



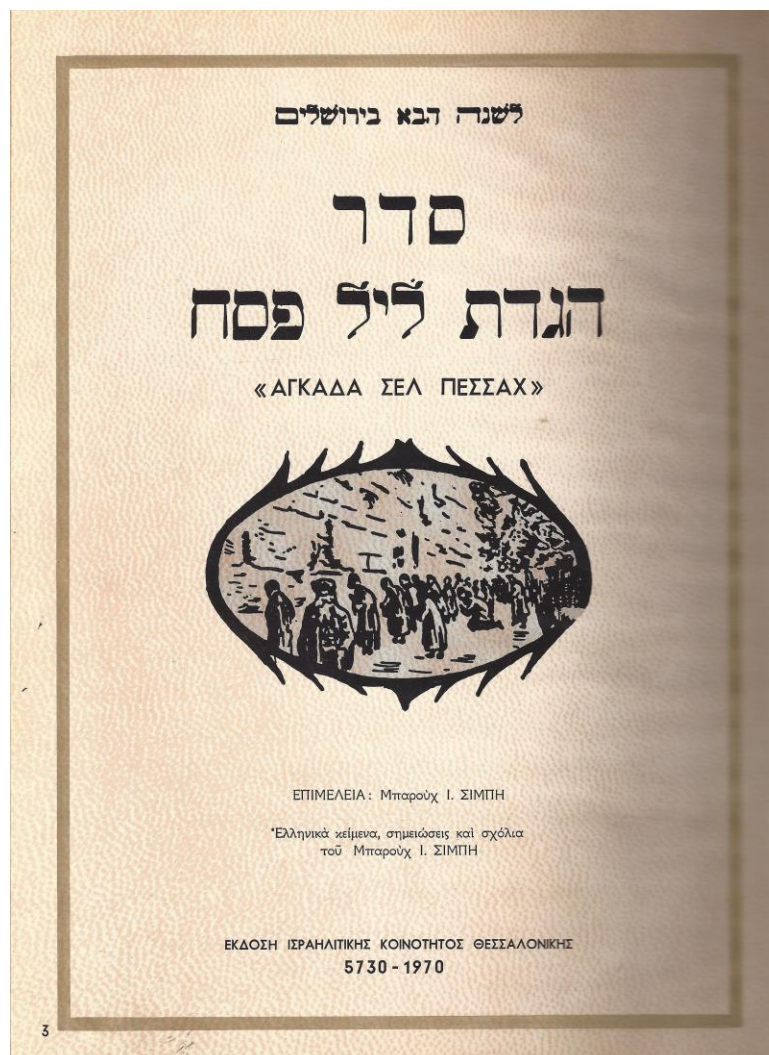
# Kehila Kedosha Janina

## Synagogue and Museum

### April 2018 E-Newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

We wish Jews throughout the world a joyous Pessach. Do join us at Kehila Kedosha Janina for services (see attachment for schedule). We wish all our Greek-Orthodox Christian friends Kalo Pascha. Don't forget our annual Greek Jewish Festival on Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to volunteer during the festival, contact our Director of Community Development, Andrew Marcus at [amarcus@kkjasm.org](mailto:amarcus@kkjasm.org). We are also very excited to host a special International Greek Jewish Shabbaton on May 4-5<sup>th</sup> (details below).



This newsletter, our 109<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.kkjsm.org).

We now reach close to 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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## Passings

**First: we wish to publish a correction to the information given in our last e-newsletter on the passing of Jack Lichy. We published the wrong picture. Our apologies to the family. This is the correct picture:**



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It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of **Rhea Walco**, from the Negrin Family. Rhea was predeceased by her husband, Jerald Walco, and is survived by her children, Dianne, Gary and Lisa, and her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Rhea was born on September 14, 1928 and passed away on Friday, March 9, 2018. She was the daughter of Louise Negrin (born in Berat, Albania of Yanniotte parents) and Sol Levy (born in Ioannina), the granddaughter of Joseph Moses Negrin and Serena (Sarah) Ganis, and the granddaughter of Matsil Levy and Hannoula Yomtov Levy. On Rhea's Negrin side of the family we can trace the family tree back to early 19<sup>th</sup> century with her paternal great-grandparents, Moses Negrin and Leah (Loula) Cohen, and finally, with her paternal great-great-grandparents, Eliyia Negrin and Hanoula Cohen, all Yanniottes.



In Ioannina, 1903. Joseph Negrin, Rhea's father, is second from right on the top row.

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It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing Flora Levi. As reported by the Sephardic Brotherhood, Flora, and her late husband Nick, were constants in the Sephardic Jewish Center of Forest Hills. Flora was a "hidden child" in Greece during WWII, before being smuggled out of the country. Most of her family were sent to concentration camps and did not survive the war. Eventually, she made her way to Israel where she met her future husband Nick, a survivor of German labor camps. Both were in the Israeli army and fought in the War of Independence. Being Sephardic, they were able to claim Spanish citizenship and were able to come to the United State under Spanish quotas. Nick went on to be a President of the Sephardic Brotherhood and was a strong proponent of young people getting involved in the organization.

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### **Simchas**

Max Jacob Delman was born on March 2, 2018. He is named after one of his great-grandmothers and four great-great-grandfathers, including Max Matza from Ioannina. Max is the great-grandson of Michael Menahem and Rebecca (Matza) Menahem, both of blessed memory, the grandson of Shelly (Menahem) Delman and Richard Delman, and the son of Michael Delman and Nadine Dubowitz.

The Menahem family is one of those Ioannina families that give us a glimpse into the lives of early emigrants from Ioannina to the USA. The Patriarch of the family was named Menahem Moise, but it was really Menahem's wife, Lucy (Lula) Levy, who would be the force behind the emigration. Lula arranged he marriage of her daughter Mazalto to Zacharia Yomtov (the first Yanniote to come to the USA) Zaccharia arrived in 1899 and sent word for a bride. Mazalto's father brought her to New York after an arranged marriage in Ioannina, where a male relative stood in for Zaccharia. Mazaltov's mother-in-law, Esther, accompanied her father and Menahem left shortly afterwards to return to Greece, not liking New York at all. It was at this point that Lulu decided to come to the New World to marry off additional daughters, an excellent idea since the dreaded dowry was not a requirement for marriage and the little money Menahem made would never enable her to make good marriages for her remaining three daughters. She succeeded in marrying all three into prominent Greek-Jewish families, Julia to Jacob Ganis, Annie to Nissim Barouch, both from Ioannina and her daughter Esther to a Sephardic Jew. Solomon Mallah. Ironically, it was Mazalto who did not fare well in her marriage.

Although she bore eight children to Zaccharia, it was a loveless marriage. Lucy's one son, Samuel, married Esther Barouch. It was during Sam's immigration to the USA that the family name was changed, becoming Menahem (from Moise) when, evidently, on the ship manifest, coming from Turkey with his family, the son of Menahem became the surname "Menahem." Max is the great-grandson of Michael Menahem, Sam's youngest child. May he be a joy to his family. It is our delight to welcome him into the Greek-Jewish world.



Sam Menahem and family



Michael Delman and Nadine Dubowitz

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We congratulate the Marburg/Sarfati family on the Bar Mitzvah of Warren Marburg. Warren was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at Kehila Kedosha Janina on April 24 and chanted the prayers in our traditional Romaniote melodies. Mazal Tov!



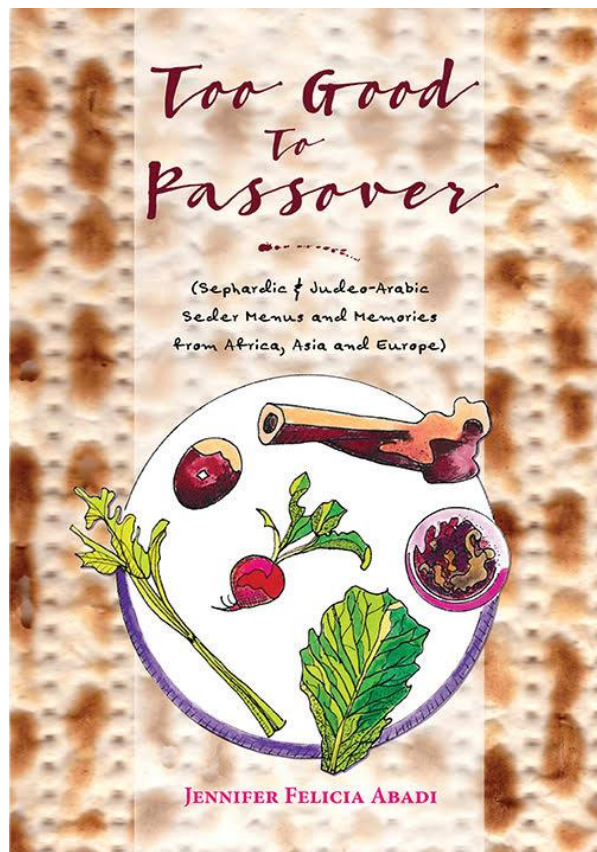


## Past Events of Interest at Kehila Kedosha Janina

### *Too Good To Passover* Book Presentation with Author Jennifer Abadi



We still have copies of this unbelievable book left. They will go fast. If you want to order one, email us at [museum@kkjism.org](mailto:museum@kkjism.org) to save a copy. Cost is \$30 including P&H.





**Upcoming Events of Interest at Kehila Kedosha Janina**

**Mark Your Calendars!**

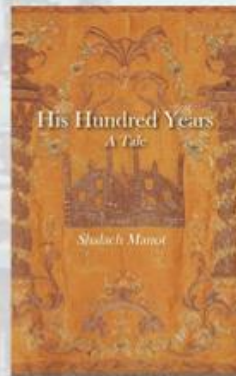
**Jane Mushabac will present her highly acclaimed book "His Hundred Years: A Tale"  
Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum  
is honored to host the presentation of a fascinating book by**

**JANE MUSHABAC  
(SHALACH MANOT)**

**AUTHOR OF**

***HIS HUNDRED YEARS: A TALE***



**Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm  
Kehila Kedosha Janina  
280 Broome Street NYC**

**"This fascinating book by gifted writer and storyteller Shalach Manot reflects on the life of an unusual Sephardic man, his childhood in Turkey, and later, his adaptation to life in America. We follow his adventures and come away with a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Sephardic immigrant experience during the 20th century." — Marc D. Angel, author of The Crown of Solomon and Other Stories**

**Author will be present for book signing.  
Special autographed books at \$12  
Refreshments will be served.**

**Please RSVP to [museum@kkjsm.org](mailto:museum@kkjsm.org)  
or 516-456-9336**

Join us for a special Yom HaShoah on Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>

**Kehila Kedosha Janina invites you to our annual**

**YOM HASHOAH  
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY  
CEREMONY  
CELEBRATING  
SOL KOFINAS**



**Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm  
Kehila Kedosha Janina  
280 Broome Street NYC**

**This Yom HaShoah, we are celebrating Sol Kofinas, our Shamash, and highlighting his story of being a hidden child in Athens during the Occupation of Greece. Sol and his brother Zino survived with the help of the Greek Orthodox Christian Hatzi family. As part of our Yom HaShoah commemoration, we are honored to show Sol Kofinas' presentation at the Bronx Supreme Court, where he told his story of survival. Filmed and produced by Richard Solomon.**

**Yom HaShoah service begins at 1pm.  
Video presentation and refreshments to follow.**

**Please RSVP to [museum@kkjism.org](mailto:museum@kkjism.org) or 516-456-9336**



Join us on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> for a showing of a special documentary film on the Jews of Tunisia

Join us for a special Film Screening on Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>

Kehila Kedosha Janina  
is honored to show the fascinating new documentary

## ***JOURNEY FROM TUNISIA***

BY SEPHARDIC FILMMAKER  
**JONATHAN MAIMON**



**Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**

**Kehila Kedosha Janina  
280 Broome Street NYC**

In this film, Maimon examines the journey of his family from Tunisia to Israel. It explores a personal history, the upheaval of centuries of roots for Jews and their Arab neighbors in North Africa, and the forming of new roots in a newly created Israel. Through his film, Maimon entrusts us with the spell-binding story of his Sephardic grandparents from emigration to immigration, encompassing loss, disappointment, and adaptation.

**The filmmaker will be present for discussion after the film  
Tickets \$5 (available at the door)**

**Sephardic desserts and refreshments will be served  
Dietary restrictions observed**

**Please RSVP to [museum@kkjism.org](mailto:museum@kkjism.org)**



Join us for an International Greek Jewish Shabbat on May 4-5<sup>th</sup>

ב"ה

Kehila Kedosha Janina invites you to an  
*International*  
Greek Jewish Shabbat

May 4 - 5, 2018

Join us for a very special Shabbat celebrating the  
Romaniote and Sephardic traditions of the Jews of Greece

We are honored to welcome community leaders from Greece,  
Seattle, Indianapolis, Portland, Miami, Atlanta, and Philadelphia,  
including the following distinguished Hahamim:

Rabbi Gabriel Negrin, Jewish Community of Athens, Greece  
Rabbi Ben Hassan, Sephardic Bikur Holim Congregation of Seattle  
Rabbi David Gingold-Altchek, Etz Chaim Sephardic Cong. of Indianapolis  
Rabbi Nissim Elnecavé, Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America

Friday May 4

6:45pm Minha Afternoon Services  
7:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvith Services

Saturday May 5

9:00am Shaharith Morning Services  
12:00pm Musaf Services  
4:00pm "The Romaniote Custom of Shaddayot" - Rabbi Negrin  
4:30pm "Teaching Levantine Sephardic Customs" - Rabbi Hassan  
5:00pm "Post-Expulsion Sephardic Philosophy" - Rabbi Altchek  
5:30pm Minha Afternoon Services  
6:00pm Seuda Shelishit & Rabbinic Panel Discussion  
7:15pm Romaniote Songs, Arvith Services & Havdala

Kehila Kedosha Janina 280 Broome Street NYC  
Please RSVP to [amarcus@kkjism.org](mailto:amarcus@kkjism.org)

# International Greek Jewish Shabbat



Rabbi Gabriel Negrin is currently the Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Athens. He was born to a traditional Romaniote family with heritage originally from the city of Ioannina in Northern Greece. He grew up in the Jewish Community of Athens, attending the local Jewish Community School, where he received the nickname of "the little rabbi" for his inquisitiveness and passion for Judaism. He received a Bachelors of Arts in Musicology from the Technical University of Crete. He received his Rabbinic ordination from the Shehebar Sephardic Center in Jerusalem, trained in the Romaniote Hazzanut of Greece, and is a certified mohel and shohef.



Rabbi Ben Hassan is currently the Rabbi of Sephardic Bikur Holim (SBH) Congregation in Seattle, an over 100 year old community founded by Sephardic Jews from Turkey. He was born in Manchester, England to a traditional Sephardic family of Spanish Moroccan descent and received his Rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat HaMivtar in Israel. He served as the Rabbi at the historic Sassoon Yehuda Sephardi Synagogue in Melbourne, Australia, and joined SBH in 2013 with his wife Sharona and their four daughters.



Rabbi David Gingold-Altchek is currently the Rabbi of Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation of Indianapolis, an over 100 year old community founded by Sephardic Jews from Salonika, Monastir (Bitola), and Turkey. His family is originally from the cities of Salonika and Istanbul, and he is currently collaborating on a number of projects to help revive the Sephardic community nationwide, including the Sephardic Birthright Trip. He received his Rabbinic ordination from the Shehebar Sephardic Center in Jerusalem, served as a US Army Chaplain retiring with the rank of Captain, and grew up in the Ladino Sephardic community of Florida.



Rabbi Nissim Elnecafé is an active Rabbinic educator in the New York Sephardic community, including at Kehila Kedosha Janina and the Sephardic Jewish Center of Forest Hills. He was born in Mexico City to a Turkish Ladino family and received his Rabbinical training in Jerusalem at the Shehebar Sephardic Center and Yeshivat Porat Yosef, focusing on the traditions of the Ladino-speaking Sephardic Jews of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkans. He is currently the Executive Director of the Sephardic Brotherhood and has taken an active lead in reaching out to the next generation of Sephardim and collaborating with communities across the country.

Kehila Kedosha Janina 280 Broome Street NYC [www.kkjsm.org](http://www.kkjsm.org)



Don't Miss our Fourth Annual Greek Jewish Festival on Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>

Full details at [www.GreekJewishFestival.com](http://www.GreekJewishFestival.com)



KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA  
SYNAGOGUE AND MUSEUM

FREE  
ADMISSION

PRESENTS THE  
FOURTH ANNUAL



# GREEK JEWISH FESTIVAL

SUNDAY MAY 6, 2018  
12PM – 6PM

BROOME ST BETWEEN ALLEN ST AND ELDRIDGE ST  
LOWER EAST SIDE NYC

DELICIOUS FOOD      LIVE MUSIC      KIDS ACTIVITIES  
SYNAGOGUE TOURS      DANCING      VENDORS & GIFTS

## - FESTIVAL SPONSORS -



## - COMMUNITY PARTNERS -



FOR MORE INFO: [GREEKJEWISHFESTIVAL.COM](http://GREEKJEWISHFESTIVAL.COM)



Join us in welcoming Yvette Manassis Corporon back to Kehila Kedosha Janina for a Presentation of her latest book, along with a trailer screening from her new documentary film

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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@kkjism.org](mailto:museum@kkjism.org) or 516-456-9336



THE GREEK JEWISH & SEPHARDIC  
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK  
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR

## HOLIDAY CUSTOMS 101

A 5-PART LEARNING AND CULTURAL SERIES



3/7 - PESACH  
3/21 - PESACH  
4/11 - SHAVUOT  
4/25 - SHAVUOT  
5/9 - SHAVUOT



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 6:30PM  
299 PARK AVE (BET 48<sup>TH</sup> AND 49<sup>TH</sup> ST)

JOIN US AS WE LEARN SEPHARDIC AND ROMANIOTE  
TRADITIONS FOR THE UPCOMING SPRING HOLIDAYS

CLASSES WILL BE LED BY A VARIETY OF GUEST TEACHERS,  
INCLUDING YOUNG LEADERS FROM OUR COMMUNITY!

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

OPEN TO YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR 20'S AND 30'S  
RSVP REQUIRED: [GREEKJEWISHYPN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GREEKJEWISHYPN@GMAIL.COM)

## News from the Lower East Side

We are happy to announce the opening of a new Kosher Restaurant on the Lower East Side.

With the arrival of a new kosher restaurant on the block, Orchard Street is returning to its roots. Noga, as it's called, debuted at the end of January on the ground level of the Sago Hotel, filling a vacancy left last year by The John Lamb.

Noga is a kosher dairy restaurant from the same owners behind Bison and Bourbon steakhouse in Crown Heights – Duddy Shagalov, Ariel Mangami, and Menachem Wolf. This is the trio's second venture, which offers a menu of pastas alongside "upscale fish and dairy dishes." Former Jean-Georges chef John Goulette is reportedly in the kitchen.

The restaurant is located in the basement of the hotel and is viewable from the street level; entrance is around the corner at 120 Allen Street. By offering Noga as its onsite food and beverage, Sago is seemingly targeting a more religious demographic to stay at its hotel.



**The Pickle Guys will join us again at our Greek Jewish Festival on May 6th**





## Articles on Events of Interest in the Sephardic World

From the Sephardic Education Center of Los Angeles

"I am excited to share with you that in this week's Jewish Journal of Los Angeles, Sephardim and Sephardic Judaism are the cover story! This is a great achievement for us, especially that the SEC is prominently featured in the story. Attached is the beautiful cover, and here is the online link to the story:

[The Many Facets of the Sephardic Spirit](#)

Please share this link with your friends -- via email, on your FB and Twitter pages, etc. Sephardim have made primetime, and it's a great opportunity to spread our message far and wide. Good things are happening, let's capture this moment and capitalize on it!

Rabbi Daniel Bouskila  
Sephardic Educational Center



## Sephardic Education Center Shabbaton in Seattle

Ezra Bessaroth and Sephardic Bikur Holim welcome the SEC's Rabbi Daniel Bouskila and Neil Sheff for a special Shabbaton: "From the Holocaust to 70 Years of the State of Israel: Sephardic Reflections and Perspectives" Shabbat Shemini April 13-14, 2018



Friday Evening dinner @ SBH 7:15 PM  
\$25/Person \$80/Family; after dinner discussion: "A Woman's Place Is In...? An Inside Look at Sephardic Sources"  
RSVP to sbhseattle.org or email reservesbh@gmail.com

Shabbat day at EB - Tefilah 8:25 am - Derasha:  
"Playing With Fire: The Fine Line Between Tradition & Change"

Dairy Kiddush Lunch followed by lecture:  
"The Holocaust in Sephardic Rabbinical Writings"

Seudah Shelishit presentation 7:30 pm  
"Sephardic Wisdom: Rav Uziel's Commentary to Pirkei Avot"

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY HARLEY AND LELA FRANCO



## We Applaud the Work of SHINDC (Sephardic Heritage International DC)

Full details [here](#)



Sephardic Heritage International DC  
SHIN DC in Collaboration with The Embassy of  
the Kingdom of Morocco in Washington, DC  
PRESENTS:

**4 Annual Mimouna Mimosa Brunch**  
**A Festival of Good Neighbors**

Sunday, April 15, 2018 • 1:30-4:30 PM  
AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH MILITARY HISTORY  
1811 R St NW, Washington, DC 20009



Moroccan Mimosa Brunch • Live Music • Special Guest Speakers  
Mouffletas/Msemn (thin pancake) with Honey & Fruit Preserves, Couscous with Caramelized Onions & Raisins  
Confit, Bottomless Mimosas (alc/non-alc), Fruit, Nana Mint Tea, and other Moroccan Pastries, Sweets & Treats

**REGISTER (EARLY \$15 or donate what you can | \$20 AT THE DOOR):**  
[www.shindc.org/reg/mimouna2018](http://www.shindc.org/reg/mimouna2018)

This neighborhood festival brings the diverse DC community together. It is a celebration of good neighbors, inspired by Moroccan narratives where Muslims helped Jewish neighbors obtain leavened foods that would otherwise have been unavailable for Mimouna, which marks the end of Passover. Together they would welcome spring with traditional foods and bless each other in hopes of a season of health and good fortune. We endeavor to continue coming together in this way. This North African festival of good neighbors is for everyone.

Co-Sponsors with  
Sephardic Heritage  
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The Embassy of the  
Kingdom of Morocco  
in Washington, DC

Amina  
& Aicha

جمعية ميمونة  
مركز DC



[www.shindc.org](http://www.shindc.org)  
Tel: (617) 894-3751

## Mimouna in Indianapolis



**Mimouna**  
Authentic Moroccan  
Style Celebration  
**Sunday April 8**  
**@ 5:30 PM**  
תרבחון ותסעדון

**ETZ CHAIM SEPHARDIC CONGREGATION**  
6939 HOOVER RD. INDIANAPOLIS IN. 46260



## Greek Independence Day in New York

Two events took place in New York, commemorating Greek Independence Day, one at the Greek Consulate and one hosted by Mayor De Blasio at Gracie Mansion.



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## Commemorating Greek Independence at the White House


Amid controversy, the White House acknowledged Greek Independence Day. While in past years, the Vice President and other members of the government were present, this year it was only the President.



## Upcoming Events for Yom HaShoah in the United States

In addition to our annual commemoration at Kehila Kedosha Janina on April 15<sup>th</sup> (see notice above in this issue), our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad-Ikonomopoulos, will be telling the story of the losses of Sephardic and Romaniote Jews at the Edmond Safra Synagogue on the Upper East Side (on April 10<sup>th</sup>) and in Indianapolis on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Join us on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm at the Edmond J. Safra Synagogue at 11 E 63rd St, New York, NY 10065



**Sephardic Jews: The Orphan Child of Holocaust Studies**  
with Marcia Haddad Ikonopoulos

**Yom HaShoah Commemoration**  
Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> | 7:15pm

The Holocaust led to the near complete demise of European centers of Sephardi Jewry, a tragedy far too often forgotten or overlooked.

Join us as we learn more about these lost communities in commemoration of Yom HaShoah.

**Edmond J. Safra Synagogue**  
11 East 63<sup>rd</sup> Street | NYC

Memorial candle lighting service following the talk.

Marcia Haddad Ikonopoulos was born into a traditional Sephardic Jewish family from Salonika and has devoted her life to telling the story of Greek Jewry as an author, translator, editor and lecturer.

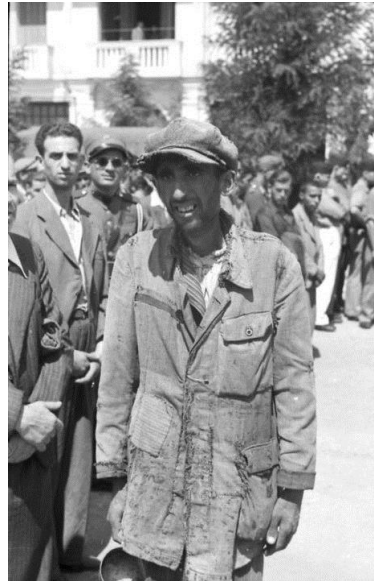
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Erev Yom HaShoah Observance at  
Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation of  
Indianapolis  
Wednesday April 11, 2018 at 7:00pm  
Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation  
6939 Hoover Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46260

Presentation: "The Impact of the  
Holocaust on Sephardim" followed by  
candle-lighting by survivors and their  
families. The event will highlight the  
losses in Thessaloniki and Monastir,  
reflecting the founding families of Etz  
Chaim.



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### Yom HaShoah in Forest Hills on April 8<sup>th</sup>



**YOM HASHOAH**  
HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION SERVICE

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Join the Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America and  
the Sephardic Jewish Center for a Special Yom HaShoah -  
Holocaust Commemoration Service

This year we are honored to welcome guest speaker David  
Barouch, the last of the Sephardic Jewish Center  
Holocaust survivors, who will be discussing "the Holocaust  
and the Jews of Patras - Greece, a survivor's story"

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**Sunday, April 8 at 2pm**  
**Sephardic Jewish Center of Forest Hills**  
**67 - 67 108 Street, Forest Hills NY 11375**



## News from Jewish Greece

Our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos was honored to lead a tour to Jewish Greece from March 18-March 25<sup>th</sup>. The Tour was through the Princeton Center for Jewish Life and was accompanied by Rabbi Julie Roth. One of the major sponsors was Mitch Julis, an alumnus of Princeton and a proud Greek Jew, his family coming from Ioannina and Preveza. This tour enabled our Museum Director to be present for special events in Greece in March, including the March for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deportations from Thessaloniki, and for the Princeton group to meet with Greek Jews in Thessaloniki, Ioannina and Athens, and to see the synagogue in Veroia.

Other universities that would be interested in coordinating future trips to Jewish Greece should contact our Museum Director at [museum@kkjsm.org](mailto:museum@kkjsm.org).



With Ezra Bakola in Veroia





## Thessaloniki

March 17<sup>th</sup>: Concert at the University of Macedonia in on the occasion of 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deportations

There were moving presentations by David Saltiel, President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki and President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities of Greece (KIS), performances by the Ladino Choir and a moving presentation by Mose HaAelion, a 93 year old survivor.



On March 18<sup>th</sup>, there was a march from Plateia Elefterias to the train station where the Jews of Thessaloniki were placed in cattle cars to take them to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Not even the constant rain stopped the marchers, all holding balloons where "Never Again" was written in Greek. After the dignitaries spoke, the participants had the opportunity to place flowers in the cattle car and light memorial candles in memory of their relatives lost. Marcia Haddad-Ikonomopoulos placed flowers in memory of her Errera and Rousso families and one rose for Oro Grotta, after whom our President of the Sisterhood of Janina, Rose Eskononts, was named. May their memories be eternal.





Read more about the commemorations in an article from the Times of Israel:  
 "Greeks delve back into Thessaloniki's Jewish heritage" link [here](#)

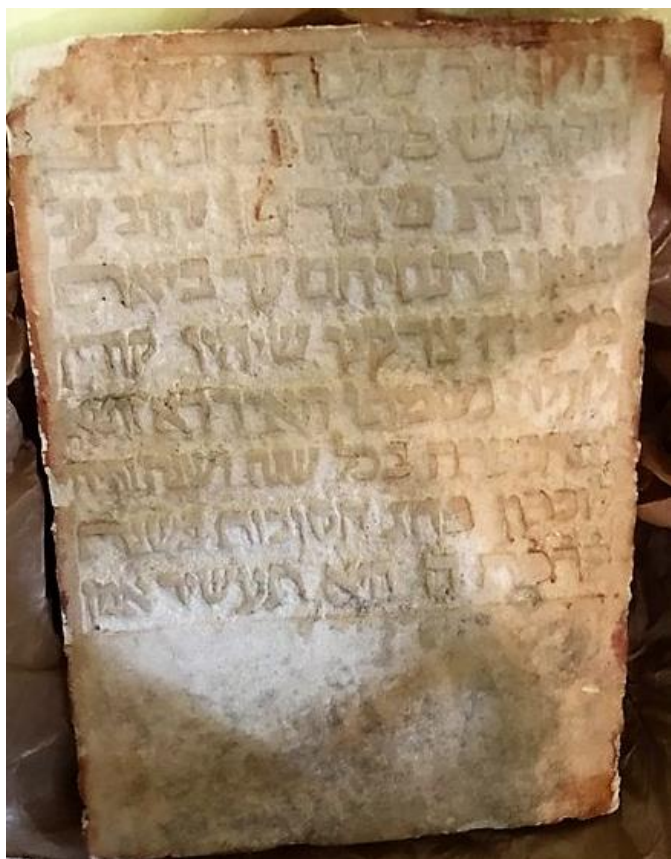
While in Thessaloniki, we were able to see the results of the newly restored the Yad Lezikaron Synagogue.  
 Below are the photos.





## Ioannina

On our visit to Ioannina with the group from Princeton University, Moses Eliasof revealed to our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, plaques that were recovered from the second synagogue in Ioannina that were recently found. They date from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



## Remembering on March 25<sup>th</sup> in Ioannina

On the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deportations of the Jewish Community of Ioannina (March 25, 1944), there were a number of events in Ioannina. During the day, at Mavili Square on the Molo (Lake front) in the exact location where the Jews who lived outside the Kastro were rounded up (the Jews inside the Kastro were brought to the Kale, an open area where the Byzantine Museum now stands). Pictures of the actual deportation were on display as actors re-enacted the deportation in a moving presentation. Present were members of the Jewish community, including the President, Moses Eliasof, dignitaries from the municipality and Christian citizens of Ioannina.



In the evening there was a presentation of a recently released book, "Moribund Numbers" by Yiorgos Pilixou.

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## Arta

For the second year in a row, Arta stopped to remember its Jewish citizens who were rounded up for deportation on March 25, 1944.

Saturday 03/24/2018, the events on the Day of Remembrance of the Jewish Community of Arta, on the occasion of the 74 years since the arrest of the Jews of Arta (March 24, 1944) by the German troops were special and very moving. The events took place for the second consecutive year by the Municipality of Arta. Last year the events were held in Athens in collaboration with the Central Board of Jewish Communities of Greece.

The morning began with a tour of the old Jewish district of Assam. At noon in the Club room "Skoufas" the central event of the day took place.



The event began with Christos Tsirogiannis, the mayor of Arta, who among other things said ... 'The Community's historical memory is kept unchanged and the descendants of its members, many of whom are here today among us, still keep links with the birthplace of their ancestors. It is a journey through time, in which we learn the history of our city. This gives us strength for the future. Today's event comes as a continuation of that of last March, where for the first time since 2012 there were commemorations, last year taking place in Athens. Furthermore, we have found through the Land Registry Jewish homes in Arta that still survive. They are the houses: of Moses Hadji, at the beginning of Filellinon Street, that of Isaac Shushan on Tzavellas Street, that of Isaac Koulia, at the junction of Skoufa and Kosti Palama, that of Stamos and Stametas Mizan on Makrygianni Street, and that of Joseph Mizan at the junction of Skoufa and Stamatelopoulos. Our goal now is to create an historical path in Arta showing a Community that was heart of the city decades ago.



### Xanthi

In memory of the 550 Jews of Xanthi who were murdered in the concentration camps during the Nazi terrors. Once again, we gather to remember the 550 Jews of Xanthi who were rounded up during the night of the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> of March by the Bulgarian Occupation forces, placed in a tobacco warehouse and subsequently sent to their deaths at Treblinka. The event on March 4<sup>th</sup> took place in the former tobacco warehouse and was followed by a visit to the Jewish cemetery in Xanthi.



## Athens

Greek Independence Day, March 25<sup>th</sup>.



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## Cyprus

On March 21<sup>st</sup> in Limassol Cyprus, Zanet Battinou, Executive Director of the Jewish Museum of Greece in Athens, presented a program on education of the Holocaust.





## Articles of Interest to All

The Shulchan Aruch, the Code of Jewish Law, has now been translated into Greek. In the packed hall of the Amphitheater of the Benaki Museum, on 03/05/2018 there was a book presentation of the new project of Rabbi Isaac Mizan, the Greek version of "Shulchan Aruch - Guide to the application of the law according to the Sephardic tradition." Translation of Ladino and French made by Ms. Rita Gkampai.



In the editing of texts contributions were made by Leon Gavrielidis, David Moses and Sakis Negrin. The subject imports made by Solomon Pharmakidis and correction by Esther Amgar. The General. Secretary Religious Affairs George Kalantzis, President of KIS David Saltiel, president of the Jewish Museum of Greece, Samuel Matsas, and the Rabbi of Larissa, Elias Saba, hailed the event, while the Metropolitan of Messenia Chrysostomos, David Moses, Doctor of Chemical Engineering and author of the book, Rabbi Isaac Mizan, presented the Greek version of "Shulchan Aruch - Guide to the application of the law according to the Sephardic tradition."



## New Publication

Dear friends,

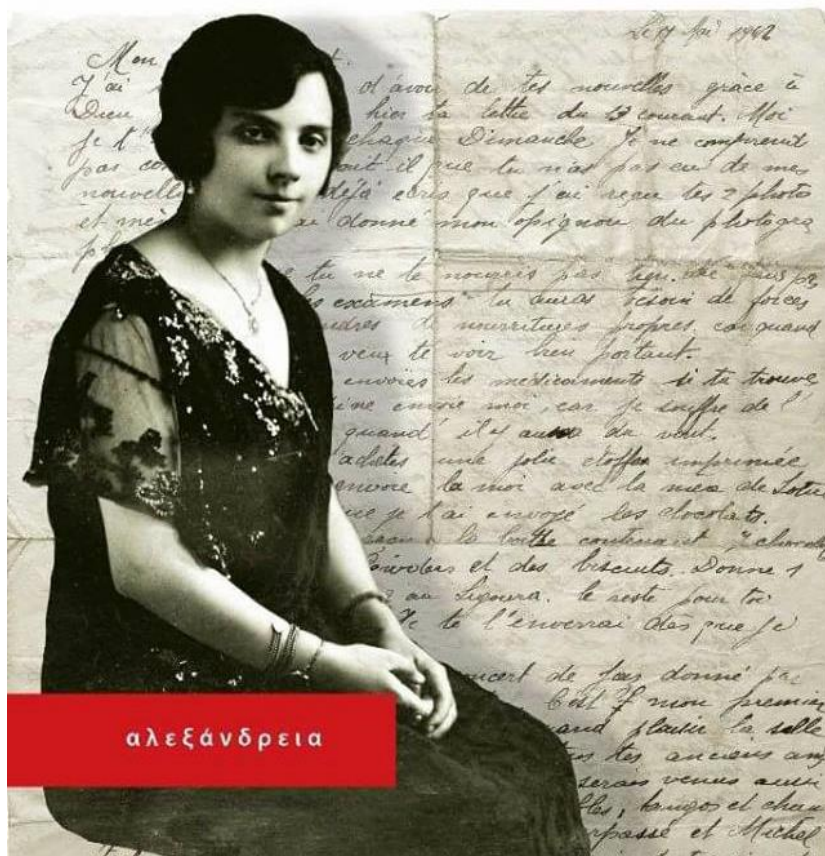
I am pleased to announce the publication of the book that I edited, entitled *"Do not forget": Three Jewish mothers write to their sons from Thessaloniki ghetto* of the versions Alexandria. The publication presents three collections of letters, letters sent by three Jewish mothers from the Thessaloniki ghetto to their sons in Athens, a few weeks or days before their departure to Auschwitz. These shocking testimonies give a unique look into the lives of the Jews of Thessaloniki during the occupation, through descriptions of eyewitnesses. They show how mothers perceived themselves and live events, through a female perspective so often absent from historiography. This rare material, both for Thessaloniki and throughout Europe, paves the way for new approaches to events by scholars and allows us to shed light on unknown aspects of history. The last three letters of mothers, full of pain and tears, is a true legacy full of symbolism and messages from the heart of the victims of the greater tragedy known to humanity.

In bookstores now!  
Leon Saltiel

We, at Kehila Kedosha Janina, await news of an English translation of this important book.

# ΛΕΟΝ ΣΑΛΤΙΕΛ ΕΠΙΜΕΛΕΙΑ ΜΗ ΜΕ ΞΕΧΑΣΕΤΕ

ΤΡΕΙΣ ΕΒΡΑΙΕΣ ΜΗΤΕΡΕΣ ΓΡΑΦΟΥΝ ΣΤΟΥΣ ΠΙΟΥΣ ΤΟΥΣ  
ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΓΚΕΤΟ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ





## France

On the Occasion of the Murder of Mireille Knoll  
TA NEA , 29/03/2018, "ANT" of Michael Mitsou:

On March 28<sup>th</sup> there was a march in Paris in memory of Mireille Knoll. And so it should be done, because the brutal murder of the 85 year old Holocaust survivor is not an issue that only concerns Jews. Antisemitism is a wider problem concerning the whole of society. Anti-Semitism no longer stems only from the extreme right but is also being fostered by the children of Arab immigrants.

Fanaticism and ignorance: they must be fought, to protect the historical memory of course. For the last six years, Artemis Alcalay, a talented artist from Greece, has traveled around the world photographing Holocaust survivors from Greece. So far she has photographed 64 Greek Holocaust survivors. Of them, 44 returned from Auschwitz and 20 from Bergen Belsen. Not all are still alive. Because of Artemis, their memory is immortal. Their photographs have been exhibited in Tel Aviv, Athens, Kythera, and last January at the Thessaloniki Concert Hall.

"Every story is different," says Artemis, a student of Moralis and Mytaras, who has lost many of her own family in Nazi camps. Annetas Florentin Kabila, born in Salonika, decided to live in France after liberation from the Nazi camps. She changed her name to Mireille Knoll. She could not bear to return to her hometown of Thessaloniki, which was already ruined and stripped of Jewish population.



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## Bulgaria

This past month, our dear friend, Rabbi Nissim Elneché, Executive Director of the Sephardic Brotherhood, represented the Sephardic Community at an international Balkan Jewish Conference hosted by the Sephardic Community of Bulgaria in honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the rescue of the Bulgarian Jews during the Holocaust. The conference included representatives from Sephardic communities throughout the Balkans, including Greece and Turkey. Rabbi Nissim led a number of productive conversations with other Sephardic leaders on how the Brotherhood can better connect with these communities and support them today.



Unfortunately, Bulgaria continues its historical revisionism, only mentioning the “saving” of the Jews in Bulgaria proper and refusing to acknowledge its direct complicity in the murder of over 11,000 Jews in Greece and Former Yugoslavia. There will be a conference in April that we hope will give a more balanced picture.

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ТЕЛЕГРАМА  
В. В. ПО КАМАРАТА СЪМ

INVITATION




International conference  
“The Hidden Face of the Rescue of the  
Bulgarian Jews”

Sofia, 16th April 2018,  
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Sofia University, Hall 224

Organisation Committee:  
Faculty of Law (SU), Faculty of Judaism (University of Strasbourg),  
Bulgarian Association of Holocaust survivors and their children,  
Alto communications and publishing

Participants:  
prof Sasho Penov, prof. Georgi Bliznashki, Dr. Mordechai Shenhav  
(Strasbourg University), Dr. Anguel Chorapchiev (Haifa University),  
Dr. Krasimir Kanev (BHC), Dr. Zdravka Krasteva (SU), Alexandar Vezekov, Dr. Lea Cohen,  
Dr. Victoria Biserova, Dr Albena Taneva

Panels moderation by:  
Lea Cohen, Rafael Chichek, Solomon Bali, Iliya Valkov



**Gershon Harris**  
**Hatzor Haglilit, Israel**



The seven-week period between Pesah and Shavuot is popularly called "the Omer", which refers to a quantity of barley offered as a thanksgiving sacrifice in the Temple the second night of Pesah. We also begin to count the 49 days of the Omer in happy anticipation of the holiday of Shavuot, when we celebrate the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. Therefore, this should be, a very happy and joyful time of the year.

However, in both Jewish history and practice, this period, or at least 33 days of it, has become a period of semi-mourning, As the Shulhan Aruch says: "The practice is not to get married between Passover and Shavuot – until Lag B'Omer, because during this time the students of Rabbi Akiva perished." (Shulhan Aruch section 493:1). This ruling is based on a tragic story of mass disease and death among students of Rabbi Akiva:

" It was said that Rabbi Akiva had 12,000 pairs of disciples from Gabbatha to Antipatris; and all of them died at the same time because they did not treat each other with respect. The world remained desolate until Rabbi Akiva came to our Masters in the South and taught the Torah to them. These were Rabbi Meir, Rabbi Yehuda, Rabbi Yose, Rabbi Shimon and Rabbi Elazar ben Shammua; and it was they who revived the Torah at that time. A Tanna taught: "All of them died between Passover and Shavuot". Rabbi Hama ben Abba or, it might be said, Rabbi Hiyya ben Abin said: "All of them died a cruel death." What was it? Rabbi Nahman replied: "Croup." (Baylonian Talmud, Yevamot 62b).

Interestingly, the Talmud speaks of 12,000 "pairs" of students and not of 24,000, ostensibly in order to stress the lack of unity of which they were guilty. But the Talmud does not mention that their deaths are commemorated with the yearly mourning period of the Omer. And though some claim that the switch from a joyful period to mourning was determined in the Talmudic period, many others feel that this occurred only much later. For example, there are opinions that symbolically link the tragedy of Rabbi Akiva's students with the crusades, pogroms and blood libels Jews suffered a thousand years later, which often occurred around Pesah and Easter, when Jews were accused of Deicide. But the logic of this idea is not straightforward, because, after all, the reason given to justify transformation from a joyful to mournful period was the death of Rabbi Akiva's students, and not blood libels or other persecutions that occurred much later.

Besides, many even question the very vague statement that the students died because "they did not treat each other with respect". What does this mean? In fact, there are those that felt that that this was some euphemistic or encoded statement for something much more dire. and that the Talmudic Sages were trying to avoid speaking negatively about Rabbi Akiva and his students. One of these was Rav Shrira Gaon, from the post-Talmudic period in Babylonia, who, in his commentary on the Talmudic passage above, said: "Rabbi Akiva raised many students, [but] there was a religious persecution [shmada] on the students of Rabbi Akiva". Apparently, Rav Shrira had a tradition that the students died during a religious conflict, quite possibly amongst themselves. And in fact, Rabbi Akiva himself actively participated in one of Judaism's greatest, and most tragic, "religious conflicts", the Bar Cochba revolt. Many feel that this may be the religious conflict referred to by Rav Shrira Gaon, because Rabbi Akiva was actively supported Bar Cochba against the Romans, and even called him the Messiah!. But virtually all other Sages opposed both Bar Cochba and the revolt, and severely reprimanded Rabbi Akiva for his stance. Since both sides obviously competed for followers, students lined up with their Rabbis, which quite likely led to actual bloodshed between them. And given the ultimate and

unprecedented repression of the rebellion and death of Bar Cochba at the hands of Rome, along with the horrible stigma and tragedy of a Jewish civil war, perhaps the Talmudic Sages hoped to quell and even suppress further suspicions and internal Jewish hatred by couching the entire episode in more palatable terms. After all, there is no argument about the number who died, and one can certainly see such hatred between brothers can be understood as "not treating each other with respect", as well as a fatal illness, as it were. Therefore, commemorating the memory of the event by mourning these tragic deaths would seem to be a fitting tribute, as well as an excellent way to learn from their errors as to how to treat our fellow man and peers: with mutual respect and tolerance, no matter how much we may differ.

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## **Research**

Greetings,

My name is Rotem Rozental, and I am the Chief Curator of the American Jewish University in Los Angeles, CA., currently writing my Dissertation project about Zionist photographic archives at the Art History Department of Binghamton University in New York.

As part of my research of early photographers active in Palestine during the first half of the twentieth century, I am trying to find further information about Haim Shaul Mizrahi, a Zionist activist and an amateur photographer who lived in Corfu and established a local branch of the Zionist movement Tikvat Zion in 1913.

I was wondering if you might have any ideas for possible connections to the Jewish community in Corfu, or any available information regarding him or his family.

Many thanks in advance  
Rotem



**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 109**

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**Kehila Kedosha Janina**

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**Email: [museum@kkjasm.org](mailto:museum@kkjasm.org)**

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