
S&P Central Newsletter - Hanukkah 2016 / 5777

1 message

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S&P CENTRAL

INFO HUB FOR SPANISH & PORTUGUESE /
WESTERN SEPHARDIC JEWISH COMMUNITIES

www.sandpcentral.org



December 2016 / Kislev 5777

Dear Friends,

Boas vindas! Bienvenida! Bienvenue! Benvenuto! Shalom shalom! Following are some items we hope you will enjoy reading in advance of the Hanukkah holiday.

Best Wishes,

S&P Central

www.sandpcentral.org

NEWS

Porto

Portuguese Community Welcomes First Kosher Store

In November, the first kosher store in Porto opened in response to an increased Jewish presence there. Last year alone, there were a reported 100,000 tourists in the city. The number of community members is also increasing, many establishing themselves in Portugal from other European countries either to work or study – and often mention that they feel well received. Learn more about the Porto Jewish Community here:

www.sandpcentral.org/porto

You can read more about the store here:

<http://www.tsf.pt/sociedade/interior/loja-kosher-para-judeus-abre-no-porto-5489471.html>

Oxford

Special Collection of S&P Papers Launched at Oxford

The Bodleian Library at Oxford University has recently received an extensive collection from the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation of London, donated by the Joir and Kato Weisz Foundation. It was assembled by the late Dr. Richard Barnett, Honorary Archivist of the congregation and contains over 500 items, including books, manuscripts, and sermons, in Hebrew, Spanish, and Portuguese. The materials were printed in Amsterdam, London, and other cities of the Sephardi diaspora. For further information:

<http://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/mullerlibrary/2016/11/15/launch-of-the-weisz-western-sephardi-collection/>

RECENT EVENTS

Amsterdam

Symposium Held to Honor the Ets Haim Library

In November, a symposium was held celebrating 400 years of the oldest still-functioning Jewish library in the world, [EtsHaim](#), located on the grounds of the [Esnoga](#) and founded as part of the Talmud Tora school in Amsterdam. Scholars from around the world examined the uniqueness, significance, and history of the library. Part of the symposium was held in the beautiful and monumental Wintersnoge, located adjacent to the library and formerly the school's auditorium. For further information:

<http://www.mbi.nl/index.php?id=51&nivo=detail&agendaid=189>

Bordeaux

Synagogue President Participates in Medical Conference to Promote Peace

In December, a regional France-Israel friendship association (FIBSO), along with the humanitarian group A Heart for Peace, organized a conference to build bridges between Israelis and Palestinians by providing medical aid to Palestinian children with heart conditions. Among the participants was the president of the [Grande Synagogue of Bordeaux](#), Erick Aouizerate, along with other doctors and organizations including the Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem. More info here:

<http://www.synagogue-bordeaux.com/index.php/agenda/>

Montreal

The Spanish Hosts Talk on the Welcoming of North African Sephardim

In November, Professor Yolande Cohen presented a talk on the role of the [Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue](#) of Montreal in the integration of Sephardi Jews from North Africa into the community. Many North African Jews were forced to flee their lands following the establishment of the State of Israel. For more on this and other events at The Spanish, please see here: <http://thespanish.org/>

New York

Evening Brings Together Hazanim from Four S&P Communities

In November, hazanim from several S&P communities gathered to share their traditions. Among the participants: Rabbi Ira Rohde and the Rev. Phil Sherman from Congregation Shearith Israel of New York; Peter Nahon from the S&P communities in Paris and Bordeaux; Adam Jackson, raised in the Lauderdale Road Congregation in London and now a member of Shearith Israel; and Rene Samson and Solomon Vaz Dias, both originally from the Esnoga in Amsterdam. Hosts Mark and Penny Aaron of Shearith Israel

hope to organize future such gatherings.

Panama

Congregation Kol Shearith Israel Celebrates 140th Anniversary

This year the Spanish & Portuguese congregation of Panama, [Kol Shearith Israel](#), celebrates the 140th anniversary of its founding. Among the events that have taken place so far was an overflow gathering in May that included Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela, Israel's Ambassador to Panama Gil Artzyeli, as well as dignitaries and members of various religious groups in Panama. More here:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/212485>

Philadelphia

Rabbi Soloveichik Leads Student Group to Mivkeh Israel Shabbaton

In early December, Shearith Israel Rabbi Meir Soloveichik led a select group of YU/Stern honors students to spend Shabbat with sister synagogue [Congregation Mikveh Israel](#) in Philadelphia. The weekend featured a host of activities, including prayers, meals, lectures, and an opportunity to learn more about the mutual traditions and histories of the two communities. More information here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/731240223710537/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Birmingham

Rabbi Berger and Rabbi Morris to Speak at Limmud UK Conference

At the Limmud UK conference in late December, attendees will have the opportunity to hear from Rabbi Jeff Berger from the [Rambam Sephardi Synagogue](#) and Rabbi Shalom Morris of the historic [Bevis Marks Synagogue](#) -- both in London. Rabbi Berger

will give a talk on Rabbi Menasseh ben Israel of Amsterdam and a second talk on Biblical paintings of the Great Masters. Rabbi Morris will give two talks on the development of Anglo Jewry in the 17th Century as well as a third talk on rejuvenating London's East End section. For more info:

<http://limmud.org/conference/programme2016/#programmingnews>

New York

Shearith Israel to Offer Monthly Class on Western Sephardi Traditions

Starting in December, Congregation Shearith Israel will offer a class titled, "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Shearith Israel." Led by Shamash Zachariah Edinger, the monthly session will give members, both old and new, the opportunity to better understand the ins and outs of Western Sephardi customs. Whether you can attend or not, you are welcome to email questions to: zedinger@shearithisrael.org. More information on this and other Shearith Israel events can be found here:

<http://www.shearithisrael.org/content/events-calendar>

HISTORY

Caribbean

New Book Published on Jewish Communities of the Caribbean

The award-winning photographer Wyatt Gallery has published a new and lavishly illustrated book on the Jewish communities of the Caribbean, including the oldest synagogues and cemeteries on Barbados, Curacao, Jamaica, St. Thomas, St. Eustatius, and Suriname. Historians Stanley Mirvis and Jonathan Sarna contributed essays to the book. For further information:

<http://www.jewishtreasuresofthecaribbean.com/book>

For book purchase:

<https://www.amazon.com/Jewish-Treasures-Caribbean-Legacy-Judaism/dp/0764350951>

See a video preview of the project here:

<https://vimeo.com/87747488>

Suriname

Memorial Erected to Honor Victims of the Holocaust

A memorial has been erected in Suriname to honor its 105 victims of the Shoah. Though far from Nazi Europe, Suriname lost almost a fifth of its Jewish population as many from the community pursued their higher education or careers in Holland and were caught by the Nazis and murdered. Suriname's Sephardic Jewish community dates back to the 17th Century when Spanish and Portuguese Jews moved to the area as they could own land and form their own militia. More here:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/70-years-after-the-holocaust-a-surinamese-memorial-for-caribbean-victims/>

MELODIES

Hanukkah Melodies

Many familiar and beloved melodies are associated with Hanukkah. This recording of the blessings over lighting the candles, followed by Psalm 30, "Mizmor Shir Hanukkat Ha-Bayit," is sung by the late Rev. Eliezer Abinun of London:

<http://www.londonsephardimusic.org/files/Music/Hannuka/AbinunHannukah.wma>

This recording of the Psalm "Mizmor Shir Hanukkat Ha-Bayit" is of Dutch Hazzan Simon van David Duque (Amsterdam 1897-Dachau 1945), around 1938:

http://www.chazzanut-esnoga.org/small_festivals/chanuka/Duque%20Hanerot%20Halaloe%20Hazan%20.mp3

At Shearith Israel in New York, during morning services on the first Shabbat of Hanukkah, “Min Ha-Metsar,” part of the Hallel, is sung to a composition by operatic composer Jacques Francois Fromental Halevy, who was the son of a Sephardic hazzan:

<http://www.shearithisrael.org/content/min-hametsar-section-hallel-jacques-francois-fromental-halevy>

In some S&P congregations as well as many Ashkenazic congregations, the tune of the hymn “Ma’oz Tsur” is used for part of the Hanukkah service. The tune is adapted from a German folk song, but the London version is an elegant four-voice adaptation created by the famous English Jewish composer Julius Mombach (1813-1880), musical director of the Great Synagogue in Duke Street, London:

http://www.londonsephardimusic.org/files/Music/Hannuka/MaozTzur_Mombach.mp3

RECIPE

Bimuelos (with honey, orange & blossom water)



This issue's recipe, in honor of Hanukkah, comes from Ph.D. candidate **Hélène Jawhara Piñer** of the European Institute for the History and Cultures of Food in Tours, France. Helen writes:

Bimuelos have different names as everybody knows (bimuelos, buñuelos, etc.), but this recipe here is directly related to the Sephardic cuisine and particularly the Sephardic Spanish cuisine. Nowadays, in the south of Spain, Spanish Andalusians (without knowing their Jewish roots perhaps) are used to preparing "borrachuelos" for the holiday winter season and they connect it to Christmas. However, I am almost sure that in fact "bimuelos" are the origin of the "borrachuelos." The only difference is that borrachuelos do not have yeast and include white wine. Another reason could be that when the Jews had to hide, they modified their dishes so as not to arouse suspicion. Let's investigate!"

If you are in the Bordeaux area and wish to hear Hélène in person, she will be giving a talk at the [Grande Synagogue](#) on January 17, entitled "Jewish Spanish Recipes of the 12th Century: A Hidden Heritage."

Ingredients

Vegetable oil (to fry)

20 g (0.8 oz) fresh yeast

177 ml (6.2 oz) warm water

½ orange (to make orange juice, with pulp and zest)

½ tsp kosher salt

1 tbsp white sugar

170g honey

300 g (11 oz) all-purpose flour

3g (0.2 oz) anise seeds + 3 tbsp olive oil)

2 tsp blossom water

Preparation

1. In a pan fry the anise seeds with the olive oil during 30 seconds (be careful, it burn very quickly)
2. Then add the fresh orange juice with his zest and mix with a spoon during 1 minutes, and then wait until all is cold.
3. Take $\frac{1}{2}$ of the quantity of water and heat it at 95 °F (just a little hot), and add the yeast. Mix 10 seconds.
4. In the KitchenAid, mix the flour and the sugar first. Then add the yeast in his water, the food preparation of anise, the blossom water, and the last $\frac{1}{2}$ part of the hot water. Mix slowly 4 minutes.
5. Let it rise the double (over 3 hours) covering with a kitchen towel. If you let it more (a night) it will be better.
6. Finally, oil your hand and remove quickly the dough to get the air out. It is sticky.
7. Heat vegetable oil like sunflower. It needs to but hot but not smoking.
8. With oiled hand take small piece of dough and make small balls and put them in the oil. Remove the balls all time during 3 minutes. They have to be like gold.
9. In another pan heat slowly the honey until hot and dip the bimuelos inside. Remove all. They have to be immersed. Then put them in a plate and eat !

Happy Hanukkah!

Hélène

IN MEMORIAM

New York

Irma Miriam Robles Lopes Cardozo

We note the passing of Irma Robles Cardozo, wife of the late Rev. Abraham Lopes Cardozo, who served as a hazzan of the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue in New York for over 50 years. Irma Cardozo's own life connected to at least three S&P congregations: Suriname where she grew up; Amsterdam through her husband; and New York where she spent most of her adult life and was a beloved member of the congregation. Mrs. Cardozo was a strong advocate for Jewish children, Jewish education, immigrants, the poor, and the State of Israel, and led many organizations. In 2010, she wrote a memoir, *As I Lived It*, an account of her experiences and of the Western Sephardic communities of which she was such an important part:

<https://www.amazon.com/Lived-Irma-Miriam-Lopes-Cardozo/dp/1449917909>

Family papers can also be viewed here at New York's Center for Jewish History:

<http://findingaids.cjh.org//LopesCardozoFamily.html>

Thanks to this issue's writers: Naftali Friedman, Janet Kirchheimer, David Lerner, Daniel Marcou, Joshua Mendes, and H el ene Jawhara Pi ner.

Thanks for reading! Do you know someone who might like to receive this newsletter? Please feel free forward to them. If you would like to suggest items for the next newsletter, please write to: sandpcentral@gmail.com

This is an all-volunteer effort to help preserve and perpetuate the small but precious S&P traditions and create connections and community.

DIRECTORY OF WESTERN SEPHARDI COMMUNITIES

FRANCE

Bayonne	Nefoutsot Yehouda	www.consistoiredefrance.fr/synagogue/1513.cc-bayonne
Bordeaux	Grande Synagogue	www.synagogue-bordeaux.com
Paris	Temple Buffault	www.buffault.net/

GREAT BRITAIN

London	Bevis Marks	www.sephardi.org.uk/bevis-marks/
London	Hendon Minyan	www.sephardi.org.uk/hendon-sp-minyan/
London	Holland Park	www.hollandparksynagogue.com/
London	Lauderdale Road	www.sephardi.org.uk/lauderdale/
London	Rambam Sephardi	www.rambam.org.uk
London	Wembley S&P	http://www.sephardi.org.uk/wembley/
Manchester	Shaare Hayim	Facebook page
Manchester	Shaare Tephila	www.moorlane.org

IBERIA

Gibraltar	Esnoga Grande	www.jewishgibraltar.com/synagogues.php
Lisbon	Shaare Tikva	www.cilisboa.org
Porto	Mekor Haim	www.comunidade-israelita-porto.org

ISRAEL

Jerusalem	Shaare Ratzonv - Istambuli	www.sandpjerusalem.org
Ramat Gan	Tempio R. Ovadia Da Bertinoro	www.facebook.com/groups/692925940822138/

ITALY

Florence	Comunita Ebraica di Firenze	www.moked.it/firenzebraica/
Genova	Comunita Ebraica di Genova	http://moked.it/genovaebraica/
Livorno	Comunita Ebraica di Livorno	http://moked.it/livornoebraica
Napoli	Comunita Ebraica di Napoli	http://moked.it/napoliebraica/
Pisa	Comunita Ebraica di Pisa	www.pisaebraica.it/cms
Rome	Tempio Spagnolo	www.romaebraica.it/tag/templi/
Venice	Schola Spagnolo	www.jvenice.org

NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam	Bendigamos Amsterdam	www.bendigamos.org
Amsterdam	The Portuguese Synagogue	www.esnoga.com/en/

NORTH AMERICA

Montreal	Shearith Israel - The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue	www.thespanish.org
New York	Shearith Israel – The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue	www.shearithisrael.org
Philadelphia	Mikveh Israel	www.mikvehisrael.org

HISTORICALLY S&P COMMUNITIES (religious services do not currently follow S&P practice)

CARIBBEAN

Aruba	Beth Israel	www.bethisraelaruba.com
Barbados	Nidhe Israel	www.nidheisrael.com
Curacao	Mickve Israel-Emanuel	www.snoa.com/snoa.html
Jamaica	United Congregation of Israelites	www.ucija.org/main.html
Panama	Kol Shearith Israel	www.congksi.blogspot.com
Recife	Kahal Zur Israel	www.kahalzurisrael.com
St. Thomas	St. Thomas Synagogue	www.synagogue.vi
Surinam	Neve Shalom	www.suriname-jewish-community.com

EUROPE

Antwerp	Communauté Israélite de rite portugais	portugees-israelitische-gemeenschap-van-antwerpen/
The Hague	Liberal Congregation of the Hague	www.ljgdenhaag.nl/

UNITED STATES

Charleston	Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim	www.kkbe.org
New Orleans	Touro Synagogue	www.tourosynagogue.com
Newport	Touro Synagogue	www.thespanish.org
Savannah	Mickve Israel	www.mickveisrael.org

