



HASHOMER

(Affiliated with the National Conference of Shomrim Societies
and the International Association of Jewish Public Service Employees)

P.O. BOX 35688, LOS ANGELES, CA 90035

January-February-March 2012 Issue

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President's Message

I am extremely humbled honored to have been elected the new President of the Shomrim Society of Southern California and am pleased to accept the responsibilities that your trust has entitled me to. I want to thank you all for your support, especially Marvin Goldsmith for his guidance and as well as his service to this organization over the past decade. I look forward to continuing my relationship with Marvin in his capacity as 'President emeritus'. Marv has set the bar very high and I will do my best to try and match it.

I look upon this position as an opportunity to not only build Shomrim's existing relationships with the new board members, who I welcome, but to develop new community programs and outreach as well. One of the mandates of Shomrim is to continue to build and strengthen the fraternal bonds of Jewish Law enforcement. I fully intend to build upon what Marv has created to further this cause. In the coming months, I will be outlining a new, aggressive approach to recruitment, outreach and charity through our organization. I welcome your comments, criticism and critiques.

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Thank you to all the board members of the Shomrim Society for your choice and for your trust in me. I will do my best to justify this honor with my dedication, competence and commitment to the organization and look forward to your input and involvement in all future endeavors. May 2012 bring peace, prosperity, health and happiness to you and your families, the State of Israel and the United States of America.

Fraternally yours,

Donald Beck, President

SHOMRIMSOCAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

National Shomrim Israel Tour

Participate in Israel's 64th Memorial Day and Independence Day Celebrations

April 23 – May 3, 2012

For More information:

Info@aviatours.net or 1-800-950-0747

or through

Isaac Franco, President Shomrim

francobvu@yahoo.com

Sam Miller, Group Coordinator

sam9sqd@aol.com

January Meeting

Thursday January 12, 2012, 6:30 PM

Elat Burger

9340 West Pico Blvd

(Just East of Beverly Drive)

February Meeting

Thursday February 9, 2012, 6:30 PM

Bodhi Kitchen (**Thai**)

9303 West Pico Blvd

March Meeting

To Be Announced

Annual Banquet Thursday March 22, 2012

MAZEL TOV

To Glenn Crites on his recent marriage

To Marvin and Adele Goldsmith on the birth of their 9th, 10th and 11th great grandchildren

NEW LAWS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2012

by Dr. Yael Hellman

Over 700 new laws went into effect in the state of California January 1, 2012, ranging from child car safety to banning shark fin soup. This is a just partial list of the new laws for 2012.

California residents may now register to vote online.

All ballot initiatives will be voted on in November elections, instead of June primaries

The presidential primary has officially been moved from February to June.

All of California's 55 electoral votes will ultimately go to the winner of the popular vote in U.S. presidential elections.

With a few exceptions, the use of consumer credit reports by employers when hiring will now be prohibited.

Government and third parties are prohibited from gathering information about what books you read or buy over the Internet, unless they obtain a court order.

Internet retailers must collect California sales tax on transactions if the retailer has a presence in the state, a measure that aims to protect local stores from unfair competition and increase revenues for cash-strapped California.

Minors will need a prescription to buy any drug containing destromethorphan, an ingredient in many popular over-the-counter cough medicines including Robitussin, NyQuil and Dimetapp.

Tanning beds may not be used by anyone under 18. Women may take up to four months' pregnancy disability leave.

California Male Circumcision Law--Local governments, such as cities and counties, can no

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longer ban infant male circumcision. *Law effective immediately.*

Stores will be banned from selling expired infant food or formula;

Health insurers must include coverage for autism;

Foster care will be extended beyond age 18 to 21.

Previously, California law required children remain in a booster seat until age 6 or until they weighed 60 pounds. A change to California's Child Passenger Safety Seat Law will now required children to ride in either a car seat or booster seat until the age of 8, or until they reach a height of 4'9". This law also requires children who do not meet the age or height requirement to ride in the rear seat of a vehicle unless the vehicle has no back seats, the restraint system cannot be properly installed or the rear seats are already occupied by children under the age of eight. However, the law still maintains that a child may not ride in the front seat of vehicle with an active passenger airbag if they are under one year of age, less than 20 pounds, or riding in a rear-facing child safety seat. (SB 929, Evans) Drivers caught breaking the booster seat law can face fines starting at \$475.

Protection of Parent-Child Relationships Law
Allows courts to consider the relationship between a child and a non-biological parent when considering child rights cases involving birth parents, adoptive parents, and gay or lesbian guardians.

Sale, trade, or distribution of shark fins, popular delicacy in Chinese cooking, is prohibited in most cases due to the rampant slaughter of sharks.

The importation, production and sale of beer with added caffeine is prohibited.

A \$4 million fund will be devoted to work on a high-speed rail system between L.A. and San Diego;

Schools can suspect students for bullying classmates on social networking sites;

Combats bullying of gay and lesbian students in public schools by requiring school districts to have a uniform process for dealing with gay bullying complaints. Mandates that school personnel intervene if they witness gay bullying.

Classrooms must teach about the contributions of gays and lesbians to American history. One adds lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and disabled people, to a list of cultural groups whose contributions to the development of the [United States](#) must be portrayed in social science course material in public schools. The law bans teaching materials that reflect poorly on gays or particular religions. Already, opponents have begun seeking a ballot initiative to repeal the law.

Illegal immigrants accepted into public universities and community colleges will be eligible for scholarships;

School sports teams are now required to remove from play a student athlete suspected of sustaining a possible concussion or head injury and mandates that the player receive medical clearance before returning to competition.

Drivers are required to stop and submit to a sobriety checkpoint. However, peace officers will be prohibited from impounding a vehicle for 30 days out of a sobriety checkpoint if the only offense by the driver is failing to hold a valid driver license. The new law requires that the officer make a reasonable attempt to identify the registered owner in order to release the vehicle. (AB 353, Cedillo)

Anyone who is convicted of reckless driving under Section 23103.5 of the Vehicle Code can apply for restricted driver license prior to the completion of their one-year suspension, provided they meet specified conditions, including the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device (IID) in their vehicle. (AB 520, Ammiano)

Courts can revoke, for up to a decade, the driver's license of anyone convicted of three or more DUIs; Section 23579 was added to the Vehicle Code, which authorizes courts to revoke a driver's license for 10 years if a person is convicted of three or more

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DUIs. Under this law enacted in 2010, a motorist may be allowed to apply for reinstatement of his or her driver's license with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) after five years, if the person installs an IID in their vehicle. The law allows the DMV to terminate this restricted license if the IID requirements are not met. (AB 1601, Hill)

Vehicles will be prohibited from crossing double parallel solid white lines except where permitted. (AB 1105, Gordon)

California Handgun Open Carry Law -- Open-carry citizen handgun ban. Supported by police officers who cannot tell whether openly carried weapons are loaded. Violators pay \$1,000 plus 6 months in jail. Gun rights advocates vow to carry rifles and shotguns instead. Californians can still get permits for concealed weapons.

PURIM 2012

**Jewish Year 5772: sunset March 7 -
nightfall March 9, 2012**

Significance: *Remembers the defeat of a plot to exterminate the Jews*

Length: *1 day*

Observances: *Public reading of the book of Esther while "blotting out" the villain's name*

Customs: *Dressing up in costumes; parties; drinking; eating Hamantashen (fruit-filled triangular cookies)*

**by Rabbi Chaim Kolodny,
CMC, NHA, LAPD Senior Bureau Chaplain -
Office of the Chief of Police**

Purim in a Nutshell

Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. It commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination.

The story of Purim is told in the Biblical book of Esther. The heroes of the story are Esther, a beautiful young Jewish woman living in Persia, and her cousin (some say Uncle) Mordecai, who raised her as if she were his daughter. Esther was taken to

the house of Ahasuerus, King of Persia, to become part of his harem. King Ahasuerus loved Esther more than his other women and made Esther queen, but the king did not know that Esther was a Jew, because Mordecai told her not to reveal her identity.

The villain of the story is Haman, an arrogant, egotistical advisor to the king. Haman hated Mordecai because Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman, so Haman plotted to destroy the Jewish people. In a speech that is all too familiar to Jews, Haman told the king, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your realm. Their laws are different from those of every other people's, and they do not observe the king's laws; therefore it is not befitting the king to tolerate them." Esther 3:8. The king gave the fate of the Jewish people to Haman, to do as he pleased to them. Haman planned to exterminate all of the Jews.

Mordecai persuaded Esther to speak to the king on behalf of the Jewish people. This was a dangerous thing for Esther to do, because anyone who came into the king's presence without being summoned could be put to death, and she had not been summoned. Esther fasted for three days to prepare herself, then went into the king. He welcomed her. Later, she told him of Haman's plot against her people. The Jewish people were saved, and Haman was hanged on the gallows that had been prepared for Mordecai.

The book of Esther is unusual in that it is the only book of the Bible that does not contain the name of G-d. In fact, it includes virtually no reference to G-d. Mordecai makes a vague reference to the fact that the Jews will be saved by someone else, if not by Esther, but that is the closest the book comes to mentioning G-d. Thus, one important message that can be gained from the story is that G-d often works in ways that are not apparent, in ways that appear to be chance, coincidence or ordinary good luck.

Purim is celebrated on the 14th day of Adar, which is usually in March, as it is this year. The 13th of Adar II is the day that Haman chose for the extermination of the Jews, and the day that the Jews battled their enemies for their lives. On the day afterwards, the 14th, they celebrated their survival. In cities that were walled in the time of Joshua,

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Purim is celebrated on the 15th of the month, because the book of Esther says that in Shushan (a walled city), deliverance from the massacre was not complete until the next day. The 15th is referred to as Shushan Purim.

In leap years, when there are two months of Adar, Purim is celebrated in the second month of Adar, so it is always one month before Passover. The 14th day of the first Adar in a leap year is celebrated as a minor holiday called Purim Katan, which means "little Purim." There are no specific observances for Purim Katan; however, a person should celebrate the holiday and should not mourn or fast. Some communities also observe a "Purim Katan" on the anniversary of any day when their community was saved from a catastrophe, destruction, evil or oppression.

The word "Purim" means "lots" and refers to the lottery that Haman used to choose the date for the massacre.

The Purim holiday is preceded by a minor fast, the Fast of Esther, which commemorates Esther's three days of fasting in preparation for her meeting with the king.

The primary commandment related to Purim is to hear the reading of the book of Esther. The book of Esther is commonly known as the Megillah, which means scroll. Although there are five books of Jewish scripture that are properly referred to as megillahs (Esther, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Lamentations), this is the one people usually mean when they speak of The Megillah. It is customary to boo, hiss, stamp feet and rattle gragers (noisemakers; see illustration) whenever the name of Haman is mentioned in the service. The purpose of this custom is to "blot out the name of Haman."

We are also commanded to eat, drink and be merry. According to the Talmud, a person is required to drink until he cannot tell the difference between "cursed be Haman" and "blessed be Mordecai," though opinions differ as to exactly how drunk that is. A person certainly should not become so drunk that he might violate other commandments or get seriously ill. In addition, recovering alcoholics or others who might suffer serious harm from alcohol are exempt from this obligation.

In addition, we are commanded to send out gifts of food or drink, and to make gifts to charity. The sending of gifts of food and drink is referred to as shalach manos (lit. sending out portions). Among Ashkenazic Jews, a common treat at this time of year is hamentaschen (lit. Haman's pockets). These triangular fruit-filled cookies are supposed to represent Haman's three-cornered hat. My recipe is included below.

It is customary to hold carnival-like celebrations on Purim, to perform plays and parodies, and to hold beauty contests. I have heard that the usual prohibitions against cross-dressing are lifted during this holiday, but I am not certain about that. Americans sometimes refer to Purim as the Jewish Mardi Gras.

Purim is not subject to the Sabbath-like restrictions on work that some other holidays are; however, some sources indicate that we should not go about our ordinary business on Purim out of respect for the holiday.

THE CREDIT CARD 'DA VINCI CODE'

(Off the Internet)

A pre-computer security feature was slipped into your credit card numbers and remains there today. Did you know your credit card has a "Da Vinci Code"?

It's true. Those raised numerals on your card are not only your account identifier that banks and merchants need to transact business on your behalf, but a little-known credit card version of the Da Vinci Code that verifies its validity without the aid of computers.

"It's pretty cool that something that was developed pre-computer is still in use today. I think that's really important," says Derrick Niederman, an MIT-educated mathematician, New York Times crossword puzzle creator and author of many recreational math books, including "Number Freak." Even cooler, the code, which can reveal whether a credit card number is fraudulent, is cryptically hidden within the sequence of the card numbers. Every legitimate credit, debit and ATM card on Earth contains this formula.

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This low-tech mathematical sleight of hand, dubbed the Luhn formula after its inventor, Hans Peter Luhn, played a tangential role in the development of the World Wide Web, search engines such as Google, text messaging and other high-tech wonders. Check number, please! In the unlikely event that you've given any thought at all to your credit card numbers, you probably view them as merely series of random numerals: 16 digits on Visa, MasterCard and Discover cards, 15 on American Express cards and 14 on Diner's Club/Carte Blanche cards. On a 16-digit card, the first six numerals identify the card issuer, and the next nine numerals are the card account number (AmEx uses an eight-digit account number.) But there is absolutely nothing random about the final digit of your credit or debit card number. It has been appended as a so-called check number, or key, to verify the card is valid. It's this check number that gives the Luhn formula its Da Vinci Code allure. When a card number is generated using Luhn's algorithm, various combinations of the digits on the card must ultimately add up to a number that is perfectly divisible by 10. For this reason, Luhn's formula is also referred to as modulus 10, or mod 10 for short. Change any digit or transpose nearly any two digits, and the Luhn check will catch it. "At its essence, an algorithm is a mechanizing device. It's a machine of sorts," Niederman says. "

The Luhn formula was designed to instantly detect accidental data entry errors -- missed keystrokes, transpositions and the like -- not as a defense against fraud. It doesn't identify where an invalid number went sideways; it simply flags it as nonconforming. Luhn checking won't tell you anything about the underlying card account itself. Nor should it be confused with card-verification-value codes, those extra, unembossed numbers on major credit cards that attempt to verify that the physical card is (or has been) in your possession.

Luhn, who died in 1964, wasn't hunting for the first "killer app" in the credit card world. In fact, when the German-born IBM scientist proposed his formula in 1954, general-purpose credit cards hadn't even been developed. Luhn's formula would later be included as the sum-check for a hand-held mechanical reader, for which he received a patent in 1960.

A former assistant manager of a textile mill, Luhn spent the 1930s and '40s as an engineering consultant to that industry. His Lunometer, a simple ruler like tool that visually measures the thread and line count in fabrics, is still in use today. Luhn earned more than 80 patents, including a computing gas pump, a cocktail recipe organizer (during Prohibition, no less), an inexpensive foldable raincoat and a forerunner to American Airlines' Sabre reservation management system.

After joining IBM in 1941, Luhn pioneered fundamental concepts in business information retrieval, including keywords in context and selective dissemination of information. Those breakthroughs laid the groundwork for such ubiquitous computer processes as keyword search, e-mail, instant messaging and RSS feeds

First line against fraud Although its original intent was to identify human error in the pre-computer days of manual data entry, the Luhn check remains a valuable first line of defense against credit card fraud today.

If the card numbers don't tumble correctly through the algorithm (now computed literally faster than the blink of an eye), the transaction will be halted automatically before it even reaches the card issuer for authorization. Chances are excellent that the next line of anti-fraud software would net any fishy card numbers that slipped through the Luhn check.

"For fraud, you have two choices: taking someone else's number or making one up. Luhn didn't know about that type of thing, but his algorithm still helps solve it," Niederman says. "If you were ordering something online, it obviously would be nice to give somebody else's number, but that doesn't work."

GIGGLES

Definitions

AMNESIA: Condition that enables a woman who has gone through labor to have sex again.

DUMBWAITER: One who asks if the kids would care to order dessert.

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FAMILY PLANNING: The art of spacing your children the proper distance apart to keep you on the edge of financial disaster.

FEEDBACK: The inevitable result when your baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

Moms will understand these :) . . .

FULL NAME: What you call your child when you're mad at him.

GRANDPARENTS: The people who think your children are wonderful even though they're sure you're not raising them right.

HEARSAY: What toddlers do when anyone mutters a dirty word.

IMPREGNABLE: A woman whose memory of labor is still vivid.

INDEPENDENT: How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.

OW: The first word spoken by children with older siblings.

PRENATAL: When your life was still somewhat your own.

PUDDLE: A small body of water that draws other small bodies wearing dry shoes into it.

SHOW OFF: A child who is more talented than yours.

STERILIZE: What you do to your first baby's pacifier by boiling it and to your last baby's pacifier by blowing on it.

TOP BUNK: Where you should never put a child wearing Superman jammies.

TWO-MINUTE WARNING: When the baby's face turns red and she begins to make those familiar grunting noises.

VERBAL: Able to whine in words.

WHODUNIT: None of the kids that live in your house.

The Butler

A Jewish couple won the lottery. They immediately set out to begin a life of luxury. They bought a magnificent mansion in Knightsbridge and surrounded themselves with all the material wealth imaginable.

Then they decided to hire a butler. They found the perfect butler through an agency, very proper and very British, and brought him back to their home. The day after his arrival, he was instructed to set up the dining room table for four, as they were inviting the Cohens to lunch.

The couple then left the house to do some shopping.

When they returned, they found the table set for eight. They asked the butler why eight, when they had specifically instructed him to set the table for four.

The butler replied, "The Cohens telephoned and said they were bringing the Blintzes and the Knishes

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES ON THE WEB

Visit the web site at: www.IAJPSE.org .


NATIONAL SHOMRIM AND SHOMRIMSOCAL ON THE WEB

Visit our website. We're at www.shomrimsocal.org just a click away. Get the latest updates on meetings and announcements, read about your organization, look at photos of recent events, etc. Our webmaster Marc Cohen would like to hear from all of you with your comments. Active links to other Shomrim sites, including the National Conference of Shomrim Societies.

The National Conference of Shomrim Societies has a website due to the efforts of our national webmaster Bonnie Bresalier: www.nationalshomrim.org. Visit the website and sign the guestbook and leave your comments.

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If you have something you would like added to our website send an e-mail to story@shomrimsocal.org or drop us a letter to our P.O. Box.

	SHOMRIM SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA P.O. BOX 35688 LOS ANGELES, CA 90035
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APPLICATION Please Print

LAST NAME		

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Please place check mark in front of choice:

- \$18 Initial Membership
- \$36 Renewal Membership
- \$36 Associate Membership

How did you hear about the Shomrim Society of Southern California?

What can the Shomrim Society do for you?

SIGNATURE	DATE
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Please return this application and your check to the above address. Thank you

Renew Now For 2012!

**COPY THIS PAGE AND RECRUIT
A NEW MEMBER!**

MEMBERSHIP

Use the form on the left to recruit new members for our organization or to have old members renew. Please have the application completed with all the information requested, including the e-mail address as much of our communication with members is done by e-mail.

Members of any Southern California law enforcement, public safety or administration of justice agency, law enforcement or public safety reserve officers, retired members of those agencies, or persons eligible to become a member of the National Conference may apply for membership as Regular Members. Thus, in addition to peace officers, fire fighters, men and women of the Jewish faith who are employed or retired from the various fields of law enforcement, public safety, and the administration of justice such as prosecutors, judges, parole and probation officers, correctional officers, and paramedics, to name a few, are also eligible for Regular Membership.

The initial membership fee is \$18.00, which includes membership for the first year. Annual membership dues thereafter are \$36.00. Associate Membership (non-voting) may be granted by the Board of Directors, to persons who are interested in furthering and advancing the purposes of the Shomrim Society of Southern California who do not qualify for Regular membership. Such members may be proposed by any Regular Member; however, such members must be approved by the Board of Directors and are subject to annual review by the Board for continued membership. The annual membership fee for Associate Members is \$36.00.

Additional Information

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Further information about the Society may be obtained by writing to the above address, e-mail to

shomrimsocal@gmail.com.

It's tax time

Tax time has arrived and the information below lists Law Enforcement deductions that are available to you, less reimbursement; and indicates where they should be deducted on your tax return.

	Amount		Amount
AMMUNITION		EQUIPMENT	
ASSOCIATION DUES		Wrist Watch	
WEAPONS		Watch Repairs	
On Duty		Hand Cuffs & Cuff Case	
Off Duty		Brief Case	
Range Bag		Flash Lights & Batteries	
Gun Repairs		Recorder	
Gun cleaning supplies		Binoculars	
ETC.		Digital Camera & Supplies	
EDUCATION EXPENSE		Baton	
Tuition		Ammunition Holder	
Books and Supplies		Ammunition Magazines & Clips	
Seminars		Keepers	
TELEPHONE		Key Holder	
Cell phone		Badge Tabs	
		Belts	
		Holsters, On Duty/Off Duty	
		Badge Holder	
PUBLICATIONS		Citation Book	
Guides, Books		Patrol Box	
Copies		Sun Glasses	
Subscriptions			
Manuals & Journals		Tactical Vest	
UNIFORMS		Patrol Bag	
Pants, Shirts & Jackets		Insurance	
Shoes & Repairs		Cleaners	
Rain Gear		Pens, Pencils	
Hats, gloves, Belts & Ties		ETC.	
Name Tags & Emblems		TOTALS TO SCHEDULE A	
Etc.			
UNIFORM MAINTENANCE		MILEAGE AND TRAVEL EXPENSE	
Cleaning & Laundry		Station to court Mileage	
Tailoring		Education Mileage	
Uniform Repairs		Travel expense	
Etc.		Etc.	
		TOTALS TO FORM 2106	

SAVE THE DATE!!!

SHOMRIM SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012

HONORING AND BESTOWING MEMBERSHIP ON

Carmen Trutanich
Los Angeles City Attorney

&

HONORING AS MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Jon C. Olesen
Editor Hashomer

At

(Please Note Venue Change)

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Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres: 5:30 P.M.
Dinner: 7:00 P.M.
Choice of Prime Rib or Salmon
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The ***HASHOMER*** published by the Shomrim Society of Southern California for members of the Law Enforcement, Public Safety and Administration of Justice Community

January-February-March 2012 Issue

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NEW LAWS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2012 by Dr. Yael Hellman

PURIM 2012 by Rabbi Chaim Kolodny

THE CREDIT CARD 'DA VINCI CODE' Off the Internet

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