



Kehila Kedosha Janina

Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

June 2011 e-mail newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

We wish our friends a joyous Shavouth. This e-newsletter is being issued 2 weeks early because we will be in Greece on June 1st, leaving May 22nd and returning June 6th.

Do join us the weekend of June 24-26 at the annual Pasha weekend in the Catskill Mountains. There will be plenty of Greek music and dancing and, of course, good company. Contact Max Negrin (718-740-9116) ASAP to assure a reservation.



Pasha Dinner Dance: 1958

This newsletter, our 41st 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.

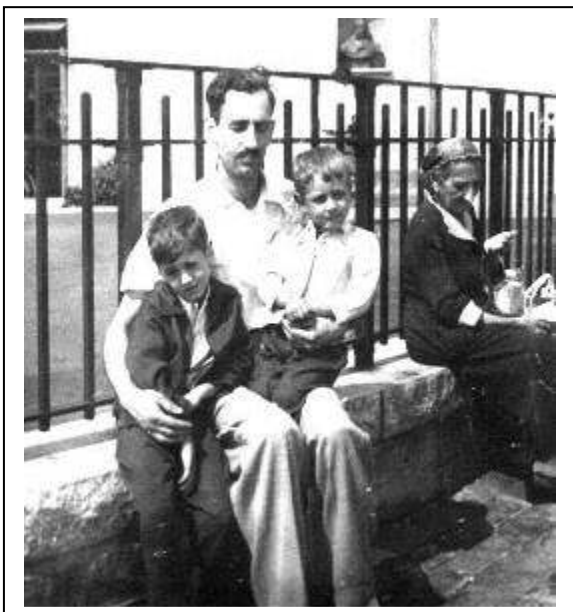
Passings

This month we lost some very special people.

Lou Levy, the last surviving child of Victor Levy (born in Ioannina in 1865) and Sarah Kones, died in Los Angeles at the age of 90.

Dora Mazza (Chrysoulla Lagary Mazza, bat Sarah Naftoly and Morris Lagary, widow of Ralph Mazza) passed away at the age of 98. Until recently Dora was still up on the dance floor, loving her Greek music and heritage. Her family, and that of her late husband, was from Ioannina.

David Mussey, son of Martin ben David Mussey (born in Salonika: family originally from Monastir) and Molly Cohen (family from Ioannina) died too young at the age of 63. David joined us in Greece twice (in 2007 and 2009) researching his family roots. He grew up on the Lower East Side and never lost his attachment to the Greek Jewish world. Our condolences to his widow, Linda.



David with his father, brother & Nona (Battery Park 1950s)



2009: Group in courtyard of Ioannina synagogue
David is 4th from left in rear row

Esther Nachman Pinsker, daughter of Meyer Nachman, passed away. The Nachmans were among the founding families of Kehila Kedosha Janina.

David Pardo, son of Sabetay and Ana Pardo, grandson of David Pardo from Monastir and Salonika, survivor of Auschwitz, Birkenau, and Mathausen passed away this month. Our condolences to his son Theodor and other members of the Pardo family.

Celebrations

Our congratulations to Irene (Mathios family) & Byron Dresner on the recent Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter Shoshana (daughter of Cheryl & Seth Bressman)



Shoshana Bressman

Δikoi Mas (Our Own) Come Home

We were recently honored by the visit of Victor Nachman and his son Marc. Victor was Bar Mitzvahed at Kehila kedosha Janina in 1937. Also Bar Mitzvahed on the same day in Kehila Kedosha Janina was his cousin Herbert Nachman. Unfortunately, Herbert perished in WWII, serving in the United States Armed Forces. Herbert's picture appeared in our "Our Gang" exhibit and one of the most emotional moments of Victor's recent visit to Kehila Kedosha Janina was viewing his cousin's picture in our Museum.



Victor Nachman

Victor & Marc Nachman

Upcoming Museum Events

Our legendary Koula's Kitchen will take place on Sunday June 12th. The theme this year is summer vegetables. Total cost \$5 per person. Event will take place at 2:00 at Kehila Kedosha Janina, 280 Broome Street. Please pre-register (you can pay at the door) since space is limited.

Patzaria



Upcoming Cultural Events of Interest

New York

May 22 | The Choir of Rome's Tempio Maggiore for the first time in New York

Centro Primo Levi and the Museum of Jewish Heritage host Divinamente NYC Festival on the 150th Anniversary of the unification of Italy.

Sunday, May 22 at 2:30 pm

Museum of Jewish Heritage

Edmond J. Safra Plaza

36 Battery Place, New York, NY 10280

Admission: \$15 and \$10 for MJH, CPL, ICI members

Box Office: (646) 437- 4202 - www.mjhnyc.org

Welcome remarks by the Consul General of Italy Francesco M. Talò and the Representative for International Affairs of the Jewish Community of Rome Giacomo Moscati.

Introduction by Francesco Spagnolo, Francesco Spagnolo, PhD, University of California, Berkeley

For the first time in the US, the Choir of the "Tempio Maggiore" conducted by the renowned tenor Claudio Disegni and featuring the hazan of Rome, Alberto Funaro, and organist Federico del Sordo, will expose the New York public to the unique flavors and variations of the liturgical tradition of the Jews of Rome.



Tempio Maggiore interior

The concert will open with Giuseppe Verdi's "Và Pensiero," the Hebrew Chorus from Nabucco. This magnificent choral work, which has become a symbol of the unification of Italy, recalls the story of the Babylonian exile after the destruction of the First Temple. The program will celebrate unique examples of late 19th century compositions from the Jewish communities in Florence,

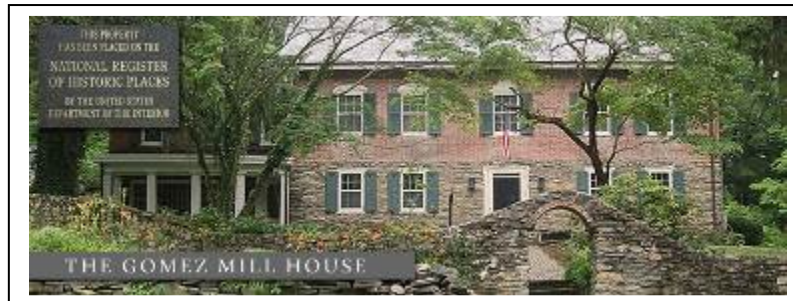
Livorno and Rome as well as a 1920 version of Hatikvã by Armando Sorani based on the 17th Century ballade La Mantovana.

**NEW GALLERY TO OPEN AT
HISTORIC GOMEZ MILL HOUSE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Dr. Ruth Abrahams 212-294-8329 (PDF Version)

New York, NY (May 6, 2011) On Sunday May 22, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. Gallery 'G' at Gomez Mill House will be inaugurated on the second floor of the nearly 300 year-old Gomez Mill House. The Gallery will offer two exhibits each season inspired by the historic significance of the Gomez Mill House.

The inaugural show, SNIPPETS: the Art and Craft of Paper Cutting highlights a "Snippet" of various paper cutting traditions from cultures around the world. The extraordinary examples include Chinese Paper Cutting by Hou Tien Cheng of Freehold, NJ, Calligraphy Quilts by Eleanor Winters of Brooklyn, NY, Modern Silhouettes by Ella Richards of New York, NY, Jewish Paper Cutting by Melanie Dankowicz of Chicago, IL, contemporary German Scherenschnitte by octogenarian craft master, Ann Sanders of Wolfeboro, NH, and a historic work of Scherenschnitte produced in 1838 by Gomez family member Sara R. de R. Lopez when she was 86. Historic period miniature portraits of Sara and her grandson Aaron Lopez Rivera will accompany this last work. The exhibit is inspired by Dard Hunter, the extraordinary paper historian and papermaker, who lived and worked at the Mill House from 1912 to 1918.



**Gomez Mill House Museum and Historic Site
11 Mill House Road, Marlboro, NY 12542
845-236-3126, www.gomez.org**

News from Jewish Greece

Israelis celebrate Greek hero

On Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 11.00 am in the Military Cemetery in Jerusalem (Har Chertsel) in the presence of dignitaries, there was a ceremony in memory of Joseph Lahana who died in 1948 at the battle of Jenin, in the Israeli War of Independence.



Joseph Lahanas was born in Arta in 1924 and immigrated illegally to Palestine in 1945. Only recently was the story of Joseph Lahanas revealed. His original tomb only displayed his name and date of death.

**Joseph fought with the rebels in the mountains of Greece and in the village of Chosepsi in Tzoumerka region of Arta. Among those who fought with him were Dr. Lazaros Eliezer, Saban Iosoulas (later deputy mayor under Mayor Papavassiliou of Arta), Iakov Menahem and John (Gianni) Hatzis, dubbed "Skoufas", says Constantine Tsiligiannis in his book "The Jewish Community of Arta", published by CCI
<http://kranosgr.blogspot.com>**

Mikis Theodorakis' Mauthausen excluded from anniversary commemoration in Austria

Austrian National Council President Barbara Prammer cancelled the performance of the song trilogy 'Mauthausen' by Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis from the commemoration of the 66th anniversary since the liberation of the Mauthausen extermination camp, on the grounds that the now octogenarian composer has made "repeated anti-Semitic statements in past years".

The song cycle was one of the composer's influential 'meta-symphonic' compositions of the mid-60s and set to music the works of Greek writer Iakovos Kampanellis, a personal friend of Theodorakis, in which the poet recounted his own experiences as a survivor of Mauthausen.

The memorial service, which has been held at the Austrian Parliament each year on May 5 since 1997, took place on Thursday in the presence of the Austrian President Heinz Fisher.

Memorial services are also scheduled to take place next Sunday at the site of the former concentration camp, where 122,000 people were killed by Nazi authorities, including 3,700 Greeks. Prammer will head the Austrian delegation at these events, which include dozens of delegations from other European countries whose citizens were victims of the camp.

These will include a delegation from Greece, which plans to lay wreaths and present Theodorakis' 'Mauthausen' performed by the Vienna musical group called 'The Greeks'.

The composer, accompanied at the time by Kampanellis, had first performed 'Mauthausen' at the site of the former concentration camp in 1988 in a historic concert featuring Maria Farantouri and attended by the then Austrian chancellor Franz Vranitzky.

New Exhibit at the Museum of Jewish Presence in Thessaloniki



A new exhibit focusing on one aspect of everyday life of pre-WWII Jewish Thessaloniki has opened at the Museum of Jewish Presence in Thessaloniki.

Featured as part of the exhibit are photographs of Greek-Jewish athletes. Many Greek Jews in Thessaloniki excelled in sports, among them Albert Nahmia, Allegra Gatenio, Dinos Ouziel, Jackie and Mark Razon Azouz.

Evangelos Hekimoglou, the curator of the Museum explained the 'why' behind the exhibit. "For the past 50 years an increasing number of historians have been studying the everyday life of the community. These studies include personal testimonies and stories and aim to discover what younger historians call the "hidden" voices from the past, direct evidence that these people existed.

The exhibition's curator Nick Zaikos added: "This is a forgotten area overpowered by the story of the Jewish community and the Holocaust, leaving the area of involvement in sports unexplored. In the early 20th century there were many athletes excelling in football, swimming, tennis, hiking, horseback riding, boxing, tennis, track, and winter sports. The largest clubs were Maccabi (Makkavaios) and Akoach ("strength"), which apart from sports had well-organized scouting departments. However, Jewish athletes were also in Hercules, Mars, Team, and Star.

Leo Pasy was a Panhellenic runner with a record 800-meter relay, who raced with the Greek Olympic team in '28 and would have in '32 but for the fact that he was not included because he stepped outside the boundaries. He, having gone for a few races in 1935 to Palestine, met and married his wife there and escaped the Holocaust, unlike his brothers who were killed in Auschwitz. Similarly, the Panhellenic Allegra Gatenio was the only member of the family who survived.

For additional information on the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, access <http://www.jmth.gr>

Articles of Interest

We thank Sara Crocker for this interesting piece of information:

An annual journal, entitled *Mouseio Benaki*, aims to promote the Museum's collections and research departments by publishing scholarly papers on objects in the collections and by reporting on the Museum's annual activities. It includes both Greek and foreign language texts, accompanied by English and Greek abstracts respectively.

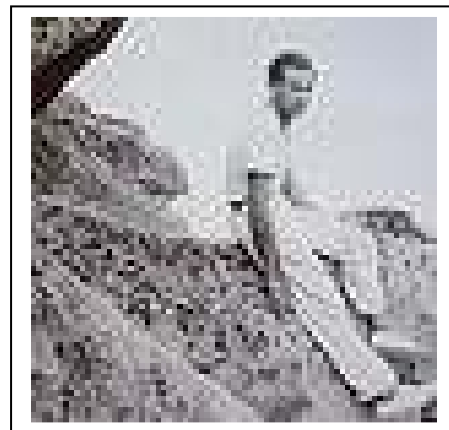
Summary

The Drawings of Isaac Saporta, Diplom-Ingenieur, Architect
Kardamitsi-Adami Maro
MOUSEIO BENAKI 2, 2002
193-200, 2003

In Spring 2000 I went to Atlanta, Georgia together with my colleague Margarita Sakka-Thivaïou, in order to receive the architectural archive of Isaac Saporta (1910-1998). Of Jewish origin, Saporta was born in Volos, where he spent his childhood. He studied architecture in Vienna and then travelled round Europe, where he got to know personalities in the intellectual world, formed friendships, and found himself at the centre of developments in architecture. He returned to Athens and settled there, marrying Nora Nechama, daughter of the distinguished Thessaloniki lawyer Joseph Nechamas. The war would take Saporta to the mountains as a member of the Resistance and Nora to a German concentration camp. They were reunited in 1945, decided to emigrate and in 1947 left for Atlanta to begin a new life.

In Atlanta Saporta would work, build and teach as an academic at the local architectural college, while engaging himself in the struggle for black civil rights and the protection of the environment. He retained his close ties with Greece and often made visits there. During the last of these he decided to leave his architectural archive to the Archives of Neo-Hellenic Architecture at the Benaki Museum, even though he had already received an approach from the architectural school at Georgia Tech.

Benaki Museum



Isaac
Saporta

As well as his architectural designs, we found in the archive a huge number of drawings... mainly sketches made with pencil, crayon, marker pen, biro, dip-pen, paintbrush, fountain pen... small sketches, tiny sketches (3 x 5 cm), large sketches (50 x 70 cm)... sketches on ricepaper, tracing paper, cardboard, wrapping paper... experiments with techniques and materials. Just a few drawings belong to the pre-war period. The vast majority, almost 99% of the total, were made between 1947 and the time of his death. His output falls into two main categories –

landscapes and female nudes. There are also smaller groups –animals, street scenes and episodes from everyday life, portraits– but the numbers are very small. He rarely coloured his sketches and worked mainly in black and white. But he fills you with light and colour... sometimes incredibly frugal, sometimes luxuriant. Sensitive, sensual, he gives free range to his personality and his soul, without any sign either of shame or of boastfulness. Perhaps the most important aspect of his work are the female nudes. The lines of Elytis come to mind: "A glance at the small, the trivial, the great, the eternal". Some drawings he was especially fond of and reworked again and again... reducing, enlarging, elaborating by adding or removing details.

Saporta's whole philosophy and life emerges from his drawings. The joy of existence, the open-handed sharing of this joy with those around one, family and friends, love of beauty, youth, life. "Hommage à la jeunesse et la beauté", as he himself wrote at the foot one of his female nudes.

Obituary

Ike Saporta, architect, professor, Atlanta activist

Date: November 17, 1998

Publication: The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution, Page C6

Ike Saporta, 88, a longtime Atlanta architect known as "Mr. Piedmont Park" for his outspoken neighborhood activism, carried magic markers and a sketchbook nearly everywhere he went. The creative, good-natured artist handed out thousands of sketches over the years -- of Greek landscapes, cocktail waitresses, old buildings. He also handed Atlanta his own progressive vision of a better city and worked for decades to bring that vision to life.

New Books

New Book in Judeo-Espanyol (Ladino)

Estimados amigos,

En estos días salyo a luz un libro nuevo:

"Sovre LA PERASHA DE LA SEMANA."

El libro, eskrito por Yehuda Hatsvi, kompletamente en Ladino, es una koleksion de komentarios sovre los kapitolos de la Tora, ke se publikavan, semana por semana, en el foro de Ladinokomunita, i ayinda -asta oy en dia- durante mas de 5 anyos, estan publikados en los foyetones de las kehilot de sefaradis en Sud America.

El prefasio al libro fue echo por el Sr. Moshe Shaul, el vise-prezidente de la Autoridad Nasionala del Ladino.

El presio de este nuevo libro es:

65 Shekel en Israel

15 EUR en Evropa

22 USD en todas otras partes del mundo.

El libro se vende en el Bet Avot Recanati en Petah Tikva, i tambien es posivle de resivirlo por la posta en adresandovos al autor:

Yehuda Hatsvi

Rehov Sokolov 6,

Herzelia 46497.

New Book in Greek

ΤΟ ΟΛΟΚΑΥΤΩΜΑ ΣΤΑ ΒΑΛΚΑΝΙΑ (The Holocaust in the Balkans)
ISBN 9789604582914

Σελίδες: 672 (672 pages)
Τιμή: 29.00 € (29 Euros)



ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΥ ΓΙΩΡΓΟΣ, ΔΟΡΔΑΝΑΣ ΣΤΡΑΤΟΣ, ΖΑΪΚΟΣ ΝΙΚΟΣ, ΜΑΡΑΝΤΖΙΔΗΣ ΝΙΚΟΣ

Στο βιβλίο αυτό περιέχονται μελέτες για το Ολοκαύτωμα των Εβραίων στις βαλκανικές χώρες και στην Ελλάδα. Συγγραφείς από πολλές βαλκανικές χώρες ερευνούν το Ολοκαύτωμα στην Κροατία, την Σερβία, τη Βουλγαρία, την Υπερδνειστερία και την Ελλάδα.

(This book contains studies on the Holocaust of Jews in Balkan countries including Greece. Writers from many Balkan countries researched the Holocaust in Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece.)

New Book on Jewish Philadelphia

Oscar Israelowitz's Newest Book

Jewish Heritage Trail of Philadelphia

“Jewish Heritage Trail of Philadelphia” features do-it-yourself guided tours of the City of Brotherly Love. Some of the highlights of this book include the Jewish connection with the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Mikveh Israel and Rodeph Shalom—the oldest congregations in the city, Philadelphia Museum of Art and the statue of “Rocky”, the new National Museum of American Jewish History, the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia Holocaust Memorial in Center City, Elfreth’s Alley—the oldest street in the United States and its Jewish residents, former Eastern State Penitentiary and its recently restored synagogue, the only synagogue designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in Elkins Park, and lots more. There are over sixty color photographs.

List \$21.95 (plus \$5.00 shipping)

Israelowitz Publishing

P.O.Box 228 Brooklyn, NY 11229

Requests for help

From Joe Varon: Joe is looking for *Ma nishtana* in Greek

Responses to requests from last e-newsletter

Thank you for sending me the May Newsletter. On page 18, Haim Ischakis asks about the Sicilian Purim or Purim Katan or Purimopulo in Ioannina. I would be happy to send him a copy of one, as transcribed by my father Abraham Cantos, of which you have a copy in the museum. My father spent many faithful days at Kehila Kedosha as Gabbai on the Sabbath and on holidays, in the late 30's and 40's. Thanks, Esther Krichevsky

Please continue to send us photos. We cherish them. Among the many we received this past month, the following were among our favorites.

The first was received from Irwin Josephs with the handwritten inscription (in Greek) on the back.



The photo was taken in Ioannina and sent to New York addressed to Judah Joseph Ezra.



The photo below was sent to us by Andreas Kounio of Thessaloniki. It is of the Kounio family in Thessaloniki in 1921.



Santorini studio for rent

We do not usually advertise in our newsletter. This is an exception. Santorini is now the most expensive island in Greece and Marcella Leontsini Mitilineos, whose family came from the Jewish community of Corfu is now offering a beautiful studio for rent in Firostani on the island of Santorini for the price of 120 euros a night. Having stayed there ourselves, we know what a treasure this is and wish to share it with our readers. Contact Marcella directly (mention that you heard about it through us): marcellamitilineos@hotmail.com



Items of interest on the internet

We thank Leon Saltiel for the following:

An interesting documentary on the Second World War in Greece, the Holocaust and collaboration.

Part I: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRSi2ETnEa8>

Part II: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnDQZAYNbo4&feature=youtube_gdata_player

Part III: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhRVUD7QtHE&feature=youtube_gdata_player

http://www.wollheim-memorial.de/en/yaacov_jack_handeli

Interviews with Buna/Monowitz Concentration Camp Survivors > Ya'acov (Jack) Handeli

When you are in New York, visit us on Broome Street. We are open for services every Saturday and all major Jewish holidays and our Museum is open every Sunday from 11-4 and, by appointment during the week.



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