

PESACH - April 3-10, 2007

The Festival of Freedom is by far the most popular Jewish holiday and is probably observed more scrupulously than the Holy Days. One of the reasons for Passover's universal interest is its home character. Members of the family travel great distances to be together at the Seder table with their kin. The desire to participate in a Seder, no matter where a person may be, indicates that the childhood impressions of the holiday have a fast hold upon the Jewish heart.

Like Sukkot and Shavuot, Pesach was originally a nature festival that later took on historical significance. At one time it commemorated the barley harvest and the lambing season in ancient Palestine; it also marked the rejuvenation of life in general. Eventually, an even greater meaning was attached to the celebration, one characteristic of the Jewish passion for ethics. Passover came to symbolize the Exodus from Egyptian bondage, which meant more than any other single historical event in the life of the ancient Hebrews.

It was an exhortation to cherish freedom and liberty as one of the basic requirements of life. Passover affirms that liberty is the right of every human being as a child of God. To accept subservience to an earthly being is to deny the rule of God. Passover marks the first time that a people challenged the institution of slavery and dared to defy their mortal master to serve a greater Master.

The Israelites, unlike other people, never cared to conceal their humble origin. In fact, they persisted in remembering their slave status so that the difference between serfdom and freedom would remain eternally clear in their minds. The freedom lesson.

The songs are postponed to the end of the service so that the children's interest will be maintained to the very end.

The Haggadah, out of which the family reads the account of Israel's flight to freedom, is a short history of the Jewish people rather than just a description of the holiday. Its passages help to entertain and instruct the more supple minds, to enlighten and to challenge the astute. The principal theme of the entire Haggadah is found in the following passage: "In every generation each man must regard himself as though he left Egypt." The Jew is bidden to remind him or herself continually that the task of seeking freedom for the oppressed is never ended. One should never take freedom for granted, and "the more one repeats the story of the Exodus the more praiseworthy he becomes



Yona Yahav, Mayor of Haifa pictured with Barry Mankes, South Florida Shomrim Society President.

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Beverly Morshenson, 600 NE 36 Street #405, Miami Florida 33137

The Seder, which is held in traditional households on the first two nights of Passover, highlights the festival. The entire family is seated around the table with the father as teacher and the family as students; it is a class in audio-visual education, each object on the table representing a symbol of The matzah is the bread of affliction that our forebears ate in haste while in flight from Egypt. The shankbone represents the paschal sacrifice offered by each family on the eve of Passover. The egg represents an additional sacrifice, but it has also

Been interpreted to signify the Jewish people - just as the egg hardens when heated, so has the Jewish will to survive become more resolute with each added persecution. The maror or bitters remind us of the anguish that the Jews experienced in Servitude; the haroset, or mixture of apples, nuts, and wine, serves to recall the mortar that the Hebrews were forced to make under the Pharaoh. The greens serve as the symbol of spring. Four cups of wine are drunk at various intervals to recall the four times that God promised freedom to the Israelites. Since the establishment of the State of Israel, a fifth cup has been added in many homes, with an appropriate prayer.

Much of the Seder is geared to the interest of the children. The youngest anxiously awaits his or her turn to ask the four questions; they read with the family a description of four different kinds of children and their respective interest in Judaism; they attempt to "steal" the afikomen (dessert Matzah), which is hidden at the beginning of the ceremony.

THE JEWISH FUNERAL

Sam died. His will provided \$50,000 for an elaborate funeral.

As the last attendees left, Sam's wife Rose turned to her oldest friend Sadie and said, "Well, I'm sure Sam would be pleased."

"I'm sure you're right," replied Sadie, who leaned in close and lowered her voice to a whisper. "Tell me, how much did it really cost?"

"All of it," said Rose. "Fifty Thousand."

"No!" Sadie exclaimed. "I mean, it was very nice, but really... \$50,000?"

Rose nodded. "The funeral was \$6,500. I donated \$500 to the Shul for the Rabbi's services. The Shiva food and drinks were another \$500. The rest went for the Memorial Stone."

Sadie computed quickly. "\$42,500 for a memorial stone? Oy vey, how big is it?"

"Five and a half carats"

South Florida Shomrim Society
20533 Biscayne Blvd Suite 244
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FEBRUARY 2007
VOLUME 23
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MACH'N A PIKNIK SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2006 CB SMITH PARK

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Special Event: This will also be the
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STEVE LEIBOWITZ

Come enjoy the fine food, family atmosphere and
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Brothers and Sisters of the
South Florida Shomrim Society

Call Barry (786-355-4670) or e-mail him
barry.shomrim@gmail.com
to let him know how many will be attending

Bring the entire family!!

SOUTH FLORIDA SHOMRIM SOCIETY FEBRUARY 2007

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & MAZEL TOVS

Please let US know your announcements & Mazel Tovs in so WE can all share in your Nachas.

MAZEL TOV:

To Brother Arthur Winer on his election as President of Shomrim of Massachusetts. As his first order of business he has affiliated with IAJSPE.

GET WELL:

To Brother Bob Novack of the Simon Wiesenthal Center OUR continued prayers and wishes.

WELCOME

To new member and Sister Elaine Adler, President, Aventura Marketing Council. Much of OUR recent success is thanks to Elaine's advice and encouragement.

To new member and Brother Marc Stolzenberg. Marc is a Chief with the Coral Gables Fire Department and the brother of OUR Brother Glenn Stolzenberg.

To new member and Brother Billy Joel, Aventura City Commissioner. Billy has been a friend of Shomrim and WE welcome him.

To new member and Brother Dimitry Shaposhnikov, President, DS Xpress. Dimity is a good friend and supporter of Shomrim and now part of OUR family.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SISTERS & BROTHERS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA SHOMRIM SOCIETY... This is how I start each of the emails I send out. First and foremost WE are a fraternal organization. WE were established for just that reason;

So that Public Safety Officers of the Jewish Faith May Join Together for the Welfare of All.

WE still get together for a number of reasons, but the main one is so WE can spend time together and socialize. Our upcoming Annual Machin A Piknik will again give US all an opportunity to sit, essen (eat) and schmesen (conversation). This year the Picnic will be wonderful, yet bittersweet. WE will collectively be congratulating and saying MAZEL TOV to Brother Steve Leibowitz then say Good Bye. Steve is retiring from the Miami-Dade Police Department, but I am smarter. I am not letting him go so easy. I have named Steve as the Shomrim Society's Historian. Steve will be reaching back in time to document OUR origins and growth. Steve has become my Brother, not just in a Shomrim sense, but in a personal sense as well. I look forward to his retirement for the happiness it will bring him and I will now have a place to stay in Longwood, it isn't that far from Disney.

Back to my emails for a minute. I strive to keep everyone informed on what is going on. WE have become so involved in so many projects that the emails are an essential form of communication so that accounts for the numbers I send out. I was recently at an Aventura Marketing Council Breakfast. One of OUR many supporters leaned into me at the table and said to me, **"I didn't see your email today."** I responded, **"I didn't send one out last night"**. He smiled at me and quipped **"I know"**. It was 8:00 a.m. and I smiled from ear to ear. Many of you have said you enjoy them, well now that I am enthused I can tell you now; THEY WILL NEVER STOP ... NEVER!!!

I think you can see now that HUMOR is going to be as important to my Presidency as the "Planks"; Growth, Recognition, Involvement and Tzedakah. I want laughter to pervade OUR meetings. WE can still accomplish much even if WE are enjoying ourselves.

On a more serious note for just a second. On Tuesday, February 13th I attended a luncheon honoring U.S. Attorney R. Alexander Acosta hosted by Rabbi Weberman at Weberman Traditional Foods. First I want to extend my thanks to Rabbi Weberman and Shaya, David and Shlomo Weberman. Not only for the invitation but for everything he and his family do for the South Florida Shomrim Society. He is OUR Spiritual Leader and the most gracious and erudite individual I have ever had the pleasure and honor of knowing. My service to this organization will only be great, in the Rabbi's words, because I am "able to stand on the shoulders of my predecessors". South Florida Shomrim Society was also well represented by Bennie Furer, Glenn, Gregg Glasel, Sonny Levitt, Randy Heller, Mike Hochstadt, Charlie Serayder, Steve Leibowitz, Norman Kassoff, Irv Heller and Russell Galbut.

The future is not just bright for the South Florida Shomrim Society, it is incredibly dazzling.

Thank You All

PURIM (March 4, 2007)

The Feast of Lots, which usually occurs late in February or March, is also considered to be a minor holiday in the Jewish calendar. Though coupled with Hanukkah, it does not commemorate a victory won by the Jewish people against an enemy, but rather recalls an escape from destruction through the intervention of God, the bravery of Queen Esther, and the wisdom of Mordecai

The Book of Esther, commonly known as the Megillah, relates in graphic fashion the entire story of Jewish deliverance from Haman, who sought to annihilate the Jews of Persia. The capricious King Ahasuerus, who has been identified by some scholars as Xerxes, acceded to Haman's request and allowed him to cast lots (pur) in order to determine the exact day of the mass purge. Mordecai's loyalty to the crown in revealing a plot against the king, as well as Esther's decision to speak in behalf of her people, caused Ahasuerus to reverse his decision; on the day that Mordecai was to have been hanged, Haman and his sons were executed instead.

Each year the Megillah is read in an atmosphere of uninhibited gaiety. With each mention of Haman's name, children are permitted to interrupt the reading with noisemakers or groggers.

Throughout our long history Haman has represented the prototype of evil. Torquemada and Hitler were called Hamans in modern garb. The inveterate optimism of the Jews in the midst of adversity was to some extent due to the faith that they derived from the Purim story. It convinced them that evil had only temporary success and would ultimately succumb to righteousness

In America, and especially in Israel, carnivals and masquerades centering around the Purim theme lend added glamor to the holiday and help to create a mood that is basically Jewish-showing that God may be worshiped not only in the spirit of solemnity, and that sober lessons may be derived even upon occasions when extreme joy is experienced

Things That Make You Say OY GEAVLT!!

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.

Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.

The shin bone is a device for finding furniture.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

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Sonny Levitt, VP of Public Relations, Riverside Gordon Memorial Chapels, and recently appointed member to the South Florida Shomrim Society Board of Directors pictured with Barry Mankes, South Florida Shomrim Society President. The two were papparazzied at the Public Theater of South Florida performance of The Diary of Anne Frank where Sonny portrayed Otto Frank.