January 2017 E-Newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

This year on January 27th, we will stop and remember the victims of the Holocaust in the International Day of Holocaust Commemoration. Greece has been a member of IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) since 2005 and throughout Greece and at the Greek Consulate in New York City the day will be commemorated with special events. The United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 60/7 on 1 November 2005 to designate January 27th, the day on which Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated, as the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, so that the world would mark and remember the Holocaust and its victims. This newsletter is dedicated to the victims from Greece. May their Memory be Eternal.

From Ioannina

Gracia Samuel

Rebecca Malta DeCastros
PLEASE REMEMBER OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.kkjsm.org and our new e-mails: info@kkjsm.org and museum@kkjsm.org.

This newsletter, our 94th 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).

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE NO LONGER USE OUR PO BOX- ALL MAIL SHOULD GO TO 280 BROOME ST. New York, NY 10002.

We now reach over 8000 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 museum@kkjsm.org

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.

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Passings

We were saddened by the passing of Raymond Modiano (1932-2016), husband of Phyllis Molho Modiano. Ray was proud of his Sephardic heritage and prided himself on being able to speak Ladino. A true Pasha, his smile will be missed by all.
It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Nino (Abraham) Cohen, brother of Fani Cohen Frizis and Koula Cohen Kofinas. The Cohen family was from Larissa and survived the Occupation in hiding with the help of Greek Orthodox Christians. Our condolences to Nino’s wife Veronica and his family and friends.

Koula and Sol Kofinas’s wedding photo. Nino is second from right.

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Dr. Raphael Matsas on December 27th. He was the twin brother of Elias Matsas of Athens, Greece, the son of Titiana Yohanan Matsas of Arta and Sam Matsas of Ioannina. Raphael was born in Ioannina in 1948. Our condolences to his family.

Elias and Raphael Matsas
Simchas

December was a month of many simchas and it is our joy to share them with you.

Hy Eliasof celebrated his 96th birthday on December 9th. Hy is the son of Louise and Michael Eliasof OBM and the grandson of Shemos and Anna OBM. It was a joy to have him visit Ioannina with us in 2007. He proudly served in the United States Armed Forces during WWII and was the Mayor of Closter, New Jersey. In 2002, he was honored by the United States Congress for his extensive community service. In the remarks, which were written into the Congressional Record, “Through his decades of public service and good works, Elias “Hy” Eliasof exemplifies the American values that have made our country great.”

It is with great joy that we congratulate Al Barouch on celebrating his 86th birthday on December 12th. Al, a proud Yanniote and a talented Hazan, is the son of Rachel Colchamiro Barouch and Benjamin Barouch, both OBM and Matathias Colchamiro and Sarina Levy Colchamiro.
In December we celebrated the births of Zoey Blake Kissin (Askinazi Family) and the second grandson of Carmen Cohen of Rhodes (second son of Anna and Viktor Solomon, and, in a celebration of survival, a new member of the Russo family joined our Greek-Jewish world.

Welcome Zoey!

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A celebration of survival. Lena Elias Russo was one of only 35 Jews to survive the Holocaust of the Jewish Community of Kastoria. Her story is told in Trezoros: The Lost Jews of Kastoria. Kehila Kedosha Janina is honored to show this film on April 30th. The beautiful picture below shows the triumph of survival as the Russo clan gather to celebrate a new birth.
Our congratulations to Rabbi Aviad Bodner, rabbi of the Stanton Street Synagogue, and his wife, Lindsay Bodner, on the birth of their first child, Jonah David Bodner.

We were honored to host the Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Busch. Benjamin’s mother Sherry is from the Eskononts. Benjamin is the grandson of Samuel and Beatrice Eskononts both OBM, and great-grandson of Mordechai and Esther Eskononts of Ioannina, both OBM. The Bar Mitzvah took place on October 8, 2016.

Sherry, Benjamin and Miriam Busch
Δικοι Μας, Λος Μυστρός (Ουρ Ουν) come home

One of our great joys is to welcome “Our Own” when they visit Kehila Kedosha Janina. You can spot them at the door as they enter, stop and look with tears in their eyes at the spot their ancestors once sat in the sanctuary. They often linger at memorial plaques, lovingly pointing at the names of their loved ones. Kehila Kedosha Janina is a Jewish place of worship, a place of learning, a museum that educates visitors, a living memorial to the Holocaust of Greek Jewry and, most important, a place for “our own” to return and reconnect.

In December, we welcomed the visit of Estelle Negrin Acerno and her son, Eric, Eric’s girlfriend, Ashley, and Ashley’s mom, Nancy. Estelle is the niece of Anetta & Oriel Jacob OBM both survivors of the Holocaust, and whose memorial plaques hang on our wall.

As always, visitors continued to flock to Kehila Kedosha Janina

December was a month of synagogue trips, school trips, old friends and new friends.
It was so good to see Donald Fishbein, who joined us in our Fall trip to Greece.

It is always a highlight of school trips when one lucky young man has a chance to hold our scroll from Ioannina.
We are always thankful to our Board members who come to help us in the museum. All our Board members bring something special with their presence. In this case, Marty and Lois, the children of our beloved former President, Hy Genee, bring their passion and dedication.

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**Past Events at Kehila Kedosha Janina**

On Saturday, December 24th, our synagogue was filled with joy, as friends and family gathered to surprise Rose Eskononts with a beautiful plaque honoring her ceaseless work for both the synagogue of Kehila Kedosha Janina and the Sisterhood of Janina. The plaque will hang next to the Sisterhood exhibit in the Museum. This day, to her knowledge, was to commemorate her husband Murray’s passing, and she was extremely and totally surprised at this turn of events.
Upcoming Events at Kehila Kedosha Janina

Sunday, March 12th - what better way to finish the celebration of Purim than with a concert of Rebetika and Epirote music? Beth Bahia Cohen, Vasilis Kosta and Lefteris Bournias will entertain us. Save the date. Further details will follow.

Sunday, March 19th - a special showing of the internationally acclaimed film, “Cloudy Sunday.” Save the date. Further details to follow.

Sunday, April 23rd, Yom HaShoah. Save the date. Further details to follow.

Sunday, April 30th, a special showing of the internationally acclaimed film, Trezoros: The Lost Jews of Kastoria Greece. The film makers, Larry Russo and Larry Confino will be present, along with Danny Elias and Maurice Sedacca, who will play some of the music from the film. Save the date. Further details to follow.

Sunday, May 7th, Isaac Dostis will be joining us for a special presentation of his new book, a Cookbook with Greek-Jewish Recipes. Save the date. Further details to follow.

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Events of Interest in the New York Area

On January 25th, the American Friends of the Jewish Museum of Greece, along with the Consul General of Greece will be hosting an event to coincide with January 27th International Day of Commemoration of the Holocaust. Save the date.
Wednesday January 25th at 6:30pm
Hebrew Union College – 1 West 4th Street, New York, NY 10012
RSVP to required to attend. Email: rsvp.nyc@mfa.gr

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Honoring Our Families

This month, January 2017, our e-newsletter is sponsored by the children and grandchildren of Rabbi Bernard Honan (Sara and Charlie, Michael, Roxanne, Rachel and Benjamin, and Lydia) in honor of his 89th Birthday. Bernard’s parents were Menachem “Max” Honan and Sarah Cantos Honan (both of Blessed Memory). The Honans came from Kastoria and the Cantos family from
Ioannina. Sarah Cantos was a President of the Sisterhood of Janina. Her father was Morris Cantos, whose sister was Esther, the wife of Rabbi Jessula Levy. Sarah came to the United States in 1913 with her mother Rebecca and, on arrival, at Ellis Island, was going to her father, Morris Cantos. The year 1913 was a year where many Yanniotes came to the United States and it is not a coincidence that Rebecca’s sister, Esther and her husband, Rabbi Jessula Levy, also left Ioannina in 1913. This was the year that the city of Ioannina became part of Modern Greece and there was a sense of uncertainty among many Jews. They knew what life had been like under the Muslim Turks but were not quite sure what it would be like in a Christian state. Morris Cantos was one of the founders of Kehila Kedosha Janina and it was only fitting that Rabbi Levy performed the marriage of Bernard Honan when he married Roslyn Vitoulis.

Sarah Cantos with grandmother, Sarah Mordechai and mother, Rebecca Mordechai Cantos in Ioannina in 1907

Morris and Rebecca Cantos

Benyamin Honan Kastoria

Rebecca Zaccharia Honan Nathan Honan Benyamin Honan Kastoria
Mr. and Mrs. Max Honan
request the honor of your presence at the
Confirmation and Reception
(בר מצוה)
of their son
Bernard
Saturday Morning, January Fourth
 nineteen hundred and forty-one
nine o'clock
at Kehila Kedosha of Janina
200 Broome Street, New York City

Residence, 220 Marcy Avenue
Brooklyn, N. Y.
Roslyn Vitoulis Honan and Bernard Honan wedding 1955

Recent picture of Rabbi Bernard Honan
If you want your family honored or memorialized in our monthly newsletter, send in a donation (of your choosing) to Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum, 280 Broome Street, New York City, NY 10002.

Of course, we always welcome family photos!

News from Jewish Greece

Ioannina

On December 14th one of the major newspapers in Greece (Epirotiki Struggle) published an article about the newly published calendar (The Craft of Welded Wire), published by the Joseph and Esther Gani Foundation. On each page of the calendar is an artistic representation of welded wire representing the Holocaust. One of the contributors was our own Viktor Koen.

For those not familiar with the Foundation, it was established by Esther and Joseph Gani and is located in their beautiful house on Soutsou outside the Kastro in Ioannina. In recent years, our groups from the United States have been treated to a tour of the foundation.

Thessaloniki

German Foreign Minister Honored in Thessaloniki

GERMAN F.M. F.W. STEINMEIER NAMED HONORARY MEMBER OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF THESSALONIKI

Wednesday, 07 December 2016 09:12

"The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Frank Walter Steinmeier visited Thessaloniki and was proclaimed Honorary Member of the Jewish Community during a highly symbolic ceremony held on Sunday December 4th, 2016, at the Monastiriotes Synagogue. Earlier that morning, the German Foreign Minister had inaugurated the exhibition "Divided Memories 1940-1950- The distance between history and experience" at the Macedonian Museum of Modern Art, in Thessaloniki. The exhibition, co-organized by the Goethe Institute Thessaloniki, the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, the Macedonian Museum of Modern Art and the Deutches Historisches Museum of Berlin, is hosted by the Macedonian Museum of Modern Art and its duration is until February 26th, 2016. The Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki participates with a separate section, which includes historic evidence (records – photographs), films and projections of documents, divided into three parts."
Following the inauguration of the exhibition, Minister Steinmeier was proclaimed an honorary member of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, in a ceremony at the Monastiriotes Synagogue. Upon his arrival, Dr. Steinmeier visited the exhibit of religious artifacts that is kept in the Synagogue and lit a candle in memory of the 50,000 Jews from Thessaloniki that perished in the Holocaust.

Mr. David Saltiel, President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece and the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki welcoming Minister Steinmeier in the Synagogue said: "The Jewish Community of Thessaloniki in acknowledgement of your contribution towards the promotion of the relations between the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki and the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as your commitment towards combating Anti-Semitism and racism, has decided to bestow upon you the title of its Honorary Member."

Timetable set for opening of Holocaust Education Center in Thessaloniki

The German state will finance the amount of 10 million Euro to create a Holocaust museum in Thessaloniki, which will also serve as an education center for human rights. Before the members of the Budget Committee of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Mayor of Thessaloniki Yiannis Boutari and the president of the Jewish Community David Saltiel presented the plans for the establishment of the museum.

The two men, like the other members of Salonika delegation were taken emotionally with the warm response of German parliamentarians who said they would support this endeavor. "We
should not forget" they said expressing their full support to the effort to create the Holocaust Museum in Thessaloniki. Mr. Saltiel made a presentation to the members of the Budget Committee on the history of the Jewish community of Thessaloniki and talked about the almost complete annihilation of a result of the Holocaust. Mr. Boutaris explained the importance for the city, for its history and for the future. He reminded them that German government had committed to fund the construction of the museum with the amount of 10 million Euro, of which the first five will be disbursed in 2017. The Berlin commitment was reaffirmed last September when the German Minister for European Affairs, Michael Roth, visited Thessaloniki and the Jewish Community.

On 14/12/2016 in the afternoon the delegation from Thessaloniki visited the Holocaust Memorial and the Jewish Museum in Berlin. The director of the museum promised to provide maximum support for the creation of the respective Museum in Thessaloniki and said he will be one of the first honorary members. A previous meeting had taken place in Paris at the Memorial de la Shoah. After these contacts in Paris and Berlin, municipal sources noted that the Holocaust Museum in Thessaloniki can work in about three years.

Athens

Hannukah was celebrated in Athens by the lighting of a giant Hannukia outside Beth Shalom Synagogue in Athens every night of Hannukah. A particularly moving lighting was that which took place on December 28th with the participation of young Jews in Athens.

A special thanks to Rabbi Gabriel Negrin for his inspirational role in revitalizing the Jewish presence in Athens.
News from Cyprus

Signing ceremony between Israel, Greece and Cyprus for the research, development and technology memorandum of understanding on December 8th.

News from Jewish Turkey

Religious and political leaders have marked the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah in Istanbul’s Ortaköy neighborhood, underlining the importance of the Jewish community for Turkey.

“We’ve never had any problem with our Jewish siblings in Turkish soil, but crises may erupt between countries from time to time,” Deputy Prime Minister Veysi Kaynak told journalists at the event in Esma Sultan, which was organized by Beşiktaş Municipality and the Turkish Jewish Community.

“We experienced the Mavi Marmara flotilla incident. After this event, we witnessed our Jewish siblings’ great efforts as intermediators,” he said, referring to an Israeli commando raid in 2010 on a Gaza-bound flotilla that killed 10 Turkish activists.

Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew, Turkish Jewish Community President İshak İbrahimzadeh, acting Armenian Patriarch Aram Ateşyan, Israeli Consul General in Istanbul Shai Cohen and main opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP) Istanbul lawmaker Sezgin Tanrıkulu were among the participants at the Hanukkah celebrations.
Noting that it was impossible to separate Jews from Turkish history and Turks from Jewish history, Kaynak noted that “all who were in trouble in history found themselves in these lands.”

During his speech, Kaynak also said Mehmet the Conqueror invited all Jews to Istanbul when he conquered Istanbul and guaranteed that they would be able to live their religion freely. Kaynak added that Anatolia has been the “mother’s bosom” throughout history and that 3 million asylum seekers are currently in Turkey.
“There are Arabs, Kurds, Turkmens, Sunnis and Shiites among these refugees,” he said.

Turkey “never sees Jews as minorities,” Kaynak said, adding that the country had been restoring synagogues and churches in addition to mosques.

“Our Jewish siblings are the owners of this geography just like us and they are its main elements,” he also said.

During his speech, Kaynak said the world needed scenes of fraternity like those at the Hanukkah celebrations in Ortaköy, adding that there were no problems that could not be solved as long as people respected others’ beliefs, races and religions.

Chief Rabbi İskak Haleva also spoke at the event, saying he could not forget the moment in Ortaköy “for a lifetime,” adding that he experienced the honor of being together with others for the first night of Hanukkah. Beşiktaş Mayor Murat Hazinedar also stressed “love and peace” in the region.

“Much price has been paid in this region throughout history. We will continue to pay them, but with love and respect we will continue our existence,” he said.

Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel

Sunday, January 8th will be the Fast of the 10th of Tevet, which I have written about in previous years, both in terms of historical context, and how the Chief Rabbinate of Israel in the early 1950's declared it the day of the "General Kaddish" for all Holocaust victims whose exact dates of death were unknown. This was largely due to the fact that in the context of all of our fast days, the significance of the 10th of Tevet was seen as diminished, since it commemorates the siege of Jerusalem by Babylonia before the destruction of the First Temple, which was, after all, rebuilt after 70 years. Given the greater tragedy of the destruction of the Second Temple and close to 2,000 years of subsequent exile and no new Temple on the horizon, many saw this as overriding the need to commemorate an event associated only with the First Temple.

However, the prophet Ezekiel specifically mandates that, like Yom Kippur, the fast of the 10th of Tevet must be observed on its specific day, meaning that even if it would fall on Shabbat – like Yom Kippur often does – we would be commanded to fast! And though the Jewish calendar is arranged so that the 10th of Tevet cannot fall on Shabbat, it can fall on Friday. And when it does, we do fast, despite the need to prepare for Shabbat. Therefore, there is still an obvious importance to this day that goes beyond its classical historical commemoration in First Temple
times. In fact, Jewish tradition describes 3 tragedies that occurred consecutively on the 8th, 9th and 10th of Tevet.

One year during the 3rd century BCE, a time of Hellenistic rule of Judea during the Second Temple period, Ptolemy, King of Egypt, ordered the translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek, a work which later became known as the Septuagint. Seventy-two sages were placed in solitary confinement and ordered to translate the Torah into Greek without any content with each other. On the 8th of Tevet of the year 3515 (246 BCE), they produced 72 identical translations. This was miraculous, especially since there were 13 places where the translators intentionally diverged from the literal translation, in order not to draw the ire of the Greek rulers when the literal translation might be considered as insulting to the ruling pagan culture. However, various rabbinical sources saw this as a tragedy, because they reasoned that upon translation from the original Hebrew, the Torah’s legal codes & deeper layers of meaning would be lost. And without the original Hebrew code, authenticity of the legal system would be damaged. Translating the holy work itself was not a "crime" – after all, our tradition says that Moses himself translated and explained the Torah in "seventy" languages. But Moses' mission was divinely commanded, while Ptolemy's mission was to denigrate the Jewish belief of the divinity of the Torah. And though he did not succeed in this endeavor, the Septuagint did advance the agenda of Hellenist culture and assimilation amongst Jews.

On the 9th of Tevet, tradition has it that on that date, "Ezra the Sofer" [scribe], the great leader who brought Jews back to the Holy Land from the Babylonian exile and who ushered in the era of the Second Temple, died. Also, Ezra, as head of the Great Assembly, canonized the 24 books of the Jewish Holy Scriptures, and legislated a series of laws and practices, including formalized prayer, guaranteeing the continuation of Judaism among the Jewish people to this very day. Originally, each of these 3 days was marked by its own fast, but the Sages decided to consolidate all three into a single day, the 10th of Tevet, since it was expressly recorded as a day of mourning by the prophets, and they did not want so many sad days in a single month. And to this day, Jews around the world keep the fast of the 10th of Tevet, which ultimately has much more significance than we might have imagined.

As you can see from our monthly e-newsletter, family photos mean so much to us. Please share your photos. This month we are highlighting family photos we received from Estelle Negrin Acerno when she visited us in December. The photos are from the Jacobs family, specifically that of Oriel Jacob OBM and the Levy family. Both families were from Ioannina.

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Levys

1913

Anetta Levy Jacob, the little girl in the picture was the second wife of Oriel Jacob. His first wife perished in the Holocaust as did Anetta’s first husband.
This month we are listing a number of books having to do with Greek Jewry. All of them are published in Greek, but the book published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Greek Righteous has also been published in English.
The Foreign Ministry, in collaboration with the Foundation for the Memory of the Martyrs and Heroes of the Holocaust Yad Vashem, published the volume “The Greek Righteous Among the Nations,” Militos Editions. It is the final installment in a trilogy dedicated to the historical course of the Jewish communities of our country, their destruction in the Holocaust and the rescuing of dozens of our fellow citizens by Greek Christians. The volumes entitled “The Greek Jews through diplomatic documents of the Foreign Ministry” and “The Greeks of Auschwitz-Birkenau” were first published in 1998 and 2009, respectively.

The new volume explores the role of the government, the police and other authorities in saving the Jews of our country. Moreover the book delves into the identity of the Greeks who saved their Jewish fellow citizens and attempts to restore the historical truth with regard to returning the property of Jews to the rightful beneficiaries.

Separate chapters are dedicated to the rescue of the Jewish community of Zakynthos and to the case of the rescue of Yitzhak Persky, the father of former president of Israel Shimon Peres.

The book has been translated into English.
The contributors to the volume are: Fragiski Ampatzopoulou, Henriette-Rika Benveniste, Eleni Beze, Andreas Bouroutis, Philip Carabott, Iason Chandrinos, Anna Maria Droumpouki, Moses Elisaf, Hagen Fleischer, Maria Fragkou, Annette Fromm, Sakis Gekas, Eyal Ginio, Michal Govrin, Evanghelos Hekimoglou, Dimitris Kargiotis, Maria Kavala, Eleni Kourmantzi, Daphne Lappa, Anna Mahera, Anna Mandilara, Giorgos Margaritis, Leda Papastefanaki, Ioanna Pepelasis, Odette Varon-Vassard, Dimitrios Varvaritis, Stavros Zoumboulakis.

Kehila Kedosha Janina prides itself on offering for sale the largest collection of books (in English) on the Jews of Greece and Sephardic Jews. We also have in our bookstore many books on the Lower East Side and Jewish life in the United States. We are particularly proud to add to our collection what we believe to be the best book ever written on the Jewish Lower East Side. The book was originally written in 1922 and published in 1995. After going out of print, it is now back. If you love the Lower East Side, this is a book that belongs on your shelf.

*Streets: A Memoir of the Lower East Side* by Bella Spewack is now available at Kehila Kedosha Janina for $20 ($25 including postage and handling within the continental USA). All proceeds from the sale of books go to Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum. If you wish a copy of this important book, send a check made out to Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum and mail it to Kehila Kedosha Janina, Book Orders, 1 Hanson Place, Huntington, NY 11743.

*Streets: A Memoir of the Lower East Side* by Bella Spewack

Born in Transylvania in 1899, Bella Spewack arrived on the streets of New York's Lower East Side when she was three. At twenty-two, while working as a reporter with her husband in Europe, she wrote a memoir of her childhood that was never published. More than seventy years later, the publication of Streets recovers a remarkable voice and revivifies a lost world.
In her critically acclaimed writing, Bella describes the sights, sounds, and characters of urban Jewish immigrant life after the turn of the century. Witty, street-smart, and unsentimental, Bella was a genuine American heroine who went on to become a celebrated author. Booklist comments, "The book provides a startling, clear-eyed look at the difficult life millions endured."

As mentioned before, we are looking for recipes for our cookbook. Please share! It can only happen if you are a part of it.

We are now looking for a recipe for Cheese Bougatsas. We have many for the traditional bougatsas but, in Ioannina, they also made them with cheese in addition to the cream varieties. If anyone has a cheese bougatsa recipe please send it to us.

We are looking for a translation of this. It is either in Ladino or Judeo-Greco.
We are so proud of the accomplishments of our community on all levels. Recently, during the December 7th ceremony in honor of those Americans who died at Pearl Harbor, one of our own, Casey Paganetti, descended from the Cabillis family from Ioannina, stood guard at Pearl Harbor.

Websites of Interest:

**Oxford**
**Special Collection of S&P Papers Launched at Oxford**

The Bodleian Library at Oxford University has recently received an extensive collection from the Spanish and Portuguese Jews’ Congregation of London, donated by the Joir and Kato Weisz Foundation. It was assembled by the late Dr. Richard Barnett, Honorary Archivist of the congregation and contains over 500 items, including books, manuscripts, and sermons, in Hebrew, Spanish, and Portuguese. The materials were printed in Amsterdam, London, and other cities of the Sephardi diaspora. For further information:


**Amsterdam**
**Symposium Held to Honor the Ets Haim Library**
In November, a symposium was held celebrating 400 years of the oldest still-functioning Jewish library in the world, Ets Haim, located on the grounds of the Esnoga and founded as part of the Talmud Tora School in Amsterdam. Scholars from around the world examined the uniqueness, significance, and history of the library. Part of the symposium was held in the beautiful and
monumental Wintersnoge, located adjacent to the library and formerly the school’s auditorium. For further information:


Flory Jagoda documentary film

http://www.tinyurl.com/j7a77z3
The documentary "Flory's Flame" gets its Connecticut premiere this Saturday at the University of Hartford.

The film explores the life of composer and performer Flory Jagoda, who is credited with preserving the traditional Sephardic music of the Balkans, an art form that was nearly wiped away by the Nazis during World War II.

Flory Jagoda grew up in a little village near Sarajevo called Vlasenica, surrounded by a loving, tight-knit family -- parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents, all descendants of the Sephardic Jews who were forced from their homes in Spain and Portugal by the Catholic Monarchy in the late 15th century.

As a child, Jagoda was taught the haunting Sephardic melodies of her ancestors, as well as Ladino, the language of the Sephardic Jews from her Nona, or grandmother.

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Portugal
Portuguese Community Welcomes First Kosher Store
In November, the first kosher store in Porto opened in response to an increased Jewish presence there. Last year alone, there were a reported 100,000 tourists in the city. The number of community members is also increasing, many establishing themselves in Portugal from other European countries either to work or study – and often mention that they feel well received.

Learn more about the Porto Jewish Community here: www.sandpcentral.org/porto
The Spanish Hosts Talk on the Welcoming of North African Sephardim
In November, Professor Yolande Cohen presented a talk on the role of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue of Montreal in the integration of Sephardi Jews from North Africa into the community. Many North African Jews were forced to flee their lands following the establishment of the State of Israel. For more on this and other events at The Spanish, please see here:

http://thespanish.org/

Evening Brings Together Hazanim from Four Spanish & Portuguese Communities
In November, hazanim from several S&P communities gathered to share their traditions. Among the participants: Rabbi Ira Rohde and the Rev. Phil Sherman from Congregation Shearith Israel of New York; Peter Nahon from the S&P communities in Paris and Bordeaux; Adam Jackson, raised in the Lauderdale Road Congregation in London and now a member of Shearith Israel; and Rene Samson and Solomon Vaz Dias, both originally from the Esnoga in Amsterdam; and Prof. Hermann Salomon. Hosts Mark and Penny Aaron of Shearith Israel hope to organize future such gatherings.

Panama
Congregation Kol Shearith Israel Celebrates 140th Anniversary
This year the Spanish & Portuguese congregation of Panama, Kol Shearith Israel, celebrates the 140th anniversary of its founding. Among the events that have taken place so far was an overflow gathering in May that included Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela, Israel’s Ambassador to Panama Gil Artzyeli, as well as dignitaries and members of various religious groups in Panama. More here:
Philadelphia
Rabbi Soloveichik Leads Student Group to Mivkeh Israel Shabbaton
In early December, Shearith Israel Rabbi Meir Soloveichik led a select group of YU/Stern honors students to spend Shabbat with sister synagogue Congregation Mikveh Israel in Philadelphia. The weekend featured a host of activities, including prayers, meals, lectures, and an opportunity to learn more about the mutual traditions and histories of the two communities. More information here:

https://www.facebook.com/events/731240223710537/

New York
Shearith Israel to Offer Monthly Class on Western Sephardi Traditions
Starting in December, Congregation Shearith Israel will offer a class titled, "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Shearith Israel." Led by Shamash Zachariah Edinger, the monthly session will give members, both old and new, the opportunity to better understand the ins and outs of Western Sephardi customs. Whether you can attend or not, you are welcome to email questions to: zedinger@shearithisrael.org. More information on this and other Shearith Israel events can be found here:

http://www.shearithisrael.org/content/events-calendar

Caribbean
New Book Published on Jewish Communities of the Caribbean
The award-winning photographer Wyatt Gallery has published a new and lavishly illustrated book on the Jewish communities of the Caribbean, including the oldest synagogues and cemeteries on Barbados, Curacao, Jamaica, St. Thomas, St. Eustatius, and Suriname. Historians Stanley Mirvis and Jonathan Sarna contributed essays to the book. For further information:


For book purchase:
See a video preview of the project here:
https://vimeo.com/87747488

Suriname
Memorial Erected to Honor Victims of the Holocaust
A memorial has been erected in Suriname to honor its 105 victims of the Shoah. Though far from Nazi Europe, Suriname lost almost a fifth of its Jewish population as many from the community pursued their higher education or careers in Holland and were caught by the Nazis and murdered. Suriname’s Sephardic Jewish community dates back to the 17th Century when Spanish and Portuguese Jews moved to the area as they could own land and form their own militia. More here:

http://www.timesofisrael.com/70-years-after-the-holocaust-a-surinamese-memorial-for-caribbean-victims/
So many of you have applauded our efforts. We thank those who have sent in contributions.

If you would like to make a contribution to Kehila Kedosha Janina, please send your check (in US dollars) made out to Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum, to us at 280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002 (attention Marcia). Your donation will enable us to continue to hold services and preserve our special traditions and customs, and to tell our unique story through our Museum.

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.

PLEASE REMEMBER: WE DISCONTINUED OUR POST OFFICE BOX
ALL MAIL SHOULD GO DIRECTLY TO
280 BROOME STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10002

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