



November 2014 e-newsletter

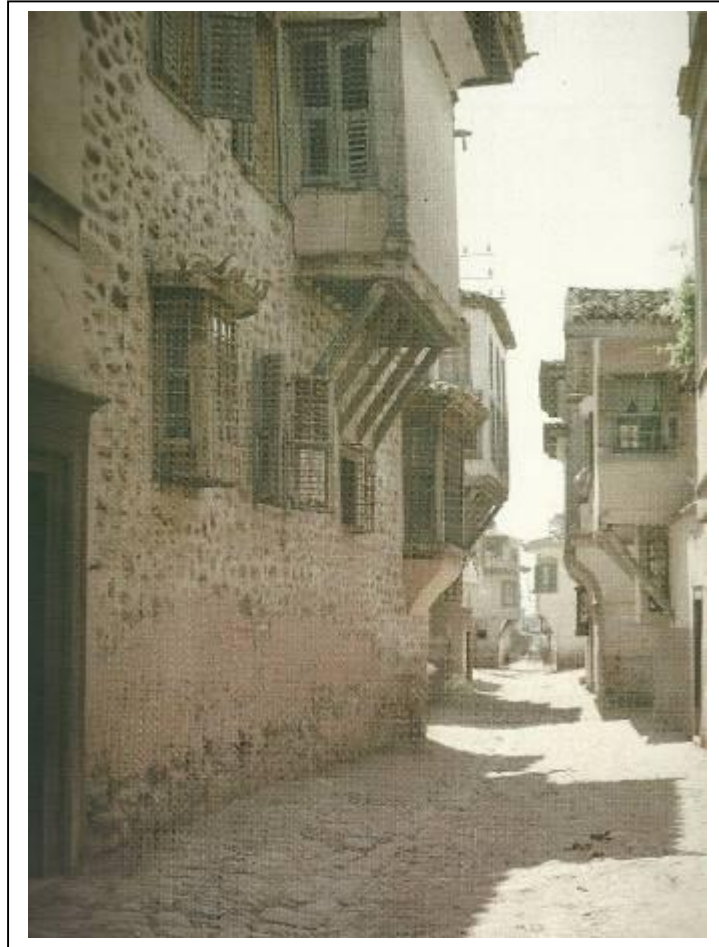
Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

Some items of interest for Jews and Greeks, all occurring in November.

On 8 November 1912, the feast day of the city's patron saint, Saint Demetrius, the Greek Army accepted the surrender of the Ottoman garrison at Thessaloniki.



Nov. 26, 1913: In a letter from the Chief Rabbi of Salonika to Prince Nicholas of Greece, the rabbi denies truth of charges of excesses committed by Greek soldiers, and declares he has not sought protection of powers for Jews of Salonica. Three months later the Greek Prime Minister, Venizelos, assured the Chief Rabbi that the rights of the Jews would be continued.



Salonika 1913

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 181(II) recommending partitioning Palestine into an Arab state, a Jewish state and the City of Jerusalem. The Jewish leadership accepted the decision but the Arab League and the leadership of Palestinian Arabs opposed it. Following a period of civil war the 1948 Arab–Israeli War started.



Israel, November 29, 1947

This newsletter, our 69th 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 6000 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.

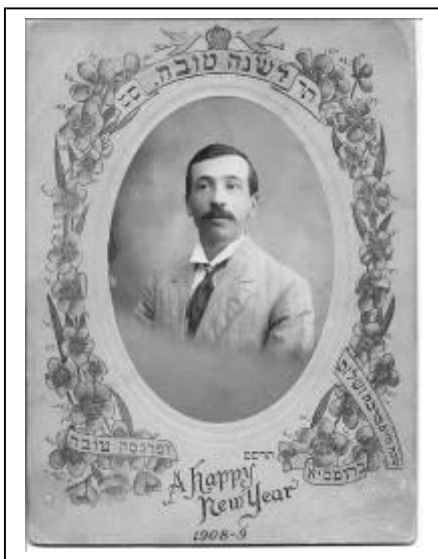
Passings

We mourn the passings of beloved members of our community from the Askinazi, Vitoulis, Ganis and Marash families. Our condolences to their friends and family.

Esther Askinazi-Baum, sister of Richard "Dickie" Askinazi and Sylvia Askinazi-Greenebaum, passed away in October. Esther was the daughter of Israel (Ezra) and Molly (Belina) Askinazi who lived on Broome Street, and Morris (Moise) and Rebecca Askinazi, all Yanniotes of Blessed Memory. Esther had been a resident of the Sephardic Home for a number of years. She was the widow of Charles Baum and is survived by two children (Linda Kinsberg and Irving Baum) and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Stanley Vitoulis, died 10/22/2014 and is survived by his wife, Marilyn. Stanley was the son of Haim Vitoulis, a Yanniote of Blessed memory. He worked for a number of years as a buyer for Mays Department store.

Frieda Ganis Weiner at age 96, daughter of Avasai and Louisa Saporta Ganis, both of Blessed Memory. Avasai was born in Ioannina and Louisa in Volos. Frieda was the granddaughter of Jesse and Diana Colchamiro Ganis. Frieda is survived by her three children, Andrew, Jeffrey and Amy and many grandchildren.



Avasai Ganis



Ganis Family 1920's

Samuel L. Marash, the son of Louis S. Marash and Mary Calderon Marash, both of Blessed Memory. The Marash family came from Salonika.



Marash family in Salonika
Louis is the young boy leaning against his mother Rosa Grottas-Marash.

Birth

Seth Mitchell Weintraub, son of Michael and Amanda Weintraub, grandson of Leon and Nancy Weintraub, great-grandson of Stella (Colchamiro) and Isaac Weintraub, and great-great grandson of Julia and Leon Colchamiro was born September 11, 2014, weighing in at 9.5 lbs. He joins his brother Adam Isaac Weintraub, who was born on December 12, 2012 (12-12-12).



Marriage of Stella Colchamiro with Irving Weintraub



Seth Mitchell Weintraub

Simchas

We love simchas. They are the lifeline of our community.

David Benjamin celebrated his 100th birthday. David has enjoyed 71 years of marriage to his wife, Nina Benjamin Matza.

Morris Yomtov turned 95. Morris was the longtime President of the Kehila Kedosha Janina of Mapleton. He is the son of Bension Yomtov of Ioannina and Ida Yomtov, both of Blessed Memory. His wife of many years, Esther, celebrated this milestone birthday with Morris, who is now in the Sephardic Home for the Aged.

Rose Matza Albala, wife of Jack, of Blessed Memory, daughter of Menachem and Anna Elias Matza, turned 100.

Bea Zagha's family sent us this lovely photo of her September 90th birthday celebration.



We celebrate the engagement to Alison of Robert Gabriel Serwetz, son of Mark and Laurie Serwetz and grandson of Rose Eskononts.



ikoi Mas, Los Muestrros (our own) come home

Our synagogue/museum is often a place of nostalgic return for visitors from around the world who return to their core to learn about their ancestors who worshipped there. There are others who come because of their connection to the Greek Jewish world and still others who children have married into our world.



In-laws of Jordan Genee from Atlanta Georgia with tour guide Leslie



Carl Perkal of the Capon family of Salonika and his wife Lori, both now living in Israel.

Visitors Continue to Flock To Kehila Kedosha Janina

In November, visitors came from all over the world. We loved meeting Deborah Cesano from the Jewish Community of Venice Italy and Daniele Silva from Torino.



Upcoming Museum Events

On Saturday night, November 8th, we are overjoyed to welcome Kol Dodi back to Kehila Kedosha Janina. Always an exciting performance, the concert will start at 8:30 pm and run for approximately 2 hours. Tickets are \$20 each and, because of the short amount of time left before the concert, we will allow cash (ONLY) at the door.



Past Museum Events

Kisses To the Children



The film showing was an overwhelming success. We still have copies of the film for sale (\$20 plus \$4 P&H in the continental USA).



Toula Drakatos and Ilias Hadjis

After visiting Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Rutgers, Emerson and McGill Universities, Vassilis Loules will continue his film presentations in the following locations:

***November 3, 2014.** Simon Fraser University

Welcome Reception 6:00pm. Screening time 7:00pm.

Vancity Theatre at the Vancouver International Film Centre.

Public Screening of the Documentary “Kisses to the Children”, by Vassilis Loules.

Hosted by the Stavros Niarchos Center for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University.

*** November 4, 2014.** Simon Fraser University

Location and time TBA.

Panel discussion with Vassilis Loules, Dr Fotini Tomai Konstantopoulou and Professor Andre Gerolymatos on “Kisses to the Children”.

Hosted by the Stavros Niarchos Center for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University.

*** November 6, 2014 . Stanford University**

6:00pm. Reception.

6:30pm. Screening of the Documentary “Kisses to the Children”.

Discussion moderated by Dr. Eva Prionas (Stanford University)

Discussants: Vassilis Loules, Filmmaker

Florentina Mocanu, Actor, Director, Writer, University of San Francisco

Jasmina Bojic, Founder and Executive Director, United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) and UNAFF Traveling Film Festivals.

Hosted by Modern Greek Language, Culture and Literature at Stanford, the Stanford Language Center, the Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford and the Greek American Professional Women’s Society. Stanford University.

***November 7, 2014. Stanford University**

12:00- 1:00pm. Workshop with Vassilis Loules, Filmmaker

In the Stanford seminar "Greece in Film and Literature". Special Language Program-Stanford Language Center. Stanford University.

***November 10, 2014. University of Washington, Seattle**

7:00 pm. Public Screening of the Documentary “Kisses to the Children”.

Followed by a conversation with the Director.

Majestic Bay Theatre, Seattle.

Hosted by the Sephardic Studies Program, Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, and the Hellenic Studies Program at the University of Washington, Seattle.

*** November 12, 2014. University of Florida**

4:00 pm. Public Screening of the Documentary “Kisses to the Children”.

Directed by Vassilis Loules. Followed by a conversation with the Director.

Hosted by the Department of Classics and the Center for Greek Studies at the University of Florida.

November 13, 2014. University of Florida

1:50 pm. Screening of the Documentary “Lela Karayannis, the Fragrance of a Heroine”. Directed by Vassilis Loules. Followed by a discussion with the Director.

Florida Gym 0280 at the University of Florida. Hosted by the Department of Classics and the Center for Greek Studies at the University of Florida.

***November 17, 2014. University of Oklahoma**

3:00pm. Screenings of “The Moose” and “A Bright Shining Sun”, followed by discussion with their Director Vassilis Loules. Screenwriting seminar.

University of Oklahoma Film & Media Studies Program.

***November 17, 2014. University of Oklahoma**

7:00pm. Meacham Auditorium in the OU Memorial Union. 900 Asp. Avenue, STE 428, Norman, OK.

Public Screening of the Documentary “Kisses to the Children”.

Directed by Vassilis Loules. Followed by a conversation with the Director.

Hosted by Film & Media Studies Program, the Schusterman Center for Judaic & Israel Studies & the OU Memorial Union Programming Board at the University of Oklahoma.

Upcoming items of Jewish Interest in New York City



SAVE THE DATE

Jewish Community of Colonial New Amsterdam Walking Tour

Sunday, November 23, 2014

Join us as we trace the origins of Jewish settlement in New Amsterdam. We will visit the former locations of Jewish sites in Lower Manhattan and discuss their historical significance.

[Registration and More Information.](#)

Jewish Greece

Salonika

On November 9, 2014 at 12:00 noon there will be a public unveiling of the Monument erected within the University grounds of Aristotle University where there once stood the large ancient Jewish cemetery. There has been controversy about the memorial, mostly involving language but it is a beginning to finally acknowledge that there was once a Jewish cemetery there, something that has taken over 70 years to do.

ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

INVITATION

The Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Professor Pericles Mitkas and the President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, David Saltiel cordially invite you on **Sunday, November 9th, 2014 at 12:00** to the unveiling ceremony of the Monument erected within the University grounds, in commemoration of the old Jewish cemetery, which was destroyed in 1942 by the Nazis and their collaborators.

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF THESSALONIKI

The event will be held at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki [Observatory Park - entrance from the main gate]

PROGRAMME

- 11.30 Arrivals
- 12.00 Memorial Service
- 12.10 Choir Jewish Community of Thessaloniki
Guest Soloist: Angelica Cathariou, mezzo soprano
- 12.20 Addresses
Pericles Mitkas Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
David Saltiel, President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki
Representatives of Authorities
- 12.35 Keynote speech by Mr. Zvi Barak, representative of the Jews abroad and the People of Israel
- 12.45 Unveiling of the Monument
- 12.55 Conclusion of the ceremony

Shalom to one and all!

Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel



This year, November is distinguished by the fact that there are no Jewish holidays! However, Israel and many Jewish communities around the world will be marking November 5th as the anniversary of the assassination of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Yet besides the contemptible and despicable violent act of murder in itself, the crime was even more shocking because the perpetrator was an Israeli Jew, who decided to rid the world of Rabin because of his anger at Rabin's pursuit of peace with the Palestinians.

This was not the first political assassination in Jewish history, and the struggles and conflicts between Jews leading to violence and bloodshed are not as uncommon as many may think. Two examples include the struggle between Jewish zealots vs. most of the Rabbinical leaders during the Roman Empire's occupation of the Land of Israel, with the former demanding total rebellion and expulsion of the Roman occupiers and the latter willing to reach some sort of modus Vivendi in order to preserve Judaism and the more contemporary pre-State of Israel struggles between the Labor Zionist leaders vs. various partisan and underground groups who felt that the British Mandate authorities had to be forced out of Palestine, even if that entailed physically fighting and killing both British soldiers and Jews from the opposing camp. And while we are still witness to sharp divisions and even opposing and often extreme positions among both lay people and Rabbis on many volatile issues both in Israel and abroad, our Sages made it crystal clear about how they felt about such violence very early in our history by instituting a special fast-day from dawn till dusk to commemorate what many see as Judaism's first political assassination.

The details of the story are described in the Bible: In Kings II, Chapter 25, verses 25–26 and in the book of Jeremiah, chapter 41. After Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem, he killed or exiled most of the higher classes, including King Hezekiah, and was known for his cruelty. However, he allowed some Jews to remain and work the land, and appointed a certain Gedaliah, son of Achikam, as governor of the now-Babylonian province of Judah. Gedaliah, for his part, not only performed his duties to the King's satisfaction, but was considered an efficient and even benevolent official, and his conduct and policies toward his fellow Jews not only created relative prosperity for the local population, but also attracted many Jews who had fled to Moab, Ammon, Edom and other neighboring lands to return to Judah and enjoy new respite after their earlier suffering. Indeed, thanks to Gedaliah's leadership, the local population began to increase and Jews were slowly but surely seeing economic progress and a certain accommodation, if not pleasing or desired, with the Babylonian conquerors.

This did not please Baalis, king of Ammon, who was hostile and envious of the Judean remnant. Taking advantage of the envy and anger of a descendant of former Jewish ruling royalty named Yishmael Ben Netaniah and his desire to regain some power, Baalis commissioned Ben Netaniah to assassinate Gedaliah in the Jewish month of Tishrei in 582/1 BCE , just four or five years after the Babylonian destruction of the First Temple. Ironically, despite being warned that Yishmael Ben Netaniah was indeed conspiring against him and an offer by a loyal follower to preempt the nefarious plot by killing Ben Netaniah first, Gedaliah refused to believe that such a thing could happen, since he considered Ben Netaniah a friend, and that such talk was evil slander! And indeed, a group of Jews led by Ben Netaniah came to Gedaliah in the town of Mizpa and were received cordially. In fact, it was while they were dining together that Gedaliah was murdered in cold-blood, together with most of the Jews who had joined him, and many Chaldeans (Babylonians) whom the Babylonian King had left with Gedaliah. This act led not only to Jews fleeing to many areas, including Egypt, but a fast and furious crackdown and persecution of any Jews remaining in Judea but Nebuchadnezzar's forces, totally undoing all the good and progress Gedaliah had caused, as well as ending any further possible accommodation between Jews and Babylonia.

As a result, and in order to register their obvious contempt, condemnation and anger at such an unprecedented event as the murder of a popular and good Jewish leader by a fellow Jew, our Sages saw fit

to institute a special fast day, observed still today, on the 3rd of the month of Tishrei – the day after Rosh Hashanah. The date was chosen because, according to some historical accounts, Gedaliah was assassinated on the first day of Rosh Hashanah (1st of Tishrei), so the first possible date for instituting a fast would be the 3rd. Others, however, place the actual assassination on the 3rd of Tishrei itself.

It is often said, "no matter how much things change, they always stay the same". Both Gedaliah's tragic murder and its consequences continue to speak volumes to us today in the shadow of that horrible November Saturday night in 1995, when the Prime Minister of Israel was gunned down by another Jew because of political and ideological differences. But perhaps more significant was the bold and unequivocal statement our Sages made against such action by the institution of the Fast of Gedaliah. Perhaps if more Jewish groups on the opposite ends of ideological struggles would study the history of Gedaliah, we might see more brotherhood and camaraderie among all Jews.

Articles of Interest

Spanish diplomat posthumously honored as righteous gentile

Sebastian de Romero Radigales worked to repatriate 510 Jews with Spanish citizenship from Greece during the war

BY JTA October 1, 2014, 5:14 pm 1

Holocaust survivor Isaac Revah was saved by Spanish diplomat Sebastian de Romero Radigales during the war



Sebastian de Romero Radigales, a Spanish diplomat whose efforts saved hundreds of Jews in the Holocaust, was named Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem.



His granddaughter Elena Colitto Castelli accepted the posthumous honor at a ceremony Tuesday at the Holocaust memorial and museum in Jerusalem. Among those on hand were Spain's ambassador to Israel, Fernando Carderera, and Holocaust survivor Isaac Revah, who was among those saved by Radigales.



Radigales arrived at Athens in 1943 as Jews were being deported from Salonika to the Auschwitz death camp. The Germans had agreed to exempt from deportation Jews with Italian and Spanish citizenship if they could be repatriated to their countries of origin.

Radigales worked to arrange the repatriation of 510 Jews from Salonika who had Spanish citizenship, despite instructions from the country's foreign minister "to maintain a passive approach and to avoid any personal initiative," according to Yad Vashem.

On August 13, 1943, a group of 367 Jews with Spanish citizenship arrived in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Radigales protected them until the Spanish government changed its position and permitted their transfer to Spanish Morocco. Their travel documents bore Radigales's signature.

Revah, who was a child at the time, recalled how his group was permitted to leave the camp in February 1944.

Being released from a Nazi camp is an extraordinary event. "It all happened thanks to an outstandingly courageous and humane man," he wrote to Yad Vashem in his application to have Radigales honored and recognized as Righteous Among the Nations.

Radigales died in 1970.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/spanish-diplomat-posthumously-honored-as-righteous-gentile/>

Looking For Help

On Sunday, October 26, 2014, our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, interviewed Estelle Yomtov, 100 years old, in her apartment in Lower Manhattan. Estelle is the only surviving child of Zacharia Yomtov, the first Yannote to arrive in the United States.



Estelle, with her niece Elaine and relative Ed Coffina

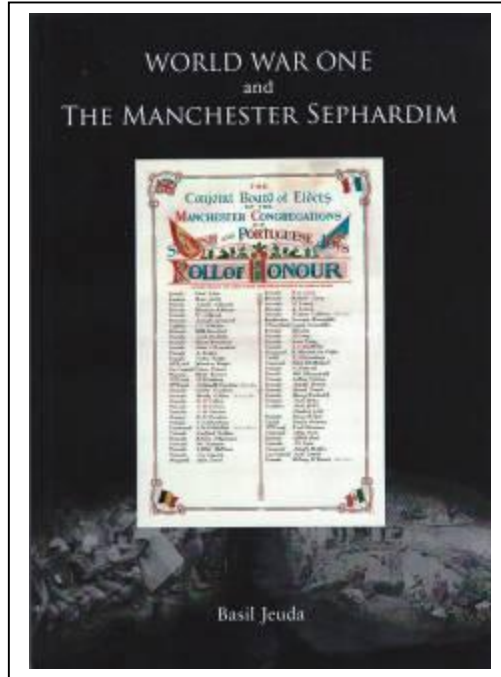
We scanned a precious photo and would love to know who the little boy and girl are. Unfortunately, Estelle's vision prevents her from identifying the photo.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

WE love being the first! As of now, Kehila Kedosha Janina is the only place in the USA that you can purchase this fascinating book.

World War I and the Jews of Manchester by Basil Jeuda
Published in Great Britain: \$25 plus \$4 P&H in Continental USA



Our Museum Director spoke at the National Hellenic Heritage Weekend in Key Biscayne.



In our search for new photos for our exhibits, we came across these priceless photos donated to Kehila Kedosha Janina by Michael Menahem of Blessed Memory.



Esther Menahem and children Victor and Michael



Samuel Menahem, wife Esther and children

Some responses to our past requests

From Esther Stone:

Re: Levys in Manchester, England: are you familiar with Mary Satinoff of Manchester? She is a Levy (and distantly related to me through my mother's grandmother Lula Moise, whose mother was a Battino, married to a Levy).

Just read the newsletter, Marcia. As usual, great work.

Regarding the "Michael Negrin" research for Alan Gild of Durban SA and Rose Yomtov Rosenthal's response. I think I can add a bit to this, assuming this is the same Michael Negrin. Sophie Negrin was Michael Negrin's second wife. They had no children together & they lived at 61 Delancey Street until his death in 1957. Sophie continued to live there until she passed away two decades later. I believe Michael is buried in either the New Mt. Carmel or the Old Mt. Carmel Cemetery, which border Queens and Brooklyn. Michael had an adult son from his first marriage that Sophie lost touch with. Sophie was born and raised in Thessaloniki. She was fluent in Greek, Spanish, French, and English. She was a skilled seamstress who worked in the garment district for many years. Most of her family who survived the Holocaust immigrated to Mexico City. She and her sister, Rachel, immigrated to the US. I believe her maiden name was Matathias. Sophie's closest living relative is Dr. Ronald Roth (Rachel's grandson) who lives and has a medical practice in Suffolk County, NY. Sophie passed away in the late 1970s and is buried in Beth David Cemetery, here in Elmont, NY.

(Sophie was a very very dear family friend. She and my Grandmother helped raise me during my early years, when we lived in the same building. Both my Mom and Dad were out working during the day)

Websites of interest:

Two videos of Rhodes created at 70th anniversary

<http://uhaweb.hartford.edu/greenberg-center/>

<http://www.rai.tv/dl/RaiTV/programmi/media/ContentItem-6d05c052-0465-4784-a565-3c12a0beae52.html>

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This is an incredibly easy and painless way to help us continue doing the important work we are doing at KKJ. We're hoping we can count on you.

Wishing you a healthy, happy, and sweet New Year.

The Board of Trustees, Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue & Museum

So many of you have applauded our efforts. We thank those who have sent in contributions.

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.



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Web Site: www.kkjsm.org