

# Newsletter

Summer, 2007

Dear Sisterhood Member,

**Congratulations to all our Graduates. May their chosen paths bring them success.**

With summer fast upon us, if you're planning vacations, hope you travel to someplace lovely and have a wonderful time, or if you're staying close to home, stay safe and enjoy yourselves! I'll be going to Greece this summer, with the Assoc. of Friends of Greek Jewry, visiting Janina where Murray's parents were born, and, where Seth Kofinas, son of Suzanne & Chaim, grandson of Koula & Sol will be Bar Mitzvah at the historic kehila. Then it's off to Salonika, where my parents came from... then, Athens, where Murray has cousins... and points in between. Marcia Ikonomopoulos, president of the AFGJ, and our tour organizer, has promised what will be an extraordinary trip. I'll tell you all about it when I return.

## KKJ

Sunday, April 29, was a fantastic day. We celebrated Hy Genee's lifetime of dedication and commitment to the synagogue. His family donated a memorial wall tablet in his honor, in addition to a very generous monetary donation. There was a film, done by Vincent Giordano, shown on our newly acquired Plasma TV, highlighting Hy and his many facets. A huge group gathered there for this extraordinary day – speeches were held to a minimum, but whoever spoke, did so from their hearts. A delicious collation followed and everyone milled around socializing and recalling many "Hy" anecdotes. This was a very fitting tribute to a man who devoted his life to perpetuating our Romaniote traditions and heritage.

Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, the KKJ Re-Dedication celebration, with the unveiling of the Landmark plaque on the exterior of the building, saw us, once again, close Broome Street, with an overflowing crowd. The heartwarming event continued inside with the showing of "The Last Greeks on Broome Street", Ed Askinazi's very moving film, and luscious refreshments, which were enjoyed by all who attended. Marcia Ikonomopoulos, Museum Director, puts her heart and soul into these very special events, which you are encouraged to attend.

## SISTERHOOD'S MONDAY AFTER MOTHER'S DAY AT THE "HOME"

Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, a beautiful day, turned out to be another lovely outing at the Home for our members and the residents, alike. Sisterhood purchased lovely velvet-covered photo albums for each female resident, and donated \$1500 to The Home, for their general fund. At our meeting, I'm very proud to say that a vote was taken to donate \$5,000 to the historic Kehila in Ioannina, which I will personally deliver this summer. After a lovely lunch, we danced among the residents, a few of whom got up and joined us...while one woman, of Turkish heritage, got up and danced for every Greek and Sephardic song played...she put us to shame by never tiring!! Our members, Dinah Lafazan and Mollie Feder, residents of the Home, enjoyed having us visit with them and asked us to come more often. If you can, they'd love seeing you.

## "5-WAY" ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The June 2-3, 2007 weekend proved to be a "once-in-a-lifetime" occurrence. It began at a very special Shabbat service at KKJ, where we had a standing-room only attendance, with people from far and wide (California, Florida, Illinois, etc.). We participated in a Romaniote Shabbat service with "special" blessings for all 5 organizations celebrating these milestone anniversaries. A delicious collation followed and everyone there was moved by this extraordinary beginning of what proved to be a fabulous experience. The Gala on Sunday was fantastic, with Mike Daniel and his band providing the best Greek dance music ever...the dance floor had many, many lines of dancers! The food was delicious, the excitement palpable, everyone enjoyed the day tremendously. What a wonderful way to spend a weekend. We'll have to have a repeat performance in five years, Inshallah!

Our sincerest apologies to the following whose Journal ads never made it to the printed page:

Association of Friends of Greek Jewry	Anne Oppenheim
Neil & Ed Coffina	Daisy & Ralph Schaeffer,
Phyllis & Albert Gormezano	Barbara & Ken Schwarz & Families
	Audrey Solomon.

We deeply regret these omissions and hope our next one in 5 years is 100% perfect!!!!

**Please join me in welcoming our newest members: Ada Finifter, whose mother, Stella Colchamiro Weintraub, was a Sisterhood member; and Elana Tarasoff, granddaughter of Ethel DeCastros, Sisterhood's long-time Secretary, and daughter of Roberta Russo. We look forward to seeing them at future Sisterhood events.**

Sisterhood is grateful to the following for their generous donations: Shirlee Paganetti in honor of her three grandchildren, Ariana, Max and Casey, who did so well in college; Esther, Marty and daughter, Alyssa Golden, in honor of their daughter/sister, Shara, becoming a Doctor of Audiology. *Thanks so much!*

## DONOR CARD PROGRAM

Sisterhood is extremely indebted to all our Donor Card participants, for without you, we could not achieve our mission of philanthropy. Our Sunshine Secretaries are ready to do it all for you...one phone call and they will write out the appropriate card, Get Well, In Honor Of, In Memory of, naming you as the donor, seal it, stamp it and mail it, all for a *minimum* donation of \$3.00 (*of course we accept and welcome more*). Please continue to support our Donor Card program and keep Sisterhood running "in-the-black". Many Thanks

## SUNSHINE SECRETARIES

Mollie Feder	2940 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> St. #3H, Brooklyn, NY 11224	(718) 449-2782
Stella Moses	3530 Henry Hudson Pkwy E #7K, Riverdale, NY 10463	(718) 543-8825
Judy Myones	6364 Overland Dr., Delray Beach, FL 33484	(561) 499-8244

### NOTE

While Mollie Feder is in rehab at the Sephardic Home, please call either Esther Benjamin (914) 636-2480, or myself (718) 648-7374, for your Donor Card needs. I'm sure you all join me in wishing Mollie a speedy and complete recovery.

## CURRENT DONOR CARD SUPPORTERS

Fran & Dave Albahae, Stemma Askinazi, Ralph Battino & Jackie Andros, Esther & Murray Benjamin, Annette Binder, Sherri & Larry Busch, Evelyn Cantos, Pearl Cantos, Mollie Cohen, Rose Eskononts, Sheila & Ben Gessula, Selma Gilberg, Irene Harris, Gail Jenny, Esther Jeuda, Julie & Jack Jeuda, Mollie Kaplan, Koula & Sol Kofinas, Terry & Sol Lafazan, Sarah Mandragona, Irene & Sol Matsil, Sarah Matza, Dora Mazza, Phyllis & Raymond Modiano, Stella Moses, Judy & Eli Myones, Stella Myones, Eva & Max Nachmias, Dotty Naphtali, Evelyn & Nat Negrin, Tica & Max Negrin, Anne Oppenheim, Shirlee Paganetti, Esther & Irving Russo, Rose & Larry Salberg, Anna Sarfatti, Daisy & Ralph Schaeffer, Linda & Robert Silverman, Amelia Sobel, Audrey Solomon, Edith Solomon, Rita & Art Taub, Rae Yamali, Esther & Morris Yomtov, Raye & Hy Yomtov, Anita & Jack Zaffos, Bea Zagha. *Thank you all!*

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

- Wishing Very Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Congratulations to Jean Fishman, sister of Selma Gilberg and Sol Matsil. Her family held a lovely birthday luncheon in her honor. Many Happy Returns!
- Congratulations and Mazal Tov to Seth Kofinas, son of Suzanne & Victor/Chaim, and grandson of Koula and Sol Kofinas, on celebrating his Bar Mitzvah, both at KKJ, in June, and at our historic synagogue in Janina, in July, where his great-grandfather worshipped!
- Wishing Very Happy "Special" Birthday Greetings to Tica Negrin, who shares her birthday year with Sisterhood; and to hubby, Max, who shares his birthday year with the Kehila. Congratulations and Many More!
- All our Best Wishes for Good Health with a speedy and complete recovery to Esther Calderon.
- Best Wishes for Good Health to Celia and her sister Dinah Hakim. Hope to hear they're both doing well.
- Hope to Hear that Anne Uffer is doing well in rehab and will soon be home. Best wishes for Good Health.
- Best Wishes for Good Health to Stuart Nachmias, son of Eve & Max Nachmias. Hope he's soon fully recovered and back home.
- Mazal Tov and Congratulations to Esther & Morris Yomtov on celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. We wish them many more with good health.
- Congratulations to Sandra & Sam Cantos on their son, David, being appointed Air Traffic Controller with the Federal Aviation Agency. David lives in Noonan, Georgia and is assigned to the Peachtree, Georgia Air Traffic Control Center. Mazal Tov!
- Congratulations to Lois & Gene (Huey) McGloin on the birth of their new grandson, Gavin Gene Coogan. Proud parents are Alyssa & Tim Coogan. Mazal Tov to All!
- Congratulations to Cal & Norma Attas on their son, Dr. Lewis Attas, being named one of the "Best Doctors" in New York Magazine. Mazal Tov.

Sorry, the following ads, received after the "5-Way Anniversary" Journal was printed, couldn't be included. We thank:

**Litsy Eliasof Pinhas and Esther Moses. Our Apologies.**

*Best Regards,  
Rose Eskononts*

*Sisterhood mourns the passing of our long-time member, Dora Gessula. We send our deepest condolences to her family, son Leon Gessula, and daughter Annette Shaw and family.*