

## **Law enforcement executives to gather at Temple Shalom Emeth in Burlington on January 9**

Bedford Chief and fellow participants of ADL security training seminar in Israel to show slide presentation

*By Susie Davidson*

When Susan Abramson, rabbi of Temple Shalom Emeth in Burlington, heard from her friend and fellow Bedford resident Robert Bongiorno that he regretted not enjoying a traditional Shabbat dinner while recently in Israel, the author of the newly-released "Challah: A Chewish Guide to the Torah" resolved to make up for this missed culinary opportunity.

This Friday, Bongiorno will get his dinner, and dining companions extraordinaire as well. Along with congregants and their guests, he will enjoy Abramson's challah and more with many fellow Chiefs of Police from the area, as well as top police and law enforcement executives of Massachusetts.

It will certainly be a secure environment, and an educational one as well. During services, Bongiorno will premiere a slide presentation that he produced with Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian of their November counterterrorism seminar in Israel. During the week-long seminar, a group of 14 police and law enforcement executives from Massachusetts met with counterparts in the Israel Police, and members of the Palestinian Civil Police Force, and also toured significant archaeological and religious sites in the area.

Bongiorno and Koutoujian will narrate the video display, and hold discussions with co-participants of the Israel trip who will be in attendance.

They will include Boston Police Superintendent William G. Gross; Bongiorno; Chief Len Campanello of Gloucester; Chief Robert Picariello of Marblehead; Lt. Colonel Sharon Costine of the Massachusetts State Police; United States Marshals Service Marshal John Gibbons; United States Secret Service Assistant Special Agent in Charge Tom Baker; and Koutoujian.

ADL New England Region Executive Director Robert Trestan will also be there, as well as Police Chiefs Dan Rosa of Billerica, Mike Kent of Burlington, and Robert J. Ferullo, Jr. of Woburn.

Abramson invited local officials as well, including State Rep. Ken Gordon (D-Bedford, Burlington, Bedford and Precinct 3 in Wilmington), who said he believed that there was much to be learned from Israel's security forces. "Israel lives in constant threat of terrorist attack, and is certainly vigilant about protecting its citizens and borders," he said in an interview.

"This is our chance to thank our chiefs for the support of the Jewish community," writes Abramson, who decided to invite the police chiefs of the towns of synagogue members, on the synagogue's Facebook page.

Her friendship with Bongiorno began in the wake of last year's anti-Semitic incidents in Bedford, when he attended gatherings of clergy. He subsequently spoke at the synagogue, as well as at an ADL meeting.

Shalom Emeth President Steve DiOrio said it was an honor to be hosting such an important event. "We're especially proud of our relationship with local and statewide law enforcement officials," he said in an email. "I commend these police chiefs for participating in the program."

Chief Brian Kyes of Chelsea; Chief Steve Mazzie of Everett; Chief Ken Ferguson of Framingham; Chief Howard Mintz of Newton; Chief Terrence M. Cunningham of Wellesley; and MBTA Transit Police Chief Ken Green also participated in the ADL mission. According to an ADL release, it was the fifth time they had organized the law enforcement seminar, and another trip is already being planned for next year. "The

counterterrorism training that occurs for these officers in Israel is intricately connected to preventing and combating anti-Semitism here in the United States," said Trestan in the release.

The program, it states, which is funded by the Gal Foundation, "is designed to help American law enforcement executives gain hands-on experience about the impact terrorism has on civil society and allow them to interact directly with their Israeli and Palestinian police peers."

Attendees look forward to seeing the presentation and learning about the officials' training experience. "Israel has been on the forefront of security issues for many years, and we can certainly benefit from hearing about her experience," said Gordon.

Temple Shalom Emeth is located at 16 Lexington Street in Burlington. For information, please visit <http://www.shalom-emeth.org>.