

**THE NEXT MEETING IS SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 26, 2003 10:00 AM, AT  
THE JEWISH FEDERATION BUILD-  
ING 4200 BISCAYNE BOULEVARD**

**MEETING AGENDA:**

Bagels and Coffee

Invocation

Introduction of those in attendance

Reading of Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

New Business

    Chai Lifeline Charity

    Aventura Marketing Council

Old Business

    Constitution & By-Laws Review

    Dinner Dance Update

        Expense Approval

    Convention Update

        Expense Approval

Closing Words

Adjournment

**IMPORTANT DATES TO  
REMEMBER**

**OCTOBER 26, 10:00 AM MEETING  
AT THE JEWISH FEDERATION  
BUILDING**

**NO NOVEMBER MEETING**

**2003 SOUTH FLORIDA SHOMRIM  
SOCIETY DINNER DANCE IS ON  
NOVEMBER 10, 2003 STARTING AT  
6:30 PM AT THE AVENTURA TURN-  
BERRY JEWISH CENTER**

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF  
SHOMRIM SOCIETIES CONVEN-  
TION AT THE RAMADA INN, 4041  
COLLINS AVENUE, MIAMI BEACH,  
FLORIDA, DECEMBER 11-14, 2003**

**NO DECEMBER MEETING**



**SOUTH FLORIDA  
SHOMRIM SOCIETY COLLARED SHIRTS—  
\$18—NOW IN BLUE OR WHITE. ALSO  
AVAILABLE ARE SHOMRIM HATS FOR \$8  
AND THE NEW SHOMRIM PIN FOR \$10. ASK  
ABOUT OUR DISCOUNT FOR BUYING ALL  
THREE AS A SET.**

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## **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.



*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.*

### **RABBI'S MESSAGE:**

*You have given us love this Day of Atonement, this day of Pardoning of Sins ( Yom Kippur Prayer)*

Yom Kippur marks the day that Moshe Rabenu presented us with the second set of tablets of the Decalogue and declared that our sins were forgiven (see Rashi Deut. (10 –Magen Avraham Orach Chaim 610:3). This is the reason for keeping a candle burning at home for the duration of Yom Kippur.

In the gentile circles the replica of the Tablets of the Ten Commandments is shaped with a round arch on top. The mistake is sometimes found even in Jewish houses of Worship. The arched tablets are the product of the imagination of medieval artists, who patterned the shape of the Tablets after the architecture of their Gothic churches.

The Talmud (Baba Bathra 14A) clearly described the shape as a rectangle. There is a symbolic connection between the angled shape of the Decalogue and the forgiving of sins. The Jerusalem Talmud (Nedarim 3:2) states that there is no angle in the world of nature. The natural flow of energy is circular, indicating an uncontrolled force held back only by a more powerful opposing force.

The human being, in contrast to all other parts of creation possesses a power of intellect, stronger than his natural instincts. A hungry animal with food available cannot restrain itself from eating until an outside stronger force will stop it. A person can exercise self-control in accordance with his intelligent decision.

The Tablets Moshe Rabenu gave us were angled. He gave us the power to control our human nature and live with the restraints and responsibilities of the Torah. Sins are a result of unbridled greed, lust and vanity. As we put to practice the power the Tablets give us, we are in a position of complete repentance. The candle burning in honor of the light of the Torah resounds with the message:

***I have forgiven because of Your words (Numbers 14:20)***

## **President's Message:**

Shalom:

First, I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy, prosperous and safe New Year. This is our first Newsletter since Rosh Hashana.

Each year our Dinner Dance gets bigger and better. We honor those that have served our community. We also recognize those that have assisted the South Florida Shomrim Society in its' endeavors. We gather for an evening that is representative of the spirit of our Chapter. It is with this in mind that I ask you to support us and attend this event. It will be held at the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center, 20400 NE 30 Avenue, Aventura, Florida. This is near the Dade-Broward border and is only minutes from I-95. The cost is \$55 per ticket. Trust me when I say we are not making a profit off of that price. This is not a fund raising event. Mr. Mark. J. Gordon of the Mark J. Gordon Foundation has sponsored this dinner dance with a generous donation so that we may keep the cost down. Mr. Gordon is also the President of the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center.

It is important that those that attend from outside our organization see the strength that we have in our membership. Last year we had a record number of members attend and I would like to see even more this year. All the information you will need can be found in this Newsletter.

The date is November 10, 2003. I know what you're thinking—it is a Monday night. Tuesday is a holiday—Veteran's Day. Courts, Banks and other government agencies are closed or running with smaller crews.

There will be a social hour from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm where you can mingle with the other guests, enjoy the fine hors d'oeuvres, and have a cocktail. Dinner will served at 8:00 pm and there will be a brief (I promise) awards ceremony before the music and entertainment. So if you need to leave early, you'll get your food and beverage and see the events.

Please make it to this showcase event for your Chapter.

Steve Leibowitz, President



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

*Chairman: Jeff Wander*

Members: Helen Baimel, Beverly Morshenson,  
David Waksman, Nancy Wolff

The Committee has completed preparations for the 2003 Dinner Dance. The Convention planning is in full swing.

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 REVIEW COMMITTEE

*Chairman: Irv Heller*

Members: David Waksman , Bob Singer

The Committee is going to reviewed all the donations made in 2002 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.



COMMITTEES (continued)

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

*Chairman: Barry Mankes*

Members: Paul Vogel, Ken Stowe

The committee is updating the Constitution and By-laws since many are not applicable to due the structure of the Officers and Board of Directors.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

*Chairman: Gregg Glasel*

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

The Committee continues to put together the monthly Newsletter. The monthly article for the Police Benevolent Association's HEAT Newsletter, read by over 5000, was comprised and submitted for publication. The Web site was updated thanks to Steve Kaufman.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*Chairman: Mike Bentolila*

Members: Irv Heller, Ben Alter, Paul Vogel, Gary Unger

No report

*The South Florida Shomrim Society*

*is proud to announce the*

# *Annual Dinner Dance*

*Monday, November 10, 2003*

*(November 11 is a legal Holiday—Veteran's Day)*

*at the*

*Greater Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center*

*20400 NE 30 Avenue Aventura, Florida*

*Hours D'ouerves at 6:30 pm*

*Dinner at 7:30pm*

*Open Bar, Music, Dancing & Convenient Parking*

*Honoring the Law Enforcement*

*Officer of the Year,*

*Director Carlos Alvarez of the*

*Miami-Dade Police Department*

**TICKETS ARE \$55 EACH  
OR A TABLE OF TEN FOR \$550**

CALL OR E-MAIL ANY OF US:

Steve Leibowitz  
(305)219-4235  
leibotrio@aol.com

Gregg Glasel  
(305)733-5845  
dsg44@aol.com

David Waksman  
(305)547-0445  
shomrimwaksman@bellsouth.net

Barry Mankes  
(786)355-5670  
jml1@aol.com

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SHOMRIM SOCIETIES**

Proudly Presents

The 2003 National Convention

**David Waksman, President, National Conference of Shomrim Societies**

Steven Leibowitz, S/E Regional VP, National Shomrim, **Convention Chairman**

Arthur Krinsky, 1st Vice President, National Shomrim, **Program Chairman**

Louis Weiser, Executive VP, National Shomrim, **Convention Coordinator**

**At Ramada Inn**

**Miami Beach, Florida**

4041 Collins Avenue

Thursday, December 11---Sunday December 14, 2003

\$170.00 per person (double/2 persons)

\$225.00 per person (single/1 person)

Extra nights: \$60.00 per room per night (single or double – no meals)

(\$20 non-refundable reservation fee included in the room cost)

GLATT KOSHER MEALS, TAXES, & TIPS included. Also, a large pool with free chaise lounges and towels; a 20 minute walk on the Boardwalk (behind hotel) to South Beach; a large, clean & sandy beach behind hotel; breakfast served Friday, Saturday & Sunday; lunch on Thursday & Saturday; dinner Thursday, Friday (Shabbos Dinner), & Saturday; Cocktail reception Thursday after dinner; nightly entertainment, music, dancing, and snacks; National meeting, side trips, great guest speakers; and more!!!! Meet and greet Jewish Public Safety Officers from around the nation. Seminars will be presented on Terrorism and Security issues.

Make your reservations early by mailing your checks payable to:

**South Florida Shomrim Society**

c/o Steve Leibowitz 13845 SW 75 Avenue Miami, Florida 33158

If you have any questions, please write to us at the address above; call the National Shomrim Office toll free at 1-800-SHOMRIM (1-800-746-6746); or e-mail us at leibotrio@aol.com or info@southfloridashomrim.com

Please detach and send this form in with your payment

Enclosed please find \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_ person(s) @ \$170 per person  
double occupancy or \$225 for a single

Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any special request you might have (low floor – shomer Shabbos); Sit with; Room near; etc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**National Conference of Shomrim Societies  
2003 Convention Agenda**

Ramada/Crown Hotel  
Miami Beach, Florida  
December 11-14, 2003

**Law Enforcement Challenges in Dealing  
with Terrorism 2003**

**Thursday, December 11, 2003**

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Registration & Hotel Check-in  
5:00 pm to 6:30 pm Dinner  
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm National Board of Directors Meeting  
8:00 pm to 9:30 pm Reception (Hors d' oeuvres & Open Bar)

**Friday, December 12, 2003**

Seminars Begin

*All seminars are sensitive and restricted to those with convention badges which must be worn at all times. Members of outside law enforcement agencies will be attending as invited guests. No recordings or photographs may be made at any time without the express written approval of the Program Chairman. Media will not be admitted to any of the seminars.*

8:00 am to 9:00 am Breakfast

9:30 am to 10:30 am Prison Gangs & Terror Groups

Instructor: Russ Epstein, Federal Bureau of Prisons; Instructor, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), Glynco, Georgia

10:30 am to 11:30 am Tools of Aviation Security

Instructor: Steve Leibowitz, Miami-Dade Police Department; Instructor Metropolitan Police Institute & Miami-Dade Community College School of Justice and Safety Administration

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Lunch

12:30 pm to 2:30 pm Officer Survival in a Terror Attack

Instructor: Dr. Fabrice Czarnecki

**Friday, December 12, 2003** (continued)

- 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm Synagogue Security  
Instructor: Detective Mike Gilbert, Montgomery County, PA, District Attorneys Office
- 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm Break-out Groups: Technology vs. Terrorism
- 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Dinner
- 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm Hospitality & Networking

**Saturday, December 13, 2003**

- 8:00 am to 9:30 am Breakfast (Sabbath Observance)
- 10:00 am to 11:00 am Hostage Negotiation  
Instructor: Detective Sam Miller, New York Police Department
- 11:00 am to noon Recognizing Homicide Bombers  
Instructor: Mr. Tomer Sade, Vice Consul, Head of Security, Consulate General of Israel, Miami, FL
- 12:00 noon to 1 pm Aviation Security  
Instructor: Mr. Pelled Midroni, Security Manger, El Al Airlines
- 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm Working with the INS in Identifying Terrorists  
Instructor: Robert Gross, SAA, Supervisory Immigration Officer, Immigration and Naturalization Service; Instructor, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
- 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Source Development in Terrorist Investigations  
Instructor: Art Krinsky, SA FBI (ret); Senior Instructor, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), Glynco, Georgia
- 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm Panel Discussion  
New Methods & Technology in Dealing with Terrorism
- 6:15 pm to 7:30 pm Dinner
- 7:45 pm to 8:30 pm National Meeting and Election of Representatives

**Sunday, December 14, 2003**

- 8:00 am to 9:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Closing Remarks
- Noon Attendees adjourn

**Here are the thoughts of one member on the actions of the US government concerning Israel.**

### **M-I-C K-E-Y M-O-U-S-E**

No, I am not practicing my singing skills to join the Mickey Mouse Club. I think that, at age 51 and having never liked the program, it's now too late for me to become a Musketeer. What you read at the top of this article is a transliteration of the phrase, "Middle East Peace Process."

That's right, the whole process or lack of it, stinks, and it has become an insult to the minds and brains of those who are aware of what is going on in the Middle East and, in particular, the land of Israel. This entire political course of action is an abortion of common sense, decency and goodwill.

It has been a month or so since the famous handshake in Jordan between PM's Sharon and Abbas. At the time, many thought that this crack at peace would for the first time in history, has the sturdiness that such endeavor would need in order to reach a suitable elucidation

Well, many thought so. I didn't, and still don't.

In light of recent events in Israel, I am more than ever convinced that the Peace Process attempt has been a disguised action by our own government, and President Bush, to tie the hands of PM Sharon behind his back to prevent him from defending Israel and its people from aggression and genocide by means that the majority of the world do not approve.

In doing so, President Bush seeks to gain popularity with allies and other world power to compensate for an otherwise international political agenda that proves day after day to be a fiasco.

Not even 48 hours had passed since the historical handshake, that a Jewish girl was murdered in a sniper attack in the Golan Hts. Followed by other acts of terror leading to the suicide bombing on board a bus in Jerusalem this week, the puny if any possibility of a peaceful accord, has disintegrated like a house trailer in the path of Hurricane Andrew.

George W. Bush has demonstrated his poor shrewdness when it comes to Middle Eastern issues. Additionally, he has made known to the world his jaundiced eye toward the Palestinian people and their regime of terror and murder against the so-called enemies of G-d, mostly Israel and United States.

Mr. Bush forced PM Sharon into an peace attempt while having Israel's hands bound with chains, expecting Israel to offer all the concessions in favor of a group of people that Mr. Bush knows too damn well are unqualified to coexist with normal human beings. Conversely, President Bush has not made an effort to enforce any obligations or expectations on the part of the Palestinians, other than a childish threat of, "Behave or I will tell your mommy."

Bush's anti-Israel politics are disguised with rhetoric and demagogue, built by a group of advisers that are oblivious to reality, truth and sincerity in government. While this President pretends to be a friend of Israel, his actions and words denote a different reality of his inner self.

When PM Sharon recently visited the White House, at a press conference, a Jewish journalist asked Mr. Bush what he was going to do in order to facilitate or secure the release of Israeli soldiers who are being held in Palestinian areas, as P.O.W.'s. Mr. Bush answer was that, "He was working hard with Mr. Abbas so those who spread terror would be kept confined, away from hurting innocent men, women and children."

The Israeli soldiers are terrorists? Really?

I could say that I heard such stupidity in disbelief but, knowing this President's track record toward Israel and other issues of domestic and international connotation, and his incapability or trepidation to deal effectively with the ONLY source of Palestinian poison and hatred, Yasser Arafat, his words did not surprise me.

On the contrary, they served to carve deeper in my mind the belief that the only reason PM Sharon agreed to give this process another try was after being coerced somehow by the Bush administration into agreeing.

What Mr. Bush, the King of Jordan, and others, ignore or choose to ignore is that, PM Abbas is just a puppet, a wimp--someone who people may even feel sorry for due to his lack of manhood, guts and acumen needed for the job he was supposedly elected or chosen to carry on. Abbas is nothing but a yo-yo in the hands of Yasser Arafat and his top collaborators and, as long as Yasser Arafat continues to rule the Palestinian government, there will not be peace anywhere in the world.

Mr. Bush, either play fair and equal to both sides and stop playing cupid and butt kisser to Arafat and his tribe of animals, or retreat to your ranch in Texas and be concerned about issues such as the economy, the ecology and the lack of trust that your own people have in the American government and your Administration.

Stop deceiving the world and the American people with false promises and deceitful statements and, if you still can't figure this out, mind your own business.

If you are not going to be the source of the solution, you then become the core of the problem!

PM Sharon, unlock the handcuffs that the United States have placed on your wrists and proudly march onto Gaza and other centers of human decay, and destroy each and everyone responsible for the carnages that scourge our people on an almost daily basis. Israel has won

bigger battles against better-equipped and smarter enemies. People who attack tanks with rocks show their highest levels of stupidity and lack of intellectual development.

Mr. Abbas why don't you buy an attack-trained German Sheppard? They say that, when one is in fear, one must either hide, or get a dog. If you doesn't have the manly attributes that you need in order to handle the problem of Palestinian terror against Israel, then resign, go into exile, commit suicide, or do whatever you feel is more honorable. So far, I don't believe you have what it takes to take either road. I pray that the world would scrutinize the whole picture. That before world and religious leaders jump on their seats and condemn Israel for so called "atrocities" against the Palestinian people, they look at who initiates the attacks, at who is the first to pull the trigger. Humans have the right to defend themselves.

The Torah says so, very clearly. No country allows aggression. Why should Israel be any different? This Peace Accord attempt is a gag, another fictional mockery at a course of action that has never, and will never, have a chance to congeal as it is presently sought. Only when there is goodwill and honesty, an objective stands a chance of overcoming obstacles and reach its zenith.

It is impossible to reason and negotiate with animals who, being incapable of having a real woman in their beds, need to kill themselves, and everyone around them, in order to have 77 imaginary virgins waiting to serve them at some imaginary heavenly like place. Only someone with less IQ than a cucumber would believe in such God and such religion.

When people are willing and wanting to die in order to achieve what their lives has always shorn them, as in the case of Palestinians and other Muslim world's suicide bombers, the only way to achieve peace with them is by annihilating them and pulverizing their roots and future generations.

Can anyone trust the intentions of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat, PM Abbas, and anyone else associated with their cause? Nobody in their right mind can accept the politicians in Washington and a few other clowns who can't think on their own.

And then, we chastise the 60's generation for being on drugs and hallucinating all the time! Is there a difference? Has anything changed since the days of Haight- Ashbury and the Summer of Love?

Frank A. Piloto, Jr., Ret.  
Shalom

**Here are the thoughts of one member on the actions of the US government concerning Israel.**

Designation of HAMAS Leadership and European Funding Sources Under Executive Order 13224

PRESIDENT BUSH: "At my direction, the Treasury Department has moved today to block and freeze the assets of six top HAMAS leaders and five non-governmental organizations that I am advised provide financial support to HAMAS. By claiming responsibility for the despicable act of terror on August 19, HAMAS has reaffirmed that it is a terrorist organization committed to violence against Israelis and to undermining progress toward peace between Israel and the Palestinian people

I call upon all nations supportive of peace in the Middle East to recognize HAMAS as a terrorist organization and to take all appropriate actions to deny it support."

President Bush has trouble concealing his sympathy for Israel. When White House aides suggested Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz as Bush's personal representative to address the pro-Israel rally in Washington on April 15, the president responded without hesitation. He could have had a low-level official from the State Department or the National Security Council or the White House staff speak at the event, someone with less of a reputation as a firm supporter of Israel, someone who'd signal friendship with Israel but not strong backing in the current fighting with Palestinians, someone whose presence wouldn't upset Europeans and Arabs. Bush didn't ask for another option.

This was hardly an isolated episode. Some of the president's pro-Israel utterances are well known, notably his comment after Secretary of State Colin Powell returned from his trip to the Middle East that Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon is a "man of peace." Other comments have escaped media attention. Example: Bush's private remark to Jewish leaders last year about his disdain for State Department diplomats with anti-Israel leanings. Vice President Dick Cheney echoes Bush. In a little-noticed speech last week at the Israeli embassy--it was Israel's Independence Day--he said Israel's battle against terrorists is the same as America's war on terrorism. Cheney cited Israeli support for America's war and added, "Israelis have lived at the front lines of this struggle for decades."

The President was silent on the subject of Israel's need to retreat hastily--no words, no arm-twisting. Of course, Bush could have exerted enormous pressure on Israel. He or an administration official could have raised the possibility of a "reassessment" of Middle East policy, a tactic used by President Ford in the mid-1970s. Leaks about potential cuts in aid to Israel could have been engineered. Or a State Department official could have suggested the United States could do nothing to stop Europeans from imposing trade or economic sanctions against Israel. None of this happened.

What can we draw from this? At the very least, Bush didn't feel strongly about stopping Israel from completing its anti-terrorist drive in the West Bank. Rather, he seemed quite happy to see it continue, so long as Sharon was beginning a gradual pullout and thus allowing Bush to claim credit. As for Powell's mission to the Middle East, the White House announced he had maximum flexibility to decide what to do. As luck would have it, he decided as Bush would have. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat expected Powell to spring him from his headquarters in Ramallah, where the Israelis were keeping him. Powell didn't. Nor did he free the Palestinian fighters besieged in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, as the fighters had expected he would. Naturally, the press called Powell's trip a failure because a cease-fire, requiring Israeli troops to quit the West Bank, wasn't reached. But from Bush's pro-Israel standpoint, things worked out fine.

The President said very clearly at the press conference with Prime Minister Abbas, "I don't expect anybody to release somebody from prison who will go kill somebody. That doesn't make any sense. I mean, if we're trying to fight off terror, and we're interested in a peaceful settlement, it doesn't make any sense to release somebody who is going to get out of prison and start killing." This was in reference to Sharon releasing Palestinian prisoners. We must get the facts straight and in context.

President Bush said: "All parties agree that a fundamental obstacle to peace is terrorism, which can never be justified by any cause. Last month in Aqaba, Prime Minister Abbas committed to a complete end to violence and terrorism. The Palestinian Authority must undertake sustained, targeted and effective operations to confront those engaged in terror, and to dismantle terrorist capabilities and infrastructure. We're determined to help Prime Minister Abbas as he works to end terror, and establish the rule of law that will protect Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Today, I urge Arab states to follow through on the pledges made in Sharm el-Sheikh, to actively contribute to these efforts, and to reject the culture of extremism and violence from whatever source or place. The rise of a peaceful Palestinian state and the long-term security of the Israeli people both depend on defeating the threat of terrorist groups and ending incitement and hatred.”

We must never forget that it was President Roosevelt that sent the 900 souls on the Saint Louis back to Germany for extermination. Roosevelt stated that he didn't want to become involved in a European war to appear that it was done just to save the Jews. Even Truman and Nixon made disparaging comments about the Jews. President Clinton promised to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem by the end of his term. What happened to that promise? Clinton's favorite White House guest was Yassar Arafat. Arafat was invited to the Clinton White House more than any other person. President Bush has never invited Arafat to the White House.

Don't let uninformed, blind hatred of a conservative Republican president distort your vision of Bush's actual policies in the Middle East. Jews are no longer tied to the Democratic Party or our socialist past.

Compiled and written by Brother Jeff Wander

#### **Newsletter Editor's Note:**

**As you are aware, our status as a 501c3 organization prohibits us from endorsing any candidate for political office. It does not, however, cause us to be silent about issues. Both of our Brothers, Frank Piloto and Jeff Wander, have expressed their opinions about the current status of the relationship between the United States government and the government of Israel.**

**Anyone wishing to have their comments or articles posted need only submit them for publication. We will print as much as we can, but are limited by available space.**

**Remember, we will not edit your submission. If it will jeopardize our non-profit tax exempt status, we'll let you know.**

**NORTH BAY VILLAGE** He's not the retiring kind  
**Chief Irving Heller is upgrading his small-town police force with big-city crime-fighting techniques and by purchasing new equipment.**

**BY BEN TORTER**

Chief upgrading his small-town force. When Irving Heller took over the North Bay Village Police Department two years ago, he went on a car-buying spree. It wasn't out of personal vanity. Rather it was a necessity - - the city of some 7,000 residents that runs along the 79th Street Causeway had an antiquated fleet of five patrol cars that ran on natural gas. The cars broke down all the time and the only place that could fix them was located in Pembroke Pines.

And forget it if an investigation took you out of town. "The cars only had a 120-mile range and there wasn't anywhere to fill the tanks," recalls Sgt. Steven Abramson. One of Heller's first actions was to sell the cars and buy 15 new Chevrolet Impala and Dodge Intrepid patrol cars. That wasn't the only automotive change: he also changed the car colors from white to black, with a silver badge. The goal was "to make them more intimidating," says Heller, who paid attention to such details during a 43-year career with the Miami-Dade Police department where he rose to the rank of assistant director.

The city's fleet of squad cars is just one of several changes -- large and small -- Heller made to the force since taking over in July 2001 for acting chief Alan Cole. Heller, now 70, came to North Bay Village after retiring from the Miami-Dade force. North Bay Village mayor Alan Dorne, a friend of Heller's who worked for eight years under Heller's command at Miami-Dade, talked him into taking the job. It was the shortest retirement in history, Heller jokes. "I retired on Friday from Miami-Dade and started at North Bay Village on Monday," he says.

As the city's woeful squad-car situation illustrates, there was a lot of work to be done. "I was disappointed at the structure and equipment of the department," says Heller, who at the Miami-Dade police department had as many as 2,700 officers under his direct command. At North Bay Village, 42 people report to him. In addition to upgrading the squad cars, Heller also upgraded an "underpowered" 25-foot boat to a 29-foot Cevee with twin Mercury 225 outboard engines. "Were a three-island community," he said, "and we need a good vessel for everything from manatee protection to speed enforcement to patrolling the islands looking out for suspicious activities or vessels." He also bought \$30,000 in diving gear and assembled a six-person dive team with expertise in water-rescue, evidence collection and homeland security. The boat and dive team were paid with confiscated drug money, Heller notes proudly. Taxpayers did not chip in a dime.

Key to bringing in forfeiture funds is Major Dax, the departments 2 - year-old black German shepherd. Dax's handler, Steve McVay of the city's narcotics team canine operations, says the dog has sniffed out about 175 kilos of cocaine, 100 kilos of marijuana and \$150,000 in seized drug money in the past year -- often while working with other cities' police departments, and agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Agency and Customs. North Bay Village shares the money with other agencies involved in busts.

Heller also brought to the department an attitude described by Sgt. Roland Pandolfi as a ``holistic approach to crime fighting." This approach, Pandolfi says, includes deterrence, education and citizen involvement. A series of well-publicized sobriety checkpoints last month were one example. Another is Heller's role as president of Miami-Dade Citizens Crime Watch. "I want every citizen to feel a part of the police department," Heller says.

To that end, the department keeps a list of contacts for all the local businesses, "so we can call the owners if we notice something out of line," Heller says. Officers talk to children about the dangers of drugs and about being aware of crime. The department just purchased -- with forfeiture funds -- a silver Monte Carlo on which the Drug Abuse Resistance Education logo will be painted, and which will be used for educational excursions at Treasure Island Elementary School. At a recent City Commission meeting on the budget, Police Benevolent Society president John Rivera proclaimed, ``Crime is at an all-time low in this city. Kudos to this police department."

Police work, it seems, runs in the Heller family. His son Randy is chief in charge of uniform patrol at Miami-Dade; a daughter, Wendy Heller-Sotero, is an officer with Miami-Dade; and daughter-in-law Janna Heller is a captain with Miami-Dade. His third child, Craig Heller, is a hospital administrator in Jacksonville. As for the delayed retirement, Heller is in no rush to retire again.

"My wife wants me out of the house anyway," he says.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Irv Heller is a charter member of the South Florida Shomrim Society. He is currently the Chairman of the Board of Directors. He has served his community and his fraternal organizations in a most admirable way.