November 2017 E-Newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

As the secular year winds down, we look back over 2017 and are heartened by the vibrancy of our community and the connections we have made with Jewish communities in Greece and Greek and Sephardic Jewish communities throughout the United States. Not only have we created a legacy, we are now assured of a future. We love when the past and the present come together. The photo below was given to us by Irwin Blau, taken on our 2000 Tour to Jewish Greece. Irwin is posing with his family and his relative, Stella Mioni. Irwin's grandfather was Rabbi Israel Hametz and Stella's mother came from the Hametz family.

This newsletter, our 104th 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.
We now reach over 8,500 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 by emailing info@kkjsm.org 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**

We mourn the passing of Tillie Malta, whose joy for life belied her years. She is survived by her daughters, Anita and Holly.

We mourn the passing of a descendant of one of our founding families, Rose Citron. We thank her son, Warren Citron, for sending us the obituary below.

“It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of our dear mother, Rose Levy Citron, daughter to Morris and Esther Levy of Broome Street, New York.

Born October 23, 1922 Rose was the youngest of 6 siblings; Mollie, Ray, Bobby, Lillie and Sylvia who all learned to survive during the Great Depression era. Kehila Kedosha of Janina was at the center of their lives. Father Morris was in the textiles business. He played an integral part in the founding of this monumental House of Worship for its culturally unique members.

Though short in height, Rose was a giant to her family. She married her loving husband Joseph Citron with whom she had two sons, Merril and Warren who eventually celebrated their marriages to Dalia and Linda respectively.

Today our mom would be 95 years. She touched the lives of so many in the most positive of ways. She is survived by her loving children, her grandchildren; David, Michael, Jason and Zachary and
by her great grandchildren; Shoshana, Rina Gavriela, Eliyahu, Ezra, and Aliza with whom she spent many wonderful moments. All of their lives were made richer for the times spent celebrating life together. Forever holding to her heritage, with great pride, dancing in life at every chance. Our mother, their Nona, will be missed but will live on deep in our hearts, and always in our minds.

Rest in Peace, Our Dear, Blessed, Beloved, Rose bat Esther.”

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Simchas

We celebrate the birth of two grandchildren into the Greek-Jewish world, a granddaughter for Benny Natan (family from Salonika, now living in Israel) and Marty and Marla Genee, a grandson (Marty is the son of Hy Genee of Blessed Memory).

From Benny, we received the following post on Facebook: “My granddaughter, no name yet, born on Oct. 25, 2017 to Libi and my son Daniel. They became parents and I became a grandfather (I am a nonno). In a way, I feel that the line of my family continues. My parents did not succeed to see a grandchild. May this child be lucky, live long and prosper.”

Julius Ian Sternberg was born Sunday October 22. His proud parents are Arielle and Josh Sternberg and his proud grandparents are Marty and Marla Genee. Julius is the heir to a proud heritage of Ioannina Jews, his great-grandfather, Hy Genee of Blessed Memory, was President of Kehila Kedosha Janina for 50 years and his great-great-grandparents, Bechoraki and Fani Genee were both born in Ioannina, as were his ancestors going back for centuries.
We congratulate Ari Negrin on celebrating fifty years at his hat store on Orchard Street. In November (on the 18th), Ari will be celebrating another simcha, that of the Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel, his grandson at Kehila Kedosha Janina. Ari’s family came to join our community in the 1950’s after an earthquake in Volos. Thank you Ari for being such an asset to our congregation and our community.

Visitors

We love when groups visit us. We are a popular destination for synagogues, Haddasah groups, seniors, and students from near and far.
We love hosting school groups. We particularly enjoyed a diverse group from Stuyvesant High School who are taking an elective on Jewish History. They came to Kehila Kedosha Janina to learn about Greek Jews.

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Past Events at Kehila Kedosha Janina

In October we hosted three special events highlighting our world, both filling our communal room with old and new friends.

On October 16th, Professor Devin Naar gave an outstanding presentation on “Greeks, Jews and Greek Jews: Identity and Culture in a Changing World.” We had a crowd that was standing room only.
On October 22\textsuperscript{nd}, we were treated to a special showing of the film \textbf{Trezoros} in memory of Lena Russo. Our room was filled with Kastorialis and those interested in learning about this special Jewish community. Film maker Larry Confino spoke to the audience after the screening.

On October 27\textsuperscript{th} and 28\textsuperscript{th} the \textbf{Greek Jewish & Sephardic Young Professionals Network} hosted a special Turkish Shabbaton and Shabbat Dinner with guest scholar in residence Rabbi Nissim Elnecave. Over 50 young adults attended the Friday night Shabbat dinner along with another 50+ guests on Saturday. Traditional Sephardic, Greek, and Turkish foods were enjoyed by all.

Young adults in their 20’s and 30’s are welcome to join this growing Network by emailing \texttt{GreekJewishYPN@gmail.com}

\underline{Past Events of Interest}

At the Greek Consulate in New York, on October 18\textsuperscript{th}, there was a moving exhibit of photos in honor of the 77\textsuperscript{th} commemoration of Oxi Day. The exhibit will run through November 3\textsuperscript{rd}. 
Upcoming Events at Kehila Kedosha Janina

We are honored to host Kol Dodi for a special concert at Kehila Kedosha Janina on Sunday November 19th.

Back by Popular Demand!

Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum
is excited to welcome back

KOL DODI
FOR A
SPECIAL ISRAELI & GREEK CONCERT

Sunday November 19th at 6:30pm
Kehila Kedosha Janina
280 Broome Street NYC

Kol Dodi (The Voice of My Beloved) is a talented group of musicians who play a wide selection of Hebrew and Greek songs. Yaron Hanoka’s roots are from Salonika. Avram Pangas’ roots are from Ioannina. On November 19th they will bring their music to Kehila Kedosha Janina. There will be dancing in the aisles!

Tickets $20
Purchase in advance by check or cash only at the door. Checks can be made out to Kehila Kedosha Janina and mailed to 1 Hanson Place, Huntington, NY 11743.

Please RSVP to museum@kkjsm.org
Join us for a special Italian Shabbat hosted in partnership with Centro Primo Levi. The **Friday night dinner is completely full**, but all are welcome to attend services on Friday and Saturday, as well as our Kiddush lunch on Saturday.

**November 10 and 11**

**An Italian Shabbat**

Kehila Kedosha Janina, 280 Broome Street, NYC  
RSVP: amarcus@kkjsm.org

With Rav Amedeo Spagnoletto (Collegio Rabbinico Italiano and Chief Rabbi of Florence), Rav Nissim Elneçavé (Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America), and Chaim Kofinas (Kehila Kedosha Janina)

**Friday, November 10**

6:30 pm - Qabbalat Shabbat  
Followed by Qiddush and dinner

**Saturday, November 11**

9:30 am - Shabbat Service  
Qiddush and lunch  
Mincha 3:00 pm  
Avdalà 5:30 pm

**THE ROME LAB**  
Rav Spagnoletto is in New York for the Rome Lab a project of the Jewish Museum of Rome.  
Visit the virtual installation at the Center for Jewish History and join Rav Spagnoletto’s lecture on his work as a sofer (scribe) and the Italian Jewish traditions.  
November 9, 2017 at 6:30 pm  
Free and open to the public. Reservations: romelab@primolevicenter.org

Amedeo Spagnoletto has recently been appointed Chief Rabbi of Florence. He has a degree in History and completed his rabbinic studies at the Collegio Rabbinico Italiano. He graduated from the Vatican School of Library Economics and attended various Rabbinical Institutes in Jerusalem where he was awarded the degree as a sofer. For thirty years he has been a scribe and restorer of Jewish traditional texts in Rome and worked for many Jewish communities and institutions around the world. He also conducts research on Hebrew bibliography. He has published widely in many catalogs and volumes on Hebrew book and manuscript treasures of Italian collections. He is also the author of several volumes on rabbinic literature and Italian Judaism for the general public. He teaches at the Collegio Rabbinico Italiano.

www.primolevicenter.org  
www.kkjsm.org  

The Rome Lab is made possible by the generous support of the Viterbi Family, Peter S. Kalikow, the Cahman Foundation, the Slavin Family Foundation, Claude Ghez and Lita Ghilardi.
Upcoming Events with KKJ Participating

Floral Bouquets and Stars of David: Sunday, November 19, 2017

A new walking tour that discusses building ornamentation on the Lower East Side – including a visit to two synagogues. Join us for this unique afternoon as we explore and interpret secular architectural ornamentation that adorns otherwise workaday 19th-century Lower East Side tenements. Learn how to identify elements of this ornamentation, why it became popular and who fashioned it. Also included on this walking tour will be visits to admire the sacred iconography and ritual objects that complement worship and inspire the worshipers at two venerable synagogues: Bialystoker Synagogue, the largest congregation on the LES today, and Kehila Kedosha Janina (known more commonly as the Greek Synagogue), the only Romaniote synagogue in the Western Hemisphere. Urban Historian Barry Feldman is your knowledgeable guide.

This tour is a collaboration between the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy (LESJC) and the Lower East Side Preservation Initiative (LESPI). Meet in front of Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue located at 280 Broome Street, NY, NY 10002. This tour lasts approximately 3 hours.

**Upcoming Events of Interest**

Under the Auspices of the Embassy of Greece in the United States of America

**Damaskinos Award Dinner Gala**

*Honoring*

**Ambassador Ronald S. Lauder**

President of the World Jewish Congress

Presented by the Jewish Museum of Greece and American Friends of the Jewish Museum of Greece

The Loeb Boathouse Central Park  
East 72nd Street  
New York, NY 10021

Wednesday, November 15, 2017  
Cocktail Reception at 6:30 p.m.  
Ceremony & Dinner at 7:15 p.m.  
Cocktail Attire

Tickets available online: www.afjmg.org/DinnerGala  
Email: info@afjmg.org or call 212-972-1350

Please make checks payable to AFJMG and mail to:  
P.O. Box 2080, New York, NY 10185-2010

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**SHIN DC (Sephardic Heritage INternational DC)**  
& The Embassy of Greece in Washington D.C.

cordially invite you to a presentation on:**The Destruction of the ‘Jerusalem of the Balkans’: Greek Jews and the Holocaust**

Thursday, November 30, 2017  
6:30pm - 8:30pm  
At the Embassy of Greece in Washington D.C.  
2217 Massachusetts Ave N.W.  
Washington DC 20008

Reception with light refreshments followed by introductions and talk

By Invitation Only:  
PLEASE RSVP BY NOVEMBER 1ST, 2017  
info@shindc.org

**Speaker:** Devin Naar  
**Author:** Jewish Salonica: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece, winner of the 2016 National Jewish Book Award in Research Based on Archival Material and Finalist in Sephardic Culture.

**Abstract:** Although often omitted from the Holocaust narrative, the Jews of Greece suffered one of the highest mortality rates of any Jewish community under Nazi occupation. The largest of all Ladino-speaking Sephardi communities, in Salonika (Thessaloniki), a Greek port city known as the “Jerusalem of the Balkans,” was completely decimated. Drawing on original archival research in six languages, this lecture explores the distinctive processes of destruction, possibilities of survival, and the echoes of the memory of this lost community.

Dr. Naar’s visit is made possible in part by the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
News from Jewish Greece

Athens

In the crowded main hall of the Old Parliament, on Monday, October 16, 2017 the Central Board of Jewish Communities (KIS) paid tribute to the former president of KIS, Mr. Moses Konstantini. The event was introduced and moderated by Professor Moses Eliasaf, general secretary and president of KIS and President of the Jewish Community of Ioannina. Those speaking in his honor included the president and chairman of KIS and President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, Mr. David Saltiel, president of the Jewish Museum of Greece, Mr. Makis Matsas, former Minister, Petros Efthymiou, Mr. Dennis Savvopoulos, composer and friend of Moses Konstantini, and Mrs. Effie Ezrat on behalf of the workers of KIS.

The event included a brief greeting by the Israeli Ambassador to Greece, Ms. Ben-Abba, thanking Moses Konstantini for his contributions. She thanked him on behalf of the State of Israel, on behalf of the Embassy of Israel, and, also, personally. Then a short video was screened.

The event was attended by representatives of political and cultural life of the country, including the Secretary General of the Religious Education Ministry George Kalantzis, Rabbi of Athens Gabriel Negrin, Ministers, Dora Bakogianni, Kostis Hatzidakis and Sofia Voultepsi, secretary Society Relations - New Democracy Party, Mr. Rapti, former Presidents of Parliament Dimitris Sioufas and Anna Psarouda - Benaki, President of GAIAOSE Athanasios Schiza, the Chairman of the Democratic Left Fotis Kouvelis, the author Vassilis Vassilikos, teachers Hagen Fleischer and George Sarigiannis, journalist Giannis Tzanetakos, presidents and representatives of the Jewish Communities of Greece and Jewish organizations, and Rabbi Mr. Isaac Mizan.
Jewish Museum of Greece in Athens

An excellent exhibit on the Jewish Community of Ioannina and the poet, Iosef Eliyia, born in Ioannina, led to a recent article in a Greek Blog, revealing unknown information on Iosef Eliyia. We are proud to have in our museum a beautiful photo of Iosef when he was three years old. The photo is that of his mother’s Negrin family. We are grateful to Belle Negrin Davis for the original.

In the blog, an additional photo of the house that Iosef lived in while in Ioannina was published.
Larissa

With the photo exhibition by Hadrian Lekka and Roula Silintzi, opening on 10/15/2017 in Larissa, the city commemorated its liberation from German occupation. The Chatzigiannio Cultural Center will host a photographic journey to a painful place for humanity. During opening of the exhibition there were speeches by the General Secretary of the Jewish Community of Larissa, Mrs. Betty Magrizos, the artist Mr. Roula Silintzi and vice president of the Municipal Gallery of Larissa, Anny Psarra.

Mrs. Magrizos noted that this is the second time that these photos have been shown to the public of Larissa and expressed her belief that the exhibit should continue to be shown so that, in time, everyone, especially children, could see it. The photos from Auschwitz painfully show the atrocities of the camp.

Book Presentations
Past Events

70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN Resolution for Partition of Israel
One of the most beautiful, and fascinating, characteristics of our holy Torah is how prophetic and contemporary it and its interpretation can be.

The Book of Genesis - Bereshith - provides one of the most prominent illustrations of this unique phenomenon. Being primarily a book of stories and the chronology of the creation of the world and the history and lives of our forefathers and foremothers, classic commentators have pointed out that it seems somewhat out of place compared to the other four books of the Torah – Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy – which contain all the formal laws and commandments of Judaism. In fact, in his very first commentary on the very first verse of Genesis, the prolific and famous medieval commentator, Rashi [Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki], raises a question by a certain Rabbi Yitzhak that indeed asks why Genesis is even part of the Torah?! Since the Torah is primarily the ultimate book of Jewish law and commandments, it should have begun with the Book of Exodus (Chapter 12, verse 43), with the first commandments given to the Jewish people as a new nation: the Paschal sacrifice and the fixing of the new month based on the lunar cycle. What then is the relevance of beginning a legal codex with a book of stories? Rabbi Yitzhak's answer is as intriguing as his question: G-d specifically began the Torah with Genesis because the book details G-d's creation and exclusive ownership of the world. So if the nations of the world come and accuse Israel of being thieves, for you have usurped the land of seven nations [referring to the Land of Israel], the Book of Genesis is our "deed", whereby the Master and Creator of the world, who has (excuse the pun!) the G-d given right to parcel out segments of the world to whomever he chooses, and he gave the Land of Israel to the Jewish people as an eternal inheritance! Given the never-ending accusations by so many groups and nations that Israel unlawfully "occupies" this or that portion of the Holy Land, the contemporary relevance of Rabbi Yitzhak's words is amazing.

A second example of how Genesis demonstrates the Torah's relevance is provided by Rabbi Naftali Zvi Yehuda Berlin of Volozhin (1816-1893) one of the heads of the famous Volozhin yeshiva, located in Belorusussia. He wrote his own commentary on all Five Books of Moses, often interpreting contemporary events affecting the Jewish world in his time through a Torah prism. And especially poignant, yet scathing, is his introduction to the Book of Genesis, where he points out that our Prophets referred to Genesis as "Sefer Hayashar" – The Book of Integrity/Morality – explaining that the entire Book of Genesis constitutes the life and times, actions and omissions of our Forefathers/mothers, who were not only "religiously" observant and very "righteous", but also "yesharim" – honest, moral, respectful and decent to their fellow man, Jew or gentile, and no matter how much they disagreed with, or even condemned, certain behavior and attitudes! Apparently applying this idea to his own generation and the conduct of all too many so-called "religiously" righteous and observant individuals, he described the situation that existed in the Second Temple times: A real hatred, denigration and contempt of other Jews who differed from my own opinions or practice. Members of the Second Temple generation were indeed meticulous in their "religious" observance, were called "righteous" before G-d, and were highly knowledgeable in Jewish law and lore, but they were not "yesharim" – respectful and considerate of one another. This led to being suspicious of those who were not "like me" as being heretics and blasphemers, which in turn led to real hatred of "those kind of Jews", and actual bloodshed between Jews and the ultimate destruction of the Second Temple and Exile. Rabbi Berlin's message is clear: The Torah is not just an ancient text with nostalgic and often exciting "stories" from "days of yore". It is a living, breathing, dynamic and totally contemporary guide for life – and thank G-d he saw fit to give it to us, the People of Israel!
COIMBRA, Portugal (JTA) — From its mountaintop perch, the University of Coimbra towers majestically over the downtown square that used to be the regional headquarters of the Portuguese Inquisition.

It’s a fitting location for the 737-year-old university, the seventh oldest in the world, which outsmarted and outlived the campaign of persecution against Jews and freethinkers unleashed by the Catholic Church and Portugal’s rulers in 1536.

“This place was almost literally an ivory tower of knowledge during those dark times,” António Eugénio Maia do Amaral, assistant director of the university’s 500-year-old library, recently told JTA.

Thanks to the university’s undocumented policy of subterfuge against the Inquisition — Amaral said its librarians essentially hid many books that censors would likely have wanted to destroy, reintroducing them to the indexes only after the Inquisition was abolished in 1821 — Coimbra was in possession of a collection of rare, pristine Jewish manuscripts found nowhere else.

One such manuscript is the Abravanel Hebrew Bible. Ranked by the university in a 2012 statement as its rarest artifact, the handwritten Bible from the 15th century is perfectly preserved. The book is filled with drawings on parchment that are so vibrant, they seem to have been recently created. The Abravanel family — a distinguished, wealthy Sephardic family with branches in Spain and Portugal that fled to Amsterdam and the Balkans during the Inquisition — commissioned 20 such Bibles. The volume in Coimbra is among the best preserved of the handful whose whereabouts are known today.

The book is worth north of $3 million, according to the university’s Joanine Library, which in 2013 was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. That’s where the Bible is kept — along with hundreds of other precious manuscripts — inside a huge vault with special climate control and aerial disinfection facilities.

The vault is typically only opened to scholars. Yet last year, Amaral took JTA inside to see the Bible. There was a brief moment of confusion when the employee asked to locate the book said she could not find it in the index system. But Amaral, who has worked at the library for more than 20 years, shrugged and said calmly that he would have to “let the fingers do the looking” once inside the vault.

Amaral may have been laid back, but he was anything but cavalier. He expertly navigated the labyrinthine vault — two cards with digital keys are required for access — while donning librarian gloves. He took care not to breathe directly on the books he handled, so as not to introduce moisture.
Alongside its technological solutions, the library employs a uniquely time-tested and green method for pest control: For centuries, it has been home to a colony of nocturnal, insect-eating bats. In the evenings, when the library is closed, the tables beneath their flight paths are covered with furs in order to protect them from the bats’ excrement.

The University of Coimbra has little information on how exactly it came to possess the Abravanel Hebrew Bible, possibly because it was hidden or scrubbed from the library’s indexes to hide it from Inquisition agents.

What makes the Abravanel Bible so rare, however, isn’t just its age — it’s the pristine condition. Across the Iberian Peninsula, numerous books remain that Jews smuggled out during centuries of Inquisition, at risk to their own lives, but they are damaged. One such specimen: An 1282 copy of the Mishneh Torah, the code of Jewish religious law authored by Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, or Maimonides. The book has whole passages that an Inquisition censor singed away, making them lost forever. It’s kept at the 400-year-old library at the Portuguese Synagogue in Amsterdam, which was founded by refugees from the Inquisition.

The second-rarest specimen at Coimbra’s library is another Bible dating to the 15th century. The Latin-language volume was one of the world’s first printed books, prepared by partners of Johannes Gutenberg, the inventor of the print machine. Printed in 1462 — just 12 years after the original 42-line Gutenberg Bible which is on display in Mainz, Germany — the one in Coimbra is the only surviving copy of an edition of four 48-line Bibles printed by two of his partners.

Language differences aside, the printed book looks similar to the handwritten one. Both have illustrations and hand-drawn margins that writers used to keep their text straight before the invention of print.

That’s no accident, Amaral said.

“The margins and drawings were added to the printed copy to make it seem as though it was handwritten,” he said. This retrograding was partly done for aesthetic reasons — readers were used to seeing them — and partly as a “precaution,” Amaral said, because some Christian fanatics considered print machines “the works of the devil.”

Thousands were murdered during a series of Portuguese Inquisitions that followed the Spanish Inquisition of 1492. At least 200,000 Jews fled the Iberian Peninsula for the Netherlands, South America and the Middle East during the period, which lasted nearly three centuries. Thousands more stayed and practiced Judaism in secret for generations.

The library’s archives also contain rare, chilling records that reveal the bureaucracy behind the Inquisition’s barbarity. For example, the minutes of a 1729 trial against Manuel Benosh, a Portuguese Jew, indicated that he was “released” by the Inquisition to civil authorities with an instruction that he be “punished in flesh” — a euphemism for a death sentence by burning.

Outside of Lisbon, Coimbra University is the largest owner of Portuguese Inquisition verdicts. “It was a mission that made this place not only a victim and opponent of the horrors of the Inquisition, but also a witness to them,” Amaral said.

True to its tradition of defiance, the library was also one of the few institutions to openly refuse to comply with the censorship policies of the regime of António de Oliveira Salazar, Portugal’s pro-fascist dictator of 34 years, until 1968.

“Again there were the same tricks as during the Inquisition,” Amaral said. “In the end, we now see who has prevailed.”
Research

We love how our research creates connections. In our last issue, Emily Udler, now living in Israel (both sides of her family from Ioannina) was looking for a recipe of a dish her mother used to make. Not only did one of our readers (Rachel Velleli Glaser), family from Patra, now living in Baltimore, have the recipe but the families actually knew each other. So from Patra (by way of Baltimore) to Ioannina (by way of Israel), here is the recipe:

Spinach and Chickpeas Recipe

1 lb. frozen chopped spinach (you can use fresh, washed and chopped)
2 small cans chick peas, drained
1 onion, chopped
¼ c. lemon juice (freshly squeezed is best)- if you like it very lemony, then you can add more
Salt and pepper
1 tbsp. oil (olive is best, but any vegetable oil is ok)

Sauté chopped onion in oil. Add some water, the salt, pepper and dill. Bring to a boil. Add the spinach. Bring to a boil. Add the chick peas and lemon juice. Cook over medium heat, stirring every so often, until water is absorbed and spinach and chick peas remain in the lemon-oil. It should not be watery. But be careful not to let it stick or burn.
(Note below attached from Rachel)

“I hope you enjoy making it. I would love to know how it turns out.”

“My mother was Emily Osmou Velleli from Patras. Her family was originally from Corfu and I believe this is a recipe that was popular in Corfu and I believe this is a recipe that was popular in Corfu and I believe this is a recipe that was popular in Corfu and I believe this is a recipe that was popular in Corfu and I believe this is a recipe that was popular in Corfu. My father’s family (Emmanuel Velleli) was also from Corfu. My parents survived the Holocaust in the Peloponnesus by running to the mountains. They were hidden for a year by a non-Jewish family by the name of Michalopoulo (Michalos, in America) in the village of Michaleika, which is near the bigger village of Demestika. After the war they returned to their home in Patras. I was born after the war in 1948, in Patras. In 1956 we all (my parents, and their 4 children- my 2 older sisters who also survived the war and my brother and I born 1946 and 1948) immigrated to Baltimore with the help of HIAS, and we joined the very small Greek Jewish community here, about 15 families. My father lost 2 brothers in the Greek Civil war at the end of WWII and my mother lost her 2 sisters and their families in Auschwitz.

Good luck. And Chag sameach!
Rachel Velleli Glaser”
We are looking for help in identifying people in the following photos:

The Cohen Battalion on the Albanian Front (1940-41)

In Salonika during the Occupation

Jewish Family in Salonica
Kehila Kedosha Janina is on the map!

The next time you take the subway to visit us, check out the new "New York State Path Through History" signs in the Delancey Street, Grand Street, and East Broadway subway stations on the Lower East Side.

Sol Kofinas with KKJ President Marvin Marcus
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 morning at 9:30am and all major Jewish holidays and our Museum is open every Sunday from 11am-4pm and by appointment during the week.