



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

March 2009 e-mail newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Our best wishes for a joyous Purim. Do join us at Kehila Kedosha Janina for the traditional reading of the Megillah in the style of the Romaniote Jews of Ioannina, Greece. Services begin at 6:00 pm on Monday, March 9th. After services, all are invited to a kosher Greek Jewish Kiddush with bourekas. Unfortunately, due to our extremely busy schedule, we were forced to cancel the Purim Party originally scheduled for March 8th. Tou xrovou (next year).

**Megilla Esther
From collection of
Kehila Kedosha
Janina**



Our monthly e-newsletter is more than just a means of informing and reconnecting Greek Jews around the world. It has become a source of gathering material for our

continued research on the story of Greek Jews, both in Greece and, here, in the United States. We thank those who take the time to send us stories for publication and names of others who are interested in receiving our e-newsletter. We are all about inclusion!

March 15, 2009 marks the 66th anniversary of the first transport of Jews from Salonika to Auschwitz-Birkenau: 19 additional transports followed. March 25th marks the 65th anniversary of the roundup of the Jews of Ioannina, Arta, Preveza, Athens, Chalkis, Volos, Trikala, Larissa and Kastoria. Most were murdered at Auschwitz-Birkenau. We, here at Kehila Kedosha Janina, stop and remember.



**Ioannina Deportation
3/25/1944**

Since our last newsletter, we were sadly informed of the passing of Simcha (Cecile) Bechoropoulou of Israel, Mary Attas Lebenstein (who once lived on the Lower East Side) and Leon Ezra Ezra, grandson of Malka Colchamiro Ezra and Judah Ezra. This issue is dedicated to their memory.

We are pleased to announce the birth of another member of our Greek-Jewish community, Leah Colchamiro, the daughter of Jeffrey and Ilyse, came into the world in February 2009. Καλως ηρθες (welcome!)

Events of Interest

Athens, Greece

► "Jewish Neighborhoods of Greece" runs at the [Jewish Museum of Greece](#), in Athens, until March 31, 2009. The exhibit unravels the history of Greek Jews in 12 cities, based on the testimonies of people from all over Greece, who speak about the neighborhood they lived in as children or young adults, before World War II and after.

New York Metropolitan Area

► Sunday: March 8: 2-4 pm: "The Story of Greek Jews on the Lower East Side." Temple Judea of Manhasset (333 Searington Road, Manhasset, exit 36 on LI Expressway). Sponsored by The Greatest Generation Senior Social Group. Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, Museum Director of Kehila Kedosha Janina will discuss the Greek Jewish presence on the Lower East Side. There is a \$5 entrance fee. Refreshments served. Please RSVP: Lynn Levine (516-484-0997) or Arlene Ruberman (347-235-4828).

Michigan

► Sunday: March 15: 3:00 PM: "Greek Jews and the Holocaust": Dr. Mimis Cohen: Holocaust Memorial Center of Greater Detroit: 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Framington Hills, Michigan.

Inquiries

Because of the popularity of our e-newsletter, and the fact that it reaches thousands of households worldwide, many have contacted us for help. We are always glad to be of service. If you have information on any of the following, please contact us at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net.

>Seth Haberman is looking to find a classmate of his from Columbia University, Daniel (Danny) Matathias who (Seth thinks) grew up in Queens and was studying to become a doctor. If you know where Danny is, contact us.

>Bob Isaacs (Ishaki family) is looking for information on a relative (Jesula ben Ezra Eliezer), buried at Beth David. He resided at 285 Broome Street in 1942 and served the Yanniote community in Williamsburg as a hazan. His tombstone gives us the following information: born December 5, 1890, died January 1, 1960, and has the inscription "Our Beloved and Cherished Hazan." Jesula's father was Rabbi Ezra Eliezer who died in Ioannina before the Holocaust. Jesula's mother and others in his family were deported and murdered at Auschwitz. We are looking for anyone who remembers Jesula ben Ezra, either from the Williamsburg community or the Lower East Side.

>Marvin Cohen is looking for information on his family, one of the founding families of Kehila Kedosha Janina (KKJ). His paternal grandparents were from Ioannina, his grandfather (Solomon Moshe Cohen) and his grandmother (Rebecca Batino Cohen), along with his father (Samuel Cohen) and other members of his family attended KKJ. The firm name (C&C Mfg. Co) appears on our founder's plaque. The family had a store at 96 Orchard and Marvin had his Bar Mitzvah at KKJ. Marvin is looking for additional information on his family.

Kehila Kedosha Janina Genealogical Research

As previously mentioned, we are looking for additional family tree records to add to our computerized genealogical data base. Thanks to Serena Michaelson (of the Ganis and Negrin families) we have been able to add a major branch to the Colchamiro family tree. We often wondered how Jessoula Colchamiro (born 1840) could have been an only child in a community where families were usually large. We recently uncovered the possibility of a brother of Jessoula (Moses) but we are still working on confirming this. Now we have found a sister, Diana (Dinah) who is most definitely a Colchamiro. Thank you Serena. Diana was married to Jesoula Ganis, who died in Ioannina in 1906. Although we cannot yet determine Diana's date of arrival in New York, a picture taken in 1906 suggests that it was shortly after Jesoula's death.

**Diana Colchamiro Ganis
with her three sons and
granddaughter Rose.**



Thanks to the continued work of Jonathan Alcantara, we can even place two of Diana's family, her son Jacob and daughter-in-law Serena, wife of Avasai, on the same ship, La Gascogne, as taken by Rachel Colchamiro, Israel Dalven and Solomon Galanos in 1906. Jacob is listed as 20 years old traveling with his brother Avisai's wife Serena. Avisai was already in NY, at 94 Allen Street. As Jonathan noted: "Connections connections. That was a big family trip, and it must have taken weeks, 30 Yanniotes on the Med and through France up to Le Havre. So there we have nearly every branch of the earliest family represented on that boat." Thank you Jonathan for your invaluable work.

Books

We are often asked how we can sell our books at such reasonable prices. We do not seek to make a profit on our book sales. Our main intention is to enable as many people as possible to learn of our history and culture. If you wish to order any of these books, contact us at Kehila Kedosha Janina (kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net) for information on postage and handling.

>Thanks to the generosity of our dear friend, Professor Steven Bowman, who was able to get us a limited number of copies of his book "*Jewish Resistance in Wartime Greece*," (at a reduced rate) we are able to pass our discount on to readers of our e-newsletter. This important book can now be purchased for \$20 (for a limited time only).

>Our congratulations to another of our dear friends, Professor Katherine Fleming, on receiving the 2008 National Jewish Books Award in the category of Sephardic Culture for her book "*Greece-A Jewish History*." Due to Katherine's generosity, we are able to offer this book (for a limited time only) for \$25.

We have two new additions to our book list:

A FISTFUL OF LENTILS: Syrian-Jewish Recipes From Grandma Fritzie's

Kitchen

\$15

Jennifer Felicia Abadi

Harvard Common Press [2002]

Now in paperback. More than just a cookbook. A glimpse into the world of Syrian Jews. Syrian Jews once lived alongside the Romaniotes on the Lower East Side. We are honored to offer this excellent book for sale at Kehila Kedosha Janina.

FOOTSTEPS THROUGH ATHINA: A Traveler's Guide to Athens and Greek Culture: \$20

Angelyn Balodimas-Bartolomei, Ph.D

Palo Albums [2008]

A tour of Athens includes the Jewish Museum of Greece and the Synagogues of Athens. Includes insights into Greek culture, food and language.

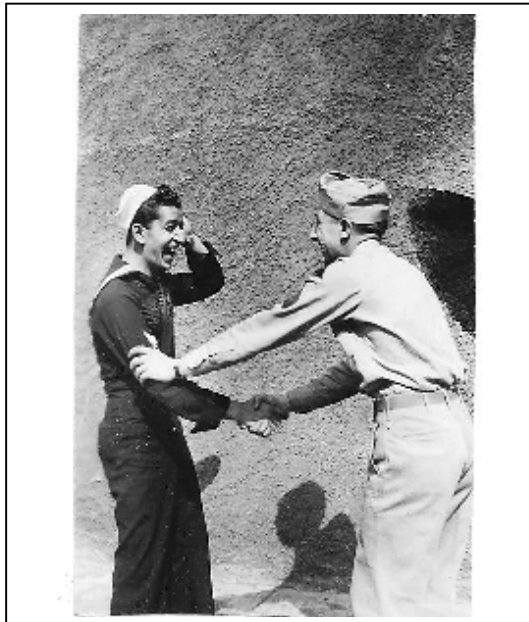
Kehila Kedosha Janina Website (www.kkjsm.org)

New additions to our website

>Our latest issue of the Romaniote (Spring 2009) can now be accessed on our website. If you are not on our mailing list and wish to receive a hard copy, contact us with your postal address.

>We are also proud to announce the ability to access (under the link "Archives") a recent scholarly publication entitled "*Greek and Jewish: Yanniototes in New York.*" by our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, which appears in the Bulletin of Judeo-Greek Studies of Cambridge University.

>New photos (of Leon ben Matathia Ganis, Louie Levy with Benny Cohen, Morris ben Joseph Negin, Murray ben Ben Negrin, Sam & Diana Ganis Negrin and the wedding of Annette Levy and Danny Chamow, where most of the ushers are in uniform) have been added to the Our Gang Exhibit.



Louie Levy and Benny Cohen



Sam Negrin and Diana Ganis Negrin

Stay well and stay in touch. Continue to send us your news, photos, family info and comments.

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