



September 2016 e-newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

This is our 90th issue of our e-newsletter and we are so appreciative of the support from around the world. We had no idea what the reception would be but, obviously, it has been overwhelmingly positive. The world around us has changed, the world of Greek Jewry along with it. In 2008, there were not many stories about Greek Jewry, nor events of interest to them. The first e-newsletter in February of 2008 was only 6 pages long. We now struggle to contain the newsletter to under 30 pages! In February of 2008 we hailed the opening of the Hametz family exhibit. This September, a branch of the Hametz family will be joining us in Greece. This issue, therefore, is in honor of the Hametz family (see article in newsletter).

Molly Hametz Blau



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.kkjsm.org and our new e-mails: info@kkjsm.org and museum@kkjsm.org.

This newsletter, our 90th 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).

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE NO LONGER USE OUR PO BOX-ALL MAIL SHOULD GO TO 280 BROOME ST. New York, NY 10002.

We now reach over 8000 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 (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

We mourn the passing of Evelyn Cantos (July 31, 1922-August 8, 2016). Evelyn was the widow of Manny Cantos, former Pasha president and United Brotherhood Secretary.

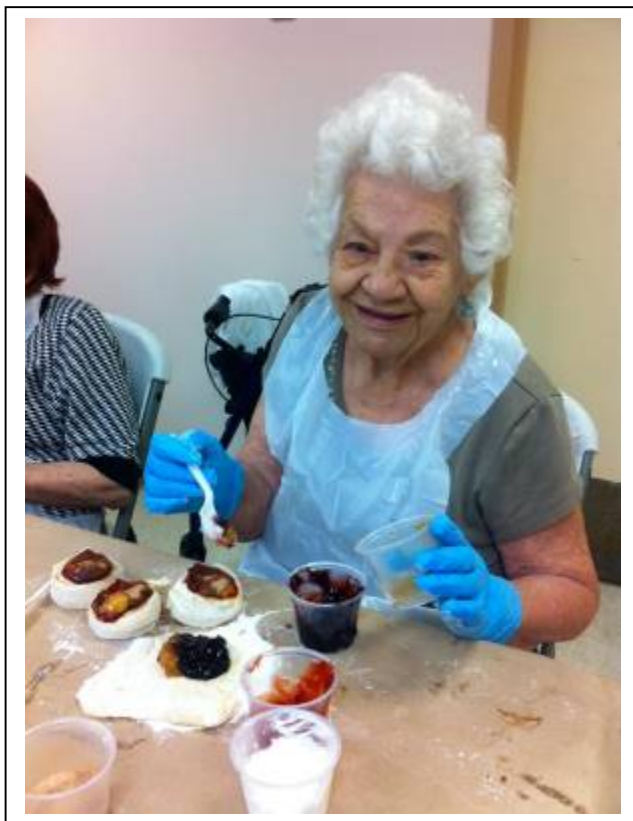
We mourn the passing of Annette Cassuto, granddaughter of Morris and Rebecca Cantos, one of the founders of Kehila Kedosha Janina. She passed away on July 17th at the age of 85 in Delray Beach, Florida. She was the daughter of Max and Sarah (Cantos) Honan (both of Blessed Memory). Annette is survived by her children, Susan Cassuto and Joe (Arlyne Elias-Cassuto) Cassuto, and their 4 children Ivan, Blair, Alexis, and Jacqueline. She is also survived by her brother, Rabbi Bernard (Roslyn) Honan and his children Sara Crocker, Michael Honan, and Lydia Honan. She will also be remembered by her many other family members and friends.



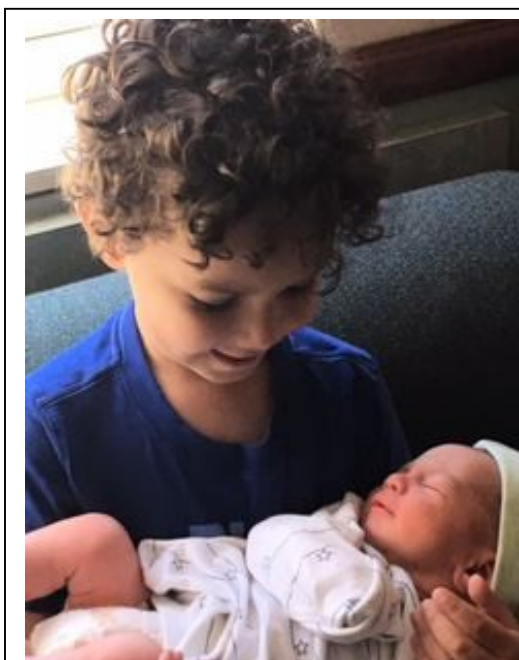
We also lost Annette Cassuto's daughter, Sherri Honan Cassuto, 59, of Seattle, WA on April 29, 2016. She was surrounded by her family in her own home when she passed away.

Simchas

Esta Varon (now 91 years old) has become a great grandmother for the fourth time as her granddaughter Tiffany Wasserman, daughter of Cherryl and Shlomo Kovarsy gave birth to a baby boy Tuesday August 16th. Esta is a descendant of the Colchamiro family from Ioannina and the Hazan family from Salonika.



It is our joy to welcome into the world another member of the extended Colchamiro clan, Rafa Shumays, son of Alyson and Adam and brother of Mateo. Rafa is the grandson of Susan and Steven Tregerman, the great grandson of Esther and Matthew Colchamiro, the great great grandson of Steroula Eliezer Colchamiro and Asser Colchamiro and the great great great grandson of Jessoula and Rachel Colchamiro or Ioannina. Following the Romaniote tradition, Rafa is named after his Uncle Ross (Raphael Shmuel).



It is with great joy that we welcome into the world Nisso Andres Matathias, the son of Felix and Vanessa Matathias.



Δikoi Mas, Los Muestros (our own) come home

In August, we were honored with visits from descendants of our Romaniote community in the United States (the Bruchmans from Florida), a dear friend from the Sephardic world (Devin Naar from the University of Seattle), Mordechai, Mitchell and Nadine Rosin, and new friends from Israel (the Cohens).



Caren and Dennis Bruchman



Devin Naar



Gilan and Mayan Cohen



Mordechai Rosin



Rosin Family



Stemoula Bellel and Sava Johanan Yohanan

As always, visitors continued to flock to Kehila Kedosha Janina

In August, we hosted a number of synagogue and school groups, one local and one from Israel. For all, the visit to Kehila Kedosha Janina is the highlight of their visit to the Lower East Side.

Temple Israel



Student group from Israel, led by Steven Aiello.



We love when neighbors discover us for the first time. Ray Sultan (of Syrian Jewish background) and Cathy Snapps live just a few blocks away but Sunday, August 28th, was the first time they came inside to visit. We look forward to seeing them both again.



Past Events at Kehila Kedosha Janina

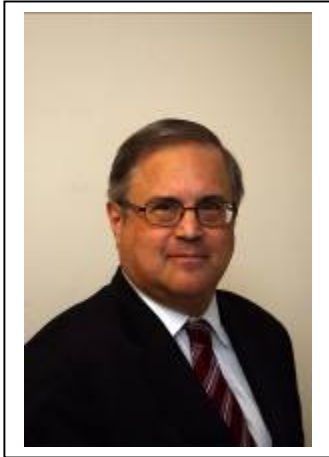
From August 7-17, a Romaniote Greek-Jewish and Sephardic Birthright tour went to Israel. The initiative for this was Ethan Marcus, son of our President, Marvin Marcus. Preceding the trip, Kehila Kedosha Janina hosted a Shabbaton for Friday night, August 5th and Saturday, August 6th. While we cannot post photos of the actual Shabbat, the food speaks for itself. Kudos to our President, Marvin Marcus, for preparing the food, along with his two sons, Andrew and Ethan. And kudos to all those who came to make this one of the most successful Shabbats in recent history.



Upcoming Events of Interest at Kehila Kedosha Janina

**We are honored to welcome Dr. Mark Meirowitz
Expert on Turkish Foreign Policy, US-Turkish Relations and
Turkish-Israel Relations**

Join us on September 11th for a special program



Where: Kehila Kedosha Janina

**280 Broome Street
New York, New York 10002**

**When: September 11th at 2:00
Open to the public
Free
Refreshments**

Recent events in Turkey have left us all concerned, especially those of us who have friends in the Turkish-Jewish community. Most of us know little of internal Turkish policies. Dr. Mark Meirowitz has offered to help us understand what is happening.

Dr. Mark Meirowitz is Assistant Professor at SUNY Maritime College. He holds a doctorate in Political Science and also is a business lawyer. He has written and lectured extensively on Turkish Foreign Policy, Turkish-US Relations and Turkish-Israeli Relations. He has taught at a Turkish University, is a member of the Advisory Board of the American Turkish Council and is a member of the Board (and Board Secretary) of the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce. He is writing a book on Turkish Foreign Policy.

**Kehila Kedosha Janina is honored to host the presentation of a newly released
historical novel on the Occupation of Greece and the plight of Greek Jewry.**

**Join us on October 23rd at Kehila Kedosha Janina
280 Broome Street
New York, NY 10002**

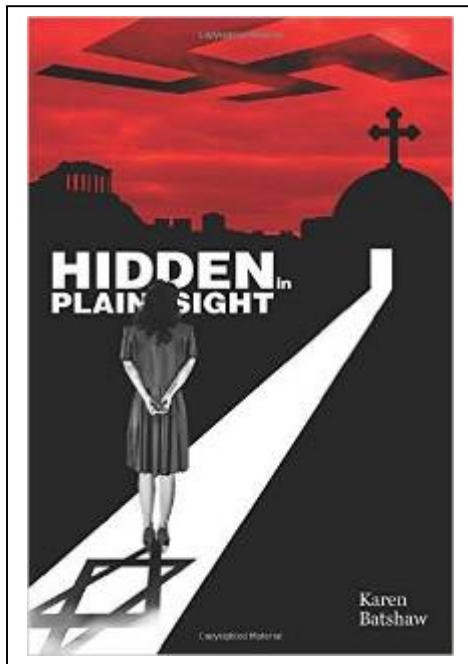
**At 2:00 pm
Author will be present for book signing
Refreshments will be served**

"As Nazis expand their domination of the European continent, nearly sixty thousand Greek Jews mistakenly believe they are safe."

Anna, a young Jewess from Salonika, has gone to live in Athens. Trained as a doctor, Anna knows if the German army invades, she will no longer be allowed to practice medicine at the hospitals.

With great anguish, Anna masks her faith and her vocation to live as a Christian and avoid arousing any suspicion. Anna falls in love with Alexander, an Orthodox Christian.

Documenting the terrible brutal occupation of Greece by the Nazis, Hidden in Plain Sight shines a light on the plight of Greece's Jews and the brave attempts of the Archbishop of Athens to protect them. Carefully researched and expertly plotted, this novel's attention to detail and compelling characters will appeal to fans of historical fiction and those of Jewish faith or Greek heritage."



Book will be available at discounted price for the event

Hy Genee Way Will Become a Realty

Reprinted from the LowDown, August 4, 2016

Mayor Approves Co-naming Part of Broome Street as "Hy Genee Way"

It was a happy day yesterday for the family and friends of Hy Genee, the longtime leader of Kehila Kedosha Janina, the historic Greek Jewish synagogue on the Lower East Side.

Mayor de Blasio signed legislation designating a section of Broome Street "Hy Genee Way." A co-naming ceremony will take place later this year. Kehila Kedosha Janina, located at 280 Broome St., just west of Allen Street, is a city landmark and the only Greek Jewish synagogue in the Western Hemisphere. Genee was president of the synagogue for more than 50 years. He died at the age of 83 in 2006.



Among those in attendance yesterday were Lois Genee Ledner and Marty Genee, Hy's children. In a statement, Ladner described her father as, "the son of immigrants from Greece, a tailor by trade and a rabbi in his heart and soul whose love for his synagogue, Romaniote liturgy and traditions and the Lower East Side have led to this day."

She added, "My brother and I look forward to the day when we can discuss his legacy with his great-grandchildren and show them 'Hy Genee Way.'"

City Council member Margaret Chin was also present for the signing.

Earlier this year, Community Board 3 approved a resolution in support of the co-naming. Here's the full text:

"WHEREAS, Hy Genee, late President and Spiritual Leader of Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue, which is the only Greek Jewish Romaniote synagogue in the Western Hemisphere, passed away on February 13, 2006. He was 83 years old; and WHEREAS, Hy was born on the Lower East Side, on Orchard Street, and lived his entire life within the confines of the Lower East Side. It was a world that defined him and a world he was so proud to be a part of. He worked as a tailor to support his family, but was always educating himself about the world, his religion and his culture, not for self-gratification but as a means of educating others. Whatever he did, whether it was making a pair of pants or leading his congregation at Kehila Kedosha Janina, he did with pride, not the pride that puts one above others but, rather, a joy in knowing who you are, where you came from and where you are going; and WHEREAS, Hy single-handedly kept Kehila Kedosha Janina, located at 280 Broome Street, alive for over fifty years, saw the synagogue/museum become an historical landmark, and loved being part of his special Greek Jewish world. There was not a person who met Hy who was not touched by him. One can still feel his presence on the street. Ten years later neighbors still remember him as he walked from East 6th Street down to Broome and Allen Streets. In so many ways Hy exemplifies the Lower East Side, a vibrancy that cannot be found anywhere else; a mixture of ethnicities that live side by side bringing a special flavor and vitality to the neighborhood; and WHEREAS, The block of Broome Street between Allen & Eldridge Streets is home to Kehila Kedosha Janina, and was once the epicenter of Greek Jewish Romaniote immigration at the turn of the 20th Century. Hundreds of Greek Jewish families once lived in the tenements on this block, which contributed to the establishment of the current synagogue building in 1927. Today community members fondly recall sharing holidays and celebrations with other neighbors on this block; and WHEREAS, There is substantial community support for co-naming the block of Broome Street between Allen & Eldridge Streets as "Hy Genee Way," as evidenced by a petition signed by 153 residents of this block, and 13 businesses located on this block, as well as additional letters of support. The CB 3 guidelines for requests for street co-naming require a petition signed by 150 residents for blocks with fewer than 200 residential units and 75% of the businesses on the affected block, in part to ensure that the local community is aware of and supports the street co-naming; now THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CB 3 formally requests the NY City Council and the Mayor to enact legislation co-naming Broome Street between Allen & Eldridge Streets as "Hy Genee Way."



We are awaiting for the final confirmation of the date for the placement of the street sign. When known, we will announce it and celebrate!



Honoring Our Families

As a new part of our monthly newsletter, we will honor one of our founding families. This issue we will honor the Hametz Family.

Half the Jewish community of Ioannina would immigrate to the USA from 1902-1924. They came seeking a better life for themselves and their children. Initially, most settled on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The Hametz family arrival in the United States began in 1920 when the oldest daughter of Israel and Pernoula, Sarina, came by herself. Her grandfather Ovadia Solomon at 546-8 Broadway was listed as her destination. Israel and Pernoula Hametz arrived with the rest of their children (Fina, Esther, Haim, Ovadia, Alberto, Isaac and Molly) in April of 1928. When the Hametz family applied for immigration to the USA, the quotas (put into law in 1924) had already been filled. Kehila Kedosha Janina wrote a letter to the authorities requesting that the Hametz family be allowed to come to the USA since the services of Rabbi Israel Hametz were needed at the synagogue at 280 Broome Street. If they had not been allowed to come, the family would have been among the over 1800 Ioannina victims of the Holocaust.

The men of the Hametz family played important roles in Kehila Kedosha Janina as spiritual leaders, often helping to conduct the services.



Albert, Isaac and Molly



Isaac and Pearl



Israel Hametz



Albert and Sophie Hametz



Sarina Hametz Josephs with son, Leonard

If you want your family honored or memorialized in our monthly newsletter, send in a donation (of your choosing) to Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum, 280 Broome Street, New York City, NY 10002.

Of course, we always welcome family photos!

Upcoming Events of Interest to Greek Jews in the NYC Area

Our dear friend and eminent scholar, Devin Naar, will be in the New York area to promote his new book, "Jewish Salonica: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece." Both Devin and our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad-Ikonomopoulos, would have loved Kehila Kedosha Janina to be part of this promotion but our Museum Director will be in Greece during the time that Devin is in New York. We have been assured that Devin will come speak at Kehila Kedosha Janina on his next trip to the East Coast.

Kehila Kedosha Janina will be selling the book in September at \$20 including shipping and handling. Contact us if you wish to reserve the book at this special price (museum@kkjsm.org).

It is our pleasure to promote the book and to promote Devin's speaking engagements.

1. NYU, Sept 27, 12-2pm Details and rsvp here

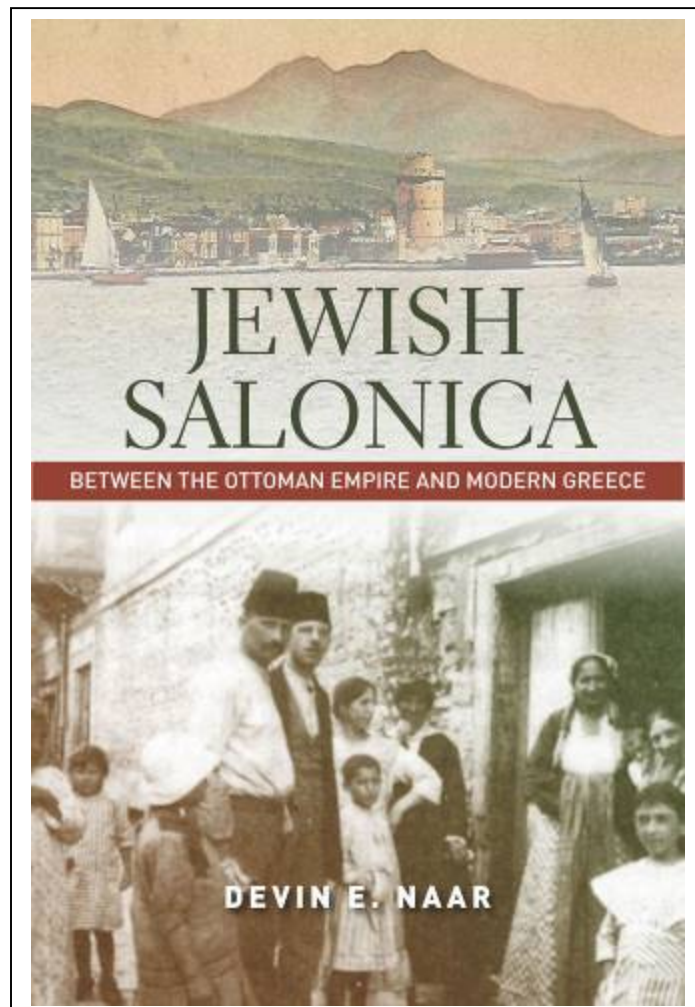
http://hebrewjudaic.as.nyu.edu/object/naar_09272016.html

2. Queens College, Sept 28, 12-2 pm, Rosenthal Library, President's Conference Room #2 (fifth floor of library). For more information, contact: Diane Spielmann, Associate Director of the Center for Jewish Studies: Diane.Spielmann@qc.cuny.edu; 718-997-4531. Book will be available for sale plus author signing

3. Center for Jewish History, Sept. 29, evening. Book will be available for sale plus author signing

The publisher is offering a 20% discount using the promo code NAAR.

<http://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=25672>



Don't forget the Gala on September 25th in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Sephardic Brotherhood of America. Flier in attachment.

Special cooking class for members of the Greek Jewish Professional Network at KKJ on September 18th. If you are in your 20s and 30s and are of Greek Jewish background (Romanote or Sephardic) and are not yet a member, this is a perfect time to join.



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

GREEK JEWISH HOLIDAY COOKING CLASS

LEARN AND ENJOY TRADITIONAL RECIPES THAT
YOU CAN SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY FOR
ROSH HASHANAH

PROFESSIONAL CHEF JASON KAPLAN WILL LEAD
US IN AN INTERACTIVE DELICIOUS EVENT

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH 2PM
KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA
280 BROOME ST NYC

OPEN TO YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR 20'S & 30'S
RSVP TO GREEKJEWISHYPN@GMAIL.COM

News from Jewish Greece

Arta

On August 16th 1943, the village Kommeno near Arta became the scene of one of the most hideous Nazi crimes in Greece; 317 civilians were killed before the Nazis set the village on fire. Among the innocent victims there was a Jewish family: Zakinos Ieremias (42 years old.), Eftychia Ieremia (37 years old) and Ketty Ieremia (4 years old).

This year, on the anniversary of the massacre, the victims were remembered, not only by local officials and religious leaders but, also, by the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, Alexis Tsipras, President of the Jewish Community of Ioannina and Moses Eliasaf (representing the Central Board of Jewish Communities of Greece and the former Jewish Community of Arta. This is the first time that representatives of the Jewish Communities took part in this event, laying a wreath at the monument.



Η ΧΑΡΙΚΗ	13	ΧΑΡΑΛΑΜΠΟΥ ΜΗΘΑΔΟΥ	21
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΟΥ	17	ΧΑΡΑΛΑΜΠΟΥ ΚΟΜ/ΝΙΑ	20
ΕΣΦ	45	ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΣ ΒΕΡΓΙΝΙΑ	22
ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ	20	ΤΖΙΑΤΖΙΑ ΤΩΝ	20
ΙΑΣΙΑΚΗ	12	ΓΥΛΙΑΣ ΑΛΗΠΟΥ	16
ΠΑΝΤΕΛΗΣ	10	ΑΙΩΝΑ ΕΥΤΑΘΙΑ	17
ΑΓΑΣ	52	ΚΥΡΕΙΟΥ ΜΑΡΙΑ	7
ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ	23	ΓΥΛΙΑΣ ΛΕΥΚΟΘΕΑ	13
ΠΑΝΤΕΛΗΣ	49	ΚΑΤΕΡΗ ΑΙΩΝΙΑ	15
ΑΝΤΡΑ	20	ΚΑΤΕΡΗ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΑ	20
ΑΝΝΗΤΕ	33	ΖΑΚΙΝΟΣ ΙΕΡΕΜΙΑΣ	42
ΕΥΦΡΑΣΙΑ	32	ΖΑΚΙΝΟΣ ΕΥΤΥΧΙΑ	37
ΕΥΔΙΑΚΗ	4	ΖΑΚΙΝΟΣ ΚΑΙΤΗ	4

In light of this, two days early, on August 14th, Prime Minister Tsipras Greece asked the German government to pay reparations and compensation for the damage it inflicted on the country during World War II.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said Germany must assume responsibility for financial losses caused by the German army's occupation.

"Greece and the Greek people neither forget their history nor the Nazi war crimes and massacres," said Tsipras.

Tsipras insisted Germany pay for an enforced loan Nazi Germany extorted from the Greek national Bank during the war.

"We will pursue this to the end, first by diplomatic channels and if needed by legal channels," said Tsipras.

Tsipras spoke during a ceremony in memory of the 317 victims, including 119 women and 97 babies, of the Kommeno massacre which took place 73 years ago in this tiny village located in northwest Greece.

Kommeno, along with the razing of Distomo and Kalavryta, symbolizes in the Greek collective memory the worst atrocities committed by Wehrmacht (German army) occupation forces in reprisal for Greek partisan attacks.

In the case of Kommeno, nearly half the population met its death in the massacre.

Greece's parliamentary commission that investigated war reparations is due to publish its final report soon.

Greece calculated the war reparations total 278.7 billion euros (\$315 billion) at today' s rates.

It also aimed to set the cost of wartime destruction of Greek infrastructures, which experts considered as very difficult to assess.

The German government has dismissed claims by Greece for war reparations, calling the issue "politically and legally closed."

Germany said it had already indemnified Greece in 1960 with a payment of 115 million Deutschmarks.

In March 2015, the Greek parliament unanimously approved the creation of a new all-party commission to demand war reparations and reclaim the extorted bank loan and stolen Greek artworks.



Ceremony on October 12, 2007, commemorating the Liberation of Greece



Since this Hebrew year was a "leap" year, the High Holy Days will all be celebrated in October, and not in September. However, on September 3rd and 4th we will mark Rosh Hodesh (the beginning of the new Hebrew month) Elul, a particularly special and important month in the Jewish calendar.

The reasons for this lies in the fact that Elul, being the month before Tishrei, is considered in Judaism to have special significance – and even "power" in terms of our relationship with God, repentance and preparation for the lofty and even fearful "Days of Awe" of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, when we all hope and pray to be forgiven our transgressions and be "inscribed" in the Book of Life. Our Sages even saw in the very name "Elul", which in Hebrew is spelled *Alef, Lamed, Vav, Lamed*, as an acronym for "I am to my beloved as my beloved is to me", which symbolizes the Jewish people's special relationship with God. Tradition also has it that in Elul the chances of repenting and having our pleas accepted by God are enhanced in comparison to the rest of the year, so proper conduct and true repentance are more paramount and crucial during this month. In Sephardic communities, it is also the onset of saying "Selihot" – penitential prayers, recited from the day after Rosh Hodesh until the eve of Yom Kippur – commemorating the same period of 40 days and nights Moses spent on Mt. Sinai begging forgiveness for the sin of the golden calf, culminating in God's acceding to this request on, according to Jewish tradition, the 10th of Tishrei – Yom Kippur.

Another somewhat less known custom is to perform a ritual called "*hatarat nedarim*" – the nullification of vows, on Rosh Hodesh Elul. This is performed by almost every Jewish community on the eve of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, but in Kabbalistic tradition – and therefore much more common amongst Sephardim – also encourages the ritual on Rosh Hodesh Elul. The basic idea is clear: before Rosh Hashanah, in order to enter the new year free and clear of binding verbal obligations to which I have committed myself – knowingly or inadvertently – over the previous year, and before Yom Kippur, as an extra "precaution" prior to the ultimate day of judgment when our fates are "sealed". But given the importance of this idea, it became customary to also perform the ritual at the very beginning of the 'penitential' period starting from Rosh Hodesh Elul.

This ritual was considered so important that our Sages instituted major leniencies in order to allow every Jew to clear him/herself from vows. In both Judaism and other cultures and religions, taking a vow is no small matter, and several sections of the Torah and an entire Talmudic tractate are devoted to the laws of vows. However, according to Jewish law, nullification of vows could only be performed by a special rabbinical court of 3 expert judges.

But our Sages also realized that it would be virtually impossible to demand that every Jew appear before an official rabbinical court to do this. So in order to ensure that a Jew anywhere could perform this important ritual, it was decreed that for the purpose of annulling certain vows, any three Jewish males could become a makeshift rabbinical

court and hear the request of another Jew to nullify his/her vows and subsequently grant the request. The types of vows that are nullified in this context are things like overly generous monetary pledges to a synagogue that I clearly could not afford, 'swearing' or 'vowing' or 'promising' to do something for someone and ultimately not keeping that promise, spontaneous emotional undertakings that were never really intended, or even taking on a certain behavior/practice at least 3 times, and then discontinuing it for whatever reason. Needless to say, one cannot use this ritual to disavow legal financial obligations to a person or institution, or other major issues outlined in Jewish law that indeed require the intervention of a qualified rabbinical court. However, the symbolism and philosophy behind this time-honored Jewish custom is perhaps more important than its true "legal" significance: In preparation for standing in judgment before God, to cleanse our souls not only from ritual sins and transgressions, but also from intentional or unintentional verbal undertakings to God and man that I cannot fulfill.

Precious Photos from a Book That is Now Out of Print

We published some photos on Facebook (do see our page under Kehila Kedosha Janina) and received such heartwarming reactions. We lamented the fact that this precious book (Faces and Facets) with photos by Morrie Camhi is now out of print. Maybe someone can remedy this! All of these pictures were taken in Greece.



Anthoula Aelion



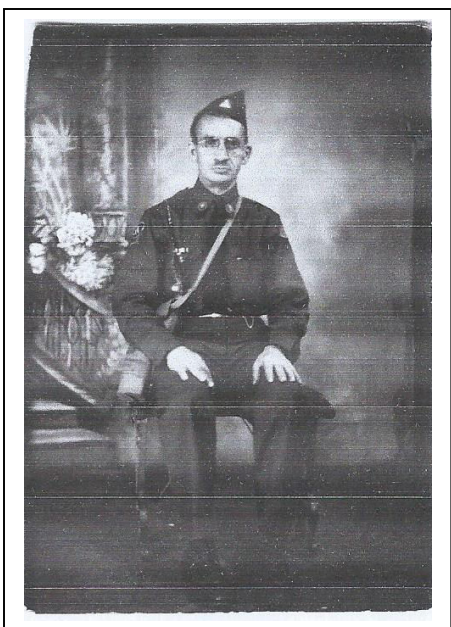
Eftichia Svolis



Nina Negrin

Our Continued Search for Photos

As part of our tours to Jewish Greece, participants who have Greek-Jewish roots, especially those from Ioannina, are asked to submit family photos. This has enabled us to expand our photo library. For this trip to Greece in September and October, the photos have come in very handy. Our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, submitted a paper for a journal as part of an exhibit at the University of Ioannina. The exhibit is the story of emigration from Epirus and Marcia will be giving a presentation at the University. Many of the photos used in the presentation will be those of ancestors of our participants who left Ioannina to settle in New York, and form the beginning of our Romaniote community on the Lower East Side.



Abraham Genee



Mordechai and Malka Moses



Israel Hametz



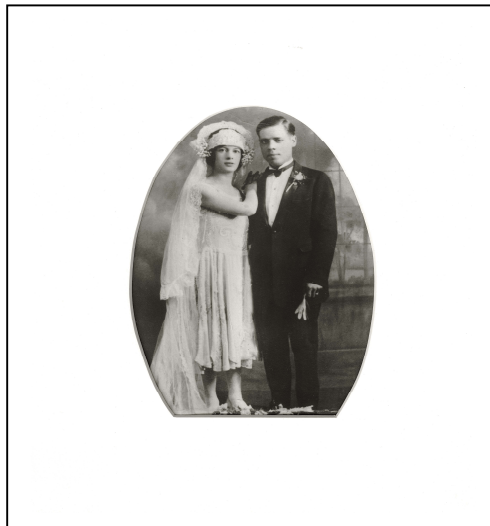
Miriam and Samuel Gabrielides Family



Samuel Menahem Family



Svolis Family



Marriage of Sarah Solomon and Sadick Cohen

Looking For Our Help

We are looking for any information regarding the possible existence of a Jewish cemetery overlooking the ancient city of Aptera in Crete. According to information, there might be abandoned Jewish tombs.

From Rabbi Barbara

I have a question and I hope you can direct me to someone who might be able to help. I am rabbi of a small congregation in Calabria, Italy (Magna Grecia of centuries ago). We are the first and only active synagogue in all of Calabria since Inquisition times. We have a very active Bar and Bat Mitzvah program here - one that supports our synagogue, which is Pluralistic, that is, we are open and welcoming to Jews of all backgrounds.

My question is this. Is there a synagogue in Greece that would be amenable to allowing me to officiate at a Bar or Bat Mitzvah service for a family that has Greek origins? The family wants to

have an egalitarian service with participation by men and women... my thought is that if there is a community without a rabbi, who might like to partner with me on this endeavor, I am sure that funds could be raised from these families to support synagogue renovation or programs. If such a congregation exists, I would be willing to travel to Greece in advance to meet with synagogue staff and/or members to discuss what could be a very successful project.

Again, thank you in advance for any direction you can give me and continued success with your important work. B'shalom, Rabbi Barbara

Searching for Jewish Roots in Corfu

My wife's family is from Corfu. She was raised Greek Orthodox but the family name is "Sadik" and her grandfather attended temple on the island. We believe that the family may have converted to avoid persecution in WW2.

Is there a register or census of Jewish family names on Corfu pre WW2?

We live in Los Angeles, and have an apartment in Kavouri, Vouliagmeni, near Athens. I am Jewish and we are interested to know about my wife's family, especially given the history of Jews in Corfu. The family left Corfu as refugees to New Zealand during WW2.

Family names:

Adrianna Sadik, of Corfu

Spiridon Sadik, born in Ipiro, moved to Corfu 1912. son of Unknown Sadik and Maria Miltiadou Sadik

Magdaleni Vlasis Moraiti Sadik, of Corfu

Spiridon remarried to Angeliki Grisi-Sadik Poniraki

Georgo Sadik, Maria Sadik, Sophia Sadik, Mikali Sadik

Please contact us at museum@kkjism.org if you have any information.

Brian Caplin contacted us for help in finding out more about his family. The Greek side of his family had the surnames of Mazza and Mustachi, leading us to believe that they originated from Corfu. Brian's grandfather, Benjamin Mazza, was born in Alexandria, Egypt in 1877. Benjamin's father's name was Sabbetai Mazza and his mother's name was Rebecca (Moustachi) Mazza.



1 Benjamin Brother
2 Emma - Maria
3 Fanny's wife
4 Anna - Maria
5 Anna - (wife)
6 Judith



JUDITH
SADIK

Benjamin had a brother who lived in Cairo with his wife and five daughters (Judith, Allegra, Esther, Rebecca and Fortune). Judith married Joe Cohen and had a son, Samy.

Benjamin Mazza came to London and worked as a journeyman tailor. Benjamin married Sarah after her first husband, Cecil (Hersch) Goldenberg, died. She had two children with Hersch and five with Benjamin. On the marriage certificate for Benjamin and Sarah, the name "Mazza" is spelled Matzi. Sarah died in June 1926. The family was living at 9 Lucas Street, Stepney, and Sarah was buried under the surname of Mutser. Three of the children were put into an orphanage. When Benjamin died in 1930, he was living at 3 Raine Street. He is buried in an unmarked grave.

Brian is interested in locating any part of his family and is particularly interested in any information on the family in Alexandria.

We are looking for help in finding descendants of Flora and David Ezras, both believed to be of Yanniote background. Flora might have been from the Cohen family. It is believed that they went to Israel after 1950.

Gonda Van Steen, a scholar in Greek Studies from the University of Florida, is looking for our help in searching for information and photos of Maurice Issachar, who was a Greek-Jewish lawyer involved in adoptions of Greek babies to the US in 1957-62 (estimated dates). He was home-based in Athens, Kolokotroni Street. His sister Rebecca was home-based in NYC, and she made the contacts, among them very many in the NY-Jewish community. Both were brought to court on charges of baby-selling but the charges were dismissed. Rebecca was about 42 in 1959, and that leaves me to think that the chances of finding anyone alive are exceedingly slim.

Both the court case and changes in the laws seem to have put a stop to this baby-selling activity after 1962. Maurice Issachar then pretty much disappears from view.

In addition to the research being done by Professor Van Steen, there is also interest in a documentary film about the stories. Any help would be appreciated. Contact us at museum@kkjsm.org

Stories of Interest

<https://www.facinghistory.org/rescuers/selahattin-ulkumen>

Story of Muslim Righteous in Rhodes

The excerpt from the documentary film *The Rescuers* introduces the viewer to the events that led to the Nazi decision to murder the small Jewish community living on the island of Rhodes and the efforts by the Turkish ambassador to the island, Selahattin Ülkümen, to rescue some of them. The clip features the story of Selahattin Ülkümen himself (told by his son, Mehmet) and the story of Bernie and Elliot Turiel, two brothers who were rescued by Ülkümen. It focuses on Ülkümen's decision to protect Jews who held (real or invented) Turkish citizenship. It also shows the risks many rescuers faced. Indeed, Ülkümen suffered grave losses: the Nazis bombed his house, fatally wounding his pregnant wife. As a result of that tragedy, Ülkümen's mother-in-law took her own life. The son, Mehmet, was saved by doctors after his mother's injury. Mehmet and the Turiel sons, Bernie and Elliot, are the main voices in this film excerpt.

Ulkumen and his wife



Turkey Cracks Down and an Ancient Messianic Sect Burrows Deep

Dohme cemetery destroyed.

Today, the Islamist-rooted Justice and Development Party, known as the AKP under its Turkish acronym, do not just control of the government; after defeating the recent attempted military coup, its leaders are feeling empowered. Their push to bring Sunni Islam ever closer into public life in Turkey has intensified, making many religious minorities, including descendants of the Dönme, feel ostracized.



Attaturk



Dohme Cemetery

Excellent website on Hania's Jewish Legacy and Etz Hayyim Synagogue

Venice purchased Crete in 1204 and like every foreign ruler before them, the Venetians coveted Crete as a base that offered protection for their navy and from which they could control the Mediterranean trade routes. As one of their most important colonies, *Regno di Candia* (Kingdom of Kandia) with its capital at Kandia, the island also provided valuable agricultural resources which could be traded. Venetian authority was heavily contested in the first century of Venetian rule by the Cretan population due to heavy taxes, land confiscations and other measures including the prohibition of the Greek Orthodox Church and its hierarchy on the island. In spite of these hostilities, however, Venice encouraged its citizens to colonize its various outposts around the Mediterranean, especially Crete. Approximately one-sixth of the Venetian State's population, or 10,000 people, migrated to Crete during the first sixty years of Venetian occupation. By the 16th century, the three main cities of Heraklion, Rethymnon (Retimo) and Hania (La Canea) were flourishing, the island's population swelling as a result of an influx of new immigrants and its economy thriving due to trade and trans-shipment business. Crete produced and exported Malvazia wine, grain, olives and olive oil, cheese, cotton, silk, acorns used for tanning, honey, wax, citrus fruits, timber and salt. Venetian domination of the island continued for 465 years until the Ottoman Turkish invasion of Crete that began with the two month siege of Hania in August 1645, and ended with the conquest of Heraklion in 1669 after a twenty-two year siege, the longest in European history.



Megillat Esther

Detail From Candia Perkel Avot

In collaboration with the Greek and Turkish Jewish communities (both Romaniote and Sephardic) of New York, Miami, and Seattle, we are excited to announce that the First Annual Sephardic/Romaniote Birthright Israel Trip took place this past Summer from August 7th to August 17th! For 10 days, our young community members from ages 18-26 traveled around Israel with amazing people of Greek and Turkish Jewish (Sephardic and Romaniote) backgrounds, all while exploring everything Israel had to offer. They rode camels in the desert, rafted down the Jordan River, explored the Old City of Jerusalem, lit bonfires on the beach, and a

whole lot more. If you or someone you know are between the ages of 18 and 26 and would be interested in going on a trip next summer, please e-mail us at info@kkjsm.org for more information.



Finally, we applaud the successes of Aikoi Mas, Los Muestros (our own)

Bravo Angelyn Balodimas-Bartolomei

<http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/65f8Nfaknx4KGPRa4YCD/full>

Angelyn Balodimas-Bartolomei is a professor in the School of Education at North Park Education (Chicago) and coordinator of the ESL/Bilingual Teachers' Endorsement and the MALLC Literacy, Language and Culture programs. Angie received a BA in Greek Studies & Social Work from Deree College in Athens, Greece; a BA in Greek Pedagogy from Rallios Pedagogical Academy of Greece; an MA in Linguistics & ESL from Northeastern Illinois University; and a PhD in Comparative International Education & Policy Studies from Loyola University, Chicago. Her research areas include comparative studies on: Greek and Italian Americans; Greek Romaniote Jews; Southern Italian Griko communities; Holocaust Education; the Greek Crisis & Education; Anti-Mafia Education; Cultural Diversity in Foreign Language Textbooks; the Regional Dialect of Colognora, Tuscany; and Post World War II Tuscan Artisan Immigrants in Chicago.


We celebrate the upcoming Bar Mitzvah at Kehila Kedosha Janina of Benjamin Busch, son of Sherri and Larry Busch, grandson of Samuel and Beatrice Eskononts, great-grandson of Mordechai and Esther Eskononts and older brother of Miriam Tehru Busch. We are very proud of you and that you have chosen to share this momentous occasion with us at Kehila Kedosha Janina on Saturday, October 8th.

Bravo Arlene Schulman from the Attas family!

Arlene Schulman started photographing the people of New York City when she was an eight year old living in Brooklyn. Using an Agfa 35mm camera handed down to her by her father who taught her how to shoot, develop, and print black and white film, she acquired her sharp eye for detail and an uncanny ability to demolish the wall between subject and camera to reveal the truth of who we are.

**Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer
presents**


**Arlene Schulman:
The First 100 Years**



**Capturing the rawness, beauty, and tragedy
of the people of our city (and a few beyond)**

September 1 to September 30, 2016
Reception – Tuesday, September 20 from 5 pm to 7 pm

**The David N. Dinkins Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, NYC, 19th floor South
Regular office hours**

 **This location (including entrance and restrooms) is wheelchair accessible**
For additional information, contact arlenetheauthor@gmail.com

Ms. Schulman's extraordinary body of work—immortalized in books of majestic photographs and in films and photographic essays—illuminates facets of New York City that the majority of us never see: gritty city living, boxing gyms, baseball dugouts, police officers on the beat. Capturing the heroes, colleagues, and neighbors among us in gritty, straightforward, large format images that celebrate and ennoble the human condition, Ms. Schulman brings her life's work together for the very first time.

"Arlene Schulman: The First 100 Years" is a unique vision of life in New York City as she has lived it and a foreshadowing of what she—and we—may see during the next "100."

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 and all major Jewish holidays and our Museum is open every Sunday from 11-4 and, by appointment during the week.

**PLEASE REMEMBER: WE DISCONTINUED OUR
POST OFFICE BOX
ALL MAIL SHOULD GO DIRECTLY TO
280 BROOME STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10002**



**Kehila Kedosha Janina e-newsletter: number 90:
September 2016
Kehila Kedosha Janina, 280 Broome Street, New York NY
10002
E-mail: museum@kkjasm.org
Web Site: www.kkjasm.org**