



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

December 2010 e-mail newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Best wishes for a happy and healthy Hanukah to all our Jewish friends around the world and peace and joy to our Christian friends as they prepare to celebrate Christmas.

Ancient Hanukkiya



November was an historic month for us with the opening of our latest exhibit (Dikoi Mas, Los Muestros) about 'our own' Greek-Jewish families. The opening on November 14th was attended by over 200 invitation-only guests who had contributed photos to the exhibit, the Consul of Greece from New York, Consul Kyriakopoulos, and a very honored guest, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. The event was covered by Channel 13, the Greek National Herald, the

Hellenic Voice and a local newspaper, the Villager. (Photos and additional information to follow in this newsletter.)



During the opening ceremony, a gift was made to the Archbishop. It was a copy of an historic photo taken at the Bar Mitzvah of Irwin Josephs, son of Joe Josephs of Blessed Memory, who had served the early Kehila Kedosha Janina as a President and major financial contributor. Joe Josephs was born in Ioannina Greece, as were most of the founding fathers of Kehila Kedosha Janina and was very active in fostering good relations between the Greek-speaking Jews and the Greek Orthodox Christian community of New York, an interest also shared by Rabbi Jessoula Levy of Blessed Memory, one of the early rabbis of the Yanniote community in New York. In the 1937 Bar Mitzvah photo, sitting at the dais in front of the Greek flag were the Bar Mitzvah boy, Irwin Josephs, his father Joe, the then Archbishop Athenagoras and Rabbi Jessoula Levy. At the November 14, 2010 ceremony at Kehila Kedosha Janina, presenting the photo to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, was the Bar Mitzvah boy, not looking close to 87, Joe Josephs' grandson, also named Joe Josephs and the grandson of Rabbi Jessoula Levy, Jesse Levy.

History always has a way of coming full circle at Kehila Kedosha Janina.

This newsletter, our 35th 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 5000 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 kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net.

As always, you are all invited to attend our Saturday morning Shabbat services. Just give our Shamas, Sol Kofinas, a heads up (papusoup@mindspring.com) 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.

This month we mourn the passing of special people in our community: Joe Sedacca, Elliot David, Yakov Strumsa and Jack Toledano. Our condolences to the families they leave behind. Elliot David was the brother of Sylvia Ringel and a member of the Barouch and David families. Jack Toledano passed at the age of 93 and affected so many lives during his long life. He was a former president of the Pashas. Sue Cohen (nee Adwar), wife of Benny Cohen of Blessed Memory. Yakov Strumsa, a survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau, was the author of "The Violinist of Auschwitz." During a Greek-Jewish heritage tour to Israel and Greece in 2000, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Maxx Kleiner (a descendant of the Cabilli and Eliezer families from Ioannina), Yakov Strumsa honored the group with a violin solo in front of the wall in memory of Greek Jews who perished in the Holocaust in the Lost Communities of Europe exhibit at Yad Vashem. There was not a dry eye in the group. Yakov is now playing for the angels.

**We announce with joy the following births:
 Andrew Samuel Herschfeld on Wednesday, October 27, 2010 (proud parents Mindy and Matthew Herschfeld, proud grandparents are Anita and Stewart Gaffan). Andrew is a descendant of the Mathios and Yomtov families of Ioannina.**

Hugo Freddie Cowan on September 16, 2010 (proud parents Rebecca Angelou Elliot Cowan, proud grandmother Anna Angelou.) Hugo is a descendant of the Negrin and Mosios families of Ioannina and Volos.

Daniel Asher Avitan on November 25, 2010 (proud parents Joy and Peri Avitan, proud grandparents Asher and Anna Matathias). Daniel Asher is a descendant of the Matathia and Frances families of Volos.

Museum News

Additional Photos from opening reception of Dikoi Mas, Los Muestrs (Our Own) taken on November 14th



Kehila Kedosha Janina



Anita Altman, Jerry Pardo & Stan Altman (members of Coffino & Mione families) are moved by photo album with pictures of themselves as children.



Crowds at opening reception



Archbishop views Bar Mitzvah photo (left) & entering KKJ (right)



Members of the Matsil family



Dikoi Mas, Los Muestros (Our Own) continue to come home. In November, David Reiser (the great grandson of Rabbi Jessoula Cohen) and his fiancée Caissie Levy, recently returned from a family trip to Ioannina, visited Kehila Kedosha Janina for the first time. Present during the visit was Leonard Colchamiro, a member of our Board of Directors and architect for our restoration. Leonard was acting as a docent volunteer that day. How auspicious was the visit of David and Caissie and they stood beside the picture of David's great grandfather Rabbi Jessoula Cohen, positioned in our museum alongside the picture of Leonard's grandfather Jessoula Colchamiro.



Leonard Colchamiro, Caissie Levy and David Reiser

This month we were honored by a local public broadcasting channel, channel 13 and a short documentary piece was shown on their website: www.thirteen.org/thecityconcealed. We received a lovely note from the producer, Dan Greenberg:

"I would like to personally thank you for all your help. Your congregation is truly an inspiration."

We were also honored by an article in the English edition of the Greek National Herald published on November 27th.

"Saturday, November 27, 2010 Constantine S. Sirigos

NEW YORK – The Kehila Kedosha Janina synagogue has been part of the ethnic mosaic of New York City since Romaniote Jews built it in 1927 from Ioannina, Greece. On Sunday, November 14 the community hosted a reception to mark the opening of an historic exhibit Dikoi Mas, Los Muestros: An Exhibit On Greek Jewish Families. The title contains the Greek and Ladino words that mean our own and the exhibit is presented by the museum at Kehila Kedosha Janina and was organized by its Director, Marcia Haddad Ikononopoulos. The theme of the exhibit, which also resonates strongly in all Greek communities, was expressed in the museum's statement that: "Family is the cement that binds us, reinforces our traditions and customs, and provides the assurance of the continuance of the Greek-Jewish world. Many have moved, both physically and psychologically, away from their 'families.' Today we welcome you back. Today we celebrate the return of 'our own.'"

The synagogue overflowed with more than 200 guests, its members and their friends and other New Yorkers of Greek and Jewish background interested in learning more about the Romaniote community that is so little known among both Jewish and Greek Americans. The guests included Archbishop Demetrios of America, who was visibly moved by the photographs in the exhibit and

by the opportunity for fellowship between the Romaniotes and other Greeks, and for cultural exchange and friendship between the Jewish and Greek Orthodox Christian communities at large.

The guests were moved in turn as they listened to the Archbishop's words. Having grown up in Thessaloniki-Salonika, Ikonomopoulos told TNH that the Archbishop said he remembers vividly the deportation of the Jews. He spoke of the suffering under the brutal German occupation as something that Greek Jews and non-Jews suffered together, although with more tragic consequences for the former as 80% were wiped out by the Nazis. Greek Consul Evangelos Kyriakopoulos represented the Hellenic Republic and Ikonomopoulos told TNH that many Greeks expressed interest in attending but were unable to due to the very limited space. Welcome addresses were presented by Marvin Marcus, President of the synagogue, President of the Sisterhood of Janina, Rose Eskononts, and Ikonomopoulos.

The highlight of the reception was the presentation of a copy of an historic photo to Archbishop Demetrios. The photo is part of the exhibit on Greek-Jewish families and was taken in New York in 1937 at the Bar Mitzvah of Irwin Josephs, the son of Joe Josephs, then President of Kehila Kedosha Janina. Then-Archbishop Athenagoras, who later became Ecumenical Patriarch, has a place of honor at the dais in between Joe Josephs and Rabbi Jessoula Levy. The "Bar Mitzvah Boy," Josephs, now 86 years old, was present to give a copy of the photo to Archbishop Demetrios, along with Joe Josephs, the grandson of Joe Josephs, and Jesse Levy, the grandson of Rabbi Jessoula Levy.

Behind the dais is the flag of Greece. "There are not many places in the U.S. that you can see this image," Ikonomopoulos said, and noted the Romaniote community in New York still proudly flies the Greek flag at important events along with the Israeli and American flags. Ikonomopoulos explained that the "The exhibit is mainly a compilation of Greek-Jewish photos highlighting special moments in the life-cycle of Jews, Bar-Mitzvahs, weddings," chosen from a collection of more than 1000. The photos featured in the exhibit can be seen online at www.kkjsm.org but they are best seen in the "still-beating heart of the Romaniote community," the synagogue that is virtually unchanged since 1927 and was named a NYC landmark in 2004.

There are three albums on display. One consists of 300 photos of babies and children, at Bar Mitzvahs, graduations, etc. Another consists of 250 pictures taken both in Greece and the U.S. The oldest photo dates from 1870 and was from Ioannina and shows a member of from the Gani family. Most are from Ioannina and were taken between 1900-1914. The Ioannina photos are of Romaniotes but there are also photos from the Sephardic communities of Thessaloniki, Kavala, Larisa and Rhodes.

Most photos are from the museum's archives that people donated to the synagogue, some are from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and some are from the Jewish Museum of Rhodes. According the synagogue's Web site, www.kkjsm.org, The Romaniotes are a "2,000-year-old culture virtually unknown, even to its neighbors A minority within a minority ... an obscure branch of Judaism, which few Jews have ever heard of, with traditions dating back to Roman times." Distinct from the substantial Greek-speaking Jewish communities that formed in Asia Minor after the conquests of Alexander such as Tarsus, the birthplace of St. Paul, they are Jews who, according to oral tradition, after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 A.D. were sent on a slave ship to Rome. A storm forced them to land in Greece, where over the next 2,000 years, they developed uniquely different ethnic and religious customs. The Romaniotes derived their name from the old name for the people of the East Roman Empire, what is today called the Byzantine Empire, Rhomaioi, and they spoke both Greek and a language called Yevanic. That name stems from the Biblical word Yawan, which itself derives from the word Ionia, the name for the part of Western Asia minor that was settled by speakers of the Ionian Greek dialect. The

language was largely displaced by Ladino, spoken by the more numerous Sephardic Jews who were settled in Greece by the Ottoman state and thus have distinct customs from the Romaniotes, and by modern Jewish traditions that favor Hebrew as the language for all Jews. Most tragically, the remnants of the language disappeared along with the victims of the Holocaust.

The exhibit, which continues until end of October of 2011, is made possible by generous donations from members of the synagogue and New York's Jewish community. A press release noted, "As always, this exhibit would not be possible without the continuing support of the Board of Directors of Kehila Kedosha Janina [and] As with everything we do, the love of our community (our extended family) has sustained and inspired us."

The synagogue's Web site invites all to visit as "Both memorabilia and the museum's tour guides describe the story of the Romaniote Jews, from their entry into Greece in the first century to their current life in America."

NEWS OF INTEREST TO GREEK JEWS

Greek Holocaust survivors to have citizenship restored

By JONATHAN BECK

25/11/2010: Jerusalem Post

"Expedited process will help Jewish Shoah victims; 'This will correct a historic wrong,' Greece's deputy foreign minister tells Jerusalem Post.'

ATHENS : Holocaust survivors of Greek extraction will soon have their Greek citizenship restored in an expedited process, the country's Deputy Foreign Minister Dimitrios Dollis, who accompanied Prime Minister George Papandreou on his official visit to Israel in late July, told The Jerusalem Post on Wednesday.

'That survivors have been denied their citizenship until now was a result of the paranoia of consecutive governments,' Dollis said.

Dollis, a veteran politician who was an exile in Australia and a member of the Labor Party there, said that as a longstanding supporter of Israel, he had been pushing for Holocaust survivors to be naturalized as Greeks again for a long time.

He added that the initiative had been in the pipeline since Papandreou came to power in October 2009, but had been delayed for various reasons, and would have been undertaken regardless of the recent improvement in bilateral ties.

They 'are our people... It's their natural right,' he added, characterizing the current state of affairs as a 'moral injustice that had to be corrected.'

There are approximately 100 survivors in Israel who will be granted citizenship. Dollis and Papandreou held a meeting with some of them during his visit in July.

Dollis told the Post that the papers would be processed within months, and the survivors would be holders of Greek ID cards by early 2011.

While all of the survivors are elderly and the move would be mostly symbolic for them, Dollis said their descendants would then be able to file requests with the Greek Embassy to receive citizenship as children of naturalized Greek citizens.

As a member state of the European Union, Greek citizenship automatically grants its holders all the privileges of being a citizen of the EU.

Speaking at a meeting with Israeli journalists on Monday attended by members of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, as well as Israeli Ambassador Aryeh Mekel, David Saltiel, the board's chairman, told the Post that the previous governments' refusals to give citizenship to Greek Jews who fled the country during the Holocaust was a remnant of the country's anti- Israel past. That past, he said, was expressed in some anti- Semitic legislation his organization was trying to overturn.

Saltiel, who only recently took over as chairman, is using the flowering ties to leverage an improvement in the condition of the Jewish communities in Greece.

He said that since Papandreou's efforts to improve ties with Israel had gone into high gear, the community was finding it easier to book meetings with government ministers and that the government had been cooperative in repairing and restoring synagogues and cemeteries.

Saltiel attributed anti-Israel sentiments in Greece partly to a religious- based anti-Semitism, but expressed optimism that now that the government was changing course, the Greek population would follow suit.

'Anti-Semitism in Greece comes from ignorance and from books where you read about the crucifixion of Christ,' he said, adding that thanks to the Board of Jewish Communities's efforts, today 'elementary school books speak about what happened to the Jews during the Holocaust.'

A book published by the board in cooperation with the Greek Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs in 2008 (and in 2009 in English) was shown as an example. Titled "Young People in the Maelstrom of Occupied Greece, the Persecution and Holocaust of the Jewish People 1943- 1944," the book contains personal accounts and testimonies by survivors. Saltiel clarified that such a publication would certainly not have been possible just a few years ago.

Victor Eliezer, a member of the board, added that Papandreou's harsh condemnation of a recent incident in which a synagogue in Crete was vandalized was an unprecedented reaction to anti-Semitism.

'Still, there's a problem of education of Greek society,' Eliezer said.

'There are anti-Semitic articles in the press, and we still always expect Greek society to react in a certain way,' Eliezer added. He cited incidents of vandalism of monuments and cemeteries in several towns following Israel's Operation in the Gaza Strip two years ago.

'The Jewish community in Greece numbers a mere 5,000 people today, down from 77,000 before World War II. The community in Thessaloniki flourished so much that the city came to be known as Jerusalem of the Balkans,' Saltiel said.

<http://www.jpost.com/JewishWorld/JewishNews/Article.aspx?id=196671>

NEWS FROM GREECE

From a Press Release (November 25, 2010)

by the CENTRAL BOARD OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN GREECE

"GREEK POLICE PREVENTED ARSON ATTACK AGAINST THE ATHENS SYNAGOGUE

Two young men were arrested last Tuesday by the police and charged with attempting an arson attack against the Synagogue of Athens.

The two men were stopped for control by the police while riding a motorcycle without plates. They were carrying all components for the construction of Molotov explosive mechanisms, thus, a bottle of gasoline, empty bottles and rugs.

After searching their houses, the police found and confiscated 20 litres of gasoline. During police questioning, the two men expressed their ultra-nationalist ideology and they confessed that they were planning an attack against the Synagogue of Athens. The police announced that the arrested have no prior criminal record and are not officially listed members of any extremist organization. State Security Agency has opened a preliminary investigation on the case, while the arrested were brought before the Prosecutor.

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece issued a press release recognizing the promptness of the police in preventing the attack. 'Such criminal attempts are the result of anti-Semitic feelings that are systematically cultivated and incited by various circles. Society has to be alert and mobilized to fight against the manifestations of racism and anti-Semitism, taking also into consideration the dangers deriving from the increase of these phenomena', the press release concludes.

Athens, November 25, 2010

Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece"

ELECTION RESULTS FROM GREECE

As reported in our last e-newsletter, there was a record number of Jewish candidates for public office. Of the five candidates, three were elected.

Moses Eliasaf (President of the Jewish Community of Ioannina) was re-elected to the City Council, receiving the largest number of votes.



Moses Eliasaf was born in Ioannina in 1954 and, in addition to serving the Jewish Community of Ioannina as President, is head of Internal Medicine at the University of Ioannina. He has sat on the City Council of Ioannina since 2006.

The Jewish Community of Thessaloniki (Salonika) is especially proud since two of the three Jewish candidates from the city were successful on their bid for election to positions in the city government. This is the first time since before WWII that Jews in the city have held positions in the municipal government.

The two successful candidates were Chasdai Kapon and Matildi Kanasiádi-Karáso.



Born & raised in Thessaloniki, Chasdai Kapon is an economist, having received degrees from Reed College in Oregon, the London School of Economics and Georgetown University. He is a member of the Council of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki and is on the Board of Saul Modiano Senior Home, among other activities. He won election to the City Council of Thessaloniki.



Born & raised in Thessaloniki, Matildi Kanasiádi-Karásso is an economist, having received numerous degrees on both the undergraduate and graduate levels in Athens. Married with two daughters, Matildi returned to Salonika and first was elected to public office in 2006 and won re-election in 2010.

Isaac Dostis, founder of the Museum at Kehila Kedosha Janina, has been living with his wife Diana in Ioannina Greece since 2004. After many years of struggle, Isaac is hopeful that he will finally be receiving his Greek citizenship. Isaac informed us that they will be initiating acting classes in Ioannina (they are both professional actors) and on January 7th (for 8 performances) Isaac will be directing a Jean Cocteau play "The Terrible Parents." The play will be performed in Greek and, with the support of the French Consul to Greece, there is a good probability that the play will be performed in Thessaloniki after Ioannina.

Updates on Greek-Israeli relations

A new website is now available to aid in Greek-Israeli commercial ventures: www.greekisrael-chamber.gr

Cultural Events

American Sephardi Federation & Yeshiva University Museum
in collaboration with the 6th Annual Sephardic Music Festival
presents

Sephardic Music Festival Scholar Series

Sepharad: Voices from Across the Strait

VANESSA PALOMA
AND THE
D'SAFI TAKHT ENSEMBLE

December 6, 2010, 6:30pm

AT THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY 15 WEST 16TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10011

Program curator: Samuel R. Thomas

The Strait of Gibraltar has long served as a bridge between North Africa and Iberia, facilitating transcontinental kingdoms for centuries and as an important passage for Sephardic migrants. Moroccan cultural expressions remain central to the perpetuity of Sephardic culture. As a part of the sixth annual Sephardic Music Festival, this evening provides an opportunity to explore aspects of Sephardic musical culture through performances by singer and scholar, **Vanessa Paloma**, and the **d'Safi Takht Ensemble**, performing North African and Jewish music in a contemporary way. An audience-interactive panel discussion follows with the artists, led by ethnomusicologist and curator, **Samuel R. Thomas**.

Following the performance, join us in lighting a beautiful Hanukkah, created by artist Oded Halahmy. Refreshments will be served.

Co-sponsors: The Foundation for Iberian Music, American Jewish Historical Society, American Society for Jewish Music, the Institute for Sephardic Studies, AsefaMusic and Shemspeed.

Tickets

at the Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, NYC

WOODWARD GALLERY

ESTABLISHED 1994



ROBERT INDIANA
NOW
NOV 20, 2010 - JAN 22, 2011

Woodward Gallery is honored to exhibit important, current projects by American Pop Artist, Robert Indiana. Born in New Castle, Indiana on September 13, 1928, Mr. Indiana is internationally recognized as a painter, sculptor and printmaker known for his LOVE, American Dream, Numbers and HOPE series. Robert Indiana's long-term relationship with American Image Atelier and Master Screenprinter, Gary Lichtenstein, has provided fresh, pivotal components for what Robert Indiana is creating now.

Perhaps Indiana's greatest contribution to Pop Art was giving it the hard edge, a style later adopted by Warhol, Lichtenstein, Oldenberg, and others, and for which Pop became recognized and known. Indiana's work speaks to the vital forces that have shaped our culture – the American Dream of the 20th century and HOPE for the 21st century. Robert Indiana has infused art history with images that chronicle his personal as well as the national identity, political and social upheaval, the rise of consumer culture, and the use of art as historical chronicler.





Robert Indiana remains immersed in the color, scale and mediums which have long powered his iconic work. While LOVE ignited the '60s, Indiana has conceived the political message of our time: HOPE. The interfused, dynamic realignment of Indiana's graphics – particularly his tilted "O" – form a kinetic energy that is both timeless and timely, relevant with a fresh spirit that is eternally young. Indiana's recent experiments with blended rainbow colors are reinventing his classic Pop iconography while working through the emotional connection between color, graphic art and painting. With his reworking in paint, he has fulfilled what most artists desire to achieve, but so often fail to produce. Indiana has reinvented his iconic style and by consequence, himself as well.

Robert Indiana's message has been an important, poetic language spanning his long career. Indiana's HOPE, already in private and public collections throughout the world, has become the new global icon for generations now and in the future.

Director John Woodward has also organized a unique, historic commission of Robert Indiana's large painting suite – The Four Seasons of HOPE – for the landmark restaurant, The Four Seasons, at 52nd and Lexington Avenue, NYC.

Please join us on Saturday, November 20th from 6-8pm for a celebratory opening reception to honor this great, American Artist!

Gary Lichtenstein: 35 Years of Screenprinting is currently on exhibition at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield, CT, through January 2, 2011.

www.aldrichart.org



We are very proud of Los Muestras' Louie Menashe and his most recent literary endeavor.

"This book is for the Russian movie aficionado—personal, pointed, funny, frank and full of all kinds of inside stories and political folk tales."

—Hedrick Smith, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Russians* and *The New Russians*

MOSCOW BELIEVES IN TEARS

by Louis Menashe

Part film criticism, part history, part film history—all written with a personal touch—this unique collection of published and unpublished reviews, interviews, and essays highlights the important role that cinema can play for understanding Russian history, politics, culture and society.

Louis Menashe is Professor Emeritus at Polytechnic Institute of New York University
and Associate Editor *Cineaste*

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We, at Kehila Kedosha Janina, have not grown in isolation. We are part of the renaissance on the Lower East Side and have grown with the support of others. In this, and future issues of the monthly e-newsletter, we will try to keep you informed of other events on the Lower East Side.

©2010 Museum at Eldridge Street | [12 Eldridge Street, New York, NY](http://12EldridgeStreet.com)

[10002](http://10002.com) | [212.219.0302](http://212.219.0302.com) | contact@eldridgestreet.org



December 5, 12, 19 & 26 • 1pm

History Illuminated Family Program



Investigate Eldridge Street's Victorian lighting and stunning stained glass to bring the synagogue's story to light. Make a holiday gift to share the light with others during the holiday season.

\$15 per family

Sunday, December 12 • 3pm

Singing Table: Songs, Stories, and Schnapps



Get your table-thumping skills ready and your *lai-la-lais* in tune. Musicians Michael Alpert, Sruli Dresdner, and Lisa Mayer lead us in an afternoon of old-world hasidic *zmiros*, (Sabbath songs) with a new world twist. *L'chaim!*

\$20 adults; \$15 for college students and seniors

Sunday, December 26 • 12:30 & 2:00pm

Klez for Kids Family Concert



Sing, dance and learn Yiddish at our annual family concert. Clarinetist Greg Wall and his band *Klezmerfest* lead a musical tour of Eastern European Jewish culture ending with a festive audience-enacted shtetl wedding.



108 Orchard Street, New York City 10002: 212-982-8420



UPCOMING TALKS

December. 7 at 6:30 PM



Irrepressible: The Life and Times of Jessica Mitford with Leslie Brody Introduced by Constanca "Dinky" Romilly. Born into one of Britain's most famous aristocratic families, Decca Mitford broke from tradition, becoming one of America's most notorious bureaucrats, journalists, and civil rights activists.

December. 8 at 6:30 PM



**The Encyclopedia of New York City, 2nd Edition with Kenneth Jackson
Highlights from the revised version's over 800 new entries, which reflect the changes that have reshaped NYC during the past 15 years.**

December. 14 at 6:30 PM



They Are Us with Pete Hamill

The author of *Forever & Downtown* speaks about immigration, a topic he is most passionate about.

LOWER EAST SIDE JEWISH CONSERVANCY BULLETIN



7th ANNUAL *NOSHING* TOUR

EXTRAVAGANZA TO BE HELD ON
DECEMBER 26TH, 2010

When does *noshing* (snacking in Yiddish) combine with visiting magnificent sacred sites on the Lower East Side? On the annual Noshing Tour Extravaganza of the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy (LESJC). This unique tour and eclectic eating experience continues to be one of the most popular and eagerly awaited events presented by the Conservancy each year.

Join us as we visit and eat at unique historic sites. Start with Rugelach, and coffee then end with a sample of foods from a classic Eastern European *kiddish* of herring, *arbis*, *potatonick*, *schnapps*, dried fruit and halvah.

WHAT: A PUBLIC WALKING TOUR AND NOSHING EXTRAVAGANZA

WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2010

TIME: 11:00 A.M. TOUR LASTS APPROXIMATELY 3 HOURS

WHERE: MEET IN FRONT OF STANTON ST. SHUL, 180 STANTON STREET (BETWEEN ATTORNEY & CLINTON STREETS)

**FEE: ADULTS \$24
SENIORS AND STUDENTS \$22
No other discounts apply.
Pre-registration required by December 22, 2010.**

ON THIS TOUR YOU WILL:

- Marvel at the stunning interior of the *Angel Orensanz Cultural Foundation*, the oldest surviving structure built as a synagogue in NYC. This building housed the former Congregation Anshe Chesed, the 3rd Jewish Congregation founded in New York, and the 2nd reform congregation.
- Soak in the surroundings at *Congregation B'nai Jacob Anshei Brzezan* (also known as *The Stanton Street Shul*), one of the few remaining tenement style synagogues left today.
- Visit *Congregation Chasam Sopher*, (exterior only) NYC's oldest continuously operating active synagogue building.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

For further information, contact Laurie Tobias Cohen, Executive Director,
at (212) 374-4100 x 1 or 2,
or by e-mail at info@nycjewishtours.org

One of the strongest supporters of Kehila Kedosha Janina has always been Holly Kaye who, along with The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy, was instrumental in enabling us to become an historic landmark and to receive matching grants facilitating our initial restoration. We are happy to report that Holly's Vintage Thrift shop, was voted 'the best vintage shop in New York City.'



Vintage Thrift is a nonprofit New York thrift shop founded in 2000 and located near Gramercy Park. Proceeds benefit The United Jewish Council of the East Side. We sell men's and women's clothing and accessories, fine and costume jewelry, antiques, tchotchkes, furniture, and housewares— just about everything! Our merchandise assortment varies daily— one day you might find a 1960's Danish Modern bedroom set, the next day the trappings of a 1940's dentist's office, three days later a barely-used contemporary sofa, the next week a Victorian oak dining table and chairs. Let your old stuff do good stuff. In exchange for donating you'll receive a tax deduction, extra closet space, and the satisfaction of recycling your unwanted goods and contributing to a worthy charity.

286 Third Avenue (between 22nd & 23rd) in New York City
Telephone: 212-871-0777

We thank "Abravanel" for this delightful bit of historical whimsy.



"All around the Mediterranean one can find various flavors of a strong alcoholic drink based on the aniseed aromas, whether it is called ouzo, raki, sambucca, anis, pastis or arak. In Greece the most famous variations are the ouzo of the eastern Aegean islands, the tsipouro of the Thessaly region and the tsikoudia of Crete. In fact ouzo is considered an exclusively Greek drink and it is indeed protected inside the European Union, (outside it's a bit more complicated).

But 60 years ago one of the most famous variations was the raki of Salonica and its most worthy representative, the raki of the Haham Nahmias House.

Raki and Ouzo are part of the great Mediterranean family of aniseed-based alcohol. A story over the etymology of the name says that the term "Ouzo" comes from the term uso marsiglia which dealt with how a fine quality raki was characterized and emulated the fine quality products destined for the port of Marseilles

The following is from Jewish oral history: the term ouzo, common to Jews/Christians/Muslims, was derived from the Spanish/Jewish term uzo, meaning "custom" or from the phrase "yuzar kada dia", ie *for daily use*.

These etymologies reflect a folk tradition and are products of popular fantasy since in reality the word "Ouzo" derives from the turkish üzüm *which means clusters of grapes and/or raisins*

Strangely enough it is another member of the family, Tsipouro, which appears to have a Jewish origin. Tsipouro appears to be the evolution of *sikera/σίκερα*, which is the rendition in the Greek-language Torah (Old Testament) of the Jewish *shekar/שכר*, a kind of a strong alcoholic beverage.

Of course it is difficult and next to impossible to talk about a specific origin of these drinks since raki and ouzo have evolved over the centuries and the same name is used to describe different products in different areas. But the established belief among the Christians of Salonica **is that raki and ouzo were brought by the Sephardic Jews to Salonica. The local folklore historian Kostas Tomanas says: *'The Jewish family Nahmias came from Majorca. When they came to Salonica with the other Sephardim they brought along the cauldron which was used to manufacture in Spain this appetizing drink which the Turks used to call raki. The Turks did not drink wine because the Koran forbade it. But the holy book did not say anything about raki and so the Turks were great raki consumers.'*"**

Requests for our help

"Can you help me locate the gravesite of a fellow Greek Jew. His name was Mois Judah. He survived the Holocaust and died at age 19 in 1948 in New York so he is almost certainly buried there. Because Judah is also a first name it is possible that records show his name as Judah Mois (or Meir, sometimes spelled Meyer or Mayer).

Here is the information:

First name: Mois (in Hebrew Meir, Meyer, or Mayer)

Last name: Judah (in Hebrew Yehuda)

His father's name: Jeko (in Hebrew Yaakov, English - Jacob)

His mother's name: Joya (in Hebrew Margalit)

Year of birth: 1929

Place of birth: Thessalonika, Greece (also written as Salonika, Thessalonica or Salonica)

Date of death: March 1948 (the 13th ?)

Place of death: New York

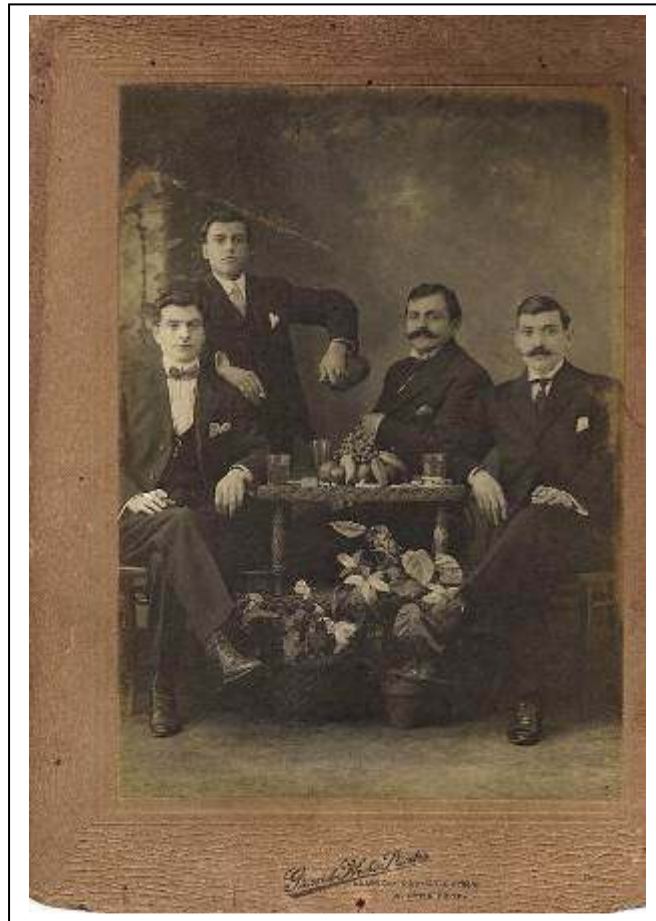
Address in Greece: Simms Street #12

Additional information: He arrived in Auschwitz, Germany from Greece on 24 of March, 1943

The number on his arm was 110216. He arrived in the USA on June 1945 and stayed in the Santa Crooo (?Cruz) Camp on Long Island. He received help from the C.L.I. organization.

Suzanne Worth"

Eleanor Matsas asked our help in identifying the Solomon brothers in this photo:



New on our website (www.kkjsm.org)

Information on 2011 Tour to Jewish Greece (from May 22-June 6). This tour is filling up fast.

Our new exhibit is now on our website. Click on the link on the left for 'Exhibits.'

**Kehila Kedosha Janina e-newsletter: number 35: December 2010
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