



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

May 2008 e-mail newsletter

May 11th is Mother's day. Take the time to remember your mothers. Life is too short. Just recently, we lost the following precious mothers: Annette Samuels, Ann Oppenheim, Lillian Cassorla and Irene Solomon. This newsletter is dedicated to their memory.

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Our e-newsletters continue to be very well received and will remain a permanent monthly feature. As we continue to work on resolving some technical difficulties, we will continue to include a copy of the e-letter in an attachment.

If you are on our e-mailing lists, you will receive our e-letter automatically. If for any reason you do not wish to receive the e-mail newsletter, please inform us.

It has come to our attention that our e-newsletters have found their way into mass mailings supplied by others. While we are very honored that so many have found it interesting to pass on our news, please be advised that in this day of technology, we have no control over this.

We hope that all of you had a joyous holiday season. Our upcoming schedule for May continues to be hectic as more and more lunch groups join us for a special experience at Kehila Kedosha Janina. To learn about our lunch tours, do access our website [www.kkjsm.org]. Please be advised to book early as we are already filling up for the Fall and Winter of 2008.

Our 12th edition of the Romaniote is now in the mail and can, also, be accessed on our website, along with an updated booklist. We are very proud of this newsletter as our news continues to grow in volume. Issue 12 contains articles on the Hametz Family reunion, and last summer's Bar Mitzvah of Seth

Kofinas in Ioannina. If you are not on our mailing list and wish to receive the Romaniote by mail, please get back to us with your postal address. Our newsletter reaches close to 3000 households in the USA and over 200 international. Become part of our extended family!



Tik encased Torah donated by Jewish Community of Ioannina in 1927 to dedicate the opening of Kehila Kedosha Janina [proudly used for the past eighty plus years].

NEWS

Kehila Kedosha Janina News

Our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, visited Toronto in April for a lecture at Temple Sinai and was a guest of the Toronto Holocaust Museum. On returning to New York, Marcia arranged for Kehila Kedosha Janina and The Association of Friends of Greek Jewry to donate a case of books on the Holocaust in Greece to the Toronto Holocaust Museum's library to help ensure that our story will be told. Excellent connections were made with the Director of the Toronto Holocaust Museum and there are plans for a 2009 exhibit on The Holocaust in Greece in Toronto.

This year, on Yom HaShoah, the story of the tragic loss of the Jews of Ioannina will be told at Queens Community for Cultural Judaism Yom HaShoah commemoration on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 2 PM. Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos will be the featured speaker. The event is open to the public: Sterling Glen of Roslyn, 100 Landing Road, Roslyn NY.



**Photographs of the deportation of the Jews of Ioannina taken on March 25th, 1944
[copyright: Kehila Kedosha Janina]**

May 4th: The Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum will be closed due to the annual Pasha Dinner Dance.



Pasha dance 2005 [from the Photo Archives of Kehila Kedosha Janina]

The Museum will re-open on May 11th.

NEWS FROM GREECE

The following article is from December 2007 but since many of our readers are unaware of this, it is worth re-printing:

A 14 month sentence for Kostas Plevris for publishing in a book that "Jews are being sub-human, mortal enemies and worthy of the firing squad"

Athens.- A Greek court sentenced a neo-Nazi author of an anti-Semitic book to a 14-month suspended sentence, in the first case of its kind in Greece. Constantine Plevris was found guilty of inciting hatred and racial violence with his book "The Jews -- The Whole Truth."

In his 1400 page book, Plevris glorifies Hitler and calls for the extermination of the Jews. He declares himself "a Nazi, a fascist, a racist, an anti-democrat, an anti-Semite. Jews are mortal enemies and deserve the firing squad"

"We thank the Greek justice system for its dignity and for demonstrating that we truly live in a democratic society," president of the Central Jewish Council of Greece, Moisis Constantinis, said after the trial.

Moses Costantinis testified in court that after the book was published, attacks against Jewish sites increased.

Benjamin Albalas, head of the Jewish Community of Athens, said before the court that the book "incites violence and encourages people to kill us."

Defense lawyers said their clients were being persecuted for freely expressing their views.

The Jewish community saw the trial as a key test of the Greek authorities' determination to deal with anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial.

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece issued the following press release:

"Regarding the decision of the Athens Court of Appeal for Indictable Offences to find against K. Plevris, the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece expresses its contentment with the decision of the Court as it effectively condemns modern-day racism and Nazism in any form. This decision is an instrumental parameter in the on-going, unceasing battle being waged by society and humanity against barbarity and racism, anti-Semitism and fascism".

Mr. Plevris, who plans to appeal, claimed that if he was convicted, it would merely show that the judges had been "bought by the Jews."

On trial together with Plevris, the publisher, the editor and a journalist of the extreme-right weekly newspaper "Elefteros Kosmos" were found not guilty.

It was the first trial in Greece on the recently introduced incitement charges, under the 1979 anti-discrimination law.

An estimated 60,000 Greek Jews, most of the country's prewar Jewish population, were killed by the Nazis during World War II. Around 4,000 Jews

live today in Greece [actual stats are 67,000 perished in WWII and an estimated 4500 live in Greece today].

Kehila Kedosha Janina Website [www.kkjsm.org]

Coming soon to our website [under "Archives"] will be a translation of an article on Kurt Waldheim's complicity in the Holocaust of Greek Jewry.

Upcoming Lectures on Greek Jewry [not at Kehila Kedosha Janina]

May 7: Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos will be the featured speaker at The Sephardic Temple of Cedarhurst, 775 Branch Blvd., Cedarhurst, NY 11516 at 7:30 pm, accompanying the showing of "The Song of Life." No admission charge, refreshments served.

May 11: "Customs and Traditions of the Jews of Ioannina," Queens Borough Public Library, Flushing Branch, 41-17 Main Street, Flushing NY 11365, 2:00 pm, free to the public. Guest speaker, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, Museum Director, Kehila Kedosha Janina.

May 22: "The History and Legacy of Greek Jews." Steve Bowman, Professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Cincinnati, will look at the history of Jews in Greece - their ancient origins, their contribution to Jewish culture, and fate within the larger Christian community. This lecture will take place at MOBIA [Museum of Biblical Art] at 6:30 pm. MOBIA is located at 1865 Broadway at 61st Street. The lecture is free as part of Vincent Giordano's exhibit "Before the Flame Goes Out" and is a marvelous opportunity for those of you who have not yet seen this exhibit to do so. You can register to attend the lecture by going to www.mobia.org/programs.