



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

October 2017 E-Newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

This newsletter is dedicated to the strength and perseverance of the Jews of Greece. A delegation from Kehila Kedosha Janina was honored to spend the High Holidays of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur in Greece and wish to thank our Greek Jewish friends for the love and spirit of Judaism that they shared with us. Photos will follow in this newsletter.



Rhodes



Ioannina

This newsletter, our 103rd will, as always, cover news regarding Kehila Kedosha Janina and news concerning Greek Jewry. We hope you find our newsletter interesting. Your feedback is of utmost importance to us. If you missed previous issues, they can be accessed on our website www.kkjsm.org.

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 by emailing info@kkjsm.org so we are sure that our Kiddush (traditional Greek Jewish Kosher lunch) 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 two members of our community, Sara Matza (wife of Hy Matsa) and Jared Tepperman, son of Alan and Jeanette Tepperman.

Sara Kurzweil-Matza & Hy were married for 64 years. They had two sons, Robert married to Dorothy: with two sons, Jason and Scott; And Eric (obm) married to Robin with one daughter, Ariel. Sara was a very quiet, refined lady who will be missed by all who knew her.

Jared Tepperman, son of Alan and Jeanette Tepperman, grandson of Jean Colchamiro and Murray Saltzman, great-grandson of Elias Colchamiro and Speranza (Nancy) Matza Colchamiro, great-great grandson of Jesoula (Matathias) Colchamiro and Rachel (Galanos) Colchamiro died at the age of 21 in a tragic motorcycle accident on September 10, 2017. May his memory be for a blessing.



Simchas

Our congratulations to Alex and Leah Mazza on their wedding. Alex is the son of Elliot Mazza, the grandson of Millie Asser and Ben Mazza, the great-grandson of Solomon Asser and Joyia Aptsy, and the great great-grandson of Menachem ben Asser Lamias and Regina Bassara.



It is our joy to wish Ilias Hadjis a happy 80th birthday. Ilias is a member of the Board of Trustees of Kehila Kedosha Janina and a valuable docent in our museum.



Dikoi Mas (Our Own)

In September, we were honored with visits by Ralph and Sharon Solomon, Penny and Ralph Santiago and Carl Rothbart and his family. The Solomons and Penny Santiago are from our Ioannina world and Carl was so grateful that we actually knew where Monastir was!



The Solomons



Penny and Ralph Santiago



The Rothbarts

Visitors

September was a busy month. The weather was lovely and many took advantage to visit the Lower East Side.



A lovely family from Toronto stopped by to see the Lower East Side neighborhood where their grandfather once lived.



Andrew Marcus' friend Sam Facas

Upcoming Events

Special Event with Professor Devin Naar

Join us on Monday October 16th for a special lecture by our dear friend, Professor Devin Naar. Open to the public and all are invited. We just ask you to please RSVP at museum@kkjism.org. Professor Naar's book, "Jewish Salonika: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece" will be available for sale at the event for \$25. Professor Naar will be signing the books.

**Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum and the
Greek Jewish & Sephardic Young Professionals Network
are honored to welcome**

PROFESSOR DEVIN NAAR

WHO WILL LEAD A SPECIAL DISCUSSION

GREEKS, JEWS, AND GREEK-JEWS IDENTITY AND CULTURE IN A CHANGING WORLD



Monday October 16th at 7:00pm

**Kehila Kedosha Janina
280 Broome Street NYC**

Once the uncontested capital of the Ladino-speaking Sephardic Jewish world, Salonika (Thessaloniki) also became a vibrant center of Greek Jewish life in the twentieth century.

Drawing on recently discovered archives in Ladino, Greek, Hebrew, and French, this talk will explore how Romaniotes and Sephardim came together to forge a new Greek Jewish identity and transform Salonika into the capital of "Hellenic Judaism" prior to the Holocaust.

Professor Naar will be available to sign copies of his excellent book, *Jewish Salonika: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece*, recipient of a 2016 National Jewish Book Award.

**Refreshments will be served
Please RSVP to museum@kkjism.org**

**Trezoros Film Screening
In Memory of Lena Russo**

Join us on Sunday October 22nd for a special showing of Trezoros in memory of Lena Russo. All proceeds from the showing will be donated towards the creation of the Holocaust Education Center in Thessaloniki.



Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum is honored to show the film

TREZOROS

THE LOST JEWS OF KASTORIA

Sunday October 22nd at 1pm
Kehila Kedosha Janina
280 Broome Street NYC

Tickets are only \$10

**All proceeds will be donated to the
Holocaust Education Center in Thessaloniki**

This special showing is in memory of Lena Russo

Refreshments will be served after the film
Please RSVP to museum@kkjism.org

Kol Dodi Special Israeli and Greek Concert

Join us on Sunday November 19th for a great evening of music.

Back by Popular Demand!

**Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum
is excited to welcome back**

KOL DODI

**FOR A
SPECIAL ISRAELI & GREEK CONCERT**



Sunday November 19th at 6:30pm
Kehila Kedosha Janina
280 Broome Street NYC

Kol Dodi (The Voice of My Beloved) is a talented group of musicians who play a wide selection of Hebrew and Greek songs. Yaron Hanoka's roots are from Salonika. Avram Pengas' roots are from Ioannina. On November 19th they will bring their music to Kehila Kedosha Janina. There will be dancing in the aisles!

Tickets \$20

Purchase in advance by check or cash only at the door.
Checks can be made out to Kehila Kedosha Janina and mailed to
1 Hanson Place, Huntington, NY 11743.

Please RSVP to museum@kkjism.org

Greek Jewish & Sephardic Young Professionals Shabbaton

Young adults in their 20's and 30's are welcome to join the next Shabbat Dinner and Shabbaton event of this dynamic Network. All ages are welcome to attend services on Saturday morning. For more information email GreekJewishYPN@gmail.com.

THE GREEK JEWISH & SEPHARDIC YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK
INVITES YOU TO A

TURKISH SHABBATON AND SHABBAT DINNER

FRIDAY OCTOBER 27TH TO SATURDAY OCTOBER 28TH



**KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA
280 BROOME STREET NYC**

Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Services – 7:00pm

Friday Night Shabbat Dinner – 8:00pm

\$20 per Person

RSVP TO GREEKJEWISHYPN@GMAIL.COM

Meet other young Sephardic, Turkish, and Greek Jews

Enjoy delicious homemade Sephardic food

Experience a traditional Turkish Jewish Shabbat

Open to Young Adults in their 20's and 30's

Saturday Morning Services 9:30am, Kiddush-Lunch 12:30pm

Sephardic Class led by Rabbi Nissim Elnecavé 4:15pm

Past Events at Kehila Kedosha Janina

Greek Jewish & Sephardic Young Professionals Holiday Cooking Class on September 10th



Sephardic Concert with the Elias Ladino Ensemble on September 10th



Elias Ladino Ensemble



Rose Eskononts dancing

Be sure to join our mailing list at museum@kkjsm.org so that you do not miss upcoming events. For those who wish to speak, perform, or arrange for a special program at Kehila Kedosha Janina, do contact us as soon as possible. Our 2017-2018 calendar is filling up fast!

We Are Always Proud of the Accomplishments of our Community

Exhibit by Stewart Nachmias, son of Max and Eve Nachmias, both of Blessed Memory

STEWART NACHMIAS
PULP ICONS: CAST PAPER & PRINTS



September 15 - October 15, 2017
Opening Reception Sunday, September 17, 1 - 4 pm



Society of Jewish Science
Center For Applied Judaism
109 East 39th Street, NYC 10016

The exhibition will be open at various times.
Please call for hours or to make an appointment.
You may also inquire by e-mail
212-682-2626 • cfajevents@gmail.com

You can contact Stewart Nachmias at:
917-207-7238 • stewzo@aol.com

If you have something special to share with us, email us at museum@kkjsm.org.

Fall 2017 Tour of Jewish Greece

Last year we offered our first tour to Greece for any of the Holidays, visiting Ioannina for Rosh HaShanah. This year we went all out and spent Rosh HaShanah in Rhodes and Yom Kippur in Ioannina. We are hoping to offer High Holiday Tours every year, along with our regular tours to Jewish Greece in the Spring/Summer.

Rhodes



Isaac Habib



Carole and Harold Finkel

Ioannina



Stuart Chernin



Harold Finkel



Matt Hanson



Matthew Panfel

While in Ioannina, our Museum Director (and Tour leader) Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos received an honorary award from the Jewish Community of Ioannina for her continued support of the community.



Our group was privileged to meet Rabbi Gabriel Negrin in Athens at a special dinner at Gostijo, the Sephardic Kosher restaurant. Our Museum Director was overjoyed to join the Jewish Community in the Sukkah for Erev Sukkoth.



Updates on News from Jewish Greece

Yom Kippur in Athens



Greek Righteous Who Saved Jews in Athens Honored By Yad Vashem

Irakli Dragona, of Blessed Memory, was awarded the medal of Righteous Among Nations by Yad Vashem for saving Aliko and Moses Matsas in Athens during the Occupation. Read the full article (in Greek) [here](#).



Sukkoth in Rhodes

A small miracle in Rhodes enabled the Jewish Community to celebrate Sukkoth. A visitor showed up with everything necessary to commemorate the Holiday.



Thessaloniki

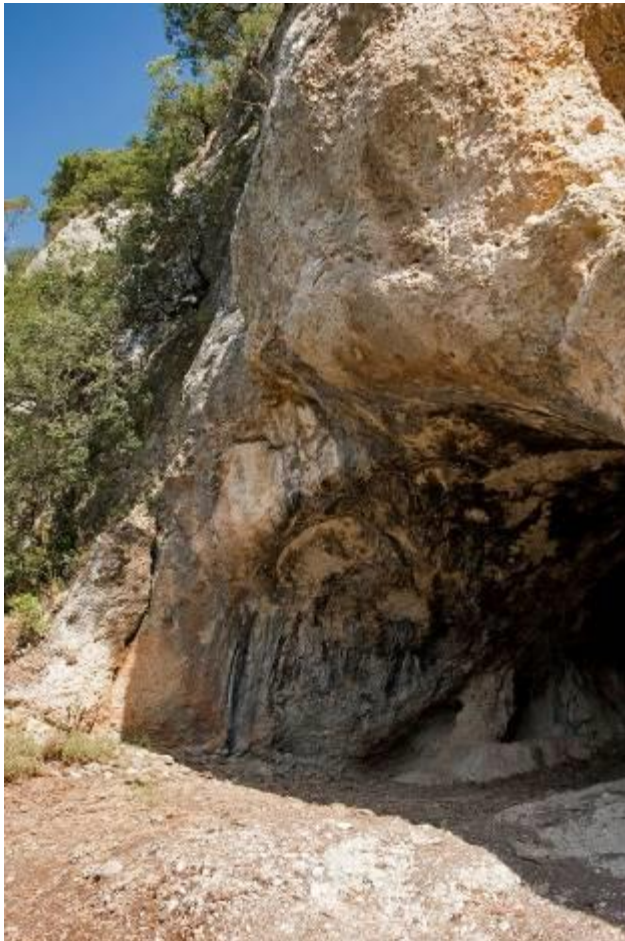
Unveiling of a plaque remembering the more than 90 Jewish students and alumni who were deported by the Germans in 1943.



Volos

Rifka, in 1943 a 6 years old Jewish girl from Volos, was hidden in the village of Kryoneri in a rescue operation by Greek partisans. From October 1943 to October 1944 she survived under the protection of the villagers. Whenever German forces came close to the village during the partisan war, Rifka and other people on risk moved to a cave in a nearby forest.

In September 2017, Rifka visited Kryoneri with her children and grandchildren - a total of 70 descendants from Israel. The family had collected money to help renovate the open air theatre of the village. A plaque will be mounted soon. The overgrown path to the cave had been cleared by Greek, German, and Polish volunteers before, and Rifka was able to show her hiding place to her family. "Through the branches that covered the entrance to the cave I could see for three days a beautiful piece of blue sky", Rifka remembered. The sky is still beautiful.



Αυτό το Αμφιθέατρο ανακαινίστηκε με την υποστήριξη των οικογενειών Κίμχι και Γιακόμπι από το Ισραήλ, ως αναγνώριση και ευγνωμοσύνη προς τους κατοίκους του Κρυονερίου (Ματσανίου), των οποίων οι καλόψυχοι γονείς σας έκρυψαν την οικογένεια των Εβραίων γονέων μας Αψιγρώντας τον κίνδυνο από τους ναζιστές Γερμανούς, τους φιλοξένησαν την περίοδο 1943-1944

Όλοι εμείς ζούμε σήμερα, χάρη στον ηρωισμό τους και την αγάπη τους προς τους συνανθρώπους!

Σεπτέμβρης 2017

This amphitheater was renovated with the assistance of the Kimchi and Jacoby families from Israel in recognition and appreciation of the residents of Kryoneri (Matsani), where your kind-hearted parents hid the family of our Jewish parents; in spite of the risk involved, and courageously sheltered them from the Nazi Germans from 1943 to 1944.

Thanks to their heroism and love of mankind we all live today!

September 2017

Αυτό το Αμφιθέατρο ανακαινίστηκε με την υποστήριξη των οικογενειών Κίμχι και Γιακόμπι από το Ισραήλ, ως αναγνώριση και ευγνωμοσύνη προς τους κατοίκους του Κρυονερίου (Ματσανίου), των οποίων οι καλόψυχοι γονείς σας έκρυψαν την οικογένεια των Εβραίων γονέων μας Αψιγρώντας τον κίνδυνο από τους ναζιστές Γερμανούς, τους φιλοξένησαν την περίοδο 1943-1944

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Σεπτέμβρης 2017

A moving poem from **Tanais by Iossif Ventura** (the only surviving Jew from Hania) performed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt4ID6T9EGw&t=199s>

Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel



Jewish involvement in social action and aid to fellow Jews and non-Jews alike is legendary, going back hundreds, if not thousands of years. First and foremost, the Jewish philanthropic system which has supported autonomous Jewish existence for centuries is almost unsurpassed in its scope and success. Second, Jewish involvement, and even initiation in many cases, of "Tikkun Olam" – "fixing/repairing the world" as it were – is often so extensive that for many Jews, like it or not, it is a "religion" in itself.

Where does this extraordinary involvement in caring for others come from? The number of Jews involved in almost every type of civil and human rights activism is always totally disproportionate to their numbers both locally and globally, so it can't just be coincidence or a "good deed" that appeals to many people.

In fact, these actions and caring are actually part of our very essence as a people and even mandated by the Torah and Prophets and the most basic principles of Jewish law and ethics. Yes, first and foremost, the Torah and Judaism demands our full adherence to all the mitzvot, and we are also commanded to first take care of And while the mitzvot include those that mandate caring for one's fellow man, the first priority is always our own poor and disadvantaged before reaching out to others, the High Holidays themselves actually provide the roots of Jewish caring and repairing of the entire world.

As I have written in past columns, Rosh Hashanah is considered the Day of Judgment for the entire world, with the Jewish people being charged by God to act as defense attorney, as it were. The world may often not be such a great place, but it is the only one we have, and God commanded the Jewish nation to pray for all the others to ensure its continued existence. But Sukkot provides a much more extensive example of Jewish 'responsibility' for the welfare of the entire world.

Sukkot is actually a seven-day holiday which goes directly into an 8th day of a separate celebration called "Shmini Atzeret" – "The Eighth Day Assembly". The separate nature of the holidays is reflected in the Torah and Halachic rituals: There are 7 days of Sukkot sacrifices and a new sacrifice for Shmini Atzeret; we dwell in Sukkot for 7 days and on Shmini Atzeret do not; We say the 'shehehianu' blessing in Kiddush of the first day of Sukkot and then again in the Kiddush for Shmini Atzeret to indicate that they are two separate holidays.

It is the very nature of the 7-day Sukkot sacrifices that provide us with our basis for "Tikkun Olam". A total of 70 bullocks were offered as sacrifices over the 7-day period, in decreasing number each day: 13,12,11,10,9,8,7. Why 70? To symbolize the "70 nations of the world", which is the Torah's nickname for all non-Jewish nations. The idea of offering these sacrifices is to bring about God's forgiveness, atonement and peace for the entire world, and not only for the Jewish people, including many of our worst enemies. Furthermore, in Jewish tradition, all the nations of the world will eventually recognize God's dominion on earth and the special relationship between God and the Jewish people and celebrate Sukkot with us in the Temple in Jerusalem. This is one of the signs of the final redemption, which clearly demonstrates Judaism and Jews' care for the good and welfare of the outside world.

The separate holiday of Shmini Atzeret is indeed meant only for the Jewish people, as God rewards his special nation, after having extended themselves so spiritually for the sake of the entire world, with a "private" convocation with God alone, spiritually reinforcing, strengthening, and encouraging us to continue our work of making the world a better place as commanded. So "Tikkun Olam" is indeed part of our Jewish DNA! Hag Sameah!

Articles of Interest

Sicily

500 years after being wiped out, Sicilian Jewish life is reborn. Full article in the Times of Israel available [here](#).



Sukkoth in Venice



Repair of Jewish Synagogue in Alexandria Egypt

Full article [here](#)



Malta

The Jews in the Middle of the Sea - A tour through Malta's Jewish history. Full article [here](#).



Ankara

The Last Jews of Ankara: A Once-thriving Jewish Community Dwindles to Near-extinction. Full article [here](#).



Portugal

Portugal's Sneaky Sausage That Saved Jews. Full article [here](#).

Charleston, South Carolina

Sephardic Shabbaton in South Carolina Synagogue <http://shearithisrael.org/charleston>

Iraq

Exhibit on Jews of Iraq in Great Britain: <http://jewishmuseum.org.uk/sephardi-voices>



Research

From Elyse Sternbach Maltz

When I was in Corfu at my Great Grandfather's fabric shop, my Grandfather's nephew Rafael showed me this photo (Levi family photo attached below).

Rafael at the time asked me if I knew who these people were? It seems he himself did not know who they were. Until an hour ago, I thought that it was the Bacola Family too. My cousin Avraam in Athens just clarified this. He said these people are his Grandfather's Mother's family, Levis in Ioannina. His Grandmother was Masal Levi Bacola.

The shop is in the old city. It's still in the family. Rafael said "these were the people who went to America." He wanted us to take the photo but it was in pieces, cracking and covered in mold. So we photographed it. We tried matching the pieces up as best we could. I know the cracks go right through the faces. It was the best we could do at the time. This photo was so old and fragile beyond belief.

On another note my Grandfather David was Born in Filartes. But I think I remember hearing an Arta connection.

My Nona was Rebecca Mionis (Majonis). She was commonly known as Betty Bacolas, was born in Ioannina, and came over very young. The family name may have been changed to Majonis. My Uncle Louie told me that when he was registered at Kindergarten the name was changed by the ladies registering him. I do not know if this is true because he was a child. Then again, he told me this 90 years later so who knows? Unfortunately, I know no one on the Mionis side. Is there a Greek name Majonis used by families from Jannina other than my family?

Just now I was viewing the photos on the Holocaust roundup on KKJ's website. A few women there have such a striking resemblance to my Nona. I got goosebumps.

My Grandpa David Simon Bacola and Rebecca Majonis (Mionis) were married in KKJ. They lived at 106 Norfolk Street. As a teenager I went to a few memorial services at the Kehila. I remember sitting in the balcony many times. My Aunt Estelle was married there also in the 1950's.

I am cousin's with Annette Fromm. I know she went on the last trip to Greece. She and I are talking about going on the 2018 trip (G-d willing). Also Hy Genee was my mother's cousin through marriage.

Can you put the Levi photo in the newsletter? There is a slim chance others may know who they were by name. If you like you can post my Great Grandparent's family in case other people may have a copy. That means they may be family too.

If any of you can identify faces in these photos, contact us at museum@kkjism.org



Avraam Bacola and Mazalto Levy family in Ioannina



Esther and Joseph Mionis

Emily Udler is looking for a recipe:

"Do you know a dish that is made with spinach and chickpeas or eggplant and chickpeas?
I remember it from my mother but don't know how to make it."

Recipe for Prasa Keftedes

<http://www.seriousseats.com/recipes/2009/09/keftes-de-prasa-sephardic-style-leek-fritters-rosh-hashanah-jewish-recipe.html>



So many of you have applauded our efforts. We thank those who have sent in contributions.

If you would like to make a contribution to Kehila Kedosha Janina, please send your check (in US dollars) made out to *Kehila Kedosha Janina*, to us at 280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002 (attention Marcia). Your donation will enable us to continue to hold services and preserve our special traditions and customs, and to tell our unique story through our Museum.

When you are in New York, visit us on Broome Street. We are open for services every Saturday morning at 9:30am and all major Jewish holidays and our Museum is open every Sunday from 11am-4pm and by appointment during the week.



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October 2017

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280 Broome Street, New York NY 10002

Website: www.kkjsm.org

Email: museum@kkjsm.org

Your donations enable us to continue our work. You can send donations via mail directly to 280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002 or you can donate via our website www.kkjsm.org