



NEWSLETTERS PRINT SUBSCRIPTIONS

SUPPORT JW

ADVERTISE WRITE TO EDITOR CONTACT

SEARCH



MONDAY MAY 9, 2011 5 | YYAR 5771

My CART

LOGIN

New Account

New Password

ons%2Fsephardic_world_preserved&t=The%20Sephardic%20World%20Preserved%20%7C%20The%20Jewish%20Week

CLASSIFIEDS

VIDEO

GET JW PREMIUM

MY JWEEK



Travel document issued by the Government of Greece to David Matza. Ioannina, Greece, 1920 American Sephardi Federation

(/images/travel_document_issued_government_greece_david_matza_ioannina_greece_1920_american_sephardi)

expelled from Spain and Portugal in the fifteenth century, forming original cultures that blended indigenous and newer Iberian cultural elements. Over the course of the centuries, each community developed highly original indigenous civilizations while also sharing many cultural bonds with other Middle Eastern Jewries. All the Sephardic and Mizrahi communities experienced drastic uprooting after World War II with the emergence of independent Arab national states. Under conditions of flight and expulsion, Sephardic Jews were precipitously dispersed; their traditional ways of life and communal records and artifacts were either destroyed or widely scattered. Today, Sephardic Jews are concentrated in Israel, France, the United States and Canada, with smaller Sephardi enclaves in South America, forming subcultures within the majority Ashkenazic Jewish communities.

The contemporary American Sephardi community is a mosaic of communities composed of Jews from Syria, Iran, the Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union, as well as of former Israelis of Middle Eastern background. Smaller subgroups of Afghani, Greek, Yemenite and Moroccan Jews also retain their former liturgical and familial traditions.

Collectively the several communities constitute approximately ten percent of American Jewry.

The American Sephardi Federation (ASF) was formed in 1973 with the goal of providing unity to a fragmented and widely dispersed "minority within a minority" in American Jewry. ASF exists to preserve and support the history of all Sephardic communities as an integral part of the Jewish experience and Jewish heritage. This goal has been furthered dramatically when ASF became a partner of the Center for Jewish History and began collecting archival and printed as well as audio and visual documentation of the rich and extremely diverse American Sephardi past. It joined with Sephardic House in the introduction of an annual Sephardic Film Festival, while offering academic conferences, lectures and concerts to the wider public. Its archival holdings are constantly expanding and include the papers of the Sephardic Brotherhood of America, the records of the Yemenite Jewish Association of America as well as of the first synagogue in America, The Spanish and Portuguese Congregation Shearith Israel. Its growing collection includes private collections and the digitization of several Ladino rare books. (Its current projects include the creation of an oral history library of the American Sephardi immigrant experience; the digitization of photographic collections of the hundreds of abandoned synagogues of Turkey and Morocco; the recent acquisition of photographic collections of Ethiopian Jewish life and of the Moroccan Jewish immigrant experience in Israel.) Its multifaceted activities give voice to a will to celebrate the history and culture of two thousand years of Jewish creativity in the many diasporas of the Mediterranean world.

(http://www.thejewishweek.com/ad/redirect/16724/116386?url=node/16990)

Read more:

Signup for our weekly email newsletter [here](#)

(<http://www.thejewishweek.com/newsletter.html>)

Check out the Jewish Week's [Facebook page](#)

(<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/pages/New-York-NY/The-Jewish-Week/20082123510>)

and become a fan!

Follow the Jewish Week on Twitter: [start here](#). (<http://twitter.com/NYJewishweek>)

Comments

The Jewish Week welcomes comments on our stories and encourages discussions germane to our articles. But we will not become a platform for screaming matches or personal attacks against individuals, organizations or religious or political perspectives.

COMMENTING GUIDELINES:

- *Be clear and stay on topic*
- *Avoid objectionable language*
- *Be short; comments longer than 300 words will be rejected*
- *Be civil; name calling in any form will not be tolerated, and comments that denigrate any religion or Jewish religious stream will always be rejected.*
- *Comments meant primarily to advertise a business or organization will be rejected*

Post new comment

Your name: *

E-mail: *

The content of this field is kept private and will not be shown publicly.

Homepage:

Comment: *

CAPTCHA

This question is for testing whether you are a human visitor and to prevent automated spam submissions.



What code is in the image?: *

Enter the characters shown in the image.

Save

Preview