



November 2013 e-newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Our best wishes for a joyous Hanukah. This year the beginning of Hanukah and Thanksgiving will fall on the same day so American Jews will have a double celebration. Do see our article by Rabbi Gerson Harris and our special recipe for the occasion.



Hanukia from 19th century Corfu

This newsletter, our 70th, 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 to 6000 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 lost a special member of our community. Lil Genee, the widow of our past President Hy Genee, passed away at the age of 91. Her funeral was October 31st. Lil was born on the Lower East Side and lived her whole life there. The world around her changed but Lil always remained the same. In the words of her granddaughter, Melissa, she was our "Dancing Queen," always the first to get up on the dance floor, whether it was to do the Peabody with her beloved Hy or to join the Pashas in the karagouna or the kalamatianos. She will be missed by all who had the honor to know her.



Hy and Lil on the Lower East Side 1940s



Lil and Hy with Hy's mom, Firo Genee 1940s

We mourn the passing of Stemma Askinazi.

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Emily Velleli. We recently celebrated her 100th birthday and the birth of her first great-great-grandchild (see e-newsletter of June 2013).

For the complete obituary see: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2013-10-19/news/bs-md-ob-emily-velelli-20131018_1_patras-greece-jewish-family

October 19, 2013 | By Frederick N. Rasmussen, The Baltimore Sun

Emily Velleli, who survived the Holocaust after being hidden by gentiles in war-torn Greece, then immigrated to Baltimore, where she worked as a seamstress, died Tuesday of breast cancer at her Pikesville home. She was 100.

The daughter of Jacob Osmou, a Hebrew educator, and Regina Osmou, a homemaker, Emily Osmou was born on the island of Corfu, which at the time had a large Jewish population....

With the Nazi invasion of Greece, Jews were rounded up and sent to labor and concentration camps.

"Emily's two sisters, Rachel and Esther, and their families in Corfu" were taken away to the camps, wrote her daughter, who added, "Ninety percent of the Jews living in Greece perished" in the war.

Mrs. Velleli, her husband, their young daughters Josephine and Regina, and Mr. Velleli's parents and three brothers were taken in by Elias Michalos, a fervent anti-Nazi and Greek patriot, and his wife, Kathryn Michalos. They were gentiles and had no Jewish friends.



Emily Osmou Velleli



The Michalos family, who were leaders in the small mountain village of Michaleika, agreed to hide them in a small house they maintained for workers at their winery.

"Of course we knew what would happen, because we knew about Salonika; the Germans had already taken the Jews of Salonika," Mrs. Velleli related to The Sunday Sun in a 1984 interview....

The Michalos family left Greece and moved to Baltimore in 1951. Five years later, the Velleli family moved to Baltimore because Mrs. Velleli had a niece living here, and settled in a home near Druid Hill Park.

Not having an address for the Michaloses, Mr. Velleli left a letter for them in a Greek grocery store near Lexington Market.

"Right away they came to see us, and they gave us any help they could," said Mrs. Velelli in The Sunday Sun interview.

The two families who had met during wartime remained close.

"We were fortunate to join the small, but extremely loud, Greek Jewish community already in Baltimore with whom we socialized and shared family simchas [celebrations], often gathering to sing nostalgic Greek songs in our backyards, to the utter bewilderment of neighbors," wrote Ms. Glaser.

The family eventually settled in the Millbrook neighborhood of Pikesville, where Mrs. Velelli lived for the past 51 years.

Mrs. Velelli worked as a seamstress in many of Baltimore's men's clothing factories and also for many years for Jos. A. Bank. Her husband, a bookkeeper, died in 1993....

She had been an active member of Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation.

Kathryn Michalos was awarded Israel's Yad Vashem Medal for Righteous Gentiles, which honors non-Jews who risked their lives saving Jews during the Holocaust, in a ceremony in 1985 at the Krieger Building of the Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund. Mrs. Michalos died in 2005....

"And we children would grow up understanding that were it not for the Michalos family, we would not be here today," wrote Ms. Glaser.

Services for Mrs. Velelli were Thursday at Sol Levinson & Bros. in Pikesville.

In addition to her daughter, Mrs. Velelli is survived by a son, Victor Velelli of Slanesville, W.Va.; two other daughters, Josephine Becker of Pikesville and Regina Francis of Miami; 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-granddaughter.

fred.rasmussen@baltsun.com

Simchas

We joyously celebrate the following simchas:

The birth of Davina Pardo Resnik, the daughter of Theodor Pardo. Born on Simcha Torah, Davina is the granddaughter of David Pardo of Blessed Memory, a survivor of the Holocaust from Salonika

Most of the Pardo family in Salonika were destroyed in the Holocaust and Theodor wanted us to know that there is now another Pardo in the world, an additional reason to celebrate this birth.



David Pardo is the little boy.

We celebrate the birth of Jordyn Kissin in October. Jordyn is the daughter of Susan Askinazi and Matt Kissin, the granddaughter of Steven and Helene Askinazi and the great-grandchild of Joseph Askinazi of Blessed Memory



Susan Askinazi Kissin with Jordyn

Congratulations to Sarah Aroeste on the birth of her first child, a beautiful little girl. Let's hope she inherits her mother's singing talents, passing Ladino on to the next generation.



Congratulations on the Bar Mitzvah of Sol & Irene Matsil's grandson, Zachary Schreiber, son of Vicki Matsil Schreiber and Steven Schreiber, great-grandson of Rabbi Bechoraki (Matsliach) and Amelia Levy Matsil



The family of Bechoraki Matsil (in Greece before 1919)

Congratulations to Solomon (Monis) Errera on the celebration of a family simcha in the Bet Shalom synagogue in Athens.



ikoi Mas, Los Muestros (Our Own) Come Home

This month we were honored with visitors from many branches of our Greek-Jewish family.

We love when "our own" visit. Stephen Kamsler came with his mother Estelle Attas Kamsler. Estelle has Yanniotie ties on her Attas side of the family, as well as her Matza branch.



Stephen and Estelle Kamsler

Billie Hirsch, from the Dalven family just by coincidence happened to be the roommate of Rachel (from the Tenement Museum) who has been conducting interviews of members of our community who have lived on the Lower East Side for years. Sol Kofinas and Marvin Marcus were interviewed and Rachel brought Billie back to her spiritual home (Kehil Kedosha Janina). Coincidence or beshert?



Billie



Rachel

Jackie Cohen from the Isaac family has strong attachments to Kehila Kedosha Janina, often bringing friends and family to show off our little treasure on Broome Street.

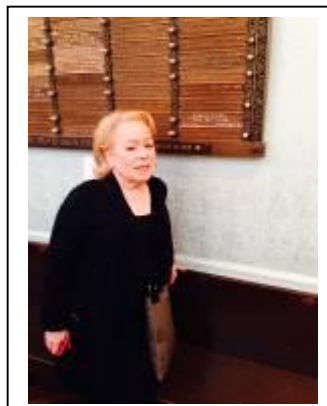


Jackie with daughter, friend and husband



Sarah Russo Green and Olga Fucci
Sarah's family lived on the Lower East Side

Marlene Yokel stands in front of the memorial plaque of her ancestor Marcus Yacuel.



Visitors continue to flock to Kehila Kedosha Janina. A visit to Kehila Kedosha Janina puts a smile on everyone's face.



Our new communal room is almost finished. We will soon start booking lunch tours. Get your reservation in early before they book up!

Family Connections

The wonders of the internet have led to the reconnecting of a family scattered throughout the world. One of our own (ikoi Mas) from the Eliezer family is now part of our extended Greek-Jewish world. Rabbi Lazar Eliezer, born in Ioannina in 1838, married Sara Galanos, born in Ioannina in 1840, and had 6 children. Their oldest Rachel married Sol Lafazan, most of this branch coming to the United States. Rosina, their second daughter, married Judah Sabetai. Most of this branch stayed in Greece and Rosina and Judah are the great-grandparents of Moses Eliasaf, President of the Jewish Community of Ioannina. Their first son, Isaac, married Rachel Yaheliel who was born in Bucharest. Their children were born in Bucharest and, then, the family came to the USA. Their 4th child, Kalomira (Mazalto) married Eliezer Abraham Eliezer and produced a family, some of whom perished in the Holocaust and others who went to the USA and Egypt (and, from there, Israel and Venezuela). Their 6th child, Steroula, married Asser Colchamiro and brought her family to the USA as a widow. It is to descendants from this family (Jonathan Alcantara and David Colchamiro) that we give the credit for reconnecting to descendants of Lazar and Sara's 5th child, David Eliezer. David went to Bucharest, married twice and died in 1938. David's descendants now live in Israel, Italy and Germany. We received a communication from one of the descendants that shed light on attempts to find out what happened to their family and the unfortunate conclusions.

"Dan has always kept me informed of his efforts to find our roots. However the picture provided by his research was largely one of deportation and destruction. I quote from his last letter to me, dated August 2013: '... Romaniote, the Greek spoken by Jews in Janina and other small towns on the Adriatic coast, is now all but extinguished, following the destruction of Jews in that area...'"

"Dan and I could not help but feel we were survivors of something that was no more. We knew that many of the family had immigrated to the US, but we had no idea of how to trace their descendants."

"And then, on Sept. 5, while visiting Francesca I asked her to search "David Eliezer" on Google - just for fun- and there it was! The photo of my grandfather, the same photo that my mother had kept on her dressing table ever since I can remember."

We are so excited to welcome the family of David Eliezer to our extended community of Romaniote Jews.



David Eliezer



David Eliezer with son Lazar in Bucharest

Upcoming Events In New York City



LESJC FIFTH Jewish Heritage Festival

Sunday, November 3, 2013
10:45 AM to 4:00 PM

LESJC KLING & NIMAN FAMILY VISITOR CENTER
400 GRAND STREET (between Clinton & Suffolk Sts)

Insider's Walking Tours
Vintage Goods Benefit Sale
New Gallery Opening with a talk from the artist



This activity-packed day of exploring and learning about the Jewish history of Manhattan's Lower East Side includes three walking tours of the neighborhood, a vintage goods benefit sale sponsored by "Gals From The Hood".

[Click here for more information and to reserve tour tickets »](#)

92Y

SAFFRON AND ROSEWATER

SONGS AND STORIES FROM PERSIAN JEWISH WOMEN

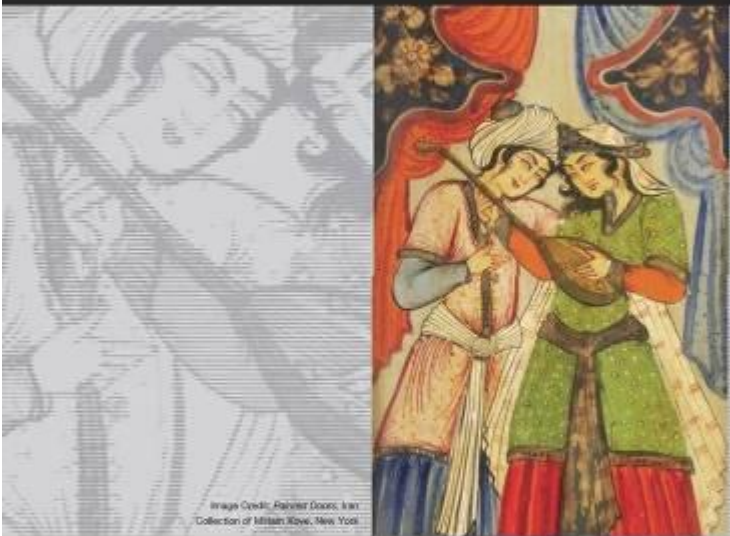


Image Credit: Farvaz Dooz, Iran
Collection of Miriam Kaveh, New York

Enjoy a riveting evening of stories and song, transporting you to Iran and back to America and illuminating the struggles and triumphs of the Persian Jewish woman. This dramatic performance is adapted from material by Gina Mahal, Angela Nazarian, Farideh Golcin, Dora Levy Mossanen, Esther Amini and composer MM Black. All the writers will be present for a Q & A immediately following the performance. The VIP ticket includes a premium seat, a catered reception with special Persian treats and a meet and greet with the actors and authors.

SAT, NOV 23, 8 PM

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GET TICKETS TODAY! 92Y.org/Saffron 212.415.5500

92nd Street Y 1395 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10128

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Presented by **92Y Federation**
of New York

News From the Lower East Side

A short time ago, the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to protect 339 Grand St., a Federal row house dating to 1832.



The building on the southwest corner of Ludlow and Grand streets is the longtime home of Ideal Hosiery. A local preservation group, Friends of the Lower East Side, led the campaign to win landmark status for the building due to fears that it could be sold and, possibly, torn down. A leader of the group, Linda Jones, said support from City Council member Margaret Chin helped make the case before the commission.

Over the decades, the building has seen some alterations, but commissioners agreed it still included many noteworthy features of the post-Revolutionary War era, including a pitched roof and dormer. The Friends of the Lower East Side group was also actively involved in pushing for the designation of the Seward park Library; that occurred this past summer.

Here's the commission's press release on the designation:

Completed in 1833, this intact 3 1/2-story, Federal-style building is part of a row of five row houses constructed by John Jacob Astor, a German immigrant who was the wealthiest man in America by the time of his death in 1848, on land he purchased in 1806 from a business associate, William Laight. "This understated row house, by far the most intact of the five that are there now, is a significant reminder of the period after the Revolutionary War when New York City was developing into a major port and financial center," said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. "It retains a great deal of its original fabric, despite its age and profound changes to the surrounding neighborhood over a nearly 200-year period." The designation brings to 18 the total number of Federal-style houses to which the Commission has given landmark status since 2002. The "Federal" style, which was fashionable from the 1780s to the early 1830s, takes its name from the then-new republic, yet is considered a continuation of the Georgian style of Great Britain. The houses were often constructed in rows, sharing party walls and chimneys, and featured details such as splayed lintels, cornices, dormers and doorways framed with columns and sidelights. They usually had a three-bay façade with two full stories over a high basement and an additional half story under a peaked roof with a ridgeline running parallel to the front façade. The row house at 339 Grand St. retains its original form, height, width, façade with Flemish bond brickwork, high-peaked roof and dormer. A full-lot rear addition fronting on Ludlow Street was completed c. 1855, and also retains a great deal of original fabric. The building remained in the family of Astor's granddaughter, Cecilia Langdon de Nottbeck until 1950. It was conveyed to E & I Realty in 1966 by Murray B. Fiterman. Ideal Hosiery has occupied the Grand Street storefront since 1965.

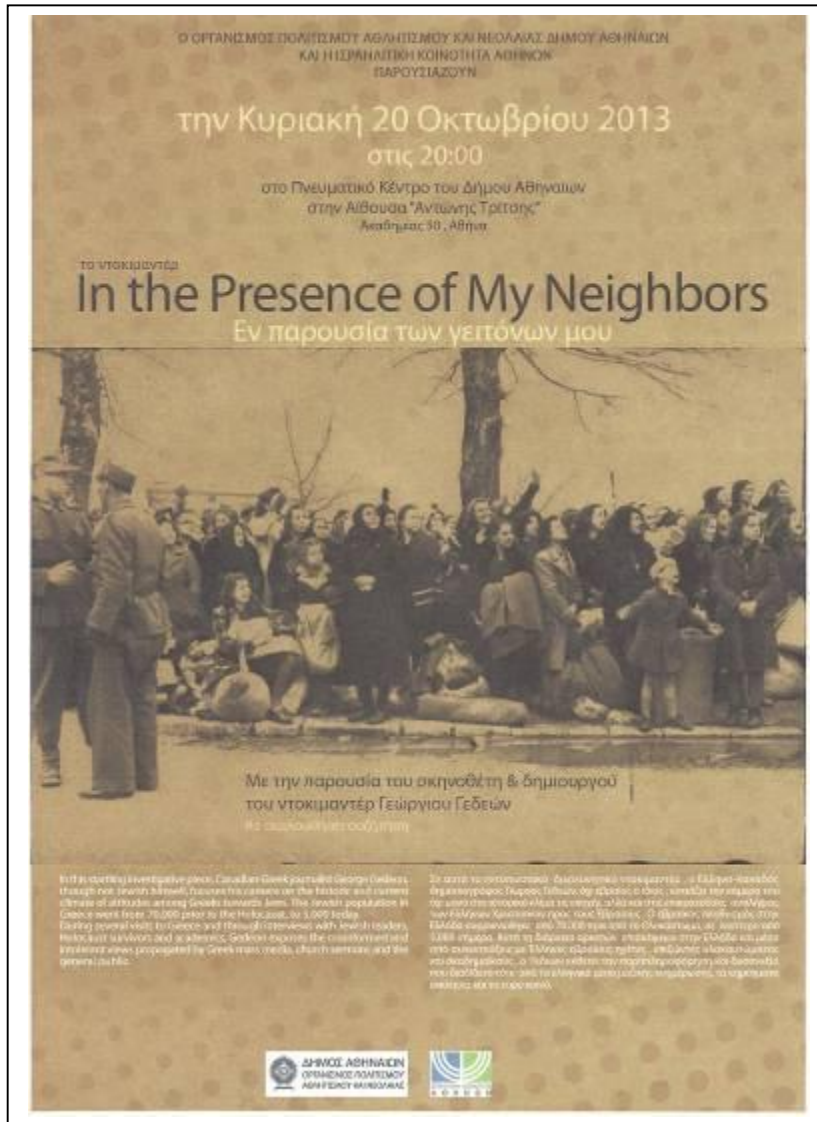
From The Low-Down

A Special Photo



Taken in Volos after the earthquake in the 1950s. Thanks to Maurice Negrin and Anna Matathias we have identified Savas (Steve) Negrin and Solomon Solomon, Carolina, Rafahel Frezis, and Samuel Matathias who was Asher Matathias' grandfather. Rabbi Pessach is sitting holding a cane.

News from Jewish Greece



This film was shown in Greece on October 20th and we hope to show it in our Museum in New York in the near future.

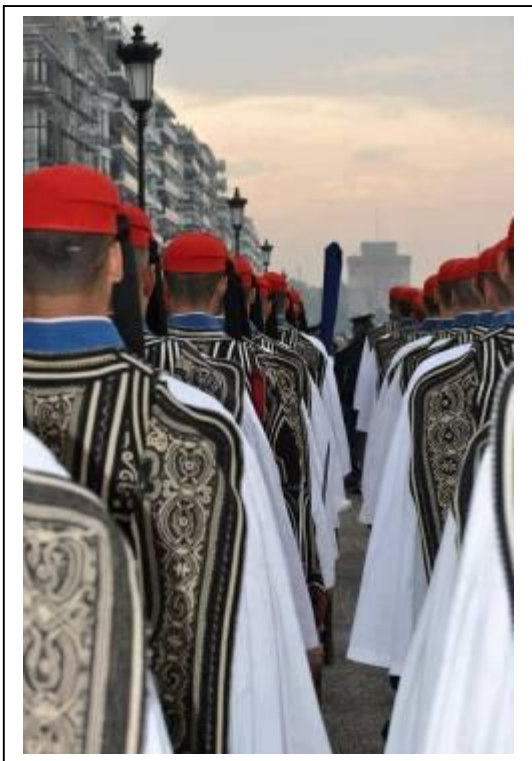
October Anniversaries in Greece

October is filled with important anniversaries for Greeks throughout the world.

October 28 marks the 73rd anniversary of Oxi Day, when Mussolini gave an ultimatum to Metaxas that Italy would be invading Greece through the Albanian border. Greece answered back with a resounding "OXI" (NO!) and went down in history as the first major resistance to the Fascists. As Winston Churchill said, "From now on we won't claim that the Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks."

Access our website (kkjsm.org) for an article written for the Greek National Herald, by our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikononopoulos.

Throughout Greece, October 28th is celebrated as a National Holiday. The picture below was taken of the parade in Thessaloniki.



October 12th marks the date of the beginning of the withdrawal of the Germans from Athens and, October 14th, the official date of liberation of Greece. We now cheer the 69th anniversary.

Other October Anniversaries

October marks the 70th anniversary of the roundup of the Jewish community of Rome. President Giorgio Napolitano met with survivors in the synagogue in Rome.





Shalom to one and all!
Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel

Due to the unusually early onset of the High Holy Days starting on September 5th (first time this has happened since 1899!), Hanukka will also be unusually early this year, and in fact, the first day of the holiday will fall on Thanksgiving, November 28th. One could see this as a simple "quirk" of the Hebrew calendar and nothing more, but a closer look at these ostensibly totally unrelated holidays reveals a relationship far closer than anyone might imagine.

Let's start with Thanksgiving, which, according to many historians and Christian theologians, is based on the Jewish festival of Sukkot! The evidence for this theory starts with the fact that the pilgrims were Puritans, who relied heavily on the Jewish scriptures. Sukkot is considered a sort of Jewish "thanksgiving", including our thanking God for protecting us in desert for 40 years in Sukkot, as well as the harvest and much-needed rain. Similarly, the Puritans were consciously thanking God for His bringing them out of the religious persecution in their homelands to religious freedom in the new world. Apparently based on Sukkot, the Pilgrims specifically chose the fall as the time to celebrate and thank God for an abundant harvest. These parallels between these two holidays would be fascinating in and of themselves, but now let's look at Hanukka.

Almost everyone knows that Hanukka is celebrated for 8 days in commemoration and celebration of several miracles: The Maccabean liberation of Jerusalem and the Temple from the overwhelmingly stronger Seleucid Greek forces and the end of spiritual repression for the Jewish people, the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem, and the fact that the one remaining cruise of pure and sanctified oil used to light the Menorah – which was only enough for one day – lasted 8 days, until new oil could be prepared. Not unlike Thanksgiving, Hanukka also celebrates true liberation from spiritual persecution and oppression, and is indeed considered a holiday of praise, joy and thanks to God for these miracles.

But it goes even further. It turns out that, much like that first Thanksgiving, the first Hanukka was actually a substitute for Sukkot that year! In the Second of Maccabees itself, a letter sent around 125 BCE from the Hasmoneans to the leaders of Egyptian Jewry refers to the festival of Sukkot as being celebrated in the month of Kislev (December), rather than Tishrei (September), because during the "real" Sukkot, the Jews were still fighting guerrilla warfare against Antiochus and the Temple was still under siege, making the celebration of the eight-day holiday of Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret in their proper time impossible. Hence, when Jerusalem and the Temple were recaptured and liberated on the 25th of Kislev, it was decided to celebrate the Sukkot festival then, providing a much more logical reason for declaring Hanukka to be an eight-day festival to parallel that "lost" Sukkot. This would actually lend even greater credence and significance to the miracle of the single cruise of oil burning 8 days, since the daily lighting of the Temple Menorah was part and parcel of not only the daily Temple rituals, but also of the original 8-day Sukkot celebration.

So not only may both Hanukka and Thanksgiving come from a common origin – Sukkot - they both fall on the same day this year, which is an extremely rare phenomenon. I would therefore propose that this is no simple coincidence, as interesting as it might be, but rather a golden opportunity to

understand the wonder of God's ways, and how even the most seemingly unrelated and very different cultures, religions and holidays do indeed stem from God's creating all of Mankind in His image in terms of morality, justice, kindness, and so many other Godly attributes that we all so cherish, but all-too-often observe more in their breach! May these fascinating parallels and possible common origins of Thanksgiving and Hanukka be a lesson to one and all, and may everyone enjoy a very Happy Hanukka and Thanksgiving!

Requests for our help

Eric Feinstein from Jewishgen is looking for our help. He is interested in the Jewish Burial Society from Chios. They have burial sites in Beth David, one in Cedar Park in New Jersey and another in another place. Anyone who has any information, please contact us at kehila_kedoshah_janina@netzero.net.

News of Interest to All

Researchers have identified what is likely the oldest Jewish prayer book ever found, dated by both scholars and Carbon-14 tests to circa 840 C.E. (Green Scholars Initiative)

Scholars are calling a rare Hebrew text dating back to the 9th century the earliest known Jewish prayer book, predating the world's oldest Torah scroll.

The 50-page book is 4.3 inches tall and about 4 inches wide and is written in an archaic form of Hebrew, on pages of aged parchment. The text includes 100 Jewish blessings and discusses topics such as the apocalyptic tale of the End Times and the Passover Seder.

Carbon testing dates the prayer book to the year 840, which is 300 to 400 years before the oldest known Torah scroll from the 12th and 13th centuries.



"This find is historical evidence supporting the very fulcrum of Jewish religious life," said Jerry Pattengale, executive director of the Green Scholars Initiative, the group that announced the find. "This Hebrew prayer book helps fill the gap between the Dead Sea Scrolls and other discoveries of Jewish texts from the ninth and tenth centuries."

"This was a liturgical set of prayers, hymns and poems used for various occasions," Pattengale told the Huffington Post. "The prayer book is really what most of the Jewish community would be in touch with on a daily basis, [creating] a connection between the Bible and their daily worship." The book is the Jewish equivalent of an early complete edition of the Christian Book of Common Prayer.

Started by the Green family of the retail chain Hobby Lobby, the Green Scholar's Initiative is the research arm of The Green Collection, one of the world's largest private collections of biblical texts

and artifacts containing more than 40,000 items.

The prayer book which was purchased from a private collector will be on display in a yet-to-be named biblical museum set to open in March 2017 in Washington, D.C. Thanks to Solomon Errera
New Israeli stamp commemorating Ladino



Spanish Jews Want 833-Year-Old Toledo Sephardic Synagogue Back From Catholics
Grand Synagogue Now Serves as Popular Museum
By JTA



Ancient Sephardic Treasure: The former Grand Synagogue in Toledo, Spain, is now a museum. Representatives of Spain's Jewish communities asked Catholic Church officials to return a former synagogue in Toledo during an interfaith conference in Madrid.

Isaac Querub, the president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Spain, or FCJE, made the

request Sunday during the 22nd meeting of the Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee, a body set up by the Church in 1971 to serve as its official point of contact with worldwide Jewish communities.

"What would be a better act of generosity and reconciliation than the return of the Grand Synagogue of Toledo to the Jewish people and particularly to the Jewish community of Spain, as a symbol of dialog between Jews and Christians," Querub said Sunday according to the El Razon daily. A statement by FCJE said that "in addition to fine words, Querub made a concrete request." The building, which is owned by the Spanish Catholic Church, "is not being used as a house of worship of any kind these days," FCJE's communications director, Maria Royo told JTA. She said the federation has not received a response from the Church.

Originally known as the Ibn Shushan Synagogue, the 833-year-old building is one of Spain's most popular museums. It drew approximately 300,000 visitors in 2010, half of them locals.

The four-day conference in Madrid aims to enhance Jewish-Christian cooperation on combating intolerance, organizers told JTA, and is attended by 22 Jewish community leaders from countries such as Panama, Poland, Argentina, Israel, France and Canada.

The Jewish leaders met with church officials including Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity; and Cardinal Antonio Maria Rouco Varela of Spain.

Netanyahu mourns the death of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef

"I heard with profound grief of the passing of [former] Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, among the greatest rabbis of our generation. Rabbi Ovadia was a giant in Torah and Jewish law and a teacher for tens of thousands. He worked greatly to enhance Jewish heritage and at the same time, his rulings took into consideration the times and the realities of renewed life in the State of Israel. He was imbued with love of the Torah and the people.

I very much appreciated his convivial personality and his directness. In my meetings with him, I always learned very much. The Jewish People have lost one of the wisest men of this generation. I send my condolences to his family, his students and his many devoted followers," the Prime Minister said.



Recipe: a Greek kosher variation on Eggplant Canneloni



- Eggplant Cannelloni--Greek Style with Feta! Easy & Great Tasting....so good!

Ingredients:

Eggplant slices (3.5 oz. slices)
Olive oil 3 tblsp.
Oregano 1 tsp
Feta Cheese 7.0 oz. (kosher Israeli feta)
Chives (chopped) 4 tblsp.
Cream cheese 1 oz.
Sun dried tomatoes (chopped) 1 oz.
Pine nuts 1 oz.

Tomato:

Tomatoes deseeded and diced 3.5 oz.
Pesto sauce 1 tblsp.
Coriander leaves, finely chopped 1 tsp.
Spring onion, finely chopped 1 tsp.
Black olives, chopped 1 tsp.
Salt, Pepper 1 tsp.

Preparation:

Eggplant cannelloni

Cut the eggplant slices thin and then marinate in olive oil, add salt, pepper, oregano and grill.

Put feta cheese into a blender with cream cheese and blend.

Add sundried tomatoes, pine nuts. Placed sliced eggplant on a piece of wax; spread the blended mixture on the eggplant, using a cornet.

Tomato

Slice the tomatoes and mix with all the above ingredients and add olive oil, salt and pepper. Cut the cannelloni as desired and drizzle with the tomato sauce.

Serve as a special appetizer or on a party platter. Enjoy Life

From Matilda Tagger:

With the uploading of the 5th and final census (1875) of the Jewish population of Eretz Israel, the 6 year project of digitizing and translating the 5 censuses of the Eretz Israel and the one-time census of the Jews of Alexandria(Egypt), has come to completion.

The Censuses are owned and have been preserved, conserved and scanned by the Montefiore Endowment, a British registered charity foundation. The Montefiore Endowment commissioned the Israel Genealogy Society, and the team composed of Rose Feldman, Mathilde A. Tagger and Billie Stein, assisted by 31 dedicated volunteers, fully transcribed and translated these records of the Jewish population of the Holyland during the period 1839-1875.

The census charts were compiled by the community or Kolel heads, and is divided accordingly. The data requested (but not always provided) includes name, age and place of birth of the head of household, his financial status and occupation, his wife's name, names and ages of his children, and various comments.

The population came from all four corners of the Jewish Diaspora, and included many well known Rabbinic families. Searches of the censuses and results are possible in both English and Hebrew. Using the advanced search option, searches can be done by a single or multiple fields, including Surname, Given name, Place of Residence, Kolel, Country of Birth, Occupation, and Economic Status

While the Ashkenazi population have been divided by kollelim (communities), all the non-Ashkenazi Jews- Sephardim and Oriental-have been put under one community: the Sephardim. Beginning from 1855 a special community of "North Africans" appeared. Unlike for the Ashkenazim, the large majority of the Sephardim and North Africans had a surname, a detail that facilitates a search.

The censuses can be searched on the Montefiore Endowment website at no charge, and with no need to register, at <http://www.montefioreendowment.org.uk/> Please take a moment to read the FAQ page and also the "About" page in order to acknowledge the volunteers who made this project possible.

Mathilde A. Tagger
Jerusalem

Jewish Names

Jewish naming practices were not the same everywhere in the medieval and renaissance western world, but there are some common practices. A Jewish man usually had two names, one in Hebrew and one in the local vernacular. Jewish women usually used only vernacular names. Men's Hebrew

naming practices, being dictated by religious tradition, varied less from one region to another than vernacular naming. The ways Jews were named in the vernacular varied considerably. In some cultures, they used names indistinguishable from their neighbors'; in others, Jewish vernacular names were quite distinct.

It is worth noting that while some modern Jewish naming practices can be found duplicated in some times and places in the Middle Ages, others are modern innovations.

[Names of Rabbis in Pirkei Avot \(2nd century\)](#), by Yehoshua ben Haim haYerushalmi

A list of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek names from a chapter of the Mishna.

[Database of Medieval Jewish Names](#), by Julie Stampnitzky

An ongoing collection, organized by period and location. It includes a [glossary of titles and bynames](#).

[Names of Jewish Men, 6th to 11th Centuries](#), by Julie Stampnitzky

A list of about 120 names of early medieval Jewish scholars.

[Khazarian Names](#), by Kevin Brook

Part of [a website](#) devoted to the culture of Jewish Khazaria.

[Jewish Names from 9th C Venosa](#), by Aryanhwy merch Catmael

Names of men and women. The forms have been modernized.

[Names from Hebrew Chronicles of the 10th to 13th Centuries](#), by Julie Stampnitzky

A collection of names from chronicles relating to the Jewish communities in Germany and France. The discussion covers both names and styles of address.

[Jewish Naming Conventions in Angevin England](#), by Eleazar ha-Levi

A very fine [survey](#) of Jewish names from the late 11th through the 13th centuries.

[Jewish Given Names Found in Les Noms Des Israilites en France](#), by Aryanhwy merch Catmael

The data is drawn from sources that from the Carolingian period through the Renaissance, and includes names of Jews in other countries than France.

[Names from Hebrew Chronicles of the 10th to 13th Centuries](#), by Julie Stampnitzky

A list of names of Jews, mostly from Germany, many from France, and a handful from Rome and England.

[Jewish Women's Names in an Arab Context: Names from the Geniza of Cairo](#), by Juliana de Luna

A study of women's names in a collection of 11th to 13th century [documents](#). Some of the documents are available, in Hebrew, in the [Princeton Geniza Project](#).

[Jewish Names in the World of Medieval Islam](#), by Yehoshua ben Haim haYerushalmi

Another study of Jewish names based primarily on the Geniza data (see previous), but including some other sources and covering men's names as well as women's names.

[An Index to the Given Names in the 1292 Census of Paris](#), by Lord Colm Dubh

An alphabetical list of one example of each separate given name appearing in the census. Gender is indicated by the associated byname. At the end of the article, the editor has provided a separate list of the names of Parisian Jews, which are distinguished in the original source. This link points to the Jewish name list, which illustrates how Jews used French naming conventions.

[Jews in Catalonia: 1250 to 1400](#), by Juliana de Luna

An analysis of several hundred names from wills.

[Medieval Spanish Jewish Names of the 13th and 14th Centuries](#), by Juliana de Luna

A small collection of Jewish names from Castilian and Navarese sources.

[Names of Jews in Medieval Navarre \(13th-14th centuries\)](#), by Lidia Becker.

A discussion of Sephardic naming practices, including given names and types of bynames.

[A sample of Jewish names in Valencia 1293-1485](#), by Yehoshua ben Haim haYerushalmi

A collection of names, showing given and surnames of both men and women, from this province in eastern Spain.

[Jewish Women's Names in 13th to 15th Century Navarre](#), by Julie Stampnitzky

[Spanish Names from the Late 15th Century](#), by Juliana de Luna

This article contains some examples of Jewish names.

[Names of 15th-early 17th C Italian Jewish Men](#), by Aryanhwy merch Catmael

Names of Jewish merchants living in Italian-held cities in Turkey and Cyprus.

[Names of Jews in Rome In the 1550's](#), by Yehoshua ben Haim haYerushalmi

An analysis of several hundred men's and women's given names from mid-16th century [court records](#).

[A sample of Jewish names in Milan 1540-1570](#), by Yehoshua ben Haim haYerushalmi

Several dozen full names, mostly masculine but a few feminine.

[Jewish Names in Ottoman Court Records \(16th C Jerusalem\)](#), by Mari Elspeth nic Bryan

Feminine given names and bynames from court records in Arabic and Turkish.

[Sources for the Study of Medieval Jewish Names: An Annotated Bibliography](#), by Julie Kahan

Suggested sources for further research.

The Medieval Names Archive is published by [the Academy of Saint Gabriel](#) and [Joshua Mittleman](#).

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<http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/jewish.shtml>

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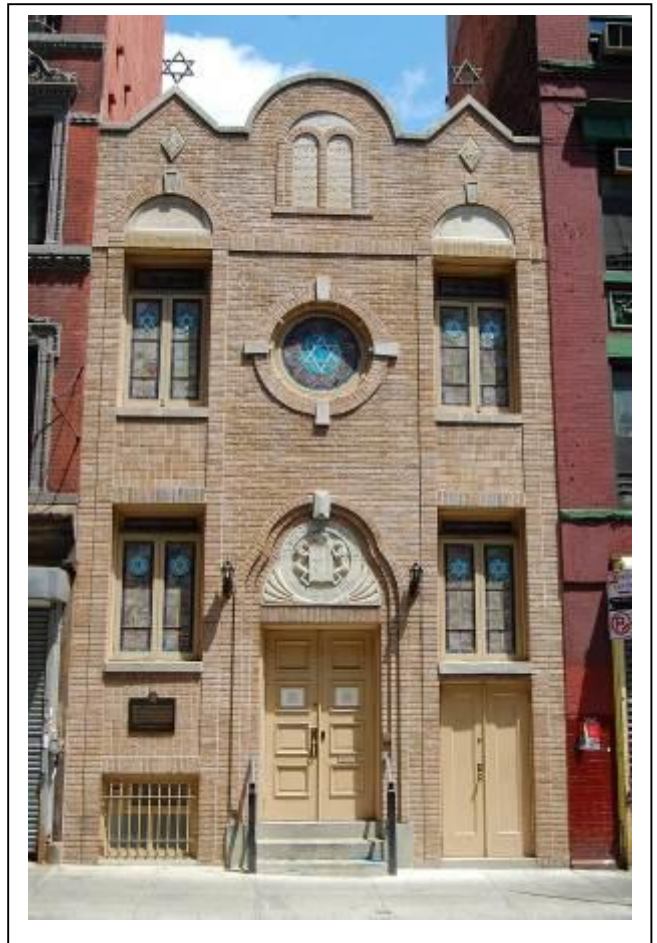
Shearith Israel website on the synagogues of Shearith Israel

<http://shearithisrael.org/content/synagogue-buildings>

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