

EVENTS

**SHOMRIM SOCIETY ANNUAL
 FAMILY DAY PICNIC**

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017
(time pending)

**BELMONT RACE TRACK
 PICNIC GROUNDS**

**GLATT KOSHER HERO'S, COLD SALADS
 AND DRINKS**

Special separate adult and children's beverage tasting events!

\$35 per person includes admission, food and friendship,
 watch a race, enjoy some delicious food, make a new friend...
 It will be a day to remember!

Tickets are limited (really!)

For more information or to order tickets please contact:
 Bro. Jacob Novikov
 711 West 190 Street, Apt #1D, New York, N.Y. 10040
 or call 1-617-794-9988

**NYPD SHOMRIM SOCIETY 5TH ANNUAL
 "OLD TIMERS LUNCHEON CELEBRATION"**

(No one is old at this event) Everyone is welcome to attend...
 Retired - Active - Uniform - Civilian

Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 12:00 noon at
Ben's Kosher Restaurant and Delicatessen of Bayside
 211-37 26th Avenue Bayside, New York 11360

Join some of your long time friends and make some new ones.
RSVP by: Friday June 2, 2017

Make check payable to the Shomrim Society \$35.00 per person
 Send to: Shomrim Society - Chaplains Office, 1 Police Plaza NY, NY 10038
 Attn: LUNCHEON - Paul Daniel

For additional information please contact: Bro. Paul Daniel at 516-731-6977
 or shomrim.oldtimersluncheon@gmail.com

If you have a transportation issue please contact me and we will do our best to accommodate you.

*****Dress Code: Casual / Come as you are*****

April Meeting - 7:30 PM

Monday, April 24, 2017
 Or Olam – The East 55th Street
 Synagogue
 308 East 55th Street
 New York, NY 10022
 (NOTE: 4th Monday)

May Meeting - 7:30 PM

Monday, May 15, 2017
 Or Olam – The East 55th Street
 Synagogue
 308 East 55th Street
 New York, NY 10022

Mission to Israel

April 24th - May 4, 2017
 (See February back page)

Shomrim Family Day Picnic

Sunday, May 21, 2017
 Belmont Race Track
 (details on top left)

Celebrate Israel Parade

Sunday, June 4, 2017
 (details next month)

5th Annual Old Timer's Luncheon

Thursday, June 8, 2017
 (See bottom this page)

Annual Shomrim Oneg Shabbat

Friday, June 23, 2017
 (details page 3)

Annual Cigar Night

Thursday, June 29, 2017
 (details page 5)

National Shomrim Cruise

January 2018
 (see back page)



FROM THE PRESIDENT BROTHER JOSEPH COHEN



Happy Spring everyone! Thank you to everyone who participated in the Passover Distribution, and a special thanks to Bro. Ben Gelber, Bro. Stu and Marcia Portner in helping assure its success. I hope everyone has a nice Passover and that no afikomen goes unfound.

Mazel tov again to our board that was installed at our dinner dance on March 26.

We have a busy couple of months ahead before we break for the summer. We will be having our "Annual Family Outing" formerly known as Fathers' Day event on May 21st. Details are on the front page. June 4th we will be marching in the Celebrate Israel Parade, and June 29th will be our Annual Cigar Night at the Varuna Boat Club in Brooklyn. And don't forget our Oneg (page 3) and the Old Timers Luncheon (page 1).

Everyone be safe, and I hope to see you at an event or a meeting soon.

Bro. Joseph Cohen
President

Members are advised that recommendations for the 2017 Person of the Year, Asser Levy, and Otto Raphael Award honorees must be received by the President no later than April 30.

All nominations must be in writing and contain information as to the worthiness of the individuals for the awards specified. Each person submitting a nomination will be invited to the May Board of Directors Meeting to speak on behalf of their nominee.

CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE
Sunday, June 4, 2017
(details next month)



SHOMRIM NEWS



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* Deceased

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CIRCULATION 2400



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

MATZOH- NOURISHMENT FOR THE BODY AND SPIRIT

By Dr. Alvin Kass, Rabbi



Every Jew in every generation since the first Passover some 3500 years ago knows that the most important symbol of Passover is matzoh. The matzoh dramatically proclaims the very meaning of the great festival that marks the birth of the Jewish people.

It is interesting that in all cultures bread, whether leavened or unleavened, occupies a central position. The Hindu scriptures state: "Everything is food, but bread is the great mother." Nicholas Berdayev, a Russian Jewish philosopher, said it this way: "Bread for myself is a physical problem. Bread for my neighbor is a spiritual problem."

Jews have always understood this. That is why the Bible told us to leave the corners of the field and the after-gleanings for the poor. The whole concept of tzedakah is really an extension of the basic understanding of our responsibility to share the very substance of life with those who are needy.

Perhaps this is best illustrated in a wonderful story about Passover. A solicitor for charity went to the home of a wealthy Jew on the eve of Passover to solicit maot hittim. This is money for the poor who cannot afford to have a proper Passover. He rapped on the door, waking the affluent one from his afternoon siesta. Angry that his nap was disturbed, the wealthy Jew opened the door in a sour mood. His mood was translated into action when he saw the solicitor and

slapped his face. The solicitor placed one hand on his face to soothe the stinging pain and extended the other hand to the wealthy man saying "The slap you have given me. Now what will you give to the poor?"

On Pesach the Jew knows when he or she eats the matzoh that the most important thing is to understand that it is the bread of poverty and to identify with the needy. Matzoh stands for the spiritual excellence of our people. It reminds us that the real purpose of our rituals is to teach us to do what is proper in life and to care about others.

A prominent rabbi in a shtetl (small European village) used to personally supervise the baking of the matzoh. Although he was very busy, he devoted the whole week prior to Passover to oversee this important task. Once he fell ill and could not carry out his usual charge. His congregation came to him and said: "Rabbi, we are sorry that you cannot personally be present to supervise the baking of the matzoh, so we will do it for you. But is there anything special that we should be careful to observe?" And the good rabbi replied: "Yes, make sure that those employed to bake the matzoh receive a fair wage."

That is the real meaning of matzoh - spiritually enriched bread.

Miryom, Sarah, Lewis and Sarah, Danny and Debby, Judah, Bennett, and Nava join me in wishing you a chag sameach v'kasher, a happy and kosher holiday.

ONEG SHABBAT

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2017 – 1800 hours

**EAST MIDWOOD JEWISH CENTER
1625 Ocean Avenue, between Ave. K and Ave. L**

Traditional Friday Night Shabbat Service
lead by our own Spiritual Director Rabbi Dr. Alvin Kass.
Services will be followed by a Glatt Kosher Shabbat dinner.
The cost of this moving experience is a mere \$30 per person.

Children 6-12 \$15 Children under 6 are free.

Please send checks to: Shomrim Society, c/o Bro. Steve Litwin
135 Ocean Parkway, Apt # 16P, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218
or call Chairman Bro. Litwin at 718-207-0064

THE WATCHMAN'S EYE

By: Brother Stuart Portner

MAZEL TOV

Past Pres. Bro. Gary (Gershon) Katz, whose daughter Ariela earned an Associate's Degree in Interior Design at the New School/Parsons School of Design in January 2017.

GET WELL

Past Pres. Bro. Bob Sunshine

Bro. Bernie Baruch Skinner

Bro. Marty Kish

Miryom Kass

Honorary Member Larry Haspel

IN MEMORIAM

Life Member **Bro. Irving Condiotti**

Linda Seyffarta Wright, daughter of Life Member

Bro. Bernie Cohen

Sy Rothenberg, uncle of Past Pres. Bro. Steve Litwin

Joy Heather Gerber daughter of Bro. Lowan Levy

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Martin D Hantz - Retired NYC TPD

Application for Honorary Membership

Hon. Bruce Balter Supreme Court Justice.

Will be voted upon at April meeting

"NOTICE"

A City Councilman is endeavoring to locate any living descendent of Ptl Leon Fox who was killed in the Line of Duty. The Councilman wishes to have a street named in his honor. If you have any information concerning the location of a descendent of Ptl Fox, please forward that information to me as soon as possible.

Will Sekzer, Historian
718 392-1272

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THIS DATE IN SHOMRIM HISTORY

By: Brother Wilton Sekzer, Historian

50 Years Ago – April 1967

50 Years Ago – April 1967

The Annual Dinner Dance was a huge success. It was held at the Grand Ballroom of the Americana Hotel and numerous entertainers appeared to entertain us. The Newsletter featured a photo of Pres. Koenigsberg accepting a donation check for the Passover Distribution. The donation was presented by Mr. Louis Mirell, father of deceased member Julius Mirell (killed in the line of duty in 1948). I personally feel that the Passover Distribution is, in the words of Winston Churchill, "Our Finest Hour". A "Puerto Rican Holiday" trip is announced. It is planned for May 30-June 4. A "Spring Reunion Weekend" is scheduled for June 16-18 at Goldman's in New Jersey. There was no Membership Meeting or Newsletter in the month of April back then. Every April saw the operation of a "Ladies Night" and the regular course of business was suspended.

And Throughout The Rest Of The World:

Expo 67 opens to the public, with over 310,000 people attending. Six-Day War (approach): Israeli fighters shoot down 7 Syrian MIG-21s. In Houston, Texas, boxer Muhammad Ali refuses military service. He is stripped of his boxing title and not allowed to fight for three years.

We Were Singing In The Shower:

"Light My Fire" by The Doors

And We Were Watching On The Tube:

NBC airs what will prove to be the pilot of "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In".

And We Took Our Special Someone to See:

"Bonnie and Clyde" with Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway.

25 Years Ago – April 1992

In response to my request for the donation of any Shomrim material in possession of a member, I received a collection of Shomrim membership cards from Bro. David Burd. The donation is valuable in itself but the condition of the cards is truly amazing. Bro. Lenny Kaplan took a Leave of Absence to accept the position of 1st Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commissioner.

And Throughout The Rest Of The World:

A Miami jury convicts former Panamanian ruler Manuel Noriega of assisting Colombia's cocaine cartel. Los Angeles riots: The acquittal of 4 police officers in the Rodney King beating criminal trial triggers massive rioting in Los Angeles. The riots will last for 6 days resulting in 53 deaths and over a \$1 billion in damages before order is restored.

We Were Singing In The Shower:

"Baby Got Back" by Sir Mix A-Lot

And We Were Watching On The Tube:

Jay Leno debuted as host of "The Tonight Show".

And We Took Our Special Someone to See:

"Basic Instinct" with Michael Douglas and Sharon Stone

To sponsor a collation for \$36 or to announce a Simcha, or if you wish to receive up to the minute information regarding Shomrim, please e mail Executive Secretary Stuart Portner at shomrimsocietyexesecretary@gmail.com and you will be put on our E Mail list.



STU'S VIEWS

By: Brother Stuart Gang

After the Children of Israel fled Egypt, land of our bondage, and reached a place in the wilderness called Rephidim, the nation of Amalek attacked without provocation. The Israelites fought back and "Joshua weakened Amalek and its people."

God never commanded continuing enmity against the Egyptians, but commands the newly formed Nation of Israel, once they are settled in their new land, to "wipe out the memory of Amalek from under the heaven – you shall not forget!"

Why such a harsh decree against Amalek?

The Torah tells us Amalek "struck those lagging at the rear, when you were tired and exhausted, and he did not fear God" (Devarim/Deuteronomy 25:18) Our Sages inform us that what makes that sort of attack so vile, is Amalek did not attack with courage or with the goal of winning outright, but rather sniped in order to cause doubt among the Israelites.

Sniping at American institutions, particularly law enforcement by politicians and left-wing movements has been increasing in intensity and frequency. Their goal – weaken rightful authority.

Two examples: When a painting depicting pigs dressed as police officers pointing their guns at protestors in Ferguson was removed from display in our nation's capital by the Architect of the Capitol, Congressman William Lacy Clay sued in Federal court. [See February's column.] He contends taking down the painting portraying police in an offense way, "was unfair, arbitrary and unconstitutional." When Linda Sarsour, executive director of the Arab American Association of New York and an organizer of the Women's March on Washington, spoke at the

"Day Without a Woman" rally in New York last month, she accused the police of wonton killings.

In his book, "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion," psychologist Jonathan Haidt notes that cultures vary enormously in the degree to which they demand respect be shown to parents, teachers, and others in positions of authority. Nonetheless, I don't think the constant undermining of respect for the police and their authority can be a good thing. Proper authority is one of the elements that create a moral order.

This being New York, where racial politics is often seen as being the highest moral order, a task force commissioned by the NYS Board of Regents recommended that the requirement aspiring teachers take and pass the Academic Literacy Skills Test be eliminated. Columnist Bob McManus wrote, "It's not a particularly hard test, not for folks supposedly trained to teach others to read."

The test had been challenged in court, but a federal judge found it was not discriminatory, and was based on objective performance standards, "appropriately designed

to ensure that only those applicants who possess the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to teach successfully may be hired to do so in New York's public schools."

But because different ethnicities passed at different rates, the test, designed to weed out those not literate enough to teach, was targeted for elimination. As a member of the task force, Leslie Soodak, who is a professor of education at Pace University, said, "Having a white workforce really doesn't match our student body anymore."

On the student side of the education equation, the Department of Education announced that of the 27,853 students who took the objective test for admission to one of the city's eight elite high schools, 5,078 were offered a place. Here too, different ethnicities passed at different rates.

Some have already expressed their doubt as to why 53% of those accepted were Asian, while Asians are 15% of the citywide student population.

By reducing the achievements of an individual into ethnic or race statistics, the educators undermine another aspect of the moral order: The dignity of the individual.

ANNUAL NYPD SHOMRIM CIGAR NIGHT

Thursday, June 29, 2017 – 1800 hrs

Varuna Boat Club

2806 Emmons Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11235

\$115 in advance

\$125 at door (limited availability)

Send checks payable to: NYPD Shomrim Society

Bro. Michael Podber

87-28 254 Street

Bellerose, NY 11426

NATIONAL SHOMRIM CRUISE

CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE

Celebrity Cruises Departing Ft. Lauderdale on Sunday, January 7th, 2018
7-Night trip going to Caribbean - (Western Caribbean)

Visiting: Ft. Lauderdale, Key West, Costa Maya, Cozumel, Grand Cayman

Deluxe Ocean View with Veranda: \$1134.00 Inside: \$739.00 Ocean View: Call for price

Prices are per person based on double occupancy.
Single rate is double with only one tax.

Taxes are an additional \$129.14 per person.
Group Amenity is \$50.00 per cabin.

**Booking a balcony entitles you to the choice of ONE of the amenities:
A Beverage Package for two, \$300.00 additional On Board Credit or Prepaid Gratuities.**

Insurance is optional but recommended.

Deposit fully refundable until October 1, 2017

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