



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

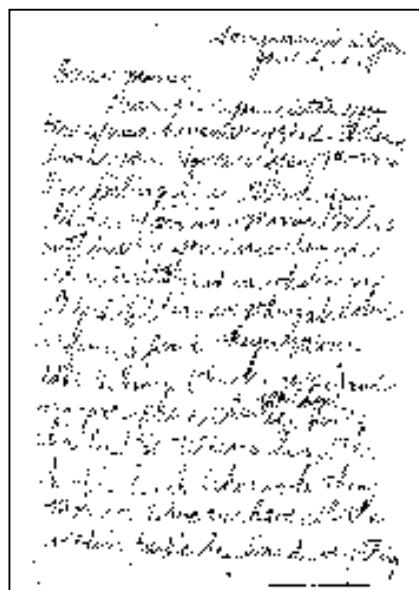
280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

November 2008 e-mail newsletter

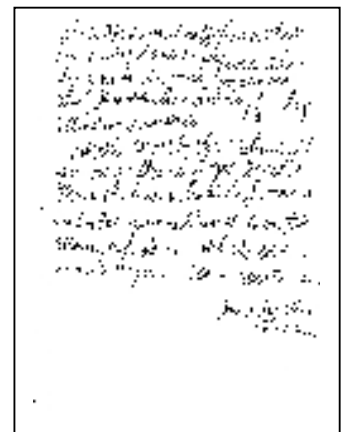
Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Our monthly e-newsletter has become a welcome addition in thousands of households around the world. We welcome new additions to our e-mail list. If you have friends or relatives who would like to receive the e-newsletter, please have them contact us at (kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net).

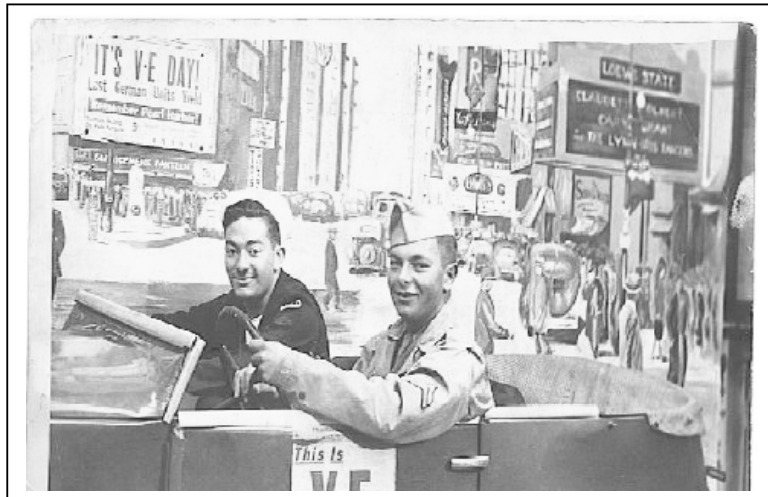
Our new exhibit, "Our Gang," the story of Greek Jewish participation in the United States Armed Forces during WWII, opened on November 2nd. The response of our community has been overwhelming and the turnout at the opening reception was heart-warming. Memorable moments at the opening included Jaki Silver (great niece of Mildred Barouch Coffina) reading excerpts from Mildred's newsletter "Our Gang" and Rose Attas Ferrari reading the last letter written by her uncle Nissim before he was killed in the Battle of the Bulge.



Nissim Attas
in Allen Street Park
and his last letter



Thanks to Marvin and Andrew Marcus, we were able to view a video of interviews of 6 of our veterans (Ralph Battino, Manny Battino, Isaac Cohen, Max Negrin, Morris Yomtov and Manny Levy of Blessed Memory). We are in the process of preparing the exhibit for inclusion in our website. The actual exhibit can be seen at Kehila Kedosha Janina on Sundays and during the week by special appointment. It will run through the end of October 2009, but the project "Our Gang" will continue. For those who have not yet submitted photos (in uniform), we are continuing to collect them and they will be available for viewing on our website. In addition, Marvin and Andrew will be continuing their interviews. If you wish to take part in this project, you can reach us at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net.



Marvin and Sol Barouch on V-E Day

David Bellel's blog now has an interview with Andrew Marcus, as Andrew shares his experiences and what he learned while filming these special veterans (<http://knickerbockervillage.blogspot.com/2008/11/our-gang-in-ww2.html>).

Last month, we saw the unfortunate passing of Dinah Yomtov Lafazan, sister of Morris and Hy Yomtov, and Mollie Feldman of the Cohen family of Ioannina. Our condolences go out to their families. They will be missed.

SAVE THE DATES

We are awaiting final prices for our 2009 tour to Jewish Greece but save the dates. We will be celebrating the 144th wedding anniversary of Jessoula and Rachel Colchamiro in the synagogue of Ioannina! Full tour will start on June 4th, and includes Rhodes for 3 days and, then, Salonika for 3 days, arriving in Ioannina on the 11th of June and staying there until the 15th. The tour will end in Athens. You can join us for the whole tour or any part of it. If you wish to be notified of the final prices for the tour, send your e-mail address to friends_greek_jewry@netzero.net.

MUSEUM NEWS

Thanks to an inquiry from Australia, we are beginning intensive research into the Negrin family. While we are interested in Negrins who came from Ioannina, we are fascinated with the extensive Diaspora of the Negrins, finding them in Greece, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, France, England, South America and, of course, the United States. Not

all Negrins are related, but we feel that this new area of research will give us a better understanding of the paths of immigration. Helping us in this research are David Colchamiro, Jonathan Alcantara, Gil Hassine and Mathilde Tagger. We are looking for the following information: dates of birth and death (if relevant), country of birth, year of emigration, ship manifests, entrance visas and any other information that will give us a clearer picture of their reasons for leaving Greece and their choices of new country of settlement. Pictures are always welcome.



We are also looking for photos of special occasions (both here in the United States and in Greece: Bar Mitzvahs, dinners, family gatherings, etc.)



Bar Mitzvah of Irwin Josephs: December 25, 1937

We are interesting in gathering information on past Sisterhood of Janina Presidents, especially their dates of service (again, photos are always welcome).

This upcoming Yom HaShoah we would like to bring together at Kehila Kedosha Janina Greek Righteous who risked their lives to save Jews during the Occupation of Greece and members of the family they saved. Where usually we look to find the Righteous, in this instance we know the family who saved Jews but we are looking for representatives of the Jewish family to join us a Kehila Kedosha Janina for Yom HaShoah. This is the story. We are hoping someone can put us in touch with a descendant of the Solomon family:

"Isaac Solomon, a textile importer and merchant, lived with his family in Trikala, Thessaly, where he was also president of the Jewish community. He owned a shop both in his hometown and in Athens and following the German invasion of Greece in 1941, he felt that his family would be safer in the capital. After a series of temporary accommodations, he moved his family – wife, Lucie, infant son, Isaac, and daughters, Rene (later Florentin) and Julia (later Nachman) – to the home of Ioannis and Eleni Andriopoulou. Eleni (nicknamed Nitsa) was born in Trikala and came to Athens in 1931 when she married John (Ioannis) a Greek born in the United States who had returned to Greece and settled on an estate in Chalandri, a suburb of Athens. There were frequently visitors at the estate and Solomon felt that the family would be safer elsewhere. He turned for help to Ioanna Moumoutzi, who he knew from the Athen's offices of the transport firm Schenker & Co., which he often used for business. She found a hiding place in Kallithea, Athens, at the apartment of Ioanna's fiancé's sister,

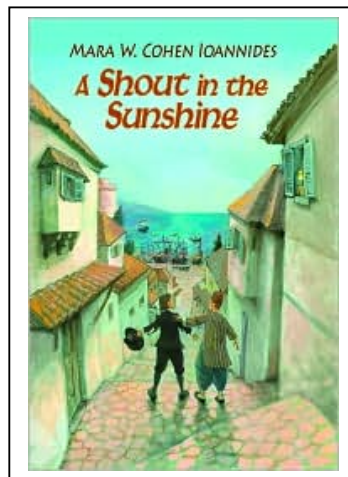
Aspasia and her husband, Themis Ioannidis, a well-known journalist. Ioanna introduced the Solomons as her relatives from Trikala. They received false identity cards with Greek names: Isaac became Solon Antonopoulos; his wife, Lucie – Loukia; the children, Julia – Lolla, Isaac – Izis, and Rene – Roula. Ioanna took care of their needs as well as of their business until the end of the war. Along with her fiancé Sotiris Panayotopoulos, who was a customs clerk, she cleared goods for Solomon that were in the customhouse in Athens, and brought them to Solomon, who kept changing his place of residence. By selling the merchandise, the family managed to earn an income. Ioanna acted throughout the war years on behalf of the Solomons without any financial recompense. After they left Kallithea, moving to other hideouts, she carried on managing their business. After the liberation, the Solomons maintained contact with their rescuers.”

On January 26, 1994, Yad Vashem recognized Ioanna and Sotiris Panayotopoulos, Themis and Aspasia Ioannidi, and Ioannis and Eleni Andriopoulou, as Righteous Among the Nations.

(Information courtesy of Yad Vashem).

We applaud the success of our friends.

Mara W. Cohen Ioannides, author of “A Shout in the Sunshine,” will be giving a multi-media presentation and book discussion on “A Shout in the Sunshine” on Tuesday, November 25th at 7:30pm in the Princeton Public Library’s Community Room. “A Shout in the Sunshine” is a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award and on the Skipping Stones Honors Award list. This event is free and open to the public and sponsored by the Princeton Public Library and Princeton’s Hadassah Book Club. The presentation includes colorful pictures, music, discussion, and refreshments.



For information on how to get to the library contact Janie Herman at the Princeton Library at JHermann@princetonlibrary.org or go to their website <http://www.princetonlibrary.org/about/hours.html>.

Kehila Kedosha Janina is proud to include “A Shout in the Sunshine” among the books we offer for sale.

Congratulations to Arlene Matza who co-wrote a song on the newly released Hello Kitty, Hello World. For more information [http://www.aletheamusic.com/Hello_Kitty](http://www.aletheamusic.com>Hello_Kitty)

Joel Bresler is pleased to announce the launch of a new web site, www.sephardicmusic.org. The site chronicles the first 100 years of commercial Sephardic recordings. It includes survey articles on the 78 and modern eras, a comprehensive discography of Sephardic 78s, and a sample of what a future discography of modern-era recordings could look like. Joel has taken advantage of the web's multimedia capabilities to expand well beyond the normal contents of a discography (artist, title, place and date recorded, etc.) Wherever possible, label graphics and sound samples were included. Joel has worked for over ten years on this project and we applaud his commitment and energy.

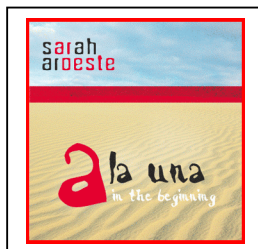
Haim Effendi 1907



Sarah Aroeste will be taking part in a program at the Center For Jewish History (15 West 16th Street, NYC) on Wednesday, Nov. 19th at 7:00

Young artists: Exploring our heritage: A Journey where art meets history

For additional information: info@americansephardifederation.org



We are proud to offer Sarah's music for sale at Kehila Kedosha Janina. Check our book list at www.kkjsm.org.

NEWS FROM GREECE

Archaeologists in northern Greece have found the remains of a Stone Age homestead left intact for about 6,000 years, the culture ministry said on Thursday.

"This is a rare case where the antiquities remained undisturbed by farming or other activities for around 6,000 years," the ministry said in a statement.

The dwelling had been destroyed in a fire but its residents had time to flee taking most of their valuable stone tools with them, the ministry said.



Instead, archaeologists found a large number of clay vessels, millstones, some stone tools and two home furnaces.

The rectangular 58-square-metre structure was built in the fourth millennium BC. It stood on stilts, and its outer wooden frame was filled with a mixture of branches and reeds covered in clay, while straw mats lay on the floor. The homestead had indoor areas dedicated to the preparation of cereals and the storage of farm produce.

It was discovered near the town of Aridaia in central Macedonia prefecture between March and July during works to upgrade the local water mains network.

Thanks to Jack Cohen of Germantown Tennessee.

Rhodes

Thursday, October 30, 2008

Report From Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece

"Following our Board's protest for the desecration of the Holocaust Memorial in Rhodes last August by a group of neo-nazi students of the Venetokleio senior high school, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Platis, visited the school and addressed the students.

The deplorable deeds committed by the self-proclaimed "Anti-Semitic Group of the Venetokleio" were broadcasted on You Tube in a video showing a young man urinating on the Memorial with a musical base of rock sound and violent anti-Semitic lyrics. The students, who denied having any knowledge of the desecration or any connection to neo-nazi activities, announced to the representative of the Ministry the decision of their students council to lay a wreath on the Holocaust Memorial as a tribute to the Jewish victims of Nazism.

The wreath-laying ceremony took place on October 28, Greek National Day for the Greek military victory against the Italian fascist forces in 1940-'41. The ceremony was attended by the deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Valinakis, the President of our Board Mr. M. Constantinis and the Vice President of the Rhodes Jewish Community Mr. B. Albalas.

It is also worth mentioning that the Public Prosecutor of Rhodes ordered the abrogation of law protecting Internet confidentiality so that the Authority against

Electronic Crimes traces down those responsible for the video broadcasted on YouTube.

Update on Rhodes thanks to Shelomo Alfassa.

Salonika

On October 26th, 27th and 28th, the Fourth International Conference on Judeo-Spanish Studies took place in Thessaloniki. The theme of the conference was Satirical Texts in Judeo-Spanish by and about the Jews of Thessaloniki.

Information thanks to Leon Saltiel.

Contact us for the full program.

American Jewish Committee Appalled by Greek Newspaper's Unabashed anti-Semitism

November 4, 2008 – New York – The American Jewish Committee expressed anger at the front-page headline in today's issue of *Avriani*, a mainstream daily newspaper in Greece.

The newspaper's headline, in bold letters, read: "The anticipated victory of Obama in the U.S. elections signals the end of Jewish domination. Everything changes in the USA and we hope that it will be more democratic and humane."

"This vile and scurrilous headline draws on classic anti-Semitic canards of Jewish conspiracy and domination," said AJC Executive Director David A. Harris. "How could any responsible media outlet peddle such outright nonsense?"

Harris added: "Opinion polls consistently show that Senator Obama will receive from two-thirds to three-fourths of the votes of American Jews. Thus, according to the newspaper's perverse logic, Jews are voting overwhelmingly for 'the end of Jewish domination.' In reality, Jews, like other Americans, celebrate democracy, participate in the political system across the spectrum, and engage in a wide range of civic activity. To suggest something darker and more sinister is to distort reality beyond recognition and fan the flames of religious and ethnic hatred."

"We fully recognize that Greece, as a democracy, enjoys freedom of the press," Harris concluded, "and we also understand that the views of *Avriani* – which has a history of anti-Semitic agitation – are its own, not the nation's. In that spirit, we hope to hear the voices of those in Greece who recognize these views for what they are – unabashed anti-Semitism."

AJC and the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece have been longstanding partners. AJC has often visited Greece, met with its leaders, and sought to build strong bonds of friendship, while also maintaining close ties with the Greek Orthodox Church and the Greek-American community.

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