



# Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

July 2010 e-mail newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, Jews around the world will mourn the destruction of the Temples. Tisha b'Av is a day of mourning when we pause to reflect on all the pogroms, crusades, inquisitions and holocausts which have befallen Jews over the millennia. It is specifically observed on the date when the Holy Temples were destroyed but gives Jews an opportunity to reflect on other persecutions and atrocities. This year, as we fast and reflect, we ask Greeks, Jews and non-Jews, around the world to reflect on the frightening rise of anti-Semitism in Greece (See article in this issue). Therefore, this issue is dedicated to 'rational thought,' something that has definitely taken flight from Greece. It is our hope that it will return soon, that sensible thought will, once again, overpower irrational hate.



In front of Aron Kodesh

in Kehila Kedosha Janina

This newsletter, our 30<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.kkjsm.org)).

We now reach over 4500 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](mailto:kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net).

As always, you all are invited to attend our Saturday morning Shabbat services. Just give our Shamas, Sol Kofinas, a heads up ([papusoup@mindspring.com](mailto: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.

This month we celebrate the special birthdays of two special ladies from our community. Dora Mazza celebrated 97 years and Sara Samuels has turned 90. We wish them each another 100 years.

This month we mourn the passing of Lee Pessah at the age of 96. Her parents emigrated from Salonika shortly before she was born. Her maiden name was Benveniste. We send our sympathy to her family.

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### Alarming increase in anti-Semitism in Greece

This article is very painful to write but it is very necessary. After the unfortunate incident of the flotilla on May 31<sup>st</sup>, there was an alarming increase in anti-Semitism. Anti-Israeli rhetoric, in many instances, have been obvious expressions of anti-Semitism.

#### June 6<sup>th</sup>: Komotini

A swastika was spray painted on the Holocaust memorial in Komotini. A local law student was arrested and charged with desecration and damage to the memorial.



What he said was revealing: "It was a gesture of protest as I watched with bated breath the unjust death of activists on a ship of peace to going to Palestine." He said that his act was a deliberate act of protest and that he planned the act to protest Israeli action against "innocent activists."

**The desecrated Holocaust memorial honors the memory of the Jews of Komotini killed in the Holocaust by Germans during the Bulgarian occupation of 1943.**

**Fortunately, because of stringent security systems put into place after May 31<sup>st</sup> (date of flotilla incident) the desecration was noticed immediately leading to an arrest.**

**There are no Jews presently living in Komotini. The community was destroyed in the Holocaust.**

**Our thanks to [abravanel.wordpress.com](http://abravanel.wordpress.com) for constant updates on issues of importance to Greek Jewry and for much of the most recent information listed below.**

**In Thessaloniki:**

**A splinter group of protesters split from the main pro-Gaza demonstration in Thessaloniki to shout slogans in front of the Jewish Museum.**

**Throughout Greece:**

**As soon as news of the flotilla incident broke, Jewish Communities across Greece canceled every non-essential function. Memories of past anti-Semitic acts, both those of 2009 and more recent ones in Rhodes and Thessaloniki, were fresh in their minds. Jewish schools and Senior homes activated crisis security measures. Greek Police protection was increased, but also precautionary measures were taken by the internal security department. Not only were communal events canceled but also private initiatives. Among canceled events were:**

**In Athens the book presentation "Η ζωή απ'την αρχή" by Dr.I.Schiby/K.Lampsa on June 3rd with the famous Greek journalist P.Mandravelis acting as a moderator; the book deals with Greek Jewish immigration after the Shoah.**

**In Chalkida:**

**The dedication of a statue to Colonel Mordochai Frizis, a Jewish war hero who fell in battle on the Albanian front defending against the Italian invasion of 1940. Frizis was born in Chalkida. He was Jewish but he died as a Greek. The fact that the President of the Hellenic Republic, Karolos Papoulias, who supposedly represents all Greeks, suddenly discovered a problem that prevented him from attending. On June 1st (one day after the flotilla incident and five days before the actual event) the Municipality of Chalkida and the mayor Thanasis Zembilis issued "a heated condemnation against the murderous, criminal and barbaric nation of Israel." The Municipality also specified that if the ceremony ever takes place, the ambassador of Israel (where some of the family of Frizis now live) is persona non grata.**



As [abravanel.wordpress.com](http://abravanel.wordpress.com) so aptly stated, "The Municipality of Chalkida has every right to cancel the ceremony, showing how it does not value its citizens that gave their life for Greece, but the President of the Hellenic Republic, who supposedly is the president of all Greeks, does not."

In the nearby city of Kavala, where 1800 Jews were murdered by the Germans/Bulgarians, there was vandalism in the Jewish Cemetery with graffiti speaking of "Jewish Criminals" and Stars of David crossed out.



Nothing was reported in local newspapers!

In Rhodes: One of the most painful examples of recent anti-Semitic graffiti was along the external wall of the synagogue in Rhodes. Using the expression "Raus" ('move' in German) that was used by the Nazis as they unloaded the cattlecars and moved the Jews towards their deaths, these insensitive anti-Semites re-opened the wounds of the Holocaust. The Jews of Rhodes do not have to be reminded of their losses. The present Jewish community of 40 is a small remnant of the pre-WWII 1700 member community.



Israel is a political state. As such, it can be supported or criticized for its actions. BUT using criticism as an excuse to defile Jewish sites in Greece (and elsewhere) and to denounce Jews with anti-Semitic rhetoric in local Greek newspapers is not only inexcusable, it is irrational and ignorant. An example of the pervading atmosphere is the article describing the desecration in Komotini in a local newspaper (Chronos) by Melahrini Martidou and is indicative of how these incidents are viewed: she explains that the desecration on the part of the law student was not targeting the exterminated Jews of Komotini but, rather, Israel, and then goes on to call the Holocaust memorial "*the monument of the Israelis.*"

Related articles:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704575304575296463512785910.html?mod=WSJ\\_lat\\_estheadlines](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704575304575296463512785910.html?mod=WSJ_lat_estheadlines)

[http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/where-are-the-protests/story-e6frg6zo-1225881\\_073566](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/where-are-the-protests/story-e6frg6zo-1225881_073566)

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article2559280.ece>

### **Museum News**

**If you have not yet sent in photos to be included in our upcoming exhibit on Families (Oi Dikoi Mas/Los Muestros), please do not procrastinate. All photos must have been taken before 1960. The cut-off date for submitting photos is July 31<sup>st</sup>. Without a submission, your family will not be represented in this important exhibit and you will not be invited to attend the opening reception (because of the large number of attendees last year at the opening of our Wedding exhibit, we must limit admission to only those holding formal, written invitations.) Remember, we are looking for photos in the following categories: baby pictures, Bar Mitvah photos, family groupings (formal studio photos and informal gatherings), street scenes including family photos and especially family photos inside the old apartments. All photos must be of Greek Jews (both Romaniote and Sephardic) either in Greece or here in the USA (photos of Greek Jews elsewhere in the Diaspora are also welcome).**

**We continue to receive precious photos. Thanks to Mae and Zino Gabrielides, we received the following:**



**Taken March 7, 1951 in Piraeus as family prepared to leave for USA**



**1939-Greece-Michael (lost in the Holocaust) with Effie and Zino (survived as hidden children)**

**We love the baby photos!**



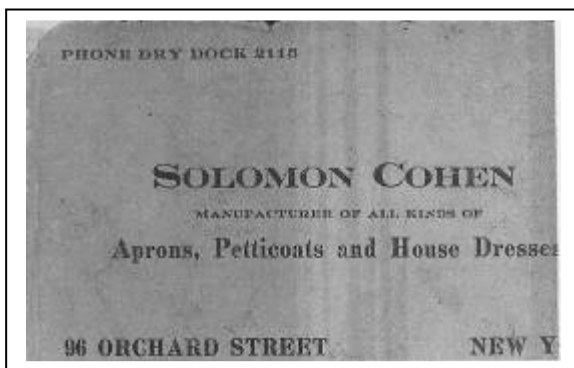
**Isaac Nehama Athens 1928**



**Vic, Sam, Joe & Shirlee Cabillis 1932/33  
Bronx park**

**We are looking for photos of early founders and their business cards**

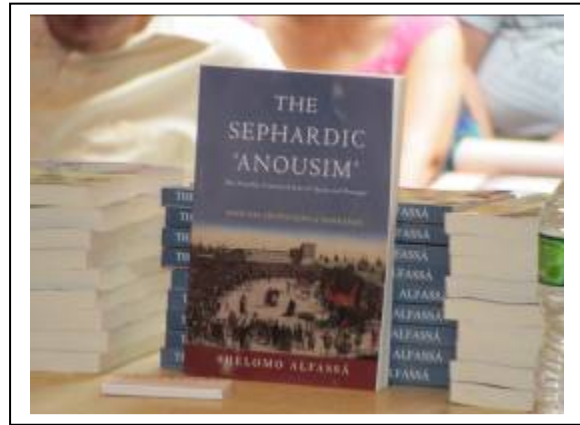
So many of our early founders were involved in some aspect of the garment industry (aprons, nightgowns, robes, ladies underwear, etc.). Look through your old boxes of photos and paraphernalia and see what treasures you can find. We recently received this great photo of Solomon Cohen (the founder of C&C Manufacturing) along with a business card. We love the phone number!



**Thank you Marvin Cohen.**

## Museum Events

The June 27<sup>th</sup>, book signing by Shelomo Alfassa was a great success (see availability of book under 'New Books').



## Family Reunions at Kehila Kedosha Janina

Over the course of the years, we have found that family reunions are a great way of re-connecting descendants of former congregants to the synagogue and community their forefathers were so proud of. Contact us ([kehila\\_kedosha\\_janina@netzero.net](mailto:kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net)) to arrange a family reunion. We provide the site, the food and the music. You provide the family!

An example of a small family gathering was members of the Ganis family who joined us in May.



Joel & Serena Negrin's mother was Diana Ganis. The photo of Diana Ganis and Samuel Negrin's wedding remains one of the highlights of our present Wedding Exhibit.



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We are happy to announce the following important event:

# First Annual New York Sephardic Jewish Book Fair

**JULY 25, 2010**



**First Annual New York Sephardic Jewish  
Book Fair to be held July 25, 2010  
at the Center for Jewish History**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Shelomo Alfassa (917-606-8262)

(NEW YORK, NY) June 22, 2010 - The first annual **New York Sephardic Jewish Book Fair** will take place on Sunday July 25, 2010 where book readings, author signings, book sales and tours will take place at the Center for Jewish History.

The book fair, hosted by the **American Sephardi Federation** (ASF), will bring together authors and book lovers that write about and enjoy books relating to the culture, history, philosophy, religion, languages and experiences of the Sephardic Jews, past and present. Hundreds of titles of Sephardic-oriented books, including many rare titles, will be available for sale by the Sephardic House bookstore, as well as by unique vendors that specialize in Sephardic Judaica.

Several visiting authors will discuss a wide range of topics including personal histories, Sephardic history, philosophy, culture and religion. The day's key author and speaker will be Dr. Marc D. Angel, founder of [The Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals](#) and Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Shearith Israel, North America's oldest Jewish congregation.

A selection of rare Sephardic books from the ASF *Library and Archives* will be on display and [Yeshiva University Museum](#) will be offering tours of their current exhibition: 'A Journey Through Jewish Worlds: Highlights from the [Braginsky Collection](#) of Hebrew Manuscripts and Printed Books.' This exceptional collection includes hand-written manuscripts and printed books from Holland, Italy, Spain, Greece and India.

The **New York Sephardic Jewish Book Fair** will be held in The Steinberg Great Hall of the [Center for Jewish History](#) (15 West 16th St. Manhattan) The event will be free and open to the public from **12pm-5pm** and there will be hourly free door prizes for those in attendance. For more information please call **212-294-8350 x8262**.



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## **News of Interest**

We congratulate our good neighbors, the Tenement Museum, on receiving an important grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

<http://www.forward.com/articles/128658/>

**With Grant to Museum, Greek Immigrant's Story Continues**  
By Laurie Stern

***"Thanks to a new grant, the vibrant spirit of 14-year-old Victoria Confino, a Greek Sephardic Jew who immigrated to the United States in 1916, will continue to be a part of Manhattan's Lower East Side Tenement Museum.***

***A \$500,000 grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation will help maintain the Confino Family Living History Program, including a model of the apartment Victoria lived in. The exhibit, which opened in 1997, gives museum patrons the opportunity to experience tenement life through the eyes of a teenage girl: Victoria.***

***To tell the story of Victoria's voyage to Ellis Island and to create a detailed depiction of her life requires funding. Tenement Museum public relations manager Kate Stober said the museum has "felt the brunt of the crash" via a drop-off in individual donations, but the number of visitors to the museum has remained steady, potentially creating a conflict of supply and demand. Therefore, the Niarchos grant, one of the museum's largest, comes at an opportune time for the museum," she said.***

***An endowment left by the foundation's founder, Greek shipping magnate Stavros Niarchos, allows the foundation to back initiatives promoting Greek culture and tradition both in the United States and Greece. The foundation focuses its grant-making on four primary areas: education, arts and culture, social welfare, and health and medicine, said foundation program officer Stelios Vasilakis.***

***"Very few people outside of Jews know that the Sephardic community was such an important part of Greece," Vasilakis said.***

***After the Spanish Inquisition, a large number of Sephardic Jews made their new home in Greece, specifically in the city of Salonika, Vasilakis said. Most of the community was destroyed during the Holocaust, he added.***

***"That's one of the reasons we were interested in supporting the Tenement Museum," Vasilakis said. "That part of the community was forgotten, in a way. When you walk into the room [the Confino apartment], you immediately become aware of the significant population of Jews in Greece at that time."***

***When the exhibit was created, researchers conducted a reverse genealogy to depict tenement life accurately around the turn of the 20th century, Stober said. Starting with a name and working backward by talking to descendants of the Confino family, researchers were able to make a detailed, comprehensive model.***

*To experience what daily life was like for Victoria and her family, museum visitors can tour the restored apartment. From reproductions of the family's belongings to antiques from the period, everything in the apartment is touchable, said Tenement Museum education associate Sarah Litvin.*

*"If it's shabbat, we take out candles, if it's Purim we take out the costume she's working on," Litvin said. "It provides different ways to show common threads and show things that are familiar yet slightly different."*

*In addition to overseeing the program, Litvin, 25, is one of six actresses who rotate as Victoria, dressing, speaking and acting as Victoria welcoming a new friend into her home. The nuances of Victoria's personality are folded into a sort of narrative for visitors, making her not just a historical figure, but a lovable character.*

*"She was vivacious, talkative, loved going to school and wished she could have stayed in school," said Litvin. Instead of attending school, Victoria was compelled to work with her father in an apron and underwear factory. In that period, many immigrant children worked instead of attending school.*

*Support of the Confino program by the Niarchos grant represents a fusion between the foundation's mission to celebrate the past and future achievements of the Greeks with the museum's goal to maintain the quality of its programming, Stober said.*

*"Immigration is an important part of Greek identity," Vasilakis said. "It is important to look at what happened when people settled on the Lower East Side and began their lives in this country."*

**Note: Annually, the young girls who play the role of Victoria Confino visit Kehila Kedosha Janina to learn more about Greek-Jewish life on the Lower East Side.**

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### **News of interest to Greek Jews**

**Video on upcoming movie about Roza Eskenazi:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTL6gDbccRk>

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**The Pasha Picnic on June 13<sup>th</sup> was a great success. If you want to join the Pashas, contact us ([kehila\\_kedosha\\_janina@netzero.net](mailto:kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net)) and we will give you info on becoming a member.**



**My little Pasha (Frankie) learning how to juggle at the picnic**

## **Franco not such a great friend to the Jews**

General Franco gave list of Spanish Jews to Nazis

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jun/20/franco-gave-list-spanish-jews-nazis>

***"It was the list that would have sent thousands more Jews to their deaths in Auschwitz and other extermination camps run by Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime during the second world war, but this time the victims were to be Spaniards.***

***The Spanish dictator, General Francisco Franco, whose apologists usually claim that he protected Jews, ordered his officials to draw up a list of some 6,000 Jews living in Spain and include them in a secret Jewish archive.***

***That list was handed over to the Nazi architect of the so-called "final solution", the German SS chief Heinrich Himmler, as the two countries negotiated Spain's possible incorporation into the group of Axis powers that included Italy, according to the El Paz's newspaper today.***

***The newspaper printed the original order, recently unearthed from Spanish archives, that instructed provincial governors to elaborate lists of "all the national and foreign Jews living in the province ... showing their personal and political leanings, means of living, commercial activities, degree of danger and security category".***

***Provincial governors were ordered to look out especially for Sephardic Jews, descendants of those expelled from Spain in 1492, because their Ladino language and Hispanic background helped them fit into Spanish society.***

***"Their adaptation to our environment and their similar temperament allow them to hide their origins more easily," said the order, sent out in May 1941.***

***The order creating Spain's Jewish archive treated Judaism as a racial identity, rather than a religious one, referring to "this notorious race" and casting its net wide in a way not seen since the Inquisition sought out false converts to Roman Catholicism.***

***Such people, it warned, "remained unnoticed, with no opportunity of preventing their easily-carried out attempts at subversion".***

***The list does not seem to have included Jews fleeing from Vichy France, where similar lists were being drawn up, or the rest of Europe, who were mostly sent on to Portugal.***

***SS officers posted to Spain kept a close watch on Spanish Jews and were especially troubled by some who were considered close to leading members of Franco's regime. According to El Pas, these included the writer Samuel Ros, whom German agents tried to stop being allowed to write in official publications.***

***With Hitler and Benito Mussolini defeated in the war, Franco and his Portuguese neighbor Antonio de Oliveira Salazar became the sole remaining right-wing dictators in Europe.***

***With the allies under pressure to oust Franco, his regime tried to cover the tracks of its collaboration with Hitler and rewrite the history of its policy towards Jews. Most of the Jewish***

**register was destroyed. Copies of some parts of it, however, remained in the provincial governors' offices and these have since been found in archives of the central province of Zaragoza.**

**Spaniards have long argued over Franco's attitude to the Jews, which appeared to vary according to what was most useful to his foreign policy.**

**At a victory parade in Madrid in 1939, when his alliance with Hitler was at its strongest, he had denounced "the Jewish spirit which permitted the alliance of big capital with Marxists".**

**Later in the war, however, Spain became a major escape route for Jews fleeing Hitler's persecution. Critics claim that Spain's help was deliberately exaggerated to improve Franco's standing in the US.**

**The Israeli former prime minister Golda Meier once told the conservative Spanish news magazine Epoca that her country remained grateful for "the humanitarian attitude take by Spain during the Hitler era, when it gave aid and protection to many victims of Nazism."**

**"On 23 October 1940 in Hendaye, near the Franco-Spanish border, Adolf Hitler met General Franco. Hitler had sent him troops and aircraft during the Spanish civil war and now wanted Franco to join the Axis powers.**



**Franco, however, had his own demands: Gibraltar and parts of French north Africa. Hitler is reported to have furiously declared that he "would rather have three or four teeth pulled out" than spend more time with the ungrateful Spaniard. Franco agreed to join the war at a future date but Spain eventually stayed out of the conflict." We thank David Bellel for this article.**



**11 Jun. 2010**

**Anatolia College Honored all Anatolians – Victims of Human Cruelty**

Three relocations, two World Wars, the Asia Minor catastrophe and a series of cruel incidents marked the long history of Anatolia College, which, since 1886, the year of its establishment, has suffered great human losses. All these Anatolians who perished during the turbulent years of the last century were honored by Anatolia College in a number of ceremonies that were organized on the occasion of the annual visit of the Anatolia Trustees in Thessaloniki and the arrival of Michael Dukakis at Anatolia.



On May 29th, the President of the Thessaloniki Jewish Community Mr. David Saltiel, the President of the Thessaloniki Armenian Community Mr. Vartkes Kontaxian, the Secretary General of the Pan-Pontian Federation of Greece Mr. Konstantinos Gavridis, the President of the Board of Trustees Mr. John Clymer, the President of Anatolia Dr. Hans Giesecke, Mr. Michael Dukakis and Ms. Kitty Dukakis attended the ceremony for the dedication of the open-air amphitheater adjacent to the Eleftheriades Library in "memory of all Anatolians who were victims of human cruelty and brutality in the 20th century".

Later that day, the President of the Board of Trustees Mr. John Clymer and the President of the Thessaloniki Jewish Community Mr. David Saltiel revealed the plaque in the memory of the "more than 90 Anatolia students and alumni who perished in the Holocaust". The ceremonies were attended by many faculty, representatives of various organizations as well as by the two former presidents of Anatolia College, Mr. Richard Jackson and Dr. William Mc Grew. It was an act Anatolia owed to its students and alumni who perished so cruelly at the same time allowing future generations the possibility of learning about the past and remembering.

Mr. and Ms. Dukakis visited Anatolia College on the occasion of the celebration of "10 years of the Michael S. Dukakis Chair in Public Policy and Service" at the American College of Thessaloniki – ACT.

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**News from Greece**

We thank "Isaac Abravanel" (pseudo name) for the following article.

*"A great part of my research in the Internet yields unexpected results. The other day I was searching information over the recent vandalism with antisemitic graffiti of the Jewish Cemetery of the city of Kavala in the beginning of June, (it should be noted that even today no local*

**newspaper of the city reported the fact). During that fruitless search I found a piece of news that may not have appeared in any newspaper of the Greek Jewry but I think it deserves to be put under the spotlight.**

**Today in the city of Kavala there are no Jews – during the Shoah almost the entire community was lost, more than 1800 people, while after the war the survivors immigrated to larger urban centers. But there is still an important cultural heritage like the aforementioned vandalized Jewish Cemetery, some important Jewish houses like the tobacco-dealer's mansion of Aaron Tsimino and their tobacco warehouse, the tobacco warehouse given by the Central Jewish Board to the cultural organization Likio Ellinidon, the Folk and Popular Art Museum that is housed in the Jewish School of Kavala (unless these latter two are the same) and there is a material heritage of Jewish properties administered by the Central Jewish Board (KIS).**

**So despite the fact that there are no Jews in the city, the administrator of the defunct Jewish Community of Kavala Victor Venouziou decided last April to keep the memory of the community alive and to donate 300 kg (660 pounds) of food to our Christian and Atheist fellowmen through depositing them in the municipal Food Bank.**



**part of the donation/source: "Evdomi" newspaper  
But let's read the story by local newspaper "Evdomi":**



**V.Venouziou on the right/source: "Evdomi" newspaper  
The representative of the Jewish Community of Kavala Victor Venouziou donated around 300kg of food, indicated by the responsible employees, to the Food Bank of the Municipality of Kavala "With this act the Greek Jews show that they help deal with the subject of Poverty and social injustice and help maintaining social cohesion", Mayor Costas Simitsis stated during the delivery on Friday morning**

**"We call on our fellow townsmen to take example from this conduct"  
[...]**

**Mr.Venouziou on his behalf said that "representing Jews that know about poverty, persecutions and hardship, I wanted to emulate an old Jew from Kavala Errico Mizrahi that was famous for his charity work and his wife distributing 1000 loafs of bread each day to destitute tobacco-workers of Kavala. This is our legacy as Jews that should be everywhere when our fellow man suffers". The shipment included sugar, beans, rice, pasta and other necessary material indicated by the responsible of the Food Bank Mr.Peksara.**

**Let me congratulate V.Venouziou for the idea, the Central Jewish Board for the approval and to both for the implementation. As we saw, just a few weeks ago with the post of scholarships granted to excelling (Christian) university students by the Jewish Community of Volos, the Jewish Communities do play an active role in their local communities, while the cultural events are numbered by the hundreds. Unfortunately these do not acquire great publicity, often inexplicably due to the Communities themselves, like this KIS donation our Christian brethren of Kavala. At least, publicity or not, these acts do happen and constitute a fulfillment of a mitzva both as Jews but also members of a wider community.**

**Abravanel.wordpress.com**

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**Do check out [www.radiosefarad.com](http://www.radiosefarad.com)**

**Check out Artemis Alcalay's video: <http://www.athensliving.net/apps/videos/videos/show/8833006-artemis-alcalay>**

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**Read about Elias Messinas in Bima article:**

**<http://www.tovima.gr/default.asp?pid=2&ct=1&artid=337097&dt=12%2F06%2F2010#ixzz0qvDxKyDA>**



**Elias was born in Athens and now lives in Israel and Greece. He has devoted his life to architecture and now is involved in "green" architecture in Israel.**

**Elias' wife, Yvette Nachmias, is co-founder of ECOWEEK (along with Elias) and works actively in trying to heal Palestinian/Israeli relations. You can learn more about Yvette and her work (They All Sound Like Love Songs, Women Healing Israeli-Palestinian Relations) at [www.yhealing.gr](http://www.yhealing.gr)**

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**The President of the Greek Parliament, Philip Petsalnikos had a meeting with the President of the Central Board of Greek Jews, David Saltiel.**

**Welcoming Mr Saltiel, Mr. Petsalnikos emphasized the harmonious coexistence of Greeks and Jews and the productiveness of the Jewish community in Greek society over the centuries. Mr. Saltiel thanked the Mr. Petsalnikos for the warm welcome and hoped to discuss issues of interest to the Jewish community with him at a future date.**

**<http://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Enimerosi/Deltia-Typou/?press=9ea0ddca-e51d-439a-beef-d3c4d786f62d>**



## OPENING OF NEW LECTURE HALL IN HONOR OF JOSEPH NECHAMA

The French Ambassador to Greece, Mr. Christophe FARNAUD and President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki and Greece. David Saltiel will inaugurate on June 23, 2010 a new lecture hall at the French Institute of Thessaloniki, which will bear the name of Joseph Nechama, a famous historian from Thessaloniki.

The room, which was renovated with the support of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, is designed to accommodate conferences, cultural and educational events and seminars in accordance with the objectives of the Institute which, since 1906, has been closely connected with the intellectual and artistic history of the city. This is a tribute to the long-lasting ties between France and the "second largest city of Greece" by a large group of Francophone intellectuals from Thessaloniki. The inauguration reflects the commitment of France to continue and deepen this tradition, gradually expanding its presence and activities of the French School of Thessaloniki, by September 2010 .

### Nechama Joseph (1881-1971)

Joseph Nechama was born in Thessaloniki; he attended the local school Alliance Israélite Universelle and studied in France. He worked for decades as a professor and Director of the School of Thessaloniki and inspector general of all the schools of the Alliance of the Middle East. In 1926 he founded and became president of the Bank "Enosis ". During the Nazi occupation he was deported to Bergen Belsen where he was able to survive and return to Thessaloniki.

His writing activity was versatile, mostly focusing on aspects of community life (folklore, language, history, etc.). His first published piece of literature appeared in 1902 and was a study titled "Sabbataï Cevi et les Sabateens de Salonique," (Sabbatai Tzvi and the Sabatians of Salonika) which was followed by several others, having as their main content history and folklore.

His most important work was the "Histoire des Israélites de Salonique" (which was translated from French to Greek as the "History of the Jews of Thessaloniki). Because of his work of informing the world about the history of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, the city became known as the "Jerusalem of the Balkans."

<http://www.ift.gr/?news-item-id=236>

Translated by Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos

Article thanks to Leon Saltiel

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### New Books for Sale

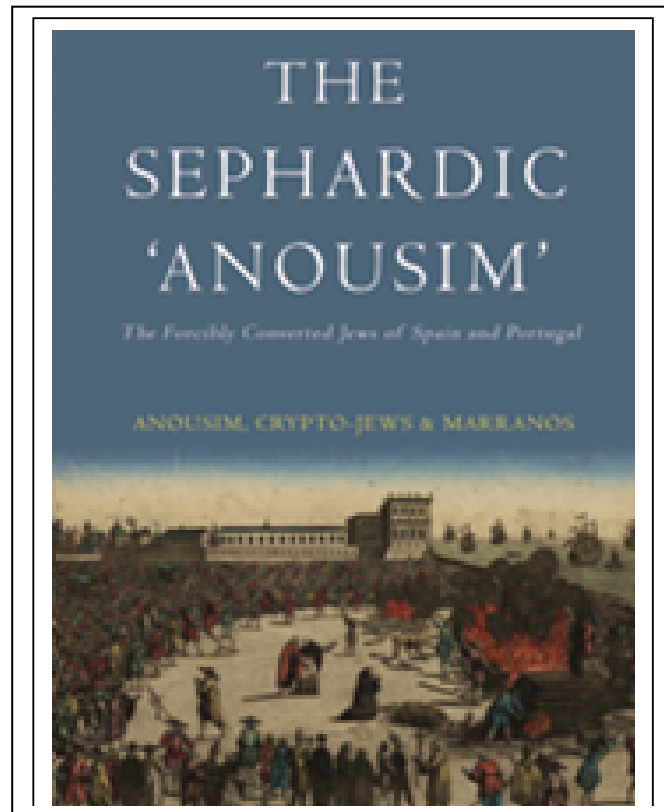
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<p>Cesare Vivante <b>LA MEMORIA DEI PADRI</b> Cronaca, storia e preistoria di una famiglia ebraica tra Corfù e Venezia</p>
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You can now purchase this book for \$20 plus \$4 P&H (within the continental USA) by sending a check made out to Kehila Kedosha Janina mailed to One Hanson Place, Huntington NY 11743.



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**Requests**

**Rhonda Amira Saldias (from the Matza family) is looking for information on Matza/Pitsirilo connections. This photo is the basis of the inquiry. It is a photo of Leah Pizarillo Matza and her family from (it is believed) Kastoria.**



Looking to identify these young "sailors." The photo was among those of Jerry Pardo's family.



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