Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

So many of you have asked us how you can help the Jews of Greece during the economic crisis. See details below in this e-newsletter.

As we approach the High Holidays we would like to remind our Jewish friends that on Yom Kippur it is traditional to recite memorial prayers for the dearly departed. In many synagogues this ritual is observed by conducting a Yizkor service. At the Kehila Kedosha Janina we follow the centuries-old Romaniote custom of our people by reciting Hashkavoth (memorial prayers) and the individual names of our dearly departed during the Kol Nidre/Yom Kippur Eve service. If you wish to honor the memory of your family members or friends in this very special way, please e-mail us their names ASAP at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net. It is customary to include a voluntary donation of your choosing.
This newsletter, our 78th 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 7000 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.

Passings

~We join the extended Colchamiro family in mourning the passing of Roberta Tepperman. Roberta Tepperman (1939-2015), was the wife of Mickey Tepperman and mother of Helene, Alan and David. Roberta is survived by her mother, Jean Saltzman, who will turn 102 on August 4th. (See Simchas) Roberta was the granddaughter of Elias Colchamiro and Nancy Matza Colchamiro, both of Blessed Memory and both born in Ioannina. Elias was the youngest son of Jessula and Rachel Colchamiro.

Sister (Audrey Schilt) and Roberta Tepperman Of Blessed Memory

Elias Colchamiro and Isaac Cohen

Elias Colchamiro Family
~We join the extended Coffino and Petrillo families in mourning the passing of Teddy Coffino (January 10, 1922 - July 14, 2015). Teddy (Anna) was the widow of Meyer Coffino. She is survived by her daughter, Estelle, and son, Zadick.

Wedding of Meyer and Teddy Coffino

Simchas

~ We celebrate the wedding of Joe Josephs (grandson of one of our first Presidents, Joe Josephs) and Melissa Claire Mallette Josephs on May 23rd in South Carolina.
~ We celebrate the wedding of Lisa Russo and Emmanuel Simon in Rhodes on June 21st. Rabbi Gabriel Negrin officiated.

~ We celebrate the birth of Molly Rose Hammersla, daughter of Jason and Jessica Hammersla, granddaughter of Arleen and Warren Hammersla, great granddaughter of Jack and Sylvia (Isaac) Cohen, great great-granddaughter of founding members David and Esther Cohen and Morris and Mollie Isaac (all of blessed memory). David and Esther were from Ioannina, and Mollie was from Preveza. Molly Rose is named for Mollie Isaac.
We celebrate the birth of Emily Maya Lebenstein, daughter of Aaron and Lisa Lebenstein, granddaughter of David Lebenstein and great-granddaughter of Mary Attas Lebenstein.
~We celebrated the 101st birthday of Estelle Yomtov on July 15th. Estelle is the youngest child of Zacharia Yomtov and Mazalto Mose Yomtov.

Estelle Yomtov

Estelle’s grandmother, Lula, and Lula’s four daughters, Julia (Ganis), Esther (Mallah), Mazalto (Yomtov) and (seated) Anna (Barouch)

~We celebrate the upcoming 102nd birthday of Jean Saltzman on August 4th. Jean is the daughter of Elias Colchamiro and Nancy Matza Colchamiro (both of Blessed Memory).

Jean (second from left) with family at her 101st birthday

~We celebrate the upcoming 96th birthday of Ralph Battino, son of Sadik Battino and Anna DeCastro Battino, the grandson of Ralph Battino and Leah Cohen. Ralph comes from a celebrated Yanniote background and never, never forgets his roots. Ralph is a decorated veteran of WWII (recipient of the Purple Heart) and continues to make us proud with everything he does.
Ralph Battino

Family of Sadik Battino

2012 Pasha Reunion in Florida with Max Nachmias introducing Ralph Battino (on left)
~We celebrate the 93rd birthday of Molly Mordechai Gladstone. Molly is the daughter of Josef Mordechai and Anna Israel Mordechai, both Yanniotes of Blessed Memory.

We welcome hearing about simchas from our community. It is truly our joy to share your joys.

Δikoi Mas, Los Muestros (our own) come home

In July, we were blessed with the visit of members of the Meezan and Marcadis families.

Joshua Rabinowitz grandson of Jessua Meezan

Descendants of Jessua Meezan
Suzanne Marcadis

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Kehila Kedosha Janina continues to welcome visitors from around the world.

Muriel and Joseph Toledano from France
News From Jewish Greece

Thessaloniki

Jacques Fredj, the Director of Mémorial de la Shoah Museum in Paris travelled to Thessaloniki to meet with the Mayor of Thessaloniki, Yiannis Boutaris, President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, David Saltiel, Vice President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, Lazaros Sephica, Christophe le Rigoleur (Consul General of France and Director of the French Institute in Thessaloniki) and Spyros Pegkas, Deputy Mayor of Tourism. Mr. Fredj was in Thessaloniki to lend his support towards the creation of a Holocaust Education Center in Thessaloniki.

Jacques Fredj, second from left, David Saltiel, center and Mayor Boutaris on right

Events of Interest in New York City

---

See where the American dream began and is still alive and well!
Lost Synagogues of the East Village: A NEW Public Walking Tour
Tuesday, August 4 2015

The East Village, also known as Alphabet City, was home to many synagogues, schools and benevolent societies. These institutions are less well known than those of the nearby Lower East Side, but they served a sizable community even into the mid 1990s. Join author and tour guide Ellen Levitt (The Lost Synagogues of New York City) as we walk the "East Streets" to see a variety of formerly Jewish sites, including the forerunner to Park East Day School.

See Congregation Adas Yisroel Anshe Mezeritch, a building under transition. We will also view a synagogue that has been re-done in a rainbow riot of color. Expect the unexpected on this special new experience!

Click for more details and to register.

Please do access the website of My Heritage to see a beautiful article about our events in Ereikousa.


We have just been informed that a special stamp has been issued in Israel to honor Ereikousa for saving a Jewish family during the Occupation of Greece. Special thanks to the Raoul Wallenberg Foundation who partnered with the Association of Friends of Greek Jewry to honor the islanders.
Shalom to one and all!

Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel

While the month of August this year is bereft of any significant days commemorating important events in the Jewish calendar, whether sad or happy (the fasts of the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av, and the very happy 15th of Av), the Hebrew month of Elul will fall on Shabbat and Sunday, August 15th and 16th. And while the first day of any new month does not particularly indicated anything special, the significance of Elul in Jewish life is both major and unique. This is because it is the month that precedes Tishrei with the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. Therefore, in Jewish tradition it is considered a preparatory month for repentance and introspection as we approach the Days of Awe.

Like all the names of the Hebrew months, Elul is actually Babylonian in origin, since the Israelites living in Babylonia during their exile there following the destruction of the First Temple adopted those names. In the Bible, all Hebrew months are simply referred to as the "first", "second" and so on. Nonetheless, due to the special spiritual significance of the month, our Sages also saw the four Hebrew letters of the name – Alef, Lamed, Vav and Lamed, as an acronym for "Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li" - "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine" (Song of Solomon 6:3), which stresses the fact that Elul is the time to search one's heart and draw close to God in preparation for the coming Days of Judgment.

One of the seminal events in the Bible that give Elul its special significance is the fact that Moses went up to Mt. Sinai for 40 days a second time to receive the second tablets of stone (the Ten Commandments), after having smashed the first tablets when he descended from the mountain and saw the Golden Calf. Tradition has it that this time Moses went up on the first day of what would have been the month of Elul, and came down 40 days later on would become Yom Kippur, when G-d finally forgave the Israelites for the sin of the Golden Calf.

Therefore, during the month of Elul, there are a number of special rituals leading up to the High Holy Days. It is customary to blow the shofar every morning (except on Shabbat) from 'Rosh Hodesh' Elul (the first day of the month) until the day before Rosh Hashanah, in order to awaken our spirits and inspire us to begin the soul searching in preparation for the High Holy Days. As part of this preparation, Elul is the time to begin the sometimes-difficult process of granting and asking for forgiveness. It is also customary to recite Psalm 27 every day from Rosh Hodesh Elul through Hoshanah Rabbah on Sukkot (in Tishrei).

However, the major ritual practice during Elul is the recitation of "selihot"(special penitential prayers) either every morning before sunrise the entire month according to the Sephardic tradition – in commemoration of Moses' 40-day sojourn during the same period – or during the week before Rosh Hashanah according to the Ashkenazi tradition. (Ashkenazi tradition) or every morning during the entire month of Elul.

It is also customary to visit the graves of loved ones throughout the month in order to remember and honor those people in our past who inspire us to live more fully in the future.

Finally another special social custom is to begin or end all letters written during the month of Elul with wishes that the recipient have a good year. May this Elul usher in a new year of true peace, prosperity and happiness for the entire world!
Looking For Our Help

Our newsletter goes out to thousands of households throughout the world. We have been fortunate to build up this data base of loyal supporters. Never do we appreciate this more than when we try to raise money for worthwhile causes in Greece and never before has the need been greater. So many of you have asked “how are the Jews of Greece faring under the economic crisis?” Simply put, like all Greeks, not well. Jewish institutions are suffering with the inability to provide for those in greatest need (the poor, the sick and the elderly). With the main source of income coming from rents from Jewish properties left vacant after the Holocaust and when renters cannot pay their rents, this source evaporates. I am calling out to you for your help. As in many instances, The Association of Friends of Greek Jewry will act as the main entity for the collection of funds for transfer to Greece. If you wish to contribute to this emergency fund, send your donations (in US dollars) to:

The Association of Friends of Greek Jewry
One Hanson Place
Huntington NY, 11743

The Association is a not-for-profit in the State of New York and all donations are tax deductible.

If you would like to make a contribution directly into one of KIS’s accounts, get in touch with us and we will give you the appropriate information: kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net.

Give generously. Never has the need been greater. These funds will be distributed by KIS to those in greatest need in ALL the Jewish communities in Greece.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

New Item For Sale

We are overjoyed to have for sale this new collection of Greek-Jewish Liturgical Hymns from both the Romaniote (sung by Samuel Cohen) and Sephardic (sung by Mose Halegoua) traditions. Purchased at the Jewish Museum of Greece, we can offer this collection to you for $25 plus $5
postage and handling (within the continental USA). Please send your check to Kehila Kedosha Janina to the same at 280 Broome Street, NYC, NY 10002.

For those of you who were unable to see the presentation on The Secret Jews of Calabria at KKJ, you will be able to see it in New York on August 5th at 6:30 PM at Center For Applied Judaism at 109 East 39th Street.

Thanks to one of our best researchers, David Colchamiro, we have uncovered the story of another brave Yanniote Jew who died in battle while serving his country during WWII.

The story of Simon Bakola has entralled us. Simon’s father Sadik Bakola (Bacola) came to the United States from Ioannina on August 25, 1909 (106 years ago) as part of the emigration of Ioannina Jews to the USA between 1899-1924). Sadik was described as an “18 year old literate Hebrew” clerk from Ioannina. Like many other Yanniote Jews he had come to the USA to seek his fortune and to provide a better life for his family and, like so many Yanniote Jews who were immigrants from Greece, their sons would serve their new country, the United States, during WWII. When we had our exhibit on Our Gang (Greek-Jews who served in the US Armed Forces during WWII we uncovered stories of heroism, especially the stories of those who did not return.

Hyman Barash died on Omaha Beach on D-Day during the landing at Normandy.

Herbert Nachman, son of past Sisterhood President Rae Nachman, was shot down over Germany. Both Arthur Rubenstein and Hymie Atun were lost in the Pacific.

Both Nissim Attas and Abraham Matza died during the Battle of the Bulge.
We now add another name to the roll call of honor, that of Simon Bacola, son of Sadik Bacola from Ioannina. Simon was awarded the Purple Heart, the Silver Star and, as mentioned in his citation, an Oak Leaf Cluster noting his extraordinary heroism. Simon died on January 16th during the Battle of the Bulge. May his name be inscribed for eternity and may his memory be a blessing.

Isaac Bacola, br in the US other of Simon Bacola, carried the story of his brother’s passing with him his whole life. Isaac also served in the US Army and named his first born son Simon after his heroic brother. It was this Simon Bacola who supplied us with the photos below.

Share your stories with us so we can learn and share them with others. If you had relatives who served in the United States Armed Forces during either WWI, WWII or any other conflicts please notify us. If you have pictures, please add them to our collection.

Do access our website: www.kkjsm.org to see information on our exhibit “Our Gang” and other past exhibits.
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.