

Eulogy for Hy Genee, given by Lois and Melissa Ledner at Sinai Chapels, Flushing NY, February 15, 2006:

I once heard that a person's death can be compared to the closing of a library. I think that this applies to my father because he was a wealth of knowledge. Anytime there was a question about family history, Romaniote Jewry, the Kehila or the Lower East Side, all we had to do was call Dad to find out the answer. Somehow, he was always more on top of current events than anyone else.

He had a way of touching anyone who was in his presence. He has a warm and gentle way about him. From anyone who was walking down the street to anyone who walked into the Kehila, he could get them to open up to him in a matter of minutes. By the end of the conversation he would know their life story. This was the way of my father.

My mother and father are married going on 60 years. She was always supportive and would not stand in his way for the things he wanted to do.

As proof, my father, my daughter and I took a trip with the Kehila to Greece in 2000. To which my mother said, "If you want to go – then go." It is a trip that I will always remember, not only for the visit to Janina, but for the closeness that it brought me to my father.

I know that I speak for my brother's and my family when I say that my father's favorite times were when he was with the family, whether, it was presiding over the Seder table, eating at Marty's sukkah, or celebrating birthdays.

Let us remember that he did what he wanted when he wanted for his entire life. His illness was only a short time. He was vibrant and dynamic. He was a wonderful father and adored as a Poppou. We were the lucky ones to have him in our lives.

Recently, my dad and I were able to recreate a very special moment in my life. When I turned 18, dad took me to see "The Apple Tree." Before seeing the play dad bought me my first alcoholic drink (18 was the legal drinking age back then). In 2005 City Center had a special encore performance of "The Apple Tree." Dad and I made a date to relive a wonderful memory. This is one of many memories that I will cherish forever.

Lois Ledner

It would take chapters and chapters and volumes and volumes to speak of the influence my Poppou had on this community. The evidence is in everyone sitting here.

I always thought that my grandparents were famous. Everywhere we went, everyone knew them. There were always shorter waits in crowded restaurants and free dessert from owners and waitresses who had just been truly charmed.

Last year I went to take a class at the Y. When I gave my grandfather's name as a contact the girl at the desk looked at me and said, "He's like a famous actor, isn't he?"

To which I responded, "Yep, that's him." Only later was I looking in the fall course guide and there he was in the Senior Health section lifting weights in his Mickey Mouse shirt with that radiant smile. They used that picture for the winter and the spring catalog, too. We all decided that they should start paying him for his work.

There are not many people that step up to responsibility the way that he did. He was a "legend" in his own time and the backbone to my family and the Kehila. Every time I saw him, I knew I was privileged. Privileged to be touched by a "legend."

Melissa Ledner

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Kehila Kedosha Janina, I express our deep love for this special man who touched, and continues to touch, all of us in a very special way. Our loss is deep. It etches into our soul but, as Lois so touchingly said when we embraced in tears at the funeral, "I was so lucky." We were all so lucky. We will miss you Hy and we will commit ourselves to working even harder, to assure that all you stood for will be preserved and all you desired will become a reality. Keep whispering in my ear. Continue to be an inspiration. Help me to be one fraction of the human being you were.

Marcia Haddad Ikonopoulou



KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA SYNAGOGUE AND MUSEUM

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Holly Kaye • Sol Matsil • Max Nachmias • David Negrin • Maurice Negrin • Randi Schoer-Vagelatos

*Deceased

IN MEMORY OF HY GENE

April 27, 1922 – February 13, 2006

On February 13th we were shaken by the death of our beloved President, Hy Genee. This newsletter is dedicated to his memory.

So many people sent in their thoughts and their memories of this special man. Please forgive us if your comments were not included, or if we had to edit what you sent us. It would have taken volumes to include everything.

Hy was always so proud of his family. In the midst of this devastating loss, their strength and dignity have been an inspiration to us all. Hy's daughter, Lois, and his oldest grandchild, Melissa, gave sensitive eulogies at the funeral (at Sinai Chapels on February 15th). For all of you who were there in the packed chapel, and to the many more who could not attend, I am reprinting their words in their entirety (pages 6-7).

The Genee and Ledner families want to thank all of you who expressed condolences. They were deeply touched by the outpouring of emotion and would like to thank those who sent in donations to the Kehila. We all are extremely grateful for your generosity.

There were those who grew up on the Lower East Side and knew Hy a lifetime:

When I speak with friends who knew Hy, I find that all of them feel as though *they* were someone special to Hy, and not the other way around. I knew him for as long as I knew anyone—my parents included. Born and growing up in apartment #32, on 81 Orchard Street [the Genees lived in #31] Bechoraki, Firo, Abe, Alice and Hy were as much a part of my family, in our early years, as my parents, brothers and I were, of theirs. In those days, doors were open morning to night, and families were closer with neighbors then. As a young teen, I worked for Hy one entire summer. Sweeping, straightening our clothes on racks, and making pickups and deliveries at the store Hy managed [and later owned] at #9 Delancey Street. We spent 8 hours a day together for an entire summer. Just prior to my entering the service, I sat on the steps of our building, till the wee hours, with Lil, waiting for Hy to come home one last time before shipping overseas....Later, sharing our memories, seeing his eyes light up on the [too rare] occasions when I'd visit the synagogue and receiving the special greeting and aliyah at those times....Of course, I felt special to him, but that was Hy—he made *you* feel special.

Max Negrin

Many a time I would pass by his pants store on the way home to schmooze or to order a pair of pants. He always greeted me with a big smile and a "Hey pal,

how's the family?" Our best dedication to his memory would be to keep the synagogue alive. That would be the greatest honor we could bestow upon him.

Ralph Battino

My business was only a 15 minute walk from the Kehila. It was not unusual to receive a call from Hy to ask me if I could be the tenth man for a minyan. And of course, I never refused him. Hy's dedication to the synagogue and to the continuation of the Yaniote tradition and liturgy are well known. Of the three Yaniote synagogues, the Broome Street Kehila is the only one left in NYC. and probably the only one in the Western Hemisphere. His commitment to the preservation of these traditions has not only enriched the Yaniote community, but has been a major contribution to the world of Judaism.

Sol Matsil

I have known Hy for 54 years. My relationship with him goes back to 1952 when I first came to the U.S. to go to college. My dad, Morris Matsa, and Hy's father were longtime friends from Greece. When my parents immigrated to the U.S., my father who had been the President of the Jewish Community of Athens became involved with Jewish life in NYC. including the Kehila Kedosha Janina (KKJ)...When Joe Josephs died, my dad assumed the presidency of KKJ, a position he held until his death in 1969. I personally continued my affiliation with KKJ over the years and Hy became

a cherished friend of our family. Hy was a wonderful person who was devoted to his wife Lil, his children and grandchildren, all of whom he was so proud of. He always made everyone feel at home at KKJ whether they regularly prayed there or came as visitors to worship....We together enjoyed the Pashas Weekends at Kutchers and the Raleigh Hotels every year where Hy so obviously delighted in sharing the Greek dancing and singing. He led the Shabbat services there; his love of our traditions enhanced the joy of the occasion. It is very hard for us to accept the fact that Hy has died and that he will not be at KKJ to welcome us in the days to come. It is impossible to think of KKJ without him. The expression “we will truly miss him” is a real understatement of the century. Hy Genee was a uniquely GREAT human being. His death is a huge loss not only for the Romaniote community, but for all Jews in New York and around the world.

Sam Matza

I knew Hy a lifetime. Never was there a sweeter man. He will be sorely missed. He was a “Pasha” among “Pashas”.

Max Nachmias

It is not quite a month since Hy passed away and it is difficult to imagine life without him. After my husband Murray died five years ago, Hy became the brother I lost 32 years ago. He was a wealth of information and comfort to me. When my son, Mordy, moved into a new apartment, three years ago, Hy was the one who put up the mezuzah on his front door. The last time Hy attended Shabbat services at KKJ, it was for Murray’s adara, December 24, 2005. Hy was extremely uncomfortable and couldn’t find a place to sit that didn’t pain him. When Mordy asked him why he wasn’t home in bed, he said “No, I have to be here for your Dad.” And now they are side by side at Beth David. Before Murray died, Hy and Lil and Murray and I would go up to Pasha weekends together and sing all kinds of songs and ditties in the car! They knew a lot of songs you wouldn’t expect a “chaham and his rubissa” to know! Their favorite was “George Washington Bridge”, with the most “difficult” lyrics ever! We would often go out to dinner together and get kind of silly at times – acting more like kids than grown-ups! Dancing the Peabody at Pasha affairs was a “must” for Hy & Lil with a line of partners at the ready to “cut-in” and dance with Hy! But, we always let him finish the dance with Lil! Hy never lost sight of his humble beginnings; always remembering where he came from – not changing himself with each lofty position he attained in the myriad organizations he was affiliated with. Being President of a group or just

an ordinary member, Hy was always Hy. A sweetheart of a man, kind, caring and loving. He was genuinely interested in all aspects of our lives, asking about our children, grandchildren and extended families. Hy will be missed by all who got to know him and love him, and all who knew him, loved him. My family and I included. Goodbye, Hy. G-d Rest.

Rose Eskononts

I’m glad you requested thoughts from Hy’s friends and how he touched our lives. It’s hard for me to put my thoughts into words. They effect our very basic life cycles. Hy was there for me when I had to make arrangements for burying my mom and dad, Paula and Mark Schinasi. Hy was there for me when I had to make arrangement for burying my aunt Julia Schinasi Lang. Hy was there for my aunt Julia when she had to make arrangements for burying her mother (my grandmother) Rebecca and then her husband Paul. Hy was there for my aunt Julia in assisting to convert her husband Paul to Judaism. In fact, Hy was there for my family to personally move a ner tamid over the ark at the Shul in honor of Rebecca Schinasi, my grandmother. His action and compassion gave so much help to my Aunt Julia when she lost her closest companions. We have a photo of my grandmother, looking out her back window from 81 Orchard Street onto the Shul on Broome St. You can read a lot into that cherished photo. The memory of Janina and the Shul has been strongly nurtured by Hy’s actions. He will live forever in our hearts and minds. And my children cherish a photo of Hy holding my infant granddaughter, Rebecca. Hy has touched 5 generations of our Schinasi family.

Mel Schinasi

I have never known anyone as honest and as sincere as Hy, who I knew for sixty years.

Harry Labensky

There were those who only knew Hy for a short time but found his acquaintance a life-changing experience:

Although I did not know Hy Genee for a long time, he quickly became a cherished friend. I was deeply touched by his intelligence, his interest in other people (a trait found in many born leaders) and his warm acceptance of me into the congregation and the Greek Jewish community. By example, Hy encouraged me to become active in the Kehila and the museum. I will miss him, but I treasure the memories of the time that I spent in his exceptional company.

Corinna Gittleman

It is with deep sadness that we at the American Sephardic Federation learned about the sudden passing of Hy Genee. He was truly a beautiful man and in the short time that I knew him, he gained my deepest respect. It was just one week ago that we were watching him in Ed Askenazi’s film, ***The Last Greeks on Broome Street***. I think it’s wonderful that he will forever be remembered in this film....I send my sincere personal condolences to your community and to his family.

Esme Berg

I remember as if it were yesterday when I came to NYC for the presentation of my book and I had the honor to meet Hy Genee. It was as if he was the representative of all the Yanniotes who had emigrated from Ioannina. He seemed like a man who did not need many words to impress you. I felt his personality, his calmness and the tranquility that invited your respect and made you like him. He seemed to have the wisdom necessary to be the President of a synagogue like Kehila Kedosha Janina that represented Greek Jewry, but more so, a synagogue representing Ioannina, a community so rich in customs and tradition with a past that goes back 2000 years.

Eftibia Nachman, Athens, Greece,

*author of **Yannina: Journey To the Past***

Yesterday night I received your e- mail informing me that the President of the Kehila Kedosha Jannina, Hy Genee, died. I am very sorry for this sad news. The people of the KKJ have lost an important man as was the President Hy Genee.

Jannina, 15 Feb 2006, Alekos Raptis,

*Reporter, **Epirote Struggle***

Barukh Dayan Emet. He is still a strength to the synagogue and to the community.

Professor Steven Bowman, University of Cincinnati

Vincent Giordano’s memories of Hy Genee so captured the essence of the man that I have decided to print them in their entirety:

I first met Hy Genee in the fall of 1999. I introduced myself to him and asked his permission to photograph and document the Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and the Romaniote community that call it their spiritual home. Hy granted me permission to work and so began a new chapter in my life’s project was born and it took on a life of its own. The documentation that became known as ***Before the Flame Goes Out*** brought me to new places and introduced me to new friends. I am proud to say, Hy was one of those friends. Hy was

a gentleman; always kind and courteous and above all, always helpful, sharing his incredible knowledge. Whenever we met or spoke, he asked of my work and its progress and never failed to ask for my wife, Hilda. I last spoke to Hy on the telephone yesterday morning, February 13, when I called to ask how he was doing. Without prompting, he congratulated me on the wonderful opening of my exhibition of photographs at the Westchester Jewish Center and of course, asked how Hilda was. He reminded me that two weeks ago, I asked his help to secure permission to photograph another synagogue on the Lower East Side. Hy asked if I had contacted the rabbi, as he had instructed. I told him that I had and that I was waiting for a call back. Hy offered to call the rabbi this week and “warm him up.” On what turned out to be his last day, Hy was as helpful to me as ever and I did not have to ask: he reached out to help me. We will all miss Hy in our own way and while we are saddened by his passing, we celebrate the life of this wonderful man and the effect he had on each of us. The “Lions of Judah” above the Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue doorway have always reminded me of Hy and his presence as the leader of the Romaniote community. Whenever I pass through those doors, I will remember Hy Genee. With respect,

Vincent Giordano

*Director, **Before the Flame Goes Out***

One of the most beautiful memories of Hy [aptly named “There Was Always Dancing”] was from his granddaughter, Melissa:

“There Was Always Dancing.”

Imagine having a better time with your grandparents than people your own age. Earlier this year my mom and I were out to dinner with my Nonnie and Poppou. We were at a vegetarian restaurant were my Nonnie happily bopped along to some loud heavy metal music. She kept insisting, “This is not so bad,” as she swayed from side to side. After the meal we were walking down the street and passed a Middle Eastern Restaurant. There was familiar music in the air and a belly dancer entertaining the tables. We stopped in front of the restaurant to show off our own shimmies and shakes. My Poppou was strutting down the street shaking it with his walker. He was doing a little two-step and grooving with the beat. The people inside the restaurant stopped watching the dancer and started to give their attention to us. People clapped as we laughed and shouted OPA! as we made our way back to the apartment. Even though my Poppou may have been having a difficult time walking, there was nothing that was going to stop him from dancing.

There were those who had the joy of working with Hy in projects promoting Kehila Kedosha Janina:

...I first encountered Hy Genee in the winter of 2002. When planning an exhibition of some of the older synagogues in New York City, Amy Waterman of the Eldridge Street Synagogue suggested that I visit KKJ. It was a bitter cold day but the welcome extended by Hy caused an immediate thaw. His sincerity and genuine "embrace" brought us back a number of times. Indeed KKJ was a very important element in an exhibition at Westchester Jewish Center in 2004 and then was featured as a primary show in 2005-2006. We visited KKJ earlier on a research expedition with Susan Sansolo; for Ed Askinazi's film; for Shabbat services and with a synagogue sisterhood group. Hy would have loved to see this past exhibition but it was not to be a loss for us all.

Terri and Norman Trieger: Westchester Jewish Center

This is a devastating loss for the Kehila and for all of you who have known Hy for so many decades. Those of us, like me and my husband, who only got to meet Hy later in his life, consider ourselves tremendously lucky to have had the chance to do so. We were greatly touched by knowing him.

Katherine Fleming, A.S. Onassis Program in Hellenic Studies, NYU

When news of Hy's passing spread, words of condolences and memories of Hy came in from around the world and from heads of local and international organizations:

...I was shocked. I am very sorry to hear about Hy and please give my condolences to Hy's family. I am sending you some great photos of Hy dancing kalamatiano at the Greek Community Center in Jerusalem!

Elias Messinas, Editor of Kol HaKebila, Israel and Aegina Greece.

Hy was truly a leading light of the lower east side. His tireless efforts to preserve the history of the congregation of Kehila Kedosha Janina will live on to sustain members and visitors to the synagogue. His success in landmarking and restoring the synagogue preserved a critical piece of New York and world history. Hy was a true friend of the Tenement Museum, and his kindness and generosity touched the hearts of so many of the staff. He will be missed, but not forgotten.

Renée Epps, Lower East Side Tenement Museum

...How he will be missed, and how blessed we all were to know him.

Laurie Tobais Coben, Lower East Side Conservancy

I was saddened to learn of Hy Genee's passing. My father also expresses his sincere regrets.

Sidney Gerson

Sephardic Jewish Center of Forest Hills

I so enjoyed meeting Haim and will always cherish the day we sat in the synagogue and chanted together. G-d bless his soul....

Rabbi Nissim Elcenave

International Sephardic Leadership Council

Excerpted from the Jewish Voice, March 3, 2006:

Kehila Kedosha Janina stands as a symbol of remembrance to the martyrs of Greece, and for every single Jew killed by the Germans during the Holocaust. It doesn't have a 50 million dollar budget like some museums do, but it is authentic, and serves a tremendous purpose as a living example of the past. While it also houses a small but important museum, the highest honor of all is that it remains open as a functioning synagogue, in this capacity, it truly honors all Jews. Hy Genee helped keep it open, in his honor, many people now will be gathering the strength to continue this solemn responsibility. The lamp of the Romaniote community in New York has dimmed, but the torch is not out - it has just passed on to a new hand.

Shelomo Alfasa

International Sephardic Leadership Council

Sincere condolences to Mr. Genee's friends and family. I met Mr. Genee twice, in conjunction with writing for the *Greek National Herald*, and he was wonderfully charming. Surely, he is a man who will be sorely missed.

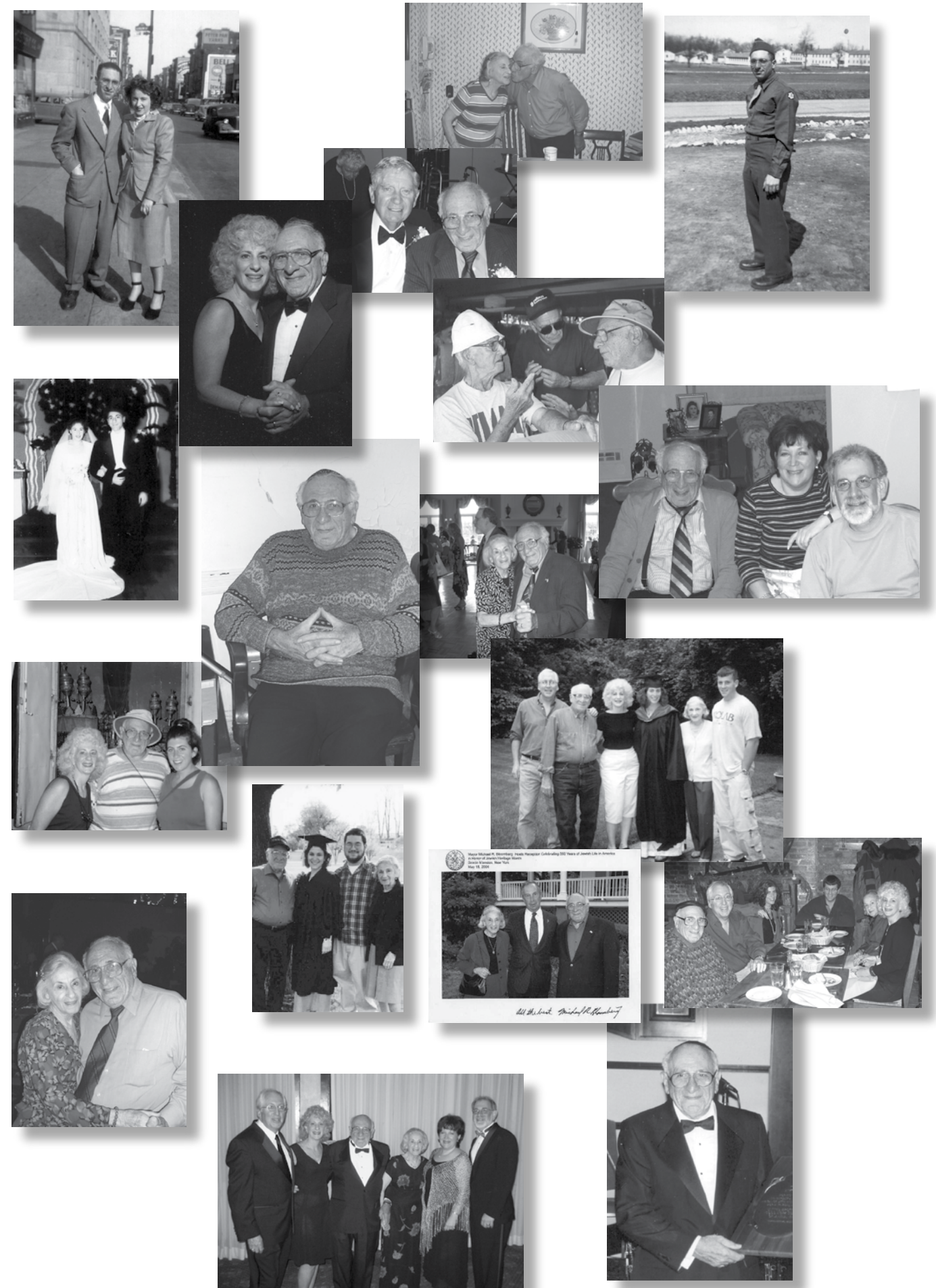
Maria Damianakos

This is really sad news. My condolences, to his family and to all of us who really loved him.

Nikos Alexiou, Queens College, Dept. of Sociology

A great loss to be sure and that is no cliché. We will, indeed, continue the work...and I mean now: I have the okay to ask you to write an essay for the special issue that will focus on the Romaniote Jews of New York.

Dan Georgakas, Byzantine Center, Queens College.



Our quality of life changed because of you. Your openness, your enjoyment of life, tipped us off that there was more to life than had been acknowledged before. You gave us hope in beginning the museum. You gave us experience in serving the community. You played with my crossword puzzle habit even filling in the blanks, and you gave love to everyone. How can we not be changed in the presence of love? And you are still anointing us with that love. Thank you Hy, for your very precious gifts to each and every one of us. We will always see you in the synagogue, trusting you will travel in our hearts forever.

Diana Sunrise Dostis

Unfortunately I did not know Hy for very long. I remember him sitting in his chair, and his immediate and warm welcome when I first came to visit on a Sunday afternoon. I really enjoyed listening to his stories and always found myself staying for hours when I had intended a short visit. He made Janina history vivid and I would like to dedicate the installation I create for the synagogue to his memory.

Judy Moonlis, artist

There were so many to whom Hy represented a continuance in tradition both religious and secular:

All the Levys miss HY and treasure our time with him. Outside of family, it's hard for me to think of anyone who has had more impact on my life and my own family's. Hy opened a whole new chapter of our past and a continuing one of our future. He gave us a world we hadn't had. His greatness and accomplishments will always be remembered but not any more than his charm, graciousness, and warmth. He always made my whole family, old and young, feel like a million bucks.

Dan Levy [Grandson of Rabbi Jessula Levy]

My earliest memories of Hy Genee were as a toddler, in the early 1960s. My Grandfather brought me to the Kehila with him every Shabbat and one of my joys was to sing Yimloch, which Hy taught me. He let me perform each week and made me feel quite special as a little child. That was the beauty of Hy Genee. Everyone he touched, he made feel special. Forty years later, that vivid memory and the singsong of the Tefila are still with me, thanks in great part to Hy. He helped mold my Greek Jewish identity.

Leonard Neubaus

The first time I met Hy, I told him that my mother's family name was Ganis. He replied, "My name is Genee, that's almost Ganis." From that moment he became, and always remained, like a member of my family. I loved him and in turn felt loved by him. On those not infrequent occasions on which, inspired by his selfless work for KKJ, I would bring a contribution check for the synagogue, Hy would playfully respond, "You're going to bother me again with this?" and the smile in his eyes would be better than a thousand "thank yous". The receipt for the contribution would always come in the mail a day or two later, sent much faster than receipts from organizations, which had computers and office staffs at their disposal. But Hy was also more than just a good friend. To me he was the repository of Romaniote liturgy, history, and culture, a living link to my ancestors and all they had experienced and lived for. In him old Janina continued to live and breathe. May we continue to preserve this heritage, and carry the light and the love that he embodied, through the generations.

Henry Watkins

When I think of Hy Genee the first thought that comes to mind is that he has been and was the heart of Kehila Kedosha Janina. I remember the Synagogue from my childhood when there were many old Greek ladies who only spoke Greek and were very stern. As a result I stayed away for many years and returned out of curiosity about 10 years ago. The first person I spoke to was Hy. He was so warm and welcoming that I continued to attend and participate in synagogue events. I have always felt that he was the loving core of the Synagogue, the heart, the person whose love and warmth kept us all connected as a loving family...

Sarina Meones

Without Hy's support & Murray Eskononts' input we would not be celebrating the 10th anniversary of our Romaniote museum. I have a photo of Hy & me standing in front of the open ark, taken some years ago. It is a picture I cherish. I will include it in a book I plan to write entitled THE JEW I NEVER WAS.

Isaac Dostis

Memories are strong...To remember my life long... A Ioannina Bar Mitzvah for me...Many Thanks to Hy Genee...A tutor...A friend...He made me laugh...He had a spirit that will last...Like him I would like to be...A very special man called Hy Genee.

Maxx Kleiner who, with Hy's help, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in Ioannina in 2000.

So many wrote of Hy and remembered his warm welcome the first time they visited Kehila Kedosha Janina:

I had the wonderful opportunity to meet Hy Genee one day at the synagogue. I was searching for the prayer books of my great grandfather, Shalom Fraggi. Although my great grandfather was Sephardic, from Volos, he had donated his religious books to the Ioannina congregation, and was buried in their plot at Old Mt. Carmel. Needless to say, I didn't find the books but I found Hy Genee – such a warm, welcoming, and smart man with whom I spent an hour or so, chatting about the old-times and old-timers down on Broome St. This was the beginning of my genealogical search and I will always remember this splendid man... I was saddened to hear of his passing, happy that I got a chance to meet him, and will carry him in my memory.

Rina Benmayor, Monterey, California

Hy made my father Solomon z'l and me feel at home sto kahl. I personally felt incredible warmth and love emanating from Hy. I feel so very fortunate just to have known him. A truly great and Holy man.

Joseph Sameb

I had corresponded with Hy Genee and talked to him on the phone once, when I found out about 10 years ago that Kehila Kedosha Janina existed. Living on the West Coast, it was not easy for me to drop in on the synagogue, but when I finally made it to New York City in the late 90's, I finally got a chance to visit the synagogue. Hy was leading services that Shabbat and after the services, we had a chance to meet and talk. He (and Isaac Dostis) were so incredibly friendly, welcoming, gracious. It was such a joyous occasion for me to connect with people of similar background. He made me feel as if was home! I am sorry that I never got to see him again, but I will always remember him with love!

Anne Gani Sirota

...every time I came, Hy greeted me so very warmly, making me feel at home. Whenever we would meet at events away from the Kehila, he would always give me the same warm greeting. That is something I will always remember. Tears flowed as I read the e-mail message informing me of Hy's passing. Hy worked unselfishly for the Romaniote community for so many years – truly a labor of love. We have lost a most dedicated man. May Hy rest in peace.

Evelyn Klapholtz [Matza family]

One felt special to be in his presence. I really only married into this community of Greek Jews – but have been pulled in, seduced, by Hy, and the congregation. There is a spirit, an integrity, and a simplicity (not to be confused with simpleness) that is so alluring, if only because it seems so rare these days. With sadness, but comfort in having known Hy a little bit.

Olivia Levy [wife of Jesse Levy]

There were those who had the pleasure of traveling to Greece with Hy.

I first meet Hy Genee in 2000 on a heritage trip to Ioannina. On that trip I had asked if my new granddaughter could be named at Kahal Kadosh Yashan. Hy told my wife and me that it would be an honor for him to perform this mitzvah. On August 5, 2000 Hy called me to the torah to name my new grandchild in the very same synagogue that my grandparents and my mother worshiped. I will always remember that day and the man who made it possible.

David Corito

He blessed my Greek heritage and made me be a better Greek Jew than I even thought I could be. May his spirit keep it with us...I feel so lucky to have been with Hy in Greece in 1998...I will always treasure my our trip to Janina and finding my Greek roots.

Sherry Jobanas Borrero

...I will warmly remember Hy from our trip to Ioannina in 2000.

Emily Udler [Samuels family], Israel

There were those who remember Hy's comforting presence in times of their own personal losses:

...Hy, z'l, was the glue that kept the small membership, and even larger friends, associates, and supporters of the Janina Synagogue of Broome Street together... He was the proverbial rock of enormous support during the darkest days in our own family's history in America, the untimely loss of our patriarch, my father Jacob, z'l, going on nine years...

Asher Matathias