



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

April 2009 e-mail newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Our best wishes for a sweet Pesach, Kalo Pascha, Pesach Buena and Dulce.

To our Christian friends, Kalo Pascha.

Do join us at Kehila Kedosha Janina for Pesach services. Our schedule for services is as follows:

Saturday	April 4	Shabbat Hagadol	Shacharit	9:00am
Wednesday	April 8	Erev Pesach	Mincha/Arvith	6:15pm
Thursday	April 9	Pesach 1 st Day	Shacharit	9:00am
			Mincha/Arvith	6:30pm
Friday	April 10	Pesach 2 nd Day	Shacharit	9:00am
Saturday	April 11	Pesach 3 rd Day	Shacharit	9:00am
		1 st Day Chol Hamoed		
Wednesday	April 15	Pesach 7 th Day	Shacharit	9:00am
Thursday	April 16	Pesach 8 th Day	Shacharit	9:00am
		(Last Day)	Yizkor	

For Greek Jewry, too often, the holiday of Pesach is tinged with sadness. In both 1943 and 1944, Jews from Greece arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Therefore, as we gather to celebrate our holidays, let us pause for a moment to remember our relatives who perished over 60 years ago. From April 3-28th of 1943, nine transports from Salonika arrived at Auschwitz Birkenau and on April 11, 1944, the Jewish community of Ioannina arrived.

On April 19th, at Kehila Kedosha Janina at 2:00, at our annual Yom HaShoah, prayers in memory will be said in our sanctuary. Please join us. This year, as part of our program, we will honor a Greek Righteous and show our new documentary film on the Holocaust in Greece (produced by Kehila Kedosha Janina, created by Vincent Giordano and narrated by our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad-Ikonomopoulos).

A Bar Mitzvah at Kehila Kedosha Janina

On March 21st, we celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Marcus (youngest son of our President, Marvin Marcus). Kehila Kedosha Janina was filled to capacity. We thank the Marcus family for sharing this simcha with us.

Since our last newsletter, we were sadly informed of the passing of Annie Hyman Cohen (former recording secretary of the Sisterhood of Janina), Esther Levy (born on Broome Street, the sister of Louie Levy), Rae (Rachel) Matza Joseph (the wife of Max Joseph of Blessed Memory and the mother of Evelyn Klapholtz) and, in Greece, Emilia Kabeli Bacola (the widow of Sion Bacola).

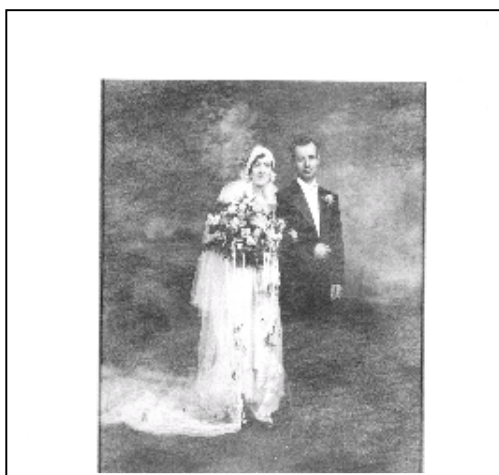
This newsletter is dedicated to their memory. Each of their stories highlights the Greek-Jewish experience, both here in the United States and, in Greece.

Annie worked tirelessly for the Sisterhood, helping to make it the vibrant philanthropic organization it is today.

Esther (Essie) was one of 8 children of the Levy family, living in cramped quarters on the Lower East Side, growing up surrounded by a nurturing Greek-Jewish world.

Rae, born in Ioannina in January of 1909, lived to celebrate her 100th birthday and, like so many other Yanniotes of her generation, would marry another Yanniote, Menachem (Max) Joseph of Blessed Memory.

Rae Matza Joseph
& Max Joseph



Wedding: 1930

Emila's story was one of survival, having escaped Occupied Greece with other members of her family (Kabeli) and marrying Sion Bacola who had also escaped to Israel.

They will all be missed.

We celebrate the births in Israel of Aviad Marks and his twin sister Nitzan (1/16/2009). The Marks twins are the children of Michal Udler and Erez Marks and the grandchildren of Emily Udler and the great-grandchildren of Rosa Bessos and Jack Isaacs, both of Blessed Memory. Rosa survived Auschwitz-Birkenau and her moving testimony is on our website (www.kkjsm.org) .

Here, in the United States, we celebrate the birth of another member of our Greek Jewish community. Amelia Rose Krivitsky, (daughter of Lauren and Ken) was born on February 18th and adds another leaf on the Askinazi, David, and Davidson family trees.

Sisterhood's long-time member, Dora Mazza (soon to celebrate her 96th birthday), just welcomed her newest Great-Granddaughter, Sadie Stella, daughter of her Granddaughter Melanie and Phil Bretts.

And, finally, we share the birth of another member of the Matza Family. On May 5th, Freya Meltemi Matza, the daughter of Louis and Sonya Matza joined our growing Greek-Jewish family. Freya's great-grandmother Julia visited Kehila Kedosha Janina before she passed away in 2007 and, as her daughter Hedda remembers, her mother would recount how she walked over the Williamburg Bridge from Williamsburg to go to Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue. When visiting from California in 2007, Julia was so happy that our synagogue looked so much like she remembered. We are, also, happy. This was our intention: to lovingly restore this synagogue so that it would look as it did in 1927 when it first opened its doors. We look forward to welcoming Freya and her family the next time they visit New York.

Searches

In last month's issue of our e-newsletter, we were searching for Danny Matathias. He is found!

"Dear Sir:

In your March newsletter, there was a notation from Seth Haberman seeking the whereabouts of Danny Matathias. I am that individual. I still have family in Queens and Long Island; my mother still resides at the home we occupied when I met Seth. However, I have resided in the Washington, D.C. metro area since 1987. He can contact me by e-mail or by telephone

Thank you for acting as an intermediary.

Kindest regards,

Dan Matathias"

Corfiote Jews

This month, Rabbi Ariel Haddad, Museum Director of Museum of the Jewish Community of Trieste "Carlo and Vera Wagner" is asking for our help. They are planning a large exhibit on the history of the Jews of Corfu, with special reference to their immigration to Italian cities. In addition to historical data which we will be able to provide them, they are seeking personal data, specifically information on the Chaim family from Corfu who immigrated to Italy. They are also interested in (for exhibition purposes) documents, artifacts, works of art, and objects of cultural, historical or artistic interest. We have many of Corfiote descent on our mailing list. Please contact us (kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net) if you can be of help and we will pass your information and contact info onto Rabbi Ariel Haddad.

Search for info on photo

The photo below was among the items from the estate of Shirlee Cabilis' parents (Eva Eliezer Cabilis and Moses (Morris) Cabilis). We know that it was taken in Ioannina and was sent here to the United States (probably during the 1930s) and was addressed to Rene Alchack (sic) at 62 First Avenue, New York. If you recognize anyone in the picture, or have additional information, get back to us (kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net).



Sunday: April 19: Sunday: 2:00: Annual Yom HaShoah. This year we will honor a Greek Righteous and show our new documentary on the Holocaust in Greece. Refreshments to follow.



Ioannina Deportation March 25, 1944: the Ioannina Jews would arrive at Auschwitz April 11, 1944: most would go directly to the gas chambers

Events of Interest

Mark you calendar: Professor Steven Bowman will be giving a guest lecture at The Graduate Center of the City of New York on April 22nd at the Segal Theater at 6:15. The topic will be "Resistance During the Holocaust."

Request from our friend Jennifer Abadi:

Please help me to PRESERVE your unique PASSOVER RECIPES & STORIES

"As many of you may know, I am currently writing and doing research for my next cookbook that focuses solely on Sephardic/Mizrahic (Middle Eastern) recipes, stories, and memories for Passover, and I am looking for as many people as I can to interview for holiday recipes and stories.* As Passover 2009 approaches (Wednesday, April 8th), I am hoping to interview and cook with as many individuals as possible while the Passover holiday spirit is alive. If you have the time to be interviewed and would not mind my observing your cooking for the holiday, please let me know. I am also available during Passover week as well as the weeks and months following the holiday, if that is better for you.

(Please feel free to pass this email along to anyone else you know that may also be interested!) For those of you I have already interviewed, thank you for your time — I wish you all a great holiday!"

Interested in participating?

Please email me at JAbadi@FistfulofLentils.com

Our Passover cooking class was a tremendous success. So many inquired as to where to purchase a bumuelos pan. The closest we could come up with in the USA: <http://www.williams-sonoma.com/products/c332/index.cfm?pkey=cspecialty%2Dcookware&key=specialty%2Dcookware>

Thanks to Gabrielle Pilo

If you have any other sources (outside of Greece!) let us know.

Correction

>Marvin (not Martin) Cohen is looking for information on his family, one of the founding families of Kehila Kedosha Janina (KKJ). His paternal grandparents were from Ioannina, his grandfather (Solomon Moshe Cohen) and his grandmother (Rebecca Batino Cohen), along with his father (Samuel Cohen) and other members of his family attended KKJ. The firm name (C&C Mfg. Co) appears on our founder's plaque. The family had a store at 96 Orchard and Marvin had his Bar Mitzvah at KKJ. Marvin is looking for additional information on his family.

Kehila Kedosha Janina Genealogical Research

This month, in April, we are concentrating on Coffinas (Coffino/Kofinas/Koffinas) and Confino family trees. If you have family tree info to send us, please do (www.kkjsm.org).

Mazza/Coffino
Family



Moses Kofinas 1927 appeal to the Yanniote Jewish Community in New York.

Recently, thanks to Risa Samuels and Emily Udler, a treasured document was brought to our attention: a letter, signed by Moses Kofinas of Blessed Memory, then President of the Jewish Community of Ioannina Greece, was discovered among the papers of Annette Samuels of Blessed Memory. The letter was sent in 1927 to Haim Nachman (Risa's great-grandfather). The translation of the document is as follows:

*"Honorable fellow citizen,
Aware of your noble and patriotic feelings which you have repeatedly and actively shown towards our unlucky fellow citizens, we have the honor to kindly request your support for Kaspah Depischa (Money for Pessach), bearing in your mind the dire financial crisis that besets our city and that our poor Jewish fellow citizens will be facing great difficulties to celebrate Πάσχα this year without the aid of our brothers*

abroad. With the certain hope that our appeal will be felt by your noble heart, please accept in advance our deepest gratitude as well as the expression of our respect.

With brotherly love,

The president of the Jewish Community, Moses Kofinas.

Risa will be showing the original to her family at their first seder and, then, donating it to Kehila Kedosha Janina.

Lower East Side News

We welcome a new hotel on the Lower East Side (The Thompson LES, located at 190 Allen Street (near Houston), a short walk to Kehila Kedosha Janina. For additional information on The Thompson LES, access our website (www.kkjasm.org) or their website: www.thompsonhotels.com. Special rates if you mention Kehila Kedosha Janina.

Greek News

In December of 2007 we applauded the conviction of a prominent Greek anti-Semite. We find recent developments in the case of Plevris extremely upsetting and his recent acquittal by an appeals court to be a mockery of justice. We join with others (the Central Board of Jewish Communities) in condemning this decision. Below, you will find articles relating to the subject, including an excellent reply (to an anti-Semitic blog condoning the court decision) by Paul Haguel:

Published: 03/30/09, 10:18 PM

Greek Appeals Court Acquits Neo-Nazi Author

by Nissan Ratzlav-Katz

(IsraelNN.com)

*"A Greek neo-Nazi has been acquitted by an appellate court of charges that a book he authored incites "racial hatred and violence" against Jews. The 2006 book, titled **Jews: The Whole Truth**, criticizes Adolf Hitler for failing to rid Europe of the Jews, whom he calls "sub-human".*

Kostas Plevris, the book's author, describes himself as "a Nazi, a fascist, a racist, an anti-democrat, an anti-Semite." His book is centered on the theme the Holocaust never happened, but that it should have.

Excerpts

"Free yourselves from Jewish propaganda that deceives you with falsehoods about concentration camps, gas chambers, 'ovens' and other fairy tales about the pseudo-holocaust," Plevris writes. As for Hitler, he explains that the Nazi leader was "certainly the most impressive leadership figure of the modern age.... Hitler was blamed for something that did not actually take place. Later the history of humanity will blame him for not ridding Europe of the Jews, though he could have...."

Addressing Jews directly in his text, Plevris writes, "You are criminals because that is what your religion has taught you to be. You are murderers because crime is instilled in

you from an early age. Therefore we others have the right to deal with you. And that is what we will do." Elsewhere, he declares, "Jews are mortal enemies and deserve the firing squad."

On the basis of passages such as those in his book, Plevris was convicted under a 1979 law of incitement and "racial insult" in December 2007. He was sentenced to 14 months in prison and three years probation, while the publisher, the editor and a journalist of the extreme-right weekly newspaper Elefteros Kosmos were found not guilty of similar crimes.

Decision 'Saddens and Perplexes'

In his appeal, Plevris' defense attorney called the anti-Semitic book a "scientific" work. A panel of five judges overturned the lower court's conviction on Friday. White Supremacist and neo-Nazi blogs and Websites worldwide expressed appreciation for the decision and the book's author.

In response to the court's decision, the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece said the court's decision "saddens, perplexes and causes concern among citizens of a modern democratic society as a self-confessed promoter of Nazism and racism remains unpunished, though he not only distorts proven historical evidence, but even worse, uses his pen to incite hatred and provoke discrimination and violence against citizens of Greece and Europe."

The Central Board, representing Greece's 6,000 Jews, addressed the free speech issue that the case raised, saying, "Greek Jewry believes that the fundamental constitutional right of freedom of speech has nothing to do with the direct threats, insults and incitement to racial hatred and violence against the Jews that Plevris includes in his book."

The Greek Jewish communal organization has decided to boycott a European Union symposium next Monday in Brussels. "Theoretical analysis and statements made by Greek MEPs on the denunciation and condemnation of anti-Semitism are meaningless," the Central Board declared.

In response to the outcry of Greek Jewry to the appellate court decision overturning Plevris' conviction, anti-Semitic blogs have appeared on the web. One very disturbing one saying that Avigdor Lieberman (A Deputy Prime Minister of Israel who has often been criticized for his inflammatory comments about Palestinians) is a fascist and that Jews should not criticize Plevris who has the right of free speech in Greece, while ignoring Lieberman's similar comments. Kanellopoulos went on to say he saw no reason for the Holocaust to be taught in Greek schools; that it was not part of "Greek history." Paul Hagouel (on the Board of The Museum of Jewish Presence in Thessaloniki) gave an excellent response to this nonsense:

"Dear Mr. Kanellopoulos,

First of all I want to thank you for sharing with us your thoughts and opinions which I respect. Yes Plevris' views are his own, and yes, he may publish a book with his ideas and people are free to criticize with factual and documented opinions. But, at this point, please allow me 2 comments-questions:

1. You are comparing Plevris with Avigdor Lieberman. The comparison would have been justified if Avigdor had published a more than 1000 page opus like Plevris, titled "the Orthodox Christians, the Whole Truth" and would have included statements like the ones Plevris uses with the only difference of replacing the word Jew with the words Christian Orthodox.

2. I can give you many reasons why Holocaust education should be mandatory in schools but ONLY ONE suffices:

My father Leon Hagouel served in the Greek Army for 3 years and was mobilized and fought in the Greek-Italian war on the Albanian front along with other Jewish and non Jewish Greeks (Christian Greeks). He was wounded by a grenade shrapnel. "Lucky" person, since he was Jewish, he was deported to Auschwitz in April 1943 for a two year "sojourn" that included numerous "selection" procedures [KL Auschwitz 118633]. He was earmarked for the gas chambers 4 times but providence and chance intervened. He was liberated on January 27, 1945 by the Soviets.

Isn't this GREEK History Mr. Kanellopoulos?

Thanks for your time

Friendly,

Paul Hagouel"



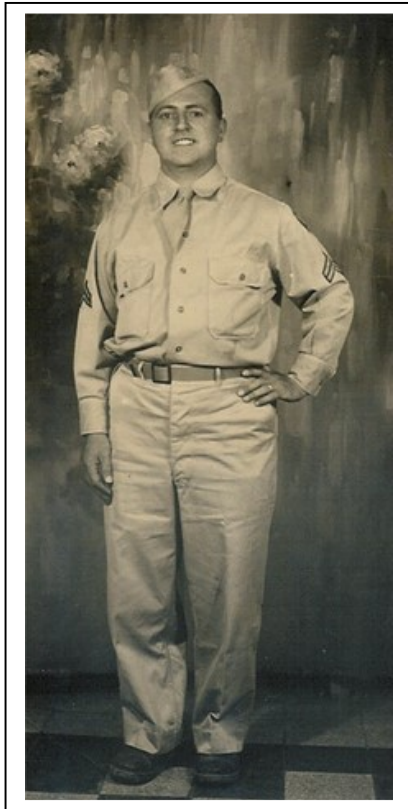
**Jesoula Ishaki &
Family (circa 1934)
Victims of the
Holocaust from
Ioannina**

www.kkjsm.org

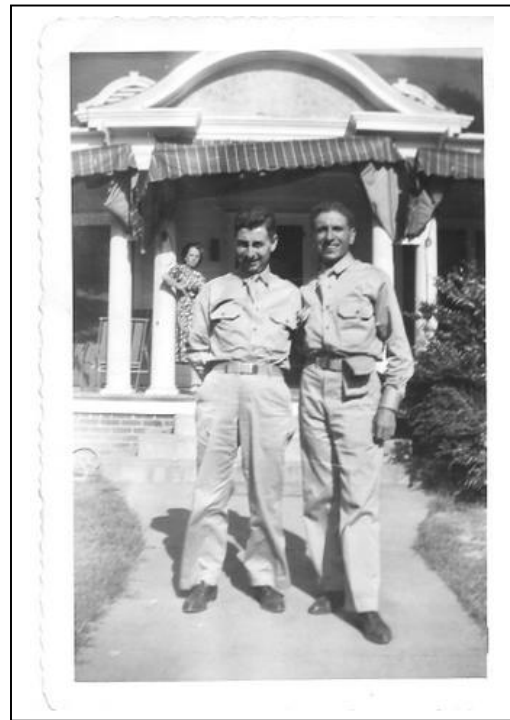
New additions to our website

Because our file on our new exhibit "Our Gang" has grown too large to add to (!) we are adding an additional file to include recent photo acquisitions (Jack Kaplan and Matty

Matsil). We know that there are more photos out there. Please keep sending them to us.



Jack Kaplan



Matty Matsil & Friend

Stay well and stay in touch. Continue to send us your news, photos, family info and comments.

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