Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Our best wishes to all our readers for a healthy and happy secular new year. May 2015 bring you everything you desire. Our new chapter with our e-newsletters, highlighting a prominent family in our community with family picture and a Shabbat service dedicated to the family started out with great success. We had a beautiful turnout for the adara (memorial service) of Murray Eskononts of Blessed Memory. Thank you to all the members of the Askinazi/Eskononts family for their attendance. In addition, many members of our Board of Trustees attended, honoring Murray who was a past Vice President of Kehila Kedosha Janina. In January, we will dedicate the Shabbat of January 31st to the adara of Hy Genee of Blessed Memory.

Hy in the US Army
World War II
If you are a Genee, Jenny or a family that married into the Genee/Jenny family (Moses, Bellel) and wish to join us, please RSVP at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net (we want to make sure we have enough food!). See articles and photos in this issue relating to the Genees. If you want to have your family honored at future Shabbats, contact us.

This newsletter, our 71st 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 6000 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 important members of our community. We mourn the passing of Renee Seraita, Gary Matsil and Ryan Avraham Khaldar.

Renee passed away in Florida. Our condolences to her family and friends.

Gary Matsil left us too early. He was just 60 years old, the oldest son of Alvin and Annette Matsil (both of Blessed Memory) and the grandson of Isaac A. Matsil and Anna Samuels. He is survived by his brothers, Harley, Nevin and Steven, and many loving nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.
We recently learned of the tragic passing of Ryan Avraham Khaldar, a young man who had helped us with services a few years ago.

This article is reprinted from a Washington, DC newspaper of September 1, 2014- A hiking trip turned deadly yesterday for a Silver Spring man who was pinned under a large boulder while climbing in a rocky area. 25 year old Ryan Avraham Khaldar died after sustaining major injuries in the incident. Khaldar had been rock climbing with his 14 year old brother along the Potomac River near the Angler Inn boat ramp on Offutt Island when the accident occurred. Khaldar studied at Yeshiva University and was working as a broker at Morgan Stanley in Washington D.C. Avraham was a graduate of Yeshiva University.

Avraham Khaldar

Simcha

We celebrate the first grandchild, Alana DeRowe, of Markus DeRowe and Dr. Anna Kohen DeRowe. Our congratulations to the parents and grandparents. Na Sas Znsei.
As always, it is a joy when “Our Own” come home. In December, we welcomed visitors who descend from Kastoria, Anita Bachrach and her relative, David Goldberg who were quite emotional to find a photo of their relative in our museum, and a dear member of our Yanniote community, Sherry Moss (daughter of Barbara Davidson Moss, granddaughter of Sophie Coffino and Bob Davidson, great-granddaughter of Louise (Lula) and Abraham Coffino and Rabbi David Davidson and Rebecca Cohen, and great-great granddaughter of Avraam David and Simcha (Sophie) Negrin and Samuel ben David Samuel).
A special visit from Robert, Laurie, Ali (Robert’s fiancé) and Rachel Serwetz. They are standing in front of the wedding photo of Laurie’s grandparents.

James Watson and Michelle Cohen Watson

Visitors continue to flock to Kehila Kedosha Janina

Argiris Stavrakoudis

Aris Bazmadelis, Argiris Stavrakoudis and the Watsons
Past Museum Events

Our book signing of Miracle in Zakynthos by Deno Seder was a great success. We sold out of the original order but have just received a new shipment. If you wish to order the book, see information in this newsletter on New Book available.

We are including part of an article written for Greeknewsonline.com on our event and some of our own photos.

New York. - Vicki James Yiannias
The recent book by Deno Seder, “Miracle at Zakynthos, The only Greek Jewish community saved in its entirety from annihilation”, about a small Greek community that refused to stand by while other communities and nations abandoned their Jewish populations during World War II carries a profound message at Christmas time.

“Perhaps the real miracle at Zakynthos was that not one of the 42,000 Christians on the island said a word to the Nazis about where the Jews were hidden. While historians may argue about the reasons why, the Orthodox ethos is probably the best explanation”, writes Seder.

On December 14 Kehila Kedosha Janina hosted the presentation of “Miracle at Zakynthos” to a highly engaged audience of about 50 people from the Greek-Jewish world, Greek Orthodox Christian world and the Lower East Side. Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, Museum Director of Kehila Kedosha Janina, says, “The story of the saving of the Jews of Zakynthos is such an important story in the context of what happened to Greek Jewry. That’s why it is so important to get it right. As we move further away from the actual events and most of the eyewitnesses begin to leave us, we must pass on the truth of the events... It was so refreshing to read a book about an aspect of the Holocaust of Greek Jewry that was not rife with errors. Deno did his research and he was meticulous in his research. The book is a joy to read, unlike many other history books; a credit to the writing ability of the author. It should be on the bookshelf of every serious student of the Holocaust of Greek Jewry.”

Seder, who has a special interest in Greek art, history and philosophy, speaks with the GN about his important historical contribution, a seamless narrative that recreates the terror and suffering of the times.

INTERVIEW

GN: How do you describe the message of your book?

DS: The essential message of the book is that during a dark period of human history, on a remote island in the Ionian Sea, courage and humanity prevailed and lives were saved. The Holocaust happened because individuals, governments, churches and organizations made choices that summoned the darkest of angels to corrupt human thought and behavior, resulting in prejudice, intolerance, hatred and mass murder. The message of the book also defines what it means to be a responsible citizen, and the importance of showing empathy and compassion for all people.
GN: What do you feel is the single most important point it makes?

DS: The most important point of the book is that the legacy of Bishop Chrysostomos and Mayor Loukas Carrer is worth remembering, and the lesson worth teaching. And the larger point is that we must protect and preserve history so that future generations will learn about and remember the Holocaust.

GN: What do you find to be the most captivating part of the story?

DS: When the German commander demanded a list of all the Jews on the island, the Bishop and the Mayor submitted a list with two names — their own.

But perhaps the real “miracle” at Zakynthos was the fact that not one single Greek Christian—on an island of 42,000 people—said a word to the Germans about where the Jews were hiding. Not one word during the entire 3 1/2 year occupation.

GN: What part of your research did you find the most absorbing?

DS: The most absorbing part of my research was watching the video testimonies of survivors from Zakynthos. As I heard the translations from Greek and Hebrew testimonies, I was moved, often to tears, when learning of their hardships, their traumas, and their ultimate survival.

GN: One of the elderly at your presentation, who survived the Holocaust expressed to me in a very real and chilling way that what happened will happen again because the youth are not adequately aware of history. What educational or other measures do you think should or can be taken against this?

DS: Another guest at the presentation who was born after the war told me that while growing up in Athens, there was no mention of the Greek Holocaust in any of her school books. Fortunately, Holocaust education is being revived in Greece. For example, in June, 2014, the Jewish Museum of Greece organized the twelfth Seminar on Holocaust Education. It was designed for primary and secondary school teachers and was conducted under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Education and Religion. The two-day seminar, open to the public, was held in Zakynthos. Participants were eager to learn about the Holocaust in Greece, about the saving of the Jews on their own island and about the men and women honored as “Righteous Among the Nations” — 321 Greeks, more than was awarded to citizens of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia and Romania combined. And on the 27th of January each year, the Greek Parliament commemorates the National Day of Remembrance for Victims and Heroes of the Holocaust. On January 22, 2014, the Greek Ministry of Education and Religion issued a memorandum stating its aim “to contribute to the preservation of the memory of the Holocaust and to combat anti-Semitism and racism, to support the training of educators in teaching about the Holocaust in Greek schools, and to organize activities which promote greater sensitivity of the citizens in these issues”.

GN: What do you think were the reasons that the German people were so easily manipulated by Hitler?

DS: Historians, theologians and social scientists believe that the Nazis did not regard what they did as evil. Germans felt victimized and outraged after World War I and Hitler used this to gain power. The murderous atrocities of the Third Reich were facilitated by political and psychological factors, including the decline of individual responsibility. Soldiers were “just taking orders” and German citizens claimed no knowledge of the atrocities. During the post-war trials, responsibility for one’s actions was seldom expressed. Murderous behavior was not criminal and thus there was no guilt, no shame, no regret. Ordinary people obeying orders, the “banality of evil” as Hannah Arendt called it, was a social pathology. It allowed Nazi soldiers and German citizens to conform to mass opinion without considering the consequences of their actions, or inactions. It allowed the individual to follow the Führer without following his or her conscience. It allowed premeditated genocide.
Upcoming Museum Events

Kehila Kedosha Janina is honored to welcome back Anthony Georgieff from Bulgaria. For a presentation about Jewish Bulgaria and Serbia. In 2013, we brought a group to Bulgaria and were treated to a tour of Jewish Bulgaria by the author of “A Guide To Jewish Bulgaria.” Last year Anthony brought a group to Bulgaria and Serbia and will share his experiences with us, tempting us to join him in 2016. Anthony will be bringing additional copies of his book with him for purchase.

When: January 11, 2015- at 2:00 pm
Where: Kehila Kedosha Janina 280 Broome Street (between Allen and Eldridge)
Open to Public
No admission
Refreshments served

In Memory of Nissim Attas

On January 23, 1945, a young man by the name of Nissim Attas died during the Battle of the Bulge. He was only 19 years old. Nissim lived across the street from Kehila Kedosha Janina at 275 Broome Street. His family was very much a part of the Yanniote community on the Lower East Side.
We, at Kehila Kedosha Janina, will never forget the sacrifice he made for his country.

On January 25th, on the 70th anniversary of his passing, we will stop and remember.

A special exhibit dedicated to Nissim Attas will be unveiled in our Museum.

Please join us for this commemoration.

When: January 25, 2015- at 2:00 pm
Where: Kehila Kedosha Janina 280 Broome Street (between Allen and Eldridge)
Open to Public
No admission
Refreshments served

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News From Jewish Greece

Salonika

From the Guardian

Eurocrats haven’t had much positive to say about Greece’s politicians since the country was brought to its knees by the economic crisis. But a European Commission official described Yiannis Boutaris, mayor of Greece’s second city Thessaloniki, as “a beacon”. And other officials from the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank wrote that under Boutaris’ guidance the city had become an “island of hope” and a “model for all of Greece”. But Boutaris isn’t a typical Greek political. Born into the country’s oldest winemaking dynasty, he continued his family company’s success until entering politics and letting his children take over. He was elected as an independent mayor in 2010 and re-elected in September. He doesn’t see himself as a politician however, but as a “businessman taking on a new project”.

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Boutaris’ policies have had a business-like practically about them, with a progressive attitude to old grudges that are holding the city back. To boost Thessaloniki’s economy he visited Istanbul to encourage Turkish Airlines to set up flight routes between the two cities. Now 100,000 Turkish tourists visit the city a year. “The Turks are our brothers,” he says.

Tourism has increased from Israel as well, helped by Boutaris speaking out about what he called “the darkest moment in its history” when 56,000 Jews from Thessaloniki (a quarter of the city’s population) were sent to concentration camps during the Nazi occupation, and the 450-year-old Jewish cemetery was destroyed. Boutaris even wore a Star of David at his re-election swearing-in ceremony in protest that the fascist Golden Dawn Party were taking a seat on the council. The mayor has also made friends in Germany. In 2012 when angry accusations around austerity were shooting between the two countries in language reminiscent of a family feud, Boutaris visited Berlin to learn about effective municipal administration, particularly refuse collection. “Your city is clean, while ours is dirty,” he said. “We need your help.”

Boutaris’ progressive attitude is further illustrated by his support for Thessaloniki’s gay pride parade. “In the society that we want to build, everyone has the right to express himself without feeling any kind of oppression,” he said. “Reactions exist and will exist every time we are before a new reality. From the side of the church and from other organizations, but we cannot do anything about it.”

The recommendations for Boutaris, who has spoken openly about being a recovering alcoholic and has seven tattooos, focused on his open-minded, modern attitude and authenticity. Those who nominated Boutaris described him as a “pioneer”, a “blessing” and “the best thing that ever happened to this city”.

The 72-year-old mayor is not universally popular in his city. He’s faced challenges battling unions to semi-privatise the refuse collection service and over restructuring and streamlining the administration. He “does not fit into distinctions of left/right politics,” said London School of Economics professor Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis when he introduced Boutaris at a lecture earlier this month. “For this reason he has occasionally alienated people on the left and right in the city and beyond”. Boutaris himself as criticised his fellow citizens for taking public services for granted. “We believe everything must be done by the state,” he has said. “But at the same time nobody wants to pay taxes.”

Boutaris has had doubts about whether his administration can achieve fiscal discipline and effective services in Thessaloniki. “I sometimes wonder if I am too romantic hoping that something like this can be achieved in Greece,” he said in an interview in 2012. “But then I tell myself that if I succeed I will have done something very important.”
Publication of a “Taste of Memory”

Publication of a new book in Thessaloniki, “The Taste of Memory,” by Alberto Arouch is a collection of traditional Sephardic dishes. Mr. Arouch is well known in the city as a food critic and, in this book, has included recipes from his childhood, many from his Sephardic grandmother, Asimina. So often food conjures up memories of the past and many of these recipes bring back to life the vibrant Sephardic life that once permeated the city. At the presentation of his book in Thessaloniki during the Thessaloniki Food Festival, Mayor Boutaris called for the naming of a street after Alberto Arouch.

Desecration of Jewish Cemetery in Larissa

Many of you have sent me news of the desecration of the Jewish cemetery of Larissa. I have chosen to publish the translation of the announcement from the Central Board of Jewish Communities rather than the notice from JTA. I do this because I personally take offense at the editorializing of JTA and other organizations/publications that use a tragedy such as this to distort the truth and instill fear. One such example of this is an Israelnationalnews article that published a photo (Reuters) of a desecrated Ashkenazi cemetery in Hungary to accompany their article. The truth of the desecration of the Jewish cemetery in Larissa is horrible. There is no need to add self-serving incorrect material to overly dramatize it.

Wednesday, 24 December 2014
Desecration of the Jewish Cemetery of Larissa
Announcement from KIS on the desecration of the Jewish cemetery of Larissa

The Central Board of Jewish Communities of Greece, the Jewish Community of Larissa and all Greek Jews express their sadness and indignation, and unequivocally condemn the desecration of the Jewish cemetery of Larissa with swastikas, threats and anti-Semitic references similar to those used by the Nazis for their extermination of European Jewry.
The desecration of a cemetery, a sacred place for all religions, constitutes not only an offence to the memory of our dead brothers and sisters, but also an offense to the culture of our country and to the city of Larissa.

We call for the unity of the heads of the Judicial system, the local leaders and the police to take every measure to arrest and punish the guilty, and to protect Jewish sacred sites in our country so that these types of barbaric offenses will not be repeated.

Finally, we call upon the State and Society to join together in clearly condemning this action and other actions of anti-Semitism.

Anti-Semitism is not only a threat directed towards Jews; anti-Semitism is a threat to our democracy.

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News from Greek—Jewish Israel

We are honored that this year, at Yad Vashem, for the 70th anniversary commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz” on the 27th of January 2015, Fortouni Attas (Politis) Gani will be participating. Fortouni was born in Ioannina on May 26th, 1926. Fortouni was deported from Ioannina on March 25, 1944, along with the Jewish Community of Ioannina. This year, at age 88, Fortouni will light a candle at the commemoration.

Shalom to one and all!

Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel

While January 1st, 2015 marks the New Year for most of the world, in the Jewish calendar this year it falls on the rather inauspicious date of the 10th of the Hebrew month of Tevet, one of Judaism's five fast days in general and one of the three commemorating the destruction of one or both Temples in Jerusalem specifically.

The fast of the 10th of Tevet marks the day when the Babylonian king and conqueror Nebuchadnezer breached the walls of Jerusalem in 588 BCE, leading to the destruction of the First Temple built by King Solomon around a year-and-a-half later. However, much less known is this day's significance in modern times, and something that might be especially poignant for KKJ members, friends and recipients of the bulletin.

The 10th of Tevet was decreed by the Chief Rabbinate of the then new State of Israel in 1951 to be, in essence, the State of Israel's original "Holocaust Day", which they called the "Day of the General Kaddish". The Rabbinate's motivation was three-fold: First of all, a general feeling pervaded Israel at the time that a special day should be set aside specifically for Holocaust victims. Second, declaring a fast day was always considered a legitimate and fitting way to mark tragedy in Jewish history. Third, countless survivors and families only knew when loved ones were hauled away by the Nazis, but not when they actually died, so the Rabbinate felt that it would be fitting to use the existing fast day of the 10th of Tevet, with its own tragic connotations, as a permanent anniversary of death for such victims, when they could say Kaddish, light
memorial candles and perhaps hold some kind of learning session in memory of family and friends whose actual date remained unknown.

In addition, there is no doubt that the specific choice of the 10th of Tevet, as opposed to other fast days, was not coincidence. Given the fact that this fast day relates to the destruction of the First Temple, it cannot be denied that it is somewhat dwarfed in significance by the 2 days commemorating the destruction of the Second Temple - the 17th of Tammuz and 9th of Av - by Rome, which are much more intense, and perhaps even relevant, to Jewish history. After all, the Babylonian exile lasted only 70 years and a second Temple was in fact built. However, close to 2,000 years have gone by and no new Temple has yet been built, and nor will it be, until the long-awaited "Meshiah" (Messiah) comes. Therefore, connecting the 10th of Tevet to the remembrance and commemoration of victims of the Holocaust created a renewed significance and relevance for the fast day itself.

Nonetheless, despite the Rabbinate's efforts, the State's leaders felt strongly that a special day devoted only to the Holocaust had to be instituted, which they did in 1952 by decreeing the much more familiar "Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day" on the 27th of Nissan, which was close to the date of the Warsaw ghetto uprising. Unfortunately, however, the religious public and Rabbinical leadership were not happy with this choice, because Judaism considers the establishment of days of mourning in Nissan as inappropriate, not to mention the very different character of the State Holocaust Remembrance Day than that of the 10th of Tevet. Still, the normative religious establishment and Rabbinical leadership for the most accepted Holocaust Remembrance Day and its observation, but neither the Chief Rabbinate or most synagogues revoked or reversed the idea of observing a "Day of the General Kaddish" on the 10th of Tevet. Therefore, Jewish communities and synagogues the world over, including many Sephardic congregations whose communities were decimated by Hitler (Rhodes, Balkan states, etc.) still say a general Kaddish and special memorial prayers on the 10th of Tevet, as the Chief Rabbinate intended. So if there are any KKJ survivors and descendants who don't know when family members actually died during the horror of the Holocaust, they can join fellow Jews all over the world in making the 10th of Tevet their own special day of memory and commemoration.

News of Interest To All

More than a thousand released IDF soldiers visited the homes of nearly 500 Holocaust Survivors in Israel to celebrate the first night of Hanukkah in a moving initiative!

Bila Lutstein, a 97-year-old Holocaust survivor, said: "I'm happy about the new friends that came to celebrate the holiday with us. It's fun to get out of a routine and hold an event to light the candles. It still excites me very year anew, to celebrate the holiday in Israel and to feel the sense of Zionism and belonging."

One of the soldiers stated "It's a special opportunity to meet with people who survived despite the impossible reality they experienced and it warms my heart to visit survivors and to learn from them."
Archival Photo of First Hanukah Celebrated in Salonika after the War
We are pleased to announce that our dear friends at Centro Primo Levi, Natalia Indrimi and Alessandro Cassin will be re-opening the oldest and only Italian bookstore in NYC.

“In launching our publishing endeavor, CPL Editions, we will re-open the oldest (and only) Italian bookstore in New York City, whose history goes back to 1884 and remained a testimony to a lesser known chapter of the Italian immigrant experience.

In the next few weeks you will hear more; we will update you about book launches, readings and events.

We look forward to seeing you AT S.F. VANNI’S on 12th Street, and wish you a serene and rewarding 2015.” For more information check out the attachment.

Articles of Interest

The following article has been prepared by our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos.

**The Genee Family**

The surname Genee in all its forms (Genee, Jenny, Genis) comes from the Turkish for “well received” and was not a particularly common surname in Greece. It should not be confused with Yenis found in Sephardic communities nor Ganis (Hebrew for garden).

The first appearance of the name in the Ioannina Municipal Archives appeared in 1858 and was spelled “Gini.” This spelling of the name is repeated throughout the Ioannina Municipal Archives in all four entries. This obviously was the pronunciation heard by the scribes. In Arta the name appears as early as 1869 and always appears as Genis. In Preveza, again the name only appears as Genis, this time dating back to 1856. We can see how the names of Ioannina Jews presented a problem during immigration when on the manifest listing Hy Genee’s father (Morris Genee) on the Massilia sailing from Patras on June 4, 1907 he is listed as Becorakis Ghenis. Bechoraki was a name given to the first born male child, the Bechor (Bochor).

We have extensive Genee family trees from both branches of the Genee family (that of Bechoraki and that of his wife Fani, also a Genee. Fani’s male siblings would spell their surname as Jenny, probably originating from the spelling on the ship manifest when they arrived.

As always, we continually look for additional information. If you are from these branches of the Genee/Jenny family and you wish to add info to the family trees or other information such as the date of arrival, where your family lived in New York or other pertinent information relating to the Genee/Jenny family, please send it to us at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net.

Join us on January 31st at Kehila Kedosha Janina for the Shabbat service honoring the memory of Hy Genee. Our services start at 9:30. We are located at 280 Broome Street (between Allen and Eldridge). Please RSVP if you are coming so we have sufficient food.
Stamoula Jenny and Family

Hy Genee Bar Mitzvah

LES Lil, Hy and Firo

Wedding HY & Lil
Request for help

We received this request from Rabbi Harris who writes our monthly religious article for us.

The treasurer of our municipality lives in Acco and his name is Yossi Mazza (that is the English spelling). He is native Israeli by birth and does know that his family hails from Greece and Janina. He is also aware of the connection of the name with Romaniote Jews and that the Mazza family is relatively large and spread out, but when I mentioned my connection with the KKJ bulletin and how in almost every issue there is some item about the Mazza family/ name, he got more curious.

He excitedly told me that he found his mother's family's US address on an envelope dated September 2000 addressed to his mother here in Israel. The letter is from a Menina (Mazza) Stein (taken from the return address label which says R & D Stein, 221-19 Braddock Ave., Queens Village, NY 11427). Menina is apparently Regina Mazza's sister.

They had two aunts killed in the Holocaust:

Esther Shalom
Fortuna Monravo/ Manravo.

Any information you might have about the family would be appreciated. Yossi Mazza doesn't really know English well enough to read the KKJ bulletin, but I showed him the last one with pictures and articles about the 100th birthday celebrations for a couple of Mazza family members, but he wouldn't know anyone.

Please contact us at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net if you have any info.

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Richard Solomon is looking for our help:

Dear fellow community members and family members (and of course Marcia for the newsletter)

My name is Richard Solomon and my grandparents are from Janina (3) and Crete/Athens (1). Among other activities, I am a FM radio host and created a you tube channel with 67 hours of media and 12,800 views.

I am in the process of creating a you tube channel of interviews of Romaniotes, Sephardics, Holocaust Survivors, folklore, receipes, family history, documents, geneogy (including immigration papers from the early 1900s) for all of us - I have a personal archive to draw upon. The problem is I need a name for the channel as we are Greek, Turkish, Sephardic and currently all over the world. The name should be short and easy to remember but all-inclusive

Please email Marcia (kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net) with any thoughts or recommendations.

To give you an idea of what a site would look like, please visit www.youtube.com/user/tcbradiowcwp

THANKS! Rich
Our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos is working on a book about Romaniote (Greek) Jews in New York. This is the time to share your family stories and pictures. We are presently looking for information on the early community in Harlem. Where did they worship? Where did they live? Any photos?

We thank Dave Corito for sharing Harlem photos and information with us. We are looking for additional photos and info.

We are looking for IDs in this photo given to us by Dave Corito. The photo was taken in Harlem in the 1930s.

Irene & Murray Corito-Jefferson Pool 111th St. and First Avenue Harlem 1934

New Books for Sale

We were so pleased with our turnout at the booksigning by Deno Seder of “Miracle at Zakynthis.” The original order of the book was sold out but we are pleased to announce that we have received a new shipment. To those who have ordered, your copy will be going out shortly. To those who have not ordered, you can send a check in the amount of $20 (covers P&H within the
continental USA) made out to Kehila Kedosha Janina and mailed to the same at 1 Hanson Place, Huntington, NY 11743.

Reviews:

“The fact that not a single Jew was deported from the island of Zakynthos stands as an anomaly in the tragic history of Jews under the Nazi regime. Why did this small Greek community refuse to stand by while other communities and nations abandoned their Jewish populations? Miracle at Zakynthos uncovers a little-known story of World War II in compelling detail, explaining how two men went to extraordinary lengths to protect their neighbors while 70,000 other Greek Jews perished.”
Abraham H. Foxman
National Director, Anti-Defamation League

"Any student of World War II and the Holocaust-- in fact, any student of history-- should read this book. It is a testament to the human spirit and to the courage of two men who were willing to risk their own lives to save the Jewish community of the Greek island of Zakynthos. And they succeeded!"
Michael Dukakis
Former Governor of Massachusetts
and candidate for president
“Wondrous tales of noble heroism and self sacrifice have sometimes pierced the evil of the Holocaust, but few are more compelling than the heroism of the Greek Christians of Zakynthos. Led by their Bishop and Mayor, these ‘ordinary people’ hid their Jewish neighbors and saved them from certain death at the hands of their German Occupiers. The people of Zakynthos have set a rarified example of humanity in the face of tyranny that will inspire for generations. Deno Seder has performed a great service to history by his riveting work and careful research.”
Rabbi Meyer H. May
Executive Director, Simon Wiesenthal Center

“Thank you for your unique book, Miracle at Zakynthos. Zakynthos is one of the few places in the world that, due to the heartfelt dedication of bishop Chrysostomos and Mayor Loucas Carrer, succeeded in saving all the island’s population from a terrible massacre. More than seventy years have passed since those horrible days when darkness covered the earth. I was happy to read about this ray of light. To my sorrow, there were too few of them during this time in history. The world today must learn from their hardship and behavior. According to our Torah, great value is placed on human life and the preservation of human dignity, which is the essence of the rescuers’ motivation. I hope and pray that this book will become a beacon to humanity and inspire dedication to our fellow man.”
Rabbi David Lau
Chief Rabbi of Israel

“On behalf of our community, you have our gratitude for writing about this sensitive and often forgotten or unknown topic.”
Rabbi Gabriel M. I. Negrin
Chief Rabbi of Greece

Websites of interest

http://forward.com/articles/195663/tiny-greek-community-of-ioannina-struggles-to-keep/?p=1

In accessing the above article please bear in mind the unnecessary editorializing and the error in mentioning the “fact” that the last Bar Mitzvah in Ioannina was in 2000. This was definitely not gathered from interviews with any of the leadership in Ioannina since they well know that we had Bar Mitzvahs in 2000 (Maxx Kleiner of the Paganetti/Cabillis family), Seth Kofinas (of the Kofina family) and Max Abraham (of the Abraham family). In all instances the Bar Mitzvah boy’s family made the effort to have their son’s Bar Mitzvah in Ioannina in the synagogue where the young boy’s ancestors worshipped, coming from the United States to do so. Do also read the comment (so appreciated) by the individual who mentioned Kehila Kedosha Janina. We here in the United States, while we were unable to attend the events in March 2014, having similar commemorations here in the US, never, never forget the Jewish community in Ioannina, visiting each year and doing everything in our power to reinforce the Jewish presence. We resent articles like the Forward article that appear to seek for the demise of the community because, after all, negative news sells papers.

http://www.ioanninajewishlegacy.com/
We thank Rose Eskononts and Maurice Negrin for passing on this excellent website to us.

http://www.jspacenews.com/december-30-1066-granada-massacre/
Great article on the Granada Massacre of 1066
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.