



Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum

October 2023 E-Newsletter

Dear Friends of Kehila Kedosha Janina,

We wish all our friends a joyous and healthy 5784. This year our Museum Director attended Yom Kippur services in Ioannina, where the world gathered to honor Moisif Elisaf of Blessed Memory. This E-Newsletter is dedicated to this special man. He will always live on in our memory. Thank you to all who made donations to Kehila Kedosha for the holidays, and a special thanks to those who remembered Ioannina with a gift.



Members of the KKJ Board of Trustees visiting Ioannina in 2015

This newsletter, our 175th 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 thousands of households worldwide. What an accomplishment for a little synagogue on the Lower East Side of New York City. Our community of 'friends' continually grow with each newsletter. If you know others who wish to be part of this ever-growing network, please have them contact us at museum@kkjsm.org

We are open for Shabbat every Saturday morning starting at 9:30am. Please email amarcus@kkjsm.org if you would like to attend, and enjoy a traditional Greek kiddush lunch after services. Our Museum is open every Sunday from 11am-4pm.

If you wish to sponsor a newsletter, contact us at museum@kkjsm.org.

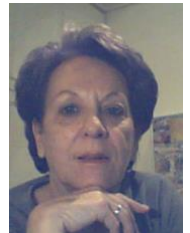
Passings

On August 28, 2023, the Vice-President of the Jewish Community of Athens, Daniel (Danis) Emmanuel, passed away. The Board of Directors of the Jewish Community of Athens issued the following resolution as soon as it was informed of the sad news of the loss of Daniel (Danny) Emmanuel. Daniel (Danis) Emmanuel was born in 1953 in Athens, son of Isaac and Luna, husband of Louisa, father of Isaac and Luna (Elina) and brother of Azaria-Aris Emmanuel. He was an exemplary husband and raised his children with unique love and care, which gave him joy and special pride. He was one of the most active volunteers in community events, being a member of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Board of Directors from 1995 and for many more terms until the current Board of Directors, in the position of First Vice President. Daniel (Danis) Emmanuel is a symbol of altruism and devotion to fellow man. Today we say goodbye to him and we will always remember him with love and respect.

John (David-John) Magrizos, age 71, husband of Betty (Beatriki) Magrizou, passed suddenly of a heart attack. He was a beloved member of the Jewish Community of Larissa and will be missed by many.



We were saddened to hear of the passing of Nelly Kamhi Sefiha, the widow of Andreas Sefiha, former President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, and the mother of Daisy, Larry (Lazaros) Sefiha, Vice President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, and Vickie. Nelly was born into the Kamhi family on September 21, 1938 and was just short of her 85th birthday when she passed. Nelly survived the Holocaust in hiding in a village (Kotranas) in the Peloponnese from October 1943 to October 1944.



We mourn the passing of Dolores Wine, a longtime friend of Kehila Kedosha Janina. Dolores Wine, a 26-year member of Tribeca Synagogue and for the past 20 years its office manager among other duties, died on Aug. 28 at the age of 80. She is survived by her husband, Gordon, their two sons, Jonah, and Ezra, and four grandchildren. Born into a family of socialists on the vibrant South Side of Chicago, Dolores's earliest values of justice and equality led her to champion causes that mattered deeply to her. Her love for Jewish history, a passion that became a cornerstone of her life, was matched only by her dedication to fostering creativity and expression within her family and community.



A Socialist, "red diaper baby," whose father (Ernest Romero) volunteered, fought, and was injured in the Spanish Civil War, in its fight against fascism. Dolores and her father were active participants in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, an organization dedicated to the veterans of the war. Department store in downtown Chicago over their lunch counter seating rules at their then segregated Southern Woolworth's locations. This activism led her to being arrested and legal troubles; a profile of her in *Sepia Magazine* in 1961, was titled "White Girl Battles Segregation."

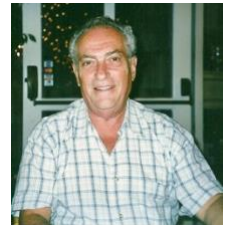


Beginning in 1968, Dolores and her husband, Gordon, an accomplished artist, lived in a series of lofts on The Bowery, Kenmare Street, Leonard Street and, beginning in 1980, on Broome Street. Their Soho loft became a haven for artists, writers, and thinkers from all walks of life. Their home, with its open doors and open hearts, became a nurturing ground for the arts, a space where creative minds converged, cross-pollinated, and thrived. With no grocery stores nearby, Dolores along with others, formed a food co-op, buying bulk foods at Hunts Point in the Bronx and distributing the food out of various lofts downtown.

For over 40 years, Dolores worked tirelessly for Isaac Hazan (a women's clothing manufacturer) in the Garment Center. Her strong work ethic, attention to detail, and unwavering integrity earned her the respect and admiration of colleagues and friends alike. She was also an active member of the PTA at Tribeca's PS 234, where her children went to school from 1979-1993, and was involved in her son's baseball teams at Greenwich Village Little League from the 1980s-90s.

Dolores loved learning and reading but never finished college. She used to say, 'I know a little bit about a lot of things.' She was an avid reader, loved cookbooks, always read the New York Times food section, and rarely missed the paper's obituaries. At Tribeca Synagogue, she was not only a member, turned volunteer, but also the office manager, then event coordinator and eventually, the in-house kosher caterer. Neither Dolores nor her husband grew up in a religious household, but she found a special home at this Orthodox synagogue. She loved the melodies of the songs and prayers. As the caterer, she was a tireless, dedicated worker making sure there was enough food for the congregation on Saturdays and for all events.

Morris "Moe" Myones, age 96, of Rockville Centre, New York passed away on September 15, 2023. Son of Simon Mioni (b. 1894) and Becky Ganis Myone (b. 1896). Moe was defined by his large Greek immigrant family consisting of 5 brothers and one sister. His brothers were not only fellow WWII veterans, they were business partners and best friends. His love for athleticism (swimming and running) led him to surpass his 96th birthday this past July. He is survived by his sister Esther, children Ronnie and David, their spouses Robert and Margaret, 4 grandchildren -Heather, Sasha, Michael, and Joseph, 2 great grandchildren Aiden and Chloe and their father Joshua. Moe loved being Greek and came to Greece with a tour sponsored by The Association of Friends of Greek Jewry. A donation to Kehila Kedosha Janina in his memory would be very appropriate.

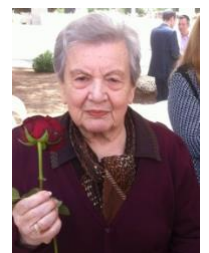


It is with immense sadness that we inform you of the passing of the President Emeritus Irving Barocas of the Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America. Irv served as Brotherhood President for the past two years before stepping down this summer due to ill health. He was an active leader of the Brotherhood for nearly 50 years, serving for nearly two decades as Chair of the Scholarship and Education Committee, along with several roles on the Executive Committee and National Central Council. He was proud of his family's Sephardic heritage from the town of Çorlu in modern day Turkey, loved to speak in his native Ladino with community members, and had a passion for baking delicious borekitas.



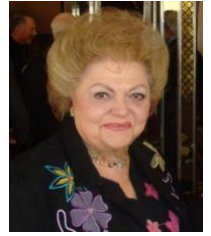
He was deeply committed to the collective Sephardic customs and traditions, and worked tirelessly in his efforts to serve the Brotherhood and ensure that the greater Sephardic Community thrived. As a former school Principal and educator, he was particularly passionate about education and elevating the students in the Community through his work as the Scholarship Committee Chair. He took the reins of our organization at a pivotal transition period in our history, and led with tremendous grace, compassion, warmth, and love for every member of the Sephardic Community. We extend our collective condolences to the Barocas Family. Ke Su Alma Repoze en Ganeden - May Irv's Soul Rest in the Garden of Eden.

In Israel, we were greatly saddened to hear of the passing of Eti Ganis, one of the few living survivors from Greece, only a few months after the passing of her sister, Fortini.



Jennie Raphael - January 12, 1930 - September 23, 2023

Jennie Raphael was born in NYC during the midst of the great depression to Esther (Daniel) and Hanania Raphael, Sephardic Jews who emigrated from Veria, Greece. She was the youngest of three girls. She grew up in Harlem and the Bronx, and graduated from Walton High School. After working for American Silver, and then in the textile industry, she eventually became a successful co-owner and Vice-President of Scarsdale Fabrics, Inc., riding the ups and downs of the industry for decades. After her business partner, who was also her beloved personal partner of 50 years, "Bud" (Burton N. Lichten) died in 2011, Jen ran the business herself until her late 80s. While she resisted computers and cell phones at first, she adapted to them eventually, even joining Facebook and FaceTiming! Jennie's life always revolved around work and her extended family. In many ways she was the Matriarch of the family. She was a devoted daughter and sister who lived with and supported her mother and oldest sister Bessie in the Bronx until their deaths. During those years, her niece Holly spent many summers living with them, and Aunt Jennie sent her to Castle Hill Day Camp. Throughout her life she also was extremely generous to her sister Bella (who died in July of 2020), and her nieces and nephews, as well as her great-nieces.



Jennie never forgot a birthday and was always ready to offer help. When Holly's husband had to come to NYC for cancer treatments he stayed with Jen. When Holly was starting her first job as an associate at a law firm in Buffalo, Aunt Jennie took her on a shopping spree to buy suits. When her great-niece Esther was young and would visit for a week at a time during school breaks, Aunt Jennie would take her to work with her, and then out to dinner and a Broadway show almost every night. She loved to treat her great-nieces Natasha, Eliana and Mikaela to trips to the American Girl Doll store in their youth and to shopping trips and Broadway shows as they got older, always ending the day with a special dinner out. Nephew Irv and niece Carol-Ann loved to join and take Jen out themselves.

Many have described Jennie as a force to be reckoned with, who was fiercely independent and as tough as they come. She had strong opinions about everything and she expressed them. No matter any disagreements you might have with her, if she cared about you, she always had your back. Jennie took great pride in her appearance, always stylish and well put-together when she went anywhere. She had her hair and nails done at the hairdresser weekly by Joey, then Jeffrey (who became a close friend) after Joey died, and after Jeffrey's death Roberto. When she was temporarily in assisted living, and when she could no longer go to her hairdresser after coming back to her apartment, Roberto came to her to do her hair.

She traveled some when she was younger, including a trip to pre-Castro Cuba. Mostly, she loved living in NYC, shopping and dining out, and had many favorite restaurants. For years she enjoyed hosting family and friends at her office on Broadway for bagels and a Zabar's spread, together with a great view of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, she took the family out to dinner. Jen lived on the upper east side of Manhattan since 1994. After enduring significant health setbacks for the past few years, she was able to remain in her apartment in her beloved neighborhood with the assistance of aides. She became especially close to her caregiver Kanmisa, who was with her four days a week from the beginning, and who was with her the day she died.

While some family members took her to dinner for her 90th birthday, unfortunately COVID prevented the big 90th birthday celebration planned for Jen in spring 2020. Post-COVID, she still enjoyed attending Thanksgiving dinners, Passover seders and family celebrations hosted by Irv and Carol-Ann in NJ. She treasured hearing from family and friends, speaking to her niece Holly practically every night before going to sleep, reminiscing, talking about family genealogy, and staying up-to-date on the lives of those she knew and loved. Jennie, who died unexpectedly, but peacefully, during the night/early morning on September 23, will be greatly missed by her niece Holly Baum, as well as by her nephews Howard (Anna) Baum, Richard (Michelle) Baum and Irv (Carol-Ann) Baum and great-nieces Esther Baum-Taylor, Natasha, Eliana and Mikeala Baum, and Amanda and Megan Lugo. She also will be especially missed by Holly's long time friend Grace Levine, her only surviving cousin Ben Daniel, the Valensi, Daniel and Marcus families, and many other surviving family, friends and business associates.

**Visitors to Kehila Kedosha Janina
ΔΙΚΟΙ ΜΑΣ / Los Muestrros / Our Own**

In September, visitors continued to come to Kehila Kedosha Janina. We had visitors from France, Israel, and across the US.



Joan Kessman and Kasey Firth from California from the Michaels family

Upcoming Events

Simhat Torah Celebration & Dinner - October 7 at 6:30pm
Please RSVP to Amarcus@kkjism.org

2023 5784

KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A

**SIMHAT TORAH
CELEBRATION & DINNER**
מועדים לשמחה
Χαγκ Σαμέαχ MOED ALEGRE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7 AT 6:30PM
KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA
280 BROOME STREET NYC

EREV SIMHAT TORAH SERVICES BEGIN AT 6:30PM
INCLUDING MINHA, ARVITH, AND HAKAFOT
TRADITIONAL GREEK JEWISH DINNER FOLLOWING SERVICES

**"THESE ARE THE APPOINTED FESTIVAL SEASONS OF THE L-RD...
YOU SHALL REJOICE ON YOUR FESTIVAL... AND YOU WILL BE COMPLETELY JOYOUS"**

PLEASE RSVP TO AMARCUS@KKJISM.ORG

VIEW OUR FULL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE AT WWW.KKJISM.ORG

DONATED BY FRIENDS OF KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA DEDICATED PURIM 5744

**Sounds of Cyprus - Concert at Kehila Kedosha Janina
October 15, 2023 at 5pm**

Tickets \$20 in advance [online here](#) or \$25 at the door

KKJ is honored to welcome the acclaimed musical group Sounds of Cyprus to perform traditional Cypriot music in our historic synagogue. Following their thrilling performance at our Greek Jewish Festival, this event promises an equally moving experience in a more intimate setting. Sounds of Cyprus is a Cypriot orchestra co-founded by Elena Chris and Peter Douskalis in New York City. The group performs the traditional music of Cyprus in varying orchestrations and styles that both consciously honor the time period of composition and period instruments as well as perform with a modern approach. Elena Chris, vocalist, front person, and Creative Director of the group, sings the traditional songs in the Cypriot dialect of Greek, as well as in Turkish for songs that contain lyrics in both languages. Peter Douskalis, Music Director, plays the laouto, oud, mandolin, and guitar in the group, switching between the proper instrument as needed for the authentic and modern orchestration of the pieces. Other instruments of the group are violin/viola (Alex Tasopoulos), contrabass (Erikos Vlesmas), pithkiavli and ney (Stavros Papadopoulos), and percussion (Mark Katsaounis).



SUNDAY OCT 15 AT 5PM
KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA
280 BROOME ST NYC

SOUNDS OF CYPRUS

**A PRESENTATION OF
TRADITIONAL CYPRIOT MUSIC**

ELENA CHRIS: CREATIVE DIRECTION - VOICE
PETER DOUSKALIS: MUSIC DIRECTION - LAOUTO/LOUD/GUITAR
ALEX TASOPOULOS: VIOLA
ERIKOS VLESMAS: BASS
STAVROS PAPADOPOULOS: PITHKIAVLI/NEY
MARK KATSAOUNIS: PERCUSSION

TICKETS \$20 IN ADVANCE, \$25 AT THE DOOR
[SOUNDSOFCYPRUS.COM/TICKETS](https://soundsofcyprus.com/tickets)



UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE CONSULATE GENERAL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS





The Sephardic Temple at Cedarhurst
and the Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation
invite you to an exhibit:

“Jewish Life on Rhodes”

Over a hundred original and treasured artifacts
presented by Aron Hasson, Founder of the Jewish Museum of Rhodes

Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 10 AM to 1 PM

The Sephardic Temple
775 Branch Blvd Cedarhurst, New York 11516

\$50/person with lunch
prepared by Genadeen Glatt Kosher Caterers

RSVP by October 9th

Contact: 516-295-4644; Email: admin@thesephardictemple.org



THE
SEPHARDIC JEWISH
BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO OUR

International Sephardic Community Gala

AN EVENING DEDICATED TO BUILDING THE
NEXT GENERATION OF SEPHARDIC LIFE



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

6:00 P.M.

MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE:
A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST
36 BATTERY PLACE, NEW YORK CITY

Guests of Honor



RABBI MARC D. ANGEL
COMMUNITY LEADER &
SEPHARDIC EDUCATOR



HOWARD BEHAR
FOUNDING PRESIDENT
STARBUCKS INTERNATIONAL



DR. DEVIN E. NAAR
PROFESSOR OF
SEPHARDIC STUDIES

EARLY BIRD TICKETS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30 - \$250

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS - \$360

YOUNG ADULT TICKET - UNDER 35 - \$180

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE AT
WWW.SEPHARDICBROTHERHOOD.COM/GALA

Past Events



Selihot Services at Kehila Kedosha Janina

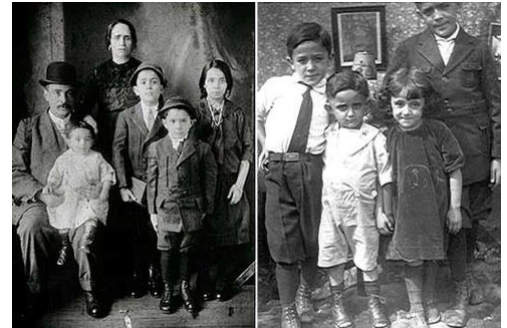


Sephardic Community Selihot Event, Fort Lee, NJ

Celebrating Our Partners on the Lower East Side

Every year, The Tenement Museum, founded in 1988, collaborates with Kehila Kedosha Janina, sending the actresses who play Victoria from the Confino exhibit to learn about the non-Ashkenazi presence on the Lower East Side. Our Museum Director gives a complimentary presentation to enable them to hone their skills in presenting the story of the Sephardic Jews from Kastoria.

“Founded in 1988 by historian Ruth Abram and social activist Anita Jacobson, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum explores the uniquely American story of immigration and the rich, diverse landscape it continues to create. The Museum took root when Abram and Jacobson discovered 97 Orchard Street — a dilapidated tenement building that had been shuttered for more than 50 years.” We are, therefore, overjoyed to spread the news that the Tenement Museum will reopen after an extensive renovation, including a new exhibit on a Black family.



The Confino family from Kastoria

Tenement Museum Reopens Historic Building after \$7M Restoration - Full article [Here](#)

A 160-year-old tenement on the Lower East Side that was home to thousands of immigrants from 1863 to 1935 will reopen to the public following a major restoration. After a year-long renovation project, the Tenement Museum on Thursday September 28th unveiled work done on 97 Orchard Street, one of two historic tenements owned by the museum that offers an immersive look at the lives of immigrants during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The comprehensive renovation project reinforced and protected original features and finishes, preparing it for future generations of visitors.



The five-story tenement at 97 Orchard Street was built with 22 apartments, each measuring 325 square feet and with three rooms. According to the museum, over a period of 70 years, more than 7,000 people from 20 countries resided here. The museum restored seven apartments and a beer saloon at the building.



Led by Li Saltzman Architects, the restoration project reinforced key interior structures throughout the building, repointed and repaired its brick facade, installed an HVAC system that delivers passive air through its 1905 air shafts, and installed specially designed windows that include UV filtration to preserve the apartments within, according to the museum.

The reopening coincides with a new permanent exhibit that is set to open at 97 Orchard in December, *A Union of Hope: 1863*, which tells the story of a Black family living in tenements in post-Civil War era Soho. For the first time in the museum's history, the building's fifth floor will be opened up to present the new exhibit. During an hour-long guided tour, visitors will learn about the lives of Joseph and Rachel Moore, two Black immigrants who lived in Lower Manhattan's tenements during the 1860s and 70s.



While the museum only originally featured the homes and stories of Irish and German families, it has since expanded to include families from China, Eastern Europe, Greece, Italy, Puerto Rico, and Russia. The museum brings the stories of immigrant families in New York City spanning more than a century to life, giving visitors a glimpse into their daily lives and actual living conditions.

The museum's opening could not be timelier, with New York City continuing to grapple with the current migrant crisis. Annie Polland, president of the museum, said the museum will be able to provide an "expansive look at American history" and help New Yorkers view the current crisis through past experiences.

"This is a dynamic place for people to exchange ideas and think about how learning about the past helps approach the issues we face today," Polland told the New York Times in an interview. "History isn't a grab-bag of solutions. You can't just open it up and say, 'Hey, we have a problem, what did they do with this in 1872' or whatever."

"[Looking back] gives us this opportunity to absorb more complexities. In the 1850s people were saying Irish shouldn't be here and the Germans drank too much," Polland continued. "Not all people, but some New Yorkers were nervous about a city that in 1855 had just become majority immigrant."

Work on the restoration project began shortly after the museum was forced to close its doors in mid-2020 due to the pandemic. As an institution that relied heavily on admissions and gift shop sales, the Tenement Museum nearly shuttered. Despite these financial woes, the museum went ahead with the project and relocated its exhibits to nearby 103 Orchard Street, its second historic tenement building.

More information on visiting the Tenement Museum can be found on their website:

<https://www.tenement.org/about-us>

News from Jewish Greece

Prime Minister of Greece meets with AJC and AIPAC in New York

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, met on September 9, 2023 with the leadership of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). During the meetings the Prime Minister underlined the excellent level of Greece's relations with the USA and Israel and the prospect of further strengthening Greek-Israeli relations, which was discussed during the recent meeting of Kyriakos Mitsotakis with the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, in Nicosia, on the sidelines of the Tripartite Summit of Greece, Cyprus and Israel.



The Prime Minister also expressed his thanks for the help provided by Israel during the natural disasters that hit Greece. There was also an exchange of views on international and regional issues, with an emphasis on the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. The Prime Minister made special reference to the Asia-Middle East Corridor, in which Greece can be a bridge with Europe.

Ioannina

We love it when members of our community visit Ioannina. Our Museum Director is happy to help you make your dreams come true.

Andrea Weisman and her sister Robin, descendants of the Solomon and Eliasaf families, visited Ioannina in September and shared this lovely photo with us. We, of course, always appreciate donations to Ioannina and donations to KKJ (to support the time spent by our Museum Director in making this happen). Thank you in advance.



Yom Kippur in Ioannina 2023

The Jewish Community of Ioannina, in the context of this year's celebration of Yom Kippur, honored the late Moses Elisaf. KKJ Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, was among the attendees, representing KKJ and our Greek Jewish community in New York. There was a memorial service (Hashkavot) held in the Jewish Cemetery with the unveiling of Moses' gravestone, with the Israeli Ambassador among the attendees.



Chaim Ishakis conducted moving Yom Kippur services with the help of Marco Battino, Leon Gabrilides, and Elias Matsas.



A communal dinner was celebrated after the holiday for breaking the fast.



Akis Lagaris



Anna Garty



Mr. and Mrs.
Marco Battinos



On September 28th a special concert of Romaniote and Sephardic music was held in the synagogue

Meeting of KIS Leadership with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Ioannina

On 9.8.2023 the Mayor of Ioannina Dimitris Papageorgiou and Deputy Mayor Giorgos Arletos had a meeting with G.G. of KIS Victor Eliezer and Director Ilias Frezis, at the KIS Offices. Matters of common interest were discussed, primarily that of preserving the legacy of the late former Mayor, Vice-President of KIS and President of I.K. Moysis Elisaf of Ioannina. Referring to the valuable work of M. Elisaf and the importance the municipality attaches to relations with the Jewish Community and to the promotion of Romaniote Judaism, the Mayor of Ioannina announced the organization of a special event in honor of M. Elisaf next Autumn.



Also, Mr. Papageorgiou and Arletos confirmed the excellent cooperation with the new leadership of the Israeli Community of Ioannina and emphasized the desire of the Municipality to contribute both to the promotion of the Yom Kippur celebration abroad and to the continuous promotion of the history of Roman Jewish Judaism in cooperation with the KIS and the University of Ioannina. For his part, G.G. of KIS thanked the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for these initiatives that demonstrate the ties of the city with its Jewish community and emphasized that KIS will actively support the initiatives of the Municipality of Ioannina which aim both at highlighting the personality of Moses Elisaf, as the first Greek Jewish Mayor in the history of the country, as well as in the transmission of knowledge of the Jewish history of the city of Ioannina. At the end of the meeting, G.G. of KIS offered the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Ioannina KIS commemorative publications on the history of Greek Jews.

Before the events in Ioannina, the Mayor of Ioannina (Dimitri Papageorgiou) and the widow of Moses Elisaf (Patra) were invited to Athens where a special ceremony honoring Moses Eliasaf of Blessed Memory was held.



Athens

Following the initiative and actions of Community Director Ms. Taly Mair and our President Mr. Alvertos Taraboulous, our Social Services Department acquired its own car for its purposes, such as home visits to our members in need and escorts to hospitals. The Hellenic Initiative, a global non-profit organization that brings together Greeks of the Diaspora and Philhellenes to invest in Greece's future through programs focused on crisis relief, entrepreneurship, and economic development of the country, sponsored and was the prime financier of the car.



The Director of the Program of the charity organization Mr. Michalis Printzos and the member of the Board of Directors, Mr. Dimitris Georgakopoulos visited our Community and after being briefed on the social work of our Community, they officially handed over the car keys to the Social Worker of the Community Ms. Elsa Pougakioti, in the presence of the President and Director of JCA, the Treasurer Ms. Annita Sousi and the President of Social Solidarity Ms. Ida Forni. The same car was secured through our introduction for the needs of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki. We would like to thank the Hellenic Initiative for their trust in our work and their generosity.

The Jewish Community of Athens visits Small Communities in Greece to Offer Support

Part of the Social Services work is visits to other small communities of Greece. In that context, the Social Worker visited the Jewish Community of Larissa where along with its Director, Ms. Alina Moissi discussed about the members that both communities support. Ms. Pougakioti, our Social Worker, also met with the beneficiaries and visited one of them to a psychiatric clinic in Larissa and got informed from the doctors. Elsa also visited the Jewish Community of Rhodes where a family that faces severe financial problems due to health issues asked for the support of our Community.

The Hellenic Initiative Makes Gift To Athens And Thessaloniki Greek-Jewish Communities In Honor Of Pfizer CEO, Albert Bourla

Donation of \$60,000 Helps Communities Provide Vital Social Services.

The Hellenic Initiative (THI) has made a combined gift of \$60,000 to the Jewish Communities of Athens and Thessaloniki in honor of Albert Bourla, Chairman and CEO of Pfizer. THI honored Dr. Bourla who was born into the Thessaloniki Jewish Community, at its 10th Anniversary Gala celebration on December 3, 2022, at which the gift was announced. Bourla was honored for his achievements and his support of Greece personally and through Pfizer's significant investments in the country.

Founded in 2012, THI is a global non-profit organization that brings together Diaspora Greeks and Philhellenes to invest in Greece today through programs focused on economic development and crisis relief. Since its founding, THI has invested over \$20 million in Greece.

THI's gift was used for the purchase of two service vehicles, one for each of the Jewish Community Centers in Athens and Thessaloniki. The social services teams will use the cars to make home, nursing home, hospital, and psychiatric clinic visits to members in need. The vehicles will also escort community members living alone, many elderly, to visit their doctors, hospitals, public institutions, and loved ones at their homes or at cemeteries.

The staff will also use the cars to deliver groceries, medicine, and other essential goods to its community members in need, assisting them to access social services and participate in social activities.

Dimitri Georgakopoulos, THI Board Member who attended the March 15 dedication of the gift to the Athens Community Center, stated, "THI's grants will enable the two Communities to access and provide services to their most vulnerable members in a more efficient way. We could not be more pleased to help make that happen." Taly Mair, the Director of the Jewish Community Center of Athens, called the gifts a "dream come true." The President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, David Saltiel, expressed the Community's gratitude "for the generous gesture of The Hellenic Initiative", which not only contributes to the work of the

Community, but “supports Jewish life in Thessaloniki.” The Community’s Executive Director, Victor Nar, said, “The Hellenic Initiative actively contributes to the work of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki and in particular to the implementation of programs to support Holocaust survivors and its members in need of assistance.” George P. Stamas, THI Board President, stated: “We were pleased to honor Dr. Bourla, a distinguished member of our Diaspora, at our Gala in December. He represents many of the best qualities of our Diaspora. We saw a need in Greece in the Jewish communities of Athens and Thessaloniki and are pleased to support those communities in his honor.” Andrew N. Liveris, THI Board Chairman stated: “Pfizer as a company and Dr. Bourla personally have committed to Greece’s economy and philanthropy in significant ways. We are pleased to honor that commitment and example.”

Thessaloniki

KIS President Meets with the New US Consul General in Thessaloniki

On 5.9.2023, the new U.S. Consul General in Thessaloniki Jerrier Ismail visited the offices of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki and met with the President of KIS and IKTH David Saltiel. The KIS President briefed him on issues of concern to Greek Jewry and the Community, as well as on developments regarding the Holocaust Museum.



A Facebook post from the U.S. consulate in Thessaloniki said: "Remarkable first discussion with the President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, David Saltiel, exploring the community's priorities, including the final steps needed to begin construction of the Holocaust Museum of Greece. I look forward to many more gatherings. Together we honor history and promote tolerance."

Return of Stones to Jewish Cemetery

Following the discovery of parts of tombstones coming from the old Jewish Cemetery during works carried out at the back of the Church of Panagia Acheiropoietos, the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki is in constant communication with the competent services of the Ephorate of Antiquities of the City of Thessaloniki. Their collection and transfer to the Jewish Cemetery in the Municipality of Pavlos Melas will take place within the next few days.

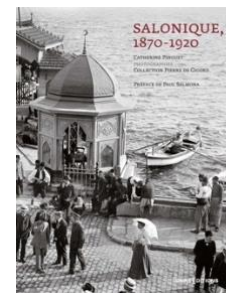


We note that the old Jewish Cemetery of Thessaloniki, one of the oldest in Europe, was destroyed in 1942 by the Nazis and their collaborators, supplying with marbles and bricks – as building materials of all kinds of building were constructed in Thessaloniki or its wider region.

Exhibition in Paris for Thessaloniki 1870-1920

Rare photographic material from Thessaloniki during the Ottoman Empire is presented at the Museum of Art and History of Judaism (MAHJ) in Paris.

The exhibition "Salonique, Jerusalem des Balkans, 1870 – 1920" will be inaugurated on 19.9.23 and will last until 21.4.2024.



The 150 works in the exhibition reconstruct the history of Thessaloniki from the second half of the 19th century to the end of World War I. The photographs are part of a donation of nearly 400 photographs and documents made to the Museum by Pierre de Gigord, a great French collector dedicated to the history of the Ottoman Empire. Read more about the exhibition [here](#).

Larissa

The candidate for Mayor of Larissa, Thanassis Mamakos, had a meeting with the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community of Larissa on in September. The candidate for mayor of Larissa, Thanasis Mamakos, had a meeting with the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community of Larissa early on Friday afternoon on the occasion of the case of the Old Cemetery. During the meeting, which took place in a particularly cordial atmosphere, the president, Moses Manouach, and the members of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community of Larissa informed the candidate mayor about the timetable for the implementation of the works for the completion of the Synagogue building, as well as about the request to the municipal authority to expand the burial site of the Jewish cemetery. "Your visit here today proves that you, in your capacity as leader of the major minority but also as a candidate for mayor, count and view our Community with respect and this gives us great pleasure. The current administration of the Community is marching with the slogan "No one is left over", for the city of Larissa, where we all live and love", noted Mr. Manouach, wishing Mr. Mamakos "good fight and good luck in the upcoming elections".



For his part, the candidate for mayor of Larissa underlined, in all tones, the timeless support of the party to the just and legitimate demands of the Community. "I thank the members of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community of Larissa and its President Moses Manouach for the invitation and for the fruitful discussion we had. Our party has always been on the side of the just and legitimate demands of the Community. I would like to wish the work of the newly elected Board of Directors every success, a work based on its rich social activity. The challenges are common for a Larissa that we deserve", stressed Mr. Mamakos.



The meeting, apart from the president, Moses Manouach, was also attended by vice-president Nina Tarampoulous-Moussa, treasurer Simeon (Simon) Magrizos, auditor Albert Misdrachis, members Moses (Mimis) Roussos and Albertos Begas, the president of the Community Assembly, Samuel Begas, as well as the member of the Jewish Community and candidate for municipal councilor of the party "Larissa that we deserve!". Alberto (Abraham) Jacquard.



Extension of the Jewish Cemetery Approved by the Municipal Council of Larissa

The Municipal Council of Larissa approved on 5.9.2023 the release of real estate from expropriation, in the communal area K.X. 871, which encloses the First Ancient Theater of Larissa, from Venizelou, Filellinon and Papaflessa streets, and the rest remains unchanged, in order to further highlight the monument.



"The common desire of all is to complete the expropriation of the First Ancient Theater. With the proposal we are making, a building stock of the area remains and at the same time the communal space, which remains as it is, can ensure access to the monument from the bakeries' side and the theater can gain second access", said yesterday the mayor of Larissa, Apostolos Kalogiannis, in the context of discussing the issue of lifting the expropriation of part of C.E. 871. at the meeting of the Municipal Council of Larissa.

More specifically, it was decided to lift the commitment as a communal area of the area from the junction of Venizelou and Filellinon streets, up to the junction of Papaflessa and Mitropolitou Arseniou streets. That is, in this section the designation of common space is removed and O.T. 871 is created. The properties included in this section are released and attributed to their owners, with strict building and use conditions. His opposition was expressed by the head of the major opposition, Mr. Thanasis Mamakos in lifting the expropriation of part of C.E. 871, stating that its position is to keep the communal space as it is, without the proposed changes, as well

as C.E. 867C and 867A." In fact, he proposed the creation of a Land Bank in the Municipality of Larissa for the issues of expropriation in general in the city. He recalled that "in July 2021 the City Council had decided to maintain the character of C.E. 871".

"It's a social management that had to be done..." said Mr. Diamantos, pointing out that this proposal solves the hostage of property owners who have no archaeological interest. It should be noted that the head of the major opposition, Mr. Mamakos, had proposed postponing the discussion of the issue to another time, while the withdrawal of the issue was also proposed by the head of the "Popular Rally", Mr. Krikis. A roll-call vote followed and was adopted with 22 yes and 16 no.



Old Jewish Cemetery

"The €1,300 million project to create a memorial park in the Old Cemetery. It has not yet been announced, but the expansion of the Jewish cemetery was planned. We grant the Jewish Cemetery 900 meters in a place that has never been buried. The project of the memorial park has been extended by the "Tritsis" Program, from which it is funded (by 500,000 euros)", said Deputy Mayor G. Soutlis during the discussion of the Municipality's proposal to grant space of the Old Cemetery to the Jewish Community of Larissa.

"This is not a new cemetery, nor an expansion, it is an internal arrangement," the mayor of Larissa said.

The president of the Jewish Community, Mr. Manouach, in his statement to the City Council, stressed that "Jews have always had very good relations with Orthodox Christians. They are an irrefutable link in the life of the city. Larissa was the first city nationwide to dedicate a square to the Holocaust and erected the first monument in the country. Our request was dictated because the area of the Jewish Cemetery is full. The concession will be made with all legality and all respect to the cemetery of Orthodox Christians."

Mr. Mamakos described the request of the Jewish Community as "legitimate and justified", while at the same time he pointed out that the file of the issue submitted by the Municipal Authority to the body was incomplete, "as a plan with the exact area of the concession had not been included". Finally, Mr. Mamakos consented to the concession. It was adopted unanimously.

Jewish Community of Larissa Helps in Aid for Victims of Major Flooding in Thessaly

The Jewish Community of Larissa, in the context of its charitable action and in consultation with the Region of Thessaly, offered basic necessities for the fellow human beings affected by the recent natural disaster, with the hope that they will provide them with a minimum of relief and assistance. Specifically, a large quantity of mosquito repellents, as well as clothing items were delivered to the Deputy Regional Governor Vasilis Pinakas by the President of the Community Moses Manouach and the Vice-President Nina Tarampoulous. In addition, packages of sheets, blankets and duvets were distributed directly to 25 families of flood victims in various districts of the city and surrounding villages.



Hania, Crete

Photo Exhibition at the Synagogue of Hania

On September 6, 2023, the photography exhibition of historian Stavros Sfakiotakis entitled "Synagogues and monuments – a guide to Jewish history" was inaugurated at the Etz Hayyim Synagogue in Chania. The exhibition presents 32 photographs from 14 countries taken during the period 2011 – 2022 "living" Synagogues and a section of memorial sites and other monuments.



Serres

Following the posting by PASOK member and candidate for mayor of Serres, Panagiotis Karipoglou, of a sketch with the gate of Auschwitz, KISE sent a letter of protest to PASOK President Nikos Androulakis (7.8.2023). Subsequently, Mr. P. Karipoglou, in a reply letter to KISE, apologized for the inappropriate parallel with the Holocaust. Both letters are published below:

KISE's Letter to the President of

Dear Mr. President,

We were surprised to see on social media a cartoon by Panagiotis Karipoglou, a member of parliament and candidate for parliament, depicting the gate of the Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz with the inscription "The 16 hours liberate".

It was yet another vile operation to trivialize the Holocaust that causes sorrow and indignation not only to those who passed through this gate of hell and still live among us, but also to all of us who mourn the extermination of millions of our brothers and sisters at Auschwitz, including 65,000 Greek Jews.

It causes sorrow and indignation to every person who defends the values of democracy and humanism. Any association of Holocaust symbols with current political events is unacceptable.

Such shameful cartoons precisely show the need to combat ignorance and forgetfulness and we are sure that your party, as it has done in the past, will continue to contribute to the preservation of Holocaust Remembrance by condemning any attempt to trivialize it.

Yours sincerely

The President DAVID SALTIEL

The Gen. Secretary VICTOR ELIEZER

*** Pan's Answer. Karipoglou to KISE**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hereby wish to apologize to you and through you to all your members and fellow Israelites around the world, as through a cartoon I posted on my personal Facebook profile, it **unacceptably** seems that the conditions of the Holocaust are simulated with the new labor measures that the Government intends to bring to the vote.

It is a fact that the Holocaust and the cruel torture inflicted on Jews everywhere by the Nazi regimes, initiated by the German National Socialists, cannot be compared, and related to any other human tragedy in the world and should not be involved in political controversies. It is a unique historical event that needs to be respected and protected in perpetuity, so that it will never be repeated again.

I have always considered the Jews a friendly people to the Greeks and through my public presence (I refer you to my public posts on Facebook) I remind you of the need to keep the memories of the Holocaust alive and that we Greeks must sense how much the presence of thousands of Jews benefited our country, before of course these people were either violently exterminated by the German occupiers or emigrated en masse with the responsibility of some Greeks.

Coming back to my post, I inform you that I have already immediately retracted and publicly apologized for it. I declare to you that I am willing from my institutional role as President of the Bar Association of Serres to try to highlight in my city, Serres, the positive imprint of our fellow Israelis who constituted a large population group in the early 20th century, but also to organize an event specifically on the Holocaust even in cooperation with you.

With these thoughts I greet you with gratitude and appreciation and wish you all to continue your work in good health.

Serres, 07.08.2023

Panagiotis G. Karipoglou

Supreme Court Lawyer – Serres

Lia

The Memory of Eleni Gatzogianni is Honored – 75 Years after Her Martyrdom Full article [Here](#)

LIA, GREECE – The seventy-five years that have passed since the execution of Eleni Gatzogianni by the communists for her 'crime' of smuggling her children to a safe place are enough to somewhat ease the pain of her loss. However, no amount of time is truly enough for her loved ones, especially her son, noted author, journalist, and film maker Nicholas Gage. He can never forget what happened or fail to honor her memory.



On the occasion of the passage of 75 years since her martyrdom on August 28, 1948, this week, on August 23rd to be exact, in the small village of Lia in Thesprotia, her village and also the place of her sacrifice, a memorial service was held in a moving atmosphere.

Lia, a village of just a few inhabitants, just a breath away from the Greek-Albanian border, came to life as a crowd of people gathered to honor the memory of Eleni Gatzogianni. Among them were former Prime Minister Antonis Samaras (who had a long-standing friendship with Mr. Gage), New Democracy MEP Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Deputy Minister of Rural Development Dionysis Stamenitis, New Democracy MP of Thessaloniki Dimitris Kouvelas, and New Democracy MP of Thesprotia Vasilis Yiogiakas.



The memorial was officiated by Metropolitan Maximos of Ioannina, who, besides his warm words at the end of the memorial about the sacrifice of Eleni Gatzogianni, made a special mention of her son, Nick, for his role in bringing Eleni's story to light. The Metropolitan also read a message from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who spoke of her as an "eternal symbol of maternal affection."

This was followed by a guided tour led by Gage himself of the renovated house of his mother (it is noteworthy that the restoration was done by his daughter, author Eleni Gage, who was named after her heroic and revered grandmother. Eleni Gage was also present this week in Lia along with her own family.

It is difficult for visitors not to be moved when reflecting on what had taken place in the same house seven decades ago.

A tour of the museum created by Nicholas Gage in memory of his mother followed. Among the exhibited photographs one can discern prominent personalities from all over the world who had visited the small village to pay their respects to this heroic Greek woman. Recent and older photographs feature famous Greek-American director Elia Kazan, former U.S. Ambassador to Athens Thomas Miller, and former Prime Minister of Greece Konstantinos Mitsotakis of blessed memory.

The day of remembrance for Eleni Gatzogianni concluded with a meal at the village inn, another initiative of Gage in memory of his mother and a clear testament to his love for his homeland. It is worth noting that in a prominent position next to the inn's reception area, there is a framed article from about two decades ago in The National Herald that referred to the visit of then U.S. Ambassador to Greece Thomas Miller to Eleni's village.

"We are here to remember the love and sacrifice of a Greek mother, the woman whose thread of life was cut at the age of 41 by an execution order for her 'crime' of protecting her children from the red terrorism that gripped those mountains in 1948. She wasn't the only victim of the communist terror. In each of these villages, five to eight people were executed by the communist rebels who had taken over their territories," said Gage in his speech, and in closing, he emphasized that his book 'Eleni' is a tribute not only to his mother but also to all the victims of the communist terrorism of that era.

Paramythia

Jewelry Magnate Nicola Bulgari Visits his Roots in Paramithia of Epirus Full article [Here](#)

There is a building in the town of Paramithia in Epirus which is under renovation and transformation. The school, built by Sotiris Bulgari, founder of the jewelry empire, will become a Center for Art Education and Culture, and a large portion of the space will be dedicated to exhibits about the town and the city's great benefactors.

On Sunday, August 13 it was visited by his descendants. Nicola Bulgari along with the younger members of the family, clearly showed signs of emotion when they saw the places that belonged to their ancestors. They all expressed their gratitude for the hospitality as well as for the progress of the work being undertaken at the Bulgari School. Nicola, as well as all the members of the family, were photographed displaying how happy they were to be there.



The family members were briefed by the Mayor of Souli, Giannis Karagiannis, the President of the Regional Council, Stavroula Braimi, and the Deputy Mayor of Technical Services, Fanis Bellogeia. The Bulgari also visited the Church of Panagia Paramithia, for which the town is named, and the 'Monument of the 49 Prokriton'.



The family also visited the site of the first workshop and silver-gold shop of Sotiris Bulgari. The mayor informed The National Herald that discussions are underway for the Bulgari family to help finance the purchase and renovation of the building, which is now privately owned. The visit of the Bulgari family concluded with a meal at a tavern on the banks of the Acheron river, where a promise was made for another visit in a very short period of time.

Museum Director's note: In the Autumn of 2022, our tour group through the Association of Friends of Greek Jewry visited Paramythia. Members of our group from the Attas family had a relative who had lived there with the small pre-WWII Jewish Community.

Pilgrimage to Hellas Liberty – Honoring the Liberty Ships' Place in Hellenic History Full article [Here](#)

The Liberty Ship has largely passed out of history, having served an honorable and pivotal, if not always acknowledged, role as the cargo ship that won World War Two. It was, further, a key symbol of the genius of American industrialization, managerial skill, and patriotic effort that so many were produced so fast, and with so few problems. To the World War Two generation, Liberty Ships were symbolic of the 'We Can Do It' attitude of the American home front workers – often enough women and African Americans – who built the weapons and vessels to wage and win industrial age wars.



For Greeks, the relationship with the 'Blessed Liberty Ships' lasted rather longer, decades in fact, as the large surplus of ships postwar were sold at advantageous prices to American allies, and the Greeks predictably went all in, as their fleet had suffered horrific losses in the Battle of the Atlantic. The survivors of that charnel house, or, in my martyred grandfather's case, his sons, were ready and willing to work, and Liberty Ships provided the opportunity.

The Liberty Ship, welded and utterly functional, was named affectionately 'The Ugly Duckling' by President Roosevelt, but to follow the fairy tale, the Swan, or perhaps more appropriately, the Phoenix of Greek Shipping rose from the Ashes of World War Two precisely due to these hardy ships in the hands of some of the world's best sailors. A ship that had been built for one round trip often served a quarter century or more, resulting in

several generations of Greeks having their Liberty Ship stories, including mariners much younger than my late father, as these ships continued to be part of Greek fleets until the late 1960s or beyond.

From my father and all of his relatives, and from countless friends and family on our island, Hydra, I grew up with stories of the Liberty Ships. Living in Greece as a banker with shipping clients as a key part of the portfolio, chats with shipping company personnel, often enough retired captains, were replete with affectionate references to "Ta Liberty." That was almost two decades ago.

My reconnection with my nautical heritage, and with the Liberty Ships, came with my decision to take a master's degree in history and to focus on the Greek merchant marine, my thesis subject. Almost immediately the stories, from many now departed, returned to my consciousness, backed by immeasurable research, and reading about this remarkable ship, whose idea developed in a besieged Britain at the start of World War Two but came to life in vast, assembly line yards built from scratch on America's Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf Coasts, worked on particularly by African Americans and women. The typical keel to Christening time for a Liberty Ship was just over a month, but the record was five days [!] and that record ship remained in service plying the waves until 1965!

Like the men and women who built them, and many of the first generation who sailed them, the vast majority of Liberty Ships have passed into history, recycled into new forms of steel, after perhaps, a purgatory in some river estuary. However, two Liberties have defied the years and odds, cared for by dedicated restoration teams. One, the SS John Brown, lies at dock in Baltimore, the other, Hellas Liberty is in Baltimore's sister city of Piraeus, Greece, where my father grew up.

On my last trip to Greece, a trip so infused with nautical themes, I just had to make a pilgrimage to this Liberty Ship. In truth, I was also privy to its backstory, about how it was salvaged and rescued by a combination of Greek shipping and Greek Diaspora donors, salvagers, and other experts to bring the former SS Arthur Huddle to Piraeus, where restoration brought it to its present, pristine state. Years before, in New York, I was on a panel discussing the role of the Liberty Ships as part of a lecture series sponsored by East Mediterranean Business Cultural Alliance (EMBCA). After the New York conference, EMBCA President Ilias Katsos took the discussion 'on the road' to Piraeus, underwriting a panel discussion in the ship itself, which has a large part of the hold dedicated to exhibitions and conferences.

On an early May morning a day before my departure to the United States, I decided that my packed schedule in Greece had to include a 'pilgrimage' to Hellas Liberty. I ventured from my friend's house in Neo Psychiko, a northern suburb of Athens, to the Piraeus station via the Metro, and I decided to walk through the maze of quays and piers of Piraeus port to Hellas Liberty.

Thank God for GPS, because the ship was basically hidden behind a huge decaying warehouse, flanked by ferryboats bound for Crete and Rhodes, in a port with a great past (including Classical ruins among industrial detritus) and an uncertain future. Arriving at the poorly marked site, the ship was obscured by a dilapidated steel and concrete warehouse. I was early and found a trailer that housed a small café and bakery.



Fortified with an espresso and a tiropita (cheese pastry), I sat at a rickety table, and next to me were two grizzled fellows, at least twenty years my senior. Full on with cigarettes, one's smartphone played a tune by the late, great Grigoris Bithikotsis, 'Pio Pireotis petheneis', roughly translated as, 'you could not be more of a Pireotis [resident of Piraeus]'. I sat there recalling my own father, who grew up here, a son and grandson of a sailor, and a sailor himself, listening to the music of a sailor who became a musician. Both of the men I met that day had been pensioned off from the port authority, and their opinions as to the current state and ownership of the port were translatable, just not printable.

Walking up the gangway the moment it was opened, a young employee of the Hellas Liberty museum asked if he could be of any assistance or answer questions. I told him of my background and work on the Greek Merchant Marine, my Hydriot background and family naval heritage, as well as my being a director of EMBCA. He remembered: "Mr. Katsos' panel, when the hold was full of Greek shipowners," and basically left me to commune silently with the ship.

I walked its length, went into the holds, and the small dormitories, eyeing the ship's welded seams, a controversial innovation to speed construction and lighten the ship, at a time when the norm was still costly rivets. I could not fail to marvel at, and, as an American, to be proud of, the incredible ingenuity of my fellow countrymen, and at the patriotic fervor of the workers, so many of them women and blacks, who contributed their all to the war effort in any way possible. The sparse bunkrooms recalled comments of my father, of banged heads and Spartan accommodations, but like all other Greeks who had served aboard these ships, there was a deep reverence in his tones.

The bridge also was a combination of sparseness and the obligatory icon of the guardian of the seas, St. Nicholas. Again, thoughts of my father, an apprentice captain, came to mind, and all the other captains past and present to have commanded on such a bridge, including my new colleagues at the 'Lesxi Apofyton Sxolis Nautilias tis Ydras' (Hydra Nautical Academy Alumni Association), which had just the week before inducted me as an honorary member for my nautical study activities, as well as those sailing in World War Two, who brought the supplies that won the war, facing off the vicious 'Wolf Pack' attacks of German U-Boats.

I spoke with the Museum Director, a retired captain, in his office, with books and brochures abounding, as well as the plaques from numerous associations who were affiliated with or had donated to the museum. I was delighted to see a plaque from the Hydra Nautical School Alumni Association, among others, yet another connection between me and this ship.

I checked my watch, or more accurately, given today's era, my phone. I was expected for a meeting in Athens, with a fellow Hydriot and fellow member of the alumni association, for a coffee talk prior to my departure. Time is always a precious and limited commodity when I am in Greece, so my lingering was shorter than it might have been. I ran my hand along the steel walls, newly painted but with a functional roughness, joined by the tell-tale signs of the welder's seam.

As I reached the gangplank, I felt, as I often do when in Greece at museums or places of historical or personal significance, an almost imperceptible presence behind me, guiding me out. Fewer moments have I felt prouder to be an American and a Greek, as if this sturdy ship, so much a part of both countries' twentieth century history, was the perfect symbiosis of my joint identity.

With that, I got back on the road, to Athens, my meeting, and thereafter, like these ships in times past, across the ocean.

Italy

Greece in Venice: 'Dov'è il Rio dei Greci?' – In Search of Hellas in Venice Full article [Here](#)

Venice – Until she or he stumbles across the wonderful renaissance Church of San Giorgio dei Greci, or the impressive Hellenic Institute, the typical Greek visitor to Venice is not aware that once upon a time in the not-so-distant past there was a strong Greek presence in the city.

Upon leaving the magnificent St. Mark's Square – truly, I don't know why anyone would, but that is another story – and wandering aimlessly northeast (one cannot take a wrong turn in a city like Venice, where serendipity is your guide in the alleys, byways, and canals that offer endless architectural and experiential delights) the observant visitor will be struck by the signs that list the names of various kinds of streets: Salizzada dei Greci, Via dei Greci, Ramo Primo dei Greci, Ramo Secondo dei Greci, Calle dei Greci, and then the nice little bridge named Ponte dei Greci.



But it is when you realize that one of Venice's many canals is named Rio dei Greci that it hits you like a thunderbolt: "There must have been a lot of Greeks here!"

Indeed, history buffs might recall that before the leaders of Venice betrayed Constantinople, the Queen of Cities during the fourth crusade in 1204 it was the Daughter of Byzantium after it miraculously rose out of a lagoon at the head of the Adriatic Sea. It was undisputedly part of the empire until 751, but ties remained close until 1204.

Today, tour guides might spotlight key interactions like the architect sent from Constantinople to build St. Mark's – which had a Byzantine façade ala St. Sophia of Thessaloniki before the current gothic façade was erected. As late as the 1020s Basil II contracted with city to transport his soldiers to Sicily for its planned grand liberation from the Arabs – alas, the great emperor died before the dream could be realized.



Guides might also note that before and after the Fall of Constantinople in 1453, refugees from the Ottoman onslaught sought refuge and were welcomed there, their heterodox (in a Catholic state) Greek Orthodox faith notwithstanding.

Of a total population in the city of 100,000 in the 16th century, up to 5,000 were Greeks, a powerful cultural presence since typically the more educated and affluent citizens were able to escape the Turks. They were an important portion of the Byzantine artists and scholars who helped fuel the Italian Renaissance.

Alas, today only about 140 families are registered – a sad mirror image of the state of the Community in Constantinople itself, where only about 2,000 mainly elderly Greeks remain.

Nevertheless, when you go to San Giorgio dei Greci, a warm welcome awaits from the people who work for the parish and the Community. And in the square is the 'Ελληνικό Ινστιτούτο Βυζαντινών και Μεταβυζαντινών Σπουδών Βενετίας' – The Hellenic Institute of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies in Venice, which was founded in 1951. Also visit its affiliated museum of icons – but be sure to look up – at the remarkable 'leaning tower' of the church – Pisa cannot boast having the only one in Italy.

The Greek refugees fought hard to get their own church building, but It took a long time – Venice often challenged the Pope, but within limits. In 1456 they were given a chapel in Saint Vlassis's church and they founded the Greek Brotherhood in 1498 to strengthen the Community. In 1536 Venice finally granted a building permit in in Campo dei Greci for San Giorgio, which was finished in 1577 and gained its bell tower in 1603.

The connections between Greece in Italy are strong and have ancient roots, but the breadth and depth seem little appreciated in either country. Of course, the DNA analyses that more and more people are obtaining reinforce the famous 'una facia una raza' – 'one race, one face' that is obvious to all on both sides of the Adriatic.

Both countries should explore the development of what can be called 'genealogical tourism' – Italians visiting the places in Greece where branches of their families flourished, in Greece's islands and coastal cities – and Greeks to visit places like Venice, where, for example, people from Siphnos may meet people with last names like their own: Sperantza, Venieri, Gozzadini, Vaos, Procos, Rafeletos, Moschoutis, Sirigos, and Proveleggios.

Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust

Letter showing Pope Pius XII had detailed information from German Jesuit about Nazi crimes revealed. Newly discovered correspondence in the Vatican archives suggests that Pope Pius XII had detailed information from a trusted German Jesuit that up to 6,000 Jews and Poles were being gassed each day in German-occupied Poland. Full article [Here](#)

Rome -- Newly discovered correspondence suggests that World War II-era Pope Pius XII had detailed information from a trusted German Jesuit that up to 6,000 Jews and Poles were being gassed each day in German-occupied Poland. The documentation undercuts the Holy See's argument that it couldn't verify diplomatic reports of Nazi atrocities to denounce them.



The documentation from the Vatican archives, published this weekend in Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, is likely to further fuel the debate about Pius' legacy and his now-stalled beatification campaign. Historians have long been divided about Pius' record, with supporters insisting he used quiet diplomacy to save Jewish lives while critics say he remained silent as the Holocaust raged.

Corriere is reproducing a letter dated Dec. 14, 1942 from the German Jesuit priest to Pius' secretary which is contained in an upcoming book about the newly opened files of Pius' pontificate by Giovanni Coco, a researcher and archivist in the Vatican's Apostolic Archives.

Coco told *Corriere* that the letter was significant because it represented detailed correspondence about the Nazi extermination of Jews, including in ovens, from an informed church source in Germany who was part of the Catholic anti-Hitler resistance that was able to get otherwise secret information to the Vatican.

The letter from the priest, the Rev. Lothar Koenig, to Pius' secretary, a fellow German Jesuit named the Rev. Robert Leiber, is dated Dec. 14, 1942. Written in German, the letter addresses Leiber as "Dear friend," and goes on to report that the Nazis were killing up to 6,000 Jews and Poles daily from Rava Ruska, a town in pre-war Poland that is today located in Ukraine, and transporting them to the Belzec death camp.

According to the Belzec memorial which opened in 2004, a total of 500,000 Jews perished at the camp. The memorial's website reports that as many as 3,500 Jews from Rava Ruska had already been sent to Belzec earlier in 1942 and that from Dec. 7-11, the city's Jewish ghetto was liquidated. "About 3,000-5,000 people were shot on the spot and 2,000- 5,000 people were taken to Belzec," the website says.

The date of Koenig's letter is significant because it suggests the correspondence from a trusted fellow Jesuit arrived in Pius' office in the days after the ghetto was emptied, and after Pius had received multiple diplomatic notes and visits from a variety of envoys of foreign governments from August 1942 onwards with reports that up to 1 million Jews had been killed so far in Poland.

While it can't be certain that Pius saw the letter, Leiber was Pius' top aide and had served the pope when he was the Vatican's ambassador to Germany during the 1920s, suggesting a close working relationship especially concerning matters related to Germany.

According to "The Pope at War," by Pulitzer Prize-winning anthropologist David Kertzer, a top secretariat of state official, Monsignor Domenico Tardini, told the British envoy to the Vatican in mid-December that the pope couldn't speak out about Nazi atrocities because the Vatican hadn't been able to verify the information.

"The novelty and importance of this document comes from this fact: that on the Holocaust, there is now the certainty that Pius XII was receiving from the German Catholic Church exact and detailed news about crimes being perpetrated against Jews," Coco was quoted by Corriere as saying.

However, Coco noted that Koenig also urged the Holy See to not make public what he was revealing because he feared for his own life and the lives of the resistance sources who had provided the intelligence. Pius' supporters have long insisted that he couldn't speak out strongly against the Nazis because of fears of reprisals.

In a telephone interview Saturday, Kertzer said the letter could be significant because it could mark the first time a reference to Jews being gassed in ovens had been revealed in a letter he said would certainly have been brought to Pius' attention. Kertzer said historians have been eagerly awaiting Coco's book because as a Vatican archivist, Coco had access to a trove of Pius' personal files that weren't yet indexed and made available to scholars when the Vatican opened the Pius archives in March 2020.

"When we started working there, it wasn't a secret — although it took a while to figure out — what kinds of documents were missing," Kertzer said, noting that documents from the Vatican's office in Washington during the war years have still not yet been catalogued.

Pius' legacy, and the revelations from the newly opened Vatican archives, are to be discussed at a major conference at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University next month that is notable because of its across-the-spectrum participant list and sponsorship. The Vatican, Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust research institute, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial as well as the Israeli and U.S. embassies are all backing it, among others.

The Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, is to open the Oct. 9-11 meeting that will feature scholars including Kertzer, Coco and Johan Ickx, the archivist at the Vatican secretariat of state whose own book on the archives, "Pius XII and the Jews" published in 2021, praised Pius and the Vatican's efforts to care for Jews and people fleeing the war.

Coco said Koenig's letter actually was found in the Vatican's secretariat of state archives and was turned over to the Vatican's main Apostolic Archives only in 2019, because the secretariat of state's papers were disorganized and scattered, with some of Pius' documents kept in plastic containers in an attic storage space where heat and humidity were damaging them.

Cyprus

Don't be Indifferent Full article [Here](#)

Having marked yet another “dark anniversary” of Turkey’s invasion of Cyprus, we begin the march towards a grim milestone – a half century of illegal Turkish occupation of Cyprus. Over the last decade, there have been positive developments to celebrate with regards to Cyprus. We hear a consistent celebration of the “best bilateral relationship ever” between Greece and the United States, but somehow people miss the fact that the U.S.-Republic of Cyprus relationship is on a similar trajectory. Security cooperation between the two countries was once non-existent, but today the U.S. Armed Forces and the Cypriot National Guard have institutionalized relations through the International Military Education & Training (IMET) program and State Partnership Program (SPP). The U.S. helped establish the Cyprus Center for Land Open Seas and Port Security (CYCLOPS). And a long sought after objective – the lifting of the arms embargo – has been largely achieved and sets the ground for a far deeper security partnership.



Add to this growing economic ties (Exxon and Chevron are major investors in Cyprus’ energy sector), the potential in people to people ties once Cyprus is included in the Visa Waiver Program, the presence of a star U.S. Ambassador (Julie Fischer) in Nicosia, and a Cypriot President with significant ties to the United States and more than a decade of experience in dealing with the US Administration and the Congress, U.S.-Cyprus relations are certainly trending in the right direction.

That’s the good news. But there is bad news as well. Over this same decade – and despite coming as close as ever to a solution at Crans Montana in 2017 – the quest to reunify Cyprus has suffered serious setbacks. Rigging Turkish Cypriot elections to install an Erdogan puppet (Ersin Tatar) as Turkish Cypriot leader, kicked off this downward spiral, followed by Tatar’s disavowal of UN Security Council Resolutions as a basis for a solution and the opening of Varosha (also in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions). People are understandably tired and frustrated and often wonder if there is any point. There is indeed a point. The bilateral advances listed above became a reality solely because of a paradigm shift in the approach by both the Republic of Cyprus and the Greek American diaspora. Passion and persistence – ever present in the cause of Cyprus – were now combined with out of the box thinking (e.g., joint advocacy with other ethnic American advocacy organizations; engaging think tankers more consistently and more substantively; pursuing legislation – like the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act – that no one had ever imagined possible).

That same approach must be brought to bear to the Cyprus issue. And to get there we must overcome indifference disguised as actions. We cannot be satisfied with American officials (and certain Greek Americans themselves) appearing at a conference dedicated to Cyprus and not mentioning the Cyprus issue. We cannot simply treat this ongoing crime against humanity as a matter of “history” and memorialize the fallen heroes of 1974 when there are still over 1,000 missing Greek Cypriots (including 4 still missing American citizens) who haven’t even had a funeral. We cannot just shrug when Archdiocesan encyclicals are inexplicably issued AFTER memorials have taken place, or when Greek and Greek-Cypriot Americans opt to fly Turkish Airlines into the illegal airport in occupied Cyprus – prioritizing as little as \$300 dollars over any loyalty to Cyprus or Greece.

Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel proclaimed: “The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it’s indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it’s indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it’s indifference.”

If we want to even have a chance of preventing 49 years of occupation from reaching 50, we must conquer any creeping indifference that may be popping up in our community. And the time for vanquishing indifference could not be better. If Turkey wants reenergized relations with the EU, we can all back Cyprus’ exercise of its veto power as long as Ankara remains intransigent on Cyprus. With elections coming up in

2024, we must withhold our dollars and our votes until candidates are clear where they stand on Cyprus. And we must tell our story to everyone we know in the United States. The American public and political leadership are in the case of Ukraine committed to the very principles we want to see take hold in Cyprus.

The stakes are higher than ever. If Turkey can get away with its crimes in Cyprus – where it denies not only the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus but its very existence – its positions in the Aegean will only harden. If Turkey can extinguish Christianity in the very place where the first Christian mission of Paul and Barnabas took place, the Ecumenical Patriarchate's chances of survival in Turkey will decrease dramatically. After 50 years, we must commit to resolving the Cyprus problem not for the sake of the fallen of 1974, but for the Cypriots, Greeks, Turks, and the world of 2074.

The Power of a Decade: The Cypriot Young Professionals Celebrates 10 Years Together Article [Here](#)

Once upon a time, there was a group of Cypriots...who were Young...and very Professional. Yet, there was nowhere for them to go, unite, exchange ideas, or hang out. Boom. The Cypriot Young Professionals (CYP) of the Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce was born. And now, it's turning 10 years old.



As founding president of CYP which was established in June of 2013, it's quite remarkable looking back and seeing how much the organization has accomplished. While none of the original CYP Founders are "part" of the core group anymore (eh hemm, mainly due to the fact that we have now moved up to the big chairs, sitting on the Board of the Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce), what CYP did for us professionally is extraordinary and, was the sole reason why we started it, why it has been different and how it continues to be relevant. More importantly, CYP has continued to carry and emphasize the mission of the Chamber, a non-profit membership organization dedicated to promoting trade and investment flows between Cyprus and the United States, a place where business opportunities are fostered, and closer ties amongst its own members and the greater business community in America is created.

From a thought to a greater discussion, to inception, to inauguration, the journey of CYP has been strong. Starting off in mid-2012 with a kickoff meeting that took place at the Keo Room at the Cyprus Trade Center in New York, the setting was set with about 15 Cypriot 'kids' (all in their mid-late 20's), and five adults from the Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce. We were invited to all sit around a table, introduced ourselves and discussed how we can do something really great for young Cypriots who are looking to thrive in the business world, meet like-minded individuals, and ultimately, build communications & partnerships that would ultimately, shape a strong economic future the Cypriot community in the States. Many of us did not even know each other previously, and in some ways, somehow, we were plucked from our everyday lives to attend this meeting that looking back, was fate. The biggest impact from that meeting was that we had a mix of professions that were represented, including, public relations, architecture, education, finance, law, entertainment, the arts, accounting, fashion, fitness, real estate...and that made a whole difference. That's when we knew this was going to be a very different organization that was inclusive to all types of businesses. Over the last 10 years, the Cypriot Young Professionals has brought the community (young and elder) together both professionally and socially while at the same time, engaging a new generation of inspiring business leaders and entrepreneurs. Building a foundation for success by implementing impactful initiatives such as monthly networking events that highlight and celebrate specific Young Professionals and their successes to date (Harry Antoniou – Singer), to round-table discussions & fireside chats (Stylianos Lambrou – CEO of Heart Cyprus), to leadership dinners & entrepreneurship workshops (Jimmy Pelekanos – COO & Co-Founder of Bareburger, Eleni Janis, VP Social Capital Desk, Andrew Gounardes, NY State Senator), to launching the CYP Mentorship Program specifically designed to provide an opportunity for students and young professionals to work with a mentor, in an established professional in their field. The idea of the program was to establish a structured and formal relationship where individuals share ideas and experiences within the context of the mentee's professional development goals, and perhaps, create a mentor and mentee

relationship that could be life-long. Additionally professional development events for members included, #CYPE Exclusive Professional Head Shots, and US Tax Reform: What it Means for the US, World and You.

Bringing important Cypriot and Greek causes to the forefront has been a way for CYP to allow its members to grow together and give back within this short amount of time and throughout the 10 years, has become the fabric of the organization. While promoting business, trade and creating ways to build leaders & entrepreneurs into our Cypriot community is at the core, the important of supporting worthwhile causes has led to putting together initiatives that help reinforce and educate the public on the Cyprus Children's Fund, the Cyprus Society for the Protection of Spastic and Handicapped Children, Thalassaemia, and continuing to support the future, by way of launching a J1 Visa program, donating school supplies to Lefkara Public School & Limassol Public School, medical equipment for the newborn intensive care unit in Nicosia, and more.

Netanyahu Discusses Energy ties with Cypriot and Greek Leaders

Praising regional cooperation on visit to Nicosia, PM raises possibility of purchasing a shared firefighter aircraft with allies, pitches fiber optic cable project

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Stalled plans to transport Israel's natural gas production across the Mediterranean to Europe were front and center on Sunday when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with his Cypriot and Greek counterparts.



Netanyahu arrived in Nicosia on Sunday afternoon as part of a two-day trip to meet with Cyprus's President Nikos Christodoulides and Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis of Greece, the latest in a series of trilateral summits begun in 2016.

The two countries are in drawn-out discussions for a solution to transport Israeli natural gas to Europe, through Cyprus. One option, the Eastern Mediterranean pipeline, would pipe natural gas from Israeli offshore production, through Cyprus, and on to Greece. A second leading option would shorten the pipeline from Israel to a liquification terminal in Cyprus, from which it would be shipped onward to Europe.

While Netanyahu met with Christodoulides, Energy Minister Israel Katz held separate talks with Turkish and Egyptian counterparts, as well as the US envoy on regional normalization efforts, Dan Shapiro, regarding gas exports in the eastern Mediterranean.

The talks with Egyptian Petroleum Minister Tarek el-Molla and Turkish Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar seemed part of an apparent two-pronged strategy aimed at navigating the choppy waters between rivals Cyprus and Turkey. Bayraktar said the talks with Katz were productive and he will visit Israel as soon as he can. Katz said the talks are "a continuation of my talks with the Greek and Cypriot energy ministers."

He called Israel's offshore gas riches "the key to regional deals," possibly hinting at the source of Shapiro's involvement. The former US ambassador is now the Biden administration's point man on expanding the 2020 Abraham Accords, which normalized relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco. The Biden administration is now making efforts to establish official ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Christodoulides expressed enthusiasm for Cyprus taking a role in relationships expanded through the Abraham Accords, saying that his country "has a strong interest to act as a gateway with like-minded partners." Netanyahu also raised the possibility of Israel, Cyprus, and Greece jointly purchasing a supertanker firefighting airplane for the countries to use in case of widespread fires, according to a source in the Prime Minister's Office.

In his remarks, the prime minister also praised Cyprus for thwarting a terror attack, believed to have been planned with Iranian backing, against Israeli and Jewish targets in Cyprus this summer.

Netanyahu thanked Nicosia for the joint cooperation on security and defense matters and "for the wonderful work of the security services of Cyprus to foil an attempted attack against Israelis on Cypriot soil."

The prime minister, traveling with his wife, retired on Sunday evening to the seaside town of Limassol to spend the night, before returning to Nicosia Monday for additional meetings with Christodoulides and the Greek prime minister. Since 2016 such meetings between the leaders of the three countries have become a staple of what they said are burgeoning ties that Netanyahu described as "a deep friendship, both personal, but also between our nations" that is "real" and "long overdue." Foreign Minister Eli Cohen was also abroad on a diplomatic trip on Sunday, landing on Sunday afternoon at Manama's Bahrain International Airport for his first state visit to an Abraham Accords country.

Israel

The chargé d'affaires of the Israeli Embassy in Greece, Tsah Saar, was greeted by friends and associates as well as representatives of Greek Jewry, at a friendly gathering hosted at the ambassador's residence on 2.8.23 by Israeli Ambassador Noam Katz and his wife Einat. The Israeli ambassador referred to the great contribution of Tsah Saar to the development of Greek-Israeli relations and wished him success in his new duties at the Israeli Embassy in New York.



Mr. Tsah Saar, who departs for Israel after a 3-year term in Greece, spoke with moving words about his ties with Greece, noting in particular the hospitality and friendly atmosphere of people wherever he traveled. He noted the excellent cooperation with the Ambassador and the officials of the Israeli embassy in Athens, as well as with the Greek Jewish community.

The event was attended by the General Secretary of KISE, Victor Eliezer, the President of the I.C. of Athens, Albertos Tarampoulos, and the General Secretary of the C.S., Delia Alchanati, and the Rabbi of Athens, Gabriel Negrin, who addressed to Mr. Tsach Saar heartfelt wishes for a good meeting and success in the work he undertakes with his new position in New York.

Israel, Greece hold joint air force exercise, drill long-range flights Full article [Here](#)

Dozens of Greek and Israeli fighter pilots took part in a joint drill on Wednesday, flying thousands of kilometers from Israel to Greece and back, according to the IDF Spokesperson's Unit.

The drill included fighter jets, fuelers, and reconnaissance aircraft. During the drill, the fighter pilots fired at targets under challenging weather conditions and succeeded in hitting all the targets. The IDF stated that the exercise was intended to "improve operational and mental competence for long-range flights, refueling, deep attacks, and to achieve air superiority." Additional exercises of a similar type are planned for later this year.



Greece-Israel relations continue to strengthen.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with the leaders of Cyprus and Greece to discuss trilateral relations.

In May, Israel delivered two M-346 advanced training aircraft to Greece. Israel's Elbit Systems has been contracted by Greece both to provide virtual avionics for the M-346 aircraft as well as to undertake the creation of an International Flight Training Center at 120 ATW Kalamata in Greece.

The two M-346s were the first batch of what will eventually be 10 such aircraft.

Israel may Uproot ancient Christian mosaic, send it to US Evangelical Museum Full article [Here](#)
Megiddo Mosaic could be loaned to Museum of the Bible in Washington; some worry it will be used in ideological, rather than archaeological context.

An ancient Christian mosaic bearing an early reference to Jesus as God is at the center of a controversy that has riled archaeologists: Should the centuries-old, decorated floor, which is near what's believed to be the site of the prophesied Armageddon, be uprooted, and loaned to a US museum that has been criticized for past acquisition practices?



Israeli officials are considering just that. The proposed loan to the Museum of the Bible in Washington also underscores the deepening ties between Israel and evangelical Christians in the US, whom Israel has come to count on for political support, tourism dollars and other benefits.

The Megiddo Mosaic is from what is believed to be the world's earliest Christian prayer hall, located in a Roman-era village in northern Israel. It was discovered by Israeli archaeologists in 2005 during a salvage excavation conducted as part of the planned expansion of an Israeli prison.

The prison sits at a historic crossroads a mile south of Tel Megiddo on the cusp of the wide, flat Jezreel Valley. The compound is ringed by a white steel fence topped with barbed wire and is used for the detention of Palestinian security inmates.

Across a field strewn with cow dung and potsherds, the palm-crowned site of a Bronze and Iron Age city and ancient battles is where some Christians believe a conclusive battle between good and evil will transpire at the end of days: Armageddon.

For some Christians, particularly evangelicals, this will be the backdrop of the long-anticipated climax at the Second Coming, when divine wrath will obliterate those who oppose God's kingdom; it serves as the focus of their hopes for ultimate justice.



The Israel Antiquities Authority said that it will decide about the move in the coming weeks, following consultations with an advisory body.

"There's an entire process that academics and archaeologists are involved with," said IAA director Eli Eskozido. The organization said that moving the mosaic from its original location was the best way to protect it from upcoming construction at the prison.

Jeffrey Kloha, the Museum of the Bible's chief curatorial officer, said a decision on the loan would be made solely by the IAA.

The museum "of course would welcome the opportunity to educate our thousands of visitors on important pieces of history such as this mosaic," he told The Associated Press via email.

Several archaeologists and academics have voiced strong objections to the notion of removing the Megiddo Mosaic from where it was found — and all the more so to exhibit it at the Museum of the Bible.

Cavan Concannon, a religion professor at the University of Southern California, said the museum acts as a "right-wing Christian nationalist Bible machine" with links to "other institutions that promote white evangelical, Christian nationalism, Christian Zionist forms."

“My worry is that this mosaic will lose its actual historical context and be given an ideological context that continues to help the museum tell its story,” he said.

Others balk at the thought of moving the mosaic at all before academic study is complete. “It is seriously premature to move that mosaic,” said Matthew Adams, director of the Center for the Mediterranean World, an nonprofit archaeological research institute, who is involved in digs at Tel Megiddo and the abutting Roman legionary camp of Legio.

Asked about criticisms of the Washington museum’s practices, Kloha said, “Major museums and distinguished institutions committed to preserving history have had to grapple with cultural heritage issues, particularly in recent years.

“To be clear: Museum of the Bible is proud to have proactively launched research and a thorough review of items in its collections,” he added. “The museum initiated returns where appropriate to countries of origin without obligation to do so and encourages other institutions to do the same.”

Based on other finds found in the dig and the style of the letters in the inscriptions, IAA archaeologists have dated the mosaic floor to the third century — before the Roman Empire officially converted to Christianity and when adherents were still persecuted. Nonetheless, one of the donors who paid to decorate the ancient house of worship was a centurion serving in the adjacent Roman legionary camp.

The mosaic bears Greek inscriptions, among them an offering “To God Jesus Christ.” Since opening its doors in 2017, the Museum of the Bible has faced criticism over its collecting practices and for promoting an evangelical Christian political agenda. In 2018, it had to repatriate an ancient Mesopotamian tablet looted from Iraq and admit that several of the Dead Sea Scroll fragments in its collection were modern forgeries. American authorities also seized thousands of clay tablets and other looted antiquities from the museum’s founder, Hobby Lobby president and evangelical Christian Steve Green, and returned them to Iraq.

The mosaic loan would reinforce ties between Israel and the museum. The museum sponsors two archaeological digs in Israel and has a gallery curated by the IAA. Kloha said the museum is also planning a lecture series featuring IAA archaeologists. Evangelical Christians, whose ranks have been growing worldwide, have become some of Israel’s most fervent supporters, donating large sums of money and visiting the country as tourists and pilgrims. In the US, they also lobby politicians in Congress in support of Israel.

United Kingdom

British Museum opens door to Parthenon deal with Greece – Full article [Here](#)

Deputy director calls for ‘active partnership’ after decades-long stalemate.

The British Museum has signaled that it is willing to negotiate a deal with Greece that could bring an end to one of the world’s longest-running cultural disputes.

The museum’s deputy director Jonathan Williams has suggested that the sculptures could return to Greece as part of an active partnership that would see Greek treasures loaned to the UK in return. He told the Sunday Times: “What we are calling for is an active ‘Parthenon partnership’ with our friends and colleagues in Greece [...] I firmly believe there is space for a really dynamic and positive conversation within which new ways of working together can be found.



“There are many wonderful things we’d be delighted to borrow and lend. That’s what we do,” he said.

Although Williams emphasized that the “sculptures are an absolutely integral part of the British Museum”, he said the museum was keen to “change the temperature of the debate”. Williams' comments follow an intervention by London mayor Sadiq Khan last week when he called on the UK Government and British Museum to “stop burying their heads in the sand” and enter into a dialogue with Greece.

British Museum chairman George Osborne also recently announced that “there is a deal to be done”. The Sunday Times reports that relations between officials in the two countries have thawed in recent months. “The atmosphere has changed,” Greek culture minister, Lina Mendoni, told the newspaper. “With goodwill we can find a way forward for both parties.”

However, the path forward is unlikely to be straightforward, with both parties still at odds over the ownership of the marbles and Greece pushing for permanent reunification. The UK Government says the return of the sculptures is a matter for the British Museum’s trustees. The museum has rejected Greece’s claim that the marbles were removed illegitimately, saying the manner in which they were acquired was “entirely legal”.

The British Museum has not changed its official stance on the marbles. A spokesman said the institution is willing to loan the sculptures to those who wish to display them “provided they will look after them and return them”.

He said: “The Parthenon sculptures are beautiful works of art which are loved and admired world-wide. We believe that sharing them with the public in as rich a range of contexts as possible should lie at the heart of these conversations. The public fails when conversations are limited to a legalistic and adversarial context.

“We will loan the sculptures, as we do many other objects, to those who wish to display them to other public around the world, provided they will look after them and return them.”

The spokesman said the sculptures are “an integral part of a collection that enables the public to explore this vast arc of history, helping them understand how the modern world is still influenced by these great ancient civilizations”.

He added: “Deepening public access and understanding, creating new ways and opportunities for collections to be shared and understood right across the world, and forging connections between the present and the past, remain at the core of what the British Museum seeks to achieve.”

Egypt

Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly inaugurated Ben Azra Synagogue in Cairo on Thursday, according to a statement made by the Egyptian cabinet. The synagogue, which is one of the oldest in Egypt, was constructed in the 12th century but has just completed a new renovation. Madbouly, accompanied by a number of other government officials, had earlier in the day inspected other renovated archaeological and heritage sites in Cairo.



History of the synagogue: The synagogue was named after a Jewish biblical commentator and philosopher from the Middle Ages, Abraham ben Meir Ibn Ezra. The site contains the Cairo Geniza, a collection of texts and scrolls that give an exclusive insight into the history of Egypt’s Jewish community.

Renovations made to the synagogue: The ceiling underwent a number of measures to help prevent its collapse, the Tourism and Antiquities Minister Ahmed Issa said in a statement. Additionally, the building was also provided with insulation, cleaning, and precious stones at the site received treatment. The lighting system was given an update, and copper and iron elements were given the necessary treatment to bring out their shine. The library was also heavily restored.

Gershon Harris
Hatzor Haglilit, Israel



Though actually a separate holiday, Shmini Atzeret/Simhat Torah comes at the end of the seven days of Sukkot, celebrated one day in Israel, and two days in the Diaspora. Therefore, in Israel both Shmini Atzeret and Simhat Torah occur on the same day, (this year Shabbat, October 7th), while in the Diaspora, Simhat Torah is celebrated the day after Shemini Atzeret (Sunday, October 8th).

But why is Simhat Torah celebrated at the end of Sukkot and not on Shavuot, which by definition is called "*hag matan Torah*" – the holiday of the giving of the Torah? This would seem to be a much more appropriate time to institute a joyous celebration revolving around the Torah than at the tail end of Sukkot, since the Torah, as such, is not a symbol of either Sukkot or Shemini Atzeret.

Both classic and modern commentators have dealt with this question, and most answers focus on the timing of the revelation at Mount Sinai, which was only seven weeks after the Exodus from Egypt, as well as what actually happened on that magnificent event. Physical bondage may have ended, but not only were the Israelites still confused and disorganized, they were still spiritually and emotionally very much under Egyptian influences and practices. This was amply and tragically illustrated by the sin of the Golden Calf, whereby the fledgling new nation essentially rejected and 'lost' the Torah on the same day it was given, since, after 40 days, when Moses descended Mount Sinai carrying the two Tablets of stone (the Ten Commandments), and saw the frenzied celebrations of pure unadulterated idol-worship, he smashed the Tablets. By their actions, the Israelites had not only proved themselves unworthy to receive the Torah, they essentially rejected the Torah and its accompanying covenant on the same day it was received. Shavuot may be a joyous festival celebrated in its own right as mandated in the Torah, and while we do commemorate the majestic and earthshattering event of the Revelation at Mount Sinai on that day, we do not 'celebrate' the Torah due to the great sin of the Golden Calf.

And while that answer explains why Simhat Torah was not established on Shavuot, the question still remains as to why the Sukkot season specifically was chosen for its celebration? The answer to this question lies in the sequence of events that occurred after the Golden Calf. Moses first chastises the people and calls for them to repent, and then punishes the direct perpetrators of this monumental sin. He then reascends the mountain to accomplish two missions: to try and gain G-d's forgiveness of Israel and prevent the nation's destruction, and to receive a new set of Tablets, meaning re-receiving the Torah. He spent 40 days praying to G-d to spare Israel and forgive them, and another 40 days as G-d dictated the Torah a second time as Moses inscribed it on two new Tablets. At the end of those 40 days, Moses descended with the new Tablets, the date being the 10th of Tishrei – Yom Kippur, and with the Tablets in hand, Moses announced that G-d forgave the people. While the consequences of the sin of the Golden Calf were still far-reaching, the joy of a repentant people having been forgiven and reconciled with G-d and His covenant created the proper atmosphere and timing to celebrate our rededication to the Torah. Sukkot, being the Biblically mandated and especially joyful holiday of coming close to G-d and living in total dependence on his mercy and love of Israel, was therefore chosen as the most appropriate time to celebrate the special gift of the Torah that G-d gave solely and exclusively to Israel.

And if any proof is needed for the propriety of attaching Simhat Torah to Sukkot and not Shavuot, one need only see how widespread and popular Simhat Torah has become as opposed to Shavuot. In fact, one could argue that there is probably no other holiday in the Jewish calendar as widely celebrated as Simhat Torah. Jews of every denomination everywhere in the world, from the most observant to the unaffiliated, celebrate Simhat Torah in the same way: Joyous dancing and singing with Torah scrolls of every size and type. In fact, the affinity Jews feel and express for the Torah, no matter how far they be from any level of Jewish observance is uncanny and miraculous. It was well-known how Soviet Jews, even those that may never have seen an actual Torah, would gather in synagogues once a year on Simhat Torah, under the watchful and intimidating eyes of the KGB and Soviet police, to demonstrate their Jewish identity proudly and publicly. The vast majority at the time celebrated no other Jewish holiday, nor even attended synagogue, yet once a year some mysterious and often inexplicable force would pull them to a synagogue simply to be with other Jews. Whether consciously or not, such Jews were expressing an irrevocable affinity and connection with "*Torat Yisrael*" and their Jewish heritage. This cannot be overemphasized nor taken for granted. The ubiquitous use of terms like "*ahavat Yisrael*"- love of

Israel, and 'brotherhood' in sermons and other educational and spiritual venues often seems bereft of meaning, given how little people seem to put these lofty ideas into practice. Yet the virtually universal celebration of Simhat Torah proves that every Jew does indeed have, and desires, a portion in the Torah and the Jewish People, no matter how far he or she may be from Judaism or religious observance. That in itself is a cause for celebration, which is what Simhat Torah is all about. *Hag Sameah* to one and all!



Rabbi Marc D. Angel
Thoughts for Sukkoth
JewishIdeas.org

Most of our religious observances are indoors--in our homes, in our synagogues. We generally do not like to create a public spectacle of our religious experiences, but we behave modestly and try not to call attention to ourselves as we perform mitzvot.

There are some exceptions to this. On Hanukkah, it is a particular mitzvah to publicize the miracle by placing our hanukkiyot where they can be seen by the passers-by. Succoth also has some aspects of taking our religious observances into the public square. The Talmud records the custom in ancient Jerusalem where people carried their lulavim into the street when they went to synagogue, when they visited the sick, and when they went to comfort mourners. Even today, many Jews carry their lulavim in public. When it comes to the succah itself, this structure is generally in view of the public: it's built on a patio, or yard, or courtyard etc. i.e. where Jews and non-Jews can see it

Although so much of our religious life is indoors--in the private domain of family and friends--we are sometimes obligated to make a public demonstration of our religious commitments. On Hanukkah, we want to remind the entire world that the Jews heroically defended themselves against the Syrian Hellenists and won independence for the Jewish people. We want everyone to know that, with God's help, we were victorious against powerful and far more numerous enemies.

On Succoth, we also want to convey a message to the general public. The lulav and etrog are symbolic of weapons; they indicate that we are proud of our faith and we are prepared to fight for the honor of our Torah and for our people. The succah is a symbolic statement that although we wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, God's providence protected us, and we ultimately entered the Promised Land. The public demonstration of these mitzvot indicates our pride and commitment in who we are and what we represent. If we have respect for ourselves and our traditions, we can expect that the nations of the world will also come to respect Judaism.

Sometimes it is necessary for us to stand up in public on behalf of our faith and our people. When Jews betray their faith and their people in public, this undermines the entire Jewish enterprise. If Jewish storekeepers open their shops on Shabbat and holidays, why should non-Jews respect our Sabbath and holy days? If Jews ignore the laws of kashruth, why should non-Jews respect our dietary laws? If Jews don't live up to the high standards of Torah ethics, why should non-Jews admire the Jewish way of life? If Jewish political figures hold press conferences and public meetings on Jewish holy days, why should non-Jews show any deference to our holy days?

Succoth is an important reminder that being Jewish also entails a public stance, the courage to be who we are and stand for our traditions without embarrassment or apology. We need to remind ourselves and others that our holy days and traditions cannot be trampled upon and cast aside in a rubbish bin. If we do not stand up for ourselves, who will stand up for us? And if we do stand up for ourselves, we will be worthy heirs of a great people who have given so much--and have so much more to give--to our world. Shabbat Shalom and Moadim LeSimha.

Recipe for Sukkoth from Italy – Link [Here](#)

Apple Fritters with Vanilla Sugar - *Mele Fritte*

Serves 6 to 8

For these sweet, crunchy fritters, apple rings are lightly coated with a creamy batter, then fried until crisp and gold-en out-side and ten-der with-in. My recipe was inspired by one found in Donatella Limentani Pavoncello's cook-book *Dal 1880 ad Oggi* (see page 152 of *Portico*). She served the fritters as part of her family's Hanukkah menu, but they also make great use of an autumnal apple-picking haul.



Donatella sprinkled her fritters with home-made vanilla sugar, as do I. The recipe for the sugar makes a good deal more than you need for the fritters, but it keeps for a long time and is useful to have around for other baking projects. If you would rather skip that step, the fritters are equally tasty sprinkled with regular granulated sugar or cinnamon-sugar.

For the vanilla sugar:

2 vanilla beans

1½ cups (300 g) granulated sugar

For the Fritters

4 large bak-ing apples, peeled

1½ cups (210 g) all-purpose flour

3 table-spoons granulated sugar

½ tea-spoon kosher salt

½ tea-spoon baking soda

1½ cups (355 ml) milk or non-dairy milk

Vegetable oil (such as sun-flower or grape-seed) for frying

Prepare the vanilla sugar:

Split the vanilla beans and scrape out the seeds; set the pods aside. Put the sugar and vanilla seeds in a food proces-sor and pulse until fully combined. Transfer the sugar to a glass jar, add the reserved pods, cover tightly, and set aside. (The sugar can be used right away, but the flavor will develop over time. It can be stored, tightly covered, for up to 1 year.)

Prepare the fritters:

Using an apple corer (or a melon baller or sturdy metal teaspoon), carefully remove the apple cores and discard. Slice the apples into ½-inch- (1.25 cm) thick rings and set aside.

Whisk together the flour, sugar, salt, and baking soda in a large bowl. Add the milk and whisk until smooth.

Heat ½ inch (1.25 cm) of oil in a large fry-ing pan over medi-um until shimmering. Line a large plate with paper tow-els and set nearby.

When the oil is hot, working in batches of 4 to 5, dip the apple rings into the bat-ter, let the excess drip off, and carefully slip them into the oil. Fry, turning once, until golden brown on both sides, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Transfer to the paper towel – lined plate to drain.

Sprinkle the fritters generously with vanilla sugar while still hot and serve immediately.

Photos of the Month

Outside the central gate of the Kastro in Ioannina, the circumference began to fill and cover in 1913-16! In the buildings that seem to be on the left will be gone! At the top of the gate tower you can see the clock tower, which Al-Pasha had snatched in 1808 from the Venetian clock tower Saint Haralassvirus of Preveza. The clock mechanism of the tower of the gate shortly after, in 1917, was stolen by the Italians, who were occupying the city on their way to Macedonia during WWI. In 1924, it was placed by the engineer Pericles Melirrytos on the clocktower of the central square of Ioannina, that strikes to this day! Thank you Allegra Matsa for the photo and information.



Great Granddaughter of Marcella Leontsini Mitilineos

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) made out to *Kehila Kedosha Janina*, 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.

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When you are in New York, visit us on Broome Street.



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