
S&P Central Newsletter - Hanukkah 2015 / 5776

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S&P CENTRAL
INFO HUB FOR SPANISH & PORTUGUESE /
WESTERN SEPHARDIC JEWISH COMMUNITIES
www.sandpcentral.org



Dear Friends,

Boas vindas! Bienvenida! Bienvenue! Benvenuto! Shalom shalom! Following are some items you might enjoy reading, including special melodies in honor of the upcoming Hanukkah holiday.

We are also pleased to share with you this compact [Directory of S&P/Western Sephardic Communities](#). Just download and keep it as a handy reference for your future travels! And feel free to share it with your community.

Wishing you a Hanukkah Alegre,

S&P Central

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NEWS

Tel Aviv

Growing S&P Minyan in Ramat Gan

For those in the Tel Aviv area, there is a growing Italian S&P congregation, Tempio Rabbi Ovadia Da Bertinoro, based in Ramat Gan. Services are held every Shabbat as well as holidays. The service follows the Livornese and Florentine traditions. For more information, please send an email to: Mijael Pinto Philipps (mpintophilipps@gmail.com) or Shelomo Toaf (slotoaf@012.net.il). You can also learn more at their Facebook page: https://m.facebook.com/groups/692925940822138?_rdr

RECENT EVENTS

Amsterdam

S&P Sing-Along Held at Limmud Conference

In November at Limmud Amsterdam, Hazzan Nachshon Rodrigues Pereira hosted a sing-along of Amsterdam S&P songs. About 30 people - most of them unfamiliar with the tunes - joined in the singing. You can listen to the results here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-921903877/sets/limmoed-zangmiddag>

Gibraltar

Celebration in Honor of Sir Joshua Hassan's 100-year Birth Anniversary

In August, a special reception was held to celebrate 100 years since the birth of Sir Joshua Hassan, a descendant of Spanish Jews who fled from Spain to Morocco and was the first Mayor and longest-serving Chief Minister of Gibraltar. Known as the “Defender of Gibraltar,”

his image will adorn a new 100-pound sterling bill to be issued soon. Fabian Picardo, the present Chief Minister, announced that a statue will also be built in his honor. Learn more here:

<http://www.corephotographygibraltar.com/News-and-Events/100-years-of-Hassans-celebrate/>

New York

Lecture: “Family and Faith in the Early Modern Sephardic Atlantic”

In November, Prof. Ronnie Perelis of Yeshiva University gave a talk on global trading networks established by Sephardic merchants in the early modern world. These networks, he explained, were keenly dependent on ties of family and kinship. To read more about his talk, please see here:

<http://www.gc.cuny.edu/Public-Programming/Calendar/Detail?id=33282>

Philadelphia

Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue Receives Distinguished Visitors

On the Shabbat of Nov. 20-22, Congregation Mikveh Israel received Rabbi Marc Angel as its Scholar-in-Residence. Rabbi Angel is Rabbi Emeritus of the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue in New York and founder of the Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals. He spoke on Judaism and social responsibility. Three weeks earlier, Mikveh Israel had the opportunity also to receive Rev. Eliot Alderman, who served as Director of Music at the Spanish & Portuguese Jews' Congregation in London. Rev. Alderman spoke on the history of its choir.

HISTORY

U.S. Civil War

The Forgotten Confederate Jew

A recent article explores the fascinating life of Judah P. Benjamin, the Caribbean-born Sephardic Jew who served as a high-ranking Cabinet secretary in the Confederate States of

America during the U.S. Civil War. Writer Daniel Brook speculates as to the reasons that Benjamin is little-remembered today:

<http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-arts-and-culture/books/106227/the-forgotten-confederate-jew>

American West

Film on American Sephardic Pioneer

A new film, “Carvalho’s Journey,” based on the 1857 memoir of Solomon Nunes Carvalho (1815-1897), tells the story of his life as a painter, daguerreotypist, and explorer of the American West. Upcoming screenings at film festivals in late 2015 and in 2016 are listed on the film’s website: <http://carvalhosjourney.com>

Carvalho’s portrait of President Abraham Lincoln was recently exhibited at Brandeis University: <http://www.jta.org/2015/04/30/news-opinion/united-states/jewish-artists-lincoln-portrait-gets-a-brief-moment-in-the-sun>

POLITICS

Portugal

“Portuguese Dreyfus” Becomes a Subject of Election Campaign

Maria de Belem, a candidate for President of Portugal, pledged to support a law reinstating the military rank and benefits of Col. Artur Carlos de Barros Basta. In the 1930s, Barros Basta had championed the cause of *anusim* (descendants of Jewish forced converts to Catholicism) and worked to re-establish a Jewish community in Portugal, including construction of the Kadoorie Synagogue in Porto. He was persecuted for promoting Judaism, was dishonorably discharged in 1937, and died in 1961.

<http://www.jta.org/2015/11/05/news-opinion/world/presidential-hopeful-takes-up-portuguese-dreyfus-cause>

MINHAG

Putting on Tefillin

Various Jewish communities have their own particular customs for putting on tefillin. Following is an explanation of the Spanish & Portuguese practice, provided by Rabbi Jonathan Cohen who grew up in the London Spanish & Portuguese community and now resides in Israel: <https://sites.google.com/site/londonsephardiminhag/tefillin>

CEMETERIES

London

Annual Cleanup Undertaken at Novo Cemetery

In August, Rabbi Shalom Morris of Bevis Marks Synagogue led 20 volunteers in a day of cleanup at the Novo Cemetery. The activity is organized annually together with the Jewish Genealogical Society. The Novo burial ground was opened in 1733. In 1972, Queen Mary College acquired the site and most of the graves were moved to another location. Only a small portion remains right in the middle of the campus, including the grave of famous 18th Century boxer Daniel Mendoza who was undefeated in 27 fights. You can read about it in Rabbi Morris's blog here: <http://shalommorris.com/2015/08/30/the-novo-cemetery-london/>

Bayonne (France)

Restoration Takes Place at Jewish Cemetery

In late August, a group of international volunteers carried out restoration work at a historic cemetery in Bayonne where Jews settled in the early 16th Century following their expulsion from Spain and Portugal. The project, organized by Aktion Suhnezeichen (Action Reconciliation) of Germany and the Jewish Museum of Belgium, has been going on annually since 2010. The cemetery was founded in 1660 although the right to openly practice Judaism was not officially recognized until 1723. You can read about the restoration here:

<http://www.jewish-heritage-europe.eu/2015/08/23/france-volunteers-restoring-jewish-cemetery-in-bayonne>

HANUKKAH MELODIES

Ocho Kandelikas

This popular Sephardi song is sung in Ladino, usually to an Argentine tango-rhythm. The lyrics describe a child's joy of lighting the candles on the menorah. Despite its traditional-sounding tone, "Ocho Kandelikas" is a modern composition written by composer-performer **Flory Jagoda** in 1983. Jagoda, who was born to a Sephardi family in Sarajevo, managed to flee to America ahead of the community's decimation by the Nazis. In 2002, she was honored by the National Endowment for the Arts for her efforts in preserving Ladino music. [from Wikipedia]

Below is a recording by Jagoda followed by versions from several other artists. Enjoy!

Flory Jagoda

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeS46weU4ZI>

Los Desterrados

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Z59cFoVFGs>

Maxwell Street Klezmer Band

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuVS2aHANO4>

Pink Martini

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9bx0b-Kfwg>

RECIPES

Burmuelos (Turkish donuts)



This issue's special Hanukkah recipe is provided by Rachel Almeleh, who runs a popular Sephardi-oriented food catering business in the Seattle, Washington, area (www.sephardicdelicacies.com). She is also author of "A Legacy of Sephardic, Mediterranean, and American Recipes," available on amazon.com. Almeleh draws her cooking inspiration from the Isle of Rhodes, the birthplace of both her parents, and she spent many hours learning from her aunts and cousins. If you have questions or wish to learn more, you can reach her at rachelroot7@aol.com.

Makes 25-30

3 tsp. dried yeast

½ tsp. sugar

2-¼ cup warm water

¼ tsp. salt

2 cups flour

1 tbsp. vegetable oil

Oil for frying

Syrup: ¾ cup honey with 3 tbsp. water

Dissolve yeast and sugar in ½ cup of the warm water. Let rest until bubbles appear on the surface. In a large bowl, mix the yeast mixture with the rest of the warm water. Add the salt, oil and flour. Dough should be smooth. Cover and set in a warm place to rise to double in size, an hour or so. Punch down, cover again and let rise another ½ hour.

Heat 4 inches of oil to 375 degrees in a deep fryer or heavy sauce pan. Oil is hot enough when a drop of water sizzles in the oil. Prepare a small bowl of water to moisten your hands. Dip hands into the water, shaking off any excess, and grab a round piece of dough 2” in diameter. Work the dough into a ball: then stretch it to 4” while poking a hole in the middle with your finger. Try to maintain a doughnut shape. Carefully drop into the oil Repeat 2-3 times. Avoid frying too many at one time. Cook one side until golden brown, turn and cook the other side. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Repeat procedure until all the dough is used.

Heat the honey and water until hot and well mixed. Drizzle over doughnuts.

VARIATION: Serve with powdered sugar and cinnamon

NOTE: Burmuelos do not freeze well, but they can be stored in a plastic bag or container, without syrup, for a few days. Reheat in oven or about 15 seconds in a microwave oven.
