



# Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

February 2012 e-mail newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, most European countries stop and remember the victims of the Holocaust. This, our 49<sup>th</sup> issue, is dedicated to their memory.

**Rebecca Malta DeCastros  
Of Blessed Memory**

**Deported from Ioannina  
March 25, 1944  
To Auschwitz-Birkenau**



This newsletter, our 49<sup>th</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 mourn the passing of Ann Eliasof Matza, from the Eliasof and Matza families of Ioannina.

Rebecca Camhi Fromer, author and co-founder of the Magnes Museum in Berkeley, passed away at the age of 84. Rebecca documented the Holocaust in Greece in many of her writings.

Our condolences to their respective families.

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### Births

Mazal Tov to Gershon Harris on the birth of his 10th grandchild, a boy, on Shabbat January 28th.

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### Simchas

Raymond Modiano celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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### **Δικoi Mas, Los Muestrros come home**



Theodor Pardo from the Pardo family of Thessaloniki



**As always, visitors continue to flock to Kehila Kedosha Janina**



**Brooklyn senior group**

**Upcoming Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum Events**

**Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00**

**We have started a new series of programs at Kehila Kedosha Janina, "Tell Us Your Story." Based on the premise that we, at Kehila Kedosha Janina, had a special story to tell, and were fortunate to have the venue and the opportunity, we are now offering others the same.**

**The first in our series of programs will be a presentation by Dimitra DeFotis.**

***Ottoman Roots***

***Join New York journalist Dimitra DeFotis for a Q&A and exclusive presentation of photos and adventures from a recent solo voyage in search of her Greek Christian grandparents' Ottoman town, which is now an isolated Muslim village in Turkey. Dimitra promises fascinating tales about silk, refugees, graves, lies and love circa 1915.***

**No entrance charge....refreshments served.**

## Upcoming Events on Lower East Side

### The Bialystoker Home:



**Past, Present, Future  
Panel Discussion**

**Sunday, February 5, 2012  
1:15 – 3:30 pm**

**Seward Park Cooperative Community Room  
264 East Broadway (at Montgomery Street)**

**Free and Open to the Public**

#### **Distinguished panelists will discuss:**

- **The origins of the Bialystoker Home for the Aged, 228 East Broadway**
- **Its vital role in caring for the elderly and infirm of the community for 80 years**
- **The neighborhood, NYC and the nation during the Great Depression**
- **Its unique architectural character reflecting the Jewish heritage of the Lower East Side**
- **The recent vacating of its residents and proposed sale, ongoing efforts to preserve the building through landmark designation, and possible scenarios for its redevelopment**

**Welcome:** Linda Jones, *founding member, Seward Park Preservation & History Club and Friends of the Bialystoker Home; member, Community Board 3*

**Introduction:** Laurie Tobias Cohen, *Executive Director, Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy*

**Moderator:** Joyce Mendelsohn, *author of "The Lower East Side Remembered and Revisited"; founding member, Friends of the Bialystoker Home*

**Panelists (in formation):**

Rebecca Kobrin, *author of "Jewish Bialystok and Its Diaspora"; Assistant Professor of Jewish History at Columbia University*

Suzanne Wasserman, *filmmaker; Director, Gotham Center for NYC History/CUNY Graduate Center*

Elissa Sampson, *Ph.D candidate in Urban Geography, UNC; longtime resident of the Lower East Side*

Mitchell Grubler, *founding member, Friends of the Bialystoker Home, VP Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance*

**Directions:** The Seward Park Community Room is located in the building at the northwest corner of East Broadway and Montgomery Street. The addresses 264, 266, and 268 East Broadway appear on the awning at the entrance. The nearest subway stop is East Broadway on the F line. The 14A bus stops at Montgomery (aka Pitt) and Grand Streets.

**Email:** [friendsoftheles@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheles@gmail.com) <http://www.friendsofthelowereastside.org/>

**Sponsored by the Seward Park Preservation & History Club in collaboration with Friends of the Bialystoker Home and the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy.**

**Upcoming Events in New York**

**COMING SOON**  
**16TH NY**  
**SEPHARDIC JEWISH**  
**FILM FESTIVAL**  
**OPENING NIGHT MARCH 15, 2012**



[www.AmericanSephardiFederation.org](http://www.AmericanSephardiFederation.org)  
Full details at [www.SephardicFilmFest.org](http://www.SephardicFilmFest.org) in February

**News from Jewish Greece**

**Thessaloniki**

**Concert in memory of Jewish victims of Nazism**

**A special performance in Thessaloniki by the State Orchestra will honor the works of three Jewish Composers of the 20th century who were persecuted because of their ideas and Jewish origins by the fascists, and the memory of thousands of Jews from Thessaloniki who were victims of Nazism. The three composers are Weill, Schulhoff and Schreker. Amaury du Closel will conduct and will present the gifted Jewish pianist, David Greilsammer .**

**Friday, February 24, 2012, 21:00**

**Thessaloniki Concert Hall**

**Tickets 20 € - 15 € - 10 €**

**Reduced 10 € - 7 € apply to teachers, students, pupils, students, conservatories, security forces  
Advance tickets from the treasury of the State Orchestra, Ethnikis. Defense 2, 2310 236 990 and  
bookstores Malliaris Paideia:**

**Center, D. Gounaris 39, 2310 279 079**

**Center, Ermou 53, 2310 252 888**

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## Athens

### ***'Just One Shabbat' in Athens:***

***Hundreds of young Jews took part in countdown to 2012***

***by: EJP Updated: 10/Jan/2012 12:45***

***'Just One Shabbat' under the Greek sun in Athens. Young Jews from across Europe and elsewhere keep on coming back to such events not only for the great trips and exciting locations but more importantly for the warm, welcoming atmosphere and life-long friendships that are made every time.***



***ATHENS (EJP)---Hundreds of young Jews from 20 countries worldwide spent the countdown weekend to 2012 in Athens, Greece, only days after the celebration of Hanukah, the Jewish holiday commemorating the ancient story of the small band of Maccabees defeating the mighty Greeks.***

***The "Just One Shabbat" event, which took place December 30th 2011 - January 2nd 2012, was organized by the European Center for Jewish Students (ECJS) in partnership with the European Jewish Union (EJU).***

***"The lesson we take from Hanukah of perseverance in the face of adversity is exactly the message we are trying to teach the young Jews who attend our events," says ECJS Director Zevi Ives.***

***He believes that through his organization's partnership with EJU, "We can make a greater impact on the next generation of Jewish activists."***

***"Bringing together Jewish students and young professionals from across Europe for meaningful encounters is a priority for EJU," stresses EJU CEO Tomer Orni.***

***"Through experiences like these we help bridge the gap of physical distance by creating emotional closeness."***

***Participants stayed in a five-star hotel in the heart of Athens where they had the opportunity to discover the ancient city as well as visit modern and trendy hot spots. From the Acropolis to the Plaka to Philapopis Hill there was never a dull moment throughout the weekend.***

***Shabbat was ushered in with songs and prayers and concluded with an inspiring havdalah.***

***The countdown to New Year on Saturday night was quite memorable as participants enjoyed the live music from the Or Lâ Israel band.***

***Monday was dedicated to visiting the Jewish sites in Athens. Participants were given an exclusive Jewish Heritage tour that included the Beth Shalom Synagogue, the Etz Haim Synagogue, the Holocaust Memorial and the Jewish Museum.***

***A local rabbi explained the history of the Jews in Athens, the Jewish community and the good relationship between Israel and Greece.***

***According to ECJS, participants keep on coming back to such events not only for the great trips and exciting locations but more importantly for the warm, welcoming atmosphere and life-long friendships that are made every time.***

***"ECJS is one of the few ways to meet a large number of other young Jews from all around Europe in a fun, social and informal environment, whilst getting the chance to travel to new and exciting destinations," explains Adrian Conway who just completed his 20th ECJS event.***

***"I have made many great friends through the ECJS events over the years and feel that I am part of a really special family. ECJS is a truly wonderful organization that brings young Jews together."***

***Based in Brussels, ECJS works to bring Jewish students and young professionals, aged 18 to 35, together in order to preserve and unify the Jewish European society.***

***A sister organization, JEP (for Jewish European Professionals) was recently launched to cater specifically for single Jewish young professionals aged 27-38. For more information, visit [www.jep.eu](http://www.jep.eu).***

***A non-profit NGO, EJU is a uniting structure for all Jewish communities and organizations throughout Western, Eastern and Central Europe. It is actively working on strengthening Jewish life in Europe through emphasis on education, social programs, and cultural/social activities.***

**For more information, visit [www.eju.org](http://www.eju.org)**

**<http://www.ejpress.org/article/55459>**

**We thank Barbara Taverna from EEJH for this article**

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## Volos

**Archives of Memory:  
The Experience of Greek Jews in Audiovisual Testimonies**

**Workshop Organized by the Group for the Study of the History of the Jews of Greece**

**24-25 February 2012  
Amphitheatre Saratsis, University of Thessaly, Volos**

### **Conference Program**

**Friday, February 24**  
**12.00-13.00 Welcome**  
**Henriette-Rika Benveniste, Antony Molho The database**  
**Themis Dallas & Paris Papamichos Chronakis 13.00-14.30 Session A**

**Chair: Polymeris Voglis Henriette-Rika Benveniste: Between remembering and forgetting: When the camps were liberated Yiorgos Antoniou: Holocaust memories in Salonican Shoah survivors in USA and Greece: does the social context matter? Pothiti Hantzaroula: Transformations of the witness: Memory and emotions in the testimonies of Greek Jews 13.00-14.30 Session B**

**Chair: Riki van Boeschoten Paris Papamichos Chronakis: Greece as sameness? Salonican Jews at Auschwitz and the limits of identity Vasilis Ritzaleos & Angel Chorapchiev: An untold story: Testimonies on the salvation of the Greek Jews mobilized to the Bulgarian forced labour camp in Belitsa (1943) Kerasia Malagiorgi: Coming back from the hiding places. The experiences of Jews of Volos in oral and video testimonies**

**Saturday, February 25**  
**10.00-12.00 Session C**  
**Chair: Vasiliki Yakoumaki Riki van Boeschoten: Between duty and respect: the ethics of interviewing victims and perpetrators of the Shoah Verena-Lucia Nägel: Testifying to Deportation: Jewish Women remember their deportation from Salonika Eleni Bezes: Narrative strategies in testimonies of Salonican Jews Anna Maria Droumpouki: Sites of memory of Second World War in Greece through the lens of oral history 12.00-12.30 Coffee break 12.30-14.30 Round-table discussion**  
**Chair: Antony Molho, Fragiski Ambatzopoulou, Henriette-Rika Benveniste, Hagen Fleischer, Rena Molho, Luisa Passerini, Anette Wieviorka:**  
**Methodological approaches to memory, archive and testimony**

<http://gjst.ha.uth.gr/el/conference-programme.php>

### **News of Interest to Sephardic Jews**

**In conjunction with the International Day of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust, a number of events were organized in New York.**

**Kehila Kedosha Janina joined with Centro Primo Levi to remember victims from Greece and Italy. The event took place on Friday night after a Kabbalat Shabbat service at Kehila Kedosha Janina. This was emotional on many levels. It has been a good twenty years since we had Friday night services and we were all moved as Andrew Marcus, son of our President, Marvin Marcus, led the service. The turnout was heartwarming and we were especially honored to receive the new**

**Consul General of Greece in New York, Georgios Iliopoulos. Unfortunately, because of Shabbat, no photos could be taken.**

**Event at United Nations**

**On Friday morning, January 26<sup>th</sup>, the following event was publicized:**

DPI/NGO Relations invites you to the

Briefing

***"Untold Stories: How Bulgarian Jews Survived the Holocaust"***  
*(In observance of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory  
of the Victims of the Holocaust - 27 January)*

**Date:** Thursday, 26 January 2012

**Time:** 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Location:** Conference Room 4 (NLB), United Nations

*....The survival of the entire Bulgarian Jewish population of almost 50,000 in a country which was an ally of Germany during this time was a unique phenomenon. It was, however, consistent with Bulgaria's long history of co-existence with the Jews who for centuries had been an integral part of their society.*

*This briefing will look at the series of events which led to the cancellation of the deportation order of Bulgarian Jews. It will also look at the heroic individuals, who in the face of extreme danger, took actions which enabled the entire Jewish community in Bulgaria to survive the Holocaust intact. ....*

**We were not allowed to attend the event but did view it on a webcam presentation. In no way did the presentation offer a balanced view of what happened to Greek and Yugoslavian Jews because of the complicity of the Bulgarians. Reprinted below are letters from David Saltiel, President of KIS (Central Board of Jewish Communities) and Marcia Haddad Ikonopoulou (Museum Director of Kehila Kedosha Janina, and President of the Association of Friends of Greek Jewry) regarding this matter.**

**CENTRAL BOARD OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN GREECE**

**36, VOULIS STR.  
GR - 105 57 ATHENS**



To the  
**UNITED NATIONS**  
Dept. for Public Information  
NGO Relations  
**Via fax & e-mail**

January 26, 2012

Dear Sirs,

We received the material on today's briefing on the theme ***"Untold Stories: How Bulgarian Jews survived the Holocaust"*** and we thank you.

Needless to point out that the survival of the Bulgarian Jews is a part of the Holocaust history that should be commemorated and applauded.

Nevertheless, as far as it concerns the Jews of Greece, the role of Bulgaria –which was Hitler’s ally- during World War II, was fatal for the Greek Jewish Communities of Eastern Macedonia and Western Thrace. These areas were under Bulgarian Occupation since March 1941.

Following a special agreement between the Germans and the Bulgarians, signed in Sofia in 21 February 1943, the Bulgarians promised the deportation of the Jewish population from the Bulgarian occupied zones. In pursuance of this agreement, in the night of 3-4 March 1943 Bulgarians launched a surprise operation and arrested all Jews living in the zones of their control. On that same night, the Jews of the Greek cities of Alexandroupoli, Xanthe, Komotini, Kavala, Drama and Serres, more than 4.000 souls, were arrested, deported, handed over to the Nazis and exterminated in the Treblinka Nazi camp.

Extermination rates in the Bulgarian occupation zone vary from 97%-99% (!), are the highest in Greece, and maybe in Europe.

Bulgarians saved their country’s Jews in exchange for the Jews of the other territories under their control.

In the name of the historical memory of our brothers, victims of the Bulgarian atrocities in our country during the Holocaust, we ask you to include this small and “untold” part of history in your briefing.

In order to enrich your documentation and your research on the untold Holocaust stories we send you (by separate post) the books “*The Holocaust of the Greek Jewry*” and “*Young People in the Maelstrom of Occupied Greece*”, published by our Board and the Greek Ministry of Education, which we hope that you will use in one of your future initiatives.

Sincerely Yours  
The President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Saltiel', written in a cursive style.

David Saltiel

**Dear Mrs. Chavez, (note: see original letter below)**

***Thank you for your sensitive response. I have heard both these gentlemen (Misha Abramoff and Joseph Benatov) speak before and, while Professor Benatov has the sensitivity to mention the losses of Jews in the Bulgarian Zones of Occupation, it is usually as a footnote. Only when an introduction to their presentation on the role of Bulgarian involvement in World War II includes the fact that they were complicit in the deaths of thousands of Jews and does not let the statement that they "saved all their Jews" stand alone without a mention of those murdered will I be satisfied.***

***Three of my four grandparents were born in Salonika. Over 100 members of my extended family died in the death camps of Auschwitz- Birkenau, deported by the Germans in 1943. As painful as***

***these losses have been, at least they were acknowledged. More painful have been the losses of members of my family who had the misfortune of living in Kavala and Monastir (Bitol), because their deaths have been brushed to the side as the Bulgarians have constantly praised themselves on the Jews they saved, ignoring those they sent to their deaths. To acknowledge their complicity in the deaths of the Jews of northeastern Greece and Yugoslavia would in no way diminish the heroism of Bulgarians who saved Jews inside of Bulgaria proper but, not to acknowledge their complicity diminishes the Bulgarians as a people.***

***I will not rest as long as I must read "ultimately not a single Bulgarian Jew was sent to the Nazi death camps," without a single mention of the 12,000 Jews who died because of Bulgarian complicity.***

***Respectfully, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos***

**Original correspondence from Mrs. Chavez**

***Dear Ms.Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos,***

***Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding our upcoming Briefing on the Bulgarian Jews and the Holocaust. Please rest assured that while this event will focus on "How Bulgarian Jews Survived the Holocaust", as the title states, it will certainly not overlook the tragic events which led to the deportation and ultimate death of the approximately 12,000 Greek and Yugoslavian Jews in Thrace and Macedonia.***

***This important part of the story will, in fact, be highlighted by one of our panel speakers, Joseph Benatov of the University of Pennsylvania.***

***Having been born in Thesaloniki, and knowing the incredible history of the Sephardic Jews of Greece, and the tragic events which led to their deportation we organized an extraordinary briefing on the Jews of Greece four years ago.***

***The Briefing is only open to the NGOs associated with DPI and ECOSOC.***

***We invite you to view the webcast of the briefing at [www.un.org/webcast](http://www.un.org/webcast).***

***with warm regards. Maria-Louisa Chavez***

**We include a photo taken in March of 1943 of Jews from Kavala being sent to their deaths by the Bulgarians.**



# Twenty-eight MPs raise German war reparations issue

 2 Feb 2012



A man role-playing as a Wehrmacht soldier threatens a Greek woman, her child and a priest during a re-enactment of a World War II scene, during a protest outside the German embassy in Athens, 6 October 2011 (Reuters)

**Twenty-eight MPs tabled a proposal in parliament on Thursday requesting a debate on the so-called occupation loan paid by the collaborationist government to Germany during the Second World War as well as the issues of reparations for victims of Nazi atrocities and looted treasures.**

**The proposal, signed by MPs from Pasok, New Democracy (ND), the Radical Left Coalition (Syriza) and independent deputies, calls on the issues be discussed in the presence of the ministers of finance, foreign affairs, defence and justice as well as representatives of all interested parties. The signatories also called on parliament to adopt a clear stance on what they described as a "crucial national issue".**

**The 28 MPs underlined that at an Italian-German financial conference held in Rome in 1942, the Axis powers arbitrarily decided that occupied Greece, as it had fought on the side of the Allies, was obliged to fund the country's occupation through a "loan".**

**The MPs stressed that the now united German state owes Greece, a Second World War victor, roughly 54bn euros before interest, underlining that Greece was the victim of unparalleled cruelty inflicted by the Nazi forces.**

**The signatories stressed that Greece has been the subject of an obvious injustice because it is the only country to which Germany has not paid reparations. (AMNA, Athens News)**

## Requests

We are looking for information on the Saoul family who lived on Agias Triados (street) in Thessaloniki before and during the war.

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In response to our request about the family of Nissim and Marco Cohen, we received the following information from Judy Russo:

*I had a great uncle in law by that name. I am not sure if this is the same Marco Cohen in the newsletter photo. He died before I was born and I do not know what he looked like. This is what I know about him. He was born in October of 1872 or 1873 in Janina. He married my paternal great aunt Leah Diaz of Izmir. He arrived in NYC on 15 March 1912 with his wife, his son Moses Marco and his daughter Rachel. According to the Ellis Island records he was going to his brother Elia Koen at 98 Allen St in NY. On the World War I draft registration his name his given as Marco Isaac Cohen. The Ellis Island records are for "Marko Koen". He died 26 November 1942 and is buried in Brotherhood of Janina section of the Mount Carmel cemetery. I have some information about his descendants but do not know anything about his ancestors. Hope this information is useful. Sincerely, Judy Rousso*

## New of Interest to All

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE FESTIVITY FOR  
Purim di Siracusa**

**BACK TO SICILY AFTER 520 YEARS**

**THE JEWISH ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF SIRACUSA AND THE SICILIAN SEPHARDIC CENTER  
HAVE THE PLEASURE TO INVITE YOU AT THIS VERY IMPORTANT EVENT THE PURIM OF  
SIRACUSA**

**THAT WILL BE HELD IN SIRACUSA THE**

**17 OF SHEVAT 5772 - FEBRUARY 9, 2012 AT 5 p.m.**

**IN THE SYNAGOGUE OF 88, ITALIA STREET, SIRACUSA**

**During the ceremony will be performed Kina glossa from the Purim of Siracusa, sung in Greek  
dialect of Ioannina**

**MINISTER OF CEREMONY WILL BE RABBI STEFANO DI MAURO-YTZHAK BEN AVRAHAM  
SHALOM FROM DOTT.**

**DARIO SUTTER SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNITY**

**RABBI STEFANO DI MAURO CHIEF RABBI**

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Shalom to one and all!

**Gershon Harris  
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel**



I think that one of the most significant "discoveries" I made after moving to Israel was that Passover was not the only holiday to have its own seder! I am referring to "Tu Bishvat", the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shvat, which falls this year on February 8th. Those who are familiar with the holiday will certainly remember its being called the "New Year for Trees", as well as the ubiquitous blue and white JNF charity boxes in Jewish homes both before and after the founding

of the modern state of Israel, where we collected money for planting trees in the fledgling new state.

The Talmud tells us that the 15th day of Shvat is indeed the new year for trees in terms of certain halachic requirements and restrictions for all fruits and vegetables grown on Jewish owned land in Israel: taking tithes, not eating the fruit for the first three years, Sabbatical year restrictions, etc. Basically, any fruit that has begun to emerge before Tu Bishvat is counted as belonging to the previous year, and anything afterward being considered part of the next year. Yet despite these rather legalistic origins, Jewish tradition always recognized a certain festive character to this new year, like any other, and in fact, on the day of Tu Bishvat, no penitential prayers are said in synagogue. However, for hundreds of years, this was the extent of the "celebration" for most of the Diaspora, since Jews had long lost any agricultural affinities due to the common restrictions and even prohibitions against Jews owning land in their respective countries of residence, not to mention the lack of a viable homeland in the Land of Israel, which lay barren, desolate and under-developed for hundreds of years.

But "the Lord often works in strange ways", and two major forces led to the revival of Tu Bishvat as an important, if still minor, Jewish festival: Jewish mysticism and modern Zionism. The former always attached great importance to Tu Bishvat, which is encapsulated in a small 17th century book of somewhat obscure authorship called "Pri Etz Hadar", which offers an entire Tu Bishvat "seder", based on the Passover model. This special ritual includes the consumption of the special fruits of the Land of Israel, drinking 4 cups of red and white wines, and reading a special text full of Biblical and Talmudic quotations and ideas about the beauty and wonders of nature as created by God. Despite a good possibility that the author of this small work was a follower of Shabtai Zvi, the false Messiah, the leading Kabbalist of all time, Rabbi Yitzhak Luria Ashkenazi (The Arizal) and his mostly Sephardic Kabbalistic disciples in Tzfat, instituted this seder Tu Bishvat as a central element in celebrating the holiday. Though some Ashkenazi Rabbis forbade the use of the book because of its suspected authorship, others did not, and almost all Sephardic authorities accepted and encouraged the ritual. And with the renewal of the Jewish commonwealth in the modern State of Israel, more and more synagogues and communities in both Israel and abroad have made the Tu Bishvat a permanent feature in celebration of the holiday.

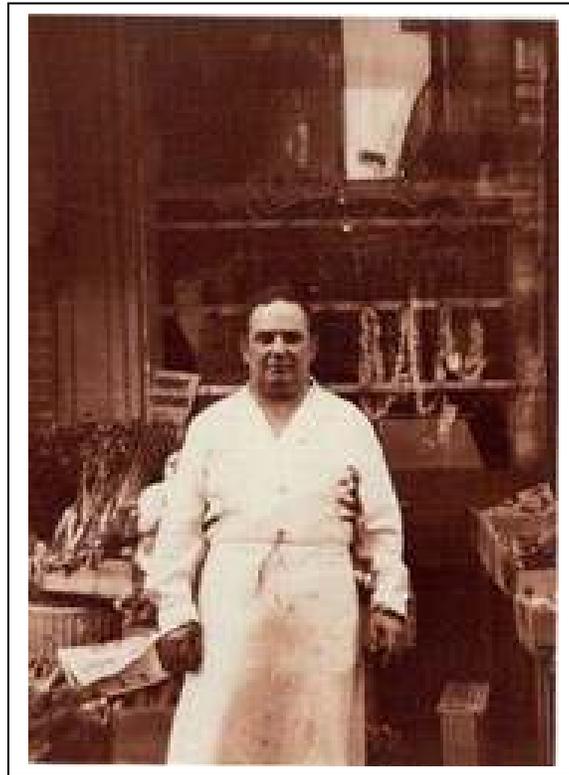
As for modern Zionism, there is no question that it can also be credited with the revival of Tu Bishvat with its initiation of the "new" Tu Bishvat tradition of planting of trees all over the country, including official ceremonies and events. Everyone participates in this true festival of nature and the Land: tourists, government officials, schools, community centers, local municipalities, new immigrants and sometimes even soldiers. Rain or shine, it is quite a sight to see old and young planting small saplings in either established JNF forests or in totally new areas under development. Though not an official work holiday, Tu Bishvat in Israel is felt in every part of the country, with a wonderful feeling of Man's communing with nature and celebrating all of God's wonders in our ancient Homeland. Happy New Year!

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Please keep sending us your photos. We love them!

From Mark Neil Silber

His grandpa Samuel Cohen  
at his butcher shop on the  
Lower East Side



New on our website

Check out photos of Jewish tombstones from Ioannina (the work of Shazar from Israel from the survey in 2006) what we recently acquired. We would like to thank Gershon Harris for his perseverance and his translations. Look at our website [www.kkjsm.org](http://www.kkjsm.org) under the link on the left (Jewish Burials in Greece).

<p>הולדה 1849 נפטר 1899 בית הקברות העתיק בירושלים</p>	<p>הולדה 1849 נפטר 1899 בית הקברות העתיק בירושלים</p>
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<p>בנה משה לר' יוסף הלוי בשנת 1849 בירושלים</p>
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Matitya Yosef Halevi 1439

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**Great internet links sent us by our friends:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfv3jsLGzL0>

Israeli Air Force flies over Auschwitz

Thanks to Joe Varon

**Do watch this great video about "To What Strange Place" (a reminder, we sell this CD—contact us if you are interested).**

<http://www.npr.org/2012/01/23/145361675/78-78s-in-search-of-lost-time>

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**Items for sale**

**We are proud to sell the new DVD "My Sweet Canary," the story of Roza Eskenazi. If you are interested, send \$30 (includes postage and handling within the continental USA) in a check made out to Kehila Kedosha Janina and mail it to us at One Hanson Place, Huntington NY 11743.**



**So many of you have applauded our efforts. 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.**

**Note: If you are interested in future Friday night services at Kehila Kedosha Janina, let us know!**

**Kehila Kedosha Janina e-newsletter: number 49:**

**February 2012**

**Kehila Kedosha Janina, 280 Broome Street, New York NY 10002**

**kehila\_kedosha\_janina@netzero.net**

