



## November 2012 e-newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Our apologies that this e-newsletter is late. The northeastern United States has been hit very hard by Hurricane Sandy and there are still massive outages. Fortunately our synagogue/museum was not damaged but we were forced to close awaiting restoration of electricity and transportation to the Lower East Side of Manhattan. On Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated our 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary as part of our Five Way Celebration (Brotherhood, Synagogue, Sisterhood, Pashas and Museum). The actual Gala, held in Oceanside on the 28<sup>th</sup> was not affected by the hurricane but many chose not to attend in anticipation of the impending storm. We are planning to get back to full programing this week



The Allen Street Park (1940s) with Yanniote Jews taking in the ambience

This newsletter, our 58<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.kkjasm.org](http://www.kkjasm.org)).

We now reach over 5000 households worldwide, with our community of 'friends' continually growing with each newsletter. If you know others who wish to be part of this ever-growing network, please have them contact us at [kehila\\_kedosha\\_janina@netzero.net](mailto:kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net).

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

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### Simchas



The wedding of Matt Colchamiro and Nicci Smidt on September 9, 2012. Matt is the son of Stephen and Ida Colchamiro and the grandson of Mathew and Esther Colchamiro and the great-grandson of Asser Colchamiro and Steroula Eliezer Colchamiro. After Asser died in Greece (according to family legend in August of 1919 from appendicitis while selling goods in Albania) Steroula brought her children to New York to join other members of the Colchamiro family. Steroula and her seven children arrived in 1920. She would have loved this wedding!

Steroula Colchamiro



Congratulations to Rae Yamali on celebrating her 90th birthday and Marilyn Vitoulis on her 75<sup>th</sup>.

## Passings

We mourn the passing of Oro Halegua, who left us at the age of 88, was born in Salonika to the Esformes family. Oro survived Auschwitz and will be missed by her children and grandchildren. She leaves behind three sons (Ino, Nathan and Steve) and seven grandchildren. Her husband Joseph (also a survivor) pre-deceased her in 1983.

Her son, Nathan, and daughter-in-law, Pearl have established the Joseph and Oro Halegua professorship in Greek and Sephardic Jewish Studies and the Pearl and Nathan Halegua Family Initiative in Ethics and Tolerance at Queens College.

Having lost so much in the Holocaust, the Haleguas generously donate to support studies of Greek and Sephardic Jews and, to hopefully, ensure that another Holocaust will never happen again.

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We mourn the passing of Isaac ben Meyer Nachman. Isaac leaves his wife, Suzie, daughter Malka Nachman Lobl, son Tzi and his three brothers, Elliot, Nathan, and Chaim Nachman. Isaac was related to many early Yanniote families in New York, including the Samuels and Menachems.  
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## Museum Events

Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00

# "Solving the Tenement Puzzle" with Rob Hollander

Join us at Kehila Kedosha Janina at 2pm on Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> as Rob Holander presents a fascinating talk accompanied by visuals.

Free....Refreshments served.

**Solving the Tenement Puzzle**, an illustrated talk on the history of the New York tenement from its economically game-changing invention of the apartment building, New York's most characteristic structure, and its typically New York origin: real estate speculators finding a lucrative market among new immigrants.



Although there are many surprises if you look closely at tenements, the overall form and style of each one identifies the decade of its construction, so with a little observation you can read the complex social history of New York right off the streetscape. We'll take a trip through the changing functional designs that reflect the growth and transformation of the city, the social meaning of their aesthetic, the historical and cultural significance of the ornamentation -- art and architecture meet social history in New York's economics, politics and reform.

Rob Hollander, a long-time resident of the Lower East Side, helped found the *Lower East Side History Project* and has published, lectured, designed and curated exhibits and given many walking tours on local history, especially the relationship between architecture and society. He works on community planning and community preservation focusing in Chinatown.



## **Kehila Kedosha Janina is located at 280 Broome Street (between Allen and Eldridge in the Lower East Side)**

**Free. Refreshments served.**

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### **New Exhibits as part of our present exhibit "Memories"**

**Our present exhibit has given us the opportunity to highlight individual family stories, recording their "Memories." It also gives us the opportunity to add to our archives with information on census records and ship manifests.**

**The first of these mini exhibits was on the Moses Family, on the occasion of Malcolm Varon's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday (see our October e-newsletter). We had two additional mini-exhibits in October, one in honor of Lil Genee's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and the second for a special memorial in memory of Irwin ben Leon Joseph(s).**

**Archival material uncovered (from census records) gives a picture of the life of the early families and their upward mobility.**

**Send us your family stories, information from ship manifests, census records and, of course, those precious family photos. We will create a mini exhibit about your Greek-Jewish family.**

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### **Past Events of Interest**

**Marcia Haddad Ikonopoulou, Museum Director of Kehila Kedosha Janina, gave a very successful presentation at the Library of Michigan State University on October 16<sup>th</sup>. For an interesting article on the presentation, access the following:**

**<http://statenews.com/article/2012/10/romaniote-jewry-expert-lectures-in-honor-of-late-professor>**



## **Events on Lower East Side**



### **The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy Presents Heroines of the Lower East Side: A Historic Walking Tour**

**Led by historian, preservationist and author Joyce Mendelsohn**

**This two hour walking tour celebrates the lives of women: ordinary, unsung heroines who battled to raise their families and make a life in the New World, as well as nine inspiring women who played leading social, political and artistic roles on the Lower East Side in the early 20th century. The tour of the famed Manhattan neighborhood, being offered for the first time ever, will examine how the nine women lived and how they each came to effect change in New York City and beyond.**

**Participants will also enjoy a rare visit to the historic dining room at Henry Street Settlement, where Lillian D. Wald hosted distinguished guests ranging from President Theodore Roosevelt to W.E.B. Du Bois and delegates of National Negro Conference (after several NYC restaurants refused to accommodate the interracial group).**

**The walking tour will conclude with a visit to the LESJC's Kling & Niman Family Visitor Center for a view of a special photography exhibit.**

**Joyce Mendelsohn is the author of *The Lower East Side Remembered and Revisited: History and Guide to a Legendary Neighborhood*. She is widely known for her walking tours and lectures on the history, culture and architecture of New York City neighborhoods. She serves on the Board of the LESJC and created docent training programs of synagogues and other historic neighborhood sites for the Conservancy.**

**Sunday, November 11, 2012 at 10:45 AM**

**The tour is a special fundraising event for the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy. Admission is a \$36 contribution. For a contribution of \$54, participants will receive tour admission and a signed copy of Joyce Mendelsohn's book, *The Lower East Side Remembered & Revisited*. For a contribution of \$100, participants receive both of the above and two free passes to any other LESJC public tour.**

**Space is limited. Pre-register and pre-pay by Thursday, November 8th at [www.nycjewishtours.org](http://www.nycjewishtours.org).**

**Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy | 235 East Broadway | (212) 374-4100 | [nycjewishtours.org](http://nycjewishtours.org)**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Fordham University Press**  
with

**American Jewish Historical Society // American Society for Jewish Music  
Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy // Museum at Eldridge Street  
Museum of Yiddish Theater // The Tenement Museum**

**Where:**

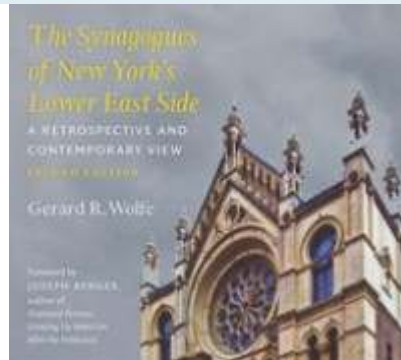
The Tenement Museum  
Sadie Samuelson Levy Immigrant  
Heritage Center  
103 Orchard Street (Corner of  
Delancey)  
New York, NY 10002



**Driving Directions**

**When:**

Monday November 19, 2012 from  
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM EST  
Add to my calendar



You are invited to celebrate the publication of

**The Synagogues of New York's Lower East  
Side  
A Retrospective and Contemporary View  
2nd Edition**

Gerard R. Wolfe

Photographs by Jo Renee Fine and Norman Borden

**Monday, November 19, 2012  
6:30-8:00pm**

The Tenement Museum  
Sadie Samuelson Levy Immigrant Heritage Center  
103 Orchard Street (corner of Delancey)  
New York, NY 10002

*Refreshments & Book Signing*

**RSVP by November 5, 2012**

**Register Now!**



**News from New York Landmarks Conservancy**

**THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY**



We are pleased to share October 25<sup>th</sup>'s New York Time's Story on the rededication of Tifereth Israel, Queens oldest synagogue.

The Conservancy has worked with the synagogue for over 10 years. Our *Sacred Sites* grants of \$90,000 helped mobilize more than \$1 million for the exterior restoration; we assisted in the selection of appropriate architects and contractors and oversaw the challenging project on their behalf.

Karen Ansisa's project management skills were instrumental and Ann Friedman went well beyond normal hours and duties to help the synagogue with myriad issues, even to selecting the ribbon for the ribbon cutting. They both deserve our thanks and applause. Tifereth is a great example of Conservancy skills and dedication and why our Sacred Sites program is so important.

[www.nylandmarks.org](http://www.nylandmarks.org)

## **Events of Interest in USA**

### **Chicago**

**A Memorial commemorating the Greek Jewish victims of the Holocaust will be held Sunday, November 11, at 1:30 p.m., at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Dr. (off Old Orchard Road, west of I-94), Skokie.**

**Open to the public, free.**

**Additional Info: (312) 282-8749**

**Holocaust Museum: (847) 967-4800**

**An unprecedented number of Greek American organizations, for the first time, have sought participation in the Memorial event commemorating Greek Jews who became victims of the Holocaust.**

**The latest major organizations joining the Memorial are the World Council of Hellenes Abroad/USA, a world umbrella council of diaspora organizations, and the Hellenic Community Center of Greek Organizations Foundation.**

**The Memorial is organized by the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center and CHI-Circle for Hellas & Israel/International Friends for Greece-Israel Alliance.**

**The Memorial is under the auspices of The Consulate General of Greece and the Consulate General of Israel, and is co-sponsored by the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Greater Chicago, and AJC/American Jewish Committee. Supporting organizations include the Hellenic National Museum, Macedonian Society of Chicago, PanMacedonian Assn. of USA, Hellenic Link Midwest, PanCretan Endowment Fund for Crete University, Pontian Society, Strategy International/Thessaloniki, and ADL/Anti-Defamation League.**

**The Holocaust Museum on Nov. 11 also memorializes the anniversary of Kristallnacht (Nov.9,10), generally accepted by historians as the beginning of the Holocaust.**

**The Memorial event will begin with the unveiling of a plaque at the museum's Fountain of the Righteous with the names of two Greek citizens who have been recognized for helping Jewish residents escape arrest and probable death by the Nazis during World War II.**

**The two individuals who will be honored for their heroic opposition to the Nazis are the late Archbishop Damaskinos of Athens and Greece, and the late Thessaloniki attorney Dimitrios Spiliakos. His Eminence Chicago Metropolitan Iakovos is expected to accept the honor to Archbishop Damaskinos and Mr. Spiliakos' son, Panayiotis, of Boston, for his father.**

**The Memorial will honor victims from all over Greece including residents of Thessaloniki which had the largest Jewish community before the war. The community's institutions and organization were so well known that Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, in 1911 visited the city to study the institutions of the Jewish community there. He planned to use the city as a model for other communities.**

**Two Greek Jewish leaders who will speak at the Holocaust Museum are Benyiamin Albalas, president of the Jewish community of Athens, and Moses K. Konstantinis, immediate past president of the Central Board of the Jewish Community of Greece. Dr. Albalas will speak about the community of Athens, and Mr. Konstantinis will speak about Ben Gurion's visit and Thessaloniki at the time of its liberation which took place a year later. A reception will follow.**

**Benjamin Albalas**





**A second event organized by the UIC Hillel on Monday, Nov. 12, features a Symposium, panel and a question-answer discussion, on Greek Jews, Past and Present.**

**Among the panelists will be Dr. Albalas, Mr. Konstantinis, journalist Jean Cohen and Dr. Nanno Marinatos, UIC Classics Dept. Reception at 6:30 p.m., presentation at 7 p.m., at Hillel, corner of Taylor and Morgan streets, Chicago. For more information, Dr. George Papadantonakis, tel. 312-420-5623.**

**A separate lecture about Thessaloniki's liberation in 1912 will be presented by Prof. Steven Bowman, Cincinnati University, on November 18. Place and complete schedule for this event will be announced soon.**

**All events are free and open to the public.**

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### **Events of Interest in Europe**

**Sofia, Bulgaria on from October 5-7**

#### **Facing Our Past**

**For an update on what took place at this conference, see the following blog by Anthony Georgieff, author of *Your Guide To Jewish Bulgaria* and one of the moderators at the conference.**

[http://www.vagabond.bg/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2153:facing-the-past-but-failing-to-look-to-the-future&catid=63:bulgaria-society&Itemid=13#.UI6lEIXe6vI](http://www.vagabond.bg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2153:facing-the-past-but-failing-to-look-to-the-future&catid=63:bulgaria-society&Itemid=13#.UI6lEIXe6vI)

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### **News From Jewish Greece**

#### **Ioannina**

**This year's celebration of Yom Kippur in Ioannina was attended by Jewish visitors from Greece, Israel and the United States, responding to an invitation by the Community. Their presence strengthened the morale of the Community as they gathered to hear the services in the traditional Romaniote style. In attendance were the former President of KIS (the Central Board of Jewish Communities), Moses Konstantini and many others. Haim Ischakis conducted the service. There was also a visit to the Jewish Cemetery of Ioannina where kaddish was said.**

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**Megillah Esther from the David (Bechoropoulos) Family now on exhibit in Ioannina**



## Rhodes

We thank Israel Peles for these photos and information.

### **Desecration of the Holocaust Memorial in Rhodes**

**REPORTED by George Zachariades**

**Published: Saturday, October 27, 2012**



Unknown vandals desecrated the Holocaust Memorial of the Jews of Rhodes. The monument is located in the Old City and the perpetrators painted the swastika on all six sides. A presently unknown organization with the initials AME claimed responsibility for the desecration.

*The incident happened during the night from Friday, October 26th to Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and the desecration was found in the morning. The Security Service in Rhodes was informed. A sponge used in the desecrations was found in the area of the monument and may hold clues as to who the perpetrators were.*

*This is not the first time that the Holocaust Memorial has been vandalized.*

*The Holocaust Memorial was erected in 2002 in the Square of the Jewish Martyrs, which is located in what was the old Jewish quarter of Rhodes before the war. On the six sides are written in as many languages (Greek, French, English, Italian, Hebrew and Latin), the phrase "Do not ever forget the eternal memory of the 1604 Jews of Rhodes and Kos who perished in Nazi death camps."*

*Prewar Jewish community of Rhodes was one of the most flourishing on the island, but in July 1944 the Germans on the island gathered the Jews and after a long journey led them to Auschwitz. Of those rounded up, 1,200 were sent directly to the crematoria. Only 150 (120 women and 30 men) survived. Today few Jews live on the island of Rhodes.*

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**Government Spokesman Simos Kedikoglou condemned the desecration of the Holocaust Monument on the island of Rhodes with the following statement of October 30, 2012:**

*"The desecration of the Holocaust Monument in Rhodes is an immoral act which is to be strongly condemned. It is an act that insults Greece and the Greek people. It insults the memory of the Greek Jews who perished during the Holocaust. The Greek Government condemns in the utmost determined way any act of bigotry and anti-Semitism. Such attitudes do not conform with Greek civilization and history.*

*The competent authorities have enacted the necessary course of action in order to trace down the perpetrators and bring them to justice."*

## **New Project on DNA testing of Yanniote Jews**

Thanks to Jonathan Alcantara from the Colchamiro and Eliezer families, there is now the beginning of a data base of DNA from those who are descendants of Jews from Ioannina. You must be Yanniote on both sides of your family, at least initially, to take part in this. Jonathan is the contact. We have so far, one Yanniote from the Matza family living here in the United States and a possible nine more in Ioannina.

The following is information on how to become part of the data base.

*"I am the contact person; I am the (volunteer) Project Administrator for the Romaniote DNA Project at FamilyTreeDNA. Anyone interested in joining can contact me at [jba@dna.ie](mailto:jba@dna.ie)"*

## **News from Greek USA**

### **Greece Remembers WWII Jewish Community**

By Christina Flora on October 28, 2012 In Events, News, Washington, Washington

"The Holocaust of Martyrs and Heroes should never be forgotten," Greek Ambassador to the United States Christos Panagopoulos said in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. dedicated to the tragedy of the Greek Jews during WWII.

Panagopoulos underscored that the Nazi occupation of Greece resulted in a decrease of about 10% of Greece's population. Among them 67.000 Greek Jews, or 86% of the Jews of Greece, perished in concentration camps.

"Greece's role in the Allies' victory has been well documented and recognized by all and it should never be forgotten. On October 28th, 1940, Greeks wrote another very important chapter of their contemporary history," Panagopoulos said on the anniversary of Greece's refusal to surrender to Italy at the beginning of the war.

He, also, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in honor of the heroes of WWII. The event was organized by the OXI DAY Foundation and co-hosted by the American Jewish Committee. The ceremony took place in the Historic Synagogue on Oct. 25.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and Jason Isaacson, Director for International Relations for AJC, the Global Jewish Advocacy Group, also attended the event. Greek Jewish, Panagopoulos, Washington, WWII

## **News From Greece**

### **Responses to Golden Dawn (Neo-Nazi group in Greece)**

[http://www.kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=451%3Agreek-jewry-protests-for-golden-dawn-membership-to-non-discrimination-committee-of-the-coe&catid=49%3A2009-05-11-09-28-23](http://www.kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=451%3Agreek-jewry-protests-for-golden-dawn-membership-to-non-discrimination-committee-of-the-coe&catid=49%3A2009-05-11-09-28-23)

**GREEK JEWRY PROTESTS FOR GOLDEN DAWN MEMBERSHIP TO NON-DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

Thursday, 11 October 2012 13:21

**With regard to the appointment of Golden Dawn MP Eleni Zaroulia to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece addressed a letter to the Committee's Chairwoman Mrs. Tina Acketoft, expressing the Greek Jewry's distress and astonishment on the issue.**

**As pointed out in the letter: "As known, Mrs. Zaroulia is a Greek MP with the Golden Dawn party which promotes neo-Nazi ideology and adopts racist and violent practices. The party's leader has openly and publicly denied the Holocaust on TV just a few months ago.**

**On behalf of the Greek Jewry we express our astonishment and profound concern for the way and the criteria of participation of a person representing such an ideology to the PACE Equality and Non-Discrimination Committee.**

**We express the belief that the Equality and Non-Discrimination Committee will not tolerate any manifestation, comment or expression of anti-Semitic or racial prejudice, and will safeguard the fundamental principles of democracy and respect of human rights."**

**On October 4, the ADL issued the following announcement on the same issue:**

**The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) today condemned the presence a representative of the Greek neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn as a new member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, calling it "an affront to concepts of equality and non-discrimination."**

**Golden Dawn party member and parliamentarian Eleni Zaroulia joined the Committee on October 1st.**

**Golden Dawn party leaders are openly anti-Semitic, racist, have denied the Holocaust, and its members have reportedly targeted dark-skinned individuals in Greece through various violent acts. Its doctrine echoes Nazi principles by proposing that "only men and women of Greek descent and consciousness should have full political rights," and the party recently held a blood drive to collect blood "only for Hellenes," i.e. ethnic Greeks. Other members have expressed their abhorrent hatred through music with anti-Semitic and racist sentiments.**

**"The despicable ideology of Golden Dawn stands in the most stark contrast imaginable to the goals of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination," said Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director. "Given the party's rhetoric, it is an affront to concepts of equality and non-discrimination that one of its representatives now serves as a member on this Committee." In a letter to Committee Chairperson Tina Acketoft, ADL urged the Committee to ensure that Golden Dawn's representative is immediately, clearly and publicly rebuked for any statements that promote Golden Dawn's neo-Nazi ideology, and that Ms. Zaroulia be prevented from assuming any leadership responsibilities.**

**"If a procedure is available to remove her from the Committee, such action would demonstrate that commitment to the Committee's mandate starts at home," Mr. Foxman wrote. "We urge you to take this step before any further harm is caused by the presence of a Golden Dawn representative on your Committee."**



# Leftist veteran: Golden Dawn 'insult to democracy'



Leftist veteran and main opposition SYRIZA MP Manolis Glezos on Tuesday condemned the ultra-rightwing Golden Dawn, describing their presence in Greece's Parliament as an insult to Greek democracy."

The entrance to Parliament earlier this year of Golden Dawn, which holds 18 seats in the 300-seat Parliament, is one of the darkest pages in the history of Greek democracy,» Glezos said.

The 89-year-old wartime resistance veteran, best known for removing a flag bearing a swastika from the Acropolis in 1941, said Golden Dawn was not purely a fascist or Nazi group but a party that essentially violates the good of the nation and with characteristics of a criminal organization which does not hesitate to plot crudely, exploiting the instincts of a society that is collapsing."

**Bravo Manolis!**

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**For additional articles on Golden Dawn see:**

**<http://www.jta.org/news/article/2012/11/01/3110791/as-golden-dawn-gains-popularity-greek-jews-strategize-on-how-to-combat-neo-nazi-party>**

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## **Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs Conference**

### **MFA Conference**

Posted: 05 Oct 2012 03:42 AM PDT

A day-conference on Greek government policies on issues of respect for human rights, religious tolerance, combating anti-Semitism, and sustaining the memory of the Holocaust through education, research, remembrance events, took place on October 5th Foreign Ministry's Kranidiotis auditorium.



Foreign Ministry Secretary General, Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis, and the Belgian Chair of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF), Jan Deboutte, will open the conference, during which a film on the subject of the uprising of Greeks at Auschwitz (October 7, 1944), will be screened. Greece is one of 31 countries that have so far joined the ITF.

**Shalom to one and all!**

**Gershon Harris  
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel**



**The month of November this year corresponds with the Hebrew months of Heshvan and Kislev, characterized (hopefully) by lots of rain, a critical need for Israel since we have no other large natural sources of water. In fact, despite a relatively rainy winter last year, it came after 4 years of drought , from which we have not yet recovered.**

**Interestingly, in Jewish tradition, rain is considered a completely divinely controlled asset. As the Talmud says in the tractate of "Fasts", there are three phenomena for which only God holds the key, and which are not delegated to any ministering angels: Childbirth, rain and the resurrection of the dead. Therefore, in terms of rainfall, when Israel faces a dry winter, the only real recourse is to pray. And anyone skeptical about such esoteric measures versus state-of-the-art scientific rainmaking technologies need only spend time in Israel to understand that none of the latter have every really worked sufficiently, and at various times, Israel has even considered importing water from other countries, like Turkey. And the very fact that the Talmud devotes an entire tractate to the actions and prayers that must be taken and said to bring rain shows both how critical rainfall is to Israel as well as how little power Man has to "replace" our pleas to the Almighty.**

**One of the more colorful Talmudic sages who possessed special powers to bring rain was named "Honi the Circle Maker", who is buried in my city of residence, Hatzor Haglilit. He lived in Israel in the first century CE and was one of the earliest Jewish sages, and known for his brilliance and learning as well as some supernatural powers. His "rain-making" powers were apparently well-known, or, better said, his special connection with God in terms of having his prayers answered. The Talmudic account of his abilities goes like this: One winter when rain had not yet fallen, and despite the prayerful efforts of the Sages and the local population, Honi was approached and asked to intervene with God and bring rain. Honi then drew a circle around himself in the dust and demanded that God make it rain, insisting that he would not leave the circle until this was accomplished. Lo and behold, it began to drizzle. Honi promptly addressed God once again and said that he did not ask for such light rain, but rather rain that would be effective in reviving plants and trees. Suddenly it began to pour furiously, again prompting Honi's anger, once again telling God that this wasn't the rain for which he prayed, but rather a calm, normal rainfall, which promptly began to descend. However, shocked by Honi's insolence and disrespect for God, many Sages wanted to excommunicate him. This action was aborted by Shimon ben Shetah, who resignedly told the others that Honi, despite everything, obviously has a special relationship with God and therefore should not be punished.**

**In fact, even today, once a certain date passes in the month of Heshvan and no rain has fallen, mass prayer sessions at the Honi gravesite are organized by Israel schools from the entire country. It is quite amazing to see busloads of school children and their teachers assembling at the site to pray and cry to God for rain, and even the most skeptical have often been pleasantly surprised at the results!**

**May this winter see Israel and the entire world enjoying abundant amounts of "rains in their season," and, as the Jewish prayer for rain says, "for a blessing and not a curse!"**

## News of Interest To All

American Joint Distribution Committee's Cyprus Collection is now available digitally for the first time. Consisting of 16,667 pages of textual files digitized from 19 microfilm reels, the collection contains a wide array of materials that shed light on the lives of deportees to Cyprus, including personal letters, group petitions, and newspapers published by the deportees themselves. The digitization of this collection will be a welcome resource for scholars and researchers interested in the post-World War II era, early Israeli history, and refugee resettlement.

From 1946 until the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the British confined some 53,000 Holocaust survivors on the island of Cyprus. From August 1946 to February 1949, the deportees lived behind barbed wire in 12 camps on Cyprus. During this period, 53,000 Jews passed through the camps, 2,200 children were born in the camps, and 150 Jews died there. Eighty percent of the deportees were between the ages of 13 and 35; nearly all of them were survivors of the Nazi death camps. These Jewish refugees, who were denied entry into Palestine by the British, benefited from JDC's extensive relief program, which provided supplementary food and clothing, medical care, educational/cultural activities, and vocational training. The Cyprus Collection of the JDC Archives offers a unique window into this pivotal period of 20th-century history by documenting the dramatic events in Cyprus against the backdrop of the birth of the State of Israel. It provides a rich account of the aid activities of the AJJDC, including detailed lists of medical personnel, lengthy inventories of food and supplies, eyewitness accounts written by the AJJDC administration on Cyprus and general correspondence relating to JDC's work there. In addition, of related interest is the JDC Archives photograph collection which includes over 180 photographic images from the Cyprus detention camps, 72 of which are featured in a photo gallery.

The archive is available at: <http://archives.jdc.org/about-us/articles/jdc-cyprus-collection-now.html>



**Websites of interest:**

**[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=6ac2M9YRkoc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=6ac2M9YRkoc)**

**Ioannina**

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**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) 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 and all major Jewish holidays and our Museum is open every Sunday from 11-4 and, by appointment during the week**



**Kehila Kedosha Janina e-newsletter: number 58: November 2012  
Kehila Kedosha Janina, 280 Broome Street, New York NY 10002  
[kehila\\_kedosha\\_janina@netzero.net](mailto:kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net)**