Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

We wish Jews throughout the world a joyous Pesach. Do join us at Kehila Kedosha Janina for services (see attachment for schedule). We wish all our Greek-Orthodox Christian friends Kalo Pascha.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.kkjsm.org and our new e-mails: info@kkjsm.org (President) and museum@kkjsm.org (Museum Director).

This newsletter, our 97th 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 8500 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

Last month we mourned the passing of Stema Levy. With the permission of the family we print this correction:

We mourn the passing of Stema (Cohen) Levy (4/27/27-2/14/2017). Stema & Joseph Levy (11/11/22 - 2/27/2001), were married for 52 years. Both were of Romaniote descent, as both sets of parents were from Ioannina, Esther and Abraham Cohen, Rebecca and Louis Levy - and all were lifelong members of Kehila Kedosha Janina. Joe and Stema moved to Margate, NJ in 1960, and were active in their community. Surviving their parents are Lew (Barbara) Levy, Ellen (Gregg) Lichtenstein, Roberta (Morris) Liss and three grandsons - Jared, Adam and Elia. May her memory be for a blessing.
This month there were a series of losses in Sarah Honan Crocker’s family. The Honans came from Kastoria. We mourn the passing of Sarah’s cousins: Howard Walker left us too young. He passed away one day after his 68th birthday. Howard’s aunt, Celia Hymson passed away just short of her 99th birthday.

A legend in our community left us on March 15th. It is with sadness that we publish this obituary written with love by his daughter, Andrea.

OBITUARY for Louis Levy
Taps will blow gently for another member of “the Greatest Generation”. Louis “Louie” Levy, a U.S. Navy Veteran, passed peacefully on March 15, 2017 at the age 95 years old in Plantation, Florida. Born on May 30, 1921 on the Lower East Side of NYC, he is the son of the late Isaac and Stella Levy originally of Ioannina, Greece. Louis survived his 8 brothers and sisters Betty Mioni, Hyman Levy, David Levy, Anne Nikokiris, Eva Molotto, Joseph Levy, Ette Tatunzak and Mollie Post, as well as his first granddaughter, Brie Lakin.

Louis served as Signalman 3rd class for the US Navy from October 1942 until his honorable discharge in October 1945. He often shared stories about his Navy experiences, and that he “travelled around the world 2 ½ times.” He was an engaging storyteller who captivated his audiences. One of his most memorable journeys was a pilgrimage to Ioannina, while his Liberty ship was docked in Greece on June 1, 1945 (five days before WWII ended) to fulfill a promise that he made to his mother. He travelled to Ioannina to learn if any family members had survived the Holocaust. With money collected by his fellow sailors, and the threat of Court Marshal by his commanding officer, nothing would detain him from keeping his promise. Louis made the 4 day journey and returned to the ship, The Park Holland, minutes before it departed port. He complied and brought back a list of the few survivors, which he then gave to the president of Kehila Benjamin Honan Kastoria 1938
Kedosha Janina Synagogue on Broome St. in NYC. Louis also documented this experience in a 13 page narrative that, in recent years, he shared with his children. This pilgrimage earned Louis recognition at the historic synagogue on Broome Street in New York, the restored synagogue in Ioannina, and the Jewish Museum in Athens. He was fluent in the Greek language. Louie lived in the Bronx, before he and his wife Judy, moved to Tamarac, Florida in 1978. He worked in sales most of his life and was also a partner in his wife’s family’s slipper manufacturing business in New York City. He loved to play cards, and was an avid fan of old cowboy movies. This passion earned him the name “The Sheriff of Putnam Valley”, a small New York town where the family owned a summer home. Louie has always been described as a caring, loving, compassionate man with an incredibly wonderful sense of humor.

Louie Levy in Ioannina in June 1945

Louie Levy and Bennie Cohen

Louis is survived by his loving wife of 60 years Judith Berkowitz Levy and four daughters who made him very proud; Rhonda Paganetti, Andrea Lakin Orlando (Ron Orlando), Susan Reisman, and Donna Levy (Bill Van Slyke.) He will be remembered with love and admiration by his grandchildren; Emily Lakin, Dylan Orlando (Daniela Barbosa), Ian Reisman, Megan Bender (Chris Bender), Maxx Kleiner (Kelly Hartnett), Emmett Van Slyke, Mikaela Van Slyke; his great granddaughter, Ramona Orlando; three sisters-in-law, his former spouse Shirlee Cabillis Paganetti, his dedicated care giver Bette, and numerous nieces and nephews who adored him.

Memorial contributions may be made to Kehila Kedosha Janina 280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002
Simchas

We celebrate the birth of wedding of Sarah Cohen and Salvatore Splurge. Sarah is the daughter of Nathan Cohen and Judy Asser Cohen and we welcome Salvatore into our crazy Greek Jewish world. Both Nathan’s and Judy’s families came from Ioannina. Sarah is the great-granddaughter of Rabbi Simon Asser and Louisa Nachman. Rabbi Asser was an early spiritual leader in Kehila Kedosha Janina and the granddaughter of Isaac Cohen, who is still enjoying life in his nineties.

Sal and Sarah

What a joy to welcome Victor De Vreese into the world in Antwerp, Belgium on March 23rd. Victor is the first grandchild of Hella Kounio Matalon and Elia Matalon. He is the great-grandson of Heinz and Shelley Kounio of Thessaloniki.

Victor De Vreese
We celebrate the birth of the first grandchild of Lois Abraham Davis. Her son Dan Jedell and daughter-in-law, Katherine Stephanou Jedell are the proud grandparents. Lois’ father, Morris Abraham is now the proud great-grandfather.
Visitors

As always, Kehila Kedosha Janina greets visitors from all over the world. We are one of the most popular sites on the Lower East Side.

Interfaith group from Westchester

KleinLife JCC from Philadelphia

Aikoi Mas, Los Muestras (our own) come home

One of our greatest joys is when “Our Own” come to visit us. In March we had a special visit from the son of one of our former Board of Trustee members, David Negrin of Blessed Memory. Neal and Bonnie Negrin visited Kehila Kedosha Janina for the first time. We hope it will not be the last!
March was a busy month as we hosted with three major events.

On March 5th we hosted Mara Cohen Ionidis in a book signing. Her book, "We Are in Exile," brings alive the story of the Jewish Community of Rhodes as the community begins to leave the island. The book is a children’s book and brings the story of our world to the next generation. We sell this book for $15.

On March 12th we were treated to a concert of Epirotika music by Beth Bahia Cohen, Vasilis Kostas and Lefteris Bournias. It was, by far, an absolute joy.
On March 19th, we were honored to show “Cloudy Sunday” to a packed house. This movie was very emotional since it portrayed the Holocaust of Salonikli Jews and touched many in the audience whose families were destroyed in Greece.

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**Purim at Kehila Kedosha Janina**

We were overjoyed to host our annual Purim celebration to a packed house of old and new friends.

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**Past Events of Interest in New York City**

Our President, Marvin Marcus and his son and fellow Board of Trustee member, Andrew Marcus, were present to greet the former Chief Rabbi of England, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, at the annual meeting of the Downtown Vaad, a group of downtown synagogues with which Kehila Kedosha Janina is now affiliated.
Upcoming Events at Kehila Kedosha Janina

In April we have two special events, April 23rd Yom HaShoah and on April 30th a special showing of the film Trezoros, which documents the Jewish community of Kastoria, along with music by Danny Elias and Maurice Sedacca.

On April 23rd, Rebecca Yomtov Hauser, a survivor from Ioannina, will be coming to Kehila Kedosha Janina. After our Yom HaShoah services at 1:00, where Rebecca will light a candle for the Jews of Janina lost in the Holocaust, Rebecca will present her book, MY SIMPLE LIFE IN GREECE DESTROYED BY THE HOLOCAUST. For those of you who cannot make it, Rebecca’s story is on youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbPudYTSWgs&list=PL_fMIWKr6jZOLkq3fT_OtPcrnF3iMZyv

Rebecca celebrated her 95th birthday in December.

Rebecca Yomtov Hauser

Wedding of Manny and Rebecca Hauser

Yomtov Family in Ioannina 1920s
Kehila Kedosha Janina invites you to our annual

**YOM HAŞHOAH**

**HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY**

**WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER**

**REBECCA YOMTOV HAUSER**

Sunday April 23rd at 1:00pm
Kehila Kedosha Janina
280 Broome Street New York, NY 10002

Rebecca Yomtov Hauser, 95 years old, was deported from Ioannina on March 25, 1944. Rebecca came from a typical Yanniote family of shop owners in Ioannina. She lived outside the Kastro in Ioannina. She came from a family of five children. Her sister Annetta died before the war but her brothers Nissim, Avraam and Isaac, along with her parents, Mordo and Boneka, were murdered in the concentration camps. After the war, family in the United States brought Rebecca to the USA.

Rebecca has spoken numerous times on the Holocaust, feeling it to be of utmost importance to educate and ensure that this never happens again. She has recently published her memoir, *My Simple Life in Greece Before it Was Destroyed by the Holocaust*.

We are honored to host Rebecca for a book signing after our Yom HaŞhoah service at 1pm. Refreshments will be served.
Please RSVP to museum@kkjsm.org or 516-456-9336 for this event. While we usually do not serve refreshments on Yom HaShoah, we will this year in honor of Rebecca.

For those of you who cannot make the event but still want an autographed copy of Rebecca’s book, send $25 to Kehila Kedosha Janina, 280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002.

Rebecca in family’s fabric shop in Ioannina

On April 30th, we are honored to present a special showing of the movie, Trezoros, about the Jewish Community of Kastoria. Both of the filmmakers Larry Russo and Larry Confino will be present and Danny Elias and Maurice Sedacca will play some of the Ladino music from the film. Admission is $10 at the door. Please RSVP to museum@kkjsm.org.
Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum is honored to show the film

TREZOROS
THE LOST JEWS OF KASTORIA

Sunday April 30th at 1pm
Kehila Kedosha Janina
280 Broome Street New York, NY 10002

This special showing will be like no other. In addition to the showing of the internationally acclaimed film, we will have Maurice Sedacca and Danny Elias, who supplied some of the Ladino music for the film, performing live in person.

Both the Director and Producer of the film will be present to answer questions and discuss the film.

Tickets only $10
Refreshments will be served after the film
Please RSVP at museum@kkjism.org
We are excited to announce a new class for young professionals at Kehila Kedosha Janina
Please RSVP to GreekJewishYPN@gmail.com
Save the Date for our annual Greek Jewish Festival! Sunday May 21, 2017 from 12-6pm. Full details at GreekJewishFestival.com

Greek Jewish Festival
Sunday May 21
12PM – 6PM
BROOME ST BETWEEN ALLEN ST AND ELDRIDGE ST
LOWER EAST SIDE NYC

DELICIOUS FOOD  LIVE MUSIC  KIDS ACTIVITIES
SYNAGOGUE TOURS  DANCING  VENDORS & GIFTS

- FESTIVAL SPONSORS -

- COMMUNITY PARTNERS -

For more info: GreekJewishFestival.com
Annual Commemorations in Greece of the Deportations of March 25, 1944

The following communities had commemorations of the 73rd anniversary of the roundup of Greek Jews for deportations to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Arta

Kastoria
There were also events in Athens, Ioannina, Larissa and Volos

Recent update on our Holocaust records. We always welcome corrections and/or additions. Because of our website (www.kkjsm.org) a family in Sweden realized that their grandmother had erroneously been listed as a victim from Ioannina. Ester Skinios Angelidis survived and remained in Sweden where she had been nursed back to health. She never returned to Ioannina and was listed as murdered in Auschwitz. We will correct this on our website and are including an attachment with Ester’s story.

Articles of Importance to Greek Jews


We Are Still Here - The Jews of Thessaloniki

Do read the article above about the Jewish presence in Thessaloniki. It includes interviews with Larry Sefiha, Erika Perahia and a portion in Ladino by Jack Benmayor.
A Square in Israel to Be Named “Zakynthos Square” in Honor of the Island That Saved All Its Jews

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YouTube video on Salonika

https://youtu.be/7acdwaFw3x4

The city that I lost - the city that I remember

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Bulgarian insistence on historical revisionism causes further controversy

Bulgaria Holocaust Commemoration Sparks Controversy While Bulgaria marks the 74th anniversary since it prevented the deportation of its Jews to Nazi death camps, the country's failure to save over 11,000 Jews from territories it occupied in Greece and Macedonia continues to cause tension. - See more at: http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/controversy-sparks-over-bulgaria-holocaust-commemoration-03-09-2017#sthash.mEJJxkZQ.dpuf
The Club of Bulgarian and Jewish Friends held a silent protest in front of the monument commemorating Bulgaria’s bravery in saving its 48,000 Jews from being deported to Nazi extermination camps in World War II.

What the protesters object to is an inscription on the monument, located in the park next to Bulgaria’s National Assembly, which notes that 11,343 Jews from Bulgarian-occupied Northern Greece and Macedonia were not saved - and sent to the death camps.

“We consider such statements as defamation, which shames not only Bulgaria's memory, but Bulgarian culture and the Bulgarian people,” Evgenii Sachev, one of the founders of the club, said on Thursday.

The organization said it had notified Bulgarian institutions several times about its concerns about the monument before deciding to stage a protest and calling for the inscription's removal. The monument was officially inaugurated on July 7, 2016 by Bulgaria’s ex-president Rosen Plevneliev and his Israeli colleague, Reuven Rivlin.

Bulgaria’s failure to save the Jewish population from the Northern Greek and Yugoslav territories it occupied in World War II as a German ally continues to stir tensions, although it was officially acknowledged during the country’s 70th anniversary of the saving of its Jews.

In November 2011, a Macedonian movie based on the deportation and destruction of the Jewish community in Macedonia caused diplomatic tension between the two countries. The fresh controversy comes just two days after Bulgaria’s caretaker government gave a green light to Bulgaria's accession to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. According to Solomon Bali, a member of the Jewish organization, B’nai B’rith Bulgaria, Friday’s protest is “a scream of hysterical historic revisionism and an attempt at Holocaust denial”.

“The role of the ... kingdom of King Boris III and former Prime Minister Bogdan Filov in the deportation of the [Greek and Macedonian] Jews is crystal clear for historical science and it is a dark role,” he told BIRN.

“Bulgaria has things to be proud of, but it is not Filov’s government. It is the Bulgarian church and the Bulgarian people”, he added.

As a member of the Axis Powers during World War II, Bulgaria enforced anti-Jewish laws against its Jewish minority and signed a deportation order for 20,000 Jews in 1943. Over 11,000 Jews living in Bulgarian-occupied Greece and Macedonia were sent to death camps. However, a plan to deport all 48,000 Jews from Bulgaria proper in May 1943 encountered fierce resistance from the powerful Bulgarian Orthodox Church, as a result of which the royal government cancelled the order. The whole Jewish population in the old Bulgarian territory was saved.

In January 2017 Israeli and Bulgarian public figures nominated the Bulgarian Orthodox Church for a Nobel Peace Prize for its role in rescuing Jews from the Nazi Holocaust – an idea first announced in February 2016.

This is the second time that the Church has been nominated for a Nobel Prize following an earlier initiative in 2013.

We print these photos to remind the Bulgarians of their direct complicity in the deportation of the Jews of Greece and FYROM.

In memory of the Jews of Greece and FYROM and in special memory of the Russo family from Kavala and Rabbi Azouvi from Kavala. We will never forget. IT IS TIME BUGARIA STARTED TO REMEMBER!

Greek Citizenship

Greek Jewish community hails citizenship decision

Hellenic lawmakers decided to allow the descendants of Holocaust survivors, many of whom live in Israel, to apply for Greek citizenship.

Heinz Kounio at the railroad car at the station in Thessaloniki during the 74th anniversary memorial in memory of the first deportation of the Jews of Thessaloniki. Heinz, soon to be 90 years old, is one of the few survivors.
Athens — Greece’s Jewish community hailed on Saturday lawmakers’ decision to allow descendents of Holocaust survivors to apply for Greek citizenship. The parliamentary amendment follows calls from the Central Board of Jewish Communities, the group’s president David Saltiel told AFP.

“This is a moral victory,” and a “fresh step forward in the recognition of the history of the Holocaust and of Greek Jews,” he said.

In 2011 Greece recognized the right of Jewish survivors of the World War II Nazi Holocaust to gain back the nationality they had lost if they left the country, Saltiel said.

The new amendment concerns relatives of those survivors, many of whom live in Israel.

Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel

Pesah will begin this year Monday night April 10th, and will continue for 7 days in Israel and 8 days in the Diaspora. Obviously, this is the "central" and most well-known event during the Hebrew month of Nissan, but far from the only one.

In fact, the entire month of Nissan is unique in both Jewish and most probably general terms, because, in essence, every day of the month is basically a holiday, whether major or minor.

This begins with Rosh Hodesh - the first day of the month - with the customary additional prayers of joy (Hallel) that are recited on every new month. However, in Biblical times, it was during the month of Nissan, starting from the first day of the month, that the Mishcon - the portable Tabernacle- was dedicated by Moses and Israel in the desert. From the 1st to the 12th of the "month of Spring"- the Biblical name for Nissan, each day a different head of one of the 12 tribes brought his special celebratory sacrifices in honor of the dedication, which was considered that tribe's special holiday, as well as for the entire people. The following day, the 13th of Nissan was "Isru Hag" - the day following all major Biblical festivals - when a festive atmosphere still prevails while people return to their daily routine. The 14th was the eve of Pesah and the bringing of the sacrificial Paschal lamb, followed by the holiday itself, from the 15th - 21st (later also the 22nd in the Diaspora). Again the next day (22nd/23rd) would be "Isru Hag", which brings the official end, so to speak, to the "holiday" period.

But that isn't the end. Since the Jewish people were freed and redeemed from Egypt during Nissan, Jewish tradition holds that in the future, the final redemption will also occur in Nissan. This can only occur, however, after the construction of the Third Temple, which, according to another Jewish tradition, will occur during the Pesah holiday itself. But Jewish law mandates that we not "mix joyous occasions" - e.g. a wedding during Sukkot or Pesah - in order to properly honor and celebrate each joyous occasion without diminishing it by the other occasion - the
actual dedication of the Third Temple will be held AFTER Pesah, and take at least a week, meaning from the 22nd-29th (inclusive) of Nissan. 29 days is the maximum length of any Jewish month, so, as stated, every single day of the month is celebrated. And as previously mentioned in this column, the very onset of Spring is also celebrated during Nissan with the recitation of the "Blessing for the Trees".

Therefore, the accepted custom for all Jews is not to recite any penitential prayers—whether routine or special—during the entire month, and there are communities that don’t even visit cemeteries, except when absolutely necessary, like for a funeral or Azkara ("yahrzeit"). There are many Sephardic communities that do not recite "Hashkavot" (memorial prayers) during Nissan, though it should be emphasized that, while elimination of regular penitential prayers is indeed universal and consistently followed by both Ashkenazim and Sephardim, all issues regarding cemetery visits and Hashkavot are based on less universal custom. Therefore, there is no prohibition involved, so if a person wishes to visit the grave of someone—and especially if there is no other opportune time—this is certainly permitted.

Finally, Kabbalistic tradition speaks about the special significance of the 7th day of Pesah—when the miracle of the splitting of the Reed Sea (more commonly, though most likely incorrectly, called the "Red" Sea) occurred. Given that this is the final day of Pesah, the anticipation of the coming of the Messiah reaches a fever pitch, and there is a very strong custom, especially amongst Sephardim in Israel, to hold a "Se'udat Hamashiah"—a meal for the Messiah—where special songs are sung and words of Torah spoken, much like "Se'uda Shilshit"—the third Shabbat meal. May the Messiah and final redemption come this year, Amen!

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.

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News of Interest for Everyone

Do check out this article on the Ottoman Archives in Venice

http://hazine.info/venetian-state-archives-online-miscellanea-documenti-turchi/
Photos From the Greek Independence Day Parade in New York City, Athens Greece and Montreal Canada

New York

Montreal

Athens
Don’t forget to share your photos. The photos of this month are:

Jerry Pardo’s Bar Mitzvah photo with his sister Elyna.

The Salonica Restaurant on Chrystie Street on the Lower East Side
So many of you have applauded our efforts. We thank those who have sent in contributions.

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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**
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**280 BROOME STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10002**