First Stage of Interior Restoration Has Begun!

Due to an exceedingly generous bequest from the estate of Mrs. Frances Siegelbaum, we have been able to start our long-anticipated interior restoration. Soon our interior will be a fitting accompaniment to our newly refurbished exterior. None of this could have been done without your continued support. And special thanks to David Belbel for his generous donation in memory of his late father, Sol. We have been truly blessed in the support we have received. Many other donors, too numerous to mention, have given us the hope that our dreams will soon become a reality.

The first stage of the restoration will involve replacement of our antiquated electrical system, installation of new electricity, addition of air-conditioning, replastering and painting. It is our intention to stay as close as possible to the original interior, while bringing in some of the modern amenities now necessary. While, obviously, some of these renovations (especially, the air-conditioning) were not part of the original synagogue, there will be no major structural changes and the interior our electrical needs, and trustee Randy Schoe-Vagelatos, professional interior decorator, has been there continuously with her professional expertise. Most of all, you, with your continual support, will continue with our restoration. Thank you!

As always, we have been truly blessed with aid from professionals (pro bono) who are members of our Board or congregation of Kehila Kedosha Janina. Our own Steve Negrin has supplied priceless help in a number of our electrical projects. Our Bank, Merion Marcus, Sandy Schoer-Vagelatos, professional interior decorator, has been there continuously with her professional expertise. Most of all, you, with your continual donations and moral support, have enabled us to continue with our restoration. Thank you!

Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum
280 Broome Street • NYC 10002 • 212-431-1639
www.kkjons.org or e-mail at KKJ18@mso.com

**Shemos in the Kehila**

This past spring we have been honored to be chosen as the setting for two special Bar Mitvahs, the first that of Andrew Marcus, son of our Board member Marvin Marcus and his wife, Phyllis, and the second, the “second” Bar Mitvah of our illustrious President, Hy Genee (see “Meet the Board”). Both yizkor occasions filled the synagogue. What better way to support us, and to assure the continued outreach of our precious heritage, than to celebrate your simchas in Kehila Kedosha Janina.

**Glory or Freedom**

Sunday, January 28th
4th Annual Greek-Jewish Film Festival.
Films to be announced. $10 admission.

Yom Kippur.

Monday, October 24th 7:00 am
Slichot.

Tuesday, October 4th 8:30 am
Sh’mini Atz.

Wednesday, October 13th 8:00 am
Succoth.

Thursday, October 25th 8:45 am
Shabbat.

Friday, October 26th 8:45 am
Hoshana Raba.

**The Romanovite**

Newsletter of Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum

We Ask Your Help

Little Joseph Gilo, now age five, suffers from a rare disease (Wiscott-Aldrich Syndrome), a hereditary disease that usually occurs only in boys. Joey’s mother is of Yankute descent (both her maternal grandparents were born in Ioannina: Anna and Nissim Solomon), and it is most likely that a compatible donor would be found among those of the same genetic background.

We are seeking help for Joey and asking as many people as possible to submit blood tests to determine if they would be a compatible donor. It is such a small thing for us, and a matter of life or death for little Joey. Please let us know if you are willing to help, and we will pass this information on to Joey’s family.

**NEW YORK EVENTS**

**October**

Sunday, October 2nd 7:00 am
Slichot.

Monday, October 3rd 6:00 pm
Rosh Hashanah services.

Tuesday, October 4th 8:30 am
Rosh Hashanah services.

Wednesday, October 5th 8:30 am
Rosh Hashanah services.

Wednesday, October 12th 5:30 pm
Yom Kippur.

Thursday, October 13th 8:00 am
Yom Kippur.

Tuesday, October 18th 8:45 am
Succoth.

Wednesday, October 19th 8:45 am
Succoth.

Monday, October 24th 7:00 am
Hoshana Raba.

Tuesday, October 25th 8:45 am
Sh’mimin Arz.

Tuesday, October 25th 5:30 pm
Simchat Torah.

Wednesday, October 26th 8:45 am
Simchat Torah.

**November**

Sunday, November 6th 1:00 pm
Epirote family stories: Special book signing and meet the authors.

Isaac Donvis: author of Ten Gold Medals: Glory or Freedom, the story of Isaac’s own family’s survival and escape during the Holocaust. Eleni Triage: author of North of Bithia, the story of Eleni’s own family and the village in Epirus they came from. Eleni is the daughter of Nicholas Gage, author of the famous Eleni.

Authors will discuss their books and be available to autograph copies of each book purchased.

Sunday, November 20th 1:00 pm
Koula’s Kitchen: special Greek-Jewish desserts, kourabiedes and more. $5 admission.

**December**

Sunday, December 25th 1:00 pm
Hanukkah party.

Traditional Romanovite Hanukkah services and lighting of the first candle.

2006

Sunday, January 28th
4th Annual Greek-Jewish Film Festival.
Films to be announced. $10 admission.

**GOURMET YEMENITE (SUFFLED SQUASH)**

5 medium squash (zucchini)
Salted mushrooms and onions to taste
1⁄2 pound chopped meat
1 cup rice
2 tablespoons chopped walnuts
2 eggs
Salt and pepper to taste
Fresh dill
2 tablespoons oil
Cut squash lengthwise into three or four pieces. Scoop out pulp. Chop pulp and add other ingredients to mixture. Stuff hollowed-out squash with mixture and place them in pot (with stuffed side down so that mixture does not come out) with water to cover. Add two table- spoons oil. Steam until squash is tender. Transfer to heated (350°F) oven and bake for 35–40 minutes. Makes about 18 pieces.

*This recipe was submitted by Hy and Ed Genee.*
Our museum continues to grow and attract visitors from all over the world. Over 3,000 guests visit annually, many learning for the first time about the history and culture of Romaniote Jews. Other museums around the world reach out to us! To date, we have worked with the Museum of Jewish History, the State University of New York at Stony Brook, the Center for Jewish History, the Israeli pavilion at the World Expo in Shanghai, and the Jewish Museum of Northern Israel. Thanks to the generosity of the Colchamiro brothers (Leonard, Elliot and Fere) a new exhibit in the museum was created in honor of their parents, Morris and Sara. Please support our new exhibit space.

We are grateful to the generosity of the Matsil family (Sol, Morris, Esther, in the USA), meticulously inscribing their names in his prayer book. The thread that binds us together, and we will be commemorating our 75th anniversary. Save the date, Sunday, April 29, 2007. Hopefully, we will have a blowout gala, with you all attending. It is our hope to complete stage one of the interior in time for the historic Yanniote services. And we move forward. As always, your dedicated volunteers are at the core of what we do. Check what we are doing. Access our Web site (http://www.kkjsm.org).

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Yanniote? What is the Janina Synagogue? What is the Jewish Community of Preveza? How do I find out more about the Yanniote Jewish community? Where can I find out more about Jewish history?

**The Sisterhood of Janina**

**Matsilach Matsil, Rabbi and Mohel (1877-1962)**

The history of the Jewish presence in Preveza, (class of 1939), Hy went on to serve his country in World War II in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1945 and was in the Signal Corps in the European Theatre. Hy, like many of the Yanniote who founded and worshipped in the Kehila, worked in textiles. He was the sole proprietor of Hi-Mart Pants for 40 years, making and selling his trousers.

For the past 59 years, Hy has been married to his lovely wife, Lil, the mother of his two children, Jack and Matty, both of whom also serve on the Kehila Kedosha Janina Board. He is also the proud grandfather of four.

Hy has always been active in community affairs and has served as an executive board member of the Ritual Board and was a president of the United Brotherhood of Janina, among other positions. Always dedicated to Kehila Kedosha Janina, Hy has served as the president of the synagogue for the past 50 years. Without Hy Genee, none of what we have been able to do would have been possible. Thank you, Hy! We are eternally grateful.

**MEET THE BOARD -- HY GENE**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF GREEK JEWRY**

**PREVEZA**

In the fall of 2005, after the initial interior restoration was complete, the museum at Kehila Kedosha Janina will be opening a new exhibit space dedicated to the Yanniotes of Preveza. We have acquired photographs of the Jewish neighborhood and will display them, along with a photograph of the new exhibition space.

During the summer of 2005, the church suffered substantial damage but the synagogue remained virtually untouched. The Jewish neighborhood was only four square blocks, created by Korot, Poliostena, Ioannina Nistaki and the market, with Christian and Turkish residences intermingled. Very few lived beyond these limits. Their businesses were only a few short blocks apart, and our communities still within the Ottoman Turkish Empire. Yanniote Jews would join them, as would Romanee Jews from Corfu.

As always, the Association visited Greece this past summer. We went to Haniá, Salonika, Yeruva, Ioannina and Agrams. The ten-day trip (July 23–31) was highly successful and gave the group, many of Yanniote background, a chance to visit what we think is the most beautiful country in the world. More important, it enabled us to reinforce the small Jewish presence in Greece and to show them that we care. We are already planning next summer’s trip. Come with us and visit Jewish Greece.

—Marcus Haddad, President

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

It is our hope to complete stage one of the interior in time for High Holy Days. We anticipate your attendance for our meaningful Yanniote services.

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**THE SISTERHOOD OF JANINA**

The Sisterhood of Janina recently celebrated its 75th anniversary at a lovely luncheon, June 8th, 2005, at the Harvard Club of New York, which was a resounding success. Through the years since our creation in 1932 on the Lower East Side of New York by the Yanniote community, we have evolved into a backbone whose membership spans the globe. We are known far and wide for our many philanthropic accomplishments, foremost of which was the recently purchased fully equipped ambulance for Israel. Currently, we are setting our sights on 2007, which will see a double celebration: Kehila Kedosha Janina will be observing 80 years of continuous service, and we will be commemorating our 75th anniversary. Save the date, Sunday, April 29, 2007. Hopefully, we will have a blowout gala, with you all attending.

**MET THE BOARD -- HY GENE**

When this continuing column (‘Meet the Board’) was first proposed, our present honoree said: “Who knows everyone has heard my name enough.” Well, guess what, Mr Genee, we never tire of hearing your name!’ In every organization, there is one person who exemplifies the dreams and goals, who, by his every action, acts as an impetus for growth. That thread that binds us together, the fiber that has gently woven its way into the very fabric of our life, is the President of our Board. HyGenee was born April 27, 1922 on the Lower East Side of New York (4 Orchard Street) to Bechorak (Morris) Genee and Fere (Fani) Genee; both born in Ioannina. The youngest in the family, Hy celebrated his first Bar Mitzvah in Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue in 1945 and, just recently, on June 11, 2005, celebrated his second Bar Mitzvah to a packed house who braved the early summer heat to applaud his accomplishments.

A graduate of Seward Park High School (class of 1939), Hy went on to serve his country in World War II in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1945 and was in the Signal Corps in the European Theatre. Hy, like many of the Yanniote who founded and worshipped in the Kehila, worked in textiles. He was the sole proprietor of Hi-Mart Pants for 40 years, making and selling his trousers.

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