



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

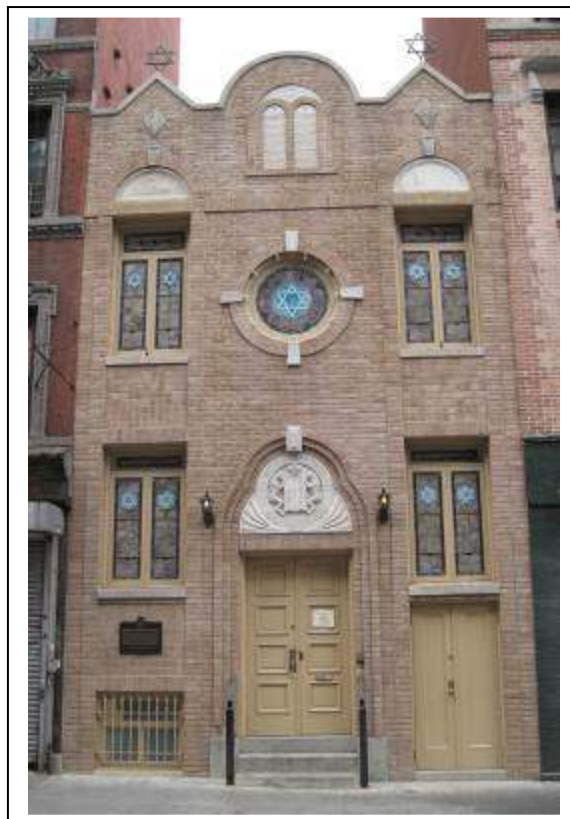
280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

January 2012 e-mail newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Our best wish to all our friends around the world, as we enter the secular year 2012. May this year bring us all peace and the strength to continue good works.

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



This newsletter, our 48th 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.

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

We mourn the loss of Andreas Kounio, a gentle man who died in Salonika on December 4, 2011 at age 66.

Murray Rosenthal, husband of Renee Yomtov Rosenthal died just short of his 82nd birthday in December. Our condolences to his family.

Births

We celebrate the birth of a new member of the extended Colchamiro family. Mateo Ashland Shumays was born on 11/29/11 and is the son of Alyson Beth Schwaber and Adam Shumays, the grandson of Sue Colchamiro Tregerman and Steven Tregerman, great-grandson of Mathew and Esther Colchamiro, great-great-grandson of Asser Colchamiro and Steroula Eliezer Colchamiro. Mathew Colchamiro of Blessed Memory was born in Ioannina. Asser died in August of 1919 and, after burying her husband, Steroula brought her 7 young children to the USA by herself. They arrived in June 1920 and were helped by family, especially Asser's younger brother, Leon Colchamiro, who had arrived earlier.

Simchas

Jack Cohen, father of Jackie Cohen celebrated his 86th birthday.

Jesse Colchamiro celebrated his 65th birthday.

Joy Matathias-Avitan (daughter of Asher and Anna Matathias) was the recipient of JEP Pioneer Award on Saturday, January 7, 2012.

We celebrate the accomplishments of "Aikoi Mas, Los Muestros" (Our Own)

UJA-Federation Presents
Zella Bronfman Butler Awards

UJA-Federation of New York's Task Force on People With Disabilities and the J.E. and Z.B. Butler Foundation have presented the 2011 Zella Bronfman Butler Award to Steven M. Wolf, M.D., Director of Pediatric Epilepsy at Beth Israel Medical Center; Glen Parrish, Residence Manager of

the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services' Vernondale Intermediate Care Facility; and Susan Schwaber-Tregerman, Assistant Executive Director of the Mid-Island Y Jewish Community Center. The presentations took place on Wednesday at UJA-Federation of New York's Seventh-Floor Conference Center.

The J.E. and Z.B. Butler Foundation and UJA-Federation of New have established the annual Zella Bronfman Butler Award to honor three professionals in UJA-Federation's network of agencies who exemplify the highest standards of service. This year, the Innovation Award, a new category, was added to celebrate an individual who has made a major transformative contribution to the field of disabilities. Those selected for this award each receive \$10,000 and are chosen for their compassionate commitment to enriching the lives of children and adults with physical, developmental, and learning disabilities.

Among those honored was Susan Schwaber-Tregerman, a "daughter" of Ioannina.

Susan Schwaber-Tregerman, recipient of the Change Agent Award, is Assistant Executive Director of the Mid-Island Y Jewish Community Center. Susan was instrumental in creating the K.I.S.S. (Kids in Special Services) Center at the Mid-Island Y JCC. Starting in 2004 with six children, K.I.S.S. has grown to provide services to approximately 250 children each year.

Susan's grandmother, Steroula Colchamiro, widowed in Ioannina, brought her children, among them Susan's father, to the USA in 1919. Steroula, in all probability, never received a formal education but her granddaughter has made us all proud.

Δικοί Μας, Los Muestrros come home



Vic stands in front of his Alef from 1926.



Vic Cabillis celebrates his 85th birthday at Kehila Kedosha Janina with his 2 daughters and 3 of his grandchildren.



Max Daniel, son of Isaac Daniel



Benjamin Schwartz, grandson of Jack Michaels

As always, visitors continue to flock to Kehila Kedosha Janina

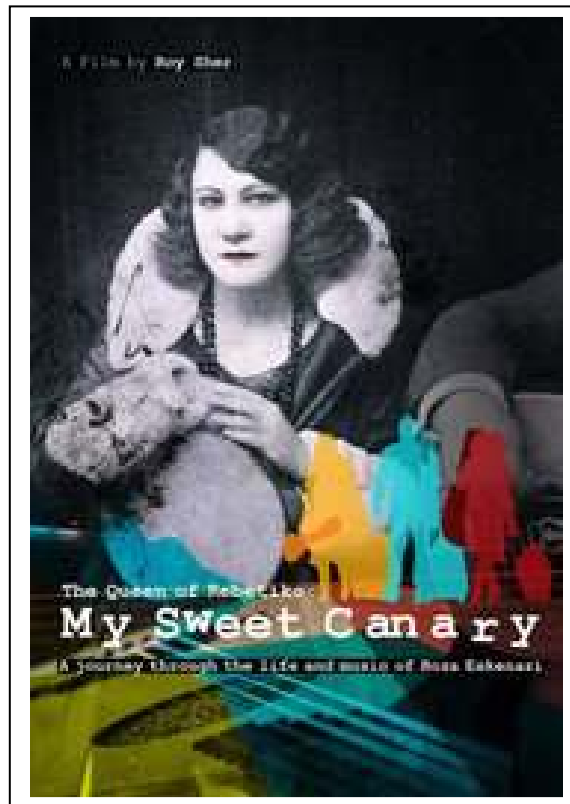


One of many Hadassah groups who have visited KKJ in 2011

Upcoming Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum Events

Sunday, January 22nd at 1:00

Join us as we show the acclaimed film "My Yellow Canary," the story of the life and music of Roza Eskenazi by Roy Sher.



“Roza Eskenazi sang songs and lived life with passion, fire and love. This is the story of three young musicians from Greece, Turkey and Israel that embark on an exciting musical journey, to reveal for the first time, the story of the first and most famous Greek Rebetiko singer. From Istanbul to Thessaloniki and Athens, through her life and music, we will introduce a world that has once existed and its traces today.”

Entrance: \$10-refreshments served

RSVPs absolutely necessary! kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net

Upcoming Cultural Events in United States

New York

**Woodward Gallery
133 Eldridge Street
New York, NY 10002**

T: 212.966.3411 F: 212.966.3491

Email: art@woodwardgallery.net

Please Save the Date: Saturday, January 7, 2012, 6-8pm



"Rather Unique" a Group Art exhibition curated by Royce Bannon
Exhibition of original paintings at Woodward Gallery
January 7 - February 19, 2012

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday-Saturday: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sunday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm and by appointment

Chicago

Opening of Hellenic Museum in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — Dolls a Greek woman made during World War II. Ice cream bowls and wooden spoons from a 1940s Greek candy store. Thousands of record albums filled with Greek music. These items and many other beloved objects and family heirlooms have found their way from around the country to the National Hellenic Museum in Chicago, which has a new place to store and exhibit them all, in a four-story 40,000-square-foot environmentally friendly building of limestone and glass that opened in early December.

The \$20 million project in the city's Greektown neighborhood, which includes temporary and permanent exhibition space, classrooms, oral history archives, a library and roof patio overlooking downtown, replaces the museum's previous space a few blocks away on one floor of a four-story building.

"This museum became by default the repository for artifacts from the Greek American experience because there was no other place people felt secure donating their items," said Stephanie Vlahakis, the museum's executive director.

Outside the museum, the street bustles with diners at Greek restaurants like The Parthenon, Athena or Santorini. A group of men speak Greek during an animated game of backgammon at

the Panhellenic Pastry Shop with mounds of powdered sugar almond cookies and baklava piled in the glass cases behind the counter.

"We are telling the story of Greek America," Vlahakis said. "We just start from the beginning, from ancient times and bring it to the modern times."

The museum is a work in progress, with a skeleton version of the permanent exhibit on the second floor. Curators have scribbled design concepts in colored marker on the walls, like "absolutely want mosaic work" or "look into etching on glass?" The hope is to raise enough money to fill the displays out in a year.

But there is still plenty to see: shelves filled with items from a Greek family in New York, a wall of black and white pictures that chronicle the story of Greek immigrants in America and an area to learn the Greek alphabet. Visitors can watch a short introductory video narrated by, who else, George Stephanopoulos.

Museum curator Bethany Fleming hopes to travel to Greece and make casts of columns, gates and parts of temples to bring back to Chicago.

Downstairs the temporary exhibit space is home to "Gods, Myths and Mortals: Discover Ancient Greece," an exhibit on loan from the Children's Museum of Manhattan until August. It's a child's view of the daily life of ancient Greece and its legends and heroes, like Aristotle, Odysseus and Cyclops.

"What we want to do with all our exhibits is create a place where all generations of visitors can connect," Fleming said.

There's a kid-sized re-created Greek temple, and children can dress up in togas in front of a mirror or crawl into a jungle-gym Trojan horse. Interspersed are nearly three dozen Greek artifacts, including coins, pottery and figurines. One Macedonian drachma coin dates to 336-323 B.C. and is about the size of a dime.

The museum building itself is inspired by nature, containing elements of earth, air, fire and water. Inside a large, sky-lit stairway leads visitors from east to west, symbolizing the travel of Greek immigrants from Europe to America. Everything, Vlahakis says, was done deliberately to parallel the Greek American experience.

"So much of our world is inspired by the ancient," she said.

If You Go...

NATIONAL HELLENIC MUSEUM: 333 S. Halsted St., Chicago;
<http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org> or 312-655-1234. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays); Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Adults, \$10; seniors and students, \$8; children 3-12, \$7.

GETTING THERE: The museum is within walking distance of the Chicago Transit Authority's No. 8 bus and Blue Line's UIC-Halsted stop in the West Loop neighborhood. Street parking and pay parking are available.



This undated photo courtesy of the National Hellenic Museum shows a display where visitors can interact and explore oral histories using HOMER, an interactive digital archive, at the museum in Chicago. (AP Photo/National Hellenic Museum)

Upcoming Events on Lower East Side

Tenement Museum



**TOURS START AND END AT 103 ORCHARD.
PLEASE NOTE THE MUSEUM CAN ONLY BE
SEEN BY GUIDED TOUR.**



Tenement Museum

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum tells the stories of immigrant families. Located in the heart of Manhattan's Lower East Side, which has been an immigrant portal for 200 years, 97 Orchard Street was home to an estimated 7,000 people from over 20 nations from 1863 to 1935. Inside, visitors view restored apartments and learn about the struggles of past generations in the hope of providing historical perspective on the experiences of today's newcomers. Email us: [press-inquiry \(at\) tenement.org](mailto:press-inquiry@tenement.org).

We reprint a fascinating article on the celebration of Hanukkah and Christmas on the Lower East Side.

**Hanukkiah on shelf in
Gumpertz apartment at
Tenement Museum**



"As American Jewish communities grew throughout the 19th Century, the relatively minor holiday of Hanukkah gained significance in the United States. This can be attributed to Hanukkah's proximity to Christmas, as well as the close quarters shared by urban immigrant families of different faiths. As Andrew Heinze writes in "Adapting to Abundance," "The drama of Christmas exerted a strong influence on Jewish newcomers, as the spectacle of the Christmas tree and the rite of gift giving altered the celebration of Chanukah" (1). Jewish children were particularly enchanted with the very visible public display of Christmas gifts and decorations in advertisements, shop windows and schools, prompting parents to enhance their holiday celebrations with Hanukkah gifts and even Christmas trees of their own. Heinze paints a vivid picture of Hanukkah celebrations in the Lower East Side, saying that "Passengers on the Second Avenue "El" train...in the darkness of a December evening were struck by the rows of burning candles that illuminated the windows of tenement house after tenement house." (1) The earliest reference to Hanukkah in the online archive of the New York Times, dated December 29, 1889, focuses on Christian and Jewish communities celebrating winter holidays in tandem (or consecutively). The article, titled "A Jewish View of Christmas" is an excerpt from the Jewish Messenger: "We Hebrews, disguise it as we may, cannot but feel the genial influence of the Christmastide. It meets us just as our joyous feast of Hanukkah has ended, which we celebrate with similar bounty. But we realize, none the less, the gentler aspects of the holiday, and strive to recognize as a daily lesson 'peace on earth, good will toward men'". (2) (1) Andrew R. Heinze, Adapting to Abundance: Jewish Immigrants, Mass Consumption and the Search for American Identity, Columbia University Press, 1990 (2) "A Jewish View of Christmas", the New York Times, December 29, 1889

Reprinted from Tenement Museum Newsletter of December 16, 2011."

News from Jewish Greece

Ioannina

Our campaign to raise funds for the repair of the tikkim in Ioannina was a great success. Below is the letter we received from Moses Eliasof thanking all donors for their help:

"Dear Marcia,

I hope you are well. I wish you a Happy Hanukah.

On behalf of the community I would like to thank all the donors for their generous and continuous support to our community. We have received the money and we continue the work for the repairing of the tikkim as well as of the ceiling of the Synagogue.

Looking forward to seeing you this spring.

Best regards,

Moses Elisaf"

Thessaloniki

In the program presented through the Ministry of Culture and Tourism "Thessaloniki Crossroads of Cultures - 2011 Middle East" as part of the Thessaloniki International Film Festival, on Friday, December 9 at 19:00 in Room Paul Zannas Olympion a presentation called "The Greek-Jewish miracle" will take place. For the first time three short films created by students of the Film Department of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Aristotle University will be screened. This is a production of the Film Festival and Cinema Museum of Thessaloniki, as a means of giving young artists the opportunity to present their work. The three films include a drama, a documentary and an animation, and are about Judaism and its relationship with Thessaloniki. The event brings to light important aspects of the relationship of Greeks and Jews in Thessaloniki, the differences in culture and a partnership that goes back five centuries. The films to be screened are: "Dome" by Katerina and Nikos Apostolopoulos Gerothanassis (fiction), "Los Bilbilicos" (a song for Thessaloniki) by Stella Papastefanou and Maria Papadopoulou (documentary) and "Neighbors" by Elias Elizampettas and Katerina Georgiadou-Gerothanassis (animation). These films are creations of a group of students and graduates of the Film Department of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Aristotle University. The present daily stories and feelings that go beyond the history books and find their way to the cinema, to bring the viewer closer, enabling him to interpret the story with a new, fresh look. The screenings will be introduced by the creators of the film, followed by a discussion with the public. Admission to the event is free.



More News From Jewish Greece

As you are aware, Greece is undergoing a severe economic crisis. This has not left the local Jewish Community unaffected. Not only have the requests for economic support gone up, but so have state taxes, and income has been significantly reduced. The Jewish Communities are having a hard time meeting their needs, helping the poor, running synagogues, schools and summer-camps, and sustaining Jewish life in the country.

Faced with this, the American Jewish Committee, has agreed to create a special account and accept donations that will be given to the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki. This will enable US-based donors to receive a US tax deductible receipt. The AJC will not get any fees and will transfer the full amount to Greece.

You can find more details about making a donation below. AJC has already made a very generous donation to the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki to support the remaining Holocaust survivors.

Please circulate this email as widely as you can and thank you for your support,

Leon Saltiel

Specifically for anyone whowould like to make a donation:

1. **CHECK:** If sending a check, please make out the check to AJC or American Jewish Committee and write in the memo line "Jewish Community of Thessaloniki" or "Greek Aid"

The address is:

165 East 56 Street
New York, NY 10022

2. **CREDIT CARD:** If making a donation online please visit www.ajc.org and click the "Donate" button in the top right corner. Then press "Donate Now". In the "Comments" section, the individual should write "Jewish Community of Thessaloniki" or "Greek Aid".

Note: This money will go to help ALL the Jewish Communities in Greece, including Ioannina.

More News from Greece

Curtain falling on Greece's ruling dynasts

9 Dec 2011



Former Greek President Constantine Karamanlis (R), seen in a October 1993 file photograph with late Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou (Reuters)

They have dominated Greek politics for decades, attending the same prestigious schools, sharing college dorms and mixing socially, but always fighting tooth and nail for political advantage. Disillusioned by their leaders, many Greeks hope the debt crisis that has brought the country to its knees may finally break the stranglehold the ruling dynasts have on politics in the country. But they could just be exchanging one set of elites for another, or the younger generation of the same.

Nepotism and patronage are so deeply rooted, and family and clan loyalties so strong, that change will not come quickly.

Note: This article was too long to print in its entirety. If you wish to see the whole article, e-mail us at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net .

News of Interest to Sephardic Jews

**** Skopje Holocaust museum inaugurated ****

The Macedonian capital, Skopje, has recently inaugurated a new Holocaust Memorial museum - only the fourth in the world after Washington, Jerusalem and Berlin.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/news/world-europe-15979551>



Opening Ceremony: Inside the center, a soldier carries an urn containing the ashes of Macedonian Jews killed at Treblinka.

News of Interest to Greek Jews

Yehuda Poliker Sings Along with Greek Officials Visiting Israel

Yehuda Poliker



On Wednesday, November 30, Israeli music star Yehuda Poliker met and sang along with a delegation of Greek officials visiting Israel this week through Project Interchange, an Institute of the American Jewish Committee.

Participants of the Greek delegation included leading officials of the Greek government, such as minister plenipotentiary and chief of cabinet in the Ministry of Citizen Protection, the general secretary of religious affairs in the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs, members of the Greek Parliament, university officials and senior diplomatic correspondents.

Jehuda Poliker is known for combining Israeli rock music with Greek and other Mediterranean musical styles and is deemed as one of the major Israeli music figures of today.

Being the son of Greek-Jewish Holocaust survivors who were deported from their home in Thessaloniki, Greece, to Auschwitz, Germany, Poliker has been actively involved in strengthening Israel-Greek relations in the past.

Poliker spent the evening dining with the Greek group, exploring their shared Greek heritage at the private home of Lily Eiss-Perahia, former chair of the Israel-Greek Chamber of Commerce, and a long-time friend of Poliker's.

When he spontaneously started singing, the evening turned into a vibrant, festive sing-along event for the delegates and invited Greek-Israeli guests.

The Greek delegation, currently in Israel, is participating in briefings with members of the Israeli Parliament, senior Israeli government officials, NGO leaders and journalists, and has already met Palestinian National Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad in Ramallah and H.B. Patriarch Theophilos III, Greek Orthodox Church patriarch of Jerusalem and Palestine.

The group has explored interfaith relations in Israel, Arab-Jewish coexistence efforts, the peace process, the Israeli education system and Israeli-Mediterranean economic relations.

Prior to the delegation's departure from Greece, the participants met with Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon in Athens on Tuesday. Ayalon, who was in Greece earlier this week, met with the group and with previous Greek Project Interchange alumni.

The seminar provided participants with the opportunity to build upon and amplify current high level bilateral exchanges, and to broaden the foundation for deeper engagement with Israel across political and economic sectors. Project Interchange has sponsored several seminars for Greek policy makers and journalists since 2005, and Greek journalists, academics, and counter-terrorism experts regularly participate in pan-European seminars organized by Project Interchange.

The relationships between Israel and Greece have undergone a significant revival in recent years, as demonstrated by reciprocal presidential visits, expanded military and strategic cooperation and greatly expanded trade, tourism and commercial ties.

Project Interchange has brought over 5,500 civic, religious, media, business, high tech and university leaders from more than 65 countries to Israel. Project Interchange's week-long educational visits are tailored to the specific interests of high-level delegations and provide participants a broad exposure to complex issues facing Israel and the region.

News of Interest to All

Bulgaria protests Macedonian Holocaust movie at EU

26/11/2011

Bloggers are dismayed by what they perceive as a Holocaust denial by some in Bulgaria.

By Klaudija Lutovska for Southeast European Times in Bitola – 26/11/11

A scene from the movie 'Third Halftime' depicts the Bulgarian army rounding up Jews in Macedonia to send them to the Treblinka concentration camp. [Courtesy of Darko Mitrevski] Three European Parliament members from Bulgaria -- Evgeni Kirilov, Andrei Kovachev and Stanimir Ilchev -- sent a protest letter to the EU characterising the yet unfinished Macedonian movie 'Third Halftime' as spreading historical falsifications and hate speech towards Bulgarians. "[W]e expect you to raise the question of using hate speech toward Bulgaria in the official contacts with the Macedonian institutions in the process of the Republic of Macedonia joining the EU," the letter requested of EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fule. A Bulgarian media blitz followed, re-opening the debate about the country's role in the Holocaust and attacking the Macedonian government for financially and otherwise supporting the movie.



The film tells the true story of football club Macedonia (predecessor of the "age"), who managed to enter the finals in the league against the Bulgarian "Levski". Football team "Macedonia, led by Spitz Jew, and "Levski" fight for first place in the National League during the Second World War, but "Macedonia" and unfairly canceling the door, nervous audience enters the stadium, the competition is breaking apart....This is a key part of the movie "The "Third Halftime", yesterday it was filmed in Havzi Pasha inns.

Historian Plamen Pavlov summed up the Bulgarian position on the TV show "Chas po Bulgaria". "[The movie] is anti-Bulgarian propaganda ... going so far as to claim Bulgaria was a Nazi state and just about the only one that carries responsibility for those people [Jews] which, of course, is not true."

Pavlov concurrently took issue with Bulgarian stateswoman Lea Koen, who questions King Boris III's intent to save the Jews even in Bulgaria proper.

"To call 'Third Half' anti-Bulgarian is analogous to calling 'Schindler's List' anti-German. My movie is anti-fascist. The fact there are EU parliamentarians who classify anti-fascism as 'hate speech' is a European Parliament problem as well as a problem for the country they represent, not mine," movie director Darko Mitrevski told SETimes.

Mitrevski gave his first TV interview to clarify things. Third Halftime is a real life love story of a wealthy Jewish woman, Rebeka -- who is still alive -- and who eloped to marry Kosta, a poor Macedonian railway worker turned football player.

As a result, Rebeka was not registered as Jewish, which saved her from being deported by the Bulgarian authorities to the Treblinka concentration camp in March 1943.

"Her story is recorded as one of about 50,000 survivor interviews in the past 12 years by Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation under No. 46472, which is where I got the idea," Mitrevski said.

The second half of the movie concerns Kosta 's newly-formed football club that the locals named "Macedonia", Mitrevski said. It drew Macedonians to matches as a form of civil disobedience against the Bulgarian occupation.

Led by the legendary Jewish coach Iljash Shpic, team Macedonia reached the final in the Bulgarian league in the 1941-42 season. However, Bulgaria 's Sport Minister told team Macedonia it would not be allowed to become a champion being led by a Jewish coach. Macedonia lost the two final games to Sofia 's Levski by official decision, after the players protested questionable refereeing, according to linguist Trajko Stamatovski, who said he witnessed one of the final games, as well as the deportations of Jews.

"By 1944, the team did not play because most players joined the partisans," Stamatovski said. "As for the claims the Bulgarians saved Jews, their army and police entered literally every house. ... only ten or 20 survived."

Katunec argues Bulgarian officials are aware this and similar movies can destroy the image they are trying to create for their country. "But, the way they go about it is most counterproductive because they completely turn against the historical truth. There still are live Macedonians who fought against fascism, Jews too, which is why at the end Macedonia ended up a victor in the war on the side of the Allies. The more they try to degrade the movie, the more it will be watched." "It is laughable when somebody derives conclusions based on a scenario they have not read. But it is not funny when the EU parliamentarians try to negate the crimes their country has done in the Second World War. The Bulgarian occupation of Macedonia, the deportation of 7,200 Jews to the gas chambers in Treblinka, as well as the brutal repression of Macedonian anti-fascists and political opponents are historical facts," movie producer Kino Oko said. This content was commissioned for SETimes.com.

Note: Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, Museum Director of Kehila Kedosha Janina who, herself, lost family members in Bulgarian occupied Kavala and Monastir (Bitol) has repeatedly urged the Bulgarian government to formally acknowledge the duality of their role and not only mention the "saving" of their Jews. She has urged for a Holocaust memorial in Bulgaria in memory of the Jews who were deported by the Bulgarians to their deaths in Treblinka and feels, as do many others, that acknowledgement of Bulgaria's complicity in the murder of Jews in the Bulgarian Zones of Occupation of Greece and former Yugoslavia does not in any way diminish Bulgaria's role in saving close to 50 thousand Jews who lived in Bulgaria proper, but not to acknowledge their role in their deaths diminishes them (the Bulgarians) as a people.

Claims Conference Updates Eligibility for Claims

Claims Conference Negotiates €485 Million (\$650 Million) in Pensions for Additional 16,000 Survivors; German Government Criteria Changes Largely Affect Child Survivors

More than 16,000 Holocaust survivors who have been denied German compensation pensions will now be eligible to receive them as a result of Claims Conference negotiations with the German government. The agreement will result in at least €485 million (approximately \$650 million) in additional Claims Conference payments over the next decade.

Note: This article was too long to print in its entirety. If you wish to see the whole article, e-mail us at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net .

For more information: www.claimscon.org

Project Heart

PROJECT HEART EXTENDS DEADLINE TO SUBMIT QUESTIONNAIRES

OVERWHELMING RESPONSE FROM HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND HEIRS WORLDWIDE

Extension of the Deadline Will Allow Additional Eligible Holocaust Victims and Their Heirs to Participate in the Most Inclusive Holocaust Era Property Restitution Program in History
Contact:

**Anya Verkhovskaya, Project HEART
414-967-2581; av@heartwebsite.org**

For Immediate Release:

December 1st, 2011

5th of Kislev, 5772

JERUSALEM, December 1, 2011—The office of Israel’s Prime Minister has recommended that Project HEART extend the deadline for individuals to submit Questionnaires into 2012. This decision was made in response to the high number of inquiries it has received from Holocaust victims over the past few months as well as numerous requests from the families of Holocaust victims to participate in the program.

Launched in late February 2011 by the Government of Israel in cooperation with the Jewish Agency for Israel, Project HEART seeks to identify Jewish Holocaust victims and their heirs worldwide who or whose families owned real estate or movable, immovable, or intangible personal property that was confiscated, looted, or forcibly sold in countries governed or occupied by the Nazi forces or Axis powers during the Holocaust era. Individuals can participate in the project if they or their families lost property and if restitution for that property has not been made after the Holocaust era. To participate in Project HEART, individuals only need to fill out the Questionnaire that may be found on the Project HEART website.

Project HEART’s Executive Director, Bobby Brown, stated that extending the deadline to submit Questionnaires “is necessary to ensure that all eligible individuals be allowed to participate in this important program.” Added Brown, “Project HEART may be the last restitution program of its kind. It would be unfair to Holocaust victims and their heirs to prematurely close the doors to this monumental and historic restitution effort.”

“Each week we receive dozens of inquiries from Jewish organizations located worldwide, specifically requesting that the deadline to submit Questionnaires be extended so that members of their communities can participate in Project HEART,” stated Anya Verkhovskaya, Project Director. According to Verkhovskaya, “Our goal has always been to be the most inclusive Holocaust era property restitution program ever. Extending the deadline to submit Questionnaires will ensure that we meet this goal by giving all eligible individuals the chance to participate in Project HEART.”

The new deadline to submit Questionnaires has not yet been established by Project HEART officials, but Project HEART intends to announce the new deadline as soon as it is determined. In the interim, individuals should visit the Project HEART website, www.heartwebsite.org, regularly to check for the announcement of the new deadline to submit Questionnaires. Project HEART officials are encouraging individuals to submit their Questionnaires as soon as possible.

Anya Verkhovskaya

Anya Verkhovskaya

Administrative Project Director
Holocaust Era Asset Restitution Taskforce - Project HEART
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av@heartwebsite.org www.heartwebsite.org
www.facebook.com/ProjectHEART.org
www.youtube.com/user/ProjectHEARTShoah

PO Box 170700, Milwaukee, WI 53217-8091, USA

Torah Site by Rifka Nachmias' son

Rivkah Nachmias' son, Rabbi Moshe Ben-Chaim, has a Torah website:
<http://www.Mesora.org>

This website also publishes the weekly JewishTimes for over 10 years that has free subscriptions:
<http://www.Mesora.org/jewishtmes>

Requests

We are asking for help for Eli Cohen in Israel. He sent us the following photo and is looking for information on his family. The photo was taken in either Volos or Ioannina and is of Nissim and Marco Cohen.



Please e-mail us at kehila_kedosha_janina@netzero.net if you have additional info on this family

Shalom to one and all!

**Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel**



Some may be surprised to learn that January 1st is a normal working day in Israel, with no particular significance beyond Israel's obvious acceptance and recognition of the start of the new "Gregorian", or "civil" year. This is because the founding fathers of the modern state of Israel insisted on reviving and instituting the ancient lunar Hebrew, or "Jewish", calendar for use in setting the time-framework for life in Israel in every facet, public and private. It is then quite timely and pertinent to take a quick look at this unique calendar, which has defined Jewish life and practice from the dawn of Creation.

Using the moon to define the Jewish day and month comes directly from the Torah, since the description of each new day of Creation concludes by a verse stating that "It was evening and it was morning, the first/second/third day" and so on, meaning that the "day" always begins the night before, based on the moon's appearance. Later, in the book of Exodus, God commands the Israelites to sanctify each new month based on the appearance of the "new" moon as it begins its monthly cycle, and set the festivals accordingly. From Biblical till Second Temple times, determining the new month was based on witnesses testifying before the Great Sanhedrin that they had seen the new moon's crescent. Special torchbearers would then signal the declaration of the new month far and wide by standing on a series of mountain tops from Jerusalem to the Judean desert. However, by later Second Temple times, this practice fell into disuse, both because of simple human error and difficulties of getting testimony on time, as well as the deliberate sabotage of the torch-bearing system by various Jewish sects rebelling against Talmudic Judaism. One of the early Talmudic Sages, Hillel the Great, then used mathematics and astronomy to create a permanent and fixed lunar-based calendar, which is the same one we know today.

But the 12 month lunar year, which consists of 354 days, must be adjusted to the 12-month solar year of 365 days in order to ensure that the Jewish festivals always fall within Biblically mandated seasons, which are of course determined by the sun: Pesah in the spring, Shavuot in the summer and Sukkot in the fall. This is done by having a Jewish "leap" year every 2 or 3 years, where an entire 13th lunar month – Adar II - is added before Nissan, which is the Hebrew month when Pesah occurs. Otherwise, the Jewish holidays would occur some 11-days "earlier", causing Pesah, for example, to eventually come in the heart of winter. This is exactly what happens in Islam, which uses an exclusively lunar calendar, so the holy month of Ramadan can occur during different seasons, based on when its lunar date falls during any particular solar year.

Obviously, no society can function without a proper calendar, and even more so in Jewish life, because there would be no order in anything. Jews in different countries would have only their local calendar systems, which have also changed over the centuries. Therefore, the unique unity and consistency of the Jewish year, and therefore life, would be lost completely, not to mention the most fundamental right of any people or society to control its own time and destiny. All of this was well understood by almost all enemies of Israel, with almost all conquerors of the Land of Israel trying to both destroy Jewish life and break the Jewish spirit by outlawing three of our most cardinal principles of faith: "brit mila" (circumcision), Shabbat (Sabbath), and

"Hodesh"(month), meaning the setting and use of the Hebrew calendar. Thank God, of course, that none have ever succeeded, and nor, with God's help, will ever do so in the future!

News of Interest to All

Chanukkah Student Photography Contest

Students, fans and friends in grades 5-12, enter into our
Chanukkah Student Photography Contest!

The theme is **Light v. Darkness** as we celebrate the Festival of Lights.

Students should focus on their use of light. The photograph should also be in black and white, and have commentary accompanying it.

The winners of the first two prizes will be the photographs with the most 'Likes'! Third place will be decided by our official panel of judges. The judges will look at how well the photograph and commentary match the theme, the seriousness and depth of the entry, and how well Jewish values are incorporated into the entry.

The contest will run from December 14th, 2011 to January 10th, 2012.

First Place: A digital camera (value of \$150)

Second Place: A gift card (value of \$100)

Third Place: A gift card (value of \$50)

Instructions:

** One photograph entry per participant. You must be in grades 5-12 in order to participate. If you do not have a Facebook profile, you can enter under another person's profile, just make sure to give your name and age in the text box, as described in number 2 below.

1) Become a fan of The Jewish Lens (TJL) by clicking 'Like' at the top of our page.

2) Post your photo on our wall! Under 'Share' at the top, click 'Photo'. Upload your submission along with

- a title

- a description (no more than 100 words) of how the photograph illustrates the theme, and

- your name, age and hometown.

** Remember that the photograph should be black and white.

3) You may vote by clicking 'Like' for as many other photos as you would like.

4) Invite your friends and family to join so that they can vote too!

Good luck!

** *By participating in the contest, you give TJL permission to use and publish your image and text in our materials.*

Please keep sending us your photos. We love them!

This month we received photos from Jerry Gladstone.



Joseph and Anna Mordecai

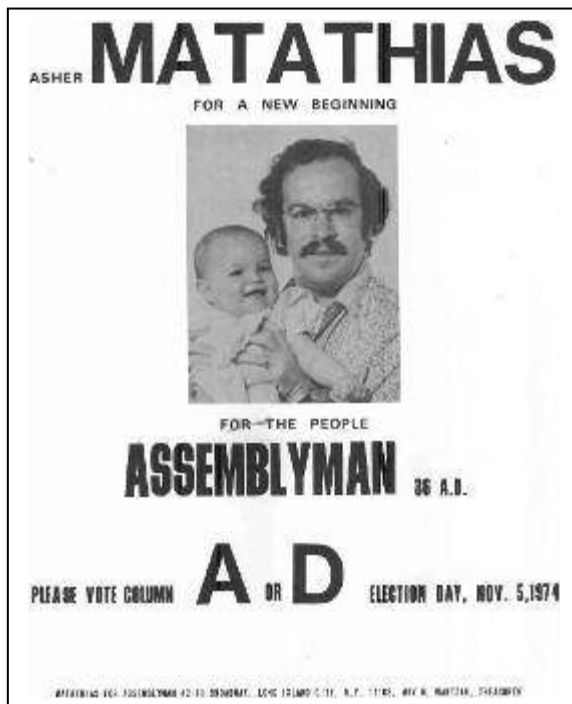


Molly Mordecai and Robert Gladstone

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Ada Finifter who recently passed away and generously left a bequest to Kehila Kedosha Janina.



We love this photo sent to us by Asher Matathias. In 2012, we here in the USA and our friends in Greece will be engaged in national elections. How appropriate that a Greek Jew, then, in 1974, a recent immigrant from Volos at the time of his campaign, ran for a congressional seat in Astoria Queens.



**Great internet links sent us by our friends:
Greek-Jewish event in Boulder Colorado**

http://boulderjewishnews.org/2011/opa-it-comes-from-the-greek/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+BoulderJewishNews+%28Boulder+Jewish+News%29&utm_content=FaceBook

Tombstones from Jewish Salonika

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12pWr2JwTnY&feature=share>

New song in support of Israel.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl-80McB_HM

Israel honors Greeks who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust

www.youtube.com

From Marcella Leontsini Mitilineos

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39AIK-WIWAs&feature=player_embedded!

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.

Kehila Kedosha Janina e-newsletter: number 48:

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