled by the Greeks could be found within the entire Temple. It would take an eight-day round trip journey to obtain new pure oil. But the high Priest, determined to rededicate the Temple even if the menorah could be kindled for only one day, lit the menorah. The next day, to everyone's amazement, the menorah was miraculously still lit. The oil burned for eight days, until a new supply of oil could be brought. The community rejoiced, thanking God for his favor.

To honor this occasion and the spirit of free thought, Jews around the world have celebrated Chanukah every year since then.

§ We CO-hosted a Training Conference for Law Enforcement Officers in partnership with the Miami-Dade Police Department.

§ We expanded our Board of Directors to include business people from our community, developing a business plan to lead this great organization for years to come.

If it were not for the efforts of past presidents Bob Singer and Steve Leibowitz, the Board of Directors and my Executive Board, none of this would have been possible.

I have some special words of thanks;

§ To Rabbi Weberman and his Entire Family for their guidance and spiritual support.

§ To Irv Heller, Chairman of the Board, Barry Mankes, my Executive Vice President and incoming President, and My Executive Staff - Mike Bentolila, Lou Bornstein, Beverly Morshenson, Helen Baimel, and Ken Goodman for their support.

I look forward to my new role on the Board of Directors as The Immediate Past President. Congratulations to the new Executive Board, I know that you can make this organization bigger and better.

Sincerely,

**Gregg Glasel**

Immediate Past President

South Florida Shomrim Society

South Florida Shomrim Society  
4200 Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33137



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## Brothers and Sisters of the South Florida Shomrim Society:

I would like to congratulate the new elected President and Executive Board. I would also like to thank the entire membership for their friendship and support over the past seven years that I have served this great organization.

It seems just like only yesterday when Irv Heller, Chairman of the Board, asked me to serve as Executive Vice President. That was 7 years ago; Time has flown by! When I took over the reins from President Steve Leibowitz, I had an excellent foundation to work with. With the help of Steve and the Executive Board, along with the wisdom of my Board of Directors, we were able to work as a team and build the organization to what is today. The High Points of my Presidency over the past two years:

§ Membership is up by 40%

§ Charitable contributions to Jewish and non- Jewish Organizations have increased by leaps and bounds.

§ This year, we awarded more scholarships than ever before.

§ Our newsletter is professionally printed

§ We enhanced our annual picnic and this past year we topped the 300 in attendance mark.

§ Our dinner dance has become our flagship event and truly the talk of the town.

§ We have strengthened our friendships with other Fraternal Law Enforcement Organizations; supporting each other in matters of mutual interest.

## South Florida Shomrim Society Membership Application

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION/TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

# SOUTH FLORIDA SHOMRIM SOCIETY      DECEMBER 2006 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## OFFICERS

BARRY MANKES, President  
MICHAEL BENTOLILA, Exec VP  
MINDY GROSS, 1st VP  
LOUIS BORNSTEIN, 2nd VP  
JORGE GHITIS, 3rd VP  
BEVERLY MORSHENSON, Treas  
HELEN BAIMEL, Rec Sec  
HARVEY MESHEL, Co Sec  
BENJAMIN FURER, Sgt at Arms  
SHAYA WEBERMAN, Chaplain  
DAVID WEBERMAN, Chaplain

## Board of Directors

IRVING HELLER, Chairman  
Asst Director (ret), MDPD  
Rabbi Pinchas Weberman,  
Spiritual Advisor  
Gregg Glasel,  
Immediate Past President  
Steven Rothlein,  
Deputy Directory (ret) MDPD  
Randy Heller, Chief, MDPD  
David Ward, Chief  
Miccosukee Police Department  
Mark Jeter, Major, MDPD  
Donald Rifkin, Major, MDPD  
Paul Novack, Surfside Mayor (ret)  
Richard Plager  
Chief (ret) Sanibel Island PD  
Kenneth Stowe  
President, Aetna Painting Co  
Jeffrey Wander, MDPD (ret)  
Herb Schoenfeld, (dec)  
Former President, National Shomrim

## FORMER PRESIDENTS

Eugene Friedman  
Robert Singer  
Steven Leibowitz  
Gregg Glasel

## POSTHUMOUS MEMBERS

Cheryl Weiner Seiden,  
Metro-Dade PD  
Donald Kramer,  
Miami Beach PD  
Scott Rakow,  
Miami Beach PD  
Rabbi Jeremiah Burstyn,  
Spiritual Advisor

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & MAZEL TOVS

### MAZEL TOV:

To all the newly installed Officers and members of the Board of Directors of the South Florida Shomrim Society

### CONDOLENCES:

To Liddy and Marty Millar on the passing of Liddy's father, Benjamin "Boris" Zivick.

### IGET WELL:

To Brother Bob Novack of the Simon Wiesenthal Center

### SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE:

CHAIRMAN: MICHAEL BENTOLILA  
MEMBERS: Helen Baimel, Beverly Morshenson, Jorge Ghitis  
The plans for the "MACH'N A PIKNIK", scheduled for March 11, 2007, are progressing well.

**2007 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**

## MACH'N A PIKNIK SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2006

CB SMITH PARK  
PINES BOULEVARD & FLAMINGO ROAD IN PEMBROKE PINES  
11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM  
FREE KOSHER FOOD; BOUNCE HOUSE; ROCK WALL AND MORE

## WHAT YOU MISSED BY NOT BEING AT THE LAST MEETING

Of course, we started off with the bagels and coffee and some quality schmoozing. This was the final meeting being presided over by outgoing President Gregg Glasel. The meeting was then called to order. We went through the minutes from the last meeting and the current Treasurer's report (which showed we were still "healthy" going into our Dinner Dance.

Chapter President Gregg Glasel conducted the elections according to the Constitution and By-laws of the Chapter. The rules for nominations and acceptance were adhered to (constitutionally you had to be present to run for office). Those elected by acclamation are as follows:

Barry Mankes - President  
Mike Bentolila - Executive Vice President  
Mindy Gross - First Vice President  
Lou Bornstein - Second Vice President  
Jorge Ghitis - Third Vice President  
Recording Secretary - Helen Baimel  
Corresponding Secretary - Harvey Meshel  
Treasurer - Beverly Morshenson  
Sergeant at Arms - Benny Furer

Chapter Executive Vice President Barry Mankes told the 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 would be Chief David Ward, Police Chief of the Miccosukee Police Department and the Person of the Year Awards will be Mr. Russell W. Galbut.

Several new faces were in attendance and we hope that the trend continues. President elect Barry Mankes discussed having a Hannukah party in Broward County on December with details to be forthcoming very soon.

The meeting was adjourned.

## The South Florida Shomrim Society 2006 Dinner Dance and Awards

The marquis event for the South Florida Shomrim Society went off beautifully. This year we had the largest crowd in attendance in the past five years. The reception started off with everyone mingling and enjoying hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and the roving music of Ray Stevens. Master of Ceremonies Steve Leibowitz welcomed everyone, made some introductions, and then began the ceremony. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by last year's Officer of the Year, Robert 'Bobby' Parker. The Ray Stevens Band played the Star Bangled Banner and Ha'ktikva. Our spiritual advisor, Rabbi Pinchas Weberman, gave the Invocation. As tradition has it, the Chairman of our Board of Directors, Irving Heller, was called upon to do the Blessing of the Bread (in both Hebrew and English). A newcomer to our organization, Rabbi Larry Winer, was asked to lead the Kiddush ceremony. As part of this event, the 'chachkas' presented to each attendee was a wine glass emblazoned with the South Florida Shomrim Society Badge. It was time for the swearing on of the Officers for the next two years. This was performed by a panel of Judges who attended our event.

It was now time for the first official duties of the new President, Barry Mankes. He announced the awards, giving a brief introduction to the recipients. First up were the service awards. Our Florists, Shelley and Steve Costin were presented with a plaque. Second was David Zimmerman, owner of Digital Technology Group International, Inc - our web site host server. David is not only a firefighter/paramedic, but a police reserve officer, too. Next, Dr. Mauricio Lynn, former IDF doctor and trauma surgeon at Jackson Memorial Hospital was called up. Dr. Lyn gave a great presentation at the IAJPSE conference last year. In addition to his plaque, a donation was made by South Florida Shomrim in his name to the Friends of the IDF. The last Service Award went to Immediate Past President Gregg Glasel who steered this organization for two years in which we experienced more growth, greater community involvement, and greater financial stability than ever before.

It was now time for the Person of the Year, Mr. Russell Galbut, whose support for the Jewish Community is indescribable. The surprise of the evening came when Bessie (Mrs. Hyman P.) Galbut was called up to receive her Shomrim Mother of the Year Award. It was through her parenting and her late husband, Captain Hyman P. Galbut, that the family has continued to play such an important role in keeping Jewish causes in the forefront. Russell Galbut was then presented with the Person of the Year Award.

Lastly, the Officer of the Year, Chief David Ward, was called up to receive his well deserved award. David has been on the Board of Directors for years and helped guide (and support) the South Florida Shomrim Society. His leadership in the Law Enforcement community is well recognized and we were proud to honor him.

The rest of the evening was spent eating the meal prepared by Premier Caterers and dancing to the music of the Ray Stevens Band.

## RABBI'S MESSAGE

Rabbi Pinchas Weberman is the spiritual leader of Temple Ohev Shalom and the South Florida Shomrim Society. He is also a Chaplin for Miami Beach P.D., A.T.F. and M.D.P.D.

*I have set the L-rd before me at all times - I shall not falter (Psalm 16:8)*

Cheshvan abruptly ends a two month sequence of holy days. From the first day of Elul when we hear the first blast of the Shofar; the reciting of additional Psalms; fervent prayer of Selichos; the intensity of Rosh Hashanah; the days of Penitence; the soul lifting of Yom Kippur; the final shfar blast at Neillah; the happiness of the Succah, Lulav, and Esrog; the special feelings when clapping Hashanos; and the merriment of Shemini Atzeret and Simchas Torah, one might take the mundane days of Cheshvan as a let-down. The whole purpose for the holy months might come into question if after all this, we slide down to a spiritual apathetical negligence.

The same question can arise when assessing our daily routine. Our morning prayers start with a thankful recognition for another day of miraculous physical abilities, followed by high praises, declaration of faith in and love of G-d in the Shema and pious prayers in the Amidah.

What happens to us the rest of the day out in the mundane world? Do we slide down to a spiritual apathetical negligence? It need not and it should never be so. The powerful inspiration acquired during the Holy season and that of the daily prayers becomes deeply embedded in the depths of our souls as a mighty subconscious force. It is a residual form of energy that is always available to draw on to

Maintain our level of spiritual heights as if we would be in the midst of the holy season and in the midst of fervent prayer. As we remain receptive to it, the spiritual influence of our holy worship will extend as a flow of holiness and holy thoughts. *He girds me with strength and makes my path perfect (Psalm 18:33)*

## SISTERS & BROTHERS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA SHOMRIM SOCIETY

As I am sure you can tell from the Time of this message I am still reeling from the excitement of the Dinner Dance. For everyone that was in attendance I hope you had a wonderful time and enjoyed yourself. It was an evening that I hope ALL the award recipients will fondly remember. I tried to personally meet everyone at each of the tables or have one of the South Florida Shomrim Society Officers meet and greet those in attendance. If I missed anyone please accept my apologies. OUR intent in planning this wonderful event was to have everyone feel comfortable and "at home" for the evening. This event has grown every year and this year was no exception. This year's Dinner Dance was by far the most successful in every aspect. This was no chance occurrence. It was the result of planning and dedication of OUR members, friends and supporters. For those of you who were not able to celebrate with us - YOU WERE MISSED. WE know that you were there with US in spirit. Hopefully, next year WE can all gather together and make that event bigger and more successful than this year. Thank You for your wishes of Mazel Tov (Good Luck). I hope that we gather only for Simchas (Celebrations) and that joy, fellowship, and Tzdukah (Charity; giving) are the planks of the platform of my Term of Office. Again Thank You on Behalf of the Board of Directors and the Newly Elected Executive Board  
Barry Mankes, President  
South Florida Shomrim Society