

Jewish Community of Rhodes

NEWSLETTER 2020

Dear friends,

The year 2020 has been a tough year for everyone. The global pandemic has disrupted daily life in ways almost too many to count. Physical distancing guidelines have changed how we do many activities, including how we work, shop, socialize, learn, travel, exercise, volunteer and the list goes on. A situation no one has ever been in before. And of course, we too could not be unaffected by this global crisis. Visitors decreased by 95%. Valuable colleagues couldn't travel to be with us. All the ceremonies were cancelled or postponed (weddings, bar or bat mitzvahs). But we're not putting it down. We continue dynamically and hope that 2021 will bring everyone pleasant changes in their lives.

Nevertheless we wish to share with you our activities in 2020...

On April 2020, the Jewish Community of Rhodes, in the context of its public benefit character and responding to the hard conditions that our country was going through, wished to be present once again as a member of the local society.

Supporting the collective effort, we offered to the health services (Rhodes Hospital) and to the Police department essential protection products against the dangerous virus.

Specifically, and after consultation with the relevant department of the Rhodes Hospital, we donated

- 16 Disposable Protective Suits
- 100 Protective FFP2 Face Masks
- 150 Disposable 3-Ply Safety Face Masks



We also donated 60 bottles (500ml each) of hand sanitizers to the Police Department to meet their needs.

We are waging a hard battle against an invisible enemy, but we are optimistic that we will overcome this crisis in a coordinated and disciplined manner.

Sami's Modiano birthday

On July 18th, Sami Modiano, one of the few Jews of Rhodes who survived the Holocaust, turned 90.



He was deported at the tender age of 13, losing his entire family in the Auschwitz / Birkenau concentration camp.

A very sweet man who every year honors us with his presence, during the summer months, and talks to our visitors about his experiences, sharing a little of the wisdom he gained all these years through the hardships of his life and his difficult experiences.

His eyes widen when he speaks of those who deny the Holocaust.

He reached a step before death many times but God saved him and now he understands why ... To be able to tell what he went through. Because as he says: "The new generation should not see what my eyes saw. Your children either should not see what my eyes saw. This is my obligation. This is what God has given me. God has chosen a few. He has given me this mission »

This year, due to the COVID-19, he couldn't travel to be with us.

Every year we were celebrating his birthday together in Rhodes. We all missed him. Our Synagogue was empty without him and his wife Selma!

We all wish him Happy Birthday, "May you live until 120". We look forward to see him again, to welcome with a smile our visitors in the Synagogue recounting the glorious past of our small community and its unjust annihilation in a way that he only knows!

Commemoration events 2020

July 23rd marked 76 years since the deportation and annihilation of the Jews of Rhodes and Kos in 1944.

Unfortunately, the Dodecanese have been linked to the tragic events of the Holocaust, having one of the highest rates of the extermination of Europe's Jews with 94% casualties.

We must emphasize, however, that in the post-war course of the anxious effort for reconstruction, Rhodes was one of the first regions in Greece to recognize the extermination of their Jewish fellow citizens. Immediately after

the Liberation, in 1946, the first elected mayor of Rhodes, Gabriel Haritos, renamed the old Prigipos Square to "Jewish Martyrs Square".

Every year our Community organizes events honouring the memory of its victims.

The Administrative Committee of our Community decided this year, due to the current situation, instead of organizing any events, to assist local food banks.



On July 23rd, the date of their deportation, Mrs. Cohen symbolically laid a wreath at the Holocaust Memorial.

In the context of the day the Community organized the screening of two films

On the 27th of July, the online screening of the documentary "Sami Modiano: The mission from Rhodes to Auschwitz" via vimeo for our friends abroad.





And on the 30th of July the screening of the film “The Zookeeper's Wife” at the open air theater “Rodon”.

About the Synagogue “Kehila Grande”



In 2018 and after the intervention of the Jewish Central Board of Greece to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the interference of the local police, we expelled trespassers from the covered area (ex woman's section) of the Synagogue "Kehila Grande".

We cleaned the area and close off the access.

But the issue did not end there. In order to get permission for the fencing of the area and placing an informational sign to highlight the historical importance of the building, many requests and meetings with the relevant public services had to be made.

In the summer of 2020, we were able to complete the project.

Some information about the historical background of the Synagogue Kahal Kadosh Gadol...

When the Sephardic Jews came to Rhodes after the Turkish conquest in 1523, they already found a Synagogue. They named her Kahal Kadosh Gadol (The Holy Great Congregation) or in Ladino, Kahal Grande. It was built in the late 1400s after the Turkish siege of 1480. It replaced an existing older Jewish Synagogue that was destroyed by artillery fire during the conflict.

It is said that Pope Sixtus IV gave permission to the Knight d' Aubusson to allow its construction, believing that during the previous siege the Jews had "courageously" contributed to the defense of the city.

The members of this synagogue were Greek Jews, "Romaniotes". After the arrival of large numbers of Sephardic Jews in the 1500s, the synagogue gradually used the language and ritual of the Spanish Jews.



The synagogue "Kehila Grande" in 1957 that shows the damages from the bombings.



The synagogue today

In 1944, during World War II, because it was so close to the main port, it was accidentally damaged during Allied air raids on German ships. Although severely damaged, the walls of the Kahal Grande Synagogue remained standing for several more years. Over the next twenty years, the walls collapsed, and the area was filled with rubble. In 2003, the Directorate of the Archaeological Service in Rhodes cleared the debris that had accumulated, revealing the foundations of the perimeter walls of the synagogue.

Remembrance of the Shoah of the Rhodes Community in the Shalom Synagogue of Buenos Aires

Every year, in the Shalom Synagogue of Buenos Aires, they are doing the act of Remembrance of the Shoah of the Jewish Community of Rhodes.

On the 12th of September Mr Marcelo Benveniste organized a special event to commemorate the 75th anniversary of deportation.

We were asked to write a letter that will be read at the event.

**Message for the 76th Commemoration of the
deportation of the Jews of Rhodes and Kos**

Mourning, funeral, fond memory and nostalgia are the concepts that define the beginning of the human civilization.

On July 23, 1944, more than 2,000 Jews from Rhodes and Kos were deported and annihilated in Auschwitz/ Birkenau concentration camps.

On July 23, 1944, jewish life on the island of roses was vanished.

We are here to mourn for our murdered fathers and forefathers

But how to mourn and who mourns hundreds of families who were murdered without leaving anyone behind or deserving a piece of earth to be buried?

This is the answer we and our society are called to give on their memorial day, for those who did not have a funeral and most of them did not leave a single relative behind to remember and commemorate them, but not even a single tomb with their name to remind us of them.

It is therefore our duty to promise with infinite love to our dead that we will remember them and commemorate them every year. Their memory will remain immortal and our mourning will be eternal.

May they rest in peace.

Jewish Community of Rhodes

Jewish Community of Kos



The Jewish community of Kos numbered 166 members before World War II. Few immigrated to South America and South Africa. Most prospered on the island engaged in trade.

On July 23, 1944, 104 Jews of Kos were arrested. Despite the efforts of the Italian Police Commander Dante Giocelli, only 6 people were saved from deportation.

On July 25, the 98 people were transferred to Samos and integrated with the Jews of Rhodes and deported together to Auschwitz.

During the Holocaust, all members of the Jewish Community of Kos vanished. Only one survivor returned to the island.

The Synagogue of Kos was granted to the Municipality of Kos in 1986, and since then the Municipality of Kos has used it as a cultural center.

The Jewish Cemetery of Kos is located outside the city on the road to the village of Platani-Kermete. In the oldest part of the cemetery, tombstones are dating from the 17th century.



The Jewish Community of Rhodes, in 2002, undertook some reparation works of the surrounding wall and the door of the Cemetery because of the damage they had suffered from a truck that fell on the wall of the Cemetery.

Since then the Jewish Community of Rhodes "adopted" the Cemetery of Kos and every year carries out maintenance and cleaning work.

In 2013 we did a more substantial repair of the tombs because of the vandalism they suffered.

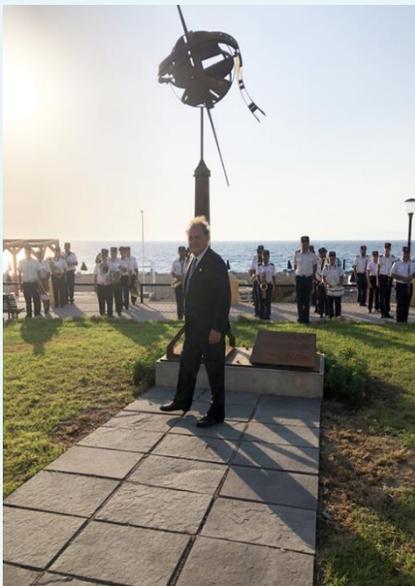
In 2014, on the 70th anniversary of the deportation of the Jews of Kos, the unveiling of a Holocaust memorial took place at the Cemetery. The monument was erected at the expenses of the Jewish Community of Rhodes.



In 2019 a memory event was organized for the 75th anniversary with the participation of local authorities and Rhodeslis from abroad.

The Jewish Community of Rhodes continues the annual cleaning and care of the Cemetery of Kos.

Visit of the director of the “Cervantes” Institute



As the Organization of World Heritage Cities was created on the 8th of September, it was decided, as a commemoration of this flagship event, that September 8th will be declared as the “Solidarity Day of World Heritage Cities”. All World Heritage cities are invited to celebrate this day once a year.

The Municipality of Rhodes took part in the day's celebration by organizing a tribute to the naval tradition of Rhodes. Part of the events was the unveiling of a monument

by the sculptor Juan Ramon Marten, which was donated by the Spanish embassy and the Cervantes Institute, dedicated to the Greek sailors and especially the 4 Rhodians who took part in the first circumnavigation of the earth 500 years ago, by Magellan.

The educational attaché of the Spanish Embassy, Mr. Ivo Pascual Herrera and the Director of the Cervantes Institute Mrs. Christina Conde attended the events.

The above representatives had previously paid a visit to the office of the community. Mrs Cohen gave them a tour inside the Museum and the Synagogue. They discussed the possibility of a future collaboration to promote the Sephardic Heritage in Greece. One of Mrs Conde's suggestions was the funding of the addition of the Spanish language to the existing mobile phone application of the museum that is used to tour the synagogue and museum.

Visit of an official of the New Democracy party



At the beginning of October, as part of visits with various local authorities, we were visited by Mr Ioannis Orfanoudakis, an official of the New Democracy party,

theologian, Member of the Futurium think tank of the European Commission in Brussels and member of the Catholic Church. He maintains personal

relations with the Jewish Community of Athens and the Rabbi of Athens Gabriel Negrin.

Mrs Cohen guided Mr Orfanoudakis inside the synagogue and into the museum. They exchanged thoughts about the problems faced by religious minorities. Mr Orfanoudakis offered to contribute to the improvement of our community's relations with the local Catholic community.



Cemetery Vandalism

On Monday, 12th of October, four graves, at the Jewish cemetery of Rhodes, were vandalised.



At the same period, vandalism occurred also at the Jewish cemeteries of Athens and Thessaloniki.



Everyone took a stand on the matter by condemning such appalling acts. The World Jewish Congress tweeted: "Even after major steps were recently taken in Greece against racism, the fight is ongoing."

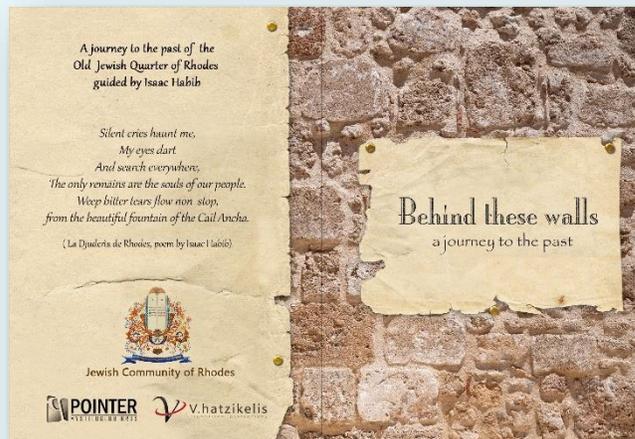
Both our Community and the Jewish Central Board of Greece reacted immediately in cooperation with the local authorities, Athens and Jewish organizations from abroad. Our fellow citizens immediately offered their support, which was encouraging and moving.

Unfortunately, this phenomenon is very common throughout Europe. It's not only a Greek phenomenon. Let's not forget that in all societies, there are negative elements and vandalism also occur in non-Jewish sites.

With the financial contribution of the Community and the symbolic donation of Mr Marc Menashe the damages of the tombs have been restored.



DVD Production



We are pleased to present the completion of our latest project. “A journey to the past of Jewish Rhodes” guided by Isaac Habib.

It is a guided tour of the Jewish quarter.

The DVD is available for sale at our gift shop.

For more details please contact us at jcrhodes@otenet.gr

Continue reading “Memories from the Jewish Quarter of Rhodes”....

Memories from the Jewish Quarter of Rhodes



It was a beautiful life in Juderia... Rodeslis Remember...

“Growing up on the island on the island was like a paradise”

Rachel Hanan (née Hugnu), Holocaust survivor

“All along our daily paths, whether going to school, to work, to the synagogue, or visiting a friend or relative, we walked amid familiar and smiling faces. Kinship networks were frequently large, so that Hugnos’ extended family could only meet on particular festival days, otherwise, there would be a hundred cousins.”

Isaac Jack Lévy

“The life in Rhodes was beautiful, beautiful...Everyone very friendly like one family. No matter how many neighbors ... we have, everyone is just like family... In fact, we used to say Auntie Straya, Auntie Rebecca, but we didn't know if they were relatives or not. Because our parents they say, say hello to Auntie Rebecca or say hello to Auntie Rifka. To everyone we have to say Auntie. So for us all neighbors was family.

Mirù Alcanà, Holocaust Survivor

“[...] our excursions carried us further and further outside of the Jewish Quarter and these are the places I would like to describe here. These excursions were to places of natural beauty that took on a very special meaning for the Jews. Going there became a way of life for us. In groups we went to Mt. Smith, called Merdjan Tepe by the Turks, a mountain outside the city; Mount Filermo; Peveranio, a lovely village where there was a famous mountain called Prophet Elijah. It was the custom for newlyweds to stay at the hotel on that mountain. Puerta de la

Rodini, 1936



Mar, a resort area close to the Jewish section included cabanas, two large public bath house, coffee shops and promenade. At the end of Puerta de la Mar was the break-water called Las Penyas where some had Saturday afternoon picnics on top of the rocks. Further along was the Soap Factory where our promenade ended. We never went beyond this point, not because we

were restricted but because we preferred staying close to our quarter. Beyond the Soap Factory was a beach area called Las Salinas (Spanish: where salt is made). The sand was very warm and was considered medicinal. People with rheumatism would go there during the summer and bury themselves up to their heads for the entire day. The Lemon Garden was a famous garden filled with lemon trees and flowers. It was open to us exclusively on Saturdays and Purim. The Mandraki, is along the waterfront. On Saturday and Sunday nights, the Jews, Greeks, Turks and Italians

Mandraki, 1930



would gather to walk along the promenade and to sit at the outdoor cafes while listening to the military bands that performed at the nearby plaza. [...] Last but not least was The Public Garden. Picnics were not allowed there, but we went to enjoy the flowers and fish pond. I have many fond memories [...] As I am writing, my eyes fill with tears remembering these beautiful childhood days, when after finishing our chores, all the neighbors would gather to have afternoon coffee, with the freshly baked bread and “boyos”. All of the children would sit in a circle around the mothers in the courtyard. Where have these beautiful days gone? Why should these women who were so devoted to their families have to have suffered such a tragic end at the hand of the Nazis? Why did my sister – young, beautiful, healthy and full of life – have to die, and not me? Why was I saved within a period of a few months, and yet I could not save my sister, because immigration was stopped?

There are so many “whys”, with no answers, that I must accept that it must have been the will of God [...]

Rebecca Amato Levy from her book “I Remember Rhodes”

A beautiful life that came to an end.....

“Throughout the village suddenly one heard shouting, crying, moaning, and categorical imperious commands meant, it seemed, to suffocate all those sounds. I leaned out of the only window which looked on the street and asked a neighbor who, out of curiosity, had gone as far as the corner to see what was happening for sure, then in a whisper, he said these words only: “They are taking away the Jews.” Where? Only later were we horror-stricken by the things we learned. One said that the Germans had driven the Jews out of their houses, all of a sudden, without giving them the time to dress, and that they had concentrated them all, in a beastly promiscuity, in what had been the Palace of the Aviation, near the “Hotel delle Terme”.

Aldo Siggillino, Italian teacher

“July 23, 1944, a day certainly cursed by God. I was one of those who saw that long column of poor people violently pushed toward the harbor. It was a terrible experience, hallucinating for a young man of twenty-one. Never could I imagine that human cruelty could descend to such a level of abjection, of degradation. For many nights I was unable to sleep, because that vision of immense grief kept coming back to my mind and shook it with fearful nightmares. But what I saw was nothing in comparison with the atrocities which the Jews of Rhodes had to endure”.

*Gino Manicone, a young Italian airman, from one of his books, *Nei cieli del Levante* (1999)*

“[...] we saw an old woman who, after having dragged her suitcase for a while, fell to the ground, exhausted; kicked by the soldiers and ordered to move on, she got up, but after a few steps she fell again: she was then grappled by the hair and dragged along, and her body swept the road. We shouted, horrified, and then the Germans pointed their rifles at us and we were forced to leave.”

An Italian, non-Jewish woman



“One instance to make you understand what it was, the thirst and the hunger in this train. I had next to me a lady who had a baby of a year. This child was so thirsty and hungry she was licking the sweat of the mother. When I see a baby cry today [...], any child, I can’t stand it.”

Violetta Mayo Fintz, Holocaust survivor

“So we arrived at the camp of Auschwitz in Poland. The survivors were ordered to get off the train without baggage and they were immediately divided into two groups: one of elderly men and women, of sick people and mother with little children (about 1000 persons), and other of men and women able to work (about 500 persons). The first group was [...] eliminated that same day: part of them were first gassed and then their corpses were cremated; part of them were flung into the crematorium alive”

Mirù Alcanà, Holocaust survivor

“At the conclusion of the Second World War, only a few Rhodian survivors returned to the island hoping to find in their own surroundings the security, warmth, and richness of their past life. Though still a “Paradise in the Sea,” with its vineyards, roses, rolling hills, crystal blue sea, and familiar alleys and courtyards, Rhodes had been drained of Jewish blood. The life was gone. What the shattered souls of the Nazi death camps found on their return was a war-ravaged juderia

whose houses and streets belonged to strangers. They sought in vain for familiar faces; the warmth of memories became a constant reminder of tragedy. Sadly, all but a few Jews abandoned the island."

Isaac Jack Lévy

"[...] among the coming and going of tourists [...] I fell a stranger, [...] lonely and alone. Behind me I feel the shadows of the past; the memories of the Rhodes I knew pass before my eyes in a deathly silence. A silence that we only, who were born and reared in this quarter, can feel, a silence filled with intense grief, with the deep desire to weep [...]. The small street of mothers, with the gaiety and the games of our children [...] are now empty, lifeless."

Mosè Capelluto, studied at the Rabbinical College of Rhodes

**Sources*

"A history of Jewish Rhodes" by Esther Menasce

"I remember Rhodes" by Rebecca Amato Levy

"The Holocaust in Greece", chapter: The Deportation of the Jews of Rhodes, 1944 by Anthony McElligott

Continue reading an article about Rodini park (Zimbulli)....

**“Whoever drinks the nice water from Rodini
will come back!”**

*That is the inscription of the Italians in Rodini, the park that lived glory and abandonment.
It may be the oldest park in the world.*



Rodini Park has its own history, lost in the centuries. According to legend, the Park, in ancient times, hosted the Rhetorical School of Aeschylus, where great orators studied! At the time of the Knighthood, in Rodini Park, was the mansion of the Grand Masters of the Knights of St. John, while the valley was a park during the Turkish occupation. The Italians came and adored it, the German conquerors burned its benches so that people would not gather, and when it fell into the hands of ours, the Greeks, the downhill took it to this day.

Exception is the years between 1950 and 1960, during the mayoralty of Petridis. It was the reference point for Rhodes, which beautified the days and nights of Rhodes and visitors.

According to the data recorded by travellers of Rhodes and historians, Rodini is the same age as the city of Rhodes. It is 2,400 years old! In 411 BC. when Dorias, persuading the Rhodians to establish a new city-state, brings with him to Rhodes an urban planner of the Hippodameian school, chose its exact location. The forest of Rhodia (Doric dialect), was founded in 408 BC. and was built at the northeastern point of the island, the closest point to the cities of the Aegean, to the coastal cities of Asia Minor and the cities of the whole



Mediterranean. The town planner divided the city, drawing a street plan, creating building blocks. Its necropolis extended outside the walls and occupied its entire south side. The cemeteries were part of the general layout and urban planning of the ancient Greeks, who did not bury their dead, as the opening of the tombs was considered sacrilege. The creek of Rodini was a

natural border between the necropolis and the ancient city of Rhodes. Its valley was located outside the city walls and was part of the necropolis which, due to the abundant greenery and water, functioned as a promenade and recreation area while the orators of the time gathered there. This place was chosen because of its natural beauty. During the Hellenistic period, Rhodes was a commercial and spiritual center. Its development and prosperity is related to the change of burial complexes, which are becoming larger and more imposing. Such a huge tomb has been saved in Rodini, in the place "Pefkakia", which was later mistakenly named "Ptolemy", perhaps because it was found there, by chance, a coin of Ptolemy. Other finds are a Corinthian tomb and several burial grounds that have not yet been explored. An important



find is the underground water galleries, built or carved in the rock, with which the western part of the city was watered mainly.

Italian period with a crowd running under the big plane tree. Because of

the political neutrality maintained by the inhabitants of our island, orators, scholars, but also dissidents of the time came and settled. Others came to teach and left and many, either because of the hospitality or because of the high salaries, stayed, and so Rhodes became a center of Rhetoric and Philosophy. It is said that the orator Aeschines, in 330 BC, founded a rhetorical school in Rhodes. The place he chose for his teaching was Rodini, since its nature favoured his operation. Later, Apollonius of Alexandria founded a rhetorical school there, called Rhodes. In the park of Rodini, the faithful student of Aristotle, Evdimos, taught the "Walking philosophy" of his teacher. Later, during the Roman period, villas were built outside the city, in Rodini, in

selected locations, with a lot of vegetation. In the area "Makri Steno", somewhere between the current streets Themistokli Sofouli and Michail Petridi, a marble inscription was found, engraved with the name "RODINA", which was used as a woman's name in the Doric dialect. Maybe the estate belonged to a woman named "Rodina", and so it got its name from the place.

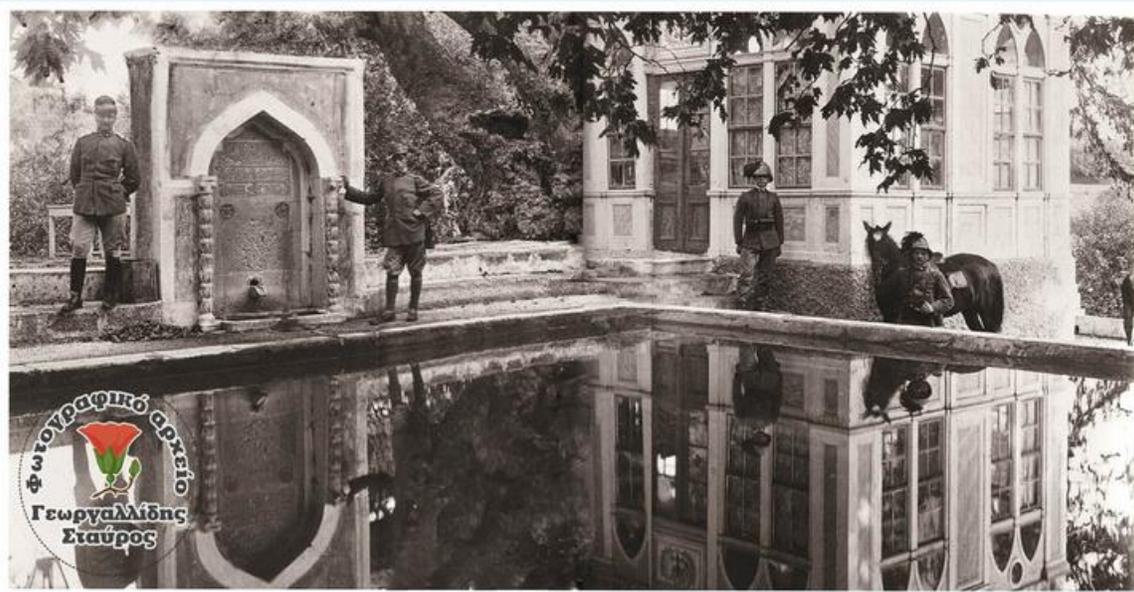
In the following years, in the time of the Knights, they used it more. In the newest park, there was a Roman aqueduct, with arches and carved stones, on the foundations of which the Knights built a canal that carried water to the city. It was used and maintained until the years of Ottoman occupation. In the time of the Knights, Rodini functioned as a place of recreation, at the same time with the existence of farmhouses where Knights lived. In fact, in his



letter, Pope John IBS refers to Rodini as the place of residence of the Master. And the Botanical Garden was there, together with the mansion of the Grand Master, to serve the needs of the Knights in herbs to cure various diseases. The Ottomans kept it, but did little to take advantage of it! The Turkish conquerors in 1522, no longer called it Rodini, but Zimbulli, from the Turkish word "Sümbüllü", which means a place covered with hyacinths, cyclamen which grew there in large quantities. The word Zimbulli can also mean

"contribution", because of the abundant water that exists there. Even during the Ottoman occupation, Rodini is still a gathering place for families. They went there for their excursions while the Ottomans also performed their religious ceremonies. The Ottomans left the park in its original form and used only its outer side, building a cafe, havouza and a fountain that ran water from a marble slab that was probably from the Knightly period, but they also sculpted their own masterpieces.

The Italians respected Rodini and made it even more beautiful! In 1912 the Italians occupied the island and after the battle of Psinthos, on their way to Mandraki, they saw Rodini in front of them, with the vegetation and the waters, and they stopped to rest and water their horses. According to the available data, they followed the route to Ag. Anastasia. They entered through the Red Gate and left for Mandraki. The Italians in Rodini built bridges, restored the canals damaged by erosion, shaped the area of the only cafe and havouza, and they transferred the marble fountain in Symi Square. In the fountain that remained, they carved an inscription in Italian and Greek that says: "ACQUA FINA ACQUA RODINA - CHI TI BEVE RITORNAR



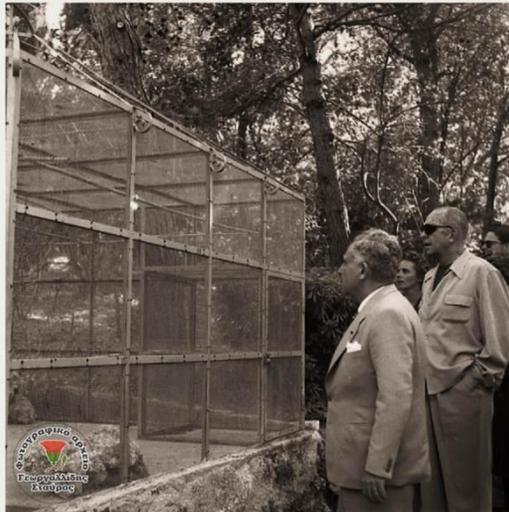
DEVE" The "Rodini" center was a relatively small building, next to a very large artificial lake, built under the protective shade of huge trees. On the east shore of the lake, from spring to autumn, an orchestra was installed. In the middle of the lake, there was a fairly large wooden track, floating on wooden barrels. The couples crossed the only track, through three wooden bridges. On the contrary, the German conquerors tried to change Rodini's physiognomy. In 1940, they expropriated real estate in Rodini. The conquerors, trying to create an infrastructure for the development of tourism, within the framework of their expediencies, build projects, preserve historical monuments, and utilize archaeological sites. In the park, they create a new one, the so-called



Italian Rodini-Rodino Park. In 1943 the Italians signed an armistice with the Germans who until 1945 who are here, burned many benches, not only in the park, leaving little compared to what existed before the war, thus

wanting to prevent people from gathering in Rodini. And the Liberation takes place, the Integration with mother Greece... After the Liberation, Rodini deteriorated and his condition remains miserable to this day. A bright exception is the period of Petridis' mayoralty, who wanted, and to a large extent succeeded, to make Rodini a pole of attraction for all Rodians, but also to bring tourists. Petridis realized that Rodini could bring money to Rhodes. He built a restaurant run by a Rhodian named Valsamoulis, which had an imposing entrance with the two marble lions carried from Castello's garden. It also had a dance floor. He created new wooden bridges, filled the river with ducks, swans and fish, decorated it with water lilies... He built corridors, he made cages, thus creating a zoo with monkeys and chimpanzees, and other

animals that Rhodes did not have. He also created two areas for the deer of Rhodes and the Kri-Kri, which he brought from Crete, to live in. He also brought two camels, one male and one female (one died quickly) and Rodites and tourists were photographed with them. You will see the photos where famous people are photographed and the royal couple, Pavlos and Frederiki who were guided there by Petridis. Everyone passed by Rodini, when they came to Rhodes, to see this paradise. Petridis covered the havouza that existed in the plane tree and was created by the Turks, because a small child drowned there. After the accident, he cemented it and repaired the stone bench that still exists today, around the fountain. Both the boats and the kiosks and the wine



festival were created during Petridis! Take advantage of the river, bringing boats and pedal boats. Varkaris was Spyros Kladakis who took care of feeding the ducks and the fish, and later it was Giannis Panagos. Rodini was part of our way of life, it was part of our daily life, it was the closest and most beloved place of escape. There were no ways to

go further back then. There we went for our school trips, to fly the kite on Clean Monday in Pefkakia... As children, our need to soak up the incredible beauty under the trees, among the running water, the bridges and the small waterfalls, was great. Rodini was part of our way of life, it was part of our daily life, it was the closest and most beloved place of escape. Let us stay with these beautiful memories.

Translation from the interview that Rodoula Louloudaki took from Mr Georgalidi and was published in the newspaper "Rodiaki" on the 13th of March.

TREE PLANTING PROJECT FOR THE CEMETERY
IN RHODES



Planting a tree is a meaningful and traditional way in the Jewish faith to honor the memory of departed loved ones and honor them.

The Jewish Community of Rhodes already began the reforestation of the cemetery. Despite the immaculate maintenance of our cemetery, we thought that we could offer the descendants of Rhodes, the honor of planting a tree in memory of victims of the Rhodes Shoah, or simply in memory of a departed loved one.



36 trees have been planted. 24 trees have been adopted. They all have a plaque mentioning the name (s) of the victims and the donor.

We, at the Jewish Community of Rhodes, are very enthusiastic about this project and pleased to offer this opportunity.

There is a limited number of trees. Anyone interested in participating in

this “mitzvah” could contact:

Carmen Cohen

Jewish Community of Rhodes

Email: jcrhodes@otenet.gr

**Hope that in 2021 we'll have more activities to share with you!
Keep in touch!**

Donations are welcomed!

If you wish to support our work for the preservation of our history and the up keeping of the community's buildings (cemetery, synagogue, museum) you can make a donation at our bank account or by credit card

National Bank of Greece
Rhodes Medieval Town branch

Jewish Community of Rhodes Kahal Shalom

Swift number-BIC
ETHNGRAA

IBAN and Account no.

GR4 10 110461 00000 4612 0408 599

If you are considering donating an artifact of your family to the Jewish Museum of Rhodes please contact us at jcrhodes@otenet.gr

We hope through your generosity our collection will continue to grow!