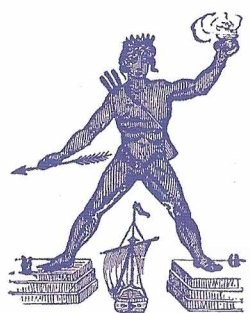


חברה שלום והולכי קדימה



מוסיידאד פאס אי פרונדס

The Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation

A non-profit organization established in 1997

10850 Wilshire Boulevard #750

Los Angeles, California 90024

Telephone (310) 475-4779

Fax (310) 475-8144

Web Site: www.RhodesJewishMuseum.Org

“KE HABER ?”

Newsletter for the Year 2008 Describing “What Is New” Regarding Rhodes Jewish History

By Aron Hasson

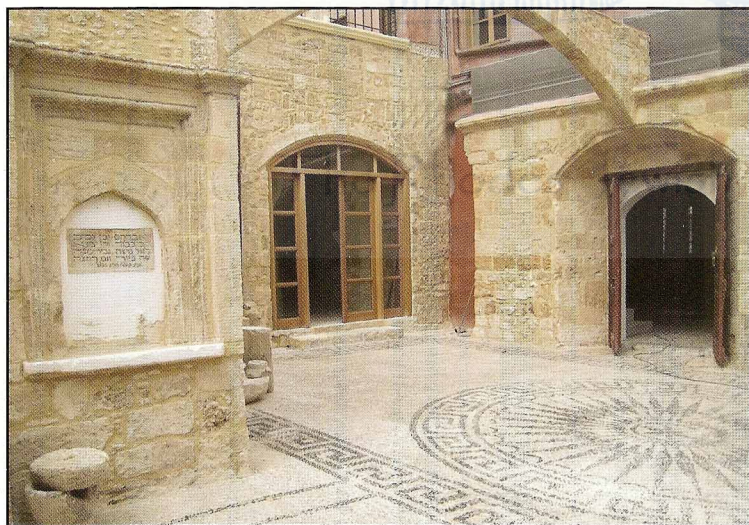
Welcome to the fifth publication of the “Ke Haber?” newsletter by The Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation. The Foundation has continued its goal of preserving the unique cultural background of the Jews of this island in the Aegean Sea and has served as a link between the Jewish community of Rhodes and everyone who is interested around the world.

This 2008 issue of “Ke Haber” is being published later than planned because of the enormous amount of time being devoted recently to the expansion of the museum. However, in this issue, you can look forward to more photos illustrating all of the progress that has taken place in the museum’s development. I hope you enjoy this issue.

The Jewish Museum of Rhodes

On April 28, 2006 the Museum, which is located next to the synagogue, reopened to the public after two years of major restoration. In addition to the original collection of photographic images of the old Juderia, family portraits, etc, the Foundation has been receiving and acquiring many valuable objects for display.

In 2007, with the cooperation of the Jewish Community of Rhodes, the other rooms plus the ritual bath (known as the “mikveh”) have been restored and refurbished with display cases that now contain over a hundred Rhodesli Jewish artifacts which include: several religious objects, documents, costumes, a trousseau chest (“baul”) and an ancient Torah scroll that was used for centuries.



In the center of the photo is the front entry of the Jewish Museum of Rhodes. The doorway at the right leads to the Kahal Shalom synagogue. The plaque on the left is above the fountain used by the religious priests (“Cohanim”).



Visitors to the Jewish Museum of Rhodes during summer of 2006. At the right of the photo is Samuel Modiano, born in Rhodes, informing visitors of life on Rhodes before the Holocaust.

Restoration Work Expands Museum From 2 to 6 Rooms

A two year restoration project has been completed relating to the structural part of the Jewish Museum of Rhodes. The walls have been stripped of its white washed paint to reveal the stone bricks built by the Crusaders hundreds of years ago. Based upon its location and structure, the Greek Archaeological Department believes that these rooms were originally used for the storage of grains. The restoration work included new flooring, lighting, secured windows and doors. The civil engineer who supervised the restoration project was Yioxis Kostis.

Background: the Museum is located in the Old City of Rhodes, in rooms adjacent to the Kahal Shalom synagogue. The space was used for the women's prayer rooms until the Holocaust when the Jews of Rhodes were deported to Auschwitz. Since then the rooms were vacant and continued to deteriorate.

1997: the Jewish Museum of Rhodes was established utilizing two of the rooms. It was created to advance the public awareness and appreciation of the unique history of the Jewish community with a photographic collection which documented life in Rhodes before the War. It officially opened on October 1, 1997.

1998: the museum had installed air conditioning and fixed ceiling lighting.

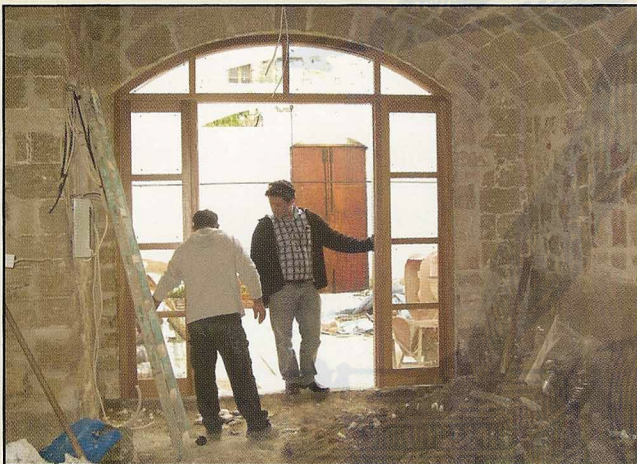
2000: an audio system for the museum was installed which played original recordings of religious songs and Sephardic folk songs sung by Jews who were born in Rhodes.

2004: the Jewish Community of Rhodes undertook the repair of the roof as well as restoring the four additional rooms.

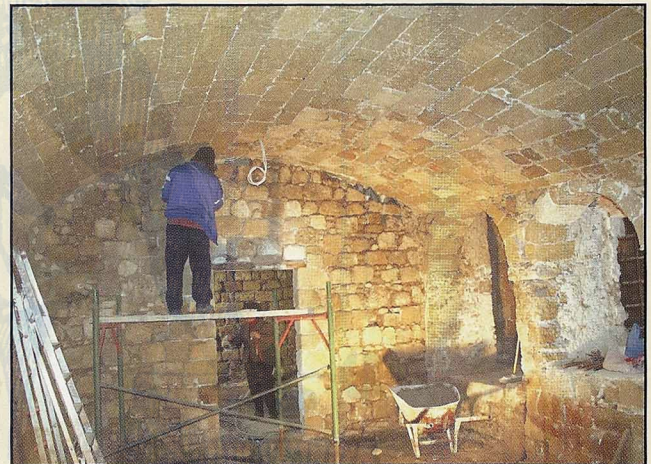
2006: the restoration of the six rooms is completed along with the secured new doors and windows. New lighting is installed. In April the first artifacts are displayed.

2007: temporary display containers for the artifacts are utilized, making it a secured environment.

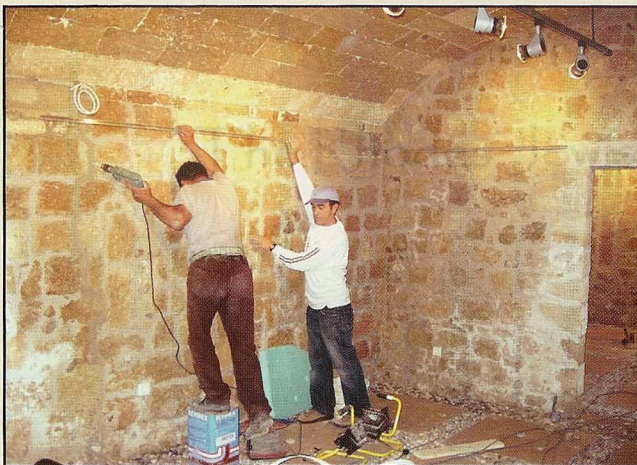
Restoration Photos from 2005 and 2006:



Civil engineer, Yioxis Kostis, oversees the construction of the new museum entry.



Stones originally set by the Crusaders are reinforced with new cement.



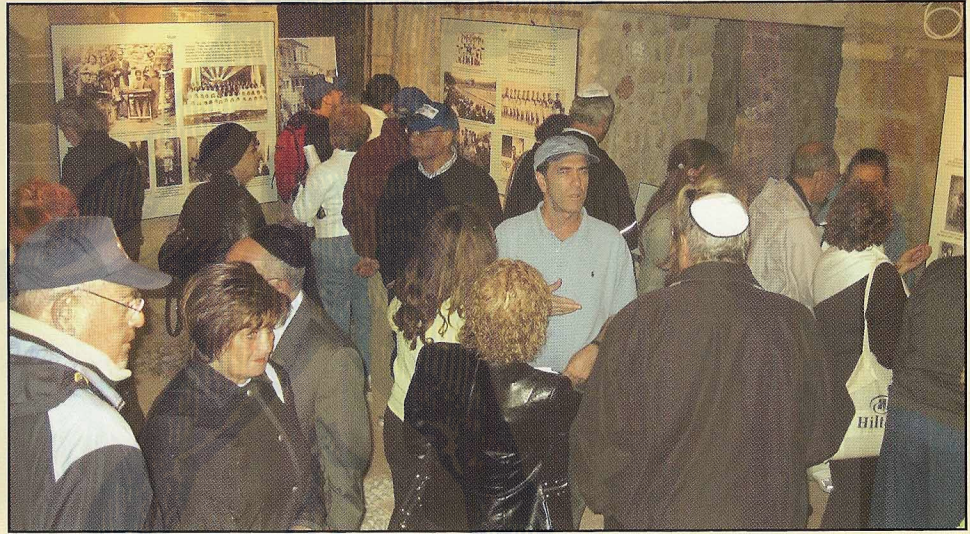
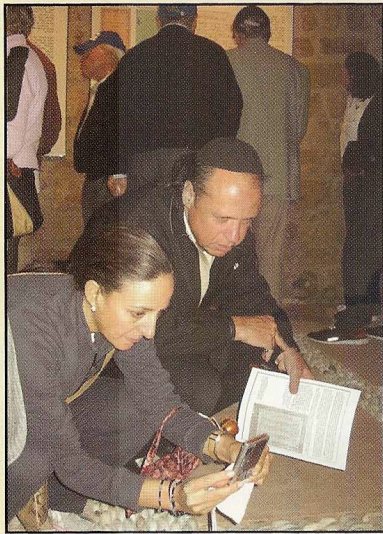
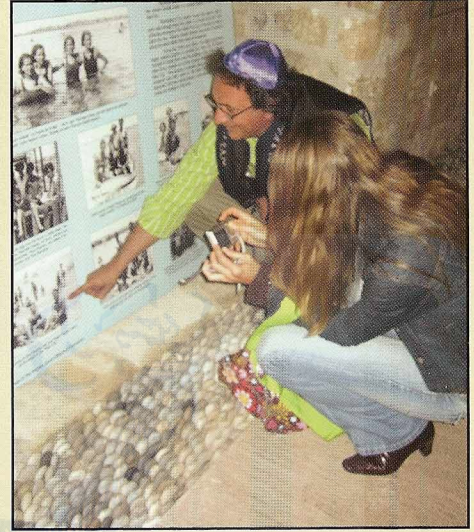
Attaching hanging systems for display panels.



Flooring was done simultaneously.

First Visitors to the Museum After Restoration Work

The first visitors to view the expanded museum facilities occurred on April 28, 2006.



The Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation and the Jewish Community of Rhodes would like to thank the many supporters who have helped make this museum expansion possible. A special recognition is given to the following donors for their extra generous contribution:

Leo and Louise Benatar (Atlanta) in memory of their parents, Morris Benatar and Marie Levy.

Daniel Benatar and Family (San Francisco) in memory of his parents, Morris and Tessie Benatar.

Binnie and Jack Berro (Long Beach) honoring their parents, Samuel J. Berro and Mathilda Levy and their grandparents, Joseph Berro and Mazaltov Rozio and Jacob Levy and Miriam Hasson.

John P. Grunberg (New Jersey) to honor the memory of his grandparents Miriam Notrica and Yehuda Levi.

Dan Harari and Barbara Keller (Los Angeles) in appreciation of Sephardic heritage.

Ted and Pearle Hasson (Los Angeles) honoring their parents, Joseph and Victoria Hasson and Aron Benon and Sepora Amato.

Robert Rubin Mayo (Los Angeles) honoring his grandparents, Joseph M. Mayo and Freda Ades, and great grandparents Mordechai Mayo and Mazaltov Hanan.

Bella Angel Restis (Athens) in honor of her parents, Albert Angel and Fortunee Levy.

Esther Soriano Russo (Los Angeles) in memory of her husband, Ralph Sadoc Russo.

Ed and Christine Snider (Philadelphia) supporting the efforts of the Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation.

2007 Enhancements

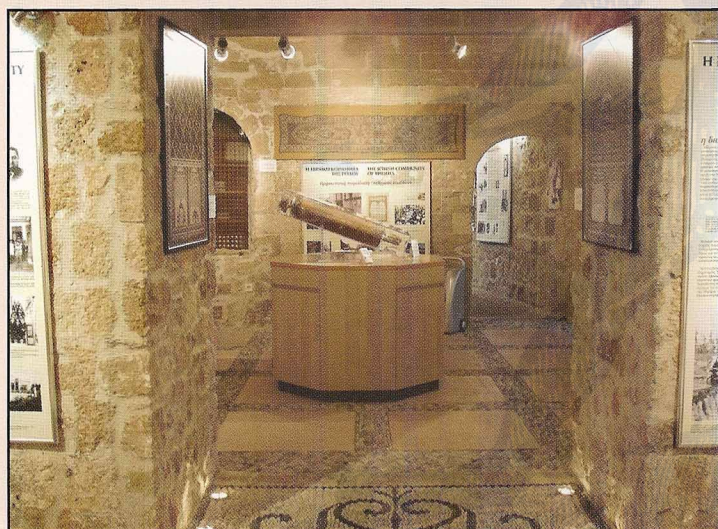
Restoration work continued in 2007 with the museum rooms adding a thematic arrangement of the artifact and photo displays.



The entry room informs visitors of the early Jewish presence in Rhodes to create an introduction.



2nd Room includes artifacts and photos of daily Jewish life in Rhodes from schools to businesses.



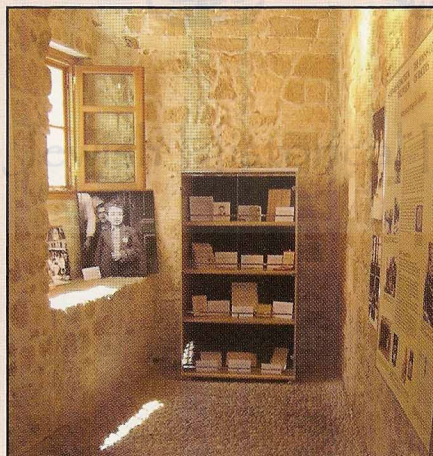
An ancient Torah from Rhodes is the first exhibit visitors view when entering the third room which contains religious artifacts.



Next to the religious artifacts is the ancient Mikveh which was used for the ritual baths.



Photo of a young boy, Haim Angel, wearing the Star of David before being deported to Auschwitz where he was killed soon thereafter. Photo from Miru Alcana.



Holocaust room display

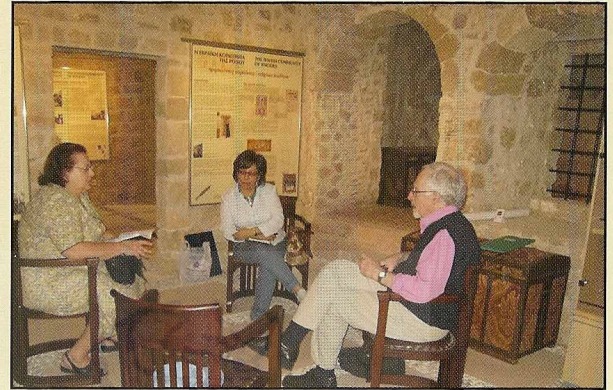


Sample of display cases

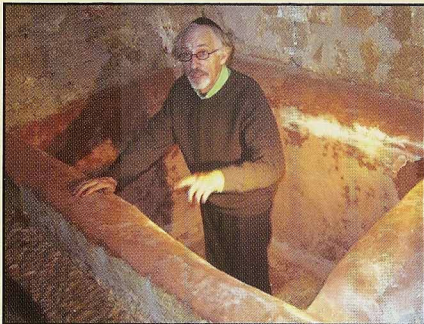
Museum Acquires the Services of Experienced Advisory Curator

The Jewish Museum of Rhodes will have the benefit of Nikos Stavroulakis, an experienced professional to upgrade it to a fine contemporary exhibit. He was the founder of the Jewish Museum of Greece (in Athens), the Jewish Museum in Salonica, and directed the restoration of the Jewish synagogue in Hania, Crete. He graduated from Oxford College in England, and has taught Byzantine history in Israel, and is currently the person in charge of the synagogue in Hania.

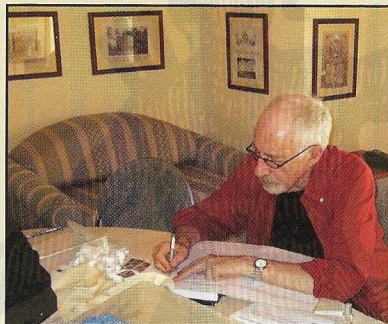
His extensive experience will help the Jewish Museum of Rhodes with: cataloging artifacts, designing layout and display cases, subject matter, maintaining a safe environment for the artifacts and lighting.



Meeting between Bella Angel Restis, Carmen Cohen and Stavroulakis in the museum.



Stavroulakis analyzes the depth of the ancient mikveh located in one of the museum rooms.



Stavroulakis initiates the cataloging of artifacts into the museum inventory.



Archiving includes stitching identifying numbers onto cloth items, marking the back of documents with pencil or artifacts with a special ink.

What's Next?

The Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation has taken its first steps in creating a video for the museum visitors. The video consists of a compilation of interviews from former residents of Rhodes describing all aspects of their lives in Rhodes.

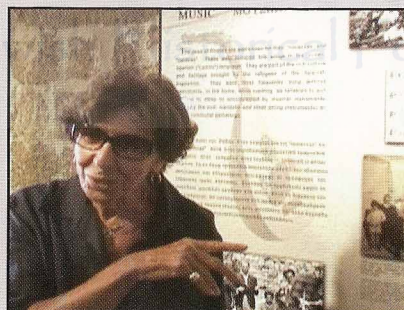
Two books are nearing completion: one is a "Guidebook of the Jewish Quarter" which gives visitors locations and background of the Jewish landmarks. A second book is a collection of photographs and artifacts from hundreds of Rhodesli families which documents Jewish life in Rhodes.



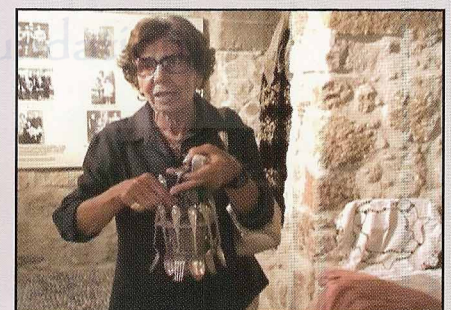
With Joseph Alhadeff reviewing materials collected for display.



David Galante with book about the Holocaust, "Un Día Mas de Vida".



Stella Levi describing contents of the photo display in the Museum.



Stella Levi describing the use of the "kucharera".

Samples of Archives Currently Displayed at the Jewish Museum of Rhodes

Over the past ten years, the Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation has accumulated an extraordinary amount of original artifacts from Rhodes from various sources from around the world. The Jewish Museum of Rhodes is displaying these items: these two pages illustrate a few unique items now at the museum. The captions for the artifacts are in English and Greek.



“Kucharera”

This “Kucharera” is made of silver and was used for holding the spoons and forks that served sweets (“dulses”). This was used for all special gatherings including holidays, birth celebrations and engagement parties. This was given to Victoria Hasson as part of her trousseau by her mother, Rahel Tarica.



“Talet” Bag

This embroidered bag holds the “talet” (prayer shawl). It is made of a purple material decorated with metallic thread with a leaf and floral design. Attached to the opening of the case are two multi-colored ornamental tassels. It belonged to Sam Eliakim Piha and is from the family of Janine Eskenazi Hasson.



1925 Medal of Honor

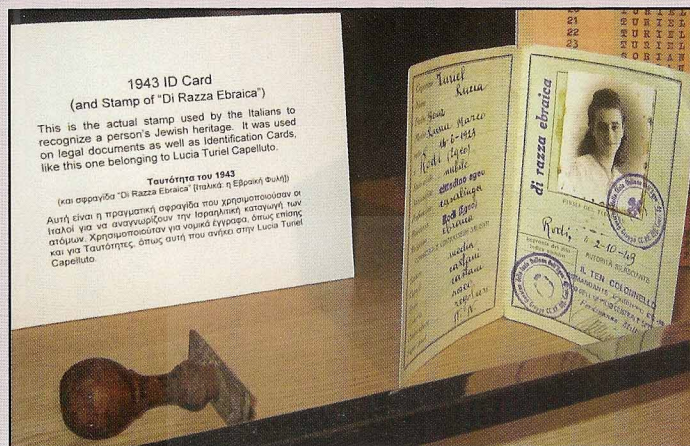
Given to Bension Menasche bestowing him with the title of “Cavaliere della Corona d'Italia” for his commercial achievements at the Alhadeff Bank.



“Tsit-Tsit” (Tallit Katan)

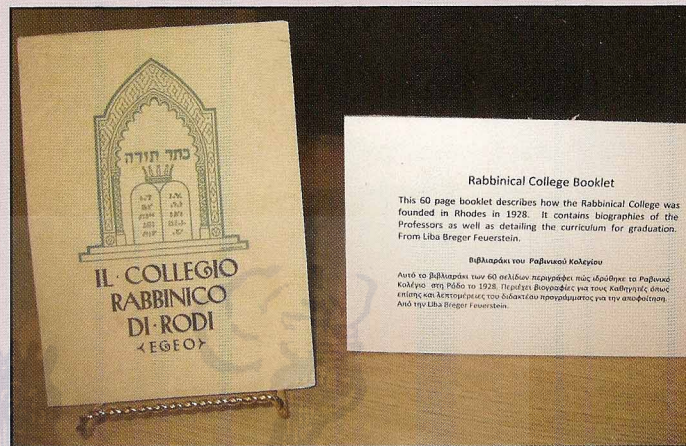
This religious garment was worn underneath the clothes. This was brought from Rhodes to the United States by Robert Benveniste in 1915. From Eleanor Benveniste Moscatel.

Samples of Archives Currently Displayed at the Jewish Museum of Rhodes



Stamp of "Di Razza Ebraica" & 1943 ID Card

This is the actual stamp used by the Italians to recognize, and to discriminate against, a person's Jewish heritage. It was used on legal documents as well as Identification Cards, like this one belonging to Lucia Turiel Capelluto.



Rabbinical College Booklet

This 61 page booklet describes how the Rabbinical College was founded in Rhodes in 1928. It contains biographies of the Professors as well as detailing the curriculum for graduation. From Liba Breger Feuerstein, the daughter of Rabbi Breger of the Rabbinical College.

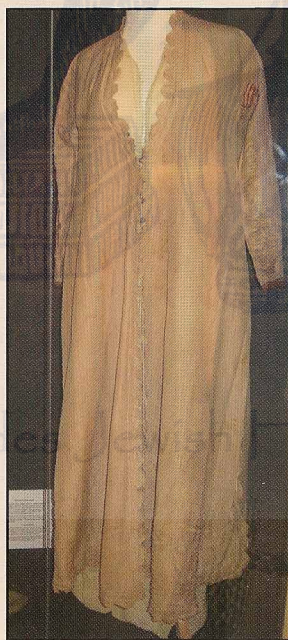
Jewish Costumes From Rhodes on Display

These two original costumes are from the family of Bellina Hasson Gold and donated to the Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation. Bellina was born in Rhodes in 1916 and immigrated to the United States in 1930. She was the daughter of Haim Hasson and Mazaltov Levi.



Man's Garment

This garment, known as an "antari", had an open front which was tied closed around the waist. It is made of a two colored striped silk fabric.



Woman's Garment

This garment was made from a mauve colored taffeta fabric with thin vertical turquoise pin-stripes. A scalloped trim has been top-stitched on the side slits, front and bottom hems.

The Costume Display Case



July 2007 Events in Rhodes

Several special events were held in Rhodes this past year. The President of the Jewish Community of Rhodes, Bella Angel Restis, made special arrangements to provide a series of events to coincide with the annual memorial to remember the victims of the Jewish Community of Rhodes.

For July 2008, the Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation has arranged for a lecture series and walking tour of La Juderia, which is an expansion to what was presented in July 2002.



Zanet Battinou, Curator of the Jewish Museum of Greece, speaking at the "Hidden Children of Greece" exhibit on July 17th.



Carmen Cohen introduces Ester Fintz-Menasce, who gave a talk in the Kahal Shalom sanctuary on July 19th.

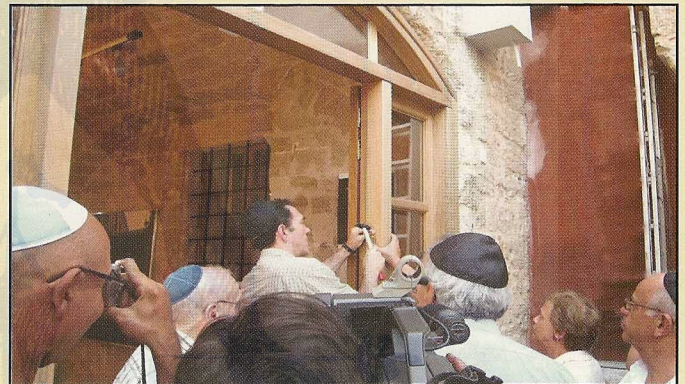


Group of dinner party guests from the Congo on July 20th.

Affixing the Mezuzah to the Entry of the Jewish Museum of Rhodes



Aron Hasson being introduced by Nicholas Stavroulakis. Also in the photo is Moses Constantinis, President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities of Greece and Rabbi Ruben Suiza of Cape Town.



Aron Hasson affixing the mezuzah on July 19th at the re-opening of the Jewish Museum of Rhodes.



Reception in the Courtyard adjoining the Kahal Shalom synagogue and the Jewish Museum of Rhodes.



Visitors to the Jewish Museum of Rhodes.

Library Dedication

The Library dedication also took place on July 19th. It is located directly above the Jewish Museum of Rhodes and therefore also houses additional archives. It was named after the donor, Edmond J. Safra, a well known banker and philanthropist, who also helped the Jewish Community of Rhodes. The library also contains a video screen in the main room and a kitchen in the adjacent room.

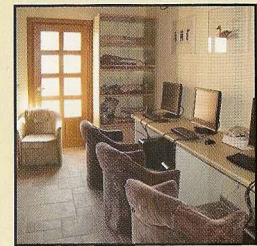
These rooms were originally a Jewish home, but were heavily damaged by World War II bombings in 1944. To view photos of these rooms prior to the restoration please see page 14 of the 2005 "Ke Haber?" issue.



The library contains books of the history of the Jews of Rhodes and related subjects.



Library entry



Cabinet for museum archives and three computers.

Memorial Services



Carmen Cohen introducing Rabbi Jacob Arar, Chief Rabbi of Greece at the memorial service at the Kahal Shalom synagogue on July 22nd.



After the memorial service remarks were given by Alberto Eskenazi at the wreath lying ceremony at the Holocaust monument.



Muchos y Buenos

July 2007 was a busy month. There was a Bar Mitzvah celebration on July 5, 2007 of Rex Cohen at the Kahal Shalom synagogue. Over 100 family and guests traveled from Los Angeles and attended the celebration.

The photo at the left shows at the tevah (prayer reading table) three generations of Cohens: Robert, Ernest and Rex. Leading the service was Haim Ischakis from Athens.

Royal Family of Spain Recognizes Sephardic Holocaust Survivors

On January 27, 2007 in the Royal Palace in Madrid, Spain the King and Queen held a reception on Holocaust Remembrance day. Among those honored were three Holocaust survivors from Rhodes: Stella Levi, David Galante and Alberto Israel. Part of the ceremony included an emotional remembrance of the tragedy by David Galante.

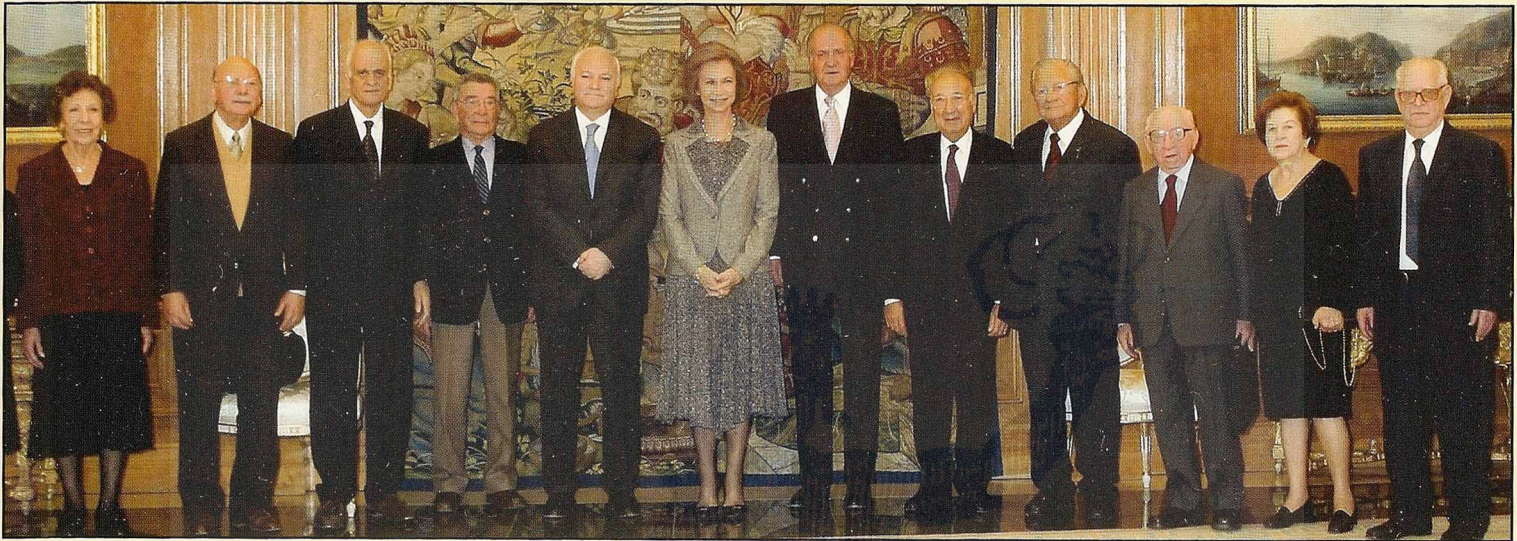


Photo taken at the Royal Palace in Madrid. Stella Levi is at the left, next to her is David Galante and at the far right is Alberto Israel. In the center are Queen Sofia and King Juan Carlos.

The following is a translation of the speech given by David Galante on Holocaust Memorial Day:

I, David Galante, born on the island of Rhodes, join you today simply to tell you what I witnessed. And I take the audacity to speak not only in my name but in the name of all of the Jewish people from Rhodes, Salonika, and Cos who did not survive to speak for themselves.

I testify here, before all of you, what I witnessed with my own eyes. And my memory goes very far back, to the island of Rhodes, to a particular period that never should have existed.

And I remember seeing my mother, Rebeca, whose blessed hands created miracles with a squash and a little bit of rice to feed the spirit of a family bent by the ups and downs of the war.

And I saw my father, Abraham in his store at the "Charshi", loading articles and making numerous calculations to see how much was needed to bring the bread home so that we would believe that everything was fine, and that the shortages would soon be over.

I saw my siblings, Moshe, Rosa, Juana, and Matilde working tirelessly and performing miraculous jobs in order to sustain the flame of hope in our home, when my father had to close his business and my mother's hands could no longer carry the food to the family table.

And I saw my town, plagued with yearnings and dreams, tenacious in the effort, with perseverance and determination, one day expelled from Rhodes, our world, to carry out the principal role in the most dramatic pages of the history of humanity.

I saw the Nazis one day disembark in Rhodes, while Allied bombs fell, and the war found its way into our lives in a manner which we could not have imagined even in our worst nightmares.

I saw the bombings destroy the houses of the "Juderia".

I saw our families being destroyed among the wreckage, and for the first time I saw the death which began to foreshadow its worst wrath.

I saw my home destroyed, my belongings destroyed, and my world annihilated. I saw the order in which we were commanded to present ourselves to the Nazis, with all of our belongings and also with our future.

I saw the Nazis escort all of us out, beating us violently in order to take our money, our furniture, our jewelry, and finally to take our most valuable possession, our destiny.

I saw the city of Rhodes begin to move away slowly behind me, departing to our most tragic destiny.

I saw the infamous, overcrowded barges in which they transported the 1800 Jews from Rhodes and Cos to the port of Piraeus, without food, water, or any hope.

I saw the ships of the Allied Forces stay immobile before our step towards death, without putting up any minor resistance.

I saw a few trains that were waiting for us upon our arrival in Greece. Eight horses or eighty people said the inscription on the exterior of the wagon.

(Continued on the following page...)

Continuation of the speech by David Galante on Holocaust Memorial Day in Madrid, January 2007:

I saw children and elders beaten and abandoned because they were not able to board the wagons, or to resist the pain.

Around me I saw overcrowding, powerlessness, asphyxia, hunger, fear, anxiety, pain and death, right next to a stinking barrel where we would do our needs, which they only emptied once every three days.

I saw through a small opening from which we could barely breathe through, how we were crossing through different places, during those twelve endless days that it took to get to Auschwitz.

And I swear that until that moment, I still had not seen anything.

Because in Auschwitz I began to see everything; that which nobody should have ever seen, that which nobody will ever see, and that which my eyes will never forget.

I saw the train come to a stop. And the "kapos" beating us fiercely while exiting the train car.

I saw how they were separating the men from the women, the old from the young, the children from their parents, the strong from the weak, the healthy from the sick, and those who were going to meet death from those who were starting to live with it.

"The children and the old", that is what I saw.

There, I saw my father, I saw my mother and I saw my siblings for the last time in my life. These eyes would never see them again.

Also, I saw how they recorded a number on my arm. The number with which they tried to replace my name and my identity: B7328; the number which I see every waking morning.

I saw one cell block for thousands. Cells where the people were packed in bunks of five and where we were getting up at dawn in full winter to work, and to try to survive, if we managed to avoid death for one more day.

I saw dead bodies spread across the floor. First one, then ten, then hundreds, and later thousands.

I saw the gas chambers letting out black smoke from their chimneys, and I did not want to see our parents there; our siblings, friends, children, nephews, uncles and grandparents, that the wind barely managed to spread out.

I saw, trying not to see, and that was my only way of surviving.

I saw how hunger became part of our bodies, simplifying the task of our killers.

I saw how the wish to survive has no limits and how pain makes us insensitive.

I saw the hanging dead bodies of those who tried to rebel, so we would discard any ideas of rebelling.

I saw madness and misery. I saw arrogance and tragedy. I saw the unfortunate sight of life and death being played at every moment.

I saw a stray bullet that brushed against my nose, and ended in the face of the man who remained laying beside me.

I saw my brothers let their pain go, with broken knees, letting themselves fall. I saw impotence triumph over courage, and pain inhabit even the last corner of their soul.

I saw a thousand worse things than that which I have just told you. But I would not like to return to see them again.

Nevertheless, I remember in a recurring way, something that I heard one and a thousand times in the voices of the evicted and which still echoes in my ears.

I clearly heard them say, "Come out, survive, save yourselves, even though it may not be more than to tell the world what you saw." "Salgan, sobrevivan, sálvense, aunque más no sea para contarle al mundo lo que vieron."

This is what I am doing tonight before all of you. To tell you what I saw.

Only 160 of the 1800 that left Rhodes survived to give a testimony.

And I am sure that I would not have had to witness all that I have just narrated to you if the whole world would not have been looking the other way while this was happening.

What these eyes witnessed, they will never forget.

And I swear to you that as long as my strength permits it, I will continue telling each horrific detail that I had to witness.

This force that Nazism tried to bend, up until the last intent, even when they knew they had lost the war.

Remember. Never forget what happened. Because to forget is returning to kill the martyrs of the "shoah."

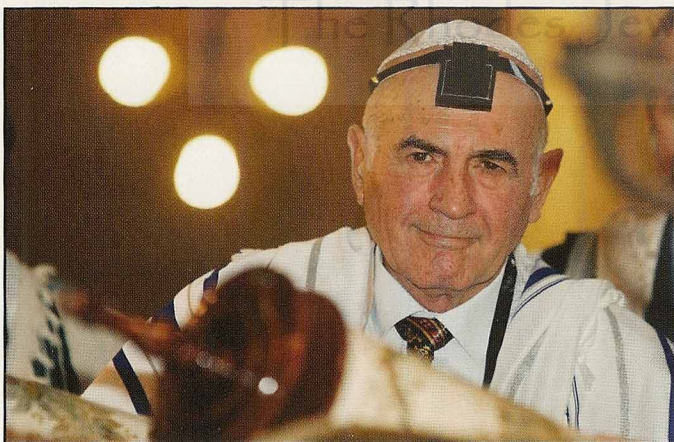
Thank you very much.

Samuel Modiano Celebrates His Bar Mitzvah at 77 Years Old

Samuel was among the 1673 Jews deported from Rhodes to Auschwitz. At the time they were deported, Samy, as he is now known, was only 13 years old. As a prisoner of the Auschwitz death camp, he was unable to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah. On January 23, 2007 in the Great Synagogue in Rome, Italy, Samy Modiano celebrated his Bar Mitzvah.

In the presence of hundreds of members of the Jewish community of Rome, he at last completed what he had missed as a result of the terrible events that he endured. The Chief Rabbi of Rome, Riccardo DiSegni, said after the service that "the most touching moment was when Samy exposed his arm to wrap the tefillin around it and uncovered the number tattoo".

After he finished reading from the Torah and with tears in his eyes, Samy thanked the Jewish community of Rome for being with him on the special occasion.



Samy lost many members of his family in Auschwitz, including his father and sister, becoming the only survivor in his immediate family.

After the Holocaust, he immigrated to the Congo where he made a living as a merchant. Later he settled in Rome. Samy now spends several months each year in Rhodes.

After the liberation in 1945, like most survivors, Samy never spoke about his experiences until 2004, when he decided to share his memory of the tragedy. He has now become a regular lecturer regarding the subject.

Samuel stated: "los nazis me exiliaron a la edad de 13 años y no alcancé a hacer mi Bar Mitzvá".

(The following title segment is of the Jewish newspaper in Rhodes, called El Boletin from June 1935.
The editor was Hizkia Franco. Below the title is a translation of excerpts from that issue.)

N. 10 RODES (Egeo) SIVAN 5695 Junio 1935 - XIII	EL BOLETIN ORGANO MENSUAL DE LA COMUNIDAD ISRAELITA	ABONAMIENTO en Rodes lletas 20 por el ajeno » 30
--	---	--

(Translation from Judeo-Spanish (Ladino) into English:)

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

A Beautiful Example

It is our duty to publicly acknowledge a beautiful gesture on the part of Comm. Isaac Alhadeff's. It is a beautiful donation he has made in favor of this community and the Rabbinical College. As a matter of fact, he informed the council of this community in a letter dated May 28th of his resolution to donate the beautiful two-story property N. civ. I, located in our "calle de los ricos" quarter.

We cannot help but applaud this altruistic gesture which honors the generous donor. The council of this Community is grateful for this beautiful and valuable donation, which has been recorded in its Grand Ledger.

We are sure he will fulfill his promise. Meanwhile, we would like to send our correlegionist Comm. Isaac Alhadeff our best congratulations and we wish him health and a long life. We hope his generous example will set a pattern to be followed.

Yirbu kemoto be-Israel.

It is also our duty to acknowledge another generous contribution as important as the one just mentioned. The reconstruction of the "hazarot" of the temple Shalom with all expenses covered by a prominent man.

This announced project, which is currently in progress, will soon be a reality. It will bring joy to the community. The fact that these "hazarot" are being reconstructed in a modern style will provide two advantages: not only will they embellish this great temple but they will also provide new revenue to our Community.

We will soon give further details about this subject and release the name of the benefactor which we are not currently authorized to publish.

Arrivals

It is a great pleasure to announce the arrival of eminent correlegionist Comm. Ascher Alhadeff to our city in the hot months of the year. We bid him a warm welcome.

Alberto Codron, son of our friend Mr. Nissim Codron, who has been living for some years in Rhodesia, arrived here to see his parents and relatives.

Mr. Benjamin Israel, son of our friend Mr. Nissim Israel, born in Milas and currently living in the Belgian Congo, arrived with his family and relatives. We wish them all the best.

At the Rabbinical school

On Friday June 21, in the afternoon, Comm. Ascher, one of the first men who supported our school, met there with Mr. Hizkia Franco, the president of our community, and Mr. Moise Alaluf to attend the office of Kabalat Shabat and Arvit at the school's auditorium.

Comm. Vitalis, president of the council, was present at the office. A student, assisted by his companions, served as officiant. The solemnity of the prayers and the pleasant voices of these fine young people impressed everyone.

Com. Alhadeff and everyone present at the event left with the greatest impression after congratulating the Rector and all the personnel.

Attention, readers:

We would like to call our readers' attention to two recently announced and published books, which would be worth buying: the beautiful book of prayers with a translation in Italian by his eminence Rebi David Prato, Grand Rabbi of Alexandria, and the History of the Jewish people in Rhodes by our friend, Professor Abraham Galante. They are available in our community.

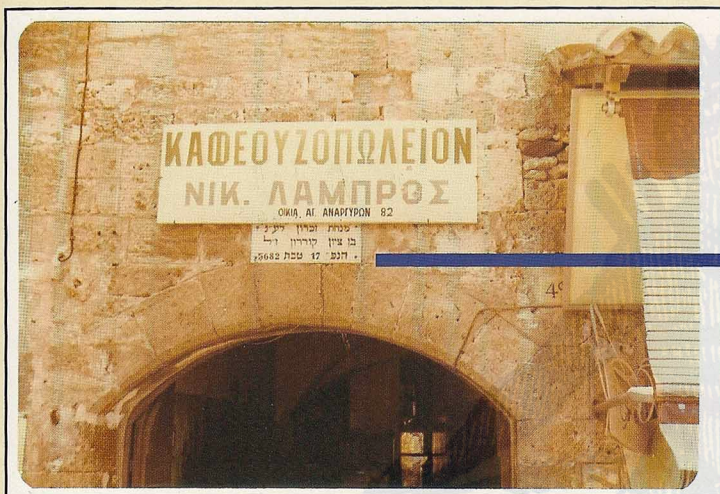
The book of prayers is 20 lit.

The History of Jewish people in Rhodes is 25 lit.

Re-Discovering the Jewish Landmarks of “La Juderia”

Despite 60 years past the tragic events of the Holocaust, we are continuously acquiring photographs and information which document the Jewish roots in La Juderia of Rhodes. The whereabouts of the three items on this page are not currently known, but we are investigating leads for their possible reacquisition.

Codron Plaque: Our most recent discovery occurred surprisingly in September 2007, at the Rhodesli picnic in Los Angeles. Rabbi Robert Rome, PhD. (whose grandmother, Alegra Shemaria, descended from Rhodes) visited Rhodes in 1977. During that visit, he photographed a Hebrew plaque on “La Calle Ancha”. Since then the plaque has been removed. Here it is being reproduced with its translation:



Translation from Hebrew:

“This memorial gift is in memory of Benzion Codron, of blessed memory, on the 17th day of Tevet 5682 (1922)”.

Photograph taken in 1977 by Rabbi Robert Rome.



Hazan & Amato Ladino Plaque:

this plaque was photographed in 1957 by Arthur Benveniste while he was visiting Rhodes. The plaque was inscribed in Judeo-Spanish (“Ladino”) and it was located at the top of a column in the Kehila Grande synagogue. The synagogue has since collapsed and the plaque’s current whereabouts is unknown.

Translation from Ladino:

“This azara (women’s prayer room) was founded by Madame widow Behora Fasana Hazan founded in memory of her father, Moshe Amato (of blessed memory) and her family, Yitzhak Hazan and Moshe Hazan. 20th of the month of Shivat 5621 (1861)”.

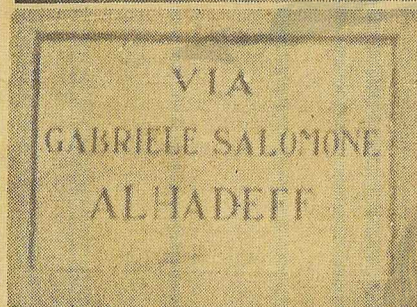
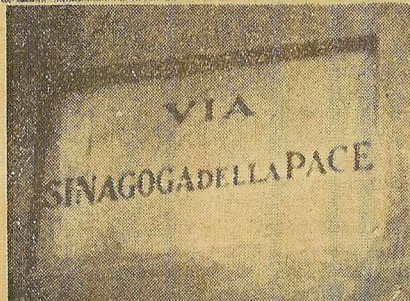
1924 Bikor Holim Ladino Plaque:

this plaque relates to one of the benevolent societies of the Jewish community of Rhodes. Translation from Judeo-Spanish (Ladino): “This building was established by the Bikor Holim association, Adar 5684 (1924)”



"La Juderia" Street Name Changes of 1938:

"Ego te baptizo"



A Rodi, alcuni squadristi, recatisi nel quartiere ebreo della Città Murata, hanno ribattezzato alcune vie con nomi purissimi di eroi e di martiri della nostra Rivoluzione: piazza Alhadeff è stata intitolata ad «Amos Maramotti, eroe ed apostolo della Rivoluzione fascista»; via Giuseppe Notrica ha cambiato il nome in quello di «Via Giovanni Berta, Caduto della Rivoluzione fascista»; via della Sinagoga Grande è ora «Via Antonio Locatelli, eroe, tre volte medaglia d'oro» e via della Sinagoga della Pace si intitola al nome del martire milanese Ugo Pepe.

This article appeared in the Italian newspaper of Rome called "Il Tevere" from December 1938. It describes the time when the streets of the Jewish Quarter of Rhodes were changed to Italian names. The article describes 4 of the several changes:

Via Sinagoga della Pace → Via Milanese Ugo Pepe

Via Giuseppe Notrica → Via Giovanni Berta

Via della Sinagoga Grande → Via Antonio Locatelli

Via Gabriel Salomon Alhadeff → Via Amos Maramotti

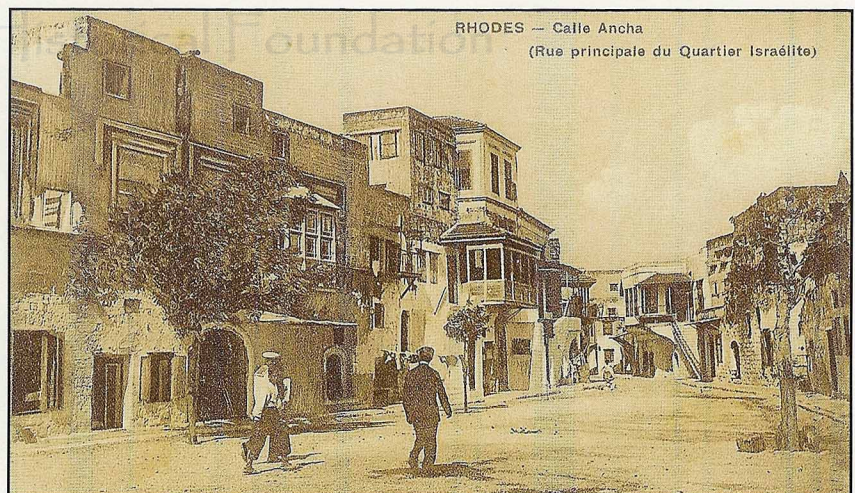
These name changes occurred shortly after the Anti-Jewish laws were implemented in September of 1938. The Italian newspaper explained that the names were changed to recognize the martyrs of the fascist Revolution.

Other street names that previously existed were: La Calle Ancha, Calle de los Ricos, Las Siete Callejicas, Calle de la Puerta de la Mar, Calle de la Havra, Calle de la Eskola, Calle de la Buzana, Calle de la Datelar, Calle de la Fasana, Calle de la Punta del Tcharshi (the beginning of the business district), La Callejica de Canaan, Las Pilotas and de la Alibamia.

In 1946 the City Council of Rhodes, led by Mayor Haritos Gabriel, restored one street to its original name: Salomon Alhadeff Street.

The Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation has suggested to the authorities that some of these streets be renamed to their original names. This gesture would show appreciation of the contribution that the Jewish community had given to Rhodes. There are precedents for this in Spain where dozens of street names have been renamed to honor the former Jewish communities which existed prior to the Inquisition.

This post card is from the 1930's of the main street of the Jewish Quarter: La Calle Ancha. It was the main artery of Jewish life since it connected the residential area with the business district. Because of its central location, it was a gathering place and was where Purim festivities would be celebrated and where joyous processions passed, such as weddings and "brit milahs".



Networking the Rhodesli Diaspora With “Ke Haber?” Events

Emigration from the island of Rhodes during the past 100 years has led to a worldwide scattering of former Rhodes residents and their descendants. In several cities there has been the creation of Rhodesli colonies in Europe, Africa, Israel and the Americas.

It has been my intention to reach out to those distant communities to keep them informed of what is new with our Rhodes heritage. This effort began 10 years ago with the first publication of the “Ke Haber?” newsletter and Internet web site and continues with presentations in the various cities around the world where the Rhodes descendants have established themselves. Various “Ke Haber?” events were promoted in 2006 and 2007 to connect up with the diverse Rhodesli communities.

The primary topics are the newly expanded Jewish Museum of Rhodes, the Kehila Shalom synagogue restoration and the upgrading of the Jewish cemetery. Other topics brought up include the restoration of the Kehila Grande, donation of Jewish artifacts for the Museum, repossession of Jewish properties abandoned since the War and restoration of Jewish landmarks on the island of Kos.

Brussels:



October 28, 2006: Aron Hasson and Bella Angel Restis answering questions of attendees.

The event was held at the “Foyer Sepharade”.



Brussels audience attending event updating what's new with Rhodes Jewish history.

Israel:

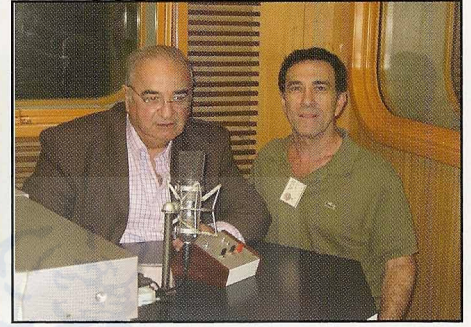
In Israel, the Rhodesli communities have periodic gatherings in a designated location where they chat (“charlachon”), recall memories of Rhodes and sing songs (“canticas”). These gatherings are organized by Yoram Alcana.,



Netanya, October 2, 2006: with Stella Franco Israel, Allegra Levi Rosenthal, Dora Shemaria and Yoram Alcana.



Ashdod, October 3, 2006: with Amelia Mizrahi Tarica and Berta Alhadeff.



Jerusalem: Mario Soriano and Aron Hasson on the “Kol Israel” radio program in Ladino (Judeo-Spanish).

Cape Town:

The President of the Jewish Community of Rhodes, Bella Angel Restis, gave a presentation at a woman’s meeting in Cape Town on January 10, 2007 followed by comidas.



TV presentation



Women at meeting

Buenos Aires:

A slide show presentation was given at the Chalom Temple on November 6, 2007.



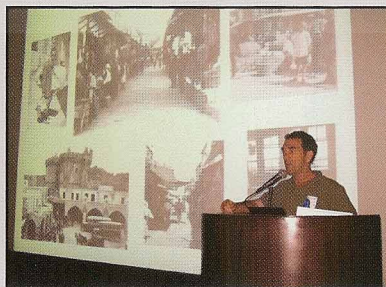
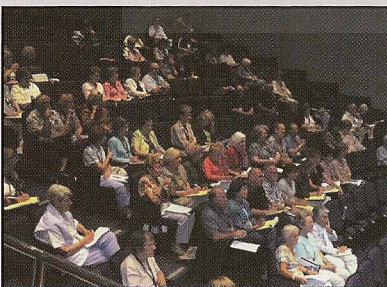
Presentation with Marcelo Benveniste.



Audience in attendance at the Chalom Temple.

Los Angeles:

On September 18, 2006 Aron Hasson was the featured speaker at the Skirball Cultural Center. The audio, video and slide presentation included questions and answers for the docents of the Skirball Museum.



A Trip to the “Old Neighborhood” in Los Angeles

Event held at the Kehila at 55th and Hoover Brings Back Memories

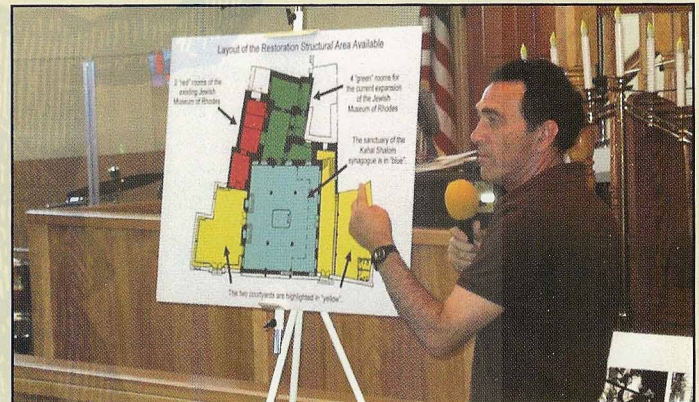
The Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation sponsored a return trip to the “Old Neighborhood”. The event was held on June 26, 2005 and included a presentation in the sanctuary giving an update of the expansion plans for the Jewish Museum of Rhodes.

The participants were given a specially prepared street map of the Old Neighborhood with the names & addresses of the Rhodesli families that were clustered in the transplanted “Juderia”. Five buses were used for “drive bys” of the old homes and schools.

The participants had a chance to recount their days at the Talmud Torah, religious customs and the memories of the rabbis who led services: Solomon Mizrahi and Michel Albagli. The event ended with boyus, burekas, eggs, etc. in the social hall.



Audience in the sanctuary. Most of the people had not been inside the sanctuary for over 50 years.



Presentation of the museum expansion plans.



Posing for a photo in the lobby.



Viewers pointing at one panel of several old photos of the Kehila events.



Having “comidas” in the old social hall.



Stop offs were made at Manual Arts and John Muir schools.

A New Administration for the Jewish Community of Rhodes

The current Administration of the Jewish Community of Rhodes is: Bella Angel Restis, President. Benjamin Albalas is the Vice President. The new Secretary General is Aaron Fortis, and Andrew Mordoh is the Advisory Consultant. Carmen Cohen continues her dedicated service as the Director. During 2007, the synagogue and museum had the valuable assistance of Sam Angel as Custodian.



Sam Angel translating for Samy Modiano in the Kahal Shalom sanctuary to visitors.

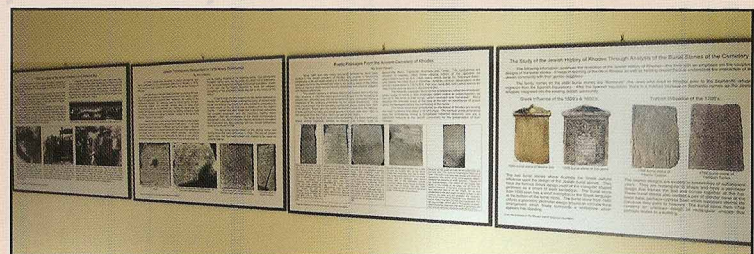
Exhibit Established at the Jewish Cemetery

During the past two years an exhibit was set up in the rooms that were recently rebuilt at the cemetery. The primary display is of the oldest tombstones which includes a translation from the Hebrew into English and Greek. The oldest tombstones are from the 1500's and 1600's.

A second part of the exhibit includes photographic display panels with explanations of the significant evolution of the cemetery. The panel topics of the Jewish Cemetery of Rhodes include: The Study of the Ancient Burial Stones, Poetic Passages Inscribed on the Tombstones, Relocation of the Jewish Cemetery in 1938 and Jewish Burial Stones Confiscated in 1938 Newly Discovered.



The oldest burial stones.



Display panels at the cemetery.

Jews of Rhodes DNA Project

Dr. Robert Rubin has launched an intriguing project which will give us a background of the original ancestry of the Jews of Rhodes (Spanish, Italian, Romaniote). Dr. Rubin is the grandson of Joseph M. Mayo, who was originally from Rhodes.

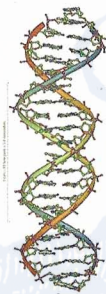
Project Background: At the start of the 1500's, as a flood of Sephardi exiles from Spain and Italy desperately sought refuge throughout the Mediterranean world, the Jews of Rhodes also struggled to survive. They were ordered to convert to Christianity, or they would be expelled to Nice, France. As a consequence, very few Jews remained.

In 1522, the Ottoman Turks conquered Rhodes, heralding the start of four centuries of religious freedom for the Jews there. The Ottoman Sultan sought to develop the island with the assistance of the Jews. That same year, about 40 Jewish families from Salonika arrived in Rhodes, and he granted them special privileges. During this same period, other Jewish exiles sought refuge, and some likely joined Sephardic and Italian Jews in settling on Rhodes. Some historical books, by reputable people, note that about 50 Jewish families settled in Rhodes in 1522.

The Romaniote Jews, of Greek origin, had lived in Rhodes for centuries before the arrival of the many Sephardic Jews in the 16th century. The Romaniote Jews became a small minority and soon lost their identity.

Project Goals: To try to identify the original 50 families that settled in Rhodes in 1522. This will be done by studying the paternal lines (Y DNA testing) and the maternal lines (mitochondrial DNA testing) of Jews whose families had lived on the Island of Rhodes.

How Do We Determine the Original Families? First, we need to enroll lots of people and test many DNA markers in order to be able to interpret the results with a good degree of probability. Therefore, please tell your Rhodesli friends/relatives about the study.



When used together,
DNA and written
documentation offer
complementary tools
for researching
family connections.

What You Would Need To Do:

The organization called Family Tree DNA has given the project discounted rates for all of the tests. You start by visiting their project on the website at www.familytreedna.com. You will then need to type in the search term, "Rhodes". Please note that this will reveal a list of projects. You will choose "Jews of Rhodes" project. Then fill in information at the bottom. It is necessary that you provide the family last names of your ancestors for the study, and then select "join".

If you are a man whose parents both had ancestors from Rhodes: Please order the Y DNA67 + mt DNA Plus tests.

If you are a man whose father had ancestors from Rhodes: Please order the Y DNA 67 test.

If you are a man or a woman whose mother had ancestors from Rhodes: Please order the mt DNA Plus test.

The test does not involve giving a blood sample. An "at home" test kit is mailed to you. It only involves swiping the inside of your mouth with a cotton swab and returning the sample by mail.

To contact Dr. Rubin's project directly, their email address is: bob_rubin@hotmail.com

Special Thanks

The Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation would like to thank all of those families who have shared their photos and personal treasures with us for our archives, displays and exhibits.

The Foundation is interested in acquiring additional photos, documents, clothing and various artifacts from Rhodes for its archives, traveling exhibits and museum displays. Please contact us if you would like to share your personal treasures with future generations. Our email address is: info@RhodesJewishMuseum.org