October 2012 e-newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Hag Sameah Sukkoth and Simcha Torah. For Greeks, both Jews and Christian, October is an important month: Greece entered WWII on October 28, 1940 (Oxi Day) and Greece was liberated from Fascist occupation in October of 1944 (October 14). In addition, we at Kehila Kedosha Janina stop and remember the 100th anniversary of the accidental death of David Bellel (see story in this issue). This issue is dedicated to David Bellel of Blessed Memory.
This newsletter, our 57th 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 5000 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 kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net.

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.

Aikoi Mas, Los Muestros come home

Our Museum has also become a place for Greek Jews to visit. Sometimes their ancestors worshiped here. Other times, it is the only place in the United States that they can see their heritage on display. Just this month we were honored to have visitors from the Negrin, Colchamiro, Matza and Asser families, in addition to a visitor from the Sephardic community of Sydney Australia. We were, also, chosen to hold the memorial of Irwin Josephs (see article in this issue).

Andrea Negrin Valparitan

Anne Benjamin Asser

Elliot Colchamiro (volunteering as a docent) is pleasantly surprised to find his cousin Stu Asser as one of the visitors.
Our synagogue/museum hosts groups from around the world. This September, in addition to tour groups that regularly come to Kehila Kedosha Janina, we had visitors from the Merrick Jewish Center who came to learn about life for Jewish children in Ioannina in the beginning of the 20th century.
Simchas

"On August 18th, Matthew Craig Matsil was called to the Torah for his Bar Mitzvah. Matthew is the son of Ira and Elizabeth Matsil, and grandson of Bob and Sydell Malta Matsil."

Passings

We mourn the passing of Sam De Maios of Plantation Florida, and send our condolences to his family.

Mollie Kaplan, one of the founding members of the Sephardic Jewish Center of Canarsie passed away. She would have turned 98 in November.

Shirley Cooper, daughter of Samuel Cohen passed away at the age of 92. Shirley was related to the Cohen and Nachmias families of the Lower East Side. (You might remember the photo of Sam the Butcher from a previous e-newsletter).

Two members of the extended Colchamiro family (the Dinoula Colchamiro Bakola branch) recently passed away in Greece. We thank Lenora Lowe for the information. Diamantina Jacob, oldest child of Beatriki Bakola and Semos Moise Cohen, died at the age of 84 and Salvator Bakola, son of Jessoula Bakola, died at the age of 90. Salvator distinguished himself in the Greek Resistance Movement and his photo appeared on the cover of Professor Bowman’s book *Jewish Resistance in Wartime Greece*. Our sincere condolences to members of the Colchamiro, Cohen and Bakola families.

Kehila Kedosha Janina is proud to see this book.

Our sincere condolences to the family of Sholomo Venezia, who passed away in Italy. Sholomo was one of the few surviving members of the Sonderkommando that took part in the Revolt at Auschwitz-Birkenau in October of 1944. Born to a poor family in Salonika, Sholomo had Italian nationality and was able to flee to Athens, but after the capitulation of Mussolini in September of 1944, was arrested and sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, along with his brother and cousin. The three young men were chosen to be members of the Sonderkommando, a special unit that removed the dead from the gas chambers and delivered them to the ovens of the crematoria. Shlomo wrote a book, “*Inside the Gas Chambers,*” documenting his experiences.
Museum Events

Sunday, October 21st at 2:00

Kehila Kedosha Janina is honored to host Helias Doundoulakis in a special book-signing in anticipation of Oxi Day (October 28th).

An American-born boy grew up in a small village on the Greek island of Crete. In his last year in high school, he witnessed the German invasion of Crete, in May of 1941, during the early days of WW II. At the age of eighteen, he joined a resistance group headed by his brother, and supplied crucial information to the SOE, an arm of the English Intelligence Service. This resistance group is uncovered, resulting in their hasty evacuation by the SOE, to Cairo, Egypt.

In Cairo, the author and his brother were asked to join the English Intelligence Service, but rather, pursued the American OSS, or Office of Strategic Services, the newly formed American intelligence counterpart. They were enlisted into the US Army, and attached to the OSS, where the author was trained in the SI, or Secret Intelligence sector, which included parachute
jumping, wireless/Morse code training, commando/defense training, locks/safe-cracking techniques, escape methods, and environment assimilation techniques.

After being transformed into a skilled “spy”, the author was sent back to Greece undercover, and along with a Greek naval intelligence officer, set up a communications cell in Salonica, Greece’s second largest city, whereby daily coded messages to OSS Headquarters in Cairo were sent. One such message describes the course of events surrounding the bombing of the main railroad yard in Salonica, and the loss of thousands of German troops, as well as recalling the near-capture encounters with the German Gestapo and the Greek police. The author also recounts his personal experiences of his escape from Crete through the mountains, the evacuations by an English torpedo boat, his OSS training, the return mission to Greece, and his final return to the United States.

Free. Refreshments served.

Kehila Kedosha Janina is honored to be part of Open House New York.

To celebrate the city’s architecture and design, the 10th Annual Open House New York Weekend on October 6th & 7th will once again unlock the city, allowing New Yorkers and tourists alike access to hundreds of sites, talks, tours, performances and family activities in neighborhoods throughout the five boroughs. From private residences and historic landmarks, to hard hat tours and sustainable skyscrapers, OHNY gives you rare access into the extraordinary architecture that defines New York City, while introducing you to the people who make the city a vibrant and sustainable place to live, work, and play. Visit ohny.org for more information.

The Story of David Bellel

David Bellel (listed as David Solomon in the newspaper obituary) died in an industrial accident (falling down an elevator shaft) at the factory of Joe Joseph. This tragedy deeply hit the small Yanniote community of the Lower East Side. Both Joe Josephs and David Bellel were members of the community. Joe Joseph was the President of Kehila Kedosha Janina when the synagogue was founded in 1927. Joe Joseph did the right thing. There was no legal compensation in place at that time, no death benefits, no workmen’s compensation. Joe personally compensated the family and assured that the widow and her children would be taken care of. We, at Kehila Kedosha Janina stop and remember David Bellel on the 100th anniversary of his unfortunate death. We thank his grandson, David Bellel for help in compiling the information.
Killed When Elevator Starts.

David Solomon, 38 years old, of 122 Orchard Street, died of a broken neck yesterday morning in an elevator accident at the second floor of 521 Broadway, where he was employed by the United Kimono Company. He was backing a heavy case of goods on a hand truck into the elevator when he accidentally came in contact with the operating lever and caused the elevator to descend several feet. The case wedged Solomon against the rear of the car, one end pressing on his throat, while the other end was jammed between the roof and the landing, holding him fast. Fellow-employees tried in vain to rescue Solomon, and then summoned a police emergency squad, the fire rescue squad and a hook and ladder company.

Published: October 13, 1932

New Exhibits as part of our present exhibit "Memories"

Our present exhibit has given us the opportunity to highlight individual family stories, recording their "Memories." It also gives us the opportunity to add to our archives with information on census records and ship manifests.

The first of these mini exhibits was on the Moses Family, on the occasion of Malcolm Varon's 80th birthday. We collected valuable information on the Moses Family including the precious photo on the next page.

An example of some archival material uncovered (from census records) gives a picture of the life of the early families and their upward mobility.

In the 1930 census, the Varons are listed as living at 2082 Davidson Avenue in the Bronx where they are paying $62 a week. Rebecca is listed as being born in Greece and Sam in Turkey. Sam is 39 and Rebecca 28. It states that Sam was 30 when they got married and Rebecca was 19. Sam is working as a waiter in a hotel. No one else in the family works. There are 4 children (Frances 14, Marco, 7, Rose 4 and Nelson 1½).

1940 census lists the Varon family as living at 2062 27th Street, Queens, stating that in 1935 they were living in the Bronx. Sam is listed as 49 and Rebecca as 38. Sam is listed as being born
in Turkey and working as a Head waiter in a restaurant. Rebecca does not work. They both list grade 8 as their last year of school.

Mollie (Malka) and Mordechai Mosis (Moses) and their five children (Sophie, Joseph, Becky, Abraham and Anita)

Our second mini exhibit was created in honor of Lil Genee (widow of Hy Genee of Blessed Memory) on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

The Genee and Ferman families were typical of Jewish immigration to the United States and the increased practice of Yanniote Jews to marry into the Sephardic and Ashkenazi worlds.
One of our greatest finds was this beautiful photo. We thank Murray Genee for this photo depicting Fani’s family (Jenny).

Stamoula Jenny with her children (Fani, Esther, Leon and Jim)

Our latest mini exhibit was created for the memorial of Irwin Joseph of Blessed Memory. Irwin loved his Greek-Jewish background, his mother from the Hametz family and his father from the Joseph(s) family, both families from Ioannina. Some of the priceless photos acquired for this exhibit are shown below:

Isaac & Pearl Hametz

Sara Hametz Josephs and baby Irwin
Upcoming Events of Interest in the New York Metropolitan Area

Our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad-Ikonomopoulos will be giving a lecture accompanied by visuals at the Queensboro Holocaust Center on October 14, 2012 at 1:00.

The Jews of Greece and the Holocaust. Their Untold Story

Lecturer: Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos
Sunday, October 14, 2012, at 1:00 PM

The purpose of this lecture is two-fold. First, it is to tell the story of the Holocaust in Greece and its almost total annihilation of the Jewish Community by the Nazi forces. Second, it is a story that has been little told and we must see to it that the story is not only told, but remembered.

Location: KHRCA Lecture Hall
222-05 56th Avenue, Bayside, New York 11364.
Monday, October 22nd at 7:30 pm
Holy Trinity Cathedral Center
337 East 74th Street, New York City

Under the auspices of the Consulate General of Greece in NY
The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce
The Hellenic-American Cultural Foundation
The Hellenic Medical Society of New York
The Hellenic American Bankers Association
The American Friends of the Jewish Museum of Greece
The Holy Trinity Cathedral and
The Family of Demetrios Contos

Cordially invite you to attend

The Seventh Annual Demetrios Contos Memorial Program in celebration
of OXI DAY

“Colonel Frizis and Greek-Jewish Fighters in the War of 1940”

Featuring
Mimis Cohen, M.D., Professor and Chief of Division of Plastic, Reconstructive Surgery,
University of Illinois, Chicago
Monday, October 22, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.
Holy Trinity Cathedral Center
337 East 74th Street, New York City
Free Admission Reception following the lecture

Upcoming events of Interest Elsewhere in the United States

Michigan

Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos will be speaking at Michigan State University on October 17, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

Jewish Studies and the MSU Libraries Colloquia Series

present

Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos

ROMANIOTE JEWRY AND THE LOWER EAST SIDE

Wednesday, October 17, 7:00 p.m. • W449 Main Library
Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos is a leading authority on Romaniote Jewry and directs the museum at Kehila Kedosha Janina (Holy Congregation of Janina) on Broome Street on New York’s Lower East Side.

Romaniote Jews trace their origins back to the Hellenized Jewish communities of ancient Greece, whose descendants nurtured a distinctive history, culture, liturgy, and cuisine. These original Greek Jews were later joined in Greece by refugees from the expulsions of the Iberian Peninsula in the late 15th century.

A distinctive strand in Greek Jewry, Romaniote Jews who came to the U.S. during the height of mass immigration (1881-1924) created Kehila Kedosha Janina in 1906; they erected the synagogue building in 1927. The late MSU faculty member Ada Weintraub Finifter’s grandfather (Leon Colchamiro) was a founding member.

The lecture honors the memory of Ada Finifter, Professor of Political Science, who left a bequest to MSU Jewish Studies, and highlights the little known history of Romaniote Jewry in Greece and the community they established in New York.

FREE PARKING is available after 6:00 p.m. in lot 62E on Red Cedar Road. The Main Library is wheelchair accessible via the south entrance. Persons with disabilities may request accommodations by calling Birdie Beckwith at 517.884.6454 one week before an event. Requests received later will be met when possible.

For further information, contact MSU Jewish Studies at (517) 432-3493.

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Chicago

October 22\textsuperscript{nd} at 7:30 pm

Theatrical Production
Safe Harbor

The College of Arts and Science invites you to a special presentation of Safe Harbor, National-Louis University Associate Professor Joanne Koch's acclaimed play telling the true story of a Jewish family's struggle to survive the Nazi occupation in their native Greece, and the courageous support of their Christian rescuers. The production is co-sponsored by the Master in Written Communication Program.

Safe Harbor chronicles the Algava family, one of only two Jewish families in Salonika who escaped deportation by hiding in the city during the Nazi occupation. In total, some 90 percent of Greece's Jews were exterminated during the war. During the Nazi occupation, 500,000 Greeks lost their lives through starvation, resistance and reprisals.

The program marks the 63rd anniversary of the Greek cultural holiday of Ohi ("No") Day, which honors the Greek government's refusal, on October 28, 1940, to surrender to Italian and German control.

Greek and Sephardic music for this special Evanston presentation will be performed by Terran Dohrer and Jutta Distler. Guy Barile directs a cast of 12.

The Evanston campus evening on Wednesday, October 22 begins with a reception at 7 pm in the Atrium. The performance is at 7:30 pm. in the Carlson Auditorium, followed by a post-play discussion at 8:30 pm. For reservations, call 1.888.NLU.TODAY.

An additional Evanston performance will take place at Beth Emet Synagogue on October 26. Both events are made possible by an Evanston Arts Council individual artist's grant to Joanne Koch.

Safe Harbor was originally produced by Red Hen at the Organic Theater in Chicago. There have been performances at the Chicago Historical Society, co-sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Diocese and the American Jewish Committee, as well as in Los Angeles, Hyde Park, Northbrook and Glenview.

Events of Interest in Europe

Sofia, Bulgaria on from October 5-7

Facing Our Past

- International participants:

1. Victor Mizrahi – Macedonian Jewish community
2. Goran Sadikarijo – Macedonian Holocaust Museum – Skopje
3. Prof. Todor Chepreganov, Teon Dzingo, Georgi Cakarjanevski – Institute for National
History – Skopje

4. Andrew Baker – American Jewish Committee
5. Prof. Michael Berenbaum – author of "The Jews in Macedonia During WW II; CEO of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation
7. Prof. Stefan Troebst – Global European Studies Institute
8. Paul Hagouel - The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece
9. Gabriele Nissim – author of "The Man Who Stopped Hitler"
10. Nadege Ragaru – Paris, Center for International Studies and Research

• Bulgarian guests:
  1. Krassimir Kanev – Chairperson, Bulgarian Helsinki committee
  2. Representative of the Organization of Jews in Bulgaria “Shalom”
  3. Vladimir Paunovski – Director of the Jewish Museum, Sofia
  4. Leah Cohen – publicist and writer
  5. Kaludka Kiradzhieva – niece of Dimiter Peshev
  6. Yulina Dadova – BAN, researcher
  7. Albena Taneva – professor, Sofia University "St.St. Kliment Ohrdski", Center for Jewish Studies
  8. Vania Gezenko – junior expert in Central Historical Archive

• Special guest:
  - Matthias Höpfner - His Excellency the Ambassador of Germany in Bulgaria

Just when you think Bulgaria is finally owning up to its past, another distortion of the truth is promulgated.

"In 2013, Bulgaria and Israel will jointly commemorate the 70th anniversary since the Balkan country’s historic rescue of 50 000 Jews from Nazi concentration camp. Even though Bulgaria was an ally of Nazi Germany in World War II, 50 000 Bulgarian Jews were not deported to the Nazi death camps in 1943 thanks to mass civil protests, active stance by 43 Bulgarian MPs, and Tsar Boris III’s resistance to Hitler’s demands for deportation. The governments of Bulgaria and Israel are about to plan a joint program to mark next year’s anniversary, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Nikolay Mladenov said on Sunday. Mladenov spoke ahead of the second joint sitting of Bulgaria and Israel’s Cabinets that is to take place on Tuesday in Israel.

A number of agreements will be signed by the two countries during the joint sitting, including deals in the fields of trade, education, science, industry and healthcare, the Minister told the Bulgarian National Radio.

Bulgaria, Israel to Mark 70 Years since Rescue of 50 000 Jews
Society | September 9, 2012, Sunday | 726 views
Sofia news Agency"

And the drama continues............

Bulgaria’s president opens exhibit on country’s WWII defense of Jews
After a stop at the UN General Assembly, Rosen Plevneliev speaks at launch event at Boston University’s Hillel
And just to add to the mix, a new film about Bulgarian complicity in southern Yugoslavia (The Third Half) may be nominated for an academy award!

Bulgarian FM Mladenov speaks on Macedonia’s ‘Third Half’ film controversy

*Posted SEP 14 2012 by CLIVE LEVIEV-SAWYER in BULGARIA, CEE, NEWS*

Macedonia’s controversial film Third Half, which emphasizes Bulgaria’s World War 2 role in the deportation to Nazi death camps of Jews from Macedonian areas, has been nominated by Skopje’s film body for the 2013 foreign-language film Oscar award – and Bulgarian Foreign Minister Nikolai Mladenov has issued cautionary messages about the approaches that Macedonia should be taking to regional issues.

The Third Half (Трето Полувреме, Treto Poluvreme), directed by Darko Mitrovski and with a 113-minute running time and a reported budget of more than two million euro, is to be shown at an international film festival in Bitola on September 15.

The description of the film posted on movie website IMDB.com describes it thus: “Spitz is the German-Jewish coach of the historic Macedonia Football Team, which during World War II, under his leadership, became the champion of the fascist-controlled National Football League. A true story.”

With dialogue in Macedonian, German, Bulgarian, Serbian, Ladino and English, the movie was made with the support of the Macedonian Film Fund, Holocaust Fund of the Jews from Macedonia, The Jewish Community of Macedonia and the Czech State Fund. It was declared a film of a national interest by the Macedonian government, according to its Wikipedia entry.

For the past year, the film has caused annoyance in Bulgarian political and media circles for its portrayal of Bulgaria, an ally of the Third Reich in World War 2 but which also has been honoured by Israel because a number of politicians, civil society leaders and some Bulgarian Orthodox Church leaders prevented Jews in Bulgaria being deported to Nazi Holocaust death camps. Just one of among many aspects of the film with which Bulgarians take issue is that the Bulgarian flag of the time is incorrectly depicted as having a swastika imposed on it.
Macedonia media, commentators and some linked to the film have dismissed Bulgarian objections to the Third Half movie as bias and even as Holocaust denial. Macedonian reports quoted director Mitrovski as telling a news conference ahead of the Bitola showing that the film was “not directed against anyone” but was about love, heroism and the common man.

The news conference was attended by Macedonian culture minister Elizabeta Kanchevska-Milevska and festival director Labina Mitevska.

A video from the Shoah – Steven Spielberg Foundation was shown at the news conference, featuring Holocaust survivor Neta Cohen – portrayed in the film at the centre of its love story – describing how Bulgarians had seized Jewish people and property in Macedonia.

“They (Bulgarians) did bad things. Innocent people got hurt. They took my brothers. The oldest was 28, and the youngest 20. My sister was about 15 years old. My father, 60,” Cohen was reported as saying in the video.

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov, asked about the film on September 14 on public broadcaster Bulgarian National Television’s Svetut e Sedem programme, said that when a country wanted to join the European Union, it should be cautious about actions that could lead to confrontations with its neighbours. (Macedonia submitted an EU membership application in 2005; as of March 2012, the EU was to begin conducting a high-level accession dialogue with Skopje.)

A country aspiring to EU membership should take a constructive approach in neighbourly relations, as Bulgaria had done, Mladenov said.

He said that there were a number of unresolved issues involving various European countries and if all of these were opened, this would destroy the EU faster than the financial crisis.

Mladenov said that Bulgaria was a country “big and serious enough that one film will not demolish it”.

He said that a few days earlier, in Jerusalem, Bulgaria and Israel had agreed on commemorations in 2013 of the anniversary of the saving of Jews by Bulgaria, and that the commemorations would remember all who died in those years.
Again, he cautioned against using history for political ends. Earlier in the same interview, Mladenov said that there were good people-to-people relations between Bulgarians and Macedonians, as there were in trade and tourism, but “the problems arise when some people try to come up with ideological constructions out of the past”. The Third Half saga is one of a series of what Bulgaria has seen as provocations by Macedonia on historical issues. In a recent letter, Bulgarian President Rossen Plevneliev welcomed a stated call by his Macedonian counterpart Gjorge Ivanov to leave history to historians and to be orientated towards a European future – with Plevneliev adding that he hoped to see Macedonia show this in deeds and not just words.

- According to Variety, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will announce the five nominees for foreign-language film on January 15. The 85th Academy Awards ceremony takes place on February 24 2013. Bulgaria’s nominee in the foreign-language film category in the Oscars is Ketsove ("Sneakers").

News From Jewish Greece

ATHENS, Greece (JTA) – When the bell rang, the sixth-graders who had been playing basketball rushed off to a computer class. Their place in the yard at Athens’ Jewish Community School was taken by two dozen giggling 4- and 5-year-olds practicing dance steps for the year-end concert. “One, two, three and turn,” the kindergarten teachers chanted as the kids, wearing yellow caps to protect them from the bright Greek sun, jumped, stepped and shimmied through their complex routine.

The vibrancy reflects a remarkable renaissance Athens’ lone Jewish school has undergone in the last decade. With an enrollment rate of 70 percent of Athens’ Jewish children, it has a penetration rate that would be the envy of any American Jewish school. The school’s success — which could hold lessons for Jewish schools elsewhere in the Diaspora — has been the result of heavy educational investments, an aggressive recruiting strategy, significant community subsidies, comprehensive busing and an open-minded enrollment policy for children of intermarried families.

But the school is now in peril as Greek Jews struggle through the economic and political turmoil roiling Greece.

For the entire article, see below.


News From Greece

U. S. Amb. Honors Gage with Visit To his Village, Dinner with Samaras
Ambassador Daniel B. Smith and his wife Diane (plus Nick Gage) in the church of St. Demetrios in Lia, Epiros, Greece, Nick’s village, at the memorial service held for his mother on August 28

U. S. Ambassador Daniel Bennett Smith and his wife Diane visited Lia, the home village of Nicholas Gage in Epiros, on Aug. 28 to participate in the memorial service that Mr. Gage holds every year on the anniversary of his mother’s execution in 1948. A number of other dignitaries attended as well, along with Mr. Gage’s wife Joan, his daughter Eleni and her husband Emilio Baltodano, their year-old daughter Amalia and most of the village residents. Among the dignitaries attending were shipowner Thanasis Laskaridis, owner of the Grande Bretagne Hotel, Philipos Spyropoulos, professor of constitutional law at Athens University, Alexandros Kahrimanis,

**Greece and Israel continue to cement their good relations.**

National Defense Minister Panos Panagiotopoulos is visiting Israel on September 5-6 to hold official meetings with the country’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and with Minister of Defence and Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

The aim of the visit is to promote bilateral defence cooperation, including armament production and joint military exercises.

During his meeting with the Israeli PM, Panagiotopoulos discussed defence matters of mutual interest, while the issue of hydrocarbons was also raised. On September 4, Minister of Public Order and Citizen Protection Nikolaos Dendias also concluded an official visit to Israel.
He met with his Israeli counterpart Yitzhak Aharonovich, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister Avigdor Liberman, and National Security Adviser Yaakov Amidror. Dendias stated that collaboration between the two states is constructive in a number of fields. The ministers issued a joint statement noting the exchange of expertise in areas like crime prevention, as well as their commitment to further cooperation.

We thank Orestes Varvitsiotis for this article.

Request for help:

We are looking for a Jewish family that was saved by a Greek Orthodox family on a small island off the coast of Corfu. This is the information we have from the granddaughter Yvette Manessis Corporon: The island was called Erikousa. We believe the patriarch of the Jewish family was named Savas Israil and that their two daughters were Nina and Rosa. We believe the family is living in Israel now.

Any information, contact us at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net.
The joyous holiday of Sukkot is upon us with two major symbols of this unique Jewish holiday: the "Sukkah" – a temporary hut, and the "Four species" of plants and fruit: the "lulav" (date-palm frond), "hadas" (myrtle branches), "aravot" (weeping Willow) and the "etrog" (citron). Perhaps less known is the symbolism of a true brotherhood of man represented by Sukkot. In fact, the very essence of Sukkot and its joy is built around the theme of brotherhood of both Jews as a people and as part and parcel of the world at large.

First and foremost, of course, there is the Sukkah itself, an often rickety hut covered with only leafy tree branches under the open sky, totally susceptible to heat, cold, rain and sometimes (depending where one lives) even snow! This, then, is really the ultimate expression of our faith in God, as we physically demonstrate our total dependence and faith in his will and mercy by literally leave our comfortable homes and going out to eat, drink and even sleep in nature, with only God as our protector. The truth is, our Sages differ in what the Sukkah actually commemorates: one position sees them as the literal reconstruction of the actual booths and huts in which the Israelites dwelled during their 40 years of wandering in the desert, while others see the booths as commemorating the special "clouds of glory" that guided the Israelites throughout their sojourn in the desert, which symbolized the physical manifestation of God's presence. Either way, living in the Sukkah testifies to our faith and belief in God and his mercy. But there is more. The four species symbolize four types of human beings that make up the Jewish people: The "Etrog", which has both a pleasant taste and a pleasant aroma, symbolizes one who possesses both the blessings of knowledge of Torah and of good deeds. The "Lulav" is a branch from the date palm tree, the fruit of which has good taste but no aroma, symbolizing the person who has Torah knowledge but not good deeds. The "Hadas," the myrtle, which has pleasant aroma only, symbolizes the person who has good deeds but not Torah. And the "Aravah," the willow branch, which has neither pleasant taste nor pleasant aroma, symbolizes the person who has neither Torah nor good deeds. On Sukkot, we are commanded to combine all four together in a single bundle in order to symbolize God's goal of unity for the Jewish people; if any one of the four is missing, no blessing may be recited nor the three remaining species used, sending a clear and unequivocal message that only when all Jews, no matter how observant, knowledgeable or even kind to others, treat each other as brothers and sisters, can we expect God's true blessings and beneficence.

Last, but certainly not least, during the 7 days of Sukkot, sacrifices were offered every day in the Temple, consisting of, among other things a total of 70 bullocks over the course of the holiday. These symbolize the "70 nations of the world", figuratively referring to all other peoples. Our sacrifice of these animals symbolizes our desire that God protect and forgive the entire brotherhood of nations, and hopefully leading them to their own recognition of God's authority and kingship, as well as the special relationship that exists between God and the Jewish people in a never-ending quest for true peace on earth for all of mankind.

Hag Sukkot Sameah!!!
News of Interest To All

We thank Richard Solomon for this important information:

The Company for Location and Restitution of Holocaust Victims' Assets was established in 2007 under law in order to do historical justice with the victims of the Holocaust and reinstate with their legal heirs those assets located in Israel and which were purchased before they found their death under the Nazi regime.

If your family experienced the Holocaust, and if you have information regarding relatives or acquaintances that died in the Holocaust, and if you would like to locate those assets of your loved ones that are located in Israel, please go to the list of assets published on the Company site.

http://www.hashava.info/default.aspx

Elias Messinas, Greek-Jewish Israeli architect, who has photographed and documented synagogues (and remnants of synagogues) throughout Greece, is selling his precious archives. If you are interested, contact Elias directly at ecoweek@ecoweek.gr

Just for Fun

Ladino in the air, Sephardi foods on the table
By Vered Guttman, Published: September 11

Another month, another mouthwatering potluck for Washington’s group of Ladino-speaking Jews: Lilian Katz has brought her kuajado di spinaka, a spinach pie composed with layers of matzoh. Solomon Levy carried in yapraks, stuffed grape leaves that he cooked with dry beans the way his late mother used to do, which he placed next to Leon Taranto’s pan of okra in tomatoes and Fortuna Scheige’s green beans in tomato sauce.

All that and much more filled the dining room table of hosts David and Shoshana Segal at their home in Potomac on Sunday. Shoshana added her own pot of Bulgarian cold yogurt and cucumber soup called tarator. The borek came next — flaky, puffed or filled pastries in so many shapes and sizes. Among them were Flory Jagoda’s spinach and cheese burek, as she’s used to spelling it in her native Bosnia. Matilda Revah, considered to be one of the best cooks among the group, contributed bulemas ispanakli, phyllo-dough borek filled with spinach that are rolled into a spiral.

At that point, the Segals had to direct dishes to a second table. Turkish lentil patties, cauliflower in bechamel, hearts of palm pie. Desserts included a holiday preview: two versions of tezpisti, the simple honey-and walnut cake that is a Rosh Hashanah specialty, plus ring-shaped sweet cookies called biscochos and a sweet squash borek.

For the past 11 years, these three dozen Judeo-Spanish speakers from the Washington area, most of them in their 60s and 70s, have met on Sundays 12 times a year to keep the ancient Jewish culture alive via conversation, as well as in songs of faith and longing. They use the old language, a Castilian dialect of Spanish originating among the Jews in 15th-century Spain, that included Hebrew and Aramaic words. After the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492, Jewish
exiles settled all over the Ottoman Empire, and Ladino became influenced by local languages such as Arabic and Turkish, leading to more dialects.

With such an abundance of Sephardi dishes on hand, a curious visitor was inspired to ask what people planned to cook for the Jewish New Year, which begins Sunday at sundown. “I’m married to an Ashkenazi,” said Levy of Rockville, referring to Jews of Eastern European descent. His own roots are from the Mediterranean island of Rhodes; he was almost apologetic. Then he admitted: “We’re serving brisket.”

We thank Louise Rostker for the above article.

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Responses to articles in previous e-newsletters.

In response to a picture we published from the Jewish Community in Ioannina (taken about 1946-1950), we received some corrections to the IDs.

From left to right: Standing by tree in back row: Estir Koen, Anna Rafael, Margarita Matsil; Standing row below: Mordechai Battinos, Eftixia Mioni Svolis, parachukla “Springles,” Anna Lagari, unidentified, Chrysoula Politi, Anna Matsa (Allegra’s mother), parachukla “Platanos,” Toula Lagari, unidentified, Ilias Lagaris, unidentified, son of Davijon Kouklas who was a haham in Ioannina, front row: Josef Koen, Rosa Besso who married “Springles,” Stella Mioni Koen, children unidentified, Rena (Bella Mandolino’s aunt, unidentified, Bella Mandolino (born in Ioannina and father came from Corfu-she went to USA after marrying Pinriel Koen), Naoum (lying down in front), Josef Rafael (lying down-married Margarita Matsil and Ilias Mordechai (kneeling in front).

A correction on the Ioannina photo in this month's newsletter, the man identified as parachukla "Springles" is in fact my late Uncle Jack Issacs who you correctly identified as having married my late Aunt Rose Besso. She was the oldest sister of my late father Jesse Besso. Please note that
Jack and Rose Issacs had a daughter whom you know very well...Emily Udler. From Michael Besso

Wanted to give you some additional information about persons in the picture. In the row starting with Mordechai Battinos, the fifth person (beautiful young woman wearing a vest) is Esther Politis Mordechai, my Mother. She married Elias Mordechai (in front row) in 1946. She is now 92 years old and still beautiful.
Thanks. Evelyn Mordechai

Websites of interest:

Fascinating blog on a Salonika synagogue in Israel: http://rhcsaloniki.blogspot.co.il/

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fXIMUyrw7s&feature=related
With Avraam Pengas!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P64JVW5Xbts&feature=player_embedded Addio Kerida from soundtrack of “The Third Half.”

Zur Moshe, a Greek Jewish Moshav (village) in Israel is celebrating its 75th anniversary. You may want to follow a blog about the years before it’s establishment: Mavrikiou's Blog.

New Column to be added to our newsletter.

On the suggestion of Jerry Pardo, we will be adding a new column to our newsletter. Share your memories with us, whether they be memories of the Lower East Side or growing up in a traditional Greek Jewish family. We would love to hear from you.

We are actively monitoring the activities of Golden Dawn (Chrysi Avgi) in the United States and unequivocally condemn the actions and philosophy of this neo-Nazi group (both in Greece and here in the USA and Canada). If you want more information, contact us at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net

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) 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.