



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

April 2010 e-mail newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

May your Pesach celebrations be filled with good food, family and special traditions.

This newsletter, our 27th, 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).



**Rimon from the collection
of Kehila Kedosha Janina
circa 1890**

We now reach over 4000 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 all are 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.

We celebrate the birth of Nev Serena Wightman birth, the daughter of Shara and David, granddaughter of Serena Negrin and the great-granddaughter of Diana Ganis (of Blessed memory) and Sam Negrin (of blessed memory)

This month we mourn the passings of Sarah Lafazan Toubail at the age of 93 (daughter of Abraham & Goldie Lafazan), Isaac Gerson at the age of 97 (born in Salonika, a mainstay of the Sephardic Jewish Center of Forest Hills for many years), Milton Ezra, the youngest son of Malka Colchamiro and Judah Ezra, at the age of 92, Jack Zaffos, of Yannote descent, Chrysoula (Bertha) Eskenazi Sklak at the age of 93 and Esther Matza Brody (Schneider, Dettinger) Frisbee at the age of 99 (the daughter of Nahoum & Sophie (Simchoola) Matza of Ioannina..

Our congratulations to Sol & Terry Lafazan on celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary.

Synagogue News

If you wish to join us for Pesach services, the following is our schedule at Kehila Kedosha Janina (280 Broome Street, NY, NY 10002)

Saturday	March 27	Shabbat Hagadol	Shacharit	9:00am
Monday	March 29	Erev of Pesach	Mincha/Arvith	6:30pm
Tuesday	March 30	Pesach 1 st Day	Shacharit	9:00am
			Mincha/Arvith	6:30pm
Wednesday	March 31	Pesach 2 nd Day	Shacharit	9:00am
Saturday	April 3	Pesach 3 rd Day	Shacharit	9:00am
		3rd Day Chol Hamoed		
Monday	April 5	Pesach 7 th Day	Shacharit	9:00am
Tuesday	April 6	Pesach 8 th Day (Last Day)	Shacharit Yizkor	9:00am

Museum News

Upcoming Exhibit on Families (Dikoi Mas/Los Muestrros)

Pictures for our upcoming exhibit on Families (Dikoi Mas/Los Muestrros) continue to come in. We love the ones submitted by Roberta Cohen Hollander taken on the Lower East Side (how great Allen Street Park looked-the City of New York should have definitely researched this before they put in their gaudy attempt of a 'park' at the corner of Allen and Broome-so much for "modern" restoration). As always, thanks to Rose Eskononts, who gives us treasures, this time the engagement photo of her parents Dora Marash and Solomon Capon (both of Blessed Memory). Our favorite, though, was the baby picture of Steve Negrin, taken in Volos (1930's).



Yanniotes gather on bench in Allen Street Park 1940s



September 1942 Broome & Allen



Engagement of Dora Marash to Solomon Capon



Steve Negrin 1930s-taken in Volos

Rose Attas Ferrari also reminded us of how much fun was cramped into those small apartments!



Barouch & Attas families on Lower East Side



In the kitchen of 91 Orchard Street

We are also grateful to Rose for the Bar Mitzvah photo below

Joseph Attas lighting a candle at Bar Mitzvah of Norman Askinazi



April Museum Events

Yom HaShoah, Sunday, April 11th at 1:00

Eternal Flame at Yad Vashem



This year we will be honoring the memory of those who were deported from Athens. In addition to our traditional lighting of the candles in memory of the Six Million, this year we will have family members light candles in memory of their family who were deported from Athens. Following the candle lighting ceremony, Sarah Cohen will be debuting her short documentary on her own family who lived through the Occupation in Athens. Sarah's mother survived but others in the family perished.



**Beth Shalom Synagogue in Athens
Site of roundup of Athenian Jews March 1944**



Members of Sarah Cohen's family-Athens 1940s

Gabrielides family 1930s. Michael Gabrielides was murdered at Auschwitz at the age of 35. His wife and children would survive in hiding.



Special Film Showing of "In the Shadow of the Acropolis", April 25th at 2:00

Originally scheduled for December 20th, our premier showing had to be rescheduled due to a major snow storm.

**NEW YORK PREMIER OF "IN THE SHADOW OF THE ACROPOLIS,"
A FILM BY LAURA ZELLE & MAXINE DAVIS,**

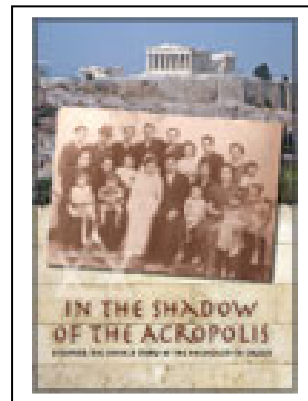
KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA IS HONORED TO BE THE SITE OF THE NEW YORK PREMIER OF THIS MOVING FILM, A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE HOLOCAUST IN GREECE.

MARC WINTROP AND LAURA ZELLE'S GRANDFATHER, AND MANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY WERE LOST IN THE HOLOCAUST. A ROMANIOTE, GREEK-SPEAKING FAMILY, THEN LIVING IN ATHENS, IN THE SHADOW OF THE ACROPOLIS, THEY WERE ROUNDED UP BY THE GERMANS ON MARCH 25, 1944, ALONG WITH THE JEWS OF ATHENS. THEY WOULD MEET THEIR END AT AUCHWITZ-BIRKENAU. LAURA & MARC'S GRANDMOTHER, ROSA ACKOS, AND ROSA'S YOUNG CHILDREN, SURVIVED THANKS TO THE MORAL COURAGE OF A GREEK-ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMAN, ONE OF THE MANY GREEKS NOW HONORED AT YAD VASHEM AS A RIGHTEOUS AMONG NATIONS. THIS WELL-MADE, MOVING DOCUMENTARY CHRONICLES THE HOLOCAUST LOSSES IN GREECE AND THE ROLE OF GREEK CHRISTIANS WHO TRIED TO SAVE THEIR JEWISH NEIGHBORS.

THE FILM MAKER, LAURA ZELLE, AND MEMBERS OF THE ACKOS FAMILY (INCLUDING MARC WINTROP, A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA), WILL BE PRESENT AT THE PREMIER.



Ackos Family in Athens before deportations



**WHERE: KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA MUSEUM
280 BROOME STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10002
WHEN: SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010: 2:00 PM
ENTRANCE: \$5**

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AND COPIES OF THE FILM WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE.

May Museum Events

Sunday: May 2: 2:00: Koula's Kitchen is back with Spring vegetables. Join us with our in-residence Greek-Jewish cooks. Admission: \$5.



Kehila Kedosha Janina Website

New addition to our website (www.kkjsm.org) for this month includes the following: addition of Lists of Victims from the Holocaust from the Athens now appears on our new link 'The Holocaust in Greece.' The Athens list will appear on April 11th, the 66th anniversary of the deportation's arrival at Auschwitz Birkenau. This is the date most arrived at the camp and the date that most were led to the gas chambers.

We are in the process of adding additional information on deportations from other communities.

Responses from past newsletter

Anna Negrin Angelou identified the family photo from our February newsletter as that of her grandmother's family, Mosios, in Ioannina.



Marcia,

The Taleth bag from Ioaninna, brings back memories. My mother (Regina Matsil Negrin) gave my father (Louis Tsadik Negrin) the gift of a Taleth bag before they were married and after my dad's passing the bag came to me. The bag was made somewhere in NYC and I now realize that it is a copy of the bag you showed a picture of. Unfortunately, the bag I have is in very bad shape, but whenever I go to synagogue it goes with me despite its poor condition. It's memory still makes it beautiful in my eyes. Thanks for the memory.

Marv Negrin

News of interest

Requests

"My name is Steve Politi and I am a Turkish Jew living in France, who strongly believes to be part of the Romaniote Jewish Community. I recently went to Ellis Island in New York and discovered that members of my family (POLITI) had moved from Smyrna in Turkey and Janina in Greece to New York in the early 20th Century. I was trying to find ways to see if there could be descendants from these immigrants still living in the US...and maybe within your community you may know someone who knows one...Thanks for your help. Best, Steve Politi"

Irene Dresner, when questioned by an Ashkenazi rabbi as to why her family followed a Yannote tradition of placing their hands on the table at the beginning of the Seder, did not know why. Do any of our readers?

Marcia,

Thank you for the email newsletter. I was interested in the article about Komitini. One of my grandmothers who died in Auschwitz was originally from Komitini. She moved to Saloniki where she worked as a governess until she married my Grandfather. I have tried to trace both her and her siblings through the USHMM and Red Cross, but have not been successful. My mother donated a picture of her family taken in Komitini to the USHMM.

I see that the book is in Greek, are there any plans for even a summary in English?

Rita Saltiel-Berzin: note: as soon as I receive a copy, I will give a short summary in English. MHI

Requests for IDs of photos



From Roberta Cohen Hollander's collection

News from Greece

Salonika

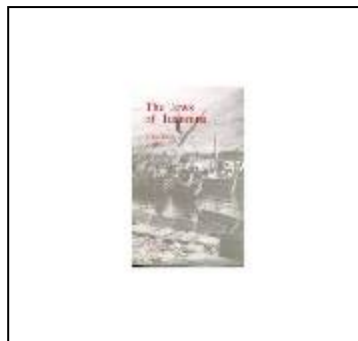
During this past year the municipality of Thessaloniki and the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki have continued discussions on compensation for the community's cemetery, expropriated by the city after its destruction during the Holocaust. Aristotle University, a public institution, was built over the expropriated cemetery soon after World War II. In July, a committee composed of 'experts' from the Ministry of Finance and a member of the Jewish Community, proposed a compensation solution. Officials from the Ministry of Finance stated in December that they were committed to a solution based on this proposal. Official approval for the compensation plan is still pending at the Ministry of Finance and is to see resolution at year's end.

International Jewish organizations expressed concern that subway construction in the vicinity of the Thessaloniki Jewish cemetery could disturb human remains. The government continued dialogue with the Jewish community to address these concerns.



Call for help

John Chapple from Lycabettus Press has asked for our help in the reprint of Rae Dalven's book, "The Jews of Ioannina." The book is temporarily out of print because it was originally published before digitalization. To reprint it, the book has to be rescanned page by page or retyped. We are looking for volunteers who have the book (there are presently no copies available who would be willing to type one chapter. If you want to help with this important project, please get back to us (kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net).



Articles of interest

Cairo's Maimonides Synagogue Re-Opens

by Hana Levi Julian

"(IsraelINN.com) The Maimonides Synagogue in Cairo reopened this week after nearly two years of restoration work sponsored by the Egyptian government.

The 19th Century synagogue, known by its Arabic name of Musa bin Maimun, is named for Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, the famous Talmudic sage who was born in 1135 in Cordoba, Spain and also known as Maimonides, or the Rambam. Maimonides, who also was known as a philosopher and a physician, fled from persecution, traveling through Europe until he reached Egypt, where he ended his days in 1204.



Ambassador Yitzchak Levanon and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Margaret Scobey attended the ceremony, as did about a dozen Israeli rabbis. At least 150 people joined the celebration, as Rabbi Andrew Baker of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) affixed a new mezuzah, a gift from his organization, at the entryway to the adjoining yeshiva.

'When I first set foot here only five years ago, the synagogue was in ruins and its roof opened to the sky,' he marveled, praising the Egyptian government for recognizing the importance of maintaining Jewish religious sites as a part of the country's heritage.

Egyptian government officials politely excused themselves from the inauguration ceremony; Culture Minister Farouq Hosni told reporters they did not attend because the ceremony was "purely religious." However, Zahi Hawass, head of the government's antiquities department, added that Egyptian government officials were expected to attend a formal opening on March 14. Although Egypt signed a peace treaty with the State of Israel in 1979 and has been restoring Jewish religious sites for several years, many Egyptians are uncomfortable with public support for cultural or other projects connected with Jews.

There are 11 synagogues in Egypt, several of which have already been restored, including the Ben Ezer Synagogue in the Old City of Cairo and Sha'ar HaShamayim ("Gate of Heaven") located downtown in the capital. However, last month, Sha'ar HaShamayim was the target of an

attempted bombing. The largest synagogue in Egypt and the only one that still conducts High Holy Day services, Sha'ar HaShamayim is the synagogue attended by Israeli diplomats when they are in town.

There were once thousands of Jews in Egypt, but today there are very few Jews left; much of the community left following the 1948 war when the State of Israel was born, and the subsequent wars waged to annihilate the reborn nation.

Thursday, March 25, 2010

The Real Trouble with Greece

From Theo Pavlides' Blog

"Today is Greek Independence Day, commemorating the 1821 revolution against the Ottomans. Today is also the day of the announcement of the bailout plan for Greece by the Eurozone countries. I find the coincidence fraught with meaning.

The Greeks may have gotten rid of the Ottoman sultan following the 1821 revolution but they kept a lot of the administrative and social structures of the Ottoman Empire. This was not particularly surprising because the Ottomans had adopted a large part of the Byzantine structures and those in turn go back to through the Roman Empire and the Hellenistic kingdoms to the Persian Empire. According to the historian Bernard Lewis "In the course of the millennia Middle East bureaucracies, through many changes of government, religion, culture, and even script and language, show a remarkable persistence and continuity." [The Middle East, A brief History of the last 2000 years, Touchtone, 1995, p. 182].

While modern Greeks like to tout their connection with ancient Greece that connection is at best tenuous and Greece is in essence the successor of the Byzantine state. The historian Warren Treadgold devotes much of the concluding chapter of his book on this topic [A History of the Byzantine State and Society, Stanford Univ. Press, 1997, pp. 851-853].

The biggest problem of Greece is not the budget deficit but the attitude of people who feel that they have no stake in the state and view it as an entity to be fought and defrauded like any tyrannical government. Such attitudes developed over millennia and they were probably the correct response to the Byzantine despots and the Ottoman sultans who succeeded them. In turn those in power (regardless of political party) treat the citizens with disdain and corruption and favoritism are rife.

A few years I got in touch with a former classmate from my high school that was also living in the United States. We had attended an elite high school with only 30 students per class. He had kept track of our class and we found out that more than a quarter of our classmates were in the United States or Western Europe. Students at that school had either to be very good to be admitted or have strong connections (or both). Of course that was not the official policy, only the policy in effect! If I count the people who deserved to be in the school the fraction that emigrated is closer to half. This is only a small sample of a large Greek phenomenon: significant emigration of highly educated people because of their frustration with the infamous "Greek reality". There is also a long list of people who tried to go back but were kicked out. One of them is a famous Greek computer scientist who is now a professor at one of the top U.S. universities who did go back to Greece at one time but then he was fired.

I have often tried to summarize the difference between Greece (and other countries of that region) and the West in the following way. In the West connections are used as the tiebreaker when two people have the same qualifications. In Greece qualifications are the tiebreaker when people have equally strong connections.

In conclusion, the Greek budget woes are only a symptom of a far more serious disease. Theo Pavlidis' blog."

Disturbing Problems for Turkish Jews

"(IsraelNN.com) A Turkish newspaper reports that police burst into an Istanbul synagogue during recent Sabbath services and demanded worshipers' ID's. The Turkish Milliyet newspaper reported that the Muslim government in Turkey appears to be cracking down on non-Muslim minorities. The individual communities are not being permitted to have their own leaders; one person will be recognized by the government to represent all the minorities as one. As the Christian community outnumbers the Jewish one, it is expected that a Christian will serve as "Chief Rabbi." This issue may have been resolved, however; see below. In addition, Christian and Jewish children are being placed in separate non-Muslim public school classes. In Jewish schools, only Turkish citizens are allowed to be registered – preventing the son of a Jewish United States consul worker from studying in a Jewish school.

Finally, Turkish authorities raided the Hemdat Yisrael synagogue in Istanbul one Sabbath morning, the most crowded day of the week, and demanded that worshipers produce identification and proof of residence. Most worshipers did not have the required papers because of Sabbath restrictions, but were allowed to produce them at the conclusion of the Sabbath. Leaders of several minority religious communities convened for an emergency meeting last month to discuss the worsening situation.

Rabbi Yitzchak Haleva, Chief Rabbi of Turkey, says it's 'much ado about nothing.' Speaking with Israeli media sources last week, Rabbi Haleva said that all misunderstandings had been resolved and that he himself will be running for re-election for the position of Chief Rabbi about two months from now. Regarding the mid-services Sabbath check of ID's, Rabbi Haleva told Makor Rishon's Yitzchak Hildesheimer that it was only a matter having to do with internal security. A Turkish Jew quoted on Ynet did not sound confident, however: 'Everyone here is apathetic, they are involved in their own business and their work - but we do feel that the situation has changed, even though it is being ignored. It is reminiscent of other periods in history...'

Related news:

"Turkey Recalls US Ambassador

Turkey recalled its ambassador to the U.S. last week after the House Foreign Relations Committee narrowly approved a resolution recognizing the Turkish slaughter of Armenians during World War I as genocide. The London-based Al-Quds Al-Arabiye editorialized that the "Jewish lobby" in Washington is to blame for the resolution."

Check out Yad Vashem's website for a new addition on the demise of the Jewish community of Monastir. www.yadvashem.org

Art Exhibits

Judy Moonelis, who designed installations for Kehila Kedosha Janina (see our website www.kkjasm.org under past exhibits) will be opening a new exciting exhibit of Historic Site Installations at Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia
Open now through May 14, 2010 Closing Reception: Friday May 14, 5:30-7:30pm



Museum of Biblical Art
1865 Broadway at 61st Street
New York, NY 10023-7505
On view until May 30, 2010

Uneasy Communion: Jews, Christians, and the Altarpieces of Medieval Spain
Highlighting a rare instance of artistic collaboration between Christians and Jews in the Middle Ages, *Uneasy Communion: Jews, Christians, and the Altarpieces of Medieval Spain*, explores the coexistence of these two groups in 14th- and 15th-century Spain and provides a nuanced picture of interfaith relationships and dialogue during this period.

Uneasy Communion is a fascinating study on how retablos (large multi-paneled altarpieces) and related artwork produced during these centuries belie commonly held assumptions that Jews were not artists during the Middle Ages; that most medieval depictions of Jews were negative stereotypes; and that Jews lived apart from Christians, an unknown "Other." Instead, these works attest to the intimate knowledge Christians and Jews had of one another in the small towns and cities of medieval Spain. Over 30 panel paintings, manuscripts, ceramic tiles and Jewish ceremonial objects from this period will be on display in this groundbreaking exhibit.

We are proud of the work of Yvette Nachmia Messinas

From Yvette:

"Dear friends,

Pessah and Easter are approaching. I would like to remind you that it is due to the co-operation of women, Arab and Jewish that Moses was saved and further got to lead us out of slavery and into nationhood. In the Midwives of Peace poem, I am expressing my belief that Arab and Jewish women today, can cooperate to save more babies' lives.

I am encouraging you all this Pessah to promote a Palestinian-Israeli women's cooperation by purchasing gifts made by women participants in the Joint Venture for Peace.

The gifts can be purchased at the Ahoti store in Tel Aviv on 4 Shlomo Hamelech street. Ask for the products of the Joint Venture for Peace.

<http://www.asimon.co.il/PsupplierDetails.aspx?PsupplierID=202>

The products include the book 'They All Sound Like Love Songs, Women Healing Israeli-Palestinian Relations (50 NIS)', jewelry, shawls, office organizers, yoga bags.

If Tel Aviv is far, you can enter the Nisped site and see the products and order them directly from the women manufacturers <http://www.nisped.org.il/Established-in-spring.htm>.

Ahoti is a fair trade shop, that sells women's products. Thank you for buying consciously and pro-peace.

You are also invited to host a poetry for peace and women's sisterhood event with Israeli and Palestinian women participants in the Joint Venture for Peace. For more on that see the document attached.

***with sisterhood blessings,
and blessings for peace,***

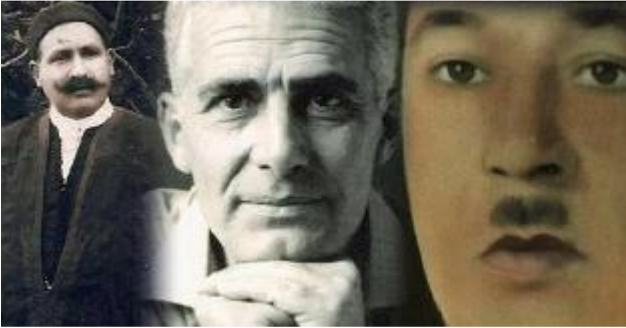
***Yvette Nahmia-Messinas
Teaching Peace and Coexistence
Midwives of peace***

***It took the cooperation of a queen,
a mother, a daughter, two midwives,
rulers and slaves,
old and young,
rich and poor,
Arab and Jewish women
to save a baby's life.
Those women were active, ingenious, intuitive, daring.
They followed their heart.
Let us save our babies too.
Do our part.
We know best.
copyright 2009 by Yvette Nahmia-Messinas***

Did any Arabs save Jews during the Holocaust?

A new documentary film based on the book by Robert Satloff
Directed by Emmy-award winner William Cran
Narrated by Robert MacNeil, former anchor and executive editor,
MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour

[Special New York Premier: Thursday, April 8, 2010](#)
[PBS World Television Premier: Monday, April 12, 2010](#)



Did any Arabs save Jews during the Holocaust?

Seeking a hopeful response to the problems of Holocaust ignorance and denial in the Arab world, and in the wake of 9/11, Middle East expert Robert Satloff set out on what would become an eight-year journey to find an Arab hero whose story would change the way Arabs view Jews, themselves, and their own history. Along the way, Rob Satloff found not only the Arab heroes for whom he started his quest but a vast, lost history of what actually happened to the half-million Jews of the Arab lands of North Africa under Nazi, Vichy, and Fascist rule.

Produced by MacNeil/Lehrer Productions and filmed on location in Tunisia, Morocco, France, Israel, and the United States, the surprising discoveries chronicled in this film are already challenging how both Arabs and Jews view a long-forgotten chapter of the darkest moment in modern times.

World Television Premiere

**Monday, April 12, 2010
10:00 p.m. (ET) on PBS**

Check your local PBS station schedules to confirm date and time of broadcast
Part of the PBS Holocaust Remembrance Collection

New York Premier

**Thursday, April 8, 2010
7:00 p.m.**

**Florence Gould Hall Theater
French Institute Alliance Francaise
55 East 59th Street
Between Park & Madison Avenues
New York, NY**

Limited Seating Available - Reserve Seats Now!

RSVP to AmongtheRighteousNYpremiere@gmail.com

Include your full name and number of tickets (maximum four per reservation)



Robert Satloff is executive director of The Washington Institute for Near East Policy and host of *Dakhil Washington* (Inside Washington), a weekly public affairs program on al-Hurra Arabic satellite television network. Since the publication of *Among the Righteous*, Dr. Satloff and his work have been awarded the Anti-Defamation League's prestigious Daniel Pearl Award for tolerance promotion as well as national prizes from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Simon Wiesenthal Center and Touro Synagogue.

Blood of Space

Drawings by David Chaim Smith

April 1 – May 15, 2010

Opening Reception:

Thursday, April 1, 5:30-7:30 pm

Musical Performance at 6 pm by

John Zorn, Trevor Dunn, and Kenny Wollesen

210 Eleventh Avenue, Suite 201, New York, NY 10001

T 212 226 3768 F 212 226 0155

info@cavinmorris.com u www.cavinmorris.com

Gallery Hours: Tue-Fri 10-6, Sat 11-6

We are looking for passport photos from our community from early 20th century.

New Book of Interest

Jewish Sites in Thessaloniki

Rena Molho and Vilma Hastaoglou-Martinides

Lycabettus Press

Just published in Greece. Kehila Kedosha Janina is the only place it is available in the United States. This book contains a short history of the Jewish presence in Salonika, some biographies of important Jews from the city and details of the present Jewish sites.

Send \$19 (\$15 + \$4 P&H made out to Kehila Kedosha Janina (mail to Association of Friends of Greek Jewry, One Hanson Place, Huntington NY 11743 only within the USA. Book now available in Greece and John Chapple is working on a Greek edition.

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