



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

June 2018 E-Newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

May has been an especially busy month at Kehila Kedosha Janina, as we held, not only our 4th Annual Greek Jewish Festival but, also, our first International Shabbaton preceding it with visiting rabbis from Sephardic communities throughout the United States and, representing the Romaniote world, our own Chaim Kofinas, and Rabbi Gabriel Negrin from Athens Greece. We are now preparing for our annual tour of Jewish Greece (including communities in the Balkans), so our July E-Newsletter will go out before June 25th.



From left to right: Rabbi Nissim Elnecave (New York), Rabbi Gabriel Negrin (Athens Greece), Rabbi Ben Hassan (Seattle), Rabbi Elie Abadie (New York), and Rabbi David Gingold-Altchek (Indianapolis)

This newsletter, our 111th will, as always, cover news regarding Kehila Kedosha Janina and news concerning Greek Jewry. We hope you find our newsletter interesting. Your feedback is of utmost importance to us. If you missed previous issues, they can be accessed on our website www.kkjsm.org.

We now reach over 9,000 households worldwide, with our community of 'friends' continually growing with each newsletter. If you know others who wish to be part of this ever-growing network, please have them contact us at museum@kkjsm.org

As always, you are all invited to attend our Saturday morning Shabbat services. Just give our Shamas, Sol Kofinas, a heads up by emailing info@kkjsm.org so we are sure that our Kiddush (traditional Greek Jewish Kosher foods) is sufficient. If you wish to sponsor a Kiddush for a special occasion or an Adara, contact Sol.

Passings

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of **Ann Haidt Cantos**, who was born on June 15, 1929 and passed away on May 8, 2018, one month short of her 90th birthday. She is survived by her husband, Morris Cantos, and her children, Brad and Barbara Cantos and Allan and Susan Cantos, her grandchildren, Lauren and Ryan Smith and Joel and Maithao Cantos, and great-grandchildren Brennan and Audrey Smith and Ayla Cantos. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Esther Krichevsky and brother-in-law Nat Cantos as well as many nieces and nephews. The Cantos family were founding member of the Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue.

Serge Dassault has died, one of the richest Frenchman. Moisse Allatini, the brother of his grandfather, was born in Salonika. He was born April 4, 1925 and died May 28, 2018. He was a French heir, business executive and politician. He served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Dassault Group and was a conservative politician. According to Forbes, Dassault's net worth was estimated in 2016 at US \$15 billion. He was born Jewish but converted to Catholicism.



Serge Dassault

Simchas

We celebrate the marriage of Evan Davidson and Melissa Zerofsky. Evan is the son of Sam Davidson and his wife, Shelley, the grandson of Sol and Leonora Davidson and the great grandson of Rabbi David and Rebecca Davidson. They were married on 4/29/18 in Berkeley, CA.



Rabbi Davidson is second from left in front row

Congratulations to Mickey and Esther Misrahi Elting on the birth of their latest grandchild. Na sas zisei.



We celebrate the upcoming 100th birthday of Rose Matza Goldstein. Rose is the daughter of Nahoum and Simchoula (Sophie) Matza, the granddaughter of Moshe and Haido Matza and the great granddaughter of Nahoum and Tovoula Matza (all from Ioannina and all of Blessed Memory. We received the following information from her niece Irene Matza: "The last remaining matriarch, in my family, Rose Matza Goldstein, is turning 100 years old on July 20th. She once explained to me that her mother's parents were founding congregants to your Temple. Her grandparents were Ralph and Eva Cohen. They immigrated to New York around 1910 from Salonika. They were Sephardic not Romaniote. Their daughter, Sophie, who is MY grandmother married Nahoom Matza from Ioannina. He was a Romaniote." According to the Matza tree from Rhonda Joyce Matza-Amira Saldias (we are so grateful for all her work), Rose is related to most Yanniotes, so let's all celebrate this great lady.



ΔΙΚΟΙ ΜΑΣ – Dikoi Mas – Los Muestros

Our synagogue is more than just a place of worship, and a place of study and learning, with our museum and extensive library. It is also a place to preserve traditions and customs and a living memorial to those Greek Jews who perished in the Holocaust. In addition, it is a place to welcome "Our Own." Each month, Greek Jews, both Romaniote and Sephardic, come to visit the center of Greek Jewry in the United States, often the place their own ancestors worshipped.

In May we were honored to welcome members of the Serota and Behar families, along with Rabbi Gabriel Negrin from Athens. In addition, so many friends stopped by for our festival that it was a truly joyous gathering.



David Behar



Martin Serota



Rabbi Gabriel Negrin

Visitors Flock to Kehila Kedosha Janina

This past May we had visitors from France, Morocco and Athens.



Ghnassia family from Morocco now living in France



Melanie Kostarakis and Anney Weil (formerly France, now Athens)

Outreach

Not only do we have visitors, but we also travel to visit others from our extended community. In May, our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad-Ikonomopoulos, travelled to New Jersey with our President, Marvin Marcus, to visit and interview Annette Binder. Annette is selling her present residence and down-sizing. She had a treasure trove to donate to our museum and was a fountain of information for our oral history collection.



Isaac, Annie and Joseph Politis



Annette Binder

A little further afield, our Museum Director travelled to Buenos Aires to pick up a Megillah Esther that had been given to a member of the Battino family from Corfu and dated back to the 17th century. In a letter (in Italian) it was explained that the Rabbi who made the gift to the family in Jerusalem was Rabbi Yeudah Bivas, who was once the Chief Rabbi of Corfu.



Sarita Battino



Marcia Haddad-Ikonomopoulos,
Vanina Battino and Sarita Battino



The Megillah Esther

Past Events of Interest at Kehila Kedosha Janina

On Friday night, May 4th and Saturday, May 5th, we hosted a historic International Greek Jewish Shabbaton at Kehila Kedosha Janina, attended by some of the most prominent Sephardic Rabbis in the United States and Rabbi Gabriel Negrin, the Chief Rabbi of Athens. After the Saturday service, and lunch, the learned rabbis gave us an unbelievable series of lectures. Rabbi Negrin spoke on the Romaniote custom of Shaddayot (we are currently developing a new museum exhibit on these), Rabbi Ben Hassan spoke about teaching Levantine Sephardic customs, Rabbi David Gingold-Altchek spoke on Post Expulsion Sephardic Philosophy, and both Rabbi Nissim Elnecape and Rabbi Dr. Elie Abadie joined a Rabbinic panel discussion which included questions from the audience. The event ended with Havdala services and the singing of Romaniote songs. Over 100 people joined us on Friday night and Saturday, and it was truly an emotional Shabbat from start to finish.



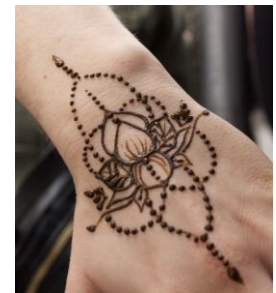
Shaddaya
(Romaniote Dedicatory Plaque)

2018 Greek Jewish Festival

On May 6th, our block on Broome St was closed off for our annual Greek Jewish Festival. This event just keeps getting better and better. We were proud to welcome more than 7,000 people including visitors from across the US, Greece, and around the world. The creator of this event is Andrew Marcus, our youngest Board of Trustees member, and the Board comes out in full force to make the event a success. Kudos to our President, Marvin Marcus, and his youngest son, Ethan, for their hard work and a special thanks to all our volunteers. The photos do not do this event justice. The smiles so tell the story.



2018 Greek Jewish Festival



Upcoming Events at Kehila Kedosha Janina

On June 3rd, we are honored to welcome our dear friend, Yvette Manassis Corporon, for a return visit to Kehila Kedosha Janina for a presentation and book signing of her latest book, "Something Beautiful Happened." Included in the presentation will be a showing of the trailer of her documentary film on the story of her journey, learning about the moving saving of Jews on a small island off the coast of Corfu, the finding the Jewish family her own family saved and, then, the unfortunate story of the loss of her nephew and his grandfather in an anti-Semitic shooting in Kansas City, Kansas. Neither her nephew nor his grandfather, were Jewish. How does one balance this contrast in events? Yvette does it beautifully in her book. Yvette will be present to sign copies of both her books ("When the Cypress Whispers" and "Something Beautiful Happened").

Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum
Invites you to a special book presentation by

YVETTE MANESSIS CORPORON

AUTHOR OF
SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL HAPPENED
A STORY OF SURVIVAL AND COURAGE
IN THE FACE OF EVIL

Sunday June 3rd at 2:00pm
Kehila Kedosha Janina
280 Broome Street NYC

Yvette is an Emmy-award winning writer and producer. When Yvette presented her first book *When the Cypress Whispers* at KKJ, it was a true moment of fate. After hearing the story of Yvette's family on the island of Erikousa off the coast of Corfu, Marcia Haddad Ikononopoulos, KKJ Museum Director and President of the Association of Friends of Greek Jewry, decided to present the Association's prestigious Award of Moral Courage to honor the Greek Christians who risked their lives to save Greek Jews during the Occupation of Greece, in Erikousa in June 2015. *Something Beautiful Happened* is the continuation of this story.

We are proud to announce our Museum Director was interviewed for both the book and the soon-to-be-released documentary.

Author will be present for book signing
Special autographed books will be available for \$20
Refreshments will be served

Please RSVP to museum@kkjsm.org or 516-456-9336



HIDDEN IMMIGRATION HISTORIES OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE

Sephardic Jewish Food Traditions

**MONDAY,
JUNE 4, 2018
6-7:30 P.M.**

**Henry Street Settlement
267 Henry Street
New York, NY 10002**

IN CONVERSATION:



Sarah Lohman, Culinary historian and author of *Eight Flavors: The Untold Story of American Cuisine*



Jessica Underwood Varma, Education Associate for Costumed Interpretation at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum



FEATURING A COMPLIMENTARY BUMUELOS TASTING!

Program is free, but RSVP is required.
RSVP online at henrystreet.org/HiddenHistories
or by phone at 212.766.9200 x2250

Co-sponsored by



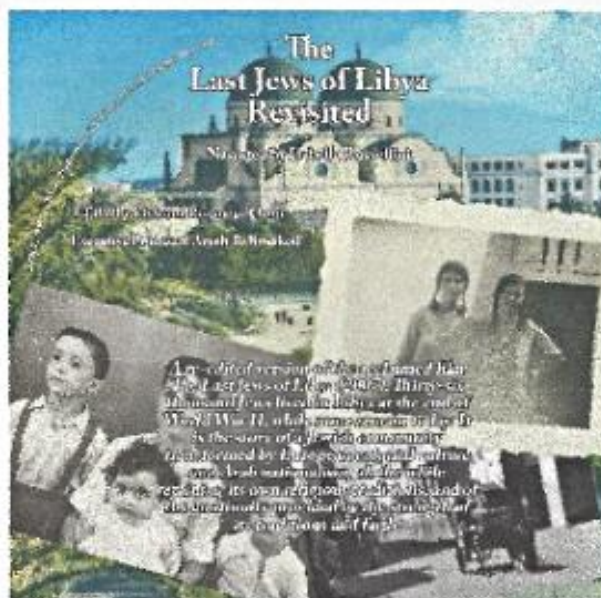
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

*The program has been made possible in part by a major
grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities:
Exploring the human endeavor.*

67-67 108th Street, Forest Hills, New York 11375

“THE LAST JEWS OF LIBYA REVISITED”

SUNDAY, JUNE 10TH, 2018 FROM 3 PM to 5 PM



REFRESHMENTS COURTESY OF THE SYNAGOGUE SISTERHOOD – SHARE YOUR POINT OF VIEW

Upcoming Events of Interest Outside of NYC

Do join us in Washington DC to hear Professor Devin Naar at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

In the annual Weinmann lecture, Dr. Devin Naar will weave together two overlooked stories not part of the mainstream Holocaust narrative: the devastating experiences of Sephardic Jews in Nazi-occupied Greece and the frantic efforts of their relatives in the United States to come to their aid. By tracing the deep connections maintained among Sephardic Jews in the United States and their native communities in Greece, Dr. Naar will reconstruct the efforts of individuals, families, and organizations like the Sephardic Brotherhood of America to respond to the rise of Nazi Germany, the outbreak of World War II, and the ultimate destruction of Greece's Jews. Continuing with their postwar efforts to commemorate their native communities in Greece, Sephardic Jews in America sought to show that although halfway across the globe, they remained "close at heart."

Speaker

Devin Naar, Isaac Alhadeff Professor in Sephardic Studies, Associate Professor of History, and faculty at the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies in the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington

This event will be followed by a reception in the Museum's Hall of Witness.

This annual lecture has been made possible by Janice Weinman Shorenstein.

Where:

US Holocaust Memorial Museum
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW
Washington, DC 20024

When:

June 6th at 7:00 pm

The lecture is Free but do register with the USHMM [here](#)



A Jewish family poses in front of Parthenon, circa 1930–1931.
US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Isaac Nehama



"Casbah at the Etz"
2018

**An Evening of Authentic
Moroccan Dining and Live music
from *"The Salaam Ensemble"***

Sunday, June 10, 2018

**5:00 PM - Silent Auction
& Cocktails**

**5:30 PM - Gourmet Multi-course
Mezza & Dinner**

Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation
6939 Hoover Road
Indianapolis IN 46260

Congregation Ezra Bessaroth *Runway for the Future*



**Shabbaton & Sunday Brunch
with Rabbi Marc Angel**

JUNE 2

Shabbaton & Kiddush Lunch
"The Sephardic American Future"
\$18/person, \$5/children under 10



JUNE 3

Fundraising Brunch honoring Albie
Amon, Albert Behar, Isaac Behar &
Menache Israel, for their years of
outstanding service .
\$40/person



**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT
RUNWAYFUTURE.EVENTBRITE.COM
BY MAY 27**



CONGREGATION EZRA BESSAROTH
206 722-5500
office@ezrabessaroth.net



Last month there were a series of desecrations of Jewish cemeteries in the United States and around the world. In Judaism, it is more important for a community to create a cemetery for the proper, respectful burial of its members than it is to create a synagogue. Therefore, it is of deep concern that we report on a number of cemetery desecrations within the last month.

Last month, in Seattle, North Seattle Sephardic Cemetery Brings in Extra Security

By LaMonica Peters Featured in Komo News full article [here](#).

For weeks, workers at the Sephardic Jewish Cemetery in North Seattle have been cleaning up needles, trash and other waste left behind by homeless campers on their grounds. On Tuesday, one of the workers said he saw a couple having sex on a tombstone and now board members claim they've had enough of people trespassing and trashing their cemetery.

The groundskeeper caught photos of the couple. He declined to go on camera after he said the couple threatened to smash his car windows when he called police. "They don't respect the area where we are. They don't respect any neighborhood they're in, so why would they be respecting a cemetery any differently? People come out here and have sex on the tombstones. Who knows what else is going on out here," said Ari Hoffman, a member of the cemetery board.



Press Release by the Jewish Community of Athens Saturday May 5th, 2018

On Saturday, the most holy day in Judaism, it is imperative and we are accustomed to abstain from everyday activities and, of course, from announcements. In the context of this almost absolute rigor of observance of the Sabbath holiday, there are exceptions that have to do with dealing with the threat of a life or a great pain.

Such is the pain that caused us, today, on Saturday, May 5th, 2018, the revelation of a new wave of vandalism in the Jewish Cemetery of Athens.

Unknown vandals entered our Cemetery during the night and destroyed nine commemorative marble struts kicking them with fury, leaving them to peel off their bases and crushing them on the ground. These marble slabs are used to mark the sectors of our Cemetery and are dedicated to the memory of the dead by their families. The scene is repulsive and our disappointment is great. This is not the first time we see the result of a degrading act at our Cemetery but it is the first time we see such act was organized and planned in part of

the Cemetery that is not visible from the neighboring houses and with incredible fury. The view of the results of this abominable act causes us deep sorrow and anger.

The Jewish Community of Athens will exercise all the legal means at its disposal, the first steps have already been taken by the police authorities that immediately came to the collection of clues. But besides the Law, we call upon all the institutions of the State and the City, the Justice, the Religious and Spiritual Authorities of the country and the Civil Society, to condemn unambiguously and without reservation this desecration and to stand with absolutely zero tolerance against such phenomena of violence and intolerance. There is no worse sign of a society's moral decline than desecration of a Cemetery and disrespect for the dead. It is not just an act that concerns only our Community and is recorded as one of the most violent and significant anti-Semitic events of recent years in Greece. It is about an act that brutally affects the whole of society, the values and principles of a favored state.

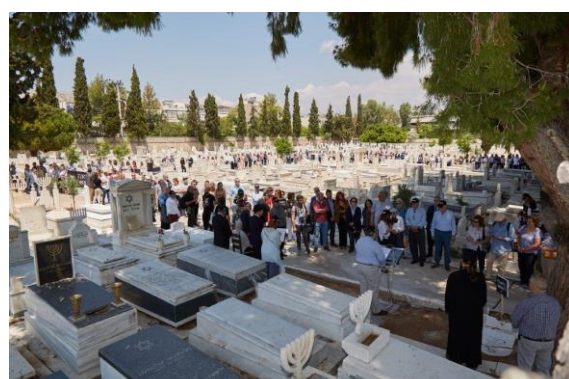
For these reasons, we call upon all to exhaust every effort to never allow such acts against anyone.



Silent Protest at the Jewish Cemetery of Athens

Sunday May 13, 2018 at 12.00pm

On Sunday 13/5/2018 at 12.00 pm at the Jewish Cemetery of Athens, a silent protest by members of the Jewish Community of Athens and friends was organized. In the words of the organizers, "We want to express our feelings of indignation, great sorrow and anger following the recent act of desecration in our Cemetery and state our firm commitment to protect the sanctity of the site and the absolute respect that we owe to the dead. Along with the civic Society we shall condemn any act of hatred and racism that menaces our civilization, the values and virtues of tolerance and mutual respect, and we shall declare our determination to prevent similar incidents regardless of whom they target."



One of the most devastating acts of destruction of any Jewish cemetery in the world was the destruction of the Jewish Cemetery of Thessaloniki during the Occupation of the city by the Germans in 1942-1943. Many of the gravestones were confiscated and used as building material throughout the city. Recently, additional stones from the cemetery were found in the foundation of a church in Thessaloniki, not just any church, but the main church of the city.

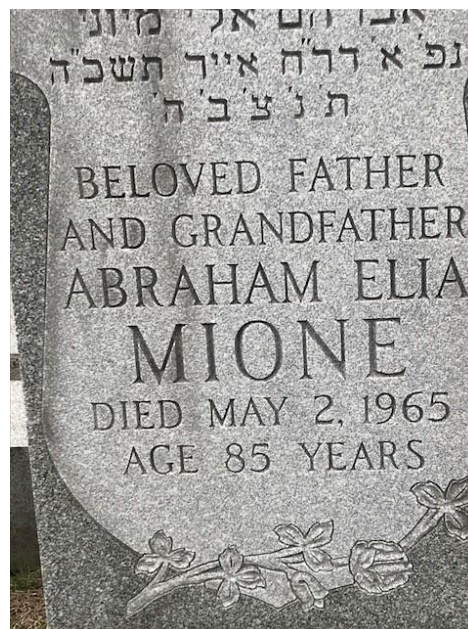
History in Passing: If you go for a walk in Thessaloniki, you can even discover unexpected witnesses from dark history. For example, in Margaropoulou street near the train station. A closer look at the corner of the wall reveals Hebrew letters on a stone. It is a grave stone from the old Jewish cemetery, which has been destroyed from December 1942 in cooperation between the German occupiers and collaborators in the city administration.



The burial ground, once outside the city in the southeast, was one of the largest Jewish cemeteries in Europe, covering 324,000 square meters. Although the Jewish religion does not allow human remains to be exhumed, the city administration had in the past repeatedly tried to clear the area for the expansion of the city. By order of the military commander Salonika-Aegean, all male Jews aged between 18 and 45 had to do forced labor. In negotiations with the Jewish community, the Kriegsverwaltungsrat Max Merten offered to release the men from forced labor for 3.5 billion in drachma. Since the Jewish community could not afford this big amount, the cemetery area was included in the extortionate negotiations at the suggestion of Vassilis Simonidis, the governor-general appointed by the Germans: against its release and the payment of 2.5 billion drachmas the labor obligation – which had already claimed about 400 deaths by then – repealed in October 1942. Tombs from the last three decades should remain temporarily untouched. But this was not followed. The Greek historian Rena Molho: "On 6 December 1942, hundreds of workers appeared on the site and destroyed the cemetery with impressive zeal. The gravestones were used as building material in the city, some even to build a swimming pool for German officers." Many of these tombstones were also built after the war, For example, in reconstruction work of the Church of Saint Demetrios.

Fotos: Hans-Joachim Lang

Here, in New York, a member of our community, Elliot Nachman, recently dedicated a new tombstone to replace one that had deteriorated over the years. It was the tombstone of his grandmother, Leah Cohen, located in New Mt. Carmel on the border of Queens and Brooklyn. The Museum Director of Kehila Kedosha Janina, Marcia Haddad-Ikonomopoulos, was invited to say a few words at the unveiling and, while there, took a number of photos of the gravestones of family members from our community. Mt. Carmel, both Old and New, was one of the earliest cemeteries where the Brotherhood of Janina bought plots.



The tombstones of the grandfather and grandmother of two of our Board members, Lois and Marty Genee lie a short distance away from the stone of the grandfather of another of our Board members, Jerry Pardo (the stone of Abraham Mione).



Memorial Day in the United States is a day we remember of veterans and, especially those who gave their lives for their country. Far away in Belgium, at Henri-Chappelle Military Cemetery, lies the graves of two young men from our Romaniote community in New York, both of whom gave their young lives in the Battle of the Bulge the winter of 1944-1945.



Abraham Matza



Nissim Attas

To finish with cemeteries in this issue, our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, visited the famous Ricoleta Cemetery in Buenos Aires and found this interesting tombstone in a Catholic cemetery.



News from Jewish Greece

Ioannina

We at Kehila Kedosha Janina, the Sisterhood of Janina, and the Association of Friends of Greek Jewry are pleased to announce that our three organizations were able to cooperate to raise the 5,000 euros needed to finish the repair of the synagogue in Ioannina. A number of windows still needed replacement due to the earthquake of last year.



Thessaloniki

75-Year-Old Mayor Is Attacked in Greece, and Nationalists Rejoice

Full New York Times article [here](#)

THESSALONIKI, Greece — On May 21, the 75-year-old mayor of Greece's second-largest city was brutally assaulted by a far-right mob at a public gathering over the weekend, an attack that brought gleeful expressions of support from nationalist groups and heightened concerns about a rise in hate crime in the country.

The mayor, Yiannis Boutaris, who is known for his liberalism and outspoken views against far-right violence and racism, was attacked Saturday afternoon in the northern city of Thessaloniki by about a dozen people during a ceremony commemorating the World War I genocide of Pontic Greeks by Turkish forces.

In video footage of the attack on the mayor, the white-haired Mr. Boutaris is heckled by a crowd of men, some masked and dressed in black. He was thrown to the ground, punched and kicked before being escorted to a car that was vandalized by protesters, and he was briefly hospitalized with head, back and leg injuries.

Nationalist groups, notably the far-right Golden Dawn, have capitalized on growing frustration in Greece. The economy has been hobbled by years of austerity imposed on the debt-racked country by international creditors, and a huge migrant influx has further strained tensions.

Greece has often been the first port of call in Europe for migrants fleeing war and economic misery in Afghanistan, Syria, countries in Africa and elsewhere. Prosecutors ordered an investigation on Monday to determine the "moral instigators" of the attack on Mr. Boutaris, and four men who were arrested in connection with it — a 36-year-old, two 20-year-olds and a 17-year-old who have not been publicly identified — were charged with causing bodily harm, vandalism and disturbing the peace.

It was unclear whether the men were acting on their own or aligned with a far-right group, but members of nationalist, anti-immigrant organizations were conspicuous in praising an attack that was otherwise condemned by others on the political spectrum.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras condemned the “barbaric” attack on Mr. Boutaris in a speech to his cabinet on Monday in which he also hit out at “a dark and extreme section of the main opposition” that, he said, “lays out the carpet for the far right.”

While also condemning the attack, the conservative opposition New Democracy, which is leading Mr. Tsipras’s leftist party, Syriza, in opinion polls, responded by accusing the prime minister of the “political and moral legitimization of violence” through “polarizing and toxic rhetoric.”

Members of far-right groups, however, could barely contain their excitement. “Bravo to each and every one who carried out his duty in Thessaloniki today. Respect,” wrote Ourania Michaloliakou, the daughter of Nikos Michaloliakos, the leader of Golden Dawn, on Twitter. In another, she wrote, “My God, why can’t I be in Thessaloniki today,” adding, “Well done, dudes.”



Christos Paschalidis, an official with a nationalist group, Anasa, in the northern city of Kavala, struck a similar note with a post on Facebook, saying that Mr. Boutaris “got what he deserves. Well done to the boys.” “Now it’s the turn of the traitor” lawmakers, he added, using a term often used by populists to condemn politicians who backed Greece’s acceptance of international bailouts that imposed years of austerity on the country.

The assault was the focus of a front-page story by a Turkish newspaper, Hurriyet, with the headline, “An attack on friendship.” That was an apparent reference to Mr. Boutaris’s championing of closer ties between Greece and its traditional rival, Turkey, and efforts to increase tourism between the two countries.

Mr. Boutaris has hailed Thessaloniki as the birthplace of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the progressive founder of modern Turkey, and he has been instrumental in pushing plans for the creation of a Holocaust museum in the city, which lost some 50,000 Jews to the Nazis.

In March, statistics from the Greek police showed that hate crimes more than doubled last year, with 184 attacks recorded, compared with 84 in 2016. Some observers have said that most assaults go unreported and that the actual figures are much higher.

Speaking to the municipal council Monday evening, Mr. Boutaris called on all Greek political parties to condemn violence and marginalize “thugs of all kinds.”

“There is no other way,” he said. “Because tomorrow someone else will be in my place, and will be beaten — for his ideas, for his religion, for his sexual orientation, for the color of his skin, for being different.”

“For as long as I am mayor I will not allow Thessaloniki to return to an era of darkness,” he added, citing the killing of the leftist politician Grigoris Lambrakis by right-wing thugs in 1963 during the protracted social tension that followed Greece’s civil war.

UPDATE

On Wednesday, May 23rd, three of the four charged in the assault on Mayor Boutaris were convicted and sentenced to 14 months in prison. There was also a march in support of Boutaris in Thessaloniki on the day of the trials.

Excitement from Thessaloniki and applause to the teachers at the Jewish primary school, especially Stella Kalle. The students won first prize in their category (My Community). You can watch the video and see the results [here](#) and [here](#).

"We Are Jews, You Are Jews" - A cooperation project of the Jewish Primary School of Thessaloniki, Greece and the Sholom Aleichem High School (Vilnius, Lithuania).

Voting is still going on for audience choice (the competition ends on June 3rd. The students from Thessaloniki are hanging in at first place. Still time to vote! <http://cjn.centropa.org/content/audience-prize>

Click on the link above and vote for Thessaloniki in the "My Community Category." Don't forget to confirm your vote. Enjoy! Shabbat Shalom from New York.

Also check out the video from the Ulus Jewish School in Istanbul, Turkey, which highlights both the Sephardic and Romaniote history of Istanbul. Watch the video [here](#).



Stella Kalle

Veria

Veria is seeking support for the city to remember the dead as an inseparable part of the city, and is looking for (with the support of Heinrich Beck in Greece) to have the citizens of the city (and others) to support the placement of 25 stones of memory in different parts of the city where our Jewish fellow-citizens began their final journey (a journey without return).

These stones, called stolperstein or "stumbling stone", metaphorically a "stumbling block" or a stone to "stumble upon." The stones are cobblestone-size (10 by 10 centimetres (3.9 in × 3.9 in)) concrete cube bearing a brass plate inscribed with the name and life dates of victims of Nazi extermination or persecution.

The stolperstein art project was initiated by the German artist Gunter Demnig in 1992, and is still ongoing. It aims at commemorating individual persons at exactly the last place of residency—or, sometimes, work—which was freely chosen by the person before he or she fell victim to Nazi terror, euthanasia, eugenics, was deported to a concentration or extermination camp, or escaped persecution by emigration or suicide. As of 29 March 2018, over 67,000 stolpersteine have been laid in 22 countries, making the stolperstein project the world's largest decentralized memorial.

The majority of stolpersteine commemorate Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Others have been placed for Sinti and Romani people (then also called "gypsies"), homosexuals, the physically or mentally disabled, Jehovah's Witnesses, black people, members of the Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the European anti-Nazi Resistance, the Christian opposition (both Protestants and Catholics), and Freemasons, along with International Brigade soldiers in the Spanish Civil War, military deserters, conscientious objectors, escape helpers, capitulators, "habitual criminals", looters, and others charged with treason, military disobedience, or undermining the Nazi military, as well as Allied soldiers.



Athens

2018 marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Jewish Museum of Greece, located in Athens. Do access their website for more information: <https://www.jewishmuseum.gr/en/>. Voted one of the 10 best museums in Europe, it is a not to be missed attraction in Athens.



The Jewish Community of Athens Greece celebrated Shavuoth in Beth Shalom synagogue with a traditional service led by Rabbi Gabriel Negrin and delicious traditional Shavuoth delicacies.



Kehila Kedosha Janina in proud to be one of the supporters of Kalesma, a dream of Vassilis Kostas, using music to heal the wounds of orphaned children in Greece. More information is available [here](#).



K A L E S M A

6 μουσικοί του **Berklee College of Music** συναντούν τη χορωδία της **Κιβωτού του Κόσμου**.

**14 Ιουλίου
2018, 9:00 μ.μ.
Είσοδος Ελεύθερη**

MCF | Ίδρυμα
Μιχάλης
Κακογιάννης

Επιμέλεια Εκδήλωσης:
Βασίλης Κώστας, Ιδρυτής Kalesma

Ειρήνη Τορνεσάκη: Φωνή
Layth Sidiq: Βιολί
Βασίλης Κώστας: Λαούτο
Chase Morrin: Πιάνο
Aaron Holthus: Μπάσο
Noam Israeli: Τύμπανα

Marco Pignataro (Guest Artist):
Σαξόφωνο, Managing Director
of the Berklee Global Jazz Institute

Αγγελική Τουμπανάκη:
Υπεύθυνη Χορωδίας

ΥΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΑΙΓΙΔΑ
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Fall 2018 Tour of Jewish Greece

The Association of Friends of Greek Jewry runs annual tours to Jewish Greece, often including nearby countries. This year, in addition to a private tour for Princeton University students (March 2018), a Family tour of the Matza/Benveniste family to Rhodes, Ioannina and Athens (June 27-July 6) and a Balkan Tour to Greece, FYROM, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania, there will be a special High Holiday tour celebrating Rosh HaShanah in Corfu and Yom Kippur in Ioannina. The full itinerary is available on our website: <https://www.kkjsm.org/jewish-tours-of-greece>

**Fall
2018**



Tour of Jewish Greece for High Holidays

September 7 – 21, 2018

Includes Athens, Corfu, Ioannina, Albania, and the Pindos Mountains of Epirus

Visit www.kkjsm.org or contact Museum@kkjsm.org for full trip details

Unveiling of Memorial In Memory of Greek Jews at Ebensee

Full KIS article [here](#)

A dramatic appeal "Never again" resounded in the unveiling of the memorial plaque ceremony -marble Greek Memory of Victims- with which Greece honored over 350 dead in the former concentration camp at Ebensee of Upper Austria, during the Second World War.

The ceremony was attended by delegations of from the Greek and Cypriot Embassies in Austria, led by the ambassador of Greece Chrysoula Aleiferi- the Metropolis of Austria, the Central Jewish Council of Greece (Secretary General, Victor Eliezer), as well as the Federation of Greek Associations of Austria, the Intercultural Association of Macedonia (led by their presidents) and the Association of Greek Students and Scientists of Graz. Also in attendance were many Greeks and Greek Jews living in Austria, and the founder and director of the History Museum in Ebensee Dr. Kouatemper, who had helped substantially and procedurally in the placement of the plate in Memory of Victims from Greece at the former concentration camp site.

Memorial service in memory of the victims was conducted by Father Elias of the Greek Orthodox, while the Jewish memorial prayer by the General Secretary of the Central Jewish Council, who later gave a very touching speech.

In her speech, the Ambassador of Greece, Chrysoula Aleiferi, stressed as particularly important the placement of the Greek national memorial at the former Nazi concentration camp at Ebensee. With the impending completion of its mandate, the outgoing ambassador noted an obligation of the fulfillment of a national debt, the placing of a national Greek monument, as the memorial plaque had been built years ago from Pentelic marble, but due to various circumstances had not been placed.

General Secretary of the Central Jewish Council of Greece Victor Eliezer rejoiced that the Greeks have decided to fight racism and anti-Semitism in any way, through laws and through education, with the founding of the Museum of the Holocaust in Thessaloniki.



There will be an important conference in Israel covering Greek Jews starting June 10.



המכון ללימודי יהדות
Department of Jewish History

המכון ללימודי יהדות
School of History
University of Haifa

PEOPLE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN: PATTERNS, NETWORKS AND CONFLICTS (1492-1945)



Rozen Minna, A street in Balat, the Jewish quarter of Istanbul

International Conference in Honor of Prof. Minna Rozen

Sunday, June 10, 2018

University of Haifa, Ofer Observation Gallery, Eshkol Tower, 30th floor

15:00 - 16:00 Registration

16:00 - 17:00 Greetings
Chair: Marcos Silber, University of Haifa
Joseph Shatzmiller, Duke University: *From Venice to Jerusalem: A 16th Century Mediterranean Voyage*

17:00 - 17:30 Coffee Break

17:30 - 19:00 Session 1: Her Day in Court
Chair: Fruma Zachs, University of Haifa
Ruth Lmdan, Tel Aviv University: *A Reshomon Family Story from the Cairo Geniza*
Mahmud Yazbak, University of Haifa: *Jewish Women in the Shari'a Court: Cases from Late Ottoman Haifa*

19:00 - 21:00 Dinner

Tuesday, June 12 2018

University of Haifa, Ofer Observation Gallery, Eshkol Tower, 30th floor

09:30 - 11:00 Session 5: Mediterranean Networks: Others and Greeks
Chair: Maria Ethymiou, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Ariadni Moutafidou, The Hellenic Open University: *Greek Big Merchants-Entrepreneurs and the Jewish Other*
Orly Miron, Bar-Ilan University: *Trading in the Age of Crisis: Greek and Jewish Commercial Networks in the Balkans and the Mediterranean Basin during the Early 1930s*
Shai Strouge, University of Haifa: *Local Citizens versus Forced Migrants in the Port of Thessaloniki: Conflict, Cooperation, Adjustment (1920 - 1925)*

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 - 14:00 Session 6: Grappling with the Nation-State: The Jews of Greece 1850-1935
A session commemorating engineer Aharon H. Rousso, a son of Salonika and a keeper of its heritage
Chair: Daniel Gutwein, University of Haifa
Eyal Ginio, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and The Ben-Zvi Institute of Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi: *Writing the Jewish History of Modern Greece "Before Salonika": The Case-Study of Corfu*
Vasilis Rizaleos, Demokritos University of Thrace: *The Influence of Salonican Jews within the Jewish Communities of Kavala and Gumuldjina, 1880-1912*
Gila Hadar, University of Haifa: *The Autobiography of Reina Cohen, an Author and Jewish Mystic from Salonika at the Beginning of the 20th Century*
Rena Molho, Thessaloniki: *Exposing Anti-Semitism on Stage in Multicultural Salonika: H. Bernstein's Play "Israel" Performed in Judeo-Spanish, Greek and French between 1909 and 1926*
Hassid Shmuel, The Technion - Israel Institute of Technology: *The Jewish Salonika Vote in the Greek Interwar Elections and the 1933 Salonika By-Elections*

14:00 - 16:30 Lunch

16:30 - 18:30 Session 7: New Times, New Winds: the Jews of Istanbul and Modernity (1850-1950)
Chair: Zohar Segev, University of Haifa
Marcos Silber, University of Haifa: *From Rome to Jerusalem through Istanbul: Moses Hess and the Jewish-Turkish Connection*
Leah Bornstein-Makovelsky, Ariel University: *Jewish Conversion to Protestantism in Istanbul in the Late and Early 20th Century*
Naomi Liran Frisch, Haifa: *Jewish-owned and Managed Cinemas in Istanbul, 1908-1945*

19:00 Dinner

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Tel Aviv University, Peretz Nathan Building for Social Sciences, hall no. 001

10:00 - 10:30 Gathering

10:30 - 13:30 Greetings
Prof. Eyal Zisser, Vice Rector, Tel Aviv University
Prof. Shlomo Simonsohn, Tel Aviv University

Session 8: Exploring the Modern Options: the Jews of the Ottoman Successor States in Search of Solutions
Chair: Simha Goldin, Tel Aviv University
Sara Appel, Tel Aviv University: *Jewish Cemeteries in Turkey: A Digitized Database*
Alexandros Dagkas, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki: *In Service of a Utopia: Jews in the Communist Parties of the Eastern Mediterranean*
Zvi Hartman, Tel Aviv University: *The Jews in Multi-Ethnic Nation-States after 1918: The Case of Transylvania*
Angel Chorapchiev, Yad Vashem and the University of Haifa: *Bulgarian Patriots, Ardent Zionists: Bulgarian Jewry after 1918*

13:30 - 15:30 Lunch

15:30 - 17:30 Session 9: Post Mortem: Survival and Memory - Grappling with the Nation-State: The Jews of Greece 1850-2010
Chair: Ehud Toledano, Tel Aviv University
Dror Zeevi, Ben-Gurion University: *Exiles at Home: The Return of Armenian Deportees to Anatolia after World War I*
Rika Benveniste, University of Thessaly: *In Search of a New Homeland: Post-Shoah Emigration from Salonika*
Dimitris Goulis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki: *From Razi Vardar to Xirokrini (1926-1934): A Study of the History of a Neighborhood through the Archives of its school. An Educational Proposal upon Teaching the Holocaust & the New Perspectives*
Marina Polevoy, University of Haifa: *The Immigration of Jews and Greeks from the U.S.S.R. and the Successor States of the Soviet Union to Israel and Greece: a Comparative Study of Narratives (1990s-2010)*

18:00 - 21:00 Conclusion
Visit to the Salonika and Greece Jewry Heritage Center, Beit Avot Leon Recanati, Petah Tikva
Dinner
Concert: Ladino, Hebrew, and Greek songs by Betti Klein

10 - 14 June 2018

University of Haifa and Tel Aviv University

Bulgaria

Bulgaria: Does ownership transfer mean glimmer of hope for historic synagogue in Samokov?

Full Jewish Heritage Europe article [here](#)

Bulgaria's Jewish community has officially transferred ownership of the historic but long-derelict synagogue in Samokov, Bulgaria, to the Samokov municipality, raising hopes that the important building, originally built in the 1850s, might be restored for use as a cultural center.

In a post on Facebook April 26, Bulgaria's Shalom Association (the main umbrella of Bulgarian Jews) stated that Shalom President Aleksander Oscar and Samokov Mayor Vladimir Georgiev had officially signed the documents formalizing the transfer (which was originally announced in July 2017). This basically reversed the restitution of the synagogue to Jewish ownership, which took place in the mid-2000s.



The transfer, Shalom stated, "is conditional on the implementation of a project for restoration of the building in its original form, which will subsequently function as a cultural center."

Considered a typical example of neo-baroque Balkan Revival architecture, the synagogue is listed as a historic monument. It was restored in the early 1970s and served as a local museum until it was gutted by fire in 1975. Some restoration was attempted after that, but the building was eventually abandoned.

The two-story synagogue has 38 windows and walls 8 meters high; there is a Hebrew inscription in gilded letters over the entrance and wall paintings and carved wood paneling enrich the interior.

The synagogue anchored what was once the town's Jewish quarter and was used by a wealthy Jewish community — next door the Sarafska House and garden (at Knyaz Al.Dondukov St 11), once the elegant residence of the Arie banking family, have been turned into a museum of the Jewish home.

Turkey

How the Turkish "City of Peace" Remembers its Sephardic veterans

By Özgür Özkan Full article [here](#)

Çanakkale is a small and unique coastal town by the Dardanelles in Turkey that has a vibrant cultural diversity. In the early 20th century, it was home to around 350 Sephardic Jewish families. Today, only three remain. Despite the significant decline in the Jewish population throughout the 20th century, Çanakkale maintains its Jewish cultural heritage through the remarkable efforts of local institutions, city administration, and its Jewish diaspora, which has dispersed to Turkey, Israel, and other countries, including the United States. Last year I investigated Çanakkale's Sephardic connections to Seattle.

When I visited Çanakkale in March 2018, a very interesting event was being held at the city's Mekor Haim Synagogue. The event was an exhibit about Sephardic soldiers in the Ottoman army entitled "The First World War and Ottoman Jews." Organized with the contributions of the 500th Year Foundation of the Turkish Jewish Museum and the local community, the exhibit is another project made possible by the collaborative efforts of local groups.

The exhibit is unique not only for highlighting an underappreciated part of the city's history, but also for how it reveals the peaceful, inclusive, and countercultural character of the local community. The exhibit demonstrates the city's long-standing efforts to protect its cosmopolitan identity in the face of Turkey's intensifying ethnic and religious conservatism and the nationalist narratives regarding its history.



In Turkish historiography, Çanakkale's name is almost exclusively associated with the defensive battles that took place along the Dardanelles Strait and around the city during the First World War, where the Turkish armies won a notable victory over invading British forces in 1915.

In spite of this positioning in Turkish history, the local community embraces a different narrative, one which recognizes both the courageous defense mounted by the Turkish army and the sacrifices made by all soldiers, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, or nationality. Emphasizing the city's long-standing culture of tolerance and coexistence, locals prefer to be remembered as "the city of peace."

At the ceremony celebrating the opening of the exhibit, the city's mayor, Mr. Ülgür Gökhan, remembered the friendships he had made with Jewish peers as a student and with fellow Jewish businessmen in Çanakkale's carşı, or little business district. He reminded listeners of the contributions of Jews to the city: "The Jewish community has been an essential part of the commercial life that has given our city its unique direction. They have made significant contributions, not only to the city's economy, but also to its culture. If there is a peaceful environment in Çanakkale today — and we call it 'the city of peace' — this is a product of a modern and pluralist lifestyle we have long embraced, to which Jewish culture has made significant contributions. We are sad that many Jews left our city."

Brazil

Brazilian Synagogue Damaged in Arson Attack

Full JTA article [here](#)

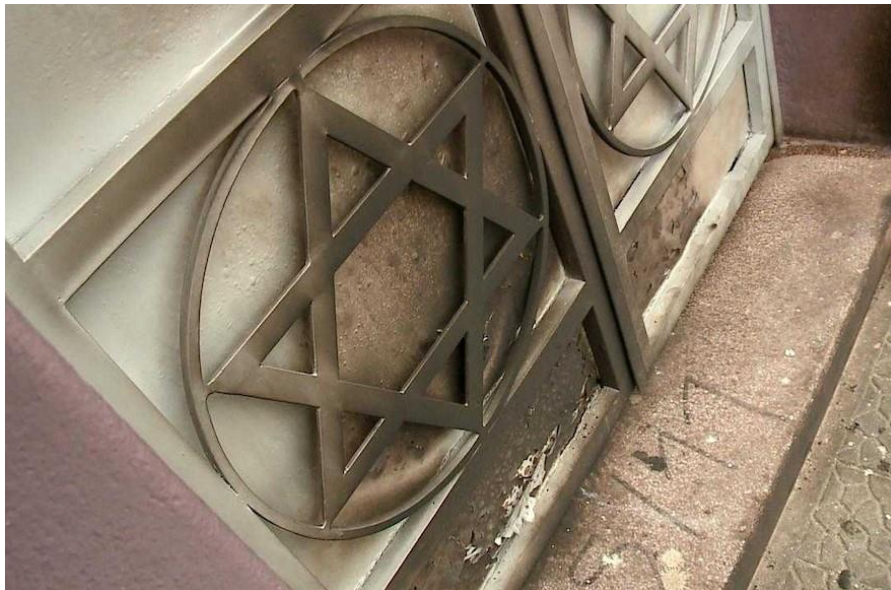
Vandals set fire to a synagogue in southern Brazil after painting threats to the Jewish community on its walls.

Flammable fuel was poured under the main entrance door of the Israelite Society of Pelotas building on Thursday, and set it alight causing minor damage. The criminals also wrote pro-Palestinian messages on the wall as well as threats to the Jewish community, which should “wait” for an “international Intifada.”

Local Jewish leaders said the attack was “an insult to democracy and freedom of speech and religion,” and called for the involvement of federal authorities.

The synagogue’s wooden door and furniture, glass windows and the electric installations were damaged.

“It is alarming that the tension in the Middle East translates into an attack on the Brazilian Jewish community. We have contacted the police authorities responsible for investigating and punishing the perpetrators of this criminal act of violence and religious intolerance,” said Fernando Lottenberg, president of the Brazilian Israelite Confederation, the country’s umbrella Jewish organization.



Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel



We live in turbulent, dark and difficult times as Jews. It often seems that anti-Semitism has become 'mainstream' when once it was considered more the legacy of right-wing nationalistic and xenophobic fanaticism. And today, even the so-called liberal left has become arguably, even more anti-Semitic and anti-Israel than the right ever was.

With such anti-Jewish enmity and so many enemies, how can a Jew find any solace? Is the situation hopeless? And how can it be that in far too many cases in recent years, even fellow Jews can be seen openly and even proudly assisting the worst of our enemies? Why do so many deny any legitimacy to the Jewish State and call, and even work, for its destruction?!

Interestingly, on Israel Independence Day, 1956, the late Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik wrote one of his most inspiring and seminal works, "Kol Dodi Dofek" (Behold -My Beloved Knocks), where he urges Jews to ignore such ideas of despair, self-doubt and defeatism by placing the Jewish return to their homeland – and the founding of the State of Israel – into a perspective, whereby there could be no other conclusion than that these events were not just coincidence or luck, but a living and miraculous revelation of God's Providence and direct intervention.

Rabbi Soloveitchik referred to a tragic parable in the "Song of Songs" in which a lover knocks on his beloved's door six times one night, but she does not open the door, claiming that she is tired, and that he should come back the next day. But he does not return, and though she searches for him, she quickly realizes that he is gone forever and that she has missed her chance for love. Rabbi Soloveitchik saw this as a parable for God's relationship with Israel, with God knocking on the door to bring the Jewish people the opportunity to return to our homeland, which might not ever come again if the "lover" does not open the door.

The first "knock" of the Beloved – God -was the very recognition by the UN of a Jewish homeland with the approval of the Partition Plan on Nov. 29th, 1947. This, and the recognition of even arch-enemies, like the US and the USSR of the new Jewish state in 1948, in Rabbi Soloveitchik's eyes, were in themselves miraculous. He and even felt that perhaps the only reason the UN came into existence was to approve the Jews' right to return to their homeland!

The second "knock", after the establishment of the State of Israel, was on the battlefield, when the fledgling and tiny IDF defeated the mighty armies of five Arab countries in 1948. This could not have been accomplished without Divine intervention, as has continued till today.

The third "knock" was on the theological front, since Christian theologians claim that God deprived the Jewish People of its rights in the Land of Israel, and that all the biblical promises regarding Zion and Jerusalem refer, allegorically, to Christianity and the Christian Church (Replacement Theology); this was totally refuted by the establishment of the State of Israel and the return of autonomous Jewish sovereignty in its Land.

The fourth "knock" was against assimilation. The Holocaust not only decimated European Jewry, it created mass chaos and produced widespread assimilation amongst both survivors and younger Jews. Much assimilation was halted because after the Holocaust, one of the only places in the world that welcomed Jewish refugees – despite the British restrictions and even blockades - was pre-state Israel, which continued after the

State was founded. Hundreds of thousands of Jews and their descendants were saved from assimilation and intermarriage by coming to the Jewish homeland.

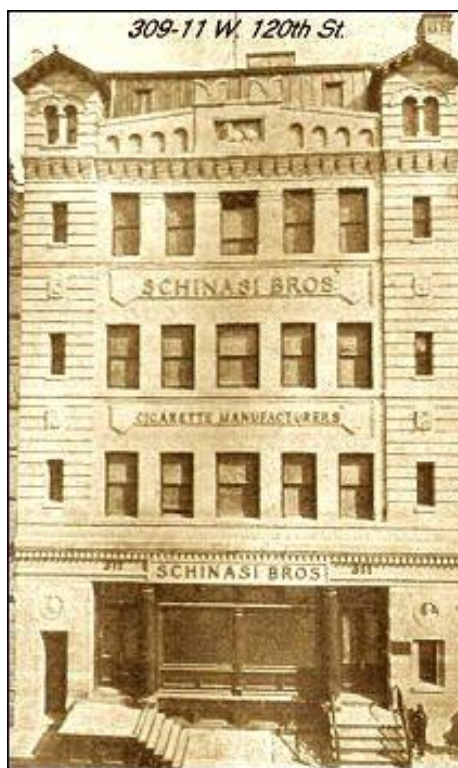
The fifth "knock", perhaps the most important of all, is that for the first time in the history of our exile, Divine Providence has surprised our enemies with the sensational discovery that Jewish blood is not free for the taking. As the famous Entebbe raid on July 4 1976 proved to the world, and which has been repeated time and again, Jewish lives were no longer expendable or unprotected, and Israel would come to the aid of Jews in distress anywhere and everywhere in world.

Last but not least, the sixth "knock" was when the gates of the Land of Israel were opened to all Jews. Whether fleeing a hostile country or voluntary Aliyah, every Jew, no matter where born or raised, can find a secure refuge and thriving and wonderful home in Israel, and the amazing "ingathering of the exiles" from every corner of the world is the fulfillment of this Divine miracle and "opportune" knock on the door! As a result, Rabbi Soloveitchik, whose family had originally been part of the anti-Zionist ultra-Orthodox world in Europe, saw the State of Israel as being the culmination of God's presenting a sort of one-time opportunity for the Jewish people to take hold of their own destiny and regain their homeland and autonomy. Thank God that so many Jewish leaders of the time did "open the door" when their Beloved knocked. May we continue to grow and prosper as a people and State, always be wise enough to know when God comes knocking on our door!

Research

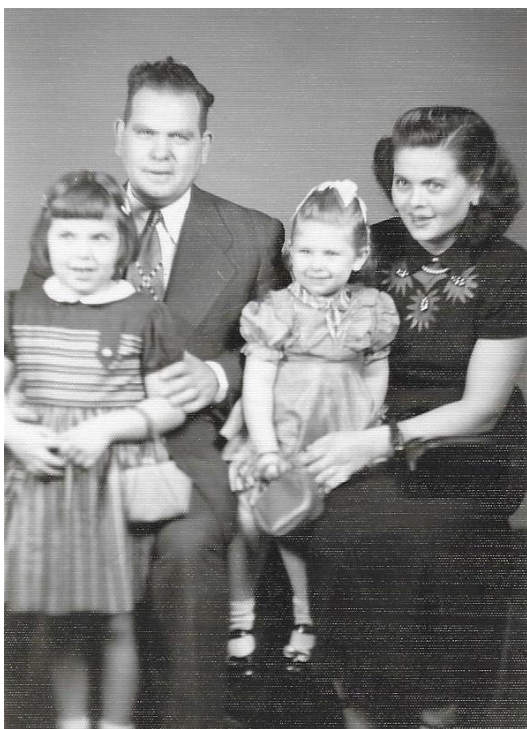
One of our community members came across an old photo on the Lower West Side of New York City that had a store front in the picture with the name: **Anthony Coulapides** - High Grade Egyptian Cigarettes. So far, all we have discovered is that he was involved in a lawsuit with another tobacco company. He was the plaintiff and was suing because the other company used his cigarettes and packaged them under his name. We are asking for help in finding more about Mr. Coulapides; where he moved to? Descendants etc.

In the interim, it reminded us of the role that cigarette production played in the lives of Greek-Jewish and Sephardic immigrants to New York, as many of them found work with the **Schinasi Brothers**, two Jews from Kavala who learned the fine art of Egyptian cigarette making, bringing their knowledge to New York City, first in downtown Manhattan and, then, in Harlem, when they moved their factory uptown. They did quite well and their mansion in Harlem is a testimony to their success.



In May, we acquired additional photos for our photo archive, one collection from Annette Binder (of the Mordechai and Politis families) and, the other collection, from Stella Bacolas who is from the Yamali family (of Thessaloniki and Larissa).

From Annette Binder:

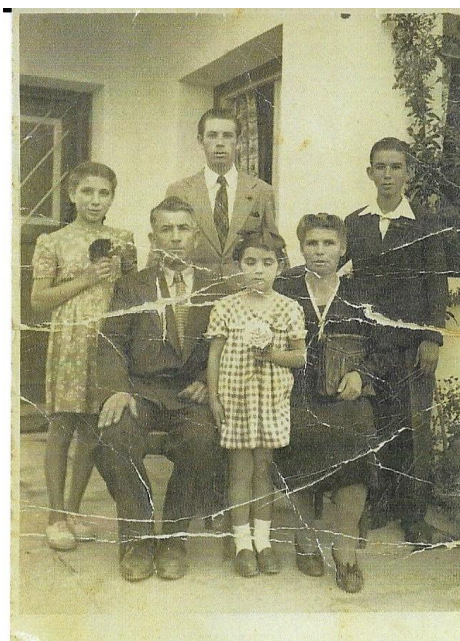


Elias & Esther (Politis) Mordechai with their daughters Evelyn (Voula) and Anna



Esther and Fortuni Politis with their mother Annetta

From Stella Bacolas:



So many of you have applauded our efforts. We thank those who have sent in contributions.

If you would like to make a contribution to Kehila Kedosha Janina, please send your check (in US dollars) made out to *Kehila Kedosha Janina*, to us at 280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002 (attention Marcia). Your donation will enable us to continue to hold services and preserve our special traditions and customs, and to tell our unique story through our Museum.

When you are in New York, visit us on Broome Street. We are open for services every Saturday morning at 9:30am and all major Jewish holidays and our Museum is open every Sunday from 11am-4pm and by appointment during the week.



Kehila Kedosha Janina E-Newsletter – Number 111

June 2018

Kehila Kedosha Janina

280 Broome Street, New York NY 10002

Website: www.kkjsm.org

Email: museum@kkjsm.org

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