



## Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

### November 2016 E-newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

The New Year 5777 started off with a true simcha as we watched the new sign designating Hy Genee Way appear on the corner of Broome and Allen. See the pictures (in this newsletter) on the moving ceremony.



**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR NEW WEBSITE: [www.kkjsm.org](http://www.kkjsm.org) and our new e-mails: [info@kkjsm.org](mailto:info@kkjsm.org) and [museum@kkjsm.org](mailto:museum@kkjsm.org).**

**This newsletter, our 92<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

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#### **Passings**

**It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Phyllis Grossman DeCastros, widow of Elliot DeCastros. Our condolences to her children, Greg and Lisa DeCastros and Eileen DeCastros Small and Scott Small. Phyllis leaves four grandchildren, Danny and Kayla Small and Casi and Evan DeCastros, plus many, many dear friends.**



## Simchas

We celebrate two special birthdays, that of Audrey Solomon (85 years old) and that of Sydelle Bloch (90 years old).

Sydelle is the daughter Louise Negrin and Sol Levy, granddaughter of Joseph Negrin and Serena Ganis, great granddaughter of Moses Negrin and Leah (Lula) Cohen Negrin (all Yanniotes of Blessed Memory).



**Sydelle with family**



**Wedding of Louise Negrin and Sol Levy**

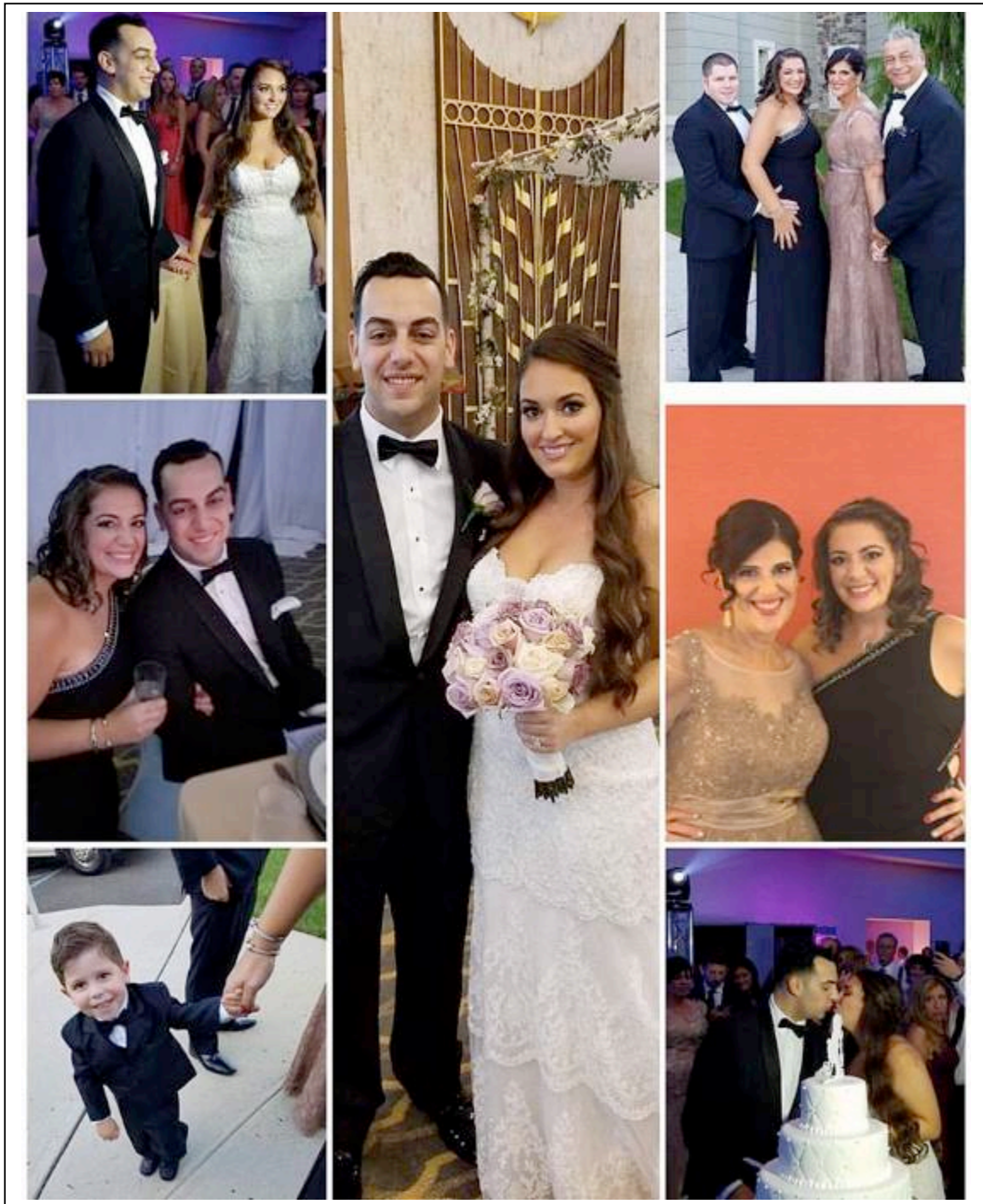
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Our Ralph Battino just became a great-grandfather to Connor Young, son of his granddaughter Dana and Matt Young. Proud Grandparents are Ralph's daughter & son-in-law, Eileen and Gary Bowman.





**Mazal Tov to Esther and Mickey Elting on the marriage of their son, Jordan to Sylvan.**





**We were honored to have Mira, niece of our Board of Trustee member, Mark Winthrop, visit us with her school group from Minnesota.**



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**As always, visitors continued to flock to Kehila Kedosha Janina**

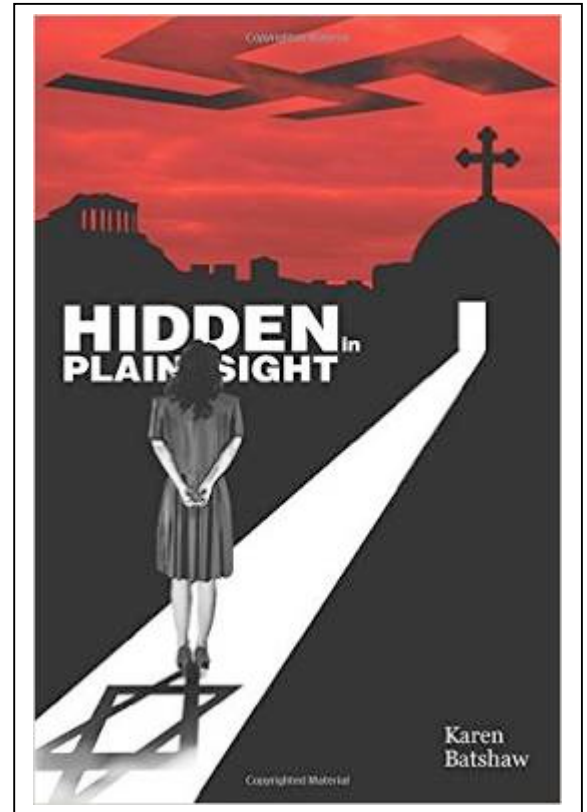
**We were honored with a visit from the members of the Sephardic Brotherhood, including Rabbi Nissim Elcenave, Executive Director of the Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America, and Rabbi Daniel Buscalia from the Sephardic Education Center in Los Angeles.**



**Andrew Marcus, Rabbi Buscalia, Rabbi Nissim Elcenave, Jeff Beja, and Joe Toledo with KKJ President Marvin Marcus**

### Past Events at Kehila Kedosha Janina

We were honored to host the book presentation by Karen Bratshaw. Her excellent book (*Hidden in Plain Sight*) was very well received. For those unable to attend, we have a few copies left. Send your check in the amount of \$15 (includes P&H) to Kehila Kedosha Janina, 280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002.



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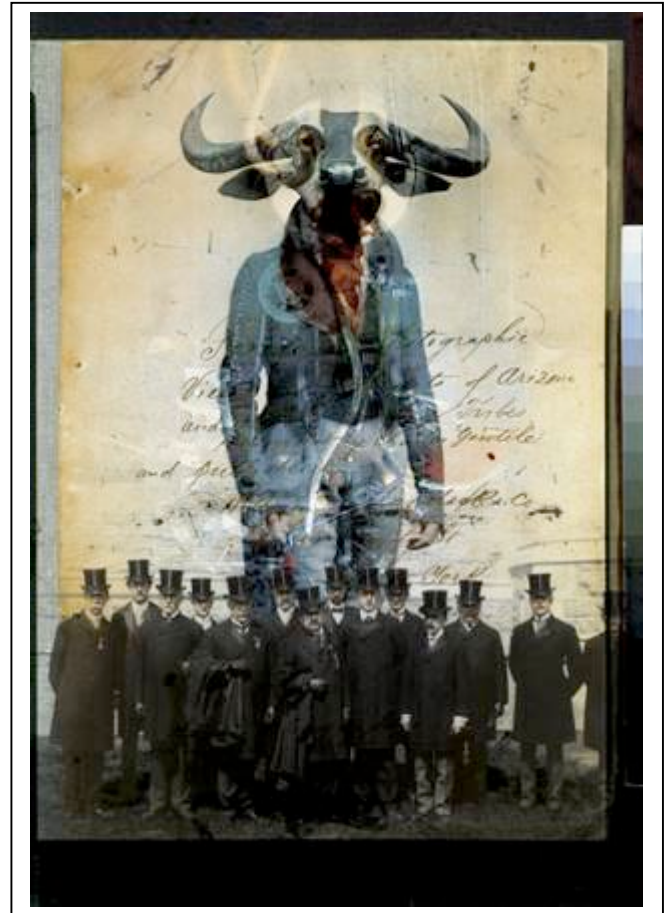
### Events of Interest in the New York Area

We are proud to announce the opening of an exhibit  
by VIKTOR KOEN  
**BESTIARY: Bizarre Myths & Chimerical Fancies**

**NOVEMBER 3, 2016 – JANUARY 3, 2017**  
**Opening Reception Thursday, November 3 from 6-9pm**  
**UNITED PHOTO INDUSTRIES GALLERY**

Following the series' premier at the Benaki Museum in Greece last year—a core exhibition at the international Athens Photo Festival, it will be the first time these mythology inspired tintypes are

exhibited in the US. The work is accompanied by an anthology featuring 24 pieces of fiction, especially commissioned by editor Hellen Datlow with an introduction by Jack Ketchum. Bestiary will be on view at the United Photo Industries Gallery from November 3 through to January 5, 2017. An artist reception (open to all) will be held on November 3 from 6pm - 9pm to celebrate the artist and his work.



Viktor Koen is an award winning artist, educator and speaker. He holds a BFA from the Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design in Jerusalem and an MFA with honors from the School of Visual Arts. Mr. Koen is a regular contributor to national and international publications and serves on the graduate faculty of SVA. His prints are widely exhibited in galleries and museums in the United States, Europe, Japan, and Australia and are part of private and institutional collections.



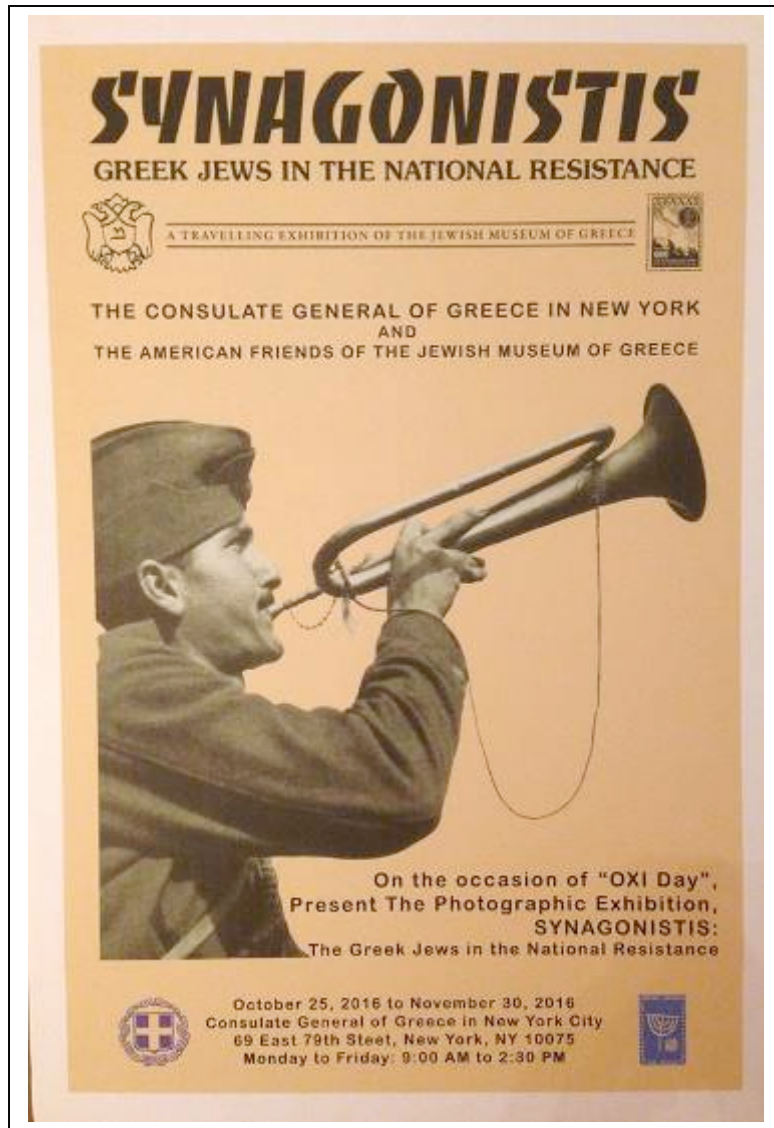
**UNITED PHOTO INDUSTRIES GALLERY**  
**16 MAIN STREET, GALLERY B**  
**DUMBO BROOKLYN NY 11201**  
[www.unitedphotoindustries.com](http://www.unitedphotoindustries.com)  
**Gallery Hours**  
**Tuesday - Friday / 11am-6pm**  
**Saturday 12-4pm**



## Synagonistis

For the next month, the Consulate General of Greece in New York is hosting a very special exhibit about the more than 600 Greek Jews who participated in the Greek Resistance during WWII. It is a powerful exhibit demonstrating the bravery of Greek Jews in fighting the Nazi forces.

[#Synagonistis Consulate General of Greece in New York](#)



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## 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 Battino 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 Battino family was typical of this immigration.

**Sadik came to the USA in 1912 on board the Kaiser Franz Josef, sailing from Patras, arriving on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1912. He is listed as 22 years old, a Hebrew carpenter from Ioannina, leaving his mother Lula behind in Greece. Lula is listed as his closest relative, his father, Raphael having died in 1902. He was travelling with his older sister, Esther. Sadik's wife, Anna DeCastro, arrived in 1914 and the couple married in 1918. The family was living at 70 Orchard Street according to 1920 census and had two children (Lillian and Ralph). Sadik is listed in the 1920 census as a proprietor of a kimono store. In the 1930 census the family is living at 275-77 Broome Street paying \$34 a month rent. This census lists his age at marriage as 24. In the 1940 census they have moved out of the LES and now live at 1932 Crotona Parkway in a house, rented at \$43 a month. Sadik is working with ladies pajamas, 48 hours a week and making \$104 a week. Lillian is also working as an operator. Son Rubin is now born, bringing the family size to 7. In his draft registration of 1917 (for WWI) he is married, 25 years old and living at 70 Orchard Street. He is working as a shipping clerk for M. C. and Sons at 54 Canal Street. On the WWII draft registration he is living in the Bronx on Crotona Parkway and having a telephone (Dayton 9-4736). Place of employment is given as National Pajamas at 576 Broadway. Sadik's name is listed (and crossed out) on Ship manifest from July 1911 on Martha Washington but did not make the ship, arriving a year later in 1912.**



**Sadik and Anna Battino with three oldest children, Lillian, Ralph and Manny.**

**Like most Yanniotes, the Battino family married other Yanniotes (DeCastros, Solomon, Samuels and Ganis. While some of Sadik's children continued this tradition (Lillian marrying Manny Solomon, Ralph marrying Rita Samuels, others married into the Ashkenazi world. Ralph celebrated his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday in August and is now a proud great grandfather of Conner Young.**



**Ralph Battino**



**Abraham Battino**

**Manny & Minnie Battino**





**The three oldest Battino brothers proudly served in the US Armed forces during WWII.**

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**Battino was a common surname in Ioannina and we have other Battino families in our community. The surname comes from the Greek meaning someone who stuffs quilts.**

**In our present congregation in New York, we have Asher and Regina Battino whose parents and older brother survived in hiding during WWII.**

**Avraam and Esther Battino with their son Isaac and a young boy who survived the war.**



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**Zanet Battino, Museum Director of the Jewish Museum of Greece in Athens is the daughter of Nina and Pepo Battino. Pepo (OBM) was a former president of the Jewish Community of Ioannina and Nina is the daughter of Zanet Tsitsou, a survivor from the concentration camps. Marco Battino now serves as Vice President of the Jewish Community of Ioannina and helps lead the services in the synagogue.**



**Nina & Pepo Battino**



**Zanet Battino**

**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!**

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### **News from Jewish Greece**

#### **Ioannina**

**As part of our second tour to Greece, we celebrated Rosh HaShonah in Ioannina. We had thought the attendance would be just the small Jewish community of Ioannina and our group. To our surprise, word got out and we were joined by visiting Israelis. We were over 50 in the synagogue.**



**As always, our tour group is able to connect with the small Jewish community in Ioannina, finding family homes and reinforcing their Greek Jewish roots.**



**Our group holding up family photos in front of the Aron in the synagogue in Ioannina. Bottom row from left, Melissa Klepper, Karen Blau, Jaclyn Klepper (Hametz family), Sharon Cohen (Cohen and Mordechai family), Eley Moses-Gilman (Moses and Genee families), Marjorie Weiner, Eileen Eshelbrenner, Rebecca Eshelbrenner (Menahem, Baruch, Matza families), Ralph and Penny Santiago (Svolis and Matathias families), Alex and Matt Eshelbrenner (Menahem, Baruch, Matza families). Some of the most emotional moments always involve the family connections members of our group make.**



**Penny Santiago visiting with Stella Cohen.**



### Other photos from September/October 2016 Tour to Jewish Greece

From September 26-October 10<sup>th</sup> we visited Spiritual Greece. Our group consisted of Yanniotes from the Hametz, Menahem, Cohen, Moses, Svolis, Matathias and Gabrielides families. It was a lovely group that also included a woman from the Nachmuli family of Larissa and a number of intelligent, interested Ashkenazim. Below are some highlights from the tour.



**Mykonos**



**Eley and Judy in Santorini**



**Larissa**

**Penny and Ralph in Ioannina**





**Larissa**



**Meteora**



**Fun in Athens**





**Dinner at Gostijo**



While in Ioannina, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos presented at the University of Ioannina, the subject the emigration of Jews from Ioannina to the United States. The presentation coincided with the opening of an exhibit inside the Kastro in a building that is part of the Byzantine Museum. A number of the photos in the exhibit were provided by Kehila Kedosha Janina.







### Ioannina Yom Kippur

After the tour was over, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos returned to Ioannina for Yom Kippur. It was an emotional event attended by Yanniotes from all over Greece, Israel and Europe. This year, the USA was represented by Annette Fromm and Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos. There were close to 200 guests. Honored at the post-Yom Kippour dinner in the DuLac were Dr. Mimis Cohen from Chicago and survivors from Ioannina.

**Moses Eliasaf and  
Mimis Cohen**





**Nina Negrin**



**Stella Mionis Cohen**



**Zanet Tsitou**



**The Politis sisters**



**Gershon Harris  
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel**



**Recent events in UNESCO have created quite a stir in the world community and among Jews of every denomination. And well they should, because the recent resolutions that basically disassociate Jews and Judaism from any historical claims to the Temple Mount and ancient Jerusalem are more than contemptible, not to mention totally absurd. In fact, they constitute out and out anti-Semitic propaganda and revisionist history of the worst kind, because if the intrinsic and irrevocable connection of Jews to Jerusalem from the dawn of Biblical history is historically false, then by direct implication, so is classic Judaism and the very claim of a Jewish homeland and holy city. Yet, as despicable and even macabre the resolutions are, not to mention the passive or active support of so many nations that Israel considers as being friends and even allies, many may be surprised to learn that this is far from the only attempt to disconnect us from our holiest sites and homeland. In fact, it is amazing how much this "new" initiative simply continues a dishonorable chain of such actions since almost the beginning of recorded history.**

**Interestingly, and quite possibly the first anticipation of such attitudes is already described in commentary on the very first verse in the Book of Genesis. There, the classic and medieval biblical and Talmudic commentator "Rashi" (Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki, France, 11th century) explains why Genesis was even included in the original 5 books of the Torah, since it's story-like content is intrinsically different from the other 4 books, which mostly form a more 'cut-and-dry' legal code. He quotes a certain Rabbi Yitzhak, who says that inclusion of Genesis in the Torah canon was critical, because when the nations of the world accuse the Jewish people of being thieves for stealing the Land of Israel, our defense will be to show them the story of the Creation and G-d's total dominion over the entire world, which gives Him the exclusive right to "parcel it out" to whichever nations he pleases, and especially the Land of Israel to the Jewish nation via the eternal covenant He made with our forefathers! In light of the fact that Rashi wrote his commentary in the 11th century, and quotes an even more ancient source, it would seem that our basic claim and right to the very Land of Israel was always a sore point, to put it mildly, among the "nations of the world."**

**And in the recent Haftarah we read on the first day of Sukkot, the prophet Zacharia describes the ultimate war of redemption that G-d will fight against the nations of the world as they descend, capture and conquer Jerusalem over the centuries because they refuse to recognize and internalize Jewish dominion over the Holy City! And the surest sign of this ultimate recognition of Jewish dominion over Jerusalem that will be forced upon them by G-d will be the fact that all nations of the world will come to Jerusalem to celebrate Sukkot in the Temple!**

**Possibly the most historically prominent action taken by any nation to literally eliminate any connection of Jews to the Land of Israel and Jerusalem was that of Roman Emperor Hadrian, who, after the Jewish-Roman wars (66-135), plowed to nothing the Temple mount and a good**



part of the city, and changed the name of Judaea province to Syria Palaestina and Jerusalem to Aelia Capitolina in order to totally erase the historical ties of the Jewish people to the region. We could go on, but suffice to say that the most recent attempts by various Arab nations and the Palestinians to use UNESCO as an international forum to once again deny any true historical and national ties of the Jewish people to Jerusalem are simply a more sophisticated method to achieve the same results as their predecessors.

The historical facts, of course, totally and unequivocally prove the exact opposite. There was never any time in history that the Land of Israel, and yes, even Jerusalem was totally 'Judenrein'. Furthermore, Jews always managed to revive and strengthen their presence in Jerusalem, and of course, never for a single moment ever stopped, whether physically and spiritually, to defending our ancient and irrefutable ties to the Land of Israel and Jerusalem.

True, it is more than discouraging to see how so much evil, falsehood and even contempt for our ties to our ancient heritage still exist in the modern world. On the other hand, we must understand that such attempts are not new at all, and that ultimately, no matter how long or difficult the struggle, truth is on our side and will eventually triumph. "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning; Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I remember thee not; if I set not Jerusalem above my greatest joy (Psalm 137, verses 5-6)."

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Searching for the names of the young women in this photo. We have now identified them as Aretha and Efthimia Levy.



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Searching for information about this purse and talleth bag, both among the family heirlooms in the estate of Dorothy Lagary Naphtali. We, especially, would like to have the translation on the talleth bag and to know if the purse is from Ioannina.

We learned that the style of the bag on the left was popular in the 1940s and most likely was hand made. Still looking for a translation of the front of the taleth bag.



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### Cyprus

**NEW YORK—** The American Jewish Council (AJC) honored Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades with the global advocacy organization’s prestigious Light Unto the Nations Award for his steadfast defense of democratic values, relentless pursuit of peace, and unwavering commitment to friendship with the United States and Israel. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the AJC.



The award presentation event took place on September 23 as the world leaders gather for the opening of the UN General Assembly. Senior national AJC leadership, top representatives of the American Greek and Cypriot communities, and several Israeli diplomats attended the ceremony. Among those in attendance, Consul General of Cyprus Vasilis Philippou, Ambassador Nicholas Emiliou of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations, Cyprus government spokesman Nikos Christodoulides, Andrew Manatos- lawyer and former secretary of commerce under President Jimmy Carter, Pancyprian Association President and Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce Director Philip Christopher, Nikos Mouyiaris- Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce Director, and former President of the Cyprus Federation of America Pete Papanicolaou. The event took place at the home of Honorary AJC President Stanley Bergman who welcomed the nearly 100 guests in his opening remarks. David Harris, AJC's Chief Executive Officer, who has met with President Anastasiades many times in Cyprus and New York, introduced the President and presented the award.

Harris said, "As the Prophet Isaiah said, the highest calling in life is peace or eirini in Greek, but to have peace requires courage- tharros, and wisdom- sofia. President Anastasiades has shown these qualities in his determination to reunite his island nation peacefully, and in his genuine friendship to the United States and Jewish people."

Anastasiades said he is "immensely proud" to receive AJC's Light Unto the Nations Award. Saluting the close, cooperative partnership developed over the years between his country and AJC, the president said the award is "a testament to our joint belief in advancing closer Cypriot-Israeli cooperation and strengthening regional synergies and transatlantic relations." "AJC, through its longstanding cooperation with the Hellenic diaspora, has been instrumental, indeed the architect, of the quadrilateral partnership developed among the U.S., Greece, Israel and Cyprus," Anastasiades observed. "We count on AJC's indispensable support in continuing to deepen Cyprus-Israel ties."

"AJC has demonstrated that it is a trustworthy and tireless advocate of our common values and vision for the region," that are based on shared principles of democracy, tolerance, peace and the fight against anti-Semitism, he said.

"Israel is a very important strategic partner and a stabilizing force in the Middle East region," said the president, adding that Cyprus will continue to "advocate in support of the security of the State of Israel, and call for refraining from unilateral measures which could detrimentally affect EU-Israeli relations."

On anti-Semitism, President Anastasiades referred to the many Cypriot municipal leaders who signed AJC's Mayors United Against Anti-Semitism statement as a concrete example of his country's commitment to fight anti-Semitism. "Anti-Semitism is an evil that must be eradicated to the full," he said. More than 500 European and U.S. mayors, including 22 mayors from Cyprus, joined the initiative earlier this year.

The president expressed optimism that an agreement will be reached for the peaceful reunification of the island, which would bring an end, he said, to the 42-year-old Turkish occupation of 40 percent of the country. "The Turkish contribution in concrete terms is critical," he said.

John Shapiro, AJC President, gave the closing remarks. He recalled what a wonderful time he had on his last visit with AJC to Cyprus mentioning the hospitality and the fantastic cheese, halloumi. Harris also wished Anastasiades a happy birthday four days in advance, noting that it was his



own birthday and that of Bruce Springsteen today. Shapiro noted the progress being made for a solution to the division of Cyprus and that "AJC is on your side." He concluded with thanks to all those present for a wonderful event.

Previous recipients of The Light Unto the Nations Award include President Bill Clinton, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

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This June/July, for the first time Cyprus will be part of our main tour to "Jewish Greece." Also included will be Rhodes, Salonika and Ioannina with an optional Israeli extension. We sent out our "hold the date" (June 29-July 13) and will be sending out prices soon. As always, this will be a sell-out and, unfortunately, we will have to turn people away. Don't be excluded! If you are not on our mailing list, contact us at [museum@kkjism.org](mailto:museum@kkjism.org).

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Photos from our co-naming of Broome Street at the corner of Allen (a.k.a. HY GENE WAY) on October 16<sup>th</sup>.









On October 30<sup>th</sup>, we had an historic event at Kehila Kedosha Janina---our first Bat Mizvot, as the twin granddaughters of Sol Matsil celebrated this special even in our synagogue. Becket and Simone Matsil, daughters of Marc and Weld Matsil, granddaughters of Sol and Irene Matsil, and great-granddaughters of Bechoraki and Amelia Matsil (both of Blessed Memory). Made their Yanniote ancestors proud. Mazal Tov.



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 Museum*, 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  
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