



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

February 2008 e-mail newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Thanks to the internet, our extended family continues to grow. Yanniotos, Greek Jews and friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina have been able to connect with us from all over the United States, Greece and Israel, along with communications from Australia, South America, Mexico, France, Italy, England, Germany, Poland and South Africa.

We are proud of what we have accomplished and receive continual compliments on our website [www.kkjsm.org or www.kkjsm.com]. So much of this is due to the passion and commitment of members of our community, our volunteer staff and, of course, our webmaster, Maurice Askinazi.

As we continue to expand our activities, our internet newsletter will become a permanent feature. If you are on our e-mailing lists, you will receive this automatically. If for any reason you do not wish to receive the e-mail newsletter, please inform us.

NEWS

Kehila Kedosha Janina News

Our first meeting of the **Kedosha Kedosha Janina Book Club** was a tremendous success. The second meeting will take place on **Sunday, March 2nd at 12:00 noon**. The selection for discussion is "Greece-A Jewish History," by

K.E. Fleming. If you do not have a copy of the book, see information on new books for sale. Bourekas will be served at the meeting, along with beverages. [\$5 per participant suggested contribution]. This way we offer sustenance for the mind and the body!

New additions to our website

The **Hametz Family Exhibit** has been added to our website [www.kkjsm.com]. The text and photos on this important family exhibit can be accessed through the EXHIBIT link on the left.



New Books for Sale

***Greece: A Jewish History* by K. E. Fleming \$30**

A fascinating look at Greek Jewry as it entered the modern age.
A special chapter on Kehila Kedosha Janina.

***Journal Of Modern Hellenism: issue 23/24* \$20**

Special issue dedicated to Greek Jewry with articles by Steven Bowman, Louie Menashe, Nikos Stavroulakis and Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos [among others].

***Out of Silence into Being* by Rebecca Camhi Fromer \$15**

The poetry of Rebecca Camhi Fromer.

***One Voice, Many Echoes* by Rebecca Camhi Fromer \$20**

Collection of essays including Greek-Holocaust interviews.

A complete new book list will be on our website shortly, accompanied by our Spring issue of the Romaniote [due out Apr1, 2008].

Note: To order any of these books [or others listed on our website] contact us at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net or kehila_kedosha_janina@verizon.net

Annual January 27th Holocaust Commemoration

Due to the death of the Archbishop of Greece, the scheduled events in memory of Greek-Jewish Holocaust victims on January 31st at the Greek Consulate in NYC have been postponed to February 21st.

In Greece, on January 29th, there was a special television program [on SKAI channel at 11:00 pm] of Yanniotte liturgical music including piyyutim once sung in the synagogue of Ioannina. The concert was dedicated to the memory of the Jews of Ioannina lost in the Holocaust and is part of a continuous effort to bring to the national consciousness the immensity of the loss of Greek Jewry.

In Salonika, on Sunday, January 27th, a memorial service was held at Thessaloniki's Holocaust Monument in memory of the approximately 50,000 Greek Jews of the city that were exterminated in Nazi death camps during WWII. The event was organized by the Thessaloniki prefecture authority and the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki. Representing the government, Deputy Sports Minister Yiannis Ioannidis, a Thessaloniki-area MP and well-known professional basketball coach in the country, reminded the audience that, "peoples without historical memory have no future." The Israeli ambassador to Greece, Ali Yahia, was in attendance, along with local Parliament deputies, local government and prefecture officials, foreign diplomats (US, Russia, Germany, Romania and France) as well as the presidents of the Central Jewish Council of Greece (KIS), Moses Constantines, and Thessaloniki's Jewish Community, David Saltiel.



Annual Tours To Jewish Greece



This year we will be visiting Salonika, Ioannina, Volos [with day trips to Meteora, Pelion and Skiathos] plus Israel [Jerusalem, Ceasarea, Tel Aviv and Jaffa]. For a complete itinerary plus prices, contact us at kehila_kedosha_janina@verizon.net or kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net.

Exhibits in conjunction with Kehila Kedosha Janina

Educational Alliance: January 27 to March 3, 2008

ERNEST RUBENSTEIN GALLERY, THE EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

197 East Broadway NY, NY 10002 (Between Jefferson and Clinton Streets)

F train to East Broadway; J, M, Z trains to Delancey St; MTA buses: M9, M14A, M15, M22

CONTACT: Walter O'Neill 212.780.2300, ext. 378

Alexander Calder referred to working with wire as "drawing in space." This exhibit explores how contemporary artists use wire in different ways to define space, create form and use line in three-dimensions. David Finn, Joyce Goodman, Naomi Grossman, Nancy Koenigsberg, Judy Moonelis, Alex Pimienta, Eric Rhein and Elise Siegel.

JUDY MOONELIS

Janina Site Project: Celestial Structures

Janina Project: Celestial Structures by Judy Moonelis is a site-specific sculptural installation. Invited by Museum Director Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, Moonelis's work brings a contemporary perspective to Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum, public attention to its needs and the importance of its continued existence in the community. Responding to the site and its cultural history, the artist suspends cone shaped wire and mixed media sculptures from two large skylights. These works draw multiple references to the "heavens" including ancient celestial maps, contemporary models of the universe, Gothic vault structures and the geometric/numeric symbolism often featured in sacred spaces.

Individual and collective memory is of vital importance to the people of Janina and their culture. They have unique customs and a distinct language (melding Greek, Hebrew, Turkish and Italian). Their community was all but decimated by the Holocaust. The museum is a repository for memory as a place to collect, preserve, and attempt to capture that which is precious, but elusive. The process of remembering keeps Janina a living culture, allowing it to be rediscovered and appreciated in a new context.

Moonelis has created Memory Cones, wire spatial drawings that fuse the conical forms of our expanding universe with the stalactite like Gothic pendant vault. Each cone is a folding net like structure composed of twelve ascending/descending six pointed stars. (Twelve refers to the twelve tribes of Israel, the twelve months of the year, the twelve constellations). Suspended within the core of each cone are delicate root like forms made of fine wires whose tips are punctuated with hundreds of minute sparkling glass "jewels". These suggest the root of the brain stem, where memory is stored, branching botanicals and images of the cosmos. The "root" ends in Ruby Memory Cone are red, suggesting the heart, blood bond of common heritage as well the pomegranate seed, ancient symbol of abundance. Memory Cone, Blue/White features the national colors of both Greece and Israel, and sky/heavens

Photos from Ioannina and Kehila Kedosha Janina [by Vincent Giordano as part of his continuing "Before the Flame Goes Out" project on documentation of the Romaniote communities] at

Museum of Biblical Art

1865 Broadway at 61st Street
New York, NY 10023-7505

Opening reception March 6, 2008 at 6:00 pm.

MOBIA is open six days a week

Tuesday - Wednesday: 10 am - 6 pm

Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm

Friday - Sunday: 10 am - 6 pm

CONTACT

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RECOMMENDED ADMISSION FEE TO MOBIA

\$7.00 for adults

\$4.00 for students and senior citizen (with valid ID)

Free for members and children under 12