

SUKKOT

Five days after Yom Kippur, the Jew is commanded to observe the Feast of Tabernacles. Sukkot is one of the three Pilgrimage Festivals, the origin of which dates back to very ancient times. Like Pesah and Shavuot, it was celebrated as an agricultural festival long before it was associated with any specific events in Jewish history. Sukkot was originally a harvest festival at which time the farmer would celebrate the reaping of the seasonal fruit and the gathering of the vintage. The celebration also signified the closing of the agricultural year. It was customary for the farmer to dwell in a booth for protection against wild beasts.

Later the holiday took on a historical meaning. The booths served to recall the frail shelters that the Hebrews inhabited during their sojourn in the wilderness. Thus it became customary to build temporary quarters every year to recall the Exodus.

A third concept was later incorporated into the meaning of the holiday. The Jew was commanded to express thanksgiving for the bounty of nature. The hut was to be decorated with seasonal fruit to recall gratitude to God for the gifts of nature.

The Sukkah serves also to remind us of the frailty of man and his dependence on God for material blessings. The roof is covered with leaves and branches, and the walls are improvised, emphasizing man's mortal nature, his need for God's beneficence. The emphasis was most timely, especially since the fanner, impressed with his abundant crop, might consider himself and not God responsible for his bounteous harvest. He goes forth, then, from his solid home to a frail hut which is vulnerable to floods and winds, thus submitting himself to divine protection and displaying utter trust in God.

THE SUKKAH

The Sukkah, a fragile hut built of branches and leaves, is the main feature of the Sukkot festival. The origin of the practice of "dwelling in booths" during the festival is not certain. The Pentateuch (fifth book of the Bible) tells us that the Sukkah is a reminder of days when Jews wandered in the desert and lived in tents. Many scholars believe this to be a forced interpretation of the word Sukkah, and that if the Sukkah was really connected with the Exodus, Passover would be the time for dwelling in booths. The Jewish philosophers Philo and Maimonides explained the Sukkah as a symbol erected to bring evidence of misfortune at a time of good fortune. Still others believe that the Sukkah reminds us that Jews live everywhere only temporarily, wandering eternally. The Sukkah dwelling today, wherever it is located, retains the feeling of impermanence. The celebration calls for dwelling in Sukkah for seven days. While dwelling means eating and sleeping, most people limit their activities to eating and study. Any lightweight material sturdy enough to withstand average regional winds can be used to build the walls of the Sukkah. Walls must be between 35 inches and 35 feet high. No Mazuzah is placed on the door jambs. The roof is made of leaves and branches. Openings must be left in it so that the light of the sun, moon, and stars can be seen. In celebration of the harvest, the Sukkah is decorated with fruits and vegetables hung from the roof and the walls. Hospitality is a basic element of the holiday. An essential ingredient of Sukkot is sharing meals with others, so there must be room for a table and chairs in the Sukkah since we eat and visit with friends in it.

LETTERS

To the Officers, Board of Directors, and General Members of the South Florida Shomrim Society:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for selecting us to receive and share the first Captain Hyman P. Galbut Memorial Scholarship presented through the South Florida Shomrim Society. All three of us can assure you that the money has already come in very handy.

For many years we attended the picnic, helped with the dinner dance and put the newsletter together and got some of the "volunteer" hours required by the State of Florida for graduation from high school. We got to know many of the members of the South Florida Shomrim Society through those events. We also know how proud our parents are to be a part of this organization. We will try very hard to make you all as proud of us as they are.

Thanks again,

Stefanie, Krystina, and Brandon Leibowitz

Florida Gulf Coast University

Just Say HMMMMMM (Continued)

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.

When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

South Florida Shomrim Society
4200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137



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The Real Miami Vice

A Former Member of the Miami-Dade Police Squad Tells What it Was Really Like.
By Deborah Netburn, LA Times Staff Writer July 25 2006

From 1975 to 1978, David R. Ward was a member of the Vice, Intelligence and Narcotics Squad of Miami-Dade Police Department. It was a six-man squad plus a sergeant. "We all saved each others lives a number of times," he says. "They were like brothers to me."

Ward's partner was an Italian guy named Vince, a fellow hot-dog who had a knack for catching criminals. Together they set up a deal to buy 10,000 pounds of marijuana, busted a state legislator for selling drugs, and carried machine guns on dangerous stakeouts in the wilds of South America.

These days Ward works as the Chief of Police for the Miccosukee Tribe in South Florida. Before that he worked as a homicide detective. We spoke with Ward whose nickname on the squad was "Disco Dave" to see if the real thing is anything like the TV show, and the movies. The answer? Yes and no. The people are less attractive, but the situations are just as insane.

LA TIMES: So you really went undercover and everything?

DW: We really were under cover. I had a fictitious name, fictitious drivers license. But I wasn't like the flashy colors from the Don Johnson era. I was more of a surfer dude in Miami and Vince gave the impression he was Italian Mafia. He was the money guy, I was the dude on the street that would start the deal. I would buy little amounts, and then Vince would bring in the money. We were always partners.

LA TIMES: Did you have to use a lot of guns?

DW: We had a lot of guns. Vince and I carried Walther's Walther PPKs these little guns that only had seven bullets. And as back up we had high-standard 22-magnum two-shot Derringers. They only had two rounds one for them, one for us if we got caught.

One heroin deal we did in the middle of the projects, Vince left with the girl who set it up, but I had to stay in the house with another girl. I went to the bathroom and when I came back the room was full of like a football team eight guys in the room and they all weighed 300 pounds. I was like 150 at this time. So I was there by myself with the Derringer and these eight guys. I figured I could shoot the window out and run for it if it started to get rough, but those little Derringers couldn't hit anything. I started making up all kinds of stories, just to keep them talking. Then finally Vince showed up with the dope and we left.

LA TIMES: How did you guys get on the vice squad in the first place?

DW: It just so happened at the time that Vince and I were both proactive policemen in uniform. We caught bad guys regularly and our commanders took notice of that. When somebody transferred out of the unit we put in an application. We almost gave our lieutenant a heart attack. He didn't look like Castillo, but there is some resemblance between me and Don Johnson. We had this old gray Duster, an office the size of a broom closet that all six of us worked out of. We were hot-dogs and we always got the bad guy.

LA TIMES:: What kinds of busts were you making?

DW: We busted everybody for everything: ludes, hash, marijuana, black tar heroin that's what got us in trouble with the Haitians. Cocaine became a big thing. One time we bought a pound and the night we were doing it I was playing chemist and testing it on a chemistry set. Everybody was real entertained, until finally this bodybuilder guy realized something was wrong and started rushing us. We were screaming like little girls yelling for help. Finally, one of the guys that went on to become an FBI agent shoved a shotgun through the window, and then the bodybuilder, he calmed down. Then everybody got in but his wife ran in the back bedroom. The rest of the team tried to kick the lock but they couldn't open the door so they stepped back and shot it and blew up the waterbed. That was real Miami Vice.

LA TIMES: Did you ever get in too deep?

DW: Well, you lose your identity. Sometimes when you are undercover, you feel bad. You befriend these guys, and the next day you have to bust them and you know they have a family and kids.

LA TIMES: In your expert opinion, how realistic do you think the movie looks?

DW: I haven't seen the new movies; I've just seen excerpts. The movies are theatrical. Doing undercover work you get scared, you are petrified, and the only ones that survive are the ones that have a dynamic gift of gab and think fast on their feet. One time I was stuck in a car with a guy and before the bust went down, the guy opened my glove compartment and saw the radio and the badge. He said, "What is that stuff." And I said, "Oh, I got that at a flea market." Then I told him, "If you really want to do something fun, press that button there and say move in, move in," and of course our guys were there and he busted himself. **(David Ward Continued Page Three)**

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Rabbi Jeremiah Burstyn, Spiritual Adv

NEXT MEETING

October 15, 2006
10:00AM
Greater Miami Jewish
Federation
4200 Biscayne Blvd
Miami, Fl. 33137

CONDOLENCES:

To Aleidy and Frank Piloto. Aleidy's mother, Catalina O. Cabrera, passed away August 2, 2006, after a long illness.

GET WELL:

Thank G-d we have everyone in Good Health Heading into the New Year.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE:

CHAIRMAN: BARRY MANKES

MEMBERS: Helen Baimel, Beverly Morshenson, Jorge Ghitis

The plans for the Annual Dinner Dance, scheduled for November 9, 2006, are done and ticket sales are in full force. Call for reservations today!!!

The 2007 **Mach'n A Piknik** is set for Sunday, March 11, 2007, at the CB Smith Park in Pembroke Pines (Broward County) Florida.

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 ELECTIONS WILL BE CLOSED AT
THE OCTOBER 15, 2006 MEETING AND THE ELECTION WILL BE HELD THERE**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
SOUTH FLORIDA SHOMRIM SOCIETY
ANNUAL DINNER DANCE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 2006
MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY

WHAT YOU MISSED BY NOT BEING AT THE LAST MEETING

Of course, we started off with the bagels and coffee and some quality schmoozing. 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 Annual Dinner Dance.

Chapter President Gregg Glasel announced that the elections were upon us and that the nominations would open at the meeting and the elections to be held at the October 15th meeting at the Federation Building. The rules for nominations and acceptance were discussed (constitutionally candidates had to be present to be nominated or have written acceptance) The nominations:

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

Chapter Executive Vice President Barry Mankes reported to those 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.

We had the pleasure of seeing our Brother Paul Braunstein for the first time in many months and also BSO Chief David Rahinsky, whose father was a Past President of Shomrim of Philadelphia, was in attendance. 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

Chief David Ward, Miccosukkee Police Department

and our Person of the Year

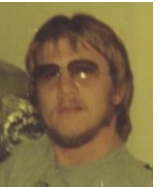
Mr. Russell W. Galbut, Managing Principal, Crescent Heights

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

OR

E-mail: barry.shomrim@gmail.com

David Ward Continued
(From Page 1)



LA Times: Did you ever put your finger into a bag of white powder and taste it to see if it was Cocaine?

DW: No. You don't know if you are dipping your finger in poison. That's why you have these chemistry sets, and you could entertain people with them. It was very entertaining, and if you did something like that, you simulated. You could also scoop cocaine and instead of using your nose, make a "hee" sound with your mouth and then you would flick it off when nobody was looking. You had to be careful, or you would be killed. You had to be really cool. Or you would say, "I don't do that during business. This is business. I want to keep my head straight."

LA Times: What's the most money you ever carried at once?

DW: A quarter of a million dollars. We signed our life away and our children to get it, and they sent roughly 30 policemen to guard me with it. That was a lot of money then. Today it would be like a couple million dollars at least. That was for the 10,000 pounds of marijuana deal.

(Continued Below)

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.

This day is the anniversary of the start of your handiwork, a remembrance of the first day. Today all creatures of the world stand in judgment (Rosh Hashanah Prayer)

Rosh Hashana marks the beginning of a new agricultural cycle in the Holy Land. It marks the day in which we stand before our L-rd to be judged for a new cycle of our lives. The pattern of creation that was set by the L-rd applies to all segments of the universe. We human beings are renewed in our spiritual life in the same manner that the earth is renewed.

Plowing is the first step in field work. The earth must be purged from matter that might inhibit fresh growth. In order to promote the desired quality and quantity of new growth, rocks, pebbles, old roots, brush, weeds and all debris must be cleared from the plot. The next step is irrigation and fertilization to provide the earth with water and minerals. This is followed by loosening the soil in order to allow the roots to absorb the nutrients. This is followed by pulling out any strange growth of weeds that might take away the nourishment from the crops. Sunshine is another important ingredient for the quality of the field's production.

In preparing ourselves for spiritual renewal, we must purge our personality from bad character traits. We need to wield a sharp plowshare, ridding ourselves of greed, lust, vanity, revenge, resentment, hostility and laziness. This will result in an emotional void which we must fill with good character traits of compassion, discipline, dignity, forgiveness, love and enthusiasm. Constant alertness must be exercised not to allow any undesirable feelings to invade our personality.

We then expose ourselves to the light of Torah learning and the warmth of prayerful worship and kind deeds and words.

With these efforts, we can with confidence anticipate the fulfillment of our prayer:

Our Father, our King, renew for us a good year.

David Ward Continued from above

LA Times: What were some of your scariest experiences?

DW: I had an informant major, major informant. He was so good that they attached Vince and myself to the Department of Treasury to take out some major drug dealers out of South America. We'd have to meet in the woods and then we'd jump out and arrest them.

One night we were lying out there, and something grabbed my leg, like a crab or something, and I made a noise and the bad guys heard the noise. I could hear them saying, "Who's that?" in Spanish. Then one of them said, "It's probably a cat. Let's shoot it." They wanted to shoot into the bushes where we were at, and then my informant was saying, "No don't waste the bullets." We had three five-man teams that we deployed that night, but it was pitch black. I was scared. We were in the bushes with machine guns, they had machine guns, that could have been really ugly.

The other night that scared me was one of the guys did a buy-bust he went in and bought it, and then we go right back in and bust them. But when we came in they had the coke on an old vinyl album cover. And when we busted in they tossed it up and it made a cloud of coke and one guy threw a gun on the floor or dropped it and we heard a shot, and at that moment we were feeling ourselves to see if we got hit. We were like all six of us in the doorway feeling each other to make sure nobody had a hole in them.

LA Times: What kind of car did you drive?

DW: We had an old Duster, we had an old Thunderbird, and my father sold me a 1969 Ford LTD. And Vince had the coolest car, an orange Volkswagen Bug with chrome reverse rims and a cool eight-track stereo. One time we rented a Cadillac to put a show on for a big deal, but mostly we used beat-up cars.

LA Times: What did you think of the Miami Vice television show?

DW: I actually was on the show. I was an extra when Don Johnson married Sheena Easton. The "Vice" thing was entertaining. I compare it to the line in "The Last Action Hero" where the kid said something like, "This is a movie. You can tell because there are no ugly women." In the drug world, people are ugly; they are not attractive.