The last year has seen important simchas celebrated at Kehila Kedosha Janina: baby namings, bar mitzvahs and our first wedding in years. On November 7th, Sharon Hametz and Jeffrey Bodnick received their wedding blessings in Kehila Kedosha Janina. Sharon’s great-grandfather, Rabbi Israel Hametz, came to serve the growing Yanniote community on the Lower East Side in 1928. Her grandfather Haim attended Kehila Kedosha Janina, as did her father, Ivan, and her great aunts, great uncles and aunts. Her great-grandfather was a spiritual leader. Needless to say, seeing Sharon take her vows in our sanctuary brought tears to all our eyes. Herein lies our future. The fact that the younger generation finds our synagogue so precious assures our continuity. Our special thanks to Drog and Rebecca Colchamiro. Their idea of having the baby naming of daughter Sara Jane (named after her great-grandmother Sara Colchamiro) and Paul and Alta Simon for naming Rebecca in our synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel).

In 1927, a magnificent Torah scroll, encased in a heavy silver tik, was brought over from Ioannina, Greece to dedicate the new synagogue, Kehila Kedosha Janina. Over the course of the years the tik would tarnish, in many ways reflecting the decline of the small Romaniote community that used the facilities on 280 Broome Street, but the torah inside would continue to be used by the traditional, observant, Romaniote congregation. Eighty years later, those who had the foresight to send the Torah to New York City can look down from on high and be assured that the small congregation on Broome Street has been worthy of their gift. In many ways, the silver tik and the Torah inside represent the positive changes taking place at Kehila Kedosha Janina. The tik is being shone, the tarnish gently removed, its luster restored, by Andrew Marcus, the son of our President, Marvin. In Andrew and, fortunately, in others of the younger generation, we are seeing a resurgence of interest in the synagogue, the liturgy, the customs and the traditions of the Keidina. A wedding was recently celebrated in our sanctuary (see articles on Simchas and Hametz family). The great granddaughter of Rabbi Israel Hametz, an early rabbi of Kehila Kedosha Janina, and Jeffrey Rodnick received their wedding blessings in Kehila Kedosha Janina, baby namings, bar mitzvahs and our first wedding in years. On November 7th, Sharon Hametz and Jeffrey Bodnick received their wedding blessings in Kehila Kedosha Janina. Sharon’s great-grandfather, Rabbi Israel Hametz, came to serve the growing Yanniote community on the Lower East Side in 1928. Her grandfather Haim attended Kehila Kedosha Janina, as did her father, Ivan, and her great aunts, great uncles and aunts. Her great-grandfather was a spiritual leader. Needless to say, seeing Sharon take her vows in our sanctuary brought tears to all our eyes. Herein lies our future. The fact that the younger generation finds our synagogue so precious assures our continuity. Our special thanks to Drog and Rebecca Colchamiro. Their idea of having the baby naming of daughter Sara Jane (named after her great-grandmother Sara Colchamiro) and Paul and Alta Simon for naming Rebecca in our synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel). What better way to pass on the love of synagogue (as they did their first daughter, Rachel).
The Hametz Family

In many ways the Hametz family typified the early members of the congregation of Kehila Kadisha Janina recent immigrants. Greek-speaking observant Jews with large families. Israel Hametz, the patriarch of the Hametz family, joined the Sisterhood. Join us. Join our growing membership.

Meet the Board: Chaim Kofinas

A graduate of Mivtah Tifereth Jerusalem on East Broadway. Now, in addition to providing KKJ with financial advice and filling the position of Treasurer on the Board of Directors, he also acts as spiritual leader of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Which will enable us to set up a multimedia research center in our communal room, enabling us to truly become a center for Greek Jewish studies, and the second from the Greek government, which will be used to create a DVD presentation on the Holocaust in Greece.

In November of 2009, Kehila Kadisha Janina will open a major exhibit on the Holocaust in Greece. The exhibit, a 48-star American flag found in Ioannina, will be on exhibit through October of 2008 and will be up through June of 2009. This exhibit will open the Preveza exhibit on October 7, 2007 [see the exhibit at our website: www.kkjsm.org]

As the Association celebrates ten years of existence, we look back with pride on the many accomplishments we have made! We have raised funds for restoration projects, published two books and continue to run annual tours to Jewish Greece. 2007 has been an exciting one. We have been asked to support a project inspired by the heroism of Colonel Mordechai Frizis, the Jewish-Greek war hero who died of his wounds in April of 1944. Special thanks to Katherine Fleming's highly acclaimed book, and to the Hametz family [see articles: The Bar Mitzvah of Seth Kofinas on July 21, 2007]. The Bar Mitzvah of his son, Seth (the actual Bar Mitzvah was held in June at Kehila Kadisha Janina), filling the synagogue of Ioannina with sunlight and music. Seth's Bar Mitzvah was held in Ioannina, Greece, the country where both his parents were born. His great-grandparents were victims of the Holocaust, his mother's family, and his father's family, and his brother Zino would survive as hidden children in Athens. All that the Museum has been able to do would not have been possible without our volunteers: Koulas and Ikonomopoulos, Elias Hadjis, Maurice Neguin, Rose Eskonoots, Abe Levy, Marceef Rachel, Andrew Marcus and Abbas Saab. Our special thanks to our former volunteer Arlene Schulman, now working at Yeshiva University.

Thank You,
Marcia Hadad Ikonomopoulos Museum Director

One of the many beautiful aspects of our community, and one that is reflected in the commitment of our Board of Directors, is the love of Kehila Kadisha Janina (KKJ) that is passed down from generation to generation.

The true success of this tour is reflected in the close relationships formed by our participants, who continue to keep in touch with one another. In addition, over the course of our tours, in general, are the number of participants who join for the second, third or even the fourth or fifth time! It is not too late to join our 2008 tour (Sofolma, Ioannina, Volos and Israel). Join us for an experience you will never forget. Join us in being a part of the only organization working to preserve the remnants of Greek Jewry. Make a difference!

On July 21, 2007, the synagogue in Ioannina, By Georgios Sobotis

On the 20th and 21st of July a group of Jewish Yankees from New York visited our city. The purpose of their visit was to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Seth Kofinas, a walk-up tenement on the top floor (6th). The apartment lived in, and a statue that will be unveiled this August to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of Seth Kofinas, who died of his wounds in April of 1944. The apartment lived in, and a statue that will be unveiled this August to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of Seth Kofinas, who died of his wounds in April of 1944. The apartment lived in, and a statue that will be unveiled this August to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of Seth Kofinas, who died of his wounds in April of 1944. The apartment lived in, and a statue that will be unveiled this August to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of Seth Kofinas, who died of his wounds in April of 1944. The apartment lived in, and a statue that will be unveiled this August to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of Seth Kofinas, who died of his wounds in April of 1944.

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