



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

March 2011 e-mail newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

In this issue, we pause and remember Greek Jews who were sent to their deaths by the Germans and the Bulgarians in March of 1943 and March of 1944. We are also honoring the memory of our Sephardic Jewish brethren who were deported by the Bulgarians from Monastir (Bitola) and other parts of the Bulgarian Zones of Occupation ("New Bulgaria"). May their names be inscribed for Eternity.



Photo taken at Auschwitz-Birkenau at the March of the Living



Jews being deported from Kavala by the Bulgarians in March of 1943



Holocaust Memorial in Thessaloniki



Jews from Monastir being held by the Bulgarians in March of 1943



Jewish women in Ioannina rounded up by the Germans in March of 1944

So many of the children deported by the Bulgarians from the Bulgarian Occupied Zone of Thrace have never been identified. This picture was taken by the Bulgarians as the Jews from Thrace boarded the cattlecars that would take them to Treblinka. We are looking to identify this little girl from Kavala who innocently holds her doll as they board the trains. Her mother is still smiling, unaware of the horrors that await them.



We apologize, again, in advance for the length of this newsletter. Some have suggested we do 2 e-newsletters a month. We will work on this. We thank Leon Saltiel and Solomon Errera for their contributions to this issue.

This newsletter, our 38th 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.

You are all invited to attend our Saturday morning Shabbat services. Please 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.

This month we mourn the passing of Milt Josephs, Leon Sabbas, and Debbie Cohen, all from the Romaniote Jewish community of New York. Milt was from the Josephs family, founders of our synagogue. Our condolences to his widow Estelle and his daughters Wendy and Lori. Leon Sabbas was born in Preveza and survived the Holocaust coming to New York in the 1950s. Our condolences to his children Anna and Abraham. Debbie Cohen was married to Joseph Ezra Cohen of Blessed Memory. Our condolences to her children, Regina Silverman and Edward Cohen.

We also mourn the passing of Avraham Robert Attal, the great bibliographer and researcher of North Africa and Greek Jewry. A librarian emeritus at the Ben-Zvi Institute, he wrote mostly (but not exclusively) on Maghreb Jewry. He made Aliya from Tunisia in 1954 and over the years, he published more than 170 articles and books. Among them was his monumental *Les Juifs d'Afrique du nord; bibliographie* (Hebrew and French) of which a companion volume of updates was published several months ago ; *La presse periodique juive d'Afrique du Nord* (Hebrew and French; *Un siècle de literature judéo-arabe tunisienne (1861-1961)* (Hebrew). His passing will be mourned by all those who cherish Jewish scholarship.

In addition, we mourn the passing of Iakovos Kambanelis (December 1922-February 2011) Greek poet, playwright, lyricist, and novelist. As a survivor of the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp, he authored a *Mauthausen* the basis of an opera by Mikis Theodorakis. He also authored at least 12 films and directed two of them. He was also known as a verse writer and for his membership on the board of the Cultural Foundation of the National Bank of Greece (MIET – *Morfotiko Idryma Ethnikis Trapezis*), along with some of the most prominent Greek artists.

MUSEUM NEWS

Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum is honored to show a rarely seen documentary film written and directed by Bob Bedford, "Ottoman Salonika," a collaborative venture of FASSAC (the Foundation For the Advancement of Sephardic Studies and Culture) with Joe Halio and Stu Fishelson. Bob Bedford is the Executive Vice Director of FASSAC, whose mission is to preserve and promote the complex and

centuries-old culture of the Sephardic communities of Turkey, Greece, the Balkans, Europe, and the United States.



“Ottoman Salonika” offers a rarely seen glimpse into the Jewish world of Thessaloniki (Salonika) before it became part of Modern Greece in 1912. A must see for all those who descend from this traditional Judeo-Speaking Sephardic world and all those who are interested in the history of Jewish life in the Balkans.

Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, Museum Director of Kehila Kedosha Janina and granddaughter of a ‘hamali’ from Salonika, will give a brief introduction to the film.

Open to the public. Entrance fee: \$5

Where: Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum, 280 Broome Street, New York City, NY 10002 (located on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, between Allen and Eldridge). For more information call 516-456-9336.

When: March 13th at 1:00

Refreshments served.

Please RSVP at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net

March 27th: 2:00: Commemoration of the Centennial of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. One hundred years ago, on March 25th, 146 workers, most of them young Jewish and Italian women, many recent immigrants to the United States, died in a horrific fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory on 23-29 Washington Place in New York City. Many of the victims were residents of the Lower East Side. We, along with other institutions on the Lower East Side (see events at the

Eldridge Street Synagogue (in this newsletter) will be stopping to honor and remember the victims. Join us.



We recently received new acquisitions for our Museum collection, all of which are now on display.

We thank Annette Binder for salvaging this photo of her grandmother's family taken in 1927. The photo was literally on its way to being thrown out when Annette recovered it. With some restoration, we now have this lovely photo framed in our Museum as part of our permanent exhibit. Thank you Annette, truly a "keeper of the flame."



We thank Belle Negrin Davis for this excellent photo of the family of Moses Negrin and Leah (Lula) Cohen, grandparents of the famous poet Joseph Eliyia. The photo was taken in 1902/1903 and Joseph appears as a toddler in the photo.



We also received two new Alefs, one from Linda Matza Silverman, the granddaughter of Sol (Shorty) Matza, and the other from Eli Jenny, son of Leon. We have both now hanging in our Museum.

On loan from the Jenny Family.



CALL FOR MATERIAL FOR NEXT EXHIBIT

Hunt down those old photos! This month we received a priceless photo of the Mevorach family from Tilda Mevorach who visited us with her Elias cousins.



Tilda's father (Albert) and his brother Michele (both standing in the back) were the only ones to survive the Holocaust. The family was deported from Kastoria to Auschwitz-Birkenau in March of 1944.

Send us the addresses where your Sephardic and Romaniote families lived (in the Bronx, Harlem, Brooklyn and the Lower East Side). If your family moved out of New York, let us know when and where to. We are compiling a data base and cross-referencing this with census and immigration records. It will give us a clearer picture of the demographic of the Greek Jewish world. We are planning "old neighborhood" reunions and this information will enable us to reunite neighbors who may not have seen each other for decades.

We continue to receive photos from "Dikoi Mas, Los Muestras" (our own).

We thank Lew Moses for these priceless photos from his mother Esther of Blessed Memory's collection. Esther DeCastros married Al Moses, joining two Yanniote families.

**Wedding of Esther Decastros
and Al Moses**



We love this photo of Esther and Al with Esther's mother Astrea DeCastros.



ΔΙΚΟΙ ΜΑΣ, LOS MUESTROS (OUR OWN) COME HOME

This month we were honored with the visits of Tilda Mevorach from Salonika, who visited us with her cousins Michael and Eric Elias, and Yaffa-Shira Sultan from the Negrin family.



Michael Elias and Tilda Mevorach



Yaffa-Shira Sultan

We love this photo of Anita Altman pointing to her relatives displayed in our Museum. It so represents what Museum is about. What other Museum can you visit and see 'your' story, 'your' family, 'your' Greek Jewish world?



NEWS OF INTEREST TO GREEK JEWS

On March 1st at 7:00 P.M. at the Sephardic Temple of Cedarhurst, Shelomo Alfassa presented his soon to be published research on Bulgarian responsibility for Jewish deaths. Below are some of the photos taken at the event (note: this important event was covered by news services around the world: Yahoo News, Athens News, Sophia Echo, Tampa Bay Examiner, United Jerusalem Foundation (Israel National News) and Wikio. Com (international news out of UK) among them.

Ending 70 Years of Whitewashing and Inaccuracies: the Bulgarian Government and its Treatment of Jews During the Holocaust
MARCH 1, 2011 7pm

DEPORTED TO TREBLINKA BY BULGARIA

Sponsored by the International Committee for Bulgarian Holocaust-Era Truth

Prominent U.S. scholars, activists and members of the Jewish community will gather to call on the government of Bulgaria to halt their continued whitewashing of the truth relating to their interaction with Jews during the era of the Holocaust.

Sephardic Jews Prior to Deportation

TUESDAY MARCH 1, 2011 7pm - THE SEPHARDIC TEMPLE 775 Beach Blvd. Cedarhurst, NY

PUBLIC PROGRAM - NO CHARGE - PRE-EVENT PRESS CONFERENCE 6pm



Photos taken at the Sephardic Temple in Cedarhurst on March 1, 2011.

CULTURAL EVENTS OF INTEREST TO GREEK JEWRY

NEW YORK

UPCOMING EXHIBITION

Images of a Lost World: Pictures & Stories of Balkan Sephardic Life

The American Sephardi Federation presents an An exhibition created by Centropa and co-presented with YIVO Institute for Jewish Research



Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 6:30pm / Exhibition and Program

This exhibition is based on the family stories and pictures pulled from Centropa's archive of more than 200 interviews conducted in Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Croatia. The pictures and stories take us back into the world of Balkan Sephardic Jewry in its last decades, and through these personal stories of going to school, falling in love and recalling family holidays, Jewish history comes to life. A program follows, moderated by Edward Serotta, Director of Centropa. Additional speakers to be announced. This exhibition was originally commissioned by the Foreign Ministry of Spain and has been funded by the Spanish Embassy in Washington, DC and Casa Sefarad/Israel in Madrid.

Tickets: \$10 General Admission/\$5 for ASF & YIVO members.

RSVP requested: 212.294.8350 x0; or info@americansephardifederation.org

Location: At the Center for Jewish History 15 West 16th St. NYC ([map](#))

15th NY Sephardic Jewish Film Festival (NYSJFF)

Sponsored by the *American Sephardi Federation*; Co-sponsored by *Yeshiva University Museum*



Opening Night: Thursday, March 10, 2011

This year's special focus on Morocco will bring feature films and documentaries to entertain and enlighten our audiences. As always, we will have a breadth of film surveying the richness of Sephardic Jewish culture with roots in medieval Iberia, the Ottoman Empire, and covering Jewish communities worldwide with post-screening dialogues. **For full program details, visit:**

SephardicFilmFest.org after January 10, 2011.

Sam Gruber from ISJM (International Survey of Jewish Monuments) will be giving a lecture on March 21st. Professor Gruber has long been a friend of Greek Jewry and was instrumental in enabling Etz Hayyim Synagogue in Crete and Kahal Shalom Synagogue in Rhodes to be acknowledged by the World Monument Fund as endangered sites, bringing much-needed funds for their restorations. Professor Gruber was also instrumental in the important project of Vincent Giordano (of Blessed Memory), "Before the Flame Goes Out."



THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY

Years of **Preserving** **Sacred Sites**

On behalf of
The New York Landmarks Conservancy
On the Occasion of its *Sacred Sites* 25th Anniversary
Restoring Splendor: The Architecture of New York Synagogues

An illustrated lecture by
Dr. Samuel D. Gruber

Temple Emanu-El
One East 65th Street
(between Fifth and Madison Avenues)
New York City

Monday, March 21, 2011
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.



Program begins promptly at 6:15 followed by a reception at 7.

Sponsored, in part, by Beyer Blinder Belle Architects and Planners LLP

Tours of the Main Sanctuary, adjacent Beth-El Chapel and the Herbert and Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica will be available by senior curator Elka Deitsch and temple administrator Mark Heutlinger.

[Click here](#) to RSVP by Friday, March 18. Please contact Meral Agish at 212.995.5260 or meralagish@nylandmarks.org for more information.

Temple Emanu-El was the recipient of a 2006 Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award, the Landmarks Conservancy's highest honor for outstanding restoration efforts.

Note: Kehila Kedosha Janina was the recipient of a 2004 Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award.

GREEK JEWS TO BE CELEBRATED AT JCC IN MANHATTAN

From Alexander the Great to the Expulsion from Spain and the Ottoman Empire: The Rich History of the Jews of Greece



Join us to learn more about Greek Jewry from **Marcia Haddad-Ikonomopoulos**, a descendant of those Sephardic Jews who directs the museum at the Romaniote Janina Synagogue on Broome Street; **Anita Altman**, deputy managing director of the Department of Government Relations and External Affairs at UJA/Federation, New York, who grew up in the tightly knit Romaniote community in the Bronx; and **Rabbi Ute Rahmani Steyer**, a descendant of both Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews of Salonika, who learned the unique melodies of those communities from her maternal grandfather, an Auschwitz survivor. Greek-Jewish refreshments will be served! *Co-sponsored by Kivunim.*

Thu, Mar 24
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

\$10.00 Member
\$15.00 Nonmember

SINGING THE PRAISES OF GREEK JEWS

Robin Hessman, the great-granddaughter of Leon Colchamiro of Blessed Memory (one of the founders of Kehila Kedosha Janina) is an accomplished film maker. Her film, MY PERESTROIKA, is opening in NY at the IFC Center 6th Ave and West 4th St for one week from Wednesday March 23 to Tuesday, March 29, 2011.



Photo from "My Perestroika"



Filmmaker Robin Hessman

Tickets can be bought online:

<http://www.ifccenter.com/films/my-perestroika/>

NEWS FROM GREECE

In February, 50 American Jewish leaders visited Greece on their way to Israel. This historic visit generated many photo shoots and numerous articles. We can only give you the highlights here.

American Jewish leaders visit Greece

A member of a delegation from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, passed a Holocaust memorial on Freedom Square in Thessaloniki, as an officer of the police's special forces looks on northern Greece on Tuesday Feb 8, 2011.



Members of the delegation visiting Greece are met the country's Prime Minister George Papandreou. (AP Photo.Nikolas Giakoumidis) (Nikolas Giakoumidis - AP) Network NewsX Profile



The visit began in Thessaloniki on February 8th.

THESSALONIKI, Greece -- *A group of American Jewish leaders has begun a five-day visit to Greece, amid an improvement in once cool ties between Greece and Israel.*

The delegation from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations visited a Holocaust memorial Tuesday in this northern Greek city. They are due to meet Prime Minister George Papandreou in Athens on Thursday.

Greek and Israeli officials say the two countries are in preliminary talks on potential energy deals involving Israeli offshore natural gas deposits.

Greece, now battling financial crisis, has traditionally close ties with Arab countries and the Palestinians.

Greece Foreign Ministry statement: <http://bit.ly/f99I2Q>

If you wish to hear George Papandreou's speech to American Jewish leaders, you can hear it in its entirety on this link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNpa-qAVFrc&feature=youtube_gdata_player

UPDATES ON GREEK-ISRAELI RELATIONS

Thessaloniki mayor hopes to attract Israeli tourists

By GIL SHEFLER

02/10/2011 05:15

"We cannot look into the future without knowing the past. Not for nothing was it called the Jerusalem of the Balkans."

Thessaloniki Mayor Yiannis Boutaris has always felt close to the Jewish community of his city, he told The Jerusalem Post at the Israel Trade Fairs Center on Tuesday.

"My first lover in high school was Jewish," the white-haired mayor, who exudes an air of sophistication, recalled as he lit up a cigarette. "She later got married in Paris, but I had several Jewish friends in class."

The dapper Boutaris wants to bring Israeli tourists to Thessaloniki to observe its rich Jewish heritage and taste the port city's cosmopolitan atmosphere.

"Thessaloniki is looking back and accepting its identity," Boutaris said earlier at a press conference. "We cannot look into the future without knowing the past. Not for nothing was it called the Jerusalem of the Balkans, and it could be that again."

Sitting beside him was Hasdai Kapon, one of the city's seven deputy mayors and its first senior Jewish municipal official since World War II.

"About 1,300 Jews live in the city," Kapon said. "There are two synagogues and a small but very good Jewish community, a Jewish elementary school and well-preserved cemeteries. We have Jews come and visit from all over the world."

Jews are believed to have first settled in Thessaloniki in ancient times, but the arrival of Sephardic Jews after their expulsion from Spain in 1492 rejuvenated the community, and for the next several hundred years it often had a Jewish majority.

Their prominence was such that the city's port would officially close for Shabbat.

"There were 50,000 Jews before the war," Boutaris said.

"Sephardic Jews who started arriving 500 years ago found a home in Thessaloniki. The Jewish element was very important in commerce and culture – and let's not forget that the leader of the socialist movement in Thessaloniki was a Jew."

Thessaloniki lost its Jewish majority around the turn of the 19th century due to immigration into the city by Greeks and Turks from the countryside, and emigration by its community members to places like North America, which offered better financial opportunities.

During the Holocaust, about 96 percent of the Jews of Thessaloniki were murdered by the Nazis in concentration camps – a loss that Boutaris said left an indelible scar on his city.

From his earring and the tattoos of his astrological sign (Libra) on his knuckles, it is apparent that the current mayor of Thessaloniki is not your average politician. Born into a family of winemakers, he has a degree in oenology.

Before entering politics, he was a businessman, and his first steps in public life were as a conservationist and animal rights activist.

"In Greece we had a practice of abusing brown bears," he said. "We pushed the Agriculture Ministry not only to prevent their abuse, but also to preserve their habitat. You cannot save the bears without preserving the forest."

Following his involvement in a successful campaign to protect a landmark building in Thessaloniki, he decided to run as an independent candidate in the mayoral elections last year and, with the backing of the socialists, emerged triumphant.

Israel is one of the first places Boutaris has visited since he was sworn into office on January 1.

"I was last here in 1975 and went to two kibbutzim – I know they aren't doing well now – to import drip irrigation to Greece," he recalled. "Back then, Tel Aviv didn't have all these high-rise buildings. I love the research and development Israel has done and the Bauhaus architecture."

The campaign promoting Israeli tourism to Thessaloniki comes at a time when the number of Israeli tourists to nearby Turkey has dropped dramatically because of political tensions between the two countries. But Israelis who choose to go to Thessaloniki to avoid interacting with the Turks might end up disappointed.

"We have many Turkish tourists who come to Thessaloniki," Boutaris said. "After all, it is the birthplace of Mustafa Kemal," the father of modern Turkey.

A group of American Jewish leaders is currently on a five day visit to Greece. The delegation from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations visited a Holocaust memorial Tuesday in Thessaloniki, and is due to meet Prime Minister George Papandreou in Athens on Thursday.

Greek and Israeli officials say the two countries are in preliminary talks on potential energy deals involving Israeli offshore natural gas deposits.

AP contributed to this report.

<http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Op-EdContributors/Article.aspx?id=207390>

**A role for Greece
By A. TZIAMPIRIS
02/08/2011 22:28**

The emerging informal Israeli-Greek alliance has the potential to bring Israel closer to Europe and act as a source of regional stability.

Without a doubt, recent developments in the Middle East have had a negative impact on Israel's security. The popular uprising in Egypt casts doubt on all existing arrangements, while its outcome remains unknown; it could well end up producing another hostile Islamic country. At the same time, Hizbullah has strengthened its grip on Lebanon, relations with Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Turkey keep deteriorating, Iran appears steadfast on its path to acquire nuclear weapons and Hamas is entrenched in Gaza.

Within this framework of uncertainty, insecurity and danger, the emerging informal Israeli-Greek alliance has the potential to bring Israel closer to Europe and act as a source of regional stability.

Over the past few months, and following Binyamin Netanyahu's historic visit to Greece last August (the first by an Israeli prime minister), cooperation between the two countries has been broad and multifaceted. It covers the realms of defense (joint air force exercises), culture, tourism (a 200 percent rise in Israelis visiting Greece) and economics (with several projects being discussed in fields such as agrotechnology and energy).

Also noteworthy is the mission that Athens underwrote during the recent Carmel wildfires. It included a 70-member rescue operation comprised of crewmen, pilots, firefighters and several planes. A bilateral cabinet meeting is to be convened this spring in Israel announcing several major new projects.



This rapprochement enjoys broad bipartisan support in Greece, and hence is essentially administration-proof (a qualitative difference from the Turkish-Israeli alliance of the 1990s, which was opposed by the Islamists from the beginning).

In addition to mutually beneficial aspects, this new alliance can contribute to regional stability in a series of concrete ways.

First, by continuing to maintain excellent relations with the Arab and Muslim peoples of the Middle East, Athens can contribute to the maximum extent possible (for a country of Greece's size) toward alleviating regional conflicts and facilitating peace efforts.

Prime Minister George Papandreou's attempts to visit Cairo during the uprising offers an example of the kind of action that could take place.

Second, Greece can help ease tensions between Turkey and Israel. This may sound surprising, but we should keep in mind that Athens maintains good relations with Ankara, and fervently supports the country's European perspective. The elimination of all strained regional relations is ultimately in its best interest.

Third, there is the huge Leviathan natural gas field. The construction of an undersea pipeline possibly connecting Leviathan to Cyprus and Crete is apparently being discussed.

Such a development could be a game changer. It would certainly alter Israel's position vis-a-vis Europe, and lessen the continent's energy dependence on Russia (especially significant now, since the Nabucco gas pipeline project appears problematic).

In addition, it is not necessarily farfetched to envision a network of pipelines bringing together Israel, Greece, Cyprus, Egypt (if it stabilizes in a responsible fashion), a future Palestinian state (if there is gas in its putative territorial waters) and Iran (if there is ever a regime change there).

For the time being, such long-term projects hinge on solidifying Israeli-Greek relations, as well as on several key actions. For example, Greece should declare its own exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and reach an agreement with Cyprus on their mutual EEZs. By doing so, the Leviathan pipeline project will be propelled forward.

Furthermore, Greece and Israel have to get to know each other in a much better way. Frequent visits by journalists, politicians, diplomats and youth groups are now necessary. Understanding can be deepened through the contribution of think tanks and academics, perhaps on an institutionalized basis; and businesspeople should be at the forefront of significant cooperative ventures.

Finally, Athens can create a legal framework allowing Israeli citizens who can prove descent from Greek Jews who survived the Holocaust to claim Greek (and hence EU) citizenship (a precedent exists for Greeks from former Soviet republics).

Such an inclusive gesture would probably solidify cooperation among the two peoples for at least a generation.

An informal Israeli-Greek alliance deserves to be better understood and fully supported.

The writer is assistant professor of international relations at the University of Piraeus. The views expressed in this article are his own.

Unfortunately, all has not been positive during this period. World-renown Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis has been an embarrassment to all Greeks (both Jewish and non-Jewish) with his recent anti-Semitic remarks.

<http://www.jpost.com/JewishWorld/JewishNews/Article.aspx?id=208291>

'Zorba the Greek' composer: I'm anti-Semitic
By BENJAMIN WEINTHAL AND JPOST.COM STAFF
02/15/2011 11:36

Wiesenthal Center demands Theodorakis be stripped of In-ternational Music Prize; composer: "US Jews behind Greek economic crisis."
Talkbacks (6)

Mikis Theodorakis, best known for composing the musical score to the film Zorba the Greek, recently declared on Greek television that he was "anti-Israel and anti-Semitic." "Everything that happens today in the world has to do with the Zionists," was one such comment. Another was "American Jews are behind the world economic crisis that has hit Greece also." Theodorakis also blasted Greek Prime Minister George Papandreu for establishing closer relations with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who was guilty, he said, of "war crimes in Lebanon and Gaza."

The Simon Wiesenthal Center on Tuesday reacted to Theodorakis' "obsessive anti-Jewish hatermongering." In a letter, it demanded the International Music Council (IMC) strip the Greek composer of his 2005 IMC-UNESCO International Music Prize.

The Wiesenthal Center said that the Greek composer, who penned yet another diatribe filled with anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist assertions on Monday, "offends all Jews, now including the identity of many of his predecessor awardees, such as Leonard Bernstein, Daniel Barenboim, Benny Goodman, Gidon Kremer, Yahudi Menuhin."

Dr. Shimon Samuels, the Weisenthal Center's director for international relations, said that such self-declared racists "must be scorned and marginalized. They can no longer serve as icons for their peers or for the younger generation."

Kyriakos Loukakis, the Greek ambassador in Israel, wrote in an e-mail to The Jerusalem Post on Monday, "I would like to inform you that, as a matter of principle, we do not comment on opinions of private citizens. Secondly, the Greek government has always opposed extreme views. Thirdly, relations between Greece and Israel are very friendly."

WE WOULD PREFER TO REMEMBER THEODORAKIS WHEN HE WAS A FRIEND OF THE JEWS. WE WOULD PREFER TO REMEMBER HIM FOR HIS MUSICAL GENIUS AND NOT HIS UNACCEPTABLE, ANTI-SEMITIC RHETORIC.



[T'Oniro Kapnos The Ballad Of Mauthausen](#)

YouTube
1/24/2010

REQUESTS FOR OUR HELP

I am an American-born journalist living in Jerusalem and I am a subscriber to your newsletter. I write for Hadassah magazine, especially its Jewish Traveler column. My most recent column, in the January-February issue, is about Cyprus. I am planning a trip to Albania in May to research a story for the Jewish Traveler column. I would be grateful if, in your next newsletter, you could mention that I am seeking information about sites of Jewish interest and any information about Jewish life in Albania, in the past and now.

Thank you for your help.

**Esther Hecht
shragat@bezeqint.net
esther.hecht@gmail.com
www.estherhecht.wordpress.com**

Ed Gaffney looking for the ability to show his film "Empty Boxcars" in Israel & Greece. There is the need for Hebrew & Greek subtitles. There must be a knowledge of both English and Ladino (Judeo-Espanyol) in order to translate. Please contact us at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net and we will pass the info on to Ed.

Jerry Pardo & Roberta Holander are looking for descendants of Israel Mioni (Mione), oldest son of Elia and Zoe. Israel was the brother of Mordechai & Avraam and was married to Sophie. His children are thought to be Julie, Louis & Manny. Please contact us if you have any info.

We have this marvelous picture of a group of Jewish students in Egypt. The individual who sent us the photo is wondering if anyone who lived in Egypt remembers the Nikokiris family.



LOWER EAST SIDE EVENTS

We, at Kehila Kedosha Janina, have not grown in isolation. We are part of the renaissance on the Lower East Side and have grown with the support of others. In this, and future issues of the monthly e-newsletter, we will try to keep you informed of other events on the Lower East Side.

ELDRIDGE STREET SYNAGOGUE



Photograph: Peter Aaron/Esto

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 AT 3PM

Rosh Chodesh Concert - Music by and for Women

In Jewish tradition, the New Month, Rosh Chodesh, has long been associated with honoring women. Today, this holiday is observed by women gathering to celebrate the cycles of the moon and the rhythms of their lives. In keeping with this custom, we present a unique celebration of women's voices with a concert of music by and for women. Legendary Jewish female musicians Adrienne Cooper, Lauren Brody and mother-daughter dynamos Susan Watts and Elaine Hoffman Watts perform klezmer, jazz and folk music. The concert will place women front and center in a space redolent with history, tradition and spirit.

Information:

Tickets are \$20 adults; \$15 students/seniors. To RSVP, email hgriff@eldridgestreet.org or call 212.219.0888x205. Visit our on-line calendar for other great events.

Sunday, March 27 at 3pm

Triangle Fire Tribute - 100th Anniversary Event

On March 25, 1911, a fire broke out in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory on 23-29 Washington Place. The doors of the factory had been locked from the outside leaving the workers, mainly young Jewish and Italian women, trapped inside. 146 people perished. This tragic event led to the establishment of important fire codes and safety rules.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, we present a moving afternoon of music and poetry inspired by the conditions of the sweatshops and the tragic fire. 146 people will portray those who perished. Musicians Deborah Strauss (violin), Jeff Warschauer (vocals & guitar), and Joey Weisenberg (drums) will set to music the works of the Sweatshop Poets, who in the early 1900s wrote forcefully about the deplorable working conditions of the immigrant masses. Yiddishist Caraid O'Brien and others will read from the works of the Sweatshop Poets in English and Yiddish. The concert will end with the singing of El Maley Rahomim, the Hebrew prayer traditionally recited at the gravesite. Each of the actors will then announce the name of the Triangle victim they are representing and light a memorial candle.

Join the March:

At 1:45 on the day of the Museum's Triangle Fire Tribute, 146 people will take on the role of the people who perished in the fire and march from the site of the Triangle Fire at 23-29 Washington Place in the Village to the Museum at Eldridge Street at 12 Eldridge Street. If you are interested in participating, please contact Laura Ross at 212.219.0888 x205 or email laura.ross89@gmail.com.

Information:

Tickets are \$20 adults; \$15 students/seniors. To RSVP, email hgriff@eldridgestreet.org or call 212.219.0888x205. Visit our on-line calendar for other upcoming events.

LOWER EAST SIDE JEWISH CONSERVANCY

Visit the LESJC website at www.nycjewishtours.org for upcoming events.

TENEMENT MUSEUM

For full information on a series of programs at the Tenement Museum, access their website at http://www.tenement.org/vizcenter_events.php

Correction to last newsletter: the photo of the synagogue in Tunisia was actually one of the synagogues in Rome. Our apologies.

NEW ITEMS FOR SALE

Richard Solomon, son of Sol & Rhea Solomon, an attorney with his own radio station (a true renaissance man) has started to record items of interest for Greek Jewry. Professionally recorded and packaged, the first item for sale is a CD radio interview with our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikononopoulos. Marcia covers all aspects of the history of the community here in New York and many of the specifics that make the Greek Jewish world so interesting. The CD

sells for \$10 plus \$3 shipping and handling (within the continental United States). You can also download the CD on:

Itunes and <http://www.digstation.com/AlbumDetails.aspx?albumid=ALB000069114> for a digital copy and on CD Baby for a physical copy: -800-289-6923 (or, of course, through us at the Synagogue or by mail.)

A NEW ADDITION TO OUR JEWELRY COLLECTION

Ed Ledner has created another beautiful piece, an exclusive for Kehila Kedosha Janina.

Bronze Pendant:
\$40
With gold chain
\$50



ADDITIONAL REQUEST FOR HELP

The Museum in Trieste (Carlo and Vera Wagner Museum of the Trieste Jewish Community) is looking for help in the following: new information or data concerning the migratory movements from Corfu to Alexandria, Venice and Trieste.

We would appreciate, in addition to contacting Trieste Museum on this, you share the information with us (kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net).

Via del Monte, 5/7 34122 TRIESTE – ITALY
Tel. / Fax. +39040633819
<http://www.triestebraica.it/museoebraicotrieste>
email museumcarloeverawagner@gmail.com

The Trieste Museum plans to open its exhibit on September 4th (the European day of Jewish Culture) and will be open to the public through January 2012. Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum has been working with the Carlo and Vera Wagner Museum of the Trieste Jewish Community and is planning a trip to Trieste and Venice in early September to view this exhibit. Let us know if you are interested.

Websites of interest:

Additional information on archaeological finds off the coast of Albanian Epirus:
<http://www.archaeology.org/curiss/>

Thanks to the cooperation between Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum and Yad Vashem, the story of Ioannina Jewish losses in the Holocaust is now told in detail:
<http://www1.yadvashem.org/yv/en/education/interviews/batis.asp>

Sakis Negrin was born in Ioannina and is an accomplished musician. You may catch Sakis on his website: www.reverbnation.com. He performs with the Little Choir from the Jewish Museum of Greece and there are many songs in Ladino.

**Finally, after all this news, enjoy the Last Sunset of the Millenium Concert in Santorini.
We thank Matilda Kalef Ezra of Ioannina for this.**

Manos Hadjidakis at Thera (Santorini)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJmPzuRCIPQ>



BEST WISHES FOR A JOYOUS PURIM

**Traditional Yanniote Megalat Esther
On loan to Kehila Kedosha Janina by
Henry Watkin of the Ganis family**

Circa mid-19th century



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