



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

July 2011 e-mail newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Having just returned from Greece, this e-newsletter will give us the opportunity to share some of our experiences. We visited Thessaloniki, Kavala, Ioannina, Corfu and Athens with a daytrip to Albania. See our article on 2011 Tour to Jewish Greece. July marks the 67th anniversary of the deportation of the Jews of Rhodes, and this issue is dedicated to the memory of those who perished from Rhodes.

**The family of Stella Levi
(1924)**



This newsletter, our 42nd 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 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.

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 foods) is sufficient. If you wish to sponsor a Kiddush for a special occasion or an Adara, contact Sol.

Passings

This month we lost some very special people.

Lola Matsas, the widow of Michael Matsas, passed away in Ioannina. Lola was born Eleanora Levy in Trikkala. She was a brave young woman who, with her family, left Trikkala and went to the mountains during the Second World War. After the survivors came back from the camps, she came to Ioannina and married Michael Matsas. Lola is survived by two sons, Makis and Solon. Our sympathies to her family.

David Negrin, long-time member of the Board of the Sephardic Home for the Aged, passed away in Georgia, where he had lived for the past few years. David's family came from Ioannina and he was proud of the Greek-Jewish roots. He is survived by his wife, Rhea, and children, Neil, Douglas and Beth. Our condolences to his family.

Terry Battino, wife of Abraham Battino, passed away in Florida after a long battle with cancer. Our condolences to her family.

Gloria Goldstein Aronoff of the Matza family passed away in California at the age of 71. Our thanks to Rhonda Matza-Amira Saldias for keeping us informed and our condolences to Gloria's family.

Celebrations

Births

Matthew N. Sykora was born on May 25th, the son of Esty Kaplan and Michael Sykora, the grandson of Bea Myones of Blessed Memory.

Jonathan Elias Davidowitz was born on June 22, the son of Joshua Abraham Davidowitz & Anke Deistler, the grandson of Karen (Rosa) Davidowitz, the great-grandson of Ralph(Raphael) & Jane(Gentile Halegua) Rosa (of Blessed Memory).

Gershon Harris celebrates the birth of his 9th grandchild, a grandson born to his son Yonah and daughter-in-law Michal.

On June 11th, a special Bar Mitzvah was celebrated in the sanctuary of Kehila Kedosha Janina. The Bar Mitzvah boy, Joseph Zambelas, the son of Rita and Mickey Zambelas, grandson of Sophie and Harvey Beitler (of Blessed Memory) and great-grandson of Morris & Mollie Matsil (both of Blessed Memory). Officiating at the Bar Mitzvah was Sol Matsil, son of Rabbi Bechoraki Matsil of Blessed Memory. Morris and Bechoraki were brothers.



Mickey, Joseph & Rita Zambelas

We congratulate Jenna Shapiro on her Bat Mitzvah. Jenna is the daughter of Beth (Pardo) & Craig Shapiro, granddaughter of Jerry & Linda Pardo, great-granddaughter of Isaac [Red] & Betty Mione Pardo, great-great granddaughter of Abraham Mione and Rachel Mazza of Ioannina.



We recently celebrated two special 90th birthday celebrations: Eleanor Cohen (of the Negrin family) and Bella Cowen (from the Atun & Azouvi families of Larissa and Kavala)

Pidyon HaBen at Kehila Kedosha Janina. On Sunday, July 3rd, we were honored to be chosen the location for the Pidyon HaBen of Max (Menachem Israel) Hakimian, son of Shara (Golden) Hakimian and Payam Hakimian. Little Max is the grandson of Esther & Martin Golden. Esther's family (Cohen) came from Greece. The baby's father's family is from Iran.



Payam carries his son on the Bema for the Pidyon HaBen

Payam, Max & Shara Hakimian

Upcoming Museum Events

Sunday, July 24, 1:00-Booksigning

Due to an unfortunately accident, Isaac Benatar was unable to present his book, "Rhodes and the Holocaust" at a previously scheduled book signing. He is well and will be at Kehila Kedosha Janina on Sunday, July 24th. This book signing is timed to coincide with the 67th anniversary of the deportation of the Jewish Community of Rhodes. Members of Isaac's own family were among those deported. Join us for this special event. Join us in remembering the Jewish Community of Rhodes.



June was a busy month at Kehila Kedosha Janina and we were honored with the visits of many groups, among them Congregation Kol Am.



Congregation Kol Am



Sol Kofinas tells our story

Upcoming Events of Interest

New York

SAVE THE DATES

This year the Brotherhood of Janina will be honoring two past presidents, Sol Matsil (son of Rabbi Bechoraki Matsil of Blessed Memory) and Marty Genee (son of Hy Genee of Blessed Memory). How appropriate that these two men, both sons of past spiritual leaders of our community, should be honored. The apples did not fall far from the trees. The Brotherhood of Janina, founded in 1907, is still a very active organization, providing proper burial for member families. In Judaism, it is incumbent upon Jews to provide a proper burial and, often, the first organization established is a burial society, even before the construction of a synagogue. Such was the case in the Janina community in New York.



Sol Matsil



**Marty Genee (6 months old)
Awaiting an updated photo.**

Saturday, October 22, the Brotherhood of Janina will be providing the kiddush at a special Shabbat service, in honor of their two honorees, Sol Matsil and Marty Genee, at Kehila Kedosha Janina (280 Broome Street). Services are set to start at 9:00 am. Do join us.

Sunday, October 23, Gala Dinner Dance, Oceanside Jewish Center (2860 Brower Avenue) at 4:00 pm.

Additional information will follow.

On the weekend of June 24-26, the Pashas met at the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa in Kerhonkson New York. A great time was had by all.



Marvin Marcus and Harley Matsil families



Greek Sing-along



Rachel Modiano



Lois Ledner and Phyllis Marcus



Greek Dancing

News from Jewish Greece

Hania Crete

On June 21st at 8:00 pm, a memorial service was held at Etz hayyim Synagogue in Hania Crete in memory of the Jews of Crete who perished in the Holocaust. It is now 67 years since their deaths. The Jews of Crete never made it to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The ship they were on, having been rounded up by the Germans in June of 1944, was bombed by the British and sunk off the coast of Santorini. May their memory be preserved for eternity.

Thessaloniki

On June 20th, 31 survivors of the Nazi concentration camps (30 Jewish and 1 Greek-Orthodox Christian), all presently living in Thessaloniki, were honored by the Jewish Community, the Greek Orthodox Church and the Municipality of Thessaloniki.

Those honored were: Matika Azaria, Korina Antzel, Flora Antzel, Raphael Varsano, Tzilda Yomtov, Benaimin Kapon, Rachel Koen, Sterina Koen, Zozet Kounio, Heinz Kounio, Flora Michael, Bella Barzilai, Nina-Lili Benroubi, Rachel Parente, Isaak-Izzy Revach, Rachel Revach, Rina-Reina Revach, Anna Satzoulou, Dario Saltiel, Rozi Saltiel, Miriam-Amilia Saoul, Raoul Saporta, Gracia Sasson, Sylvia Sevi, Anneta Sevi-Nachmia, Vaso Stamatiou, Sultana Taraboulous, Kolomba Tzivre, Oscar Florentin and Samuel Franses.

Unfortunately, on day preceding the event, there was a desecration of the Holocaust Memorial in Thessaloniki.



There was immediate condemnation of the desecration by the secular and religious leaders of Thessaloniki and the Greek government.

The following is a press-release from David Saltiel (President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities of Greece; KIS):

A group of neo-Nazis vandalized the Holocaust Memorial in Thessaloniki with swastikas and antisemitic slogans. KIS condemns this action and calls again on authorities to take all necessary measures to protect the Holocaust Monument in the city, which reminds everyone of the brutality with which Nazism led 50,000 Jewish citizens of Thessaloniki to the industrialized death camps. KIS also calls for the arrest of offenders who violate the dignity and culture of this city, highlighting anti-Semitic fury simultaneously with the decision of the Municipality of Thessaloniki

to commemorate this coming Monday, June 20, 2011 the 31 victims of the Holocaust who survived Hitler's camps, thus expressing respect for the historical memory.

We are confident that the authorities, the Church and the institutions of the city will condemn such brutal acts that contravene the values of the Greek Republic.

The desecration was also condemned by Minister of Education Anna Diamantopoulou.

From May 22-June 6, the Association of Friends of Greek Jewry visited Greece. We visited Thessaloniki (the Jewish Museum, both synagogues and the Jewish cemetery), Kavala (Jewish cemetery), Ioannina (synagogue & cemetery), Corfu (synagogue) and Athens (Jewish Museum). In addition, we spent a fascinating day in Albania. Our group was a mixture of those with roots in Greece and interested Ashkenazim who wanted to experience our own "special" Greece. We had members of our group who had roots in Thessaloniki, Kavala and Ioannina. Our tours are very special. We don't just see the sights (Jewish & non-Jewish). We interact with the Jews of Greece. In Saloniki, Heinz Kounio gives our groups a special tour of the Museum of the Jewish Presence in Thessaloniki, a tour made so much more meaningful because Heinz is a survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau. In Ioannina, we join with the Jewish Community for Friday night Shabbat services and the community joins us for a special Friday night dinner at the Hotel DuLac. If you are interested in joining us next year, contact the Association at friends_greek_jewry@netzero.net.



Synagogue in Thessaloniki

Heinz Kounio &
Louise Rostker
(of Atoun & Azouvi
Families)



Group in front of Holocaust Memorial in Ioannina



Debby & Michael
Kelton looking
at names of
victims on wall
Ioannina
synagogue



Group in front of Holocaust memorial in Corfu



Rose-Ellen David in front of Family home in Ioannina



Emotional meeting of cousins Moses Eliasof & Linda Eliasof Krieger



Monis Errera, Simon Frances, Roula Frances, Louise Rostker & Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos
Roula & Louise are possible cousins from the Atoun family and Marcia and Monis are researching their possible Errera relationship.



Butrint Albania



Over the course of the years, the Association has often raised funds to help in restoration projects in Greece. Therefore, as we toured through Greece, we gathered information on present needs.

In Kavala, the Jewish cemetery is in need of repair. Estimated cost is \$25,000. The cemetery is all that remains to remind us of the Jewish presence in Kavala (deported by the Bulgarians in March of 1943).



In Ioannina, the community is in need of funds to repair 5 tikkim severely damaged last year. Because of the antiquity of the tikkim, specialists from the Byzantine Antiquities in Athens will be doing the repairs. The cost will be \$5000 per tik for a total of \$25,000.



Damaged Tik (Note: Torah has been repaired with funds raised by the Sisterhood of Janina)

Isaac Dostis, founder of the Museum at Kehila Kedosha Janina, now living in Ioannina, has envisioned a memorial to the Second Synagogue of Ioannina, which once stood outside the Kastro walls. The "New" Synagogue, as it was known, was used by the Germans as a stable and had to be destroyed after the war. An apartment building, where most of the Jewish community

now resides, and the Jewish Community offices were erected on the site of the former synagogue. Isaac would like to create a memorial in the courtyard consisting of a replica of the door to the former synagogue and an area where people can come and remember and reflect. Total cost is estimated at \$2,500.



For all of these projects, contact us at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net. Funds for Ioannina will be handled by Kehila Kedosha Janina. Funds for Kavala by the Association.

Shalom to one and all!
Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel



Hello everyone. In this, my third column for the KKJ bulletin, I would like to present another interesting Jewish "culinary" issue, if you will, especially relevant to Sephardim, and that is whether there is any prohibition of eating fish together with milk and dairy products. That's right: not meat with milk, which needs no elaboration, nor even meat with fish, which, though technically a stringency, is strictly observed by Kosher-keeping Jews the world over. No, we are talking about not consuming fish together with dairy. Sound strange? Never heard of this before? Well, you wouldn't be alone, because, in fact, there is a basic discrepancy if this so-called prohibition is fact really any prohibition at all! (*By the way, a crucial point of clarification: The issue is literally consuming the fish/dairy combination in the same mouthful, and not eating one immediately after the other, no matter in what order, which is perfectly fine, though when it comes to eating meat/fish after one another, it is customary to drink something in between*). Assuming there is some sort of prohibition of eating fish and dairy together, then what about that most Jewish of ethnic foods, lox, bagels and cream-cheese? Creamed herring, served at myriads of Sabbath Kiddushes and Sisterhood/Brotherhood brunches? In fact, both the Talmud and practical Jewish law consider fish to be "parve", i.e. edible with either meat or dairy, so what is exactly the problem? Is it really possible that the great majority of those who consider themselves strictly Kosher, would consider eating '*treif*' – and enjoying it, to boot!? What nonsense, many would say! And in fact, at least according to certain interpretations, this is not far from the truth.....

It all goes back to a seemingly out-of-place statement by the Sephardic author of the "Shulhan Aruch" – the Code of Jewish Law – the great and holy Yosef Karo, in his commentary called the "Beit Yosef" on an earlier Code of Jewish Law (the "*Tur Shulhan Aruch*"). In a section discussing specifically the idea of not eating fish together with meat, Yosef Karo suddenly adds that fish should not be eaten together with 'milk' because it is 'dangerous', i.e., health-wise. And as support for this idea, he refers the reader to another section of the Code, which cites the necessity of washing one's hands between even handling fish and meat/meat and fish, because of that 'danger'. But nothing in this reference even hints at any fish/dairy combination, and in fact in his own Code, Yosef Karo openly confirms the 'parve' nature of fish, making no mention at all of any problem of eating fish and milk/dairy together!

Based on this one time anomaly of the appearance of the word 'milk' in a discussion completely limited to the issue of fish and meat, Karo's Ashkenazi counterpart, Moses Isserles, and virtually all other Ashkenazi Sages of the time, simply dismissed this as a mistake, totally discarding any possibility of any prohibition of eating fish with milk or cheese! Therefore, among Ashkenazim, there ostensibly never was, nor is there now, any problem, so bring on that lox and cream cheese! Furthermore, one of Ashkenazi Jewry's greatest later Sages – the "*Hatam Sofer*" – is even more unequivocal: He dismisses the entire episode as the result of a typographical error, and insists that it should have read 'meat' and not 'milk' in the original text. Therefore, not only is there no prohibition, the entire basis is simply wrong and never existed in the first place! Given the fact that the same Hatam Sofer led the anti-Reform movement in its time by insisting that no innovations be introduced at any level in Judaism, including the elimination of so many 'traditions' that Reform considered at best obsolete and at worst of very questionable origin, his unequivocal dismissal of a written text by virtue of a printer's error is unprecedented. Yet the entire Ashkenazi world – at least until the advent of Hassidism – never had any issue with eating fish together with milk or any kind of dairy products in any way, shape or form.

But in the Sephardic world things were not so clear. Based on a much greater reluctance of 'correcting' or questioning anything Yosef Karo says in the Sephardic world, the famous "Ben Ish Hai", Rabbi Yosef Haim, of Baghdad, though obviously troubled by Karo's ostensible fish/milk stringency versus the clear status of fish as a totally parve food, basically accepts at face value the original statement of Karo, backing up the idea of some specific health hazard caused by a fish-milk combination with several other Sephardic Sages' opinions, though many actual distinguish between eating fish with milk and cheese- which is the unhealthy combination, and the consumption of fish and butter or any other dairy-based fat, which apparently does not put the person's health at risk. Later Sephardic Rabbinical leaders even quote doctors they consulted, many of whom confirmed the harmful and dangerous food combination of fish and milk/dairy including one opinion who defines the specific danger as being leprosy. Obviously, other physicians dismissed these ideas as total nonsense, and it is far from clear that the entire Sephardic world pursued a uniform approach to the issue.

This dichotomy is clearly illustrated in my own immediate family: One son-in-law, whose strictly Orthodox father and family came from the city of Tunis, the capitol of Tunisia, never heard of any such restriction and certainly never kept it; Yet one of our daughters-in-law, whose parents were born and raised in the island of Gherba, also in Tunisia, follows the prohibition strictly. Likewise a son-in-law and daughter-in-law from Persian (Iranian) backgrounds, who are both strict about not consuming fish and milk together. Further investigation on my part revealed that Moroccan Jews also basically follow this prohibition, though there seems to be a difference between those who come from the larger urban centers than those who originate in the Atlas Mountains and countryside.

What does your family do? Anyone out there observe the prohibition of eating fish and dairy foods simultaneously? Anyone remember what their families did in Greece and/or other countries? All replies are welcome!

Articles of Interest

We are all aware of the present financial crisis in Greece. Many in the foreign press have seen fit to criticize Greece. We are thankful to Marcella Leontsini Mitilineos for the following article:

Five hundred years of foreign rule, followed by a century of war and atrocities... is it any surprise that the Greek economy today is in crisis?

By Michael Hanlon

DAILY MAIL 21/06/2011

Greece, everyone increasingly seems to agree, is a basket case. As its economic crisis deepens, politicians and pundits are queuing up to demand its expulsion from the Euro, even the EU itself, and let this nation of work-shy orientalist scroungers, whingers and layabouts go to the third-world hell where it belongs.

There is an alternative view. Greece is not perfect. Its politicians have indeed been corrupt, useless and lazy. But having lived in the country for a short time in the 1980s and having got to know a little of its people and history, I can see another side of Greece that needs to be taken into account: one which makes the current wave of hostility seem laughably unfair.

First, some history; not ancient history, of which Greece has aplenty, but the more recent, relevant stuff of which it has, sadly, rather too much as well.

By early 1941 only one major nation still stood free, shoulder to shoulder with the British Empire and actively fighting against the Nazis. That country was not America, which was still sitting on the fence, nor the USSR, which was still on the wrong side, but Greece, a country parts of which, remember, had only won their independence from the Turks in the 1920s.

When Mussolini invaded in 1940 his large, organized and hi-tech Italian army was soundly thrashed by the Greeks, whose soldiers may have been poorly equipped (they actually had no tanks at all and only a few ancient aircraft) but fought like dragons.

This was the first Allied victory in the War, and was hugely damaging to Axis morale, so much so that some historians argue that the Greeks gave Hitler pause for thought in his plans to invade the USSR. Nobody derided Greece as a nation of feckless layabouts then; as Churchill said, 'Hence we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks.'

Greece was, in the end, invaded by the Wehrmacht. And this is where things get really nasty. The behaviour of occupied nations and their peoples during WW2 remains hugely controversial. Who collaborated and to what degree, who protected "their" Jews, whose resistance was most effective: these are questions that are open sores in the European psyche to this day and will keep historians busy for centuries.

What is not controversial is that Greece put up fiercer resistance to Nazi occupation than just about anywhere else, and paid a terrible price.

Throughout the War, groups of Andartes (resistance fighters) ambushed German supply lines, killed and captured senior Nazi and Italian commanders and generally made life hell for the occupiers.

When they could, the Germans exacted a terrible revenge: go to the village of Kandanos in western Crete and you can see the plaque in memory of the massacre that took place after one well-executed resistance operation.

Greek resistance, notably matched by that put up by anti-fascist partisans from Bulgaria and Yugoslavia to the north, was fierce, unrelenting and well-organized across all classes of society from the clergy to the aristocracy to the humblest peasants.

Greek collaboration certainly existed, but to a far lesser extent than was seen in just about any other occupied European country.

Some 300,000 civilians died in Athens alone during the years 1942-43; in the occupation, between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of the entire Greek civilian population perished, with the bulk of the casualties among the young, economically active classes. More than 80 per cent of Greek Jews were murdered by the Nazis and again these people formed a substantial part of the Greek professional, intellectual and entrepreneurial class.

By 1944, Greek industry was in ruins, the nation's wealth looted, its fields untilled and its livestock starving; a million people homeless and the economy plundered. Along with Poland and parts of the occupied Soviet Union, Greece can lay claim to have suffered more than any other nation during the conflict.

Then, after Liberation, came a ghastly civil war, which killed another 50,000 and made a million more homeless. Then a brief period of democracy followed by a US -backed military coup and finally, in the 1970s, a democracy again.

That's a lot of history in a short time. Many individual people will have lived through it all; indeed, a handful may be still alive today. Five hundred years of Turkish rule, followed by a century of war, occupation, atrocities, superpower meddling, self-inflicted misery and coups. So it is not surprising that the Greek economy today is not in the best of shape.

Last year, two German MPs suggested "helpfully" that Greece might consider selling a couple of its islands to help pay off its debt. I can only imagine how this advice was received by the ancient widows of Crete who, to this day, can remember all too well what happened the last time northern Europeans thought it might be a good idea to grab the Greek archipelago.

You may not buy the line that Greece is the birthplace of Western Civilisation or democracy. You may go there on holiday or business and be struck by the contrast between the supposed ordered meritocracy of Classical Athens and the shambolic, corrupt chaos of today's Hellenes.

World War Two was a long time ago and no one can hark back to past glories or injustices forever. Greece has been borrowing money at German interest rates and not matching it with German productivity and you can hardly blame today's Germany, or anywhere else for that matter, for today's Greek woes.

All fair enough. But do not forget that this tiny, relatively poor, rural nation of argumentative monks, shepherds, fishermen and a few intellectuals kept fascism at bay along Europe's southern flank for a few precious months and, if this really did stop Hitler invading Russia until it was too

late for him to win, we may have the Greeks as much as anyone to thank for the fact that we are not speaking German. We owe them more than they us, and let us not forget that.

Greece Jails U.S. Captain in Gaza Flotilla

New York Times

By SCOTT SAYARE

Published: July 2, 2011

ATHENS — The American captain of a United States-flagged boat in the planned flotilla to Gaza was jailed Saturday, a day after trying to sail out of port, flotilla organizers said.

A judge contended that the boat, The Audacity of Hope, was not carrying proper safety equipment and charged the captain, John Klusmire, with "disturbing sea traffic and endangering passengers," a felony, and with disobeying an official directive, a misdemeanor, said Ann Wright, an organizer.

The flotilla was organized to challenge the Israeli naval blockade of the Gaza Strip.

On Friday, Greece's Ministry of Citizen Protection banned all vessels from leaving Greek ports for the "maritime area of Gaza." The police had also ordered The Audacity of Hope to remain docked until the port authorities provided the results of an inspection. After waiting one week for the inspection results, however, organizers decided to sail without Greek authorization.

Just 20 minutes after the boat left port near Athens on Friday, the coast guard stopped it and escorted it to a military dock. The police told Mr. Klusmire and his crew to remain aboard. On Saturday, Mr. Klusmire was summoned to a court in the port city of Piraeus, Ms. Wright said. A second hearing for Mr. Klusmire is scheduled for Tuesday.

Separately, an investigation by the Turkish police concluded that claims by Irish flotilla organizers that their boat had been sabotaged while docked in Turkey were erroneous, according to a report in the Turkish newspaper Hurriyet that was confirmed by an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Israeli officials had until Saturday dismissed as absurd conspiracy theorizing the suggestion that Israeli agents had sabotaged the Irish boat and another flotilla vessel, while declining to deny the accusations outright.

But on Saturday, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Yigal Palmor, said, "There is no evidence of any sabotage, and we didn't do it."

Ethan Bronner contributed reporting from Jerusalem.

We thank Leon Saltiel for this short video for the article above and for the photos below.

While most of the demonstrations in Israel were in support of Greece, there were leftists who come out in opposition to Greece's actions.



The sign in Hebrew reads "Exchange our Leftists for Gilad Shalit."

Responses to June e-newsletter

Thank you so much for this!! I read every word of it, and it transported me to my parents homeland and once again, my heart is exposed to their past....and I understand them just a little bit more.

Gentil Smith
Redondo Beach, CA

In Response to 1958 photo of Pasha dinner dance:

While my eyesight isn't that great, it looks like three of my cousins are sitting at the front table in the picture of the 1958 Pasha dinner Dance.

Would you know if from left to right (in front) whether that is a picture of Bernice Calef Fern, Lou Calef and Rhoda Calef ?

Best Regards,
Joan Ganis Kranitz

Glad I opened it...my father is in the first picture from the 1958 Pashas dinner dance, with his first wife, his brother Alvin and my aunt Annette Matsil, and my grandparents, Anna and Isaac. They are in the center just below the dance floor. I love it!

Leah Matsil

Marcia,

My parents and brothers and their wives are very obvious in that photo of the 1958 Pasha dinner. I was in the service (Navy) at the time or else I might have been there as well.

..... Bob Matsil

For Joe Varon:

Ma Nishtana in Greek (thanks to Haim Ischakis):

ΜΑ ΝΙΣΣΤΑΝΑ – ΣΕ ΤΙ ΞΕΧΩΡΙΖΕΙ

Σε τι ξεχωρίζει αυτή η νύχτα από όλες τις άλλες νύχτες;

Γιατί ενώ όλες τις άλλες νύχτες δεν βουτάμε ούτε μία φορά, απόψε βουτάμε δύο φορές!

Γιατί ενώ όλες τις άλλες νύχτες τρώμε ή ψωμί ή άζυμα, απόψε τρώμε μόνο άζυμα!

Γιατί ενώ όλες τις άλλες νύχτες τρώμε κάθε είδους λαχανικά, απόψε τρώμε μόνο πικρά χόρτα!

Γιατί ενώ όλες τις άλλες νύχτες τρώμε άλλος καθισμένος αναπαυτικά και άλλος όχι, απόψε τρώμε όλοι καθισμένοι αναπαυτικά!

We thank Rose Eskononts, President of the Sisterhood of Janina, for passing this on to us. We loved it so much we are reprinting it.

Sisterhood of Janina,

This is Isidore Izzy and Pat Battino, Clemson S.C.

Isidore[Izzy]Battino was born 1927 at 275 Broome St, NYC. Mother-Sarah Cantos Battino, Father Joseph Battino. Mother and Father came to America just before WW1. Grandfather and Grandmother, Issac and Stella Cantos helped build the Broome St. Synagogue, purchase land in Brooklyn to bury their dead, and started the Brotherhood of Janina.

I attended the synagogue, now a museum, for 17 years before entering the Armed services in WW2.

I love my Greek , Jewish heritage. My success in public school teaching and coaching is thanks to what I learned on the East Side of NYC. The University Settlement House, first social agency established in USA, on Eldridge St., developed my gymnastic skills. Those skills led me to go to college,G.I.Bill, become a successful teacher and Coach. I developed many champions, won alot, and was honored into the Conn. Hall of Fame in 2002..

This Greek Jewish boy had the "American Dream", and it all started at the Brotherhood and Synagogue of Janina.

Requests

I am a U.S. journalist working on a personal documentary project to learn more about my Greek ancestors from Turkey. I didn't know my grandparents from Turkey, and I am looking for former

residents of my grandparents' village, Kiouplia (KéïōðëéÜ) -- alternately spelled Kouplia. Greek-speaking people were forced out in 1921. The town was closer to Constantinople than Smyrna, inland, near Brousa on the Kerasou River. According to a book I have from around 1900, the breakdown of the population of several thousand included mostly Greek Christians, some Muslim Turks, and a number Armenians and Jewish people. Sadly the men were rounded up and sent into exile, and many were never seen again. Those remaining were forced to walk for days and leave the country. Any Kiouplia or Asia Minor video, books, lists, names, online diary archives, interviews -- links or connections or info -- you can provide would be amazing clues in this journey. Also would welcome advice on protecting our story from others who'd like to capitalize on telling it. The good news: have found several others from Kiouplia through my blog. Peace.

Dimitra DeFotis
dimitradefotis@gmail.com
<http://dimitradefotis.blogspot.com>

New Items for Sale

We are so excited about this new acquisition. It is our good fortune that the son of a member from our community (Josh Rosenthal, son of Renee Yomtov Rosenthal) has just released this priceless 3 set CD and, while the suggested resale price is \$35, we are able to offer it for \$25 plus \$5 shipping and handling (within the continental USA). Contact us at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net to reserve a copy.

Musical treasure chest from the Ottoman diaspora released as a boxed set
[Si Hawkins](#)



When Quentin Tarantino opened his era-defining movie Pulp Fiction with the surf-guitar track Misirlou in 1994 it gave the long-forgotten single a new lease of life. Television shows and advertisements followed his lead, big sporting events blared it over Tannoys and the performer of that version, Dick Dale, enjoyed a major comeback.

What Misirlou's revival did not do was draw attention to the tune's origins, in the folk music of the long-dissolved Ottoman Empire and, more intriguingly, a vibrant enclave in early 20th-century Manhattan. The man now belatedly investigating this neglected facet of New York folk is a part-time ethnomusicologist from Baltimore called Ian Nagoski, and it has taken over his life. "I

was vaguely aware that surf guitar was influenced by Lebanese and Armenian oud playing," he says, "but had no idea what I was getting into."

Five years on, Nagoski's exhaustive research has spawned "To What Strange Place," a three-CD set of fascinating musical artefacts rescued from attics, junk shops and rubbish tips. These 53 recordings span the years 1916 to 1929 - from the middle of the First World War to the onset of the Great Depression - when diverse communities from Eastern Europe and western Asia lived a few blocks from one another, and forged an evocative musical stew.....

"To What Strange Place" is divided into three distinct categories: up-tempo tracks for dancing, more reflective songs of love and loss, and a third disc of singles imported from abroad for this new US market."

One can close their eyes and step into the Café Amans of Lower Manhattan, ther enclaves of immigrants from the Balkans in the early 20th century.

While in Greece we purchased a number of items for sale in our Museum. Come by and see traditional earrings from Ioannina (priced from \$10-\$25), Hamsas from the Jewish Museum of Greece (priced from \$20-\$25), worry beads and 'matia bracelets.' These items can only be purchased on site. More reason to come visit us!

New Book for Sale

Book of Days

A great gift. A datebook, with photos and recipes.



Purchased from the Jewish Museum in Salonika

We are the only place in the USA where you can purchase this. Only \$20 plus \$5 P&H. Contact us to order.

Please continue to send us photos. We cherish them. Among the many we received this past month, the following was our favorite.



From Joan Ganis, the Ganis family in the Bronx-1936.

Our close friends at the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy offer fascinating tours and events. On July 31st, there will be a "singles tour" on the Lower East Side that will include Kehila Kedosha Janina. Contact the Conservancy directly for info on this tour.

On July 10th, the Conservancy is offering a tour of Jewish Harlem.

**Jewish Harlem Walking Tour
Sunday, July 10, 2011**

Join Marty Shore, urban historian, as he leads you through the sites of Jewish religious life in the remarkable urban settlement of Harlem, once the second largest Jewish community in the United States. In 1917, it was home to more than 175,000 Jews. Delight in the exteriors of grand synagogues that remind us of Harlem's Jewish past. Including the Ethiopian Hebrew Synagogue called "The Commandment Keepers."

**You will walk by the former homes of Temple Israel of Harlem, Congregation Shaarei Zedek, The Oheb Zedek Synagogue-home to Cantor Yossele Rosenblatt in the 1910-1920's.
Time: 10:45 a.m. (3 hours)**

Meeting Place: Northeast corner of Adam Clayton Powell Blvd and 125th Street, in front of the statue of Adam Clayton Powell

**Fees/Info: Adults: \$18; seniors and students: \$16
(\$2 additional day of tour)**

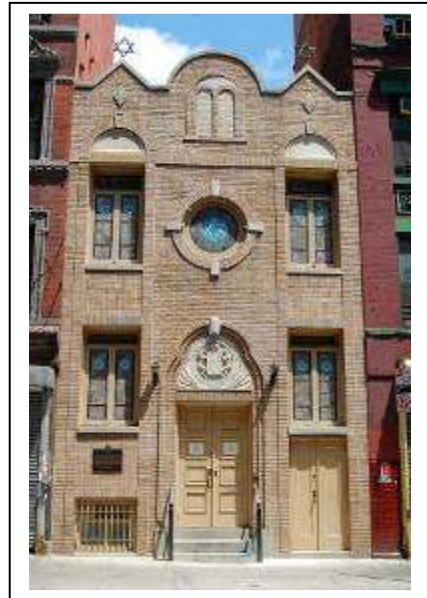
Conservancy Info

212-374-4100

info@nycjewishtours.org



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 42: July 2011
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