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DONALD KRAMER - Police Officer - Miami Beach Police Department

SCOTT RAKOW - Detective - Miami Beach Police Department

RABBI JEREMIAH BURSTYN - Spiritual Advisor

THE NEXT MEETING IS SUNDAY,
JANUARY 30, 2005 AT 10:00 AM,
GREATER MIAMI JEWISH FEDERATION BUILDING
4200 BISCAYNE BOULEVARD MIAMI, FL. 33137

WELCOME

To new member and Brother Anthony Levey, a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) assigned to the Key West Office. Tony transferred in from California with his new bride Faith.

To new member and Brother Stu Portner. Stu is retired from NYPD and is a past President of National Shomrim

To new member and Sister Harriett Bartomeo. Harriett is assigned to the 107th Precinct in New York City and is a past President of NYPD Shomrim

To new member and Brother Steve Itzko. Steve is with the City of Philadelphia PD and is a past President of National Shomrim.

CONDOLENCES

To our sister Rhonda Walenda and our Brother John Walenda and their family on the loss of Rhonda's mother, Bernice Wieder.

CONGRATULATIONS

To our Brother David Zimmerman. David will transfer to the Miami-Dade Fire Department in mid-January, 2005. One less police officer—one more firefighter in our Chapter.

To our Brother Steve Kaufman on his engagement to our future Sister Ilisa Brumer.

Presidents Message January 2005

Happy and Healthy New Year to all! This is going to be a very exciting year for the South Florida Shomrim Society. We have set the dates early for our Annual Picnic (set for April 10, 2005, at C.B. Smith Park in South Broward County), our Annual Dinner Dance (set for November 10, 2005 at the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center) and are finalizing dates for OUR Convention (looking at the second week of December).

This will be our 4th year holding the picnic. This has become an enormous success with over 250 people attending from all over South Florida. This is a time for us to watch our children and grandchildren and all of our friends gather and nosh on kosher foods provided by our good friends at Weberman's Traditional Foods.

We recently helped our friends at the Hispanic Police Officers Association (HPOA) with their annual Christmas gift drive. We drove some of the HPOA board members and their supporters in our police Command Post bus and we gave gifts to the less fortunate members of our community. You should have seen the faces of the 700 children that we gave gifts to. This was a rewarding experience, and a Mitzvah to give back to the community.

While under President Leibowitz' tenure, he decided that it was time to get all of the organizations together to come to an understanding and support each other with public safety issues. Today, we enjoy a great relationship with the HPOA, Progressive Officers Club (POC), Latino Peace Officers Association and all of our other friends in the public safety field. We have come to know their organizations, their members, and philosophies. I feel that it is important to continue our partnership with these organizations, and forge new friendships with others.

By giving to others we truly mean what we say:

“So that Law Enforcement Officers of the Jewish Faith may join together for the Welfare of All”

Sincerely,

Gregg

‘MACHN A PIKNIK’

South Florida Shomrim Society 2005 Picnic

Sunday, April 10, 2005

CB Smith Park

**Flamingo Road and Pines Boulevard
Pembroke Pines, Florida (Broward Co.)**

11:00 am—4:00 pm

Kosher BBQ (Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chicken)

Catered by Weberman's Traditional Foods

No Charge for Members and Friends

Your cost: \$1 per person to get into the Park

Featuring: Children's Playground; Volleyball, Baseball; Bounce House; Fishing; Boat Rental; Bike Rental (or bring your own to ride); Socializing

**PLEASE LET US KNOW THAT
YOU ARE GOING TO ATTEND.**

WE NEED AN ACCURATE COUNT TO ORDER
ENOUGH FOOD. CALL US AT 305-302-4300 or 305-
219-4235; E-MAIL US: dsg44@aol.com, jmld1@aol.com

OR leibotrio@bellsouth.net

OR WRITE US AT THE SOUTH FLORIDA SHOMRIM
SOCIETY, 4200 BISCAYNE BOULEVARD, MIAMI, FL

Tu B'Shevat

January 25, 2005 (Hebrew year 5765)

First, as to the word "Tu," pronounced "too" in the name "Tu B'Shevat." "Tu" is constructed from the Hebrew letters "tet" and "vav." "Tet" is the ninth letter in the Hebrew alphabet; "vav" is the sixth. Nine + Six = Fifteen. Also, "tet" is a consonant, making the "te" sound; "vav" is a vowel, which when sounded with the "shoorook" vocalization, sounds like "oo."

This is the Rosh HaShanah for trees. Again, as mentioned above in connection with the "First of Elul" Rosh HaShanah, the significance is primarily in connection with "Maasrot," tithing, or taking tenths. The dates of ripening of different agricultural species, say wheat, on one hand, and apples and oranges representing the "fruit-of-the-tree" group, are different. Also, since one may not calculate the "tenth" for a given year using produce from a different year, it is important to know the calendar definitions of ripening which apply to the various species.

Our Sages have designated the 15th of Shevat as the boundary, for trees, between one year and another, since most of the rains of the previous year, in the **Land of Israel**, have already fallen. A certain percentage of the fruit has reached the stage of "begun to ripen." This is defined as from the time of blossoming until the fruit has reached **one third of its full growth**. Fruit which have reached this stage are attributed to the previous year. Any new blossoming of fruit after this day is a result of the blessings of the new year.

Although the 15th of Shevat is called Rosh HaShanah, the designation applies only to the matter of tithes that are due from fruit of the trees. Work is not prohibited, and there are no required festive meals, and no special prayers added to the regular prayer services. Nevertheless, the day is invested with a festive sense. Tachanun is not said. Eulogies are not delivered for the dead, and if it falls on Shabbat, Av Harachamim is not said (since Av Harachamim recalls the souls of the dead.) It is customary to eat a new fruit from the Land of Israel of which one had not yet partaken the present year, so that the "bracha" or "blessing" of SheHecheyanu may be said.

The reason for the festive mood of the Rosh Hashanah of trees is that the 15th of Shevat recalls the praise of the Land of Israel, for on this day the strength of the soil of the land is renewed. With reference to the fruits of the trees and the produce of the soil, the Torah praises the Land of Israel: "A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey" (Devarim 8).

Another reason for the special observance of the 15th of Shevat is that the time of Rosh Hashanah for the trees is also a time of prayer and judgment concerning the trees. Whenever any of His creatures begins to grow, G-d surveys its entire future. So it is proper to pray that the new creature or being might prosper.

The Torah has compared Man to a tree of the field; hence this day also recalls the Divine judgment upon man. For such is the character of the people of Israel, that they **rejoice on a day of judgment**. Whatever the decision is, let all see that "there is a law and that there is a Judge." The Torah is the law, and G-d is the Judge.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Chairman: Barry Mankes

Members: Helen Baimel, Beverly Morshenson, Nancy Wolff

The Committee has been begun their preparations for the 2004 "MACHN A PICNIK" at CB Smith Park in Pembroke Pines, Florida. A possible date of APRIL 10, 2005 has been suggested.

Cars are also for sale with a variety of police logos.

Embroidered shirts, and hats are on sale. New South Florida Shomrim badge/pins are available, too. All proceeds go into the South Florida Shomrim Society Scholarship Fund

CHARITY AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Irv Heller

Steve Leibowitz

The Committee is going to reviewed all the donations made in 2004 and made suggestions for continuing those, changing the amounts, or adding or deleting recipients.

If you have any thoughts regarding charities, please make them know to us.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Michael Bentolila

Members: Steve Kaufman, Ken Goodman, Frank Piloto, Steve Leibowitz

The Committee continues to put together the monthly Newsletter. The Web site was updated thanks to Steve Kaufman.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman: Louis Bornstein

Members: Irv Heller, Ben Alter, Gary Unger, John Walenda

Three new members joined this month

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman: Michelle Sabag

Members: *TBA*

Scholarship Committee will be idle until next year

WHILE AT THE RAMADA MARCO POLO RESORT FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION, WE MET A JEWISH, DUTCH POLICE OFFICER WHO WAS VACATIONING. HE SENT US THIS NOTE.....

Dear Shomrim Friends,

It has been truly a pleasure to meet you all at your Convention in Miami. I hope to stay in contact with everybody via e-mail, and who knows we will meet someday again ! I travel to The States quite often, so there are some possibilities...

Take care everybody,

Friendly regards,
Alexander van Dam
Dutch National Police - Police Aviation Service.

Dear Steve

Thanks for sending on the certificate. I appreciated your efforts. You can be proud of the Seminar Series that you put on in Miami this year. I found all the seminars and speakers first rate!

Sincerely,

Tom Friedlander

**INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK SO
THAT YOU MAY MAIL THIS PAGE
AND THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS
PAGE BACK TO US WITH YOUR
2005 DUES**

SOUTH FLORIDA SHOMRIM SOCIETY
CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2004

The Simon Wiesenthal Center
The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
The Zeiff Jewish Museum
The Museum of Tolerance
Ohev Shalom Senior Fund - For Passover
Ohev Shalom Senior Fund - For Chanukah
Ohev Shalom Senior Fund - For Rosh Hashana
Jewish War Veterans
Greater Miami Jewish Federation
Police Officers Assistance Trust
Dade County Police Benevolent Assn Love Fund
Broward County PBA Hope Fund
The Hebrew Academy
Machina School
South Florida Shomrim Society Scholarship Fund
Miami Beach Guild for the Blind
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Parents of Murdered Children
Temple Hatikva (Homestead)
Temple Torah (Delray)
The National Conference of Shomrim Societies
Unity Golf Classic
American Heart Association
Leukemia society
Misioneros Del Camino

DUES ARE DUE FOR 2005

**THIS YEAR'S DUES ARE \$36 OR
DOUBLE CHAI.**

PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW
AND MAIL THIS PAGE WITH YOUR TAX DE-
DUCTIBLE \$36 DUES TO:

BEVERLY MORSHENSON
600 NE 36 STREET #405
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33137

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

OTHER CONTACT _____

COMMENTS _____



Rabbi Pinchas Weberman is the spiritual leader of Ohev Shalom Congregation on Miami Beach, Florida. He is the Chaplain for the Miami Beach Police Department and the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)

In the tenth month in the tenth day, the King of Babylon blockaded Jerusalem (Ezekiel 24)

When describing the Tenth of Teves, a day of fasting, the prophet uses the term "this selfsame day". The term is used in describing the Fast of Yom Kippur (Leviticus 23:29). This severe term is not used concerning the other fast days. It would imply that the seventeenth of Tamuz, the ninth of Av, and the third of Tishrei are not as severe as the tenth of Teves.

The blockade of the Holy City did not cause as great pain and agony as did the breach of the city's wall, the flaming destruction of the Holy sites and the assassination of Gedaliah. Yet it bears a more severe message to us. The first step in change from peace and security to strife and terror is initially shocking but people can very quickly adjust to a seemingly minor situation and become desensitized into a false sense of security. This is dangerous as it leaves people off guard and vulnerable to further serious situations.

This becomes obvious as we recollect events of wars past and present. A nation is in great danger when it is lulled into thinking that the enemy's threats pose minor danger. It will continue on in a war meagerly prepared and will be easily defeated.

We must apply this lesson to the inner conflict we experience between the evil and good within us. A minor indulgence in greed, lust and vanity is dangerous. It can leave us insensitive to further major indulgences that can corrupt our character, overwhelm the goodness within us and defile our soul. Observing the Fast of the Tenth of Teves imbues us with an awareness to be on guard to avoid even the slightest indulgence in evil and motivates us to vigorously pursue paths of righteousness.

Turn away from evil and do good (Psalm 34:15)

The Meaning of Kaddish

Having read the translation of the Kaddish Prayer, one should realize that, although Jewish Law requires that the Kaddish be recited during the first eleven months following the death of a loved one by prescribed mourners, and on each anniversary of the death (the "Yahrtzeit"), and by custom in the State of Israel by all Jews on the Tenth of Tevet ("Yom HaKaddish HaKlali"), there is no reference, no word even, about death in the prayer!

*The theme of Kaddish is, rather, the **Greatness of G-d**, Who conducts the entire universe, and especially his most favored creature, each individual human being, with careful supervision. In this prayer, we also pray for peace - from apparently the only One Who can guarantee it - peace between nations, peace between individuals, and peace of mind.*

Paradoxically, this is, in fact, the only true comfort in the case of the loss of a loved one. That is, to be able to view the passing of the beloved individual from the perspective that that person's soul was gathered in, so to speak, by the One Who had provided it in the first place.

As Beruriah, the great wife of Rabbi Meir, consoled her husband, upon the death of their two sons, with words to this effect, "A soul is comparable to an object which was given to us - to each individual, to his or her parents and loved ones, to guard and watch over for a limited time. When the time comes for the object to be returned to its rightful owner, should we not be willing to return it? With regard to our sons, let us therefore consider the matter as 'The L-rd gave, and the L-rd took back, may the Name of the L-rd be Blessed!' "

MOURNER'S KADDISH **An English Translation**

Glorified and sanctified be God's great name throughout the world which He has created according to His will. May He establish His kingdom in your life-time and during your days, and within the life of the entire House of Israel, speedily and soon; and say, Amen.

May His great name be blessed forever and to all eternity.

Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honored, adored and lauded be the name of the Holy One, blessed be He, beyond all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations that are ever spoken in the world; and say, Amen.

May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and for all Israel; and say, Amen.

He who creates peace in His celestial heights, may He create peace for us and for all Israel; and say, Amen.

MEETING DATES FOR SOUTH FLORIDA SHOMRIM FOR 2005

JANUARY 30, 2005, FEDERATION BUILDING-10AM

FEBRUARY 27, 2005, AVENTURA POLICE STA-10AM

MARCH 27, 2005, FEDERATION BUILDING-10AM

APRIL 10, 2005, CB SMITH PARK—PICNIC-11AM

NO MAY MEETING

JUNE 26, 2005, AVENTURA POLICE STA-10AM

JULY 30, 2005, FEDERATION BUILDING-10AM

AUGUST 28, 2005, TO BE ANNOUNCED-10AM

NO SEPTEMBER MEETING

OCTOBER 23, 2005, FEDERATION BUILDING-10AM

NOVEMBER 10, 2005—TURNBERRY JEWISH CEN-

TER—DINNER DANCE—6:30PM

NO DECEMBER MEETING



**SOUTH FLORIDA SHOMRIM SOCIETY COLLARED
SHIRTS \$15, BLUE OR WHITE.
BADGES \$8 HATS \$6.**

**MORE SHIRTS ARE ON ORDER
AND SHOULD BE IN SOON**

MITZVAH CARDS AVAILABLE!!!

Let South Florida Shomrim help you send **New Years greetings, congratulations to family and friends, or any special message you want to send.** We have begun sending Mitzvah Cards out. Your message will be printed on a folding 6X9 card that bears the badge and name of the South Florida Shomrim Society and mailed in an envelope whose back flap has the same logos. Any donation you wish to make is placed into our Scholarship Fund and there is no set (or required) donation. Call Steve 305-238-4004 (leave a message) or 305-219-4235 for more information.