



# Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

September 2009 e-mail newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Once again, we are happy to share our news. Our e-newsletters now go out monthly to thousands of households worldwide. We are more than just a means of disseminating news, we have also become a force for change, and we thank all our loyal readers who make this possible.

Not all news is good. Unfortunately, Greece once again experienced devastating fires this summer. For more information on the fires, access:

<http://news.aol.com/article/greek-wildfires-approaching-athens/634865?cid=webmail|wbml-ai m|dl7|link3|http%3A%2F%2Fnews.aol.com%2Farticle%2Fgreek-wildfires-approaching-athens%2F634 865>. We thank Joe Varon for this information.

The month of August was marked by a number of passings, two of whom were survivors of the Holocaust and the Occupation of Greece. This newsletter is dedicated to their memory.

We mourn the passing of Louisa Ishaki Ovadia. Louisa was a survivor of Auschwitz.

We mourn the passing of Davijon Besso, who survived the Occupation of Greece. David (Davijon) died at the age of 89 and was buried in Israel. He was born in Ioannina in 1920 and was able to escape to Palestine with his sister Matilda. We extend our sympathies to the Besso and Besca families.

We mourn the passing of Michael Rosenfarb, the son of Sherry & Maurice Ayache. Michael died at the age of 40.

**As we approach the High Holidays, we wish all our friends a Happy New Year and an easy fast. L'Shana Tovah, Chronia Polla, Anos Muchos y Buenos. Do join us for services at Kehila Kedosha Janina. As always, our seats are free and our hearts are welcoming.**

<b>2009</b>		<b>2009</b>
<b>5770</b>		<b>5770</b>
<b>SUNDAY, SEPT. 13</b>	<b>SELICHOT SERVICES</b>	<b>7:00 A.M.</b>
<b>FRIDAY, SEPT. 18</b>	<b>EREV ROSH HASHANA</b>	<b>6:00 P.M.</b>
<b>SATURDAY, SEPT. 19</b>	<b>ROSH HASHANA (1ST DAY)</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>
	<b>ROSH HASHANA (MINCHA)</b>	<b>6.15 P.M.</b>
<b>SUNDAY, SEPT. 20</b>	<b>ROSH HASHANA (2ND DAY)</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>
	<b>(TASHLICH)</b>	<b>6:00 P.M.</b>
<b>SATURDAY, SEPT. 26</b>	<b>SHABBAT TESHUVA</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>
<b>SUNDAY, SEPT. 27</b>	<b>EREV YOM KIPPUR</b>	
	<b>(KOL NIDRE)</b>	<b>6:00 P.M.</b>
<b>MONDAY, SEPT. 28</b>	<b>YOM KIPPUR</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>
	<b>MINCHA</b>	<b>4:00 P.M.</b>
	<b>NE'ILA SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 P.M.</b>
	<b>FAST ENDS</b>	<b>7:57 P.M.</b>
<b>SATURDAY, OCT. 3</b>	<b>SUCCOTH (1ST DAY)</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>
<b>SUNDAY, OCT. 4</b>	<b>SUCCOTH (2ND DAY)</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>
<b>FRIDAY, OCT. 9</b>	<b>HOSHANA RABBA</b>	<b>7:00 A.M.</b>
<b>SATURDAY, OCT. 10</b>	<b>SHEMINI ATZERET (YISKOR)</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>
	<b>EREV SIMCHAT TORAH</b>	<b>6.00 P.M.</b>
<b>SUNDAY, OCT. 11</b>	<b>SIMCHAT TORAH</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>
<b>SATURDAY, OCT. 17</b>	<b>SHABBAT BERESHITH</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>

***Prayer Books and shawls are available at the synagogue.  
For additional Information, Please Contact:  
Marvin Marcus, President (212) 431-1619***

**On August 23<sup>rd</sup> we were thrilled to welcome a former Kehila Kedosha Janina Bar Mitzvah back to the synagogue to celebrate his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. The family of Steven Askinazi, son of Joe and Shirley Askinazi, surprised the birthday boy with a surprise party in the synagogue.**



**Steven Askinazi Bar Mitzvah 1962**



**Askinazi Family KKJ 8/23/2009**

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**We are happy to report that there have been no further desecrations in the Jewish Cemetery of Ioannina.**

**We wish to thank those private citizens of Greece and public officials who spoke out against the desecrations. The Greek Minister of the Interior, Professor Prokopis Pavlopoulos, came out with a strong statement condemning the desecrations of the Jewish Cemetery of Ioannina. In addition, the Ambassador of Greece to the United States (in response to letters from private individuals and The American Jewish Committee), condemned the acts and assured us of their support.**

**There are now floodlights at the Jewish Cemetery, a beginning of what we hope will be additional efforts to assure that no further desecrations will take place.**

**In addition, the citizens of Ioannina (Christian) have started a number of sites on the web to publicly condemn the desecrations and give voice to those citizens who are appalled by these barbaric acts. In the words of Isaac Lagaris: "New developments after the attack to the Jewish cemetery by unidentified rascals, the people of Ioannina (Ioannina citizens non-Jewish) expressed their compassion and sympathy to the Jewish community. In fact the people created a movement and created a page in the "FACEBOOK" POLITES IOANNINON.**

**(<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=117023590758&ref=ts>)**

**In addition a blog is created at <http://www.polites1.blogspot.com/>  
I think it is worthwhile reading**

**Isaac E. Lagaris"**

**Note:** These sites are in Greek. If you wish a translation, get back to us at [kehila\\_kedosha\\_janina@netzero.net](mailto:kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net).

We await news of the scheduled public demonstration of support for the Jewish Community of Ioannina. A rally is to take place outside the Jewish Cemetery the first week in September.

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### **Upcoming events on the Lower East Side**

Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30 PM

*The Lower East Side Remembered and Revisited:*

*A History and Guide to a Legendary New York Neighborhood*

With Joyce Mendelsohn

*Co-Sponsored by the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy*

A party to celebrate the updated and revised edition of this neighborhood guidebook.

\*Note: This event will be held at Angel Orensanz, 172 Norfolk St. near E. Houston.

**Kehila Kedosha Janina is featured in the book and we will be holding a book signing at the synagogue/museum (280 Broome Street) on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00.**

**Join us for the celebration (at Angel Orensanz) on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and for the book signing (at Kehila Kedosha Janina) on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.**

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### **New York events of interest**

**Queens Theatre in the Park Presents Greek American Performing Arts Lineup  
September 24-27, 2009: We thank Jay House Samios for the following info.**

**Featuring Acclaimed Greek Composer/Pianist Mimis Plessas at U.S. Debut Concert  
Performance with Greek Vocalist Evi Siamanda, Vibraphonist Christos Rafalides**

#### **2009 Greek-American Performing Arts Festival**

**Queens Theatre in the Park (QTP), a leading cultural not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to inspiring and growing audiences for theatre and music, announced its *2009 Greek-American Performing Arts Festival*. The four-day festival, celebrates the rich history of Hellenic culture and the contributions of its many contemporary and traditional talented artists, writers, and performers September 24 through 27, 2009. The festival is held at Queens Theatre in the Park at Flushing Meadows Park in Queens, NY. It will feature concerts, staged readings, film, an agora-like fair with music and folklore workshops, children's shadow-puppet show, as well as culinary demonstrations and samples**

**September 24 through 27, 2009 – Artists and schedule subject to change.**

**Queens Theatre in the Park is located at Flushing Meadows Corona Park in the historic site of the New York State Pavilion and directly beside the Queens Museum and the Unisphere.**

Events and performances are by ticket sales and some are open to the public. For information and tickets, contact the Queens Theatre in the Park box office at 718-760-0064 or, visit [www.queenstheatre.org](http://www.queenstheatre.org).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**ELENI DANIELS, DanielsMedia – Press/Public Relations  
(917) 468-2919 or, (718) 760-0686 x107 [danielsmediaco@gmail.com](mailto:danielsmediaco@gmail.com)**

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**News From Greece**

**\*Alberto Nar Scholarship 2009\***

The Jewish Community of Thessaloniki entrusted the Group for the Study of the History of the Jews of Greece (<http://histjews.blogspot.com/>) to nominate researchers for the 2009 "Alberto Nar Scholarship." The scholarship amounts to 3,000 euros and will be awarded to one or two researchers. Accordingly, the Group for the Study of the History of the Jews of Greece invites those interested to apply.

The scholarship concerns the completion of an original article-length study on any subject on the history of the Jews of Greece. It is intended for young researchers currently pursuing a post-graduate, doctoral, or, post-doctoral program, or, who have been awarded a doctoral degree since January 1, 2005.

Those interested are asked to submit their application by November 15, 2009. The application should consist of:

**A curriculum vitae**

**A research proposal of 1,500 words length, which should include the title, and an analytical description of the topic.**

**A list of two references whom the Selection Committee may solicit for their judgments of the candidate and of the project.**

**Scholarship recipient(s) will be selected by a panel of scholars and results will be made public before December 31, 2009. Scholarship recipients will be expected to submit their article-length study by October 31, 2010. Prior to the completion and submission of their study, they will also be invited to Thessaloniki to make a presentation to the monthly seminar series organized by the Group for the Study of the History of the Jews of Greece and also deliver a lecture sponsored by the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki.**

**Applications and studies can be submitted in Greek, English and French.**

**Applications should be submitted by email in word or pdf format to: [histjews@gmail.com](mailto:histjews@gmail.com). Further enquiries should also be made to the same email address.**

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**Annetta Kapon's work will be exhibited in Personal/Political at the Contemporary Art Center in Thessaloniki, Greece, from September 11 to October 23, 2009. Curators: Thodoris Markoglou and Areti Leopoulou. [www.thessalonikiennale.gr](http://www.thessalonikiennale.gr)**

## Ladino Concert at Jewish Museum of Amsterdam

Ensemble Me La Amargates Tu will be performing a special concert on Sunday 6th of September 2009, at 11:30 in The Jewish Museum of Amsterdam.

For additional information:  
Ensemble Me La Amargates Tu  
[melaamargatestu@gmail.com](mailto:melaamargatestu@gmail.com)  
tel: 00972 544 744901  
Esteban Manzano  
tel: 0031 63 4628285

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### Response to photos

Our wedding photo in the August 2009 e-newsletter brought numerous responses (see August e-newsletter on our website: [www.kkjsm.org](http://www.kkjsm.org)). Elliot Nachman had given us the photo because members of his family appeared. It turned out that members of everyone's family appeared! The bride and groom were Sam Samuels and Sara Menahem, as related to us by their daughter Judith. The wedding took place on November 30, 1940. Guests included members of the Nachman family (Sara's mother was a Nachman). Annette Samuels of Blessed Memory was a bride's maid and Hy Matza found himself as a 16 year old. Mitchell Matza found many members of his family as he told us, "My Father was Sol Matza. I believe he was on the lower left of that wedding picture from the August Newsletter. His Mom Steroula Matza was there as were many family members; Hy Matza and his family. Our family Physician back then was Dr. Dalven, brother of the author Rae Dalven."

Bruce Fern gave us the following info: "My Mom knows three people (relatives) in the Sam Samuels wedding photo – Joe Ganis (man with mustache sitting closest to the photographer in the bottom front), Sidel Ganis and Anne Ganis (behind him to the right). One person might be my grandmother (Esther Calef – maiden name Ether Ganis) but not sure because she is way back in the photo."

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Speaking of weddings, we were honored to host the wedding of Morris Levy and Daniela Smolov at Kehila Kedosha Janina on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Morris is the great-grandson of Rabbi Jessoula Levy of Blessed Memory, one of our earliest rabbis. Rabbi Jessoula was brought over from Ioannina in 1913 to help serve the growing New York Community.



**Wedding of Morris Levy & Daniela Smolov Levy  
Kehila Kedosha Janina, August 16, 2009**

We continue to collect wedding pictures for our new exhibit due to open on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, and treasures continue to come in. Among those we received this month is the post WWII photo of Matilda Battino, a survivor from Ioannina and Saadi Ben Eliezar Pardo from Salonika. Matilda lost her whole family and, as related by her daughter, Rosina Korda. "My parents were introduced after the war in 1949. My mother was living as a roomer in her own home in Ioannina with her brother. Their whole family was wiped out by the Nazis and in Auschwitz. Her brother was ready to get married to a woman from Athens but did not want to leave her alone. My father returned to Salonika after spending 5 years in Switzerland grieving after the murder of his wife and three children along with his mother and all family members with the exception of one brother. He decided he needed to marry. My mother was sent to meet him in Salonika. They went out once. My father said he didn't know. The next day he came to the door handed her a box of chocolates and said "mazal tov" we are getting married."



This picture was taken in New Jersey in 1915: can anyone identify anyone?

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**We thank Max Nachmias for the photo of his father Sam with friends in Boston (1918):  
Top row: Yohanan Yohanan, Zadick Bacola, Isaac Matsa; sitting: Ezra Matza, Sol  
(Shorty) Matza and Sam Nachmias. They were all working in Boston in 1918 and Sol  
(Shorty) Matza was in the US Armed Forces.**



**On a recent visit to Boston, we were surprised to learn that, unlike New York, there was little left of the early history of Jews in Boston. Most of the Jews who settled in Boston were Eastern European, but, as attested to by this 1918 photo, there were also Greek Jews living in the city. At one time, Boston's North End was not unlike our Lower east Side. Today, little remains of the Jewish past. Other immigrant-era conclaves existed in the West End as well as sections of the South End – but most of the synagogues, schools, homes, and sights of significance were razed or rebuilt in urban renewal efforts. An interesting synagogue that still remains is the Vilna Synagogue on Beacon Hill.**

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**Special photos**

**Mollie Cohen (former Sisterhood of Janina President) and Solomon Capon of Blessed Memory (circa 1980's).**





**Broome & Allen Street Boys: May 1940's  
Recognize anyone?**



**Club Stanwell**

**We are looking for information on Club Stanwell. Many of the members were Greek Jews from the Lower East Side.**



**Inquiries**

**Sandy Schaaff is looking for help in identifying faces in this old photo.**

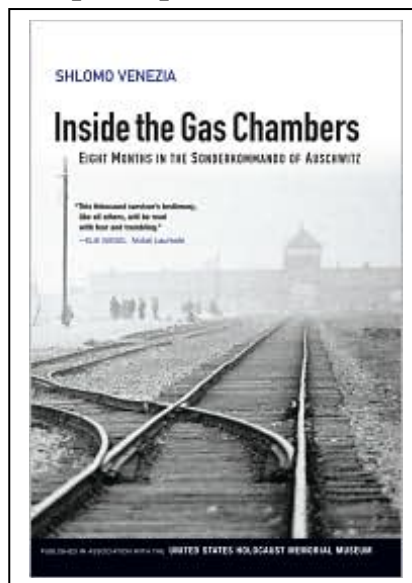


**New Book for Sale**

**INSIDE THE GAS CHAMBERS: EIGHT MONTHS IN THE SONDERKOMMANDO  
OF AUSCHWITZ**

**Shlomo Venezia**

**Wiley, John & Sons, Incorporated [2009]**



**Shlomo Venezia is a very lucky man, a blessed man, one who saw the fires, witnessed the gassings, and lived through the selections of death. This eyewitness account is gruesome and horrific, yet it needs to be told. He bears witness and truly sacrifices himself to lay out his time at Auschwitz and explain in exacting detail each horrible moment in time.**

**It's sad but he states, "As soon as I feel a little joy, something inside me closes up immediately.... I call it 'the survivors' disease." This disease eats away at his life and whenever he experiences light hearted times of joy, the disease rears its ugly head and pulls him back to the depths of darkness.**

**Witnessing certainly marked Shlomo for death, yet he survived to tell his tale. Why was he spared when so many others perished? You can't help fear the times and struggles he faced and the images are often harsh and bitter, yet you struggle through as he did in life. Day in and day out the numbness to death is cold like an arctic wind cutting right through your clothes to freeze you to the bone. I can't imagine how numb he must have been to continue living among the dead and dying. His daily tasks were beyond endurance yet he came forth and brought life to those who passed through the chimneys at Auschwitz**

**As stated by Simone Veil - "This is the only complete eye-witness account that we have from a survivor of the Sonderkommandos."**

**If you wish to purchase this book, send \$19 (\$15 plus \$4 P&H) in a check made out to Kehila Kedosha Janina. Please mail the check to One Hanson Place, Huntington NY, 11743 (to expedite your order). For international orders, the P&H is \$15.**

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

Kehila Kedosha Janina e-newsletter: number 20: September 2009  
Kehila Kedosha Janina, 280 Broome Street, New York NY 10002

