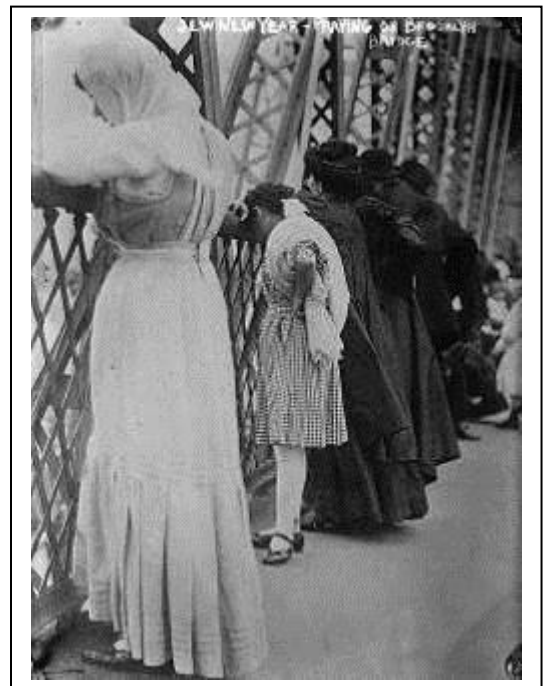




October 2016 e-newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

We wish our friends a Happy and Healthy New Year surrounded by family and friends. May 5777 bring peace throughout the world. May we continue to grow and flourish. May our wealth be counted, not in material possessions but, rather, in the love of family, friends and community. L'Shanah Tovah, Xronia Polla, Anyos Muchos y Buenos. Attached to this e-newsletter you will find our Holiday schedule. Do join us for services. Our seats are free and our hearts are open.



Preparing for the High Holidays on the Lower East Side, early 20th century.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.kkjsm.org and our new e-mails: info@kkjsm.org and museum@kkjsm.org.

This newsletter, our 91st 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.

Passings

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Esther Ackos Winthrop (3/15/1935-9/20/2016), mother of our Board of Trustees member, Marc Winthrop. Esther was born in Preveza Greece and raised in World War II Athens, Greece. As Jews, she and her mother, father, three sisters and one brother hid out in one room. When her father went to the synagogue to register the family he was rounded up with the other men and sent to Auschwitz where they were murdered. After the war, with most of their property and belongings gone, Rosa, Esther's mother, a true heroine who had held the family together, brought the family to St. Paul Minnesota. Esther became a registered nurse and earned a Master's degree in counseling and had a distinguished career as a nurse clinician in cardiology and pediatrics at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth, MN. Esther is survived by many loving people including her husband of 56 years, Harvey, daughter Pamela Lauer and husband Bill, their sons David and Joseph, son Marc and his wife Susan along with children Jackson and Kaitlyn, son Robert, and his wife Anna and sons Max and Jordan. She was predeceased by her parents Rosa and Menachem Ackos, brother, Sam Ackos, her sister Evelyn and husband Jay Ettinger, sister Mary Calof, brother-in-law Sherman Winthrop, her sister-in-law Tevy Winthrop and her granddaughter Talia Joy Castellano. Donations can be made to the Talia Fund at the Band of Parents in honor of Esther. www.bandofparents.org.



Esther, Simantov & Evelyn Ackos



Ackos family in Athens

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Jessie Bacolas, a long-time member of the Kehila Kedosha Janina congregation. Jesse was among those who joined our community in the 1950s, coming from Greece as a young man. The picture below is of Jesse, his brother Morris, Eli Hadjis and Ari Negrin. Jessie is survived by his sons, Frankie and Elliot, sister Anna Sarfatti, sister-in-law Stella Bacolas and members of the Yamali and Couenca Families"



We mourn the passing of William Nachman at the age of 90. William was the son of Max Nachman and Rachel Dostis, both of Ioannina.



William and Madeline Nachman

We mourn the passing of Suzanne Brody McDermott, daughter of Stella Leontsini. Stella's family was from Corfu and Ioannina.



Suzanne Brody McDermott



We mourn the passing of Moise Rahmani, Rahmani family. His paternal grandmother was a Jew from Rhodes. His family lived in Belgium for the then Belgian Congo, where a colony of Greek-Sephardic Jews was created, but the Congo Crisis of 1960–1966 led to his family emigrating. Resident in Belgium since 1980 Rahmani worked as a diamond dealer before in the 1980s launching the quarterly review Los Muestros (www.sefarad.org) which publishes news of the Sephardic community around the world. Rahmani has researched and written numerous publications on the Jewish communities of Belgian Congo, many who like his family, left their ancestral homes from the Greek island of (then Ottoman Turkey) Rhodes for the former Belgian colony of Congo before the wars in the early 20th century. Our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, was a regular contributor to Los Muestros. May his memory be for a blessing.



Simchas

Let us celebrate a community simcha, the 25th anniversary of the arrival of the Albanian 37, thirty seven Albanian Jews, all of whom had their roots in Ioannina, survived WWII in Albania with the help of Albanian Moslem citizens and were brought to the USA after the fall of communism in Albania. The Sisterhood of Janina, under the leadership of its former President, Mollie Cohen, helped sponsor the immigrants, find them housing and financial support. It became a true American success story and an example of the unbelievable work of the Sisterhood, both past and present. Contact Rose Eskononts to become a member (RoseGEsk2@aol.com).



Recent wedding in Washington DC attended by members of the Albanian 37 and their children

We celebrate the engagement of Emmeline (Colchamiro) Pappas and Edan Donenfeld. Emmeline is the daughter of Pearl Colchamiro Pappas and Walter Pappas, the granddaughter of Oscar and Muriel Colchamiro (both Z"l), the great-granddaughter of Elias Colchamiro and Speranza Matza Colchamiro (both Z"l) and the great great-granddaughter of Jessoula ben Mattathias and Rachel Galanos (both Z"l). The Colchamiro, Matza and Galanos families were all from Ioannina.



Isaac Cohen and Elias Colchamiro

Emmeline and Edan

Congratulations to Eve Gani and William Zernik on the birth of their first child, Emma. Eve is the great-granddaughter of Rebecca Matza and Ellie Ganis.



Eve and Emma



Matsas Family in Ioannina-pre WWII

Congratulations to Hy Barouch on his 100th birthday. Hy received an honor from the NYC Council for this momentous occasion.



We congratulate Laurie Sansola Saks and Michael Saks on the birth of their grandson, Shane Mathew Zipkin. The proud parents are Mallory and Mitchell Zipkin. Shane is the great grandson of Samuel Sansola and Mildred Jenny Sansola [obm], the great-great grandson of Leon Jenny and Katie Abolafia, (Leon's family from Ioannina and Katie's from Smyrna) and the great-great-great grandson of Morris Jenny and Stamoula Battino Jenny (both Yanniotes).



Aikoi Mas, Los Muestros (our own) come home

We were honored with a visit of the Hasids from Israel. We first met them in Corfu in 2015 at our event on the island of Ereikousa where we honored the island for saving a Jewish family. The Hasids were members of the family that was saved.



Peretz and Sigalit Hasid with Marvin Marcus

As always, visitors continued to flock to Kehila Kedosha Janina

We were honored with a visit from a lovely, bright couple from Glasgow, Phillip and Shulamet Spain.



Synagogues, both local and far away, find our venue a perfect visiting experience.



A visitor from Monsey, NY

We love our annual visit from Temple Beth Shalom in Framingham, Massachusetts. Thank you Rabbi Bazer for making us an annual stop on your trip to New York City.

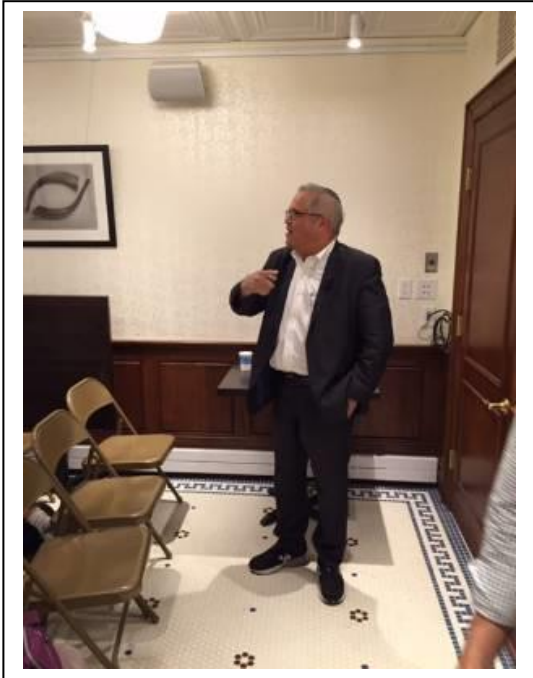


On September 18h we hosted a delightful Brandeis group from Queens for one of our traditional kosher Greek Jewish lunches.



Past Events at Kehila Kedosha Janina

Dr. Mark Meirowitz's lecture on Turkey was very well attended. We always look forward to these informative events.



The Greek Jewish Young Professionals Network hosted Chef Jason Kaplan (of Yanniote and Saloniklis background) in a cooking class on Rosh HaShanah Romaniote and Sephardic dishes.



Upcoming Events of Interest at Kehila Kedosha Janina

Kehila Kedosha Janina is honored to host the presentation of a newly released historical novel on the Occupation of Greece and the plight of Greek Jewry.

"Hidden in Plain Sight"

Join us on October 23rd at Kehila Kedosha Janina

**280 Broome Street
New York, NY 10002**

At 2:00 pm

Author will be present for book signing

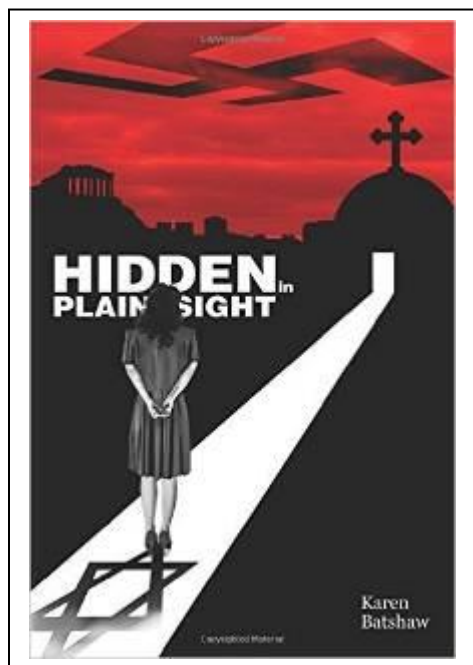
Refreshments will be served

"As Nazis expand their domination of the European continent, nearly sixty thousand Greek Jews mistakenly believe they are safe.

Anna, a young Jewess from Salonika, has gone to live in Athens. Trained as a doctor, Anna knows if the German army invades, she will no longer be allowed to practice medicine at the hospitals.

With great anguish, Anna masks her faith and her vocation to live as a Christian and avoid arousing any suspicion. Anna falls in love with Alexander, an Orthodox Christian.

Documenting the terrible brutal occupation of Greece by the Nazis, Hidden in Plain Sight shines a light on the plight of Greece's Jews and the brave attempts of the Archbishop of Athens to protect them. Carefully researched and expertly plotted, this novel's attention to detail and compelling characters will appeal to fans of historical fiction and those of Jewish faith or Greek heritage."



Autographed copies of the book will be available at \$12. If you need to have the book mailed to you, Postage and Handling is an additional \$5 (within the continental USA).

Honoring Our Families

As a new part of our monthly newsletter, we will honor one of our founding families. This issue we will honor the Colchamiro Family.

Half the Jewish community of Ioannina would immigrate to the USA from 1902-1924. They came seeking a better life for themselves and their children. Initially, most settled on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The Colchamiro family was typical of this immigration.

It all began with the marriage of Jesoula Colchamiro and Rachel Galanos in 1865 in a small city in northwestern Greece called Ioannina. Jesoula, like many other Jews in the city, was engaged in the textile business. He would buy and sell fabrics and, as legend has it, was so picky in selecting his merchandise that his family and friends said that it was as if he was meticulously clearing the house of hametz before Pesach and reciting the kalchamira prayer.



Leon and Julia Colchamiro and Family

This, "kalchamira", would become his nickname and, as so often happened in Ioannina, this nickname would become the surname of his descendants. Jesoula and Rachel would sire eleven children, over 80 grandchildren, and great-grandchildren too numerous to count. His descendants would have made him proud. The present generation of Colchamiro [as the name was transcribed in America] is composed of teachers, professors, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, writers, philanthropists, filmmakers, writers, engineers and architects. But, Jesoula and Rachel would have been most proud that over a century and a half later, their descendants have not forgotten their roots.

For more on the Colchamiro family and the role they have played as founders of our New York community and the role they continue to play as members of the Board of Trustees of Kehila Kedosha Janina, visit our website (www.kkjsm.org) and click on the link for "Previous Exhibits" under "Museum and Exhibits."



Rae Dalven



Leonard, Elliot and Jesse Colchamiro



Ezra Bakolas and Dinoula Colchamiro Bakola



Invitation to the circumcision of David Colchamiro

The Colchamiro's married into many other Romaniote families (Bakolas, Dalven, Cohen, Levy, Negrin, Eliezer, Mazza, Ezra and Matza), along with early Sephardic families (Abulafia, Varon and the Cohens of Kastoria).

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

It is with great sadness that we report the anti-Semitic vandalism of the outside walls of the synagogue in Ioannina. Swastikas were spray-painted on the stone walls. The vandalism was denounced by the municipal government of Ioannina, the Jewish Community of Ioannina, the Central Board of Jewish Communities of Greece and the Prime Minister of Greece, Alexis Tsipras, among many others. We, in the Yanniote diaspora, join our voice to this denunciation. During our visit to Ioannina in October we will confer with the Jewish Community and the municipality to find a solution to this recurring problem.



Athens

On September 4th there was a ceremony in the Athens' War Cemetery honoring Jewish soldiers who fought in Greece during WWII.



Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel



Rosh Hashanah, which ushers in the special period known by all Jews as the "High Holy Days", or "Days of Awe", will be celebrated this year on October 3rd and 4th. Jews from every denomination are quite familiar with the rather somber theme of Rosh Hashanah as being the day the fate of each person is put on "probation", as it were, by God, with the "final verdict" – either being sealed in the "Book of Life" for the coming year or not – being decided on Yom Kippur, based on our transgressions and how much we have done or are willing to do to repent and repair them.

But one of the most central and ancient themes of Rosh Hashanah often overlooked is that on this day we actually coronate, or perhaps better said, renew the coronation of God as King of the universe. This is not only reflected in certain mandatory changes in some of our prayers' wording to describe God as king and a king's role in judging and disciplining his people, but also in the blowing of the shofar, which is not only meant to awaken us to repentance, but also to proclaim the renewed sovereignty of the ultimate Ruler and Judge of the entire the universe. Yet why is this necessary? After all, we believe that God is omnipotent. It would be – and actually was - a relatively simple matter for God to proclaim himself king: all He had to do was create a world, populate it with all manner of living things, and rule over them. True, one can argue that any self-proclaimed king needs nothing more than power and the ability to subjugate those under his authority. But the truth is, in Jewish terms, this alone does not make Him a king, whether in the temporal or spiritual sense of the term.

No matter how many sheep a shepherd controls, how many terrified subjects oppressed by a cruel tyrant, or even how many disciples a wise person or teacher may have, none of these aspects make them king, because submission or reliance on them comes from the fact that their respective subjects are compelled to submit to them, since without each entity's total and unequivocal 'sovereignty', none of them could even hope to exist, whether physically, spiritually or both. In Jewish thought, this is not true sovereignty, which cannot be compelled. In Jewish thought, a true sovereign is one whose subjects freely choose to submit to him or her, not only out of need, fear, love or even appreciation of his or her greatness, but because they have consciously chosen to crown a particular individual as king. And as amazing as it may sound, what is true of an earthly king is also true of the One Heavenly King, who was actually the first one to realize – and implement – this idea! God understood that His sovereignty would only be true and complete if His subjects would believe in Him and His ways, what philosophers call "imitatio Dei" – the religious precept of emulating and imitating God's ways of morality, mercy and righteousness - in order to make the world a better place, and even ensure its continued existence.

The Kabbalists teach that this was the main reason God created man--a creature endowed with free choice, who is both the furthest from, and closest to, God: Furthest, because man is a free and independent being who can even to rebel against his maker; closest, because man is a free and independent being as only is God free and independent. G d created man, "dust from the

earth," the last and lowliest of His creations, and "blew into his nostrils a breath of life" which is the very "image of G d." Rosh Hashanah commemorates the sixth day of creation, when God created man. Though God had already presided over a world that submitted to His rule, He created man as the only being with the freedom to choose or reject God. God "needed" man, not only to fear and love Him, but also to recognize and implement His authority and kingship over the world by actively "renewing" God's kingship every year on the anniversary of man's very creation.

In fact, just a few moments after the first man's creation, the Zohar tells us that Adam "saw that all creatures feared him and followed him, as servants do their master. He then said to them: "You and I both, come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before G d our maker." At that moment, when the first man chose G d as his king, the original purpose of creation came to fruition, infusing God's work with life and vitality. So when we enter the synagogue this year to pray, beg forgiveness, repent and listen to the mighty, yet simple, blasts of the shofar, let us keep in mind that we are also celebrating – and renewing - coronation of God as King of the Universe and our commitment to morality, justice and the eternity of the Jewish people. Shanah Tova!

Kehila Kedosha Janina has taken the initiative to create a new cookbook, one that will not only print traditional recipes from the Romaniote and Sephardic Jewish world that now makes up our community but, also tell the family stories behind them. We call out to you to send your recipes to jewishgreekrecipe@gmail.com along with the stories behind the recipes. Sara Crocker and Jason Kaplan have graciously offered to help us make this book a success.

Searching for the names of the young women in this photo. All we know is that they were from the Levy Family.



Stewart Asser has asked our help in identifying the couple in this wedding photo.



Searching for information about this purse and talleth bag, both among the family heirlooms in the estate of Dorothy Lagary Naphtali. We, especially, would like to have the translation on the talleth bag and to know if the purse is from Ioannina.



Correction

This photo was originally published as coming from the Yohanan (Johanan) family when, in actuality, it was from the Belell family that married into the Yohanan (Johanan) family. Again, we seek help in properly identifying people in the photo.



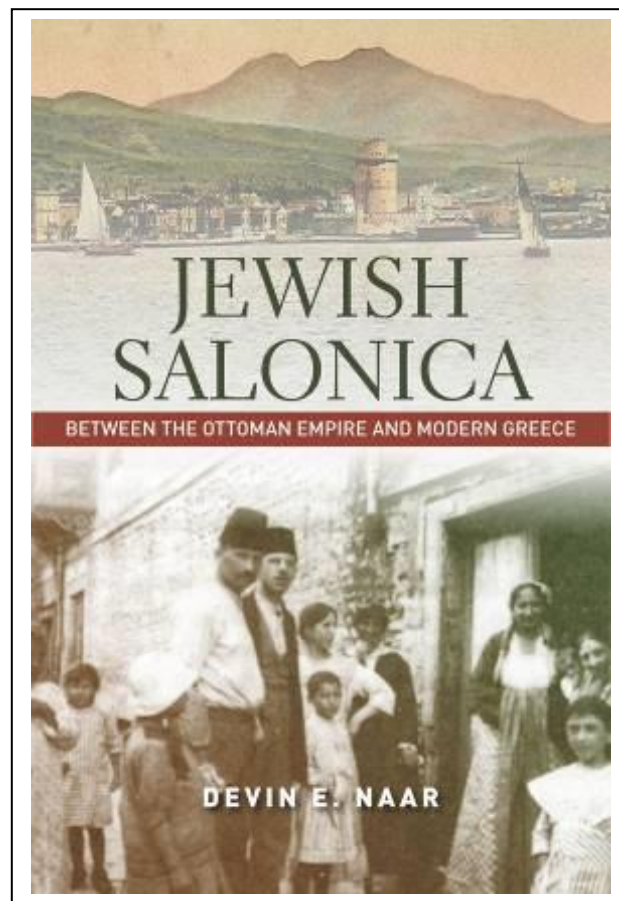
New Items for Sale

Custom made bookend
depicting Kehila Kedosha
Janina

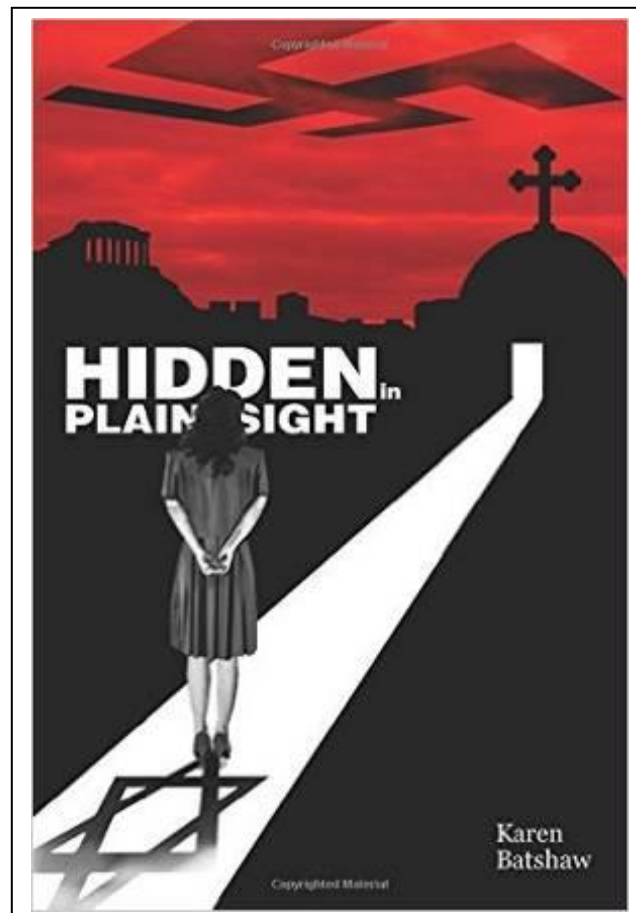
\$18 plus \$5 P&H



\$20 plus \$5 P&H



\$12 plus \$5 P&H



For all items, checks should be made out to Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum, and mailed to the same at 280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

Items of Interest on the Internet

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/holocaust-survivor-greece-synagogue-tourists_us_57d191ece4b06a74c9f341ed

Holocaust survivor from Rhodes annually returns to the island

"Never again," 86 year-old Auschwitz survivor Sami Mondiano says, calmly yet firmly, as he addresses a group of tourists in the Kahal Shalom synagogue on the Greek island of Rhodes.

Modiano and his wife of 58 years, Selma Doumalar, travel from their home in Rome back to the island every summer. Between July and September, they spend their mornings — with the exception of Saturdays — greeting visitors from across the globe at the synagogue.

"I come here every summer to tell the story of what I lived through, because it must never happen again."



<http://www.ekathimerini.com/212055/article/ekathimerini/community/untangling-the-tale-of-a-jewish-wwii-orphan-in-Thessaloniki>

Fascinating true story of Jewish WWII orphan in Thessaloniki.

"Just a few days before the mass deportations of Thessaloniki's Jews to Nazi concentration camps began in the cold tail-end of winter 1943, many Jewish parents left their children in the care of the Aghios Stylianos Foundling Home for their protection. Unable to bear the separation, most took their children back; but some stayed. One of them was David Barzilay, born on March 4, 10 days before the first death camp train left the northern port city.

What happened to the baby that was declared by the foundling home as being "of unknown parentage" and survived the Holocaust? How many more Jewish families tried to save their children in this way and what kind of life did the youngsters go on to have afterward?

These and other such questions came to social anthropologist Aigli Brouskou's mind as she studied the Aghios Stylianos archives for her book "Logo tis kriseos sas charizo to pedi mou" (Because of the Crisis I Give You My Child), published by the Scientific Society of Child and

Adolescent Care. The answers came later with painstaking research at three official archives, while the evidence pertaining to one particular case turned out to be very revealing: It allowed a name to be erased from the long list of Thessaloniki's Holocaust victims; shed light on fabricated records; allowed the survivor to rewrite his autobiography; and exposed the complex and often conflicting roles of those who saved lives during the Nazi occupation."

Finally, we would like to send our congratulations to the newly elected Board of the Central Board of Jewish Communities of Greece, committed to helping the small Jewish communities to survive, supporting the survivors of the Holocaust and working on education of the Holocaust in Greece to fight anti-Semitism.

May G-d give you all the strength to succeed in your extremely worthwhile endeavors:



**President: David Saltiel
First Vice President: Benjamin Albala
Second Vice President: Victor Eliezer
General Secretary: Moses Eliasaf
Alternate General Secretary: Marsel Solomon
Treasurer: Daniel Benardout
Alternate Treasurer: Makis Maisis**

Members:

**Israel Rousso
Solomon Parente
Moris Magrizos
Zaxarias Matathias
Manos Alhanatis**

Alternate Members

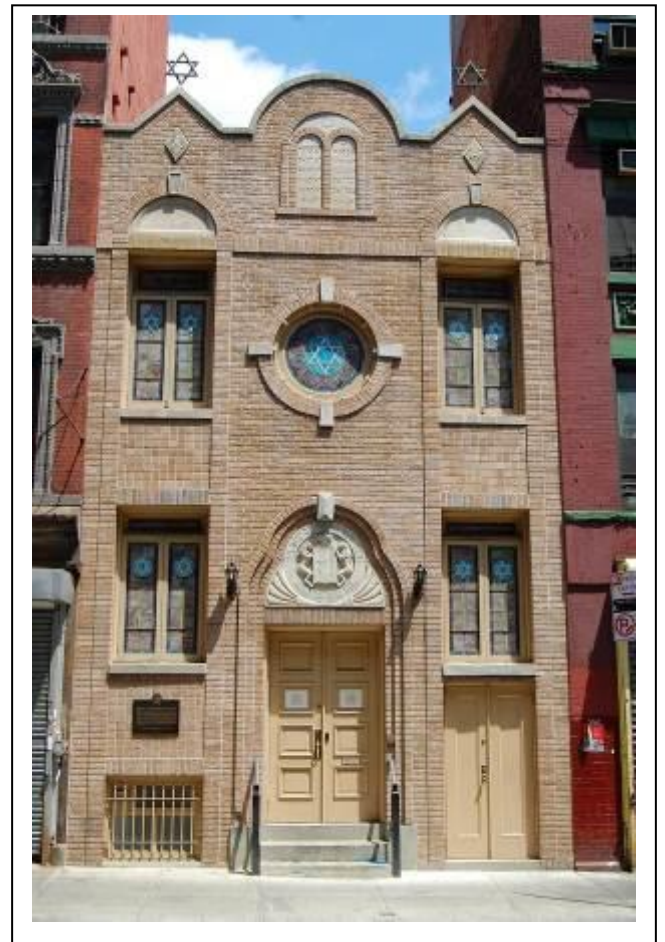
**Leon Saltiel
Albertos Yomtov
Sakis Leon**

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
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