



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

September 2011 e-mail newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

We wish our friends a Happy and Healthy New Year surrounded by family and friends. May 5772 bring peace throughout the world. May we continue to grow and flourish. May our wealth be counted, not in material possessions but, rather, in the love of family, friends and community. L'Shanah Tovah, Xronia Polla, Anos Muchos y Buenos. Attached to this e-newsletter you will find our Holiday schedule. Do join us for services. Our seats are free and our hearts are open.

Traditional Romaniote
Shofar from Kehila Kedosha
Janina permanent collection



This newsletter, our 44th 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 5000 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

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Eftihia Mioni Svolis, wife of Ebie Svolis of Blessed Memory, at the age of 86. Eftihia survived the concentration camps, losing her entire family with the exception of her sister Stella. She is survived by her sons Ari and Marcel and her sister Stella Koen. Eftihia was a woman of valor, a gentle soul who will be missed by all.

Eftihia Mioni Svolis
(1925-2011)



Murray Benjamin, husband of Esther Benjamin, passed away on August 27th. Murray's family was from Ioannina. Murray served as a Board member of the United Brotherhood/Good Hope Society of Janina, Inc. for many years.

Celebrations

Births

This month we celebrate the birth of three special little girls:

Alexa Hannah Solomon, the daughter of Richard and Michelle Solomon and granddaughter of Rhea and Sol Solomon. Alexa's great-grandparents were from Ioannina.

Carli Maria Velez, daughter of Marti and Edward Velez, granddaughter of Jesse Colchamiro, great granddaughter of Morris & Sarah Mazza Colchamiro and great-great granddaughter of Jessoula & Rachel Colchamiro. Carli's great grandparents and great-great grandparents were born in Ioannina and her grandfather, Jesse, sits on the Board of Directors of Kehila Kedosha Janina.

Amalia Gage-Baltodano, daughter of Eleni Gage and Emilio Baltodano and granddaughter of Nicholas Gage.

Appeal For Repair of Ioannina Tikkim

Our appeal to help raise the \$25,000 needed to repair the 5 tikkim damaged in Ioannina has been very successful. We promised matching funds of up to \$5000 and it is hoped that we will have collected more than that amount. All names will be forwarded to the Jewish Community of Ioannina. We are hoping to send the funds before the High Holidays. We repeat the appeal in this newsletter for those of you who have not yet made a donation:

**Ioannina Tikkim
From the photo archives
of the late
Vincent Giordano**



During the winter of 2009/2010, due to moisture that entered the Aron in the synagogue in Ioannina, the Torah scrolls and Tikkim (metal and wood cases within which the Torahs are kept) sustained damage. The Torahs have been repaired. The Sisterhood of Janina was a major contributor enabling the Torah repairs. The Jewish Community of Ioannina informed us at Kehila Kedosha Janina that the Tikkim will be repaired by experts in Athens and the cost for each of the Tikkim is \$5,000 for a total of \$25,000 for the 5 damaged Tikkim.

At the July 28th Board of Directors meeting of Kehila Kedosha Janina, the Board voted to match up to \$5,000 in donations for this important project. We at Kehila Kedosha Janina have never forgotten our close attachment to our sister community in Greece. In 1927, when we opened our doors, the Jewish Community of Ioannina sent over a Torah Scroll in a silver tik for the dedication of the synagogue on Broome Street. After WWII, with the losses in the Jewish community of Ioannina and the need to demolish the second synagogue outside the Kastro walls that had been desecrated by the Germans, the remnants of the Jewish Community of Ioannina sent us, at Kehila Kedosha Janina, two Torah Scrolls encased in traditional Romaniote tikkim. They did not weigh the cost of this contribution, nor will we weigh the cost of repairing the Tikkim in Ioannina. We will do everything possible to ensure that the small, but still functional, Jewish Community in Ioannina has the means to repair these priceless Tikkim. Help us to assure its success.

Please send your donations to Kehila Kedosha Janina (280 Broome Street, NY, NY 10002). The check should be made out to *KKJP&C Fund - Ioannina Tikkim*.

Note: All donations to Kehila Kedosha Janina are tax-deductible.

In the words of Jerry Pardo: "My great-grandfather probably held one of those tikkim when he was bar mitzvahed in Ioannina...how could I not help repair them?"

As expressed by David Colchamiro: "This appeal touched me. How could I not give?"

Aikoi Mas, Los Muestros come home



**Shorty (Sol) Matza's family
August 23, Kehila Kedosha Janina**



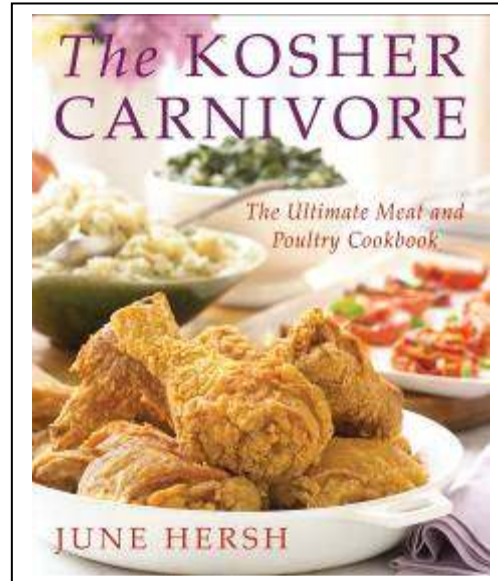
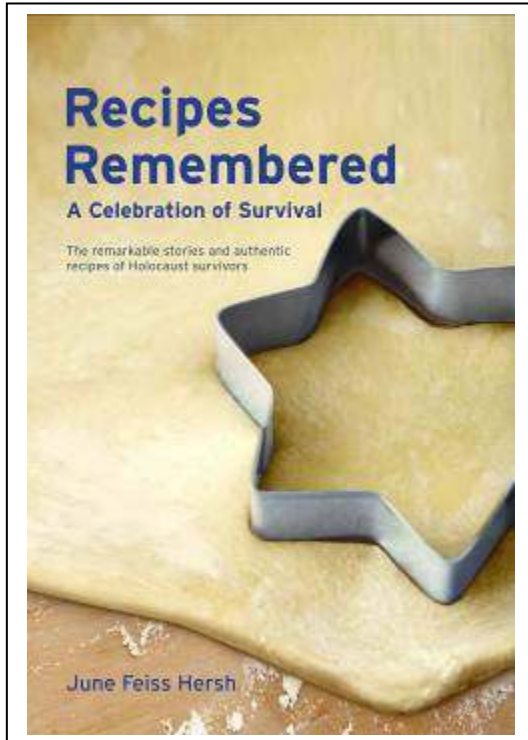
**Friends send Shorty Matza off to War
Boston 1918**

Upcoming Museum Events

Sunday, September 18, 2011 at 2:00 pm

Kehila Kedosha Janina is honored to host a book signing by June Hersch, author of *Recipes Remembered, A Celebration of Survival* and *The Kosher Carnivore*. Both books will be available for purchase at discounted prices (*Recipes Remembered, A Celebration of Survival* for \$25 and *The Kosher Carnivore* for \$20).

Kehila Kedosha Janina had a very special part in the creation of *Recipes Remembered, A Celebration of Survival*, enabling the author to include recipes from Jewish Greece, those of Rachel Mosios, Stella Levi and our own Koula Kofinas.



Recipes Remembered: A Celebration of Survival is a tribute to food as nourishment for the body and the soul. Written by author June Feiss Hersh and published by Ruder Finn Press with all proceeds benefiting the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, *Recipes Remembered* is a moving compilation of food memories, stories about food and families; and recipes from Holocaust survivors from Poland, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, and Greece.

Kosher meat is prized by home chefs of all faiths for its high quality, savory flavor and the humane and well-supervised conditions it was raised and butchered under. The 120 all-new, innovative meat and poultry recipes in ***The Kosher Carnivore*** will delight families who keep kosher, but will satisfy other cooks as well once they discover the fresh mixture of classic, elegantly ethnic and innovative recipes.

Join us for a fascinating afternoon. Refreshments will be served (of course!).

Upcoming Museum Events of Interest elsewhere in the world

Trieste, Italy

EVRAIKÌ

Una diaspora mediterranea da Corfù a Trieste
A Mediterranean Diaspora from Corfu to Trieste

Museo della Comunità ebraica di Trieste
"Carlo e Vera Wagner"

Via del Monte 5-7

Trieste

Apertura Opening

Dal 4 settembre 2011 al 29 febbraio 2012

4 September 2011- 29 February 2012

Orario Visiting hours

Lunedì, mercoledì, venerdì, domenica 10-13;

martedì e giovedì 16-19

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday 10-13; Tuesday and Thursday 16-19

Info e prenotazione visite guidate Info and guided tours booking

Tel. 040 633819; museumcarloeverawagner@triestebraica.it

Evraiki, the name of the old Jewish Quarter of Corfu, still echoes in the memories of the Jewish Corfiotes. It's a memory full of nostalgia for the relatives of those who had to leave the island more than a century ago. The exhibition aims to reconstruct the history of Corfiote Judaism on the island and in Trieste, one of the first destinations chosen at the end of the 19th century when a large diaspora began. The triggering event was an acute episode of anti-Semitism, caused by an accusation of ritual murder in 1891. However, in subsequent years migration also continued for economic reasons, towards various centers of the Mediterranean coast.



Jewish woman in Corfu-lithograph



Alef from
Corfu

Photos from Archives of Kehila Kedosha Janina

The exhibition begins with the presentation of the peculiar expressions, religious and cultural aspects of Judaism which evolved on Corfu island over the centuries. It continues with the transition marked by the pogrom of 1891 and subsequent migrations. It concludes by focusing on the history and memories of Trieste Corfiotes.

After a historical overview based on archival research, from early immigration to today, some space is dedicated to exploring family histories, reconstructed thanks to the precious materials that the descendants have made available. These families, although not exhausting the multiplicity of all branches of Corfiote Judaism in Trieste, are however representative of some common biographical paths. In the individual memories is reflected the history of a group in which strength was really achieved through unity, countering more effectively, over the years, the early difficulties and the Shoah tragedies.

Kehila Kedosha Janina is honored to have been a consultant for this exhibit and supplied a number of visuals.

News of Interest

Project Heart is helping those who lost property during WWII and have never received compensation. If you fall into this category contact

<http://www.heartwebsite.org/ArchivalResearch.aspx>

This project includes properties that were confiscated, looted or forcibly sold from all of the countries that were governed or occupied by the Nazi forces or Axis powers during the Holocaust era and for which no restitution has been given in the past.

We welcome and encourage the participation of all those who may be eligible.

Included in our database you will find a very large number of records of Jewish owned properties that belonged to individuals from Greece.

DURING WWII GERMANY PILLAGED GREECE AND FORCED A LOAN FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. WHILE GERMANY HAS BEEN VERY CRITICAL OF GREECE AND ITS INABILITY TO REPAY LOANS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION, GERMANY SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN MONEYS THAT IT OWES GREECE! READ THE FOLLOWING. ACCESS THE WEB PAGE AND SIGN THE PETITION.

"Dear Friends,

During WW-II Germany and Italy obtained forcibly from Greece a loan (occupation loan) of \$ 3.5 billion. After the end of the war, at the Paris Conference of 1946 Greece was awarded \$ 7.1 billion, out of \$ 14.0 billion requested, for war reparations. Italy repaid to Greece its share of the occupation loan, and Germany paid war reparations to Poland in 1956 and to former Yugoslavia in 1971. Greece demanded from Germany payment of the occupation loan in 1945, 1946, 1947, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1974, 1987, and in 1995. However, Germany is consistently refusing to pay its obligations to Greece arising from the occupation loan and war reparations. It is estimated that the current value of the occupation loan is \$163.8 billion and that of the war reparations is \$332 billion. The French economist and consultant to the French government Jacques Delpla stated on July 2, 2011, that Germany owes to Greece 575 billion euros from Second World War obligations. The German economic historian Dr. Albrecht Ritschl warned Germany to take a more chaste approach in the euro crisis of 2008-2011, as it could face renewed and justified demands for WWII reparations.

Please go to <http://www.greece.org/blogs/wwii/> to read the full petition (short | long) and the supporting material. We will greatly appreciate your signature on this petition requesting

the German government to honor its long-overdue obligations to Greece by repaying the forcibly obtained occupation loan, and by paying war reparations proportional to the material damages, atrocities and plundering committed by the German war machine during World War II. The objective of our petition is to raise international awareness of the refusal of Germany to honor these legal obligations to Greece, and create pressure from the international community on Germany to fulfill its obligations. Please ask also your friends and colleagues to sign the petition. It is very critical to get as many as possible signatures from non-Greeks. We will also appreciate any additional supporting material that you may have or find (articles of experts, articles of the mainstream press, or related visual material), as well as any help for the translation of the one-page version of the petition to one of the other major languages. Thank you very much,

***Costas P. Tzanos, PhD, Nuclear Engineering
(for the FORUM team that developed the petition and the supporting material)***

Expeditions in underwater archaeological research have just discovered a new shipwreck off the coast of Albania. This beautiful Roman ship with artifacts dating from the late 2nd to early 1st century B.C.E. add credence to the oral history of Yanniotte Jews that they first arrived in Epirus on a Roman ship carrying slaves from Jerusalem after the destruction of the Second Temple. Although this latest finding is from an earlier period, there is no doubt that this treacherous channel between Albania and Corfu caused many shipwrecks over the centuries.

Auron Tare, a friend of Kehila Kedosha Janina, supervised this expedition and sent us the following photo.



News from Jewish Greece



Auschwitz Memorial / Muzeum Auschwitz (auschwitzmemorial)

"On 21 August 1943 the camp authorities carried out a selection at the women's camp in Birkenau. The SS selected 498 Jewish women, considered as unable to work. Before being deported to a gas chamber, they were placed in barrack 25 called the "waiting room to gas." Among the selected, there were 438 Greek Jewesses. The list had a code name "G.U." (gesonderte Unterbringung - separate placement) which meant condemnation to death."

Shalom to one and all!

**Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel**



The Month of Elul and "Selihot"

Most of September this year corresponds with the Hebrew month of "Elul", which has a very special place in Jewish life because of it's being the last month before Rosh Hashanah – which opens the rather solemn, and even somewhat fearful, season of the High Holy Days – the awesome Days of Judgment – which culminate into the climax of Yom Kippur, when we implore God to forgive us for all our transgressions, and seal us in the Book of Life for the new year. Naturally, such a serious period of time and mission requires preparation, and that is the purpose of the month of Elul, which is even symbolized in the month's very name, with the 4 Hebrew letters that spell "Elul" being an abbreviation for a beautiful phrase from the Biblical book "Song of Songs": " I am to my beloved and my beloved is to me" – which is taken as an analogy for the close and intimate relationship between God and the Jewish people, culminating in a mutual affection and bond that sees its high point in this month, when we strive to become closer to God by virtue of our attempts to expiate our sins.

In fact, the importance of this preparation for the Days of Judgment is so paramount that it was formally "institutionalized" in Judaism in two significant ways: The shofar is blown daily from the 1st of the month of Elul till Simchat Torah in order to "awaken" us to repentance and be even more aware of God's presence during these special days, and in the form of "Selihot", special penitential prayers and ritual poems composed by some of Judaism's greatest liturgical poets, which inspire and push us to indeed repent for misdeeds, correct our ways and ask God to forgive us and show mercy as the day of our "trial" and "verdict" approaches.

There are two ancient customs for reciting the Selihot prayers. The Sephardic version is based on the Biblical account of Moses returning to Mt. Sinai to receive the Torah a second time, after the Golden Calf debacle, where he smashed the first stone Tablets of the Law (the Ten Commandments) as he descended the mountain and saw the people worshipping this idol. Therefore, Sephardim recite Selihot from the beginning of Elul till Yom Kippur, corresponding to the second 40 days Moses spent on Mt. Sinai receiving the Torah from God, with God's final forgiveness for the Golden Calf coming on the day Moses descended, which corresponds with Yom Kippur. The Ashkenazi custom is quite different, with the beginning of Selihot starting about a week before Rosh Hashanah, but, just like Sephardim, ending only on the eve of Yom Kippur. In terms of the proper time to recite the Selihot, there is virtually universal agreement that the best time is during the dark of full night extending into the wee hours of the morning, which in Jewish tradition are considered especially favorable hours for prayer and penitence. From ancient times and onward, the common image of the synagogue beadle or other functionary walking through the dark alcoves and alleys of Jewish communities all over the world ringing a bell or knocking on doors calling everyone to Selihot comes to mind. Accompanied by each communities special tunes, ancient liturgical poems composed by the likes of Yehuda Halevi, Shlomo Ibn Gabirol, Avraham Ibn Ezra and others, the haunting melodies and prayers create an atmosphere of both camaraderie and brotherhood with fellow Jews and the awe of God as we implore Him for mercy and forgiveness for our transgressions and misconduct.

And while alarm clocks and wake-up calls have long replaced the loyal beadle and his bell or hammer, many communities still insist on beginning Selihot at 2:00 or 3:00 AM, though the most

synagogues today prefer saying Selichot just before the morning prayers, in order to ensure a minyan – a proper prayer quorum – for both. In any case, the Sephardic position is that Selihot cannot be said earlier than midnight, a rule that is still by and large strictly observed by Sephardic communities all over the world.

May all subscribers of the KKJ Bulletin, their families and friends, and indeed, all of Israel, be blessed with a happy, healthy new year, and may you all be inscribed in the Book of Life for the coming year!

**Gershon Harris
POB 361
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel**

Requests

My name is Rakefet Bar Sadeh, and I am the director of the Feher Jewish music center at Beit Hatfuzot in Israel.

A few days ago, a Greek Ph.D. student researching Janina tradition has asked me to make her a copy of a private CD recorded in 2003 by the Cohen family in Jerusalem. Since I am not allowed to copy the disk which was donated to us without their permission, I would be very thankful to you if you could help me trace this family in order to help the student.

Unfortunately I have only a few details written in Hebrew on the disk cover: The family immigrated to Israel in 1919 to Ohel Moshe neighborhood in Jerusalem. The names of the grandfathers are: Menachem and Margalit Cohen; Menachem's brothers are Mordechai Cohen (also known as Big uncle Marko) and Shmuel David.

I will appreciate any help,

**Best regards,
Rakefet Bar Sadeh**

We are looking for a Haim Levy from Salonika who made aliyah to Israel 1976/78. He would be between 50-55 years old now and was living in Ramat Gan when he befriended Herzel Eliyahu a Cochin Jew from India. We know that he went to Tel Aviv University, worked in computer management in Israel and married after 1990. Herzel and his wife Deborah visited Kehila Kedosha Janina and approached us to try to help them reconnect with Haim.

Herzel Eliyahu

Hello Marcia

Could you tell me who sent the picture Page 19 of the newsletter (Jewish students... family Nikokiris) showing Greek-Jewish students in Egypt.

My younger sister is on the picture. We have almost all names of the pupils and the teacher. I remember Jessie Nikokiris as my sister's mate.

At least four pupils are of Greek descent (Jessie, my sister Claudine and the twins Acco).

**Best regards
Joseph Jesua
Paris**



Additional information on Abraham Matza

We are searching for the family of Abraham Matza. Abraham died in the Battle of the Bulge in WWII and was buried in Belgium. He came from a family of Yanniotos. According to the 1920 census, his family was living on Ludlow in the Lower East Side but appear in the 1930 census living at 62 S. 10th Street in Brooklyn. He came from a family of at least 8 children. His known siblings were Annie, Ida, Esther, Morris, Louis, Meyer and Isaac. We would appreciate help in locating a relative.

Upcoming events in New York City

The Angel Orensanz Foundation and The Film-Makers' Cooperative presents the Film Series:
LOWER EAST SIDE ON THE SCREEN – EVOLVING URBAN IDENTITY
 (Curated by MM Serra)

We are pleased to invite you to this collaborative project, conceived and developed by two nonprofit organizations.

The "LES On the Screen – Evolving Urban Identity" screening series will take place at the Angel Orensanz Foundation.

It will kick off on September 13, 7:30 PM, with the screening of:

PHILIP HARTMAN'S "NO PICNIC", 1985, 84 min

('Best Cinematography' Award at Sundance Film Festival, 1987)

The film will be introduced by the director himself and actress Clare Bauman. It will be followed by Q&A
 Tickets \$8.00 (Cash only, on the day of the event and at the door)

"LES On The Screen – Evolving Urban Identity" intends to showcase independent, underground films spanning the decades from the 1970's to the 1990's that touch upon the subject of the urban fabric of the Lower East Side and the Downtown counter-culture scene.

No Picnic (1985) is a grainy 16mm, black-and-white film in the purest 1980's indie cinema style.

The film delves into the dramatic change undergone by the East Village. It will give viewers a snapshot of the different lifestyles and the beginning of gentrification in the neighborhood during the mid 1980's. Intelligently shot on location in the streets, it shows the gutted buildings and decrepit clubs that shaped the East Village at that time, when the punk rock scene had reached a legendary summit that was about to fade away.

It is the story of a failed musician, Macabee Cohen (played by David Brisbin) who earns his living restocking the supplies in the neighborhood's cigarettes machines and jukeboxes, while on a quest to find his dream woman. Gentrification is distressingly and increasingly apparent all around this would be hero. An intriguing character with a mix of hipster and nerd, he stoically carries on with a non-stopping, ironic interior monologue.

THE LOWER EAST SIDE on the screen

No Picnic Philip Hartman 1982 / 84 min / 16mm

THE FILM-MAKERS' COOPERATIVE & ANGEL ORENSANZ FOUNDATION, Inc.
Presents the Film Series
Lower East Side on the Screen - Evolving Urban Identity
curated by John Lars

Tuesday, September 13
No Picnic
Philip Hartman 1982 / USA / 84'
Introduced by Philip Hartman and actress Clare Pearson
Followed by USA

A gritty, three-dimensional film in the 1980's indie cinema style, *No Picnic* was shot on location in the streets of the East Village. The story of a failed musician, Macabee Cohen (played by David Brisbin) who earns his living restocking the supplies in the neighborhood's cigarette machines and jukeboxes, while on a quest to find his dream woman. Gentrification is distressingly and increasingly apparent all around this would be hero. The film delves into the dramatic change undergone by the East Village going from a haven of the different styles and urban configuration of the neighborhood during the mid 1980's. Winner of Best Cinematography Award, Sundance Film Festival.

7:00pm
Dolby version
\$5.00
Angel Orensanz Foundation
112 Norfolk Street, New York, NY 10002
www.angelorenzansfoundation.org
angel@angelorenzansfoundation.org
Upcoming films: *Golden Era* and *Blackout* (2011)

NYSCA NYCULTURE Angel Orensanz Foundation

Support the Screen: Evolving Urban Identity Film Series is made possible in part by public funds from the New York State Office of the Arts, and the New York Department of Cultural Affairs.

between the seas

A FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN

JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF MEDITERRANEAN CULTURE

Aug. 29th to Sept. 4th, 2011
at the Wild Project
(195 East 3rd St.)

Dance, music, theater, and
lectures with contemporary
artists from Spain, Italy, Greece,
Croatia, Morocco, Egypt, Israel,
US and more!

For tickets and information visit:
www.betweentheseas.org

Produced by:
Les Manouches Theater Company

Artistic Direction:
Aktina Stathaki

When you are in New York, visit us on Broome Street. We are open for services every Saturday and all major Jewish holidays and our Museum is open every Sunday from 11-4 and, by appointment during the week.

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September 2011

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