



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

May 2017 E-Newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

As we finish commemorating Yom HaShoah, and prepare for Yom Hazikaron (National Day of Remembrance for those who died in defense of Israel) and Yom Ha-Atzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day), we will be publishing photos of Greek Jewish children orphaned by the Holocaust who were sent to Palestine shortly before the establishment of the State of Israel.



We are excited to announce that we now accept ONLINE DONATIONS! Go to our website at kkjsm.org and click the "Donate" button at the top left of the page.

Please remember our new emails: info@kkjsm.org (President) and museum@kkjsm.org (Museum Director).

This newsletter, our 98th 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 kkjsm.org

We now reach over 8,500 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 (papusoup@mindspring.com) so we are sure that our Kiddush (traditional Greek Jewish Kosher food) is sufficient. If you wish to sponsor a Kiddush for a special occasion or an Adara, contact Sol.

Passings

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Judith Levy, who left us just 3 weeks after the passing of her husband, Louis Levy. Our sincere condolences to the family. We print this obituary with the permission of Judith's children.



Judith B. Levy, died peacefully on April 4, 2017, six days before her 91st birthday. She grew up in the Bronx, New York and lived with her husband Louis Levy (who predeceased her by 3 weeks) in the Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. area for almost 40 years. A graduate of Roosevelt High School, Judy majored in bookkeeping and worked as a bookkeeper for the family ladies slipper manufacturing

business, Blossom Footwear, which was also her middle name. Judy had a passion for shoes; a love inherited by her daughters.

Judy loved to travel. As a young woman, she travelled to Paris to spend time with her French first cousins. She travelled to Spain on a school trip with her daughter Donna; she toured the Holy Land of Israel with her sister-in-law, and toured Greece, visiting Louie's ancestral town of Ioannina. Judy embraced Louie's Greek culture, learning Greek dances and enjoying Greek music. Judy's favorite mode of travel was a cruise ship! (It was no surprise that she married Louie, a former sailor!) Together they enjoyed many cruising excursions, with their cousins and close friends.

Judy would do anything for her family, especially her children and grandchildren. There were no boundaries to her love; and it was unconditional. Judy is survived by her four daughters; Andrea Lakin Orlando (Ron Orlando), Susan Reisman, Donna Levy (Bill VanSlyke.), and Rhonda Paganetti (James Linson). She will be remembered with love by her grandchildren; Emily Lakin, Dylan Orlando (Daniela Barbosa), Ian Reisman, Megan Bender (Chris Bender), Maxx Kleiner (Kelly Hartnett), Emmett VanSlyke, Mikaela VanSlyke; one great granddaughter, Ramona Orlando.

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Morris ben Menachem Yomtov at the age of 87. Morris was the son of Menachem Yomtov and Esther Asser Yomtov, both born in Ioannina. Morris is survived by his sister Renee Yomtov Rosenthal and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

**Yomtov family in
Williamsburg
Brooklyn in 1938**

**Menachem & Esther
with their three children
Morris, Joseph & Renee**

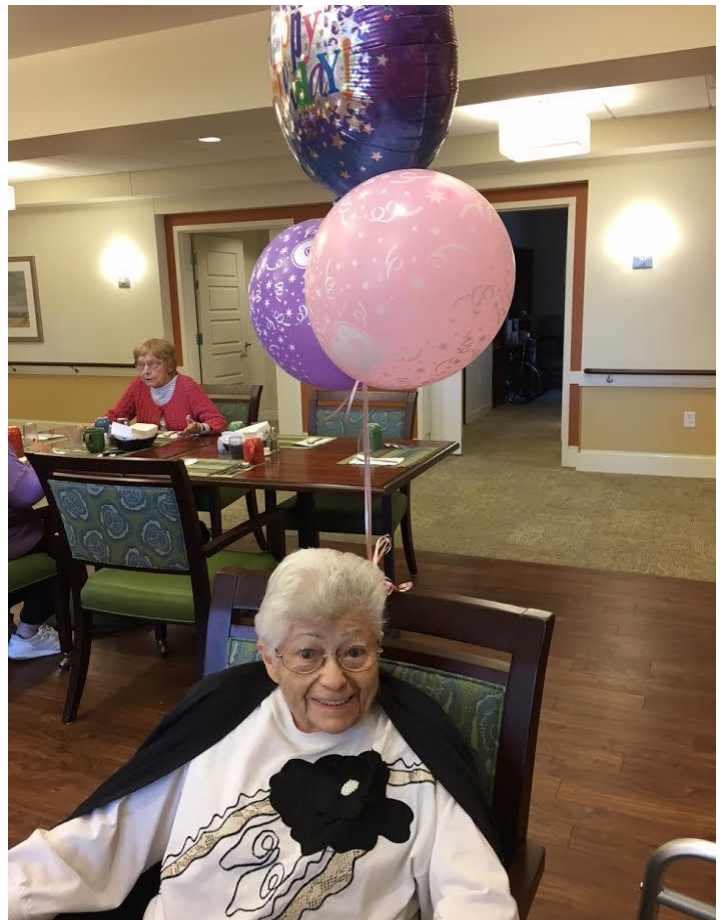


Our apologies to the families of Sarah Cohen and Salvatore Spurge. We miss-spelled Salvatore's surname.

This month we celebrate another simcha in the Cohen family, the 97th birthday of the patriarch of the Cohen family, Nathan Cohen!



Not to be outdone, Sarah Besso recently turned 98!



Dikoi Mas (Our Own)

We love when our own come to visit. In April, Kenneth Menachem (Max) Cohen paid us a visit.



On April 27th we were especially honored with the visit of David Saltiel, President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities of Greece, and President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki and recently appointed as a Vice President of the World Jewish Congress. Accompanying David Saltiel was his nephew, Leon Saltiel, a recent PhD and a vital member of UN Watch based in Geneva Switzerland. Leon's book on anti-Semitism in Greece was recently published and he was on his way to Princeton to take part in a Graduate Student Conference in Modern Greek Studies on May 5th. It was our good fortune to welcome David and Leon Saltiel.



David and Leon Saltiel

As always, Kehila Kedosha Janina greets visitors from all over the world. We are one of the most popular sites on the Lower East Side.



The Altmans from Savannah Georgia



Woodlands from Westchester

Past Events at Kehila Kedosha Janina

April was a busy and emotional month as we hosted Rebecca Yomtov Hauser for Yom HaShoah.

Rebecca, a survivor born in Ioannina, presented her book, "My Simple Life in Greece Destroyed by the Holocaust," written at the age of 95.





Rebecca and Manos Koubarakis, Consul of Greece



Rebecca and Carol Lurie



Yom HaShoah Ceremony



KKJ President Marvin Marcus



**KKJ Board Member and child survivor
Ilias Hadjis**

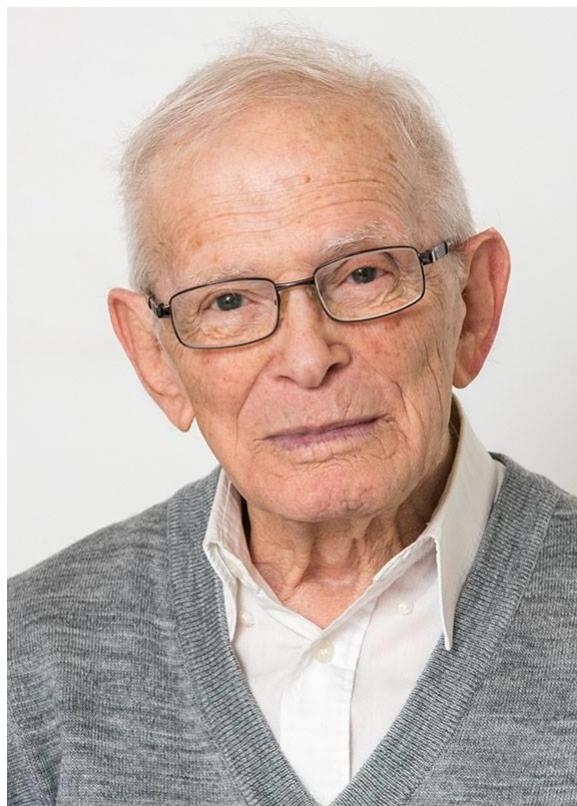
Past Events of Interest in New York City

On April 19th, we were treated to an excellent talk by Dr. Mimis Cohen sponsored by The Hellenic-American Cultural Foundation, The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce, and American Friends of the Jewish Museum of Greece. The timely topic was "Jews of Greece: 25 Centuries of Continuous Presence."



Yom HaShoah in Israel

Greek Jews Remembered



Moshe HaAelion, born in 1925 in Thessaloniki, was one of those honored to light a candle in memory of the six million. For years, Moshe has been president of Greek Survivors of the Holocaust in Israel.

Remembering Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews Who Perished in the Holocaust

<http://www.jerusalemonline.com/news/world-news/the-jewish-world/remembering-the-forgotten-sephardic-and-mizrahi-holocaust-victims-28037>

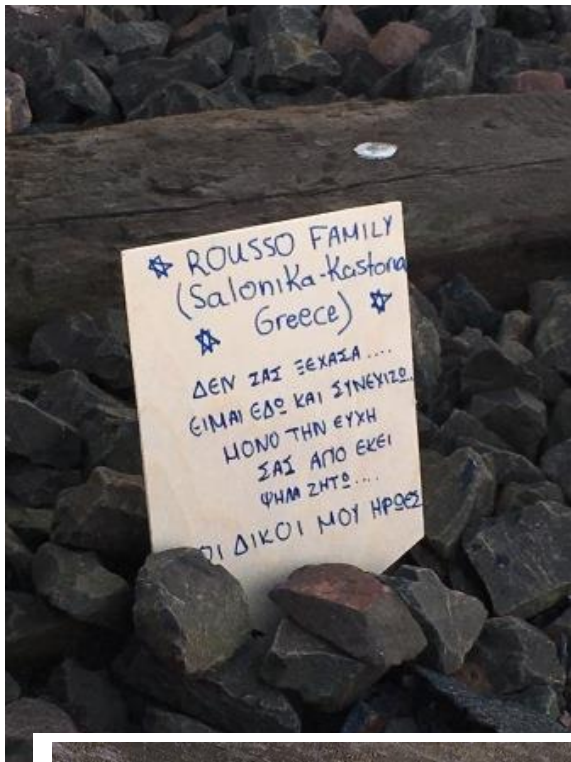
In honor of Holocaust Memorial Day, it is important to recall that 100,000 Ladino speaking Sephardic Jews and up to around 6,000 North African Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust. According to Israel's first president, Hitler did not differentiate between Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews.

The photo chosen to highlight this article was that of Fani Haim from Ioannina who, ironically was neither Ladino-speaking nor from North Africa. She was born in Ioannina and, fortunately, was among the few survivors.



Yom HaShoah in Greece

In Thessaloniki, at the railroad station where Jews were put into cattle cars in the Spring and Summer of 1943 and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen, there was a moving ceremony to remember those who never returned.



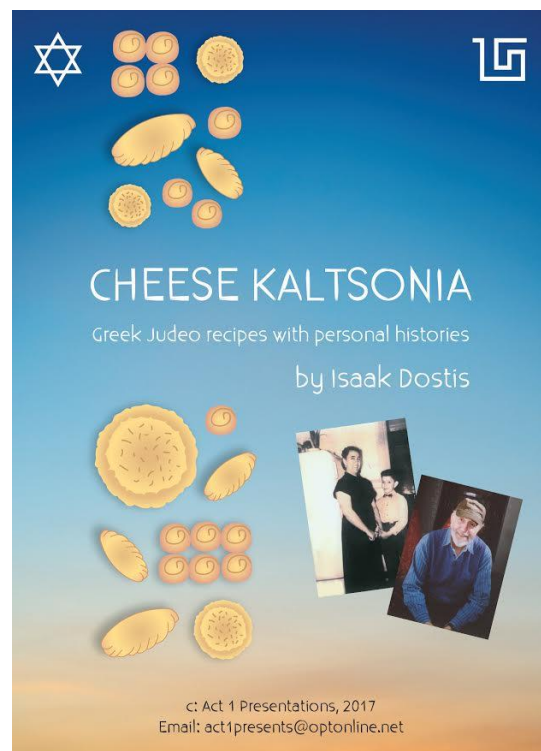
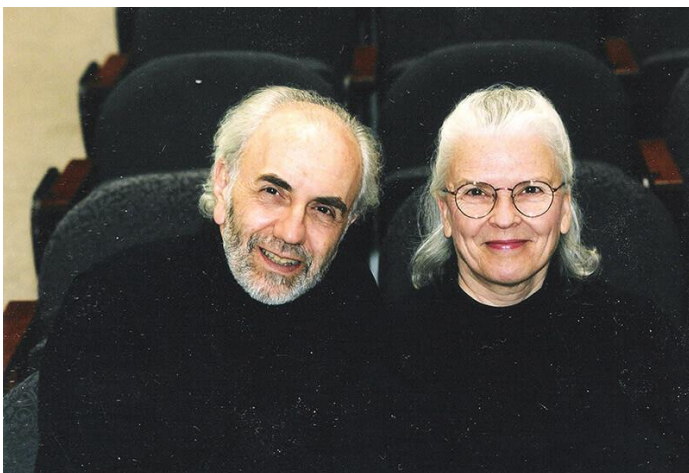
Upcoming Events at Kehila Kedosha Janina

In May, we are highlighting a visit by Isaac Dostis, who will be presenting his book, **Cheese Kaltsonia** on May 7th. Book is selling for \$15 and Isaac will be signing all purchased books.

Where: Kehila Kedosha Janina, 280 Broome Street, NYC

When: 2:00 pm

Refreshments will be served.



Join us at our third annual Greek Jewish Festival on Sunday May 21st!
Full details at GreekJewishFestival.com





KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA
SYNAGOGUE AND MUSEUM

PRESENTS THE
THIRD ANNUAL

GREEK JEWISH FESTIVAL

SUNDAY MAY 21
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 -

JOEL & LAUREL MARCUS

LEE MOLEY & STEVEN TELAS FOUNDATION

UJA/Federation of New York

STEN JENSEN

LEONARD & JUDITH WEISS

- COMMUNITY PARTNERS -

MISRAHI REALTY

JOHN CALAMITAKIS RED APPLE GROUP

THE SPHARIC JEWISH BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA

THE SPHARIC TEMPLE OF CHESHAM

KAPOFF AFFILIATES

FOR MORE INFO: GREEKJEWISHFESTIVAL.COM



Upcoming Events in New York City

Kehila Kedosha Janina is happy to help promote "The Women's Balcony," a film that has won awards all over the world and, while highlighting Sephardic life in Israel, covers a theme that all Jews will appreciate. The film will open on May 26th in New York City at Lincoln Plaza Cinemas. 1886 Broadway, New York, NY 10023. Tickets will be available for purchase at www.lincolnpiazacinemas.com

Los Angeles Times CRITICS' PICK!

"A CHARMING, WARM-HEARTED COMEDY!"
Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times

"JOYOUS!"
Alissa Simon, *VARIETY*

"AN ENTERTAINING, FEEL-GOOD COMEDY!"
Frank Scheck, *Hollywood REPORTER*

#1 FILM OF THE YEAR IN ISRAEL

The
WOMEN'S BALCONY
שלמה חתני



STARTS MAY 26TH in NEW YORK!

WATCH THE TRAILER AT
MENEMSHAFILMS.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/MENEMSHAFILMS TWITTER: @MENEMSHAFILMS



News from Jewish Greece

TRIKALA

In this issue we are highlighting an important appeal. The synagogue in Trikala is in danger. This synagogue is the only example of the architecture, culture, and history of the Greek-Jewish presence remaining in the city. Before WWII there were three synagogues in Trikala. The last remaining synagogue is the only one that survived WWII. Kal Yavanim is in danger of collapsing. Due to age, leakage from the roof and moisture, the columns supporting the synagogue are in danger of caving in.

It is hoped that with the help of Greek Jews within Greece, Greek Jews in the Diaspora and Jews throughout the world, that we can save this precious synagogue. We can do it! We have done it before. We saved Kal Shalom in Rhodes, Etz Hayyim in Crete and have continually worked to preserve the synagogue in Ioannina.

Photos before the damage:



Photos of damage:



Those interested in taking part in this important project can contact the Central Board of Greece directly (info@kis.gr) and the Jewish Community of Trikala (iakov.venouziou@gmail.com).

For those who wish to give a donation within the United States (tax deductible) you can send your contributions to The Association of Friends of Greek Jewry, 1 Hanson Place, Huntington NY 11743. ALL MONEY COLLECTED WILL GO TO SAVE THE SYNAGOGUE.

Substantial donations will be acknowledged with their names engraved inside the synagogue:

500 euros-donor

2,000 euros-major donor

10,000 euros-benefactor-name engraved in gold on the marble column

The synagogue followed the Romaniote minhag and, during its height, from 1930-1944, served not only the Jewish community of Trikala but, also that of Karditsa.

The Association of Friends of Greek Jewry is pledging 2,000 euros towards the restoration of Kal Yavanim and is hoping to encourage others to give whatever they can to save this synagogue.

Thessaloniki

On April 26th there was a presentation in Thessaloniki having to do with the school life of Jewish children in Greece before World War II.

έκθεση

Ο Πρόεδρος της Ισραηλτικής Κοινότητας Θεσσαλονίκης, κ. Δαυίδ Σακτιέλ και τα παιδιά του Ιδ. Δημοτικού Σχολείου της ΙΚΘ. σας προσκαλούν στα εγκαίνια της έκθεσης

**Μνήμες σχολικής ζωής πριν από τον πόλεμο:
Εβραίοι επιζώντες της Σοά αφηγούνται**

που θα πραγματοποιηθούν την **Τετάρτη 26 Απριλίου 2017**
στην αίθουσα Αλληλεγγύη - Ντεσώ του Γαλλικού Ινστιτούτου Θεσσαλονίκης,
στις **19.00.**

Γαλλικό Ινστιτούτο Θεσσαλονίκης
Λεωφ. Στρατού 2, Θεσσαλονίκη
www.ift.gr, T: 2310 821 231

ΑΡΑΡΟ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ:
Δευτέρα έως Πέμπτη
10.00-13.00 & 17.30-20.00

Υπό την αιγίδα

centropa
GJN
ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ
ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ
Παιδείας
Θεσσαλονίκης
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ, ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ
ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΥΠΟΛΟΓΙΣΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΚΔΟΣΕΩΝ
ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΥΠΟΛΟΓΙΣΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΚΔΟΣΕΩΝ
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ, ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ
ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΥΠΟΛΟΓΙΣΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΚΔΟΣΕΩΝ
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ, ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ
ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΥΠΟΛΟΓΙΣΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΚΔΟΣΕΩΝ

Thessaloniki

Combating Anti-Semitism in Greece

An important conference will take place on May 3rd, co-sponsored by the University of Thessaloniki on combatting anti-Semitism in Greece.

**Η ΑΝΤΙΜΕΤΩΠΙΣΗ ΤΟΥ
ΑΝΤΙΣΗΜΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ
ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ**

**3 ΜΑΪΟΥ
19:00**
ΑΙΘΟΥΣΑ ΕΣΗΜ-Θ
ΣΤΡΑΤΩΤΩΝ ΚΑΛΑΜΑΡ 5, 5th OF

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ

ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΣ
Olga Drossou, Heinrich Böll Stiftung Ελλάδα

**Η ΚΑΤΑΠΟΛΕΜΗΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΝΤΙΣΗΜΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ
ΩΣ ΠΡΟΤΕΡΑΙΟΤΗΤΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΗ**
Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator
για την αντιμετώπιση του Αντισιμιτισμού

ΑΝΤΙΣΗΜΙΤΙΣΜΟΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ ΣΗΜΕΡΑ
Παρουσίαση των παρατηρήσεων και προτάσεων της έρευνας
• Γεώργιος Αντωνίου, Εθνικός Καθηγητής ΑΠΘ
• Σπύρος Κοσμάκης, Ακτορική Πανεπιστημίου της Οξφόρδης
• Δημήτρης Τσίτσας, Αναπληρωτής Καθηγητής ΑΠΘ

ΤΟΠΟΘΕΤΗΣΕΙΣ
• Μαρία Γιαννάκη, Γ.Γ. Διαβιβάσεις & Ανθρωπίνων Δικαιωμάτων,
Υπ. Δικαιοσύνης
• Γεώργιος Τριανταφύλλου, Αναπληρωτής Καθηγητής,
Ανωτάτη Εκκλησιαστική Ακαδημία Θεσσαλονίκης
• Ελένη Κωνσταντίνου, Αναπληρώτρια Καθηγήτρια ΑΠΘ,
Παιδείας & Θρησκείας, Ομάδα Θεσσαλονίκης
• Βίκτωρ Ελιεζέρ, Αναπληρωτής του Κεντρικού Ισραηλτικού
Συμβουλίου, Ιερουσαλήμ
• Ανδρέας Τάκης, Αναπληρωτής Καθηγητής ΑΠΘ, Ελληνική Ένωση
για τα Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου

Τη συζήτηση συντονίζει η δημοσιογράφος Σοφία Χρυσοστομίδου.

ΕΝΔΕΙΚΝΥΟΜΕΝΕΣ ΑΝΤΙΣΤΑΣΕΙΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΡΧΗ

**COMBATING
ANTISEMITISM
IN GREECE**

**3 MAY
19:00**
ESIEM-TH HALL
STRAZOTZOU KALAMAR 5, 5th OF
THESSALONIKI

PROGRAMME

WELCOME
Olga Drossou, Heinrich Böll Stiftung Greece

FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM AS PRIORITY FOR EUROPE
Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator
on combating anti-Semitism

ANTI-SEMITISM IN GREECE TODAY
Presentation of the study's findings and policy suggestions
• George Antoniou, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies,
University of Thessaloniki
• Spyros Kosmidis, Lecturer, University of Oxford

COMMENTS
• Maria Giannakaki, Secretary General for Human Rights and
Transparency, Greek Ministry of Justice
• Rev. Gregory Stankopoulos, Associate Professor,
University Ecclesiastical Academy of Thessaloniki
• Eleni Konstantinou, Assistant Professor A.U.Th.
• Victor Eliezer, Vice-President, Central Board of Jewish
Communities in Greece
• Andreas Takis, Associate Professor A.U.Th., Hellenic League
for Human Rights

Moderation: Sofia Christoforidou, Journalist.

INTERPRETATION IN ENGLISH/GREEK WILL BE PROVIDED

Arta

Ignorance still rears its ugly head in Greece. Two recent desecrations of Holocaust Memorials so close to Yom HaShoah, one in Arta and one in Kavala, show the importance of Holocaust Education in Greece and, especially, the importance of the creation of a Holocaust Education Center in Thessaloniki. Kehila Kedosha Janina, The Sisterhood of Janina and the Association of Friends of Greek Jewry have continually supported the creation of the Holocaust Education Center in Thessaloniki and are proud of what we have done and will continue to do. Anti-Semitism is supported and nurtured by silence. We show our opposition with our voices and with our financial support.

Only a few days after the ceremony organized by the municipality of Arta on the anniversary of the deportation of the Jewish community of Arta, the Holocaust memorial was vandalized. The monument will be repaired. The municipality of Arta wants the world to know that this unfortunate act of hate is not reflective of the feelings of the majority of the citizens of Arta.



Vandalism



From photo archives of former community

Kavala

On March 29th, the Holocaust Memorial to the Jews of Kavala was vandalized. The mayor, Dimitra Zanka, communicated immediately with David Saltiel, President of the Central Board of Jewish communities. The municipality immediately condemned the act and all acts of racism. The municipality announced that the Holocaust monument would immediately be repaired and it was! A call went out for those who lost family in Kavala during the Holocaust to express their feeling on the desecration of the monument. Many responded, including our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad-Ikonomopoulos who lost members of her Russo family from Kavala.

The following was presented (in Greek) to the municipality at a meeting in the former Jewish school in the city:

"I had so looked forward to the unveiling of the Holocaust memorial in Kavala and although I could not attend the actual unveiling, I visited the memorial in June of 2015 with a group of Greek Jews from the United States. Although I lost many members of my family in Salonika and Monastir (in FYROM) somehow the lack of acknowledgement of our losses in Kavala always pained me deeply. Finally, in 2015, there was a memorial in Kavala so that members of my family who lived there, and were deported by the Bulgarians in March of 1943, were finally remembered by the city of their birth and had their deaths publically acknowledged. I cannot begin to tell you how this vicious anti-Semitic vandalism of the memorial has pained me. It is as if the souls of my family have been desecrated. What these ignorant, cruel vandals do not realize is how this

reflects upon the city of Kavala and the good citizens who live there. I write this in memory of my family, in memory of Hanna Rouso, her children Bohor, Isaak, Menahem and Elia, their spouses Kadouna, Louiza and Lucia, and her grandchildren, Samuel B., Natan, Bension, Roza B., Avraam, Samuel I., Shalom, Sabetai, Joyia, Moshe, Annoula and Roza and the other Jews from Kavala who were roused from their sleep on March 3, 1943 to be deported by the Bulgarians to Treblinka and their deaths. May their memory be eternal. I pray that the good citizens of Kavala address this terrible vandalism and that the memorial is restored as a permanent memory of the Jews who once lived in the city of Kavala."

Our voices were heard. On April 6th the monument was repaired. Thank you Kavala. What we would like now is the apprehension and punishment of those responsible.



Photos of Greek-Jewish Orphans Who Were Sent to Palestine

Recently, the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki published a series of photographs of Greek-Jewish orphans who were sent to Palestine. According to the Joint Distribution Committee: "On August 21, 1945 two hundred Greek Jewish orphans left Greece for Palestine, it was reported today by Dr. Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, which paid the full costs of transportation. The group consists of 77 children under 13 years of age, 97 under and 26 over 17. In addition, the boat transported 39 "stateless" Jews to Palestine."



President of Greece Alexis Tsipras and Mayor of Thessaloniki Yiannis Boutaris Meet With Representatives of Central Board of Jewish Communities to Discuss Holocaust Education Center in Thessaloniki

The President of Greece, Alexis Tsipras gave his support to the creation of the Holocaust Education Center of Greece in Thessaloniki. With the support of the President, it is hoped that the Center will be completed in 2019.



News of Interest from Around the World

Sephardic Detroit

"A Taste of Jewish Lebanon" on March 26 was the beginning of the celebration of 100 years of Detroit's Sephardic community. The event is a cooperative venture of Keter Torah Synagogue of West Bloomfield and Congregation Beth Shalom of Oak Park, as part of its Cantor Sam and Mona Greenbaum Musical Event series.



Nora Natan, wife of Rabbi Sasson Natan of Keter Torah, spoke about the life and languages of the Jews of Lebanon, which is also the history of her family.

Rabbi Natan performed music from the Mizrahi and Sephardic Jewish diaspora, accompanied by a four-piece band of local Arabic musicians. The musical performance was accompanied by a PowerPoint tour of the Jews of the Middle East, each community with its own musical and cultural traditions. Natan also spoke about how Middle Eastern music relates to Western musical traditions.

The buffet dinner, prepared by Jewel Kosher Catering, featured the cuisine of the Lebanese Jews. Natan notes the event will “not just be reading from a book, but experiencing the feeling of a culture.”

Local Beginnings

Jacob and Judith Chicorel organized services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in Detroit in 1917 for the Sephardic immigrants here, people who would feel out of place in an Ashkenazi synagogue. Attendees came from around the Sephardic world, including Turkey, Spain, Italy and Greece. And they spoke a variety of native languages: Ladino (mostly spoken by Greek and Turkish Jews whose ancestors came from Spain or Portugal), Italian, Arabic and French (spoken by many Moroccan and Egyptian Jews).

Membership grew gradually, with the congregation renting spaces for High Holiday services and special events.

In the mid-1980s, a small group of men — Yeshua Katan, Joseph David, Gilbert Senior, Mario Sevy, Sam Pinchas, Gabriel Salama, Sam Papo and David Hazan, with the leadership of Rabbi Avraham Cohen and President David Chicorel — began the organization’s first weekly minyan Sunday services at Yeshivah Beth Yehuda in Oak Park.

In the early 1990s, President Shirley Behar initiated Shabbat services held initially at the Jewish Community Center in Oak Park. She recruited Sasson Natan to help in leading services. He became hazzan first and later the shul’s rabbi. Keter Torah Synagogue in West Bloomfield was dedicated in 2002 as the Jacob and Judith Chicorel Building. Rabbi Michael Cohen served as head rabbi until 2007. Current Keter Torah President Rick Behar is a direct descendant of the founding couple. His mother was a Chicorel.

Throughout the years, the Sephardic community was renowned for its wonderful social gatherings, annual Mediterranean Night Dinners and holiday parties. The homemade Sephardic delicacies were legendary. However, at the root of it all, was the continuation of the Orthodox Sephardic traditions of religiousness and spirituality. Rabbi Natan, whose family is Iraqi, came to Detroit from Israel in 1990 to work as an electrical engineer for General Motors. The first synagogue he found here, Young Israel of Southfield, follows Ashkenazi traditions, which felt so unfamiliar that he was going to return to Israel for the holidays the following year. However, he met Eli Rashty, an Iraqi Jew who invited him to Keter Torah. On that first visit, the congregation invited Natan to read Torah.

In planning for this year’s concert, Behar of Keter Torah proposed combining the Greenbaum musical event with a Keter Torah program featuring music of different traditions in the Sephardic and Mizrahi world as well as food of the Lebanese Jews. Cantor Sam Greenbaum says he appreciates cooperation between the two synagogues and that he anticipates attracting a wide audience with the program.

Lebanese Jews

Lebanon's Jews are often forgotten, this documentary sheds light on the community

<http://stepfeed.com/lebanon-s-jews-are-often-forgotten-this-documentary-sheds-light-on-the-community-3273>

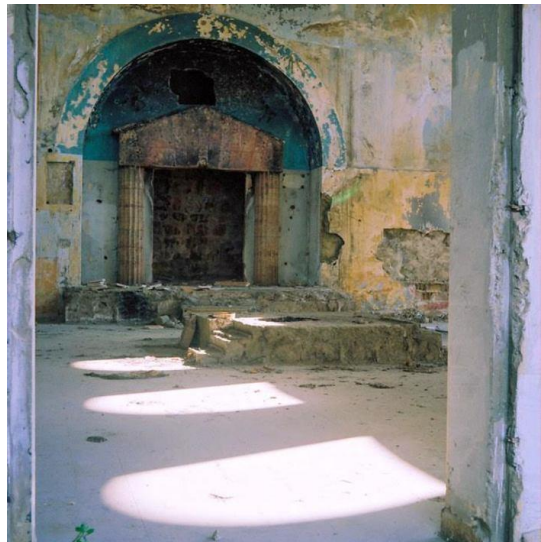
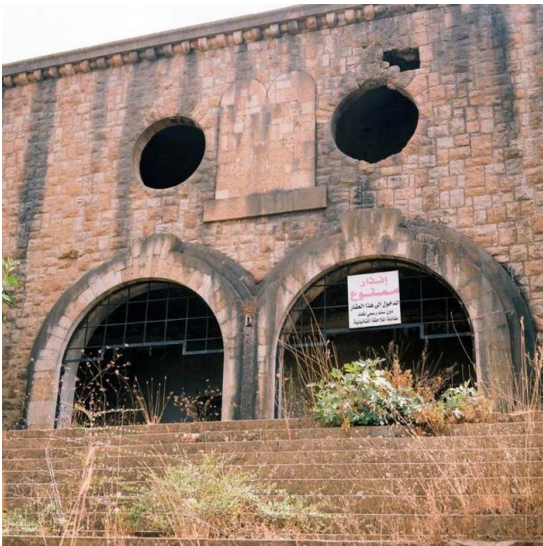
For many, "Lebanese Jewish" is too remote a concept. But, the truth is, Jews in Lebanon once lived side by side with the country's Christian and Muslim populations. They even share a minorities' seat in parliament.

Beirut's Wadi Abu Jmil, Saida, Hasbaya and Tripoli were places they once called home, and Christmas and Eid were occasions to celebrate with neighbors. They even had several Synagogues where they would hold prayers every Saturday, one of which is in the Wadi Abu Jmil area – later known as Beirut's Jewish quarter.

At its zenith, the Jewish population in Lebanon reached 15,000 in the early 50s, but now they're estimated to be at less than 100. Many left at the onset of the Lebanese civil war, and many left for Brooklyn in the U.S.

Their stories have disappeared from our collective consciousness, but with the effort of Rola Khayyat – a Columbia University graduate and visual artist based in New York – we may learn more about this community.

Her first documentary, "From Brooklyn to Beirut," sheds light on the Lebanese Jewish diaspora of Brooklyn. It features interviews with members of the Lebanese Jewish community who returned to Beirut as part of a journey to rediscover a place they once called home.



Turkish Jews

On Sunday morning, April 2nd, the people gathered at Haskoy Mahluk Street and looked around with great interest at the neighborhood that once hosted a large population of Jews and the synagogue that was once open for worship.

Haskoy Community Leader Moiz Behar speaking after the Morning Prayer, explained how only five of the 11 synagogues were restored after the huge fire in 1804. He added that those five synagogues had to shut down their doors since the Jewish population rapidly decreased at Haskoy. Today, only Maalem Synagogue is open on Saturday mornings for Shabbat prayer. Speaking after Behar, Chief Rabbi Isak Haleva talked about the significance of the synagogue and the upcoming Passover holiday. He finished his speech by wishing everyone a happy Passover.



Ishak Ibrahimzadeh, leader of Turkish Jewish Community at his speech said that he first visited this synagogue when he was studying at college. He said he was looking for a synagogue, but was shocked to find a shop, instead. He also explained how throughout the years, together with other leaders of Jewish Community they planned to restore the dignity of the synagogue. Ibrahimzadeh also gave an advice to everyone in the synagogue: to always cherish what's at hand and teach the new generations to sustain their own heritage.

Among the people in the synagogue was Isak Abudaram, a member of the Abudaram Family, the family the synagogue was named after. He joyfully shared a few of his memories regarding his family who used to live in Haskoy. The guests were served breakfast catered by La Casa Catering after the prayer and the speeches.

**

Shai Cohen: *"To be able to keep on the rituals in a historic synagogue is significant"*

Abudaram (Parmakkapi) Synagogue in Hasköy, Istanbul was rented in 1960s to be used as a workshop as a result of the diminished number of inhabitants in the neighborhood. The historic synagogue reopened its doors on Sunday morning with prayers and songs, surviving decades of

negligence. Community members attended the prayer service in the dilapidated building with joy, ahead of planned restoration efforts to restore to its former glory. Among the crowd witnessing this emotional and historic day, was Shai Cohen, Consul General of Israel in Istanbul, shared his feelings with Şalom:



"It is a very emotional event. It is very historic from this perspective. It is important to note the ability of the community to restore all properties like this one. It also shows the positive attitude of the authorities, restoring back properties of the minorities in Turkey in general, and of the Jewish community in particular. It is a very good sign for what can be achieved in terms of tolerance, and solidarity within society. From the point of view as an Israeli diplomat, it is very emotional. It has a lot of meanings to us, as the Israeli people. I hope it will be possible to restore the synagogue and to make it active. It is a very historic building. The meaning is very important; to be able to keep on the rituals in a five hundred years' synagogue. This would be very significant."

Sephardic Film Festival in Istanbul

Sephardic language and cuisine at Istanbul Film Festival

The documentary 'A Fading Language, a Fading Cuisine' will be screened at 36th Istanbul Film Festival



At the “Special Screening” section of 36th Istanbul Film Festival this year, a special documentary about Turkey’s fading cultural values will be screened.

Written and directed by journalist Deniz Alphan the documentary “A Fading Language, a Fading Cuisine” depicts the Ladino language used by few Turkish Sephardic Jews and Sephardic food culture.

Narrated by Prof. İlber Ortaylı, Aylin Oney Tan, Karen Gerson Sarhon, Mario Levi, Eliza Pinhas, Yossi Yusuf Pinhas, Mari Benmayor, Gila Benmayor, Soli Ozel, Claudia Roden, Yalcin Turkoglu and Mehmet Tanrikulu the documentary reveals the cultural evolution due to changing living conditions through various testimonials. At the same time the documentary includes highlights from Sephardic cuisine.

Rome Italy

Italy: Rome’s long-lost medieval Jewish cemetery discovered

Italian archaeologists have discovered 38 graves, with skeletal remains intact, from the cemetery used by Rome’s Jewish community from medieval times to the 17th century. The discovery of the so-called Campus Iudeorum was announced during a news conference held in Rome on March 20 at the National Roman Museum at the Baths of Diocletian. The location of the cemetery had long been known from old maps and archival sources, but the physical site had disappeared under centuries of urban construction.

Archaeologist Marzia Di Mento was quoted in the Rome daily Il Messaggero as saying that in addition to the 38 graves, a stone with a partial Hebrew inscription had also been found. Archaeologists said most of the skeletal remains recovered were of men, with one man buried along with a set of iron scales, possibly related to his profession. The remains of two women, they said, were found wearing golden rings.

Archaeologist Daniela Rossi told JHE that the archeologists were in contact with rabbinical authorities, including Rome’s Chief Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni, about the skeletal remains. Pictures published by Il Messaggero showed trough-like graves arranged in rows. Di Mento said that recovered nails and wood fragments indicated that the bodies had been buried in wooden coffins.

The site was revealed during four years of excavations that were carried out during work to restructure a building, the Palazzo Leonori in Rome’s Trastevere district, to become the new headquarters of the Assicurazioni di Roma insurance company — the company moved into the building at the end of February. The excavations also uncovered remains of an ancient Roman tannery.

According to the reports, parts of the discoveries have been preserved to form a small museum that interested people can visit on appointment.

The International Catacomb Society writes that, “An extensive restoration of the structure provided the opportunity to dig deeper not only into the building’s history, but also into that of the surrounding area close to the Tiber docks in Trastevere, today outside the walls, but once a threshold to Rome from the ancient Porta Portuensis, the fifth-century CE city gate demolished and rebuilt in its present location as Porta Portese by 1644.”



In an article, the International Catacomb Society provides its history:

Before and after the rebuilding of the Trastevere defences, a plot of land on the right side of the street, behind S. Francesco a Ripa and San Biagio, was known as the "Campus Judaeorum" (or Campo/Orto dei Giudei, etc.). This "Field of the Jews" on the city's extremity was a Jewish cemetery, in use by the thirteenth century, and expropriated three centuries later in 1587 by Pope Urban VIII, not long after the institution of the Roman ghetto on the Tiber's left bank.

Remaining graves and other artifacts were uprooted during the completion of a new wall circuit in 1644, during the pontificate of Innocent X, which seem to have used commemorative stones from the graveyard in their construction, while collectors pocketed the smaller goods [...] the uprooting of the Jewish cemetery itself might not have been all that systematic, as pieces of epitaphs in Hebrew (or reused grave markers in Greek and Latin, for Jewish burials during the Late Antique and Medieval periods) continued to turn up in subsequent building activity well into the 19th and early 20th centuries, though most of these inscribed rock tablets no longer seemed to be in situ to mark a grave.

After this cemetery was razed, Rome's Jews were obliged to move their cemetery to a site on the Aventine Hill, next to the Circus Maximus. This in turn was destroyed in 1934 by the Fascist regime, and burials were moved to the current Jewish section of the sprawling Verano cemetery. JTA published an article about this on August 20, 1934: "On the 28th of October of this year, the thirteenth after the Fascist revolution and Mussolini's march on Rome, a beautiful promenade stretching along the historic Aventine Hill and the neighborhood of the famous Circus Maximus, where in the ancient Roman imperial days the gruesome gladiatorial games were held, will be formally opened."

In order to carry out the project, which is part of Mussolini's plan to beautify the city of the Caesars and to show the world the colossal monuments of ancient Rome in all their glory, the ancient Jewish cemetery of this archeological area is being destroyed. [...]

The work of excavation is in full swing, and goes along at a truly “Fascist” tempo. Several hundred workers are engaged in excavating the graves, collecting the bones and moving them in locked chests to the Verona [Verano] cemetery.

Despite the great heat of this summer, little groups of relatives of the dead stand about the open graves and with endless sorrow in their eyes gaze upon what is left of their dearest relatives, their mothers and their fathers, and feel the tragedy of their present wandering, after years of death, to find a new resting place.

The area on the Aventino overlooking the Circus Maximus today is the site of the city’s Rose Garden, with just a small memorial commemorating it as the former site of a Jewish cemetery.
JEWISH HERITAGE EUROPE

Sephardic Library in Amsterdam

Biblioteca Ets Haim

The world's oldest Jewish library was founded by Sephardic Jews in 17th century Amsterdam. In the late 1500s and early 1600s, as Sephardic Jews were establishing a community in Amsterdam, they founded a school for themselves that would become the oldest continuously operating Jewish library in the world.

Having been forced to live as Christians in their home countries, Spain and Portugal, Sephardic Jews arrived in Amsterdam with the promise of religious freedom. The school/library, Ets Haim (Hebrew for “Tree of Life”), was founded in 1616 to help the newcomers start living publicly as Jews again. Many had continued to practice their true religion in secret while living outwardly as Christians. Amassing the library allowed them to debate among themselves, after so long, what being Jewish meant.

In 1675, the library moved to the Esnoga, the Portuguese Synagogue complex. Since it was dangerous to have open flames in a library, skylights and octagonal openings between the two floors were incorporated into the design to let in natural light for reading. Today, electric lights, including chandeliers, light the rooms, and the bookshelves are floor to ceiling. A wooden spiral staircase connects the floors.



The library holds, in total, nearly 30,000 printed works dating back to 1484 and more than 500 manuscripts dating back to 1282. The documents not only represent centuries of Jewish thought

and scholarship, but also the community's everyday life. They paint a picture of Sephardic Culture going back to its roots in the Iberian Peninsula.

In 1889, David Montezinos, the librarian at the time, donated his substantial private library (20,000 books, pamphlets, manuscripts, and illustrations) to Ets Haim after his wife died. It has since been known as Ets Haim/Livraria Montezinos.

Over the past few years, in collaboration with the National Library of Israel and the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam, Ets Haim has been digitizing its manuscripts so they can be easily accessed by people around the world. It is also expected that, with the imaging technology available for the process, scholars will be able to examine the digitized documents more thoroughly than they would in person with the naked eye.

Ets Haim is one of the Dutch Department of Culture's National Cultural Heritage sites, and part of UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

The library is inside the synagogue complex. Only a small sample of books are visible to visitors, but the library is open sometimes with guided tours.

Kehila Kedosha Janina Visits Henri-Chapelle American Military Cemetery in Belgium

On April 6, 2017, Marcia Haddad-Ikonomopoulos, Museum Director of Kehila Kedosha Janina, made an emotional visit to Henri-Chapelle American Military Cemetery in Belgium to pay respects at the graves of two Yanniotes (Nissim Attas and Abraham Matza) who died in the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945. She was accompanied by Rose Attas Ferrari, niece of Nissim and cousin of Abraham, Rose's daughter, Lisa, and Jaime Longoria, whose father Joe (Jose) was saved by the courageous actions of Abraham. It was an experience none of us will ever forget. Not only did we visit the cemetery but we were given tours of the battle areas and were able to actually see where Nissim and Abraham fought and were injured. Along the way on this journey, which started for me in 2006 when researching the exhibit, "Our Gang," we met some of the most amazing people. Come learn about this in a special event at Kehila Kedosha Janina, on June 11th. We are asking all Yanniotes, especially those of the Matza and Attas families, to join us in honoring the sacrifices of Nissim and Abraham. Further news on this event will appear in the June 2017 E-Newsletter.



Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel



Israel Memorial Day, immediately followed by Israel Independence Day, will fall on Monday and Tuesday, May 1st-2nd. Despite the stark contrast between the somber atmosphere of Memorial Day and the festivity and joy of Independence Day, the founding fathers felt that it was important to demonstrate that the State might not have even been founded, let alone survived, without the tremendous sacrifice of so many holy martyrs so that a State of Israel would live and thrive, not only as a sovereign Jewish state, but as the spiritual and physical homeland of the entire Jewish people, so recently decimated and devastated by the Holocaust.

One of the symbols of the importance and impact of Israel on American Jewry, is the prominent display of both the American and Israel flags in virtually every synagogue and Jewish institution throughout the United States. While almost taken for granted, this is a unique phenomenon, and in a certain sense even problematic, since, after all, ultimately, a foreign flag is being given the same prominence as the Stars and Stripes! Yet in both Jewish and (for the most part) non-Jewish eyes, the Israeli flag is "different", because it represents the spiritual, national and cultural homeland of the entire Jewish People, and not just another national flag reflecting ethnic pride or patriotism.

Many years ago, Rabbi Joseph Dov Soloveitchik expanded on the symbolism of the Israeli flag in a beautiful and inspiring manner. He was once asked if he thought the Israeli flag had any halachic significance. The question was not merely academic, since, historically, a national flag had no importance in Judaism. The Bible discusses the individual flags of each of the 12 tribes of Israel when wandering in the desert, but all halachic authorities agree that this was a temporary necessity to distinguish between the tribes and ensure that each one took its rightful position as the Israelite camp moved through the wilderness. And certain Jewish circles were even critical of the flag, either because of its "secular Zionist" origin, or the fact that a national flag was simply "imitating the nations" and nothing more.

Rabbi Soloveitchik completely disagreed, and as was his practice and one of his most prominent talents, he used classical Jewish sources to support his position. Using the Shulhan Aruch [Code of Jewish Law] as his basis, he pointed out that in the Laws of Mourning, we are taught that under "normal" circumstances (like natural death), a Jew should be buried in the simplest white shrouds, no matter how rich or poor he/she might have been. However, if a Jew is found murdered, or better said martyred, he or she must be buried as found – in the bloodstained clothing – without being wrapped in shrouds. Why? So that hopefully, G-d will notice this burial is different from the norm, i.e., without shrouds, and thereby arouse in G-d a desire to avenge this person's death, as well as showing His heavenly mercies on the person's soul. Rabbi Soloveitchik saw the Israeli flag in this context. As he put it, in Israel's War of Independence, the Jews had to fight fiercely against total annihilation by the entire Arab world, and any territory conquered by the Jews became part of the new Jewish state, with the Israeli flag being hoisted on said territory. Much Jewish blood was therefore shed and lives sacrificed to establish the fledgling State and raise the Jewish flag. Thus, in Rabbi Soloveitchik's eyes, the Israeli flag was like the clothing of the murdered Jew, symbolizing Jewish sacrifice and martyrdom. As Rabbi Soloveitchik put it: "In other words, the clothes of the Jew acquire a certain sanctity when

spattered with the blood of a martyr. How much more is this so of the Blue and White flag, which has been immersed in the blood of thousands of young Jews who fell in the War of Independence, defending the country and the population? It has a spark of sanctity that flows from devotion and self-sacrifice. We are all enjoined to honor the flag and treat it with respect.” May the Blue and White fly forever! Happy Independence Day!

Please remember to share your family photos with us. This month we acquired a number of special photos, including two very special ones, that of Arlene Schulman’s aunt Esther, which will accompany her sewing machine in our Museum, and the long-sought-after photo of Abraham Matza.





KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA
SYNAGOGUE AND MUSEUM

FREE
ADMISSION

PRESENTS THE
THIRD ANNUAL



GREEK JEWISH FESTIVAL

SUNDAY MAY 21
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



Kehila Kedosha Janina
Synagogue and Museum

The Greek Jewish & Sephardic
Young Professionals Network

New Weekly Class

Romaniote & Sephardic Insights for Life

Teachings and Traditions from
Spain to the Balkans and Beyond

Led by Rabbi Nissim Elnecavé

Class topics include:

Sephardic perspectives on the Torah
Ladino songs and Romaniote & Sephardic
Liturgy from Greece & Turkey
Romaniote & Sephardic Traditions
throughout the year, and much more

Every Tuesday night at 8pm
Kehila Kedosha Janina
280 Broome St NYC

Food will be served

Open to Young Adults in their 20's & 30's
RSVP to GreekJewishYPN@gmail.com

**PLEASE REMEMBER: We discontinued our post office box. All mail should go directly to
280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002**

or

Use the Donate button on our website www.kkjsm.org



Kehila Kedosha Janina E-newsletter: number 98

May 2017

Kehila Kedosha Janina, 280 Broome Street, New York NY 10002

Email: museum@kkjsm.org

Website: www.kkjsm.org