



### February 2013 e-newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

**Happy Purim to All! On a holiday commemorating survival, this issue is dedicated to the survivors of the Holocaust in Greece. On January 27<sup>th</sup>, the International Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust, communities in Greece, and Greek Jews here in the United States stopped and remembered. It has been 68 years since Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated but our scars are still fresh.**



**The Matsas Family from Ioannina Greece**

This newsletter, our 61<sup>st</sup> will, as always, cover news regarding Kehila Kedosha Janina and news concerning Greek Jewry. We hope you find our newsletter interesting. Your feedback is of utmost importance to us. If you missed previous issues, they can be accessed on our website ([www.kkjsm.org](http://www.kkjsm.org)).

We now reach over 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](mailto: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](mailto:papusoup@mindspring.com)) so we are sure that our Kiddush (traditional Greek Jewish Kosher foods) is sufficient. If you wish to sponsor a Kiddush for a special occasion or an Adara, contact Sol.

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### Passings

This month we lost too many. Our sincere condolences to the families of the following members of our community:

Nina Eliassof, the widow of Alex Eliassof, maiden name Matza, daughter of Sophie and Sam Matza, granddaughter of Sacalina Yohanan of Arta.

Ben Lafazan, grandson of Abraham Lafazan

Sam Sansolo, from the Jenny Family

Irma Fisher Asser (widow of Murray Asser). Irma's late husband Murray was a nephew of Rabbi Simon Asser, an early rabbi at KKJ.

Debbie Almeleh Alcabes

Victoria-Gabai-Miles. Victoria survived the Holocaust in Greece as a hidden child and came with her sister to New York after the war. She was brought over by the past president of KKJ, Joe Josephs. Her late husband, Henry, was a Holocaust survivor from Ioannina.

Hy Yomtov, husband of Raye Crespi-Yomtov, father of Barry and Nelson, brother of Morris Yomtov and Dinah Lafazan (of Blessed Memory).

Our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

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### Simchas

We are very pleased to announce the birth of Matan Emanuel Glaser. Matan is the son of Eli Glaser and Pnina Laric, of Silver Spring, MD and the grandson of Michael and Roberta Laric of Columbia MD, and Rick and Rachel Glaser, of Owings Mills MD. He is the 20<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild of Emily Velelli, of Baltimore MD, formerly of Patras, Greece. His grandmother, Rachel Velelli Glaser was also born in Patras.

His middle name is in honor and memory of Papou Emanuel Velelli, also of Patras.

### Past Museum Events

**We were honored to host The Renaissance Street Singers in our sanctuary at Kehila Kedosha Janina on January 13, 2013. How moving to hear the music of Salomon di Rossi resounding in our synagogue.**



**It was so good to see old and new friends gathered together for this beautiful event.**



**Artist Judy Moonelis and friend**



**Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Attas**



**Jesse Colchamiro & Koula Kofinas**

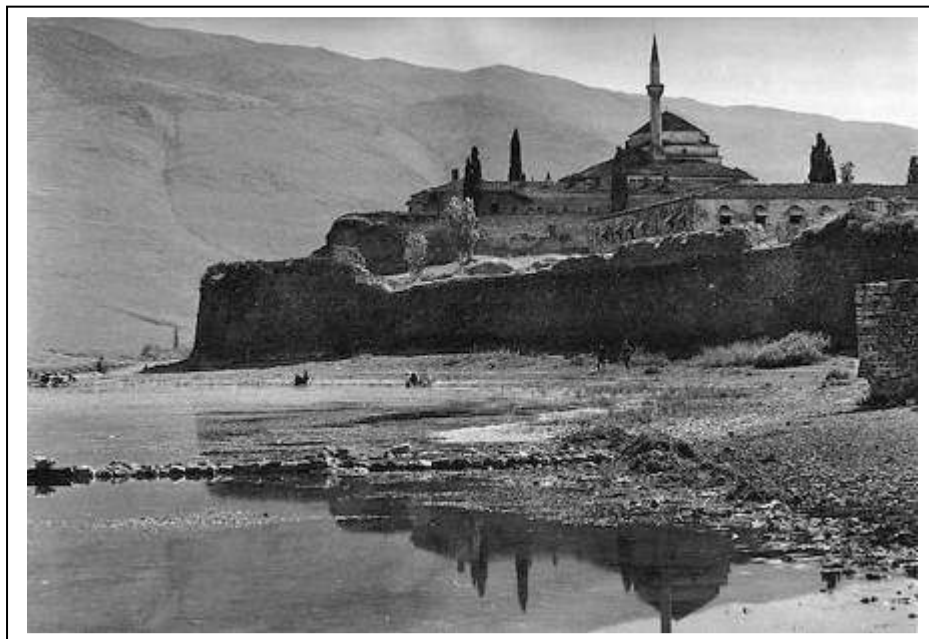
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### Upcoming Museum Events

**On March 5<sup>th</sup>: We will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ioannina becoming part of Modern Greece. There will be a special exhibit for this event and a special book sale in honor of the celebration.**

**On February 21, 1913, Ioannina became part of Modern Greece after 480 years of being part of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. Our exhibit will explore what life was like for Jews in Ioannina as they "went to bed a Turk and woke up a Greek."**

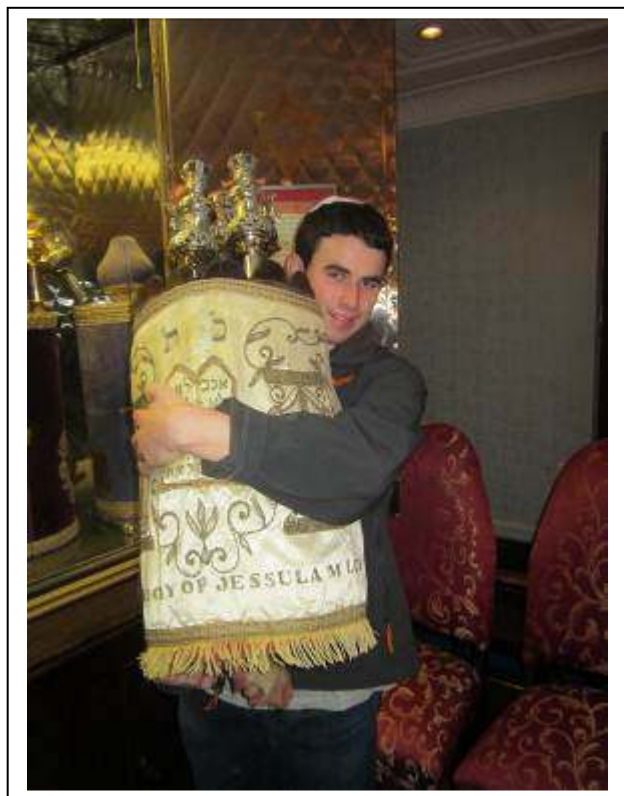




**Ioannina 1913**

### **Aikoi Mas, Los Muestros (Our Own) Come Home**

**It is always emotional when one of our own visits the synagogue. In January, we were honored with the visits of Morris Sassoon (great nephew of Mordechai Frezis) and his son Barry, and Daniel Reiser (great grandson of Rabbi Jessoula Cohen) and his fiancée Leah.**



**Barry Sassoon**



**Daniel Reiser and Leah Solomon**

## Visitors continue to flock to Kehila Kedosha Janina

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**Morris & Barry Sassoon with Sol Kofinas and visitors from West Hempstead Jewish Center**



**Visitor from Potomac Maryland**

## Upcoming Events on Lower East Side

**L.E.S.P.I.**

and

## **ITALIAN AMERICAN MUSEUM**

Present:

***UNA NUOVA VITA:  
Italian-American Immigration and Culture  
in New York City's Lower East Side***

A lecture by Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa, Founder and President, Italian American Museum

Tuesday, February 5, 2013 - 6:30-8:30 PM  
at the Italian American Museum  
155 Mulberry Street (corner of Mulberry and Grand Streets)

Dr. Scelsa's lecture will focus on Italian immigration between 1880 and 1920:  
who they were, why they came to New York's "Little Italy,"  
and what their cultural impact was on our city.

***Please join us!***

**FREE ADMISSION** - Reservations required at [info@LESPI-nyc.org](mailto:info@LESPI-nyc.org)

Light refreshments will be served after the lecture

For more information see: [www.italianamericanmuseum.org](http://www.italianamericanmuseum.org) or [www.lespi-nyc.org](http://www.lespi-nyc.org)





# Andrée Aelion Brooks

**The People of the Kitchen: A History of Jewish Food &  
Jewish Women Challenging the World**



## **The People of the Kitchen: A History of Jewish Food: (midday classes)**

**February 26 – March 12 2013: 3 times on Tuesdays 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM**

From ancient times to present day, Jews have enjoyed their particular cuisine (*kosher or not*). In the Mediterranean/Sephardic world it was a passion for eggplant dishes and a more relaxed attitude towards Passover foods. During the Inquisition, culinary habits became a telltale sign of secret Jews. How did the idea of “Jewish food” develop? This three-part mini course will take you on a fascinating journey through time and place, looking at many of the different customs and traditions.

For more information, or to register, please call the JCC at: **646-505-5708** or **[CLICK HERE](#)**

## **Jewish Women Challenging the World: (evening classes)**

**February 12 – March 12 2013: 5 times on Tuesdays – 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

For 2,000 years, Jewish women have been the innovators behind countless social, political, and artistic endeavors. From the Jewish women philosophers of ancient Alexandria, the conversa women of the Renaissance period, to the fiery revolutionaries whose voices affected hearts and minds during the chaotic politics of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, savor the discovery of new and lesser-known faces.

For more information, or to register, please call the JCC at: 646-505-5708 or **[CLICK HERE](#)**

**Andrée Aelion Brooks** is well-known to many of you as an historian, author and lecturer. These two mini courses at the Manhattan JCC have a strong Mediterranean/Sephardic component to each of them. More information about Andrée Aelion Brooks is on her website: [AndreeAelionBrooks.com](http://AndreeAelionBrooks.com)

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## **Upcoming Events of Interest to Greek Jews**

### **Washington DC Area**

**We are honored that our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, will be presenting a program at the Greater Washington Jewish Genealogical Society on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. The event is open to the public and is free of charge for first time attendees at the GWJGS. Others are asked to contribute \$5.**

### **The Stones Speak: Recent Genealogical Findings from the Bulgarian Zone of Occupation in Greece**

**Due to the brutality of the Bulgarians in the Occupied Zones of Northeastern Greece (Thrace and Macedonia) there are few descendants to shed light on Jewish genealogy (from 97-100% of the Jewish population perished in the Holocaust). Only amid the weed-covered tombstones do we get a glimpse of centuries of Jewish presence. Join us as Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos reveals recent genealogical findings from the Bulgarian Zone of Occupation in Greece.**



**Jewish Cemetery in  
Kavala**



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**Past Events of interest in the New York Metropolitan Area**



**The Honorable Consul General Of Greece  
Georgios Iliopoulos, Nikos Alexiou, Alexandra  
Kavouras and Panos Adamopoulos**

**Nikos Papaconstantinou (far right) and other  
dignitaries at the event**



**Queens College launched a groundbreaking oral history project on Thursday to collect the stories of Greek immigrants. Participants in Thursday's launch included (from left to right) Georgios Iliopoulos, Consul General of Greece in New York; Nicholas Alexiou, Oral History Project Director and Queens College sociology professor; Alexandra Kavouras, Queens College student and Greek Club president; and Panos Adamopoulos, entrepreneur and president of the Athenian Association of Astoria.**

**Read more: <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/queens/new-oral-history-project-greeks-new-york-city-article-1.1247090#ixzz2JItVtWfz>**

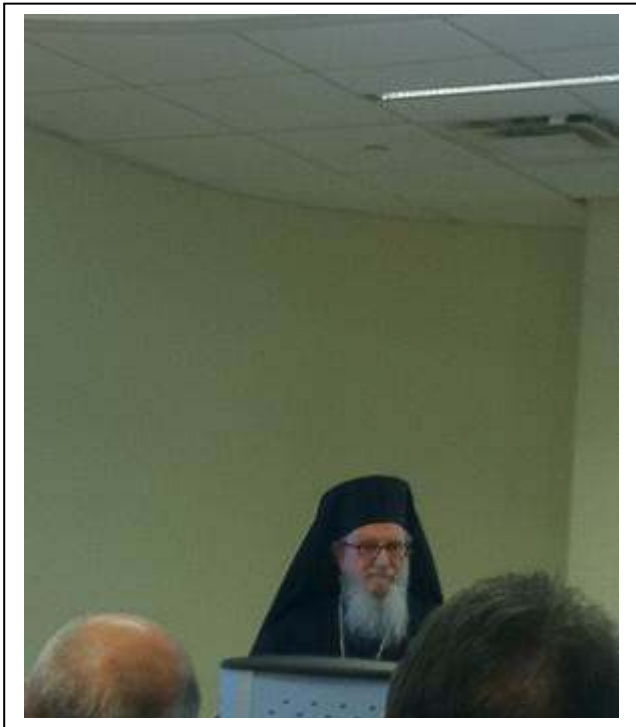
**Nikos Alexiou will be coming to Kehila Kedosha Janina at the end of February to conduct interviews with Greek-Jewish immigrants to the USA so that our community can also be part of this important oral history archive. If you are interested in taking part in this, please contact us at [kehila\\_kedosha\\_janina@netzero.net](mailto:kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net).**



## Holocaust Remembrance Day

### New York

January 28, 2013



Top Left: Archbishop Demetrios  
Top Right: Rabbi Murciano  
Lower Left: Consul General Georgios Iliopoulos  
Lower Right: Professor Alexander Kitroef who spoke on  
Athens during the Occupation

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### Article in Huffington Post

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gregory-c-pappas/holocaust-remembrance-day\\_b\\_2563697.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gregory-c-pappas/holocaust-remembrance-day_b_2563697.html)

### Gregory C. Pappas

President, The Pappas Group; Publisher, Greek America Magazine; Founder, Greek America Foundation

On Holocaust Remembrance Day, Remembering Also the Sacrifices of Those Who Tried to Stop It

## Salonika

In Salonika, survivors and dignitaries gathered at Plateia Elefterias on January 28<sup>th</sup> to remember the victims from Salonika. Among other things, there was a march from Liberty Square to the Old Station and an exhibition of archival material.



This year a delegation of Thessaloniki city council members will participate in "The March of the living," honoring the victims of Nazi atrocities. The march takes place every year from Auschwitz to Birkenau and, as pointed out by Mayor of Thessaloniki, Yiannis Boutari, speaking at the council meeting, students and dignitaries from Thessaloniki will participate this year.

On January 27<sup>th</sup> events will take place on the Memorial Day of Greek Jewish Martyrs. On the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of March, on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first deportation from Thessaloniki, a series of events will be organized by the municipality.

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### Statement By the Washinton DC Oxi Day Foundation



The Washington Oxi Day Foundation released the following statement on the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day – January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013:

*"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Jewish community on this International Holocaust Remembrance Day, as we remember the over six million Jews and others who were victims of this horrible evil.*

*We Greeks have a particular duty on this day. We must keep alive the memories of those lost, particularly from Greece, and stand strong against anti-Semitism and hatred in all forms as we draw inspiration from the courageous actions of many of the Greek people during the Holocaust.*

*We must remind ourselves and our progeny to emulate the courage of Archbishop Damaskinos of Athens, who according to the Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, was the only national religious leader in a Nazi occupied country to publically oppose the Holocaust during the Holocaust. Under Damaskinos' leadership,*

***the Church of Greece publically condemned Hitler's plans and urged Greek Orthodox monasteries, convents and parish priests to provide shelter to Jews, saving thousands of lives.***

***We also draw inspiration from the Metropolitan of Zakynthos and the Archbishop of Volos who risked their lives saving their entire Jewish communities. And, we lament the disastrous circumstances, described by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, which engulfed the large Jewish population of Thessaloniki leading to their tragic loss.***

***We must remember that during the Nazi occupation of Greece, when one in ten Greeks lost their lives, Archbishop Damaskinos said publically that he 'condemned any attempt to discriminate or create racial or religious differences.' He went on to describe the Greek attitude toward their Jewish community by saying, 'Our common fate both in days of glory and in periods of national misfortune forged inseparable bonds between all Greek citizens without exemption...and we lend our hearts to those in need.'***

***The Holocaust reminds us that such unspeakable evil can exist. For our Jewish friends, for ourselves and for all of humankind, we can never forget."***

### **Special TV Shows on Greek TV on the Holocaust on January 27<sup>th</sup>**

#### **"The Holocaust" in "theme nights" of ET1**

**"The Holocaust" was the general title of "Theme Nights" dedicated to the genocide of Jews during World War II and was televised by ET1, on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 19.00 . The discussion, which was broadcast at 20: 30 and moderated by journalist Nick Megrelis, attempted to elucidate and analyze the events of the era and deposited tribute to victims of the atrocities of the Holocaust.**

**Guests were be Mr. Isaac Mizan –survivor of Auschwitz and Birkenau-and Mrs Rozina Asser Pardo, one of the "hidden children" of this time, and author of the book "548 days with another name." They shared their personal experiences.**

**The award-winning film "Sophie's Choice" by Alan Pakoula was screened at 21:30.**

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### **News From Jewish Greece**

#### **Ioannina**



**Kehila Kedosha Janina is proud to announce that at our last Board of Directors meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> a motion was unanimously passed to match the first \$5000 raised for the repair of the roof on the synagogue in Ioannina. All donations should be made out to Kehila Kedosha Janina and mailed to us at 280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002. Please note on the check**

(or in a note) that this is for the Ioannina synagogue roof repair. Please note that if you already gave in response to the appeal in the January e-newsletter or in the Association of Friends of Greek Jewry appeal, your donation will be applied to this matching fund.

Last time we asked for help (in 2011) for the repair of the tikkim in Ioannina we were able to raise \$17,000. We pray that we will be as fortunate this time.

**Remember, you do not have to be a Yanniot to give!**

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### Athens

In January, the Athens Jewish Community honored the Jewish Community in Salonika in a moving ceremony, reminding many that so many of the present Jewish Community in Athens originated in pre-WWII Salonika.



Members of the Jewish Community of Athens, including Benjamin Albala and (in second row) past President of KIS, Moses Konstantinis, surround David Saltiel, President of KIS (Central Board of Jewish Communities) and Jewish Community of Thessaloniki.



David Saltiel and Benjamin Albala (President of Jewish Community of Athens)

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### News from Greece

#### ND and SYRIZA in dispute over proposal for tax for church expenses

New Democracy and SYRIZA have clashed after a leftist MP proposed the introduction of a new tax to pay clerics' wages.

Speaking at a conference organized by the theology department at Aristotle University, SYRIZA lawmaker Tasos Kourakis spoke in favor of a separation of the Church of Greece and the state with the church funding itself rather than via state coffers.

Kourakis added that another option would be to impose a church tax on all Greeks who declare themselves to be Christian Orthodox. The MP said the revenues raised could be used to cover church costs and clerics' salaries. Similar taxes apply in other European countries, including Germany.

However, New Democracy issued a statement condemning Kourakis and SYRIZA, likening the proposal to "Stalinist measures" and arguing that it would be unconstitutional as it would discriminate between Greeks based on their religious beliefs.

Kourakis responded by pointing out that Greeks already pay for clerics wages through their taxes.





**Tasos Kourakis**

Since the economic crisis broke out in Greece, the subject of how the Church of Greece is funded has surfaced in the public debate quite regularly.

The church argues that it pays considerable amounts in property taxes and has passed large tracts of land to the state in return for its public funding.

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**Internet sites of interest**

Don't miss Devin Naar on youtube and his lecture about his Uncle Salomon, lost in the Holocaust, deported from Salonika.

<http://youtu.be/sGkmhkImDWo>

New website on touring Greece:

[www.greecevirtual.gr](http://www.greecevirtual.gr)

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**Upcoming Events of Jewish Interest in Greece**

*The Consulate General of the United States cordially invites you to the seventh annual lecture - discussion in memory of David Tiano on*

*"The Annihilation of Jewish Greeks in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace: History of the Southern Balkans and the building of the nation state"*

*with Paul Isaac Hagouel, Ph.D.*

*on Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.*

*at the Tiano Room of the U.S. Consulate General*

*43 Tsimiski street, Commercial Center Plateia, 7th floor*

*Thessaloniki*

*David Tiano was an employee of the U.S. Consulate since 1920. During the WWII he was arrested and executed by the Nazi occupation forces on February 7, 1942.*

**RSVP at: 2310-242905, ext. 3107 Please present picture ID at the entrance The event will be in Greek**

Gershon Harris  
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel



This year, the holiday of Purim falls on Saturday night and Sunday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, and in synagogues all over the world, the scroll of Esther (Megillat Esther) will be read. There will be parties, people will exchange traditional gifts of food and give to the poor, and many will literally become drunk with joy in celebrating the thwarting of the nefarious plot by the evil Haman to exterminate all Jews living in the ancient Persian empire of King Ahasuerus, by the actions of the Jewish heroine Queen Esther and her older cousin and provider, "Mordechai the Jew".

Anyone familiar with the story can easily see the parallels between the Purim story and the Jewish experience in more modern times, from the very plot to try and exterminate the Jewish people to the heroism and miraculous victory of Esther, Mordechai and the Jews of the Persian empire against their foes. And indeed, one of the main reasons the Sages decided to establish Purim as a permanent holiday was because of this miracle, and the need to make sure that every generation both recognizes and celebrates our gratitude to God for saving us time and time again from utter destruction, though often the price has been almost too terrible to bear. Still, ultimately the Jewish people and heritage continue to survive, despite all odds and in defiance of almost any logic, considering the persecutions and near-genocide Jews have faced for so many centuries.

Yet for all its obvious connotations, God's name is not mentioned a single time in the entire "Megillah!" This rather strange phenomenon is often overlooked as we read the rather intriguing and even exciting Purim story, filled with 'coincidences,' close-calls, palace intrigue, personal rivalries, jealousies, betrayal and more. And in fact, there seems to be evidence that despite the tradition that the book was authored by Esther herself and its canonization into the Hebrew Bible, there were those that questioned its authenticity and validity because of the very fact that God is not mentioned as one would expect, since the miraculous nature of the events as they unfold are more than obvious. Even in the Septuagint – the ancient Greek translation of the Bible – the book of Esther includes another 6 chapters (that never appeared in the original Hebrew), one of which includes prayers for salvation offered to God by Mordechai and Esther.

So how can God's name not appear? In fact, this very "weakness" of the Purim narrative is actually its very strength, according to many of our Sages: The Talmud itself sees Esther's name, which is a derivative of the Hebrew word for "hidden," as symbolizing God's guiding hand "behind the scenes." The great Kabbalist, Rabbi Yitzhak Luria Ha'Ashkenazi (the "Ari") found the letters of God's name at the beginning of certain verses, and many commentators saw the recurring term "the king" as hinting at God's intervention. This last interpretation is so accepted that there is a popular custom that when writing a Megillat Esther, the term "the king" – "Hamelech" in Hebrew, is always written at the head of a column in order to hint at God's hand. Finally, Rabbi Yoel Bin Nun, a well-known educator and religious leader in Israel, has commented that the very fact that God's name is not explicitly mentioned in the Megillah shows that God is really everywhere. In fact, had His name appeared, we might mistakenly conclude that God only acts when He can be seen, while the Megillah shows that He is always there, everywhere, even when we can't – or won't see Him. After all, isn't this the secret of the Jewish people's miraculous survival? Though not always apparent, and in fact in certain times in history, seemingly totally absent, in the end, He is always there. Happy Purim!

## News of Interest To All

We are so proud of our dear friend Angie Baldodimas Bartolomei who is part of a recent series of events in Skokie Illinois where different ethnicities in the Chicago area are celebrated (Coming Together in Skokie). This year the Hellenes in the city will be highlighted. What a great idea for other municipalities to emulate.

Video:

<http://www.niles219.org/district/district-information/videochannel-16/ctis13-demo-page>

Booklet:

[http://issuu.com/karyn\\_malench/docs/ctis\\_program\\_booklet\\_2013?mode=window](http://issuu.com/karyn_malench/docs/ctis_program_booklet_2013?mode=window)

Dr. Angelyn Balodimas-Bartolomei  
Associate Professor-Education/Comparative Ed  
Coordinator ESL Teachers' Endorsement & MALLC  
North Park University School of Education  
3225 W. Foster  
Chicago, Illinois 60625

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This year we are hoping that Greece will take part in a conference on Jewish Heritage in Europe. For more information, check out: [www.jewish-heritage-europe.eu](http://www.jewish-heritage-europe.eu)  
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We are proud of the son of Rifka Nachmias. Do access his site:

*The founder of [www.Mesora.org](http://www.Mesora.org) -- Rabbi Moshe Ben-Chaim -- the son of Rivkah Nachmias, whose parents were Molly and William Nachmias, from Janina. He has been running Mesora since its founding, 15 years ago. Hundreds of thousands visit the website yearly. Last year he published a book on Torah fundamentals entitled "Judaism: Religion of Reason": <https://www.mesora.org/religionofreason>*

Regards, Mesora / The JewishTimes  
Strengthening Jewish Life of All Ages Worldwide

Mesora of New York, Inc.  
POB 153 Cedarhurst, NY 11516  
(516)569-8888 ph  
[www.Mesora.org](http://www.Mesora.org)  
[office@Mesora.org](mailto:office@Mesora.org)

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We have been asked to post the following:

*To Whom It May Concern (Dear Friends):*

*I am deeply concerned that 69 years ago there was the biggest mass murder of Czechoslovak citizens in the history of our country. 3.792 innocent men, women and children were killed in the gas chambers of the concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau on 8 March 1944 . Another 6.500 men, women and children were killed during the nights of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of July 1944. Over 10.000 Czech and Slovak citizens died during those three nights.*

*A vocal group GESHEM ([www.geshem.cz](http://www.geshem.cz)) has addressed many music groups in the Czech Republic to take part at the very special event: a happening that would commemorate this*

***tragedy so that we all would sing together at town squares around all the county three of the songs which were sung by some of those people going to death. Today there are over 70 choirs and musical groups making preparation for the event and also additional programs (lectures for schools, a narrative movie and a documentary film of holocaust, reading the names of local victims, meeting with people who survived, and concerts of related music etc.)***

***Songs (Hatikva - previously Israeli folk song, now the national anthem, Shema Yisrael - expression of the old faith and the Czech national anthem, are full of hope, optimism, joy and spiritual strength. Let's sing them the same way to express our hope so that the remembrance of the horrible event of our history would bring catharsis and awaken the most precious values of us.***

***Please, inform people in your country who have some connection to that tragedy that our happening is also to express our strong sadness about each lost life there as well as the tragic consequences for their families. Depending on convenience you can take part in the happening as well by singing the three songs at your place. The scrolls are available at [www.enoty.eu](http://www.enoty.eu)***

***After the event we would provide you with the complete information about the result. Do not hesitate to ask any question regarding this activity.***

**Sincerely Yours**

**Marek Slechta  
Conductor og Geshem Vocal Choir  
Leader of Let's Go! A cappella Group  
Lecturer of Holocaust and Anti-Semitism**

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### **Requests**

**Theo Pavlides passed on this request from Australia:**

**"My name is Emilios Kyrou. I was born in the village of Sfikia near Veroia in 1959 and migrated to Australia in 1968. I am now a judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria.**

**In October 2012, I self-published an autobiography, 'Call me Emilios', about my experiences as a child migrant.**

**If you are interested, there is plenty of information about me and my book on Google.**

**One of the chapters in my book describes my parents' memories of the Second World War and the ensuing Greek Civil War. The following extract sets out what my parents remember about the Jewish families from Veroia who were protected in Sfikia.**

***The Germans spent all day searching houses for resistance fighters and Jewish families. They burnt down seven houses, either because they were the biggest or because they suspected that Jewish families were being sheltered there. When the Germans found a gun, rifle or bullets in a house, they burnt the house down and arrested the head of the family. They took those whom they arrested to a prison in Thessaloniki.***

***The Germans searched for Jewish families in Sfikia because they knew that a large proportion of Veroia's Jewish population fled to neighboring villages after the German invasion of Greece. Some of the Jewish families were shopkeepers or merchants and were relatively well-off.***



***Initially, two Jewish families came to Sfikia from Veroia and were sheltered by the villagers. Later, another three or four families came.***

***One of the Jewish families came to Sfikia to live with the postman. He delivered the mail between Veroia and surrounding villages, and got to know the family when he visited Veroia. He agreed to take them into his home to protect them. His house was among those that were burnt down by the Germans.***

***Two Jewish families came from Veroia to live with my aunt, Hamaidi. Hamaidi was my father's brother, Vasilios' wife .... She was 11 years old at that time. Her father, Apostolos Mastoropoulos, found them hiding in the Agios Giorgios Church and took pity on them because they had infant children who were shivering in the winter cold. The two men, Milton and Simeon, were shoemakers who had a shop in Veroia. Milton was married to Vergina, and his sister, Stella, was married to Simeon. When the Germans entered Veroia, the two couples fled to Sfikia with only the clothes that they were wearing.***



**The Barbouta (Jewish Quarter) 1927**

***The two couples stayed at my aunt's house for about a year. They slept in one room, while my aunt's family slept in the other room. Milton, Vergina, Simeon and Stella replaced their fine city clothes with less glamorous farming clothes so as not to appear conspicuous. They followed the routine of my aunt's family and blended in.***

***The Germans never discovered the Jewish families that stayed in Sfikia because no German collaborators lived in the village. After the War, the Jewish families returned to Veroia. When Milton and Simeon did so, they found squatters living in their houses. They regained possession of their houses and shop, and made a free pair of shoes for my aunt when she visited them. However, they left Veroia after a few years. My aunt does not know where they went. One of the Jewish men given refuge in the village was a teacher named Lazaros who became the village teacher in 1944 when the Germans no longer posed a threat.***

**I am very keen to find out more about the Jewish families who went to Sfikia and what happened to them after the war. Can you give me any guidance?**

**Since the publication of my book, I have learned that one of the Jewish men that stayed in our village was named David and that he was 25-30 years of age. I also learned that the postman's name was Dimitrios Miliopoulos and that Lazaros was sheltered by the family of Leonidas Margaritis.**

**Kind regards, Emilios Kyrrou"**

**Any information should be sent to us at [kehila\\_kedosha\\_janina@netzero.net](mailto:kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net)**

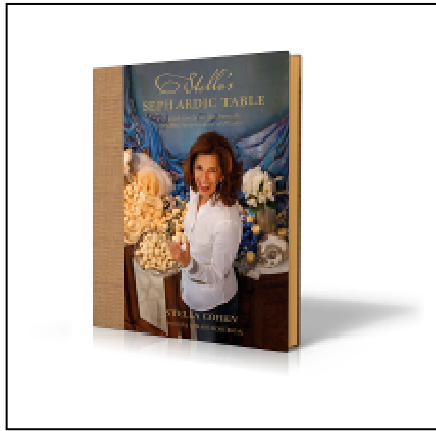
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## New Books For Sale

**All checks for books should be made out to Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum and mailed to us at One Hanson Street, Huntington NY 11743**

### **Stella's Sephardic Table by Stella Cohen**

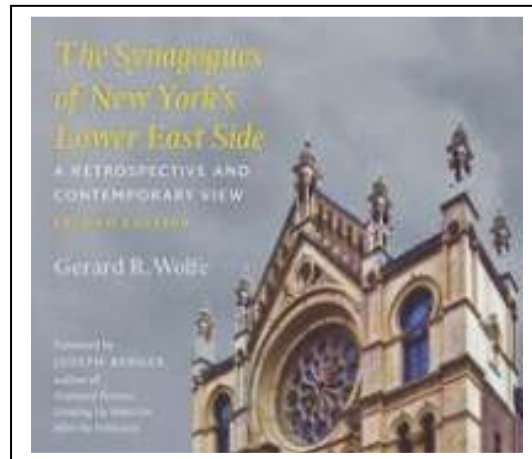
**Beautiful Hard Cover  
Coffee Table Book of  
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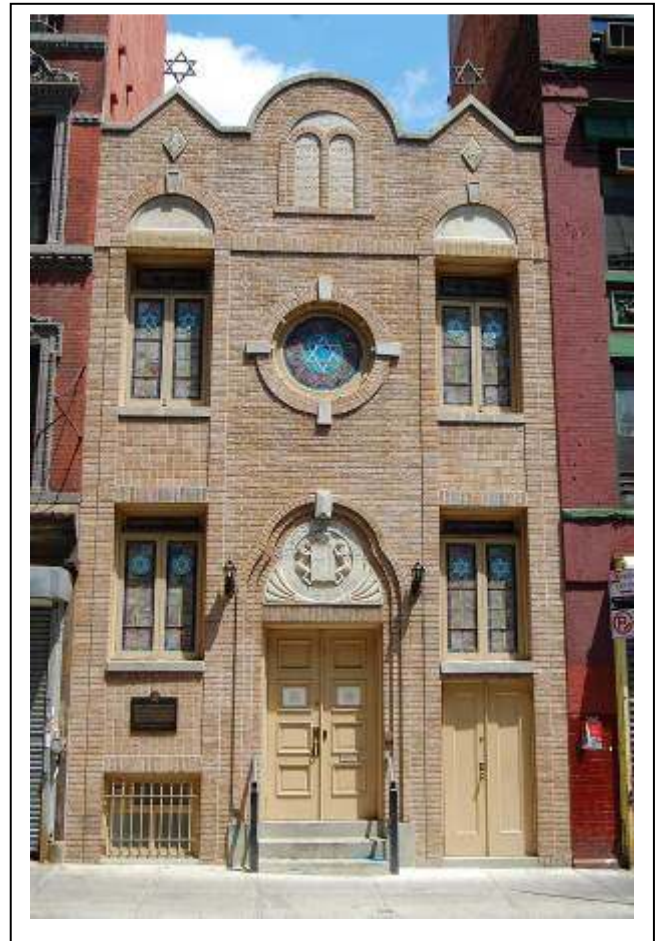


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**So many of you have applauded our efforts. We thank those who have sent in contributions.**

**If you would like to make a contribution to Kehila Kedosha Janina, please send your check (in US dollars) 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.**



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Kehila Kedosha Janina, 280 Broome Street, New York NY 10002  
[kehila\\_kedosha\\_janina@netzero.net](mailto:kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net)**