I.A.J.E. NEWSLETTER

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International Association of Jews from Egypt
Association Internationale des Juifs d'Egypte

EDITOR: Prof. Victor D. Sanua | IAJE, 2416 Quentin Road, Brooklyn, NY 11229 | 2002 Volume 4 No. 2

Editorial

In our preceding editorial in issue No. 5 Newsletter, we pointed out how *Jews from Egypt* are divided, those that have great nostalgia for the country they left behind and those who would like to forget about it, as one of our correspondents wrote, "El lefat, mate" (The past is dead). We must acknowledge that in previous issues of the newsletter, we were inclined to emphasize the good memories we have of the country despite that each one of us must have had unpleasant experiences. The Editor, during the critical period of 1948, was fired from his job, and had problems finding another one since he had an Italian passport. He was fortunate to find a position with a United Nations Office, which was exempted from the Company laws that caused the dismissal of many Jewish white-collar workers. Future issues of the newsletter will include both the pleasant and unpleasant memories of our members. In the case of the latter, we can offer the example of **Mr. Jacques Hasson** who feels bitter about his own experiences, as he was interned in 1956 in Notakal camp No.5. It is obvious that the conditions in 1956 were much worse than in 1948. In 1956, when Egypt expropriated the Suez Canal considered to be an international waterway, most British and French citizens were forcefully expelled from the country.

In this issue we are including long statements provided by some of our members. For example, we have included the reminiscences of **Mrs. Rachel Cwerner** and **Sarah Douek**, USA, where they expressed nostalgia, but also decry the fact that "they were peremptorily ordered to depart within a matter of days leaving behind everything including the possibility of even visiting again the graves of those we loved." They feel that the larger picture dwarfs

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A Wedding in the Shaar Ha'shamaim Synagogue, 1941

("Temple Ismaliah" on Adly Pasha, Cairo)

Professor Moshé Matalon sent us the picture appearing on this page. It was taken in the interior of the Synagogue at the wedding of his parents Ernest and Elise Matalon. It is a magnificent shot of the ceremony and the chandelier is of outstanding beauty reflecting the high standard of living that the Jews of Egypt had. Vita Bey Mosseri built it in1905, as a close replica of Solomon's Temple. The Editor, with his daughter, visited the Synagogue in 1982 and found six old men that Saturday morning. We had to wait for three more tourists to start the minyan. My daughter, the only woman, was asked by one of the congregants to sit on the other side of the aisle. Old traditions never die! We understand that the Synagogue is not open at the present time, in contrast to the Synagogue on Nebi Daniel in Alexandria, which can easily be visited.

Regarding the picture below, Mr. Matalon writes the following: "The names **Hamaoui** and **Titcheck**, are well familiar to me and I remember them well. We lived not too far from the Synagogue. I think it was in the center of the city near 'Passage Rivoli." I went to "Lycee du Caire" school until the end of 1956. Despite being a young boy, I remember vividly the dramatic experience of being in Cairo during the Sinai Campaign when we the "Yahuds" - were considered the "enemy" and we had to carefully obey the blackout in order not to give the authorities an excuse to blame us of treason. After the war, I was transferred to a Jewish school "La Goutte de Lait," for one year and finally ended at the "College des Freres a Bab-El

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Do you recognize anyone in this picture? In the background, the Hazan Hamaoui can be identified. Who is the person next to him?

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The editor visiting Shaar Ha'Shamaim

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passing nostalgic thoughts. On the other hand, Mr. Albert Oudiz seems to emphasize the nostalgic part of his life in Egypt. He wrote an article on the beautiful days he spent at Aboukir during his childhood, but he describes his consternation and depth of sorrow when he recently visited Aboukir, which is now a desolate place.

We would like to bring to the attention of our readers the work conducted by **Mrs. Mathilde Tagger** of Tel-Aviv who obtained 190 names of prominent Jews appearing in the Who's Who in Egypt in 1943 each with a short biographical sketch. We are happy to report that she is willing to send those sketches to anyone inquiring about a relative or known person. In the present issue, we have included a short biography of **Mr. Jacques Maleh**, a well-known journalist, which was sent to us by his son **Maurice Maleh**, who is presently involved with the Association of Jews from Egypt in the United Kingdom. We have included in our newsletter an article, retrieved from our archives, that Mr. Jacques Maleh wrote in 1977 when he returned to Egypt. He reports on the sad state of what was left of the thriving Jewish community. Periodically we plan to include in our newsletter a story about an illustrious Jew who lived in Egypt. The last issue had a biographical sketch of Rabbi Haim Nahum Eff. Suggestions for names are welcome.

The front page picture of this issue shows a wedding at Shaar Ha'shamaim around 1941 (Temple Ismaliah). Dr. Moshé Matalon sent this to us. It is the picture of his parents' wedding. One should marvel at the beauty of the interior, particularly the chandelier. One of our non-Egyptian correspondents, in looking at the front page picture in the last issue of the newsletter, writes: "Such a photograph brings a new picture of what I might have envisioned years ago as "Egyptian Jews." She states that such a picture could be seen in the USA in 1926. One of the purposes of our newsletter in showing pictures of our life in Egypt is to dispel the stereotype of a certain degree of "primitiveness" that people have about people coming from an African country.

Unfortunately, our efforts to expand our objectives are limited by a certain lack of support and therefore we are only able to publish two issues a years. Efforts to approach Foundations for substantial support have been a failure. Members are invited to write to the Editor if they have any suggestions about such a support. We have been able to collect, in the course of the past forty-year's, archival material which should be published. A newsletter where we can only present extracts of the material received, will never be adequate for that purpose. What is needed is a regu-

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All subscriptions should be made payable to the **International Association of Jews from Egypt (IAJE)**. For donors outside the USA, international money orders or dollars could be sent.

All funds are to be mailed to:
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Brooklyn, New York 11229, U.S.A.

lar journal, and we hope that one of these days, we shall be provided with substantial financial support for such a venture. We shall say "Amen!' to that. Please write to the Editor if you have any comments. Thanks

Wedding continued from page 1

-Louk" until the end of 1959. We left Egypt in September 1959 when I was 10 years old. My father was convinced that after 1956, that there was no future in Egypt but since he was working for a Jewish firm who wanted to liquidate the business, he agreed to stay with them and help them out. But after three years, he realized that there was no point waiting any longer and we immigrated to Israel. I grew up in Israel and did my undergraduate studies at Tel-Aviv University, then came to the US for graduate work and ended up in Chicago. I understand that some Egyptians want to forget everything about Egypt while others live in the past and cannot get over it. Clearly neither one is "right" and one thing about your newsletter is that it allows both camps to express their feelings something that I personally find quite interesting." Dr. Moshe Matalon is Professor in Engineering Sciences and Applied Mathematics at Northwestern University.

The Editor had his Bar Mitzvah at Shaar Ha'Shamaim Synagogue while Rabbi Nahum Eff. was officiating. Weddings were very pleasant occasion, particularly for youngsters, since every guest was given a "bonbonniere" box filled with candy with almonds inside.

He lived close by on Sharia Malika Farida, the wife of King Farouk. When Farouk divorced Farida, we lost the regal name of our street and it was replaced by Abdel Khalig Saroit Pasha. In 1982 when we visited the building, we noted that the word "pasha" was dropped from the name. It seemed that all royal names of streets, names of European historical figures and streets with the names of the elite and their titles were changed following the 1952 Egyptian revolution.

New Members and Renewals of Membership 2002

ABADY, Raphael & Linda, Brooklyn, NY
ABDELA, Angelo, S., New York, NY
ATTIAS, Zaki, Paris, France
BALASSIANO, Nissim, New York, NY
BAYDA, Fernande, Hallandale, FL
BENJAMIN, Odette, New York, NY
BISHOP, Rosette, S., Arlington, VA
BRAUNSTEIN, Albert, flighett, Australia
CASSUTO, Maggie, Forest Hills, NY
CASTRO, Elie, Brooklyn, NY
CHEHEBAR, Charles, Brooklyn, NY
COHEN, Elie, Paris, France,
COHEN, Joseph, Brooklyn, NY
COHEN-SABBAN, Nessim, Brooklyn, NY
CWERNER, Rachel, New York, NY
DOUEK, Sarah, New York, NY
DAVID, Raphael, New York, NY
DEWDNEY, Michelle, NSW, Australia
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ELLINSKY, Izi, Jersey City, NJ
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FETAYA, Andre, Rego Park, NY
GELFAND, Eve, M., Winston Salem, NC
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HASSID, Albert, Youset San Francisco, CA
HAYAT, David, Lake Success, NY
HILLEL, Hagar, Jerusalem, Israel
JABES, Gemma, M., Washington, D.C.
KUPER, Margie, Boca Raton, Fl,
LAGNADO, David, West Palm. Beach, Fl,
LEVI, Menasce, E., Los Angeles, CA
LIPKIN, Victor, Levallois Perret, France
LIPSITT, Lewis, P., Providence, RI
MAIO, Juliana, Beverly Hills, CA
MALAK, Simon, New York, NY
MALKA, Eli, S., White Plains, NY
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MATALON, Moshe, Wilmette, IL
MEHREZ, Gisele & Henri, Belmont, MA
MIRES, Sara, Dallas, TX
MIZRAHI, Suzanne, Boulogne-Billancourt, France
MODELSKI, Sylvia, Washington, D.C.
MODIANO, Mario, Athens, Greece
NAHUM, Elie, Milan, Italy
NISSEL, Frank, R., Amber, PA
PARDO, Tania, Toronto, Ontario
VIDAL, Susan, Verviers, Belgium
POLITI, **Dr.** Jacques, Hubbard, OH
ROFE, Elie, Brooklyn, NY
ROSENFELD, Samuel, L., New York, NY
ROMANO, Chaya, Brooklyn, NY
ROMANO, **Dr. & Mrs. V** Pampton Planes, N.J.
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SACHS, Hersh, Woodmere, NY
SALAMA, Victor, Brooklyn, NY
SANUA, David, Brooklyn, NY
SANUA, Yitzhak, Monchenblabach, Germany
SCHEININ, Eliakim, Givatayim, Israel
SCHUAL, Lillian, Great Neck, NY
SCHWARZ, Arturo, Milan, Italy
SEIDMAN, Shoshanah, Skokie, IL
SEMHON, Elie & Odette, New York, NY
SHAMA, Isaac, Brooklyn, NY
SIEGEL, Ruth, Newman, Brooklyn, NY
SION, Elie, L., New York, NY
SUTTON, Jack, Brooklyn, NY
VAN DER SHOOT, Esther F., Greenwich, Ct
VIOLA, Lucien, Marakesh, Morocco
WYNBLATT, Paul, P., Pittsburgh, PA
WINSTON, Tina, J., Washington, D.C.

A Short history of the expulsion of the Jews from Egypt in the 50's and their adaptation to Israel and France

Victor D. Sanua Ph.D. Research Professor St. John's University, Queens, NY

This report is based on interviews, questionnaires and videotaped interviews with Jews from Egypt residing in Israel and France. Jews from Egypt have lived comfortably for decades and felt quite secure until the beginning of the conflicts between Jews and Arabs in Palestine. They became quite uneasy about their future when protests and riots erupted in Egypt against the Balfour declaration, which proclaimed the establishment of a Jewish and Muslim State in Palestine.

It is only when open warfare took place in Palestine that their position became quite precarious. A large group of young men in Cairo were interned in a school and later in Camp Huckstep, a former American air base near Cairo. In Alexandria, they were interned at Camp Aboukir. Women were interned in the

prison of foreigners. The justification for their internment was that they were active Zionists. A number of businesses were sequestered. The Company Law was enforced which meant that thousands of Jews lost their jobs because they had a foreign citizenship, in spite of the fact that several generations of their families had lived in the country. In a future paper, we shall explain why the Jews and non-Jews born in Egypt maintained the nationality of their parents. Muslim communists and members of the Muslim Brotherhood were also interned at Camp Huckstep. This was quite an uncomfortable situation because of enmity between the two groups.

In the course of the years after 1948, many Jews had to leave forcibly or on their own. Because of their foreign citizenship, it was very hard for them to find jobs. During the 1956 war when England, France and Israel attacked Egypt after the government took possession of the Suez Canal, most citizens of France and England were arrested, interned and deported. Families were destitute, and they left with their luggage closely examined at the Customs. International organizations were helping the deported go to Italy, France and England, etc.

In the initial stages of internment in 1948, the conditions were chaotic, but in time the Jews organized themselves. According to some of our interviewees, the internment had a positive influence on their intellectual development, since anyone with particular skills, educational and professional, was involved in teaching They even observed the Shabbat. There was no evidence of cruelty or physical abuse during this period, contrary to the situation in 1956 when some Jews sustained serious hardships.

In 1948, a small group of Jews and Muslims was transferred to the Sinai desert village El Tor, which had been used as a former quarantine station. The living conditions were dismal due to the excessive heat and cold. The prisoners managed to send a letter (a copy to appear in a future issue) to the outside world about the horrible conditions under which they were interned. A large percentage of Jews from Egypt went to Israel and others went to European countries, the Americas, and Australia. Upon leaving the country, they appear to have had most unpleasant experiences at Gate No. 5 in Alexandria because of the arbitrariness of the customs officials. Our efforts in the International Association of Jews from Egypt are to connect these various groups around the world which are a dying breed.

Quite a number of Jews settled in Israel and had a difficult time adjust ing to the economic and social conditions after the establishment of the State of Israel. They had to learn a new language, Hebrew. In time, because of their knowledge of many languages, they were able to find jobs in banks, travel agencies, airlines and all types of white-collar positions. While they were not able to attend universities, their children were able to enter the regular professions. Jews in France seemed to have had a much easier time despite encountering some anti-Semitism. They had no problem with the French language since most of them attended French schools in Egypt.

In spite of the horrendous experiences incurred by Jews from Egypt subsequent to their departure, it is felt that most of them show little bitterness and many have become nostalgic about their life prior to 1948. Bitterness is possibly found among those who were interned.

The Second Exodus: The Jews from Egypt. A Presentation at the Sephardic Community Center

On November 12, 2002, the Sephardic Community Center in Brooklyn arranged for a special presentation and discussion with **Professor Victor Sanua** on the Jews from Egypt. He presented information about the exodus of Jews from Egypt in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1972 after the wars between Arab counties and Israel, He reported on his experiences visiting Alexandria and Cairo after an absence of about 40 years. He presented three short videos. The first one was a documentary on the remnants of the Jewish community of Alexandria. It was made by Canadian Television network and narrated in French. The main focus of the video is on **Mr. Joseph Harari**, an 81-year-old bachelor, the only Jew who was still in business around 1995. In the film, he is pictured in his haberdashery measuring cloth and speaking Arabic with his clients. He tells the interviewer that he is selling her merchandise at 50% discount. We see him closing the store with the assistance of Arab children.

Later, Mr. Joseph Harari is shown in the empty offices of the Alexandria Rabbinate accompanied by **Mrs. Lina Mattatia,** who was the treasurer. Mr. Harari is given the opportunity to reminisce about the Jewish community in Alexandria. He indicated that there are three cemeteries in Alexandria which are in better shape than the Bassatin cemetery in Cairo. The filmmaker asked Mr. Harari to invite all the Jews of Alexandria to attend the Shabbat services, but only 4 men appeared. Since there was no minyan each man prayed separately. Two of the men were interviewed, and one of them had tears in his eyes when he spoke about what would happen to the Synagogue after they were gone.

In 2001, the Editor videotaped a trip to Alexandria when he was on a cruise. The video includes a long interview with Mr. Harari sitting in the Rabbinate Office which basically was a discussion about the present condition of the Jewish community in Alexandria. Their source of income is the selling and renting of buildings left by rich Jews. Apparently, not all of Jewish property has been expropriated. I discussed with him the question of the archives in the rabbinate. We had some problems making clear what we were talking about. Finally, I said that my grandfather was married in Alexandria, and that I would like to get a record. His response was that all records stayed "here!" He hit the table several times to emphasize his point. When we suggested that it would be possible for us to send someone from the USA and make copies of the archives, his reaction was that he had to ask his lawyer and repeated himself more than once. My assumption is that Mr. Harari does not want any outsiders

REMINDER:

to disturb the status quo.

The new president in the Rabbinate is a former dentist, **Dr. Salama**, who is more than 85 years old. Likewise he seems to be reluctant to let people copy the archives. This presents a serious problem since both Mr. Harari and Dr. Salama, do not seem to appreciate the significance of the request made of them.

The third video that was shown is "A RETURN TO CAIRO" that was produced in 1977 when Mr. Mosseri visited Cairo. Mr. Mosseri takes us to his old home, his school Sybille and the old rabbinate. He meets the same "bawab" (doorman) who recognized him. The most distressful part of the visit was the Bassatin cemetery, which is in a deplorable state. Many of the marble top burial stone names had been removed. We see people living in some mausoleums and chickens running around the burial stones. At one point, Mr. Mosseri cried because of the desolation.

The discussion during the presentation was continued with many individuals reporting on their own experiences in leaving the country.

Frank Nissel's Flight to Egypt

"My grandparents on my father's side were staunch Zionists in the early part of the 20th century. Their children, among them my father, Hans, and my uncle Werner were brought up in this environment and had intended to emigrate from Germany to Palestine when World War I intervened...

My uncle Werner, who was a doctor, emigrated to Jerusalem in 1923 and promptly founded the Magen David Adom (Red David's Star), the equivalent of the Red Cross there.

My father was an executive with the Berlin power company, Bewag, and had extensive international connections through his publications on power distribution costing...

When Hitler came to power in 1933, my parents immediately realized that this could not have a happy ending and decided to emigrate to Palestine. Even prior to Hitler's arrival anti-Semitism was so strong in Berlin that I had to attend a pri-

Sephardic House, the Cultural Division of the ASF presents

The Sephardic Experience Weekend
Celebrating the Jews from Egypt

March 28,29,30,2003

As in each previous *Sephardic Experience Weekend,* Sephardic House will offer participants immersion into Sephardic life in an individual county. This year, Sephardic House will explore *the life of Jews in Egypt* before the great immigration to Israel and to other countries in the 1950's - the largest exodus of Jews from that country since biblical times. Over 80,000 Jews of Egypt lived in peace and harmony within the mainstream culture during this era of good will and tolerance, an era and way of life that has been literally swept away. Sephardic House will explore this lost world through memories of members and descendents of this community, in the context of today's world.

Guest Speakers:

Speakers will address various historic, cultural and personal aspects of the lost world of The Jews from Egypt.

Friday Evening **- Rabbi Albert Gabbai**, born in Cairo, Egypt is the Rabbi of Mikve Israel of Philadelphia, the sister synagogue to Congregation Shearith Israel, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in N.Y.C.. Rabbi Gabbai will discuss Jewish Religious Life, Customs' and Traditions of the Jews in Egypt.

Saturday Evening - **Professor Jean-Marc Oppenheim,** Visiting Associate Professor of History, Department of History, Marymount College of Fordham University who was born in Cairo and grew up in Alexandria. He will discuss, "The Jewish Egyptian Political Dynamic." He will provide a social and political overview of Egyptian Jewish life, and will discuss the contribution of Egyptian Jews to mainstream Egyptian society.

Sunday: 10-12:30 PM - Morning Round Table Discussion: "La Vie Juive" In Egypt focusing on aspects of everyday life for Egyptian Jews, including insights into growing up in Egypt. Panelists will include:
Dr. Victor Sanua, a Research Professor in Psychology at St. John's University and President and Editor of the *International Association of Jews From Egyp*t newsletter, will discuss Jewish life in Cairo in both the recent past and present.

Dr. Pierre Cachia, Professor of Contemporary Arabic Literature at Columbia University, was born in Fayum, Egypt. He will talk about "The Foreign Communities in Provincial Egypt."

Mr. David Ribicoff, of Bukharian origin lived in both Cairo and Alexandria till the Suez Canal crisis 1956. He will share his remembrances of his life in both cities.

Sunday afternoon program 12:30-2:30 PM. A buffet luncheon of Egyptian food will be served.

Racheline and Esther Balassiano, two young women, twenty and twenty two years of age whose parents still live in Egypt, will talk about life today for the remaining Jews. They are students in Boston and will join us for the weekend.

Sunday afternoon program 3:00 PM. Screening of three short documentary films. They will include an interview with **Mr. Joseph Harari**, President of the Jewish community of Alexandria, by a Canadian TV interviewer. *Return to Cairo*, by **Mr. Mosseri** from Brooklyn. The third video is a travelogue of **Dr.Victor Sanua's** trip to Alexandria about a year ago when he interviewed Mr. Harari. Dr. Sanua will introduce the three videos.

Sephardic House Bookstore: Books, videos, musical cassettes and CD's will be on sale, Saturday evening and Sunday featuring subjects related to the weekend. Saturday night concert by violinist **Felix Mizrahi**. French music as a background.

vate grade school for the first year. This required my going clear across Berlin by subway and streetcar for an hour each way alone at the age of 6 years.

My father left his executive position and packed up to go to Haifa. Our boat, the Esperia of the Lloyd Triestino from Trieste stopped in Alexandria on the way. My father got off to visit some acquaintances at the local power company, the Societe Lebon. They offered him a job for a few months so we got off the boat and settled in at the Pension Guggenheim in Sidi Bishr.

Since it was the beginning of the school year and I was 7 years old, my parents sent me to a close by French School. I only spoke German, but I recall learning French in short order with the use of sign language.

After about 3 months, the project in Alexandria concluded and my father got himself a job with the Egyptian Public Works Ministry in Cairo. We were also able to join the fabulous Maadi Sporting Club where I picked up swimming. I later made the Egyptian National Swimming Team with co-member Ali Sabry, later pilot to King Farouk and subsequently prime minister.

In Maadi, I attended Miss Ray's English school where I learned my first English. Later, I attended the Lycee Francais in Bab El Louk and the English School in Heliopolis. I graduated from the latter with my High School Certificate from London University. That was in 1942 when the Germans were at the door of Egypt with the Alamein crises.

At the height of the Alamein crisis, the British authorities called my father at his office on the morning of July 2nd offering him and his family evacuation to a safer area. We were to be at Bab El Louk train station that same evening with one suitcase per person...

When we arrived at the train station, we were given a choice of two trains. One was to go to Suez where we would board a boat to Ethiopia. The other would go to Ismailia where we would cross the Suez Canal by ferry and be taken by train to Jerusalem. My parents opted for the latter because they had relatives there and they felt that if the Germans took Egypt, they would also capture Ethiopia and Palestine...

When the Germans were driven back and out of Africa, early in 1943, we were able to return to Egypt. I then attended the American University in Cairo where I made some very good contacts with the U.S. Army entertainment and education people who had set up shop there. I became the projectionist at the headquarters movie theatre in Garden City where we had quite a few star-studded premieres attended by movie stars. I also accompanied visiting stars such as Jack Benny to the local sights and the Muski to make certain that they did not get ripped off. I also arranged private movie showings for the Commanding General at his home when necessary.

These contacts got me an immigration visa to the U.S. and transport on a U.S. troop carrier, the NYU Victory on her last voyage prior to scrapping. I arrived in the U.S. on March 8, 1946.

Egyptian Expressions:

Blanche Cohen Sachs

Arabic - **English** - French

Sofra Dayman. **May your table be always that good**. Que votre table soit toujours aussi bonne. • *Naeeman*. **Pleasant bath or shower (When coming out of the bath or shower)**. Bon bain (Ca se dit apres un bain ou une douche). • *Rabenah Yechaleek*. **May G-d keep you (alive)**. Que le bon Dieu te garde. • *Teishe (mas) Teishi (fem)*. **May you live**. Que tu vives. • *Teishe oue tefrah (mas) Teishi oue tefrahi (fem)*. **May you live and be happy**. Que tu vives et que tu sois heureux. Que tu vives et que tu sois heureuse. • *Sabeh el kheir*. **Good morning (Lit., May you have plenty)**. Que le matin soit plein de bien. • *Sabah el eshta*. **Morning of cream**. Matinée de crème. • *Sabah el fole*. **Morning of fole (white flowers more fragrant than jasmin)**. Matinèe de fole (jasmin). • *Sibak (mas) Sibek (fem)*. **Let go. Don't bother**. Laisse aller. Ne t'en fais pas. • *Maa el salama*. **Go with peace**. Va en Paix. • *Rabena yestor*. **G-d protects**. Le bon Dieu protège. *Maalesh*. **It's alright**. Ca ni fait rien.

Jacques Maleh (1906-1989)



"My late father was born at no 13 rue Sebil el Khazindar, Albassia, Cairo on 13 January 1906, the eldest son of Joseph and Alice. His grandfather Joseph Levy was a successful merchant, known as 'Abou El Dohab' (gold maker) and was born in Manchester, England, where his own father had emigrated from Aleppo in Syria. My father started writing poems in 1926 during his trip to Paris and published 'Chimeres' in 1927 (Editions Sequana, Paris). The newspaper 'La Liberte' published his poems. In 1935 he wrote his novel 'Deux Coeurs et Dieux' (Editions Palombo, Cairo) following a love affair which ended very sadly. He was a member of the Cairo literary circle 'Les Essayistes' founded by his friend Elian J. Finbery who became a well-known novelist based in Paris. Other famous members included Raoul Parme, Robert Blum, and Albert Cassery.

L'Aurore was originally published in Constantinople in 1909. My father had met the owner (Lucien Scinto) at the 'Union Universelle de la Jeunesse Juive.' After working for Scinto he was offered the paper in 1932 when Scinto became too ill to continue. The paper was in financial trouble by that time but with the assistance of the Jewish Community its circulation eventually rose to a peak of 30,000 per week...

To jump to more recent times, my father was one of the very early ones to be expelled. In May 1953 his weekly newspaper 'la Menorah' (successor to his paper L'Aurore which folded in 1940 when

be joined the British Army) was closed down and its assets confiscated after the overthrow of Neguib (with whom he had a good relationship). He was arrested and imprisoned with 14 other Palestinian detainees accused of theft. My mother recalls these worrying times vividly because of the traumatic manner of his arrest as the security police knocked loudly on his door at 5 in the morning to arrest him without explanation. He was denied any legal representation and spent 40 days in awful conditions accused of being an enemy of the State. He was given the choice of either staying in prison or leaving the country. He left on a plane bound for Paris with just EL5 in his pocket... The expulsion made front-page news in the weekly Jewish Chronicle published in London. My father had been the JC's Middle East correspondent in Cairo for many years. His active correspondence to the JC as well as other overseas publishers probably made him an obvious target for the new regime. Deep down, I think he was probably quite glad to leave Egypt and start afresh despite the obvious difficulties that lay ahead...

The JC came to his rescue and offered him an editorial position spending two years in Paris running their Office. He then transferred to London as Editor of the JC's special news bulletin distributed worldwide among professional institutions. The whole family was reunited in London in 1956 when my mother left Egypt for good. We first lived in a deprived district of London but always an optimist, my father successfully rebuilt his life in England receiving some initial help from the Jewish Refugees Committee which helped us to move to a nice area... He continued to freelance for the JC and other newspapers focusing on the Middle East, his congenial manner and wide experience confirming his reputation in Europe. His retirement from the JC in 1972 was immediately followed by a new assignment in Paris at the invitation of Rabbi Grunwald, the owner of the weekly 'La Tribune Juive' headquartered and published in Strasbourg. My father jumped at the opportunity and set about enthusiastically working in Paris looking up old friends. Combining his position with a foreign correspondent's job once again for the JC, he stayed happily in Paris until 1979. He died peacefully in 1989 in London."
Reported by **Maurice Maleh**, London, October 2002

Long History of Egyptian Jewry Draws to a Close

By: **Jacques Maleh** (Jewish Chronicle - England, Nov. 16, 1977)

"Any Jew who once lived in Egypt can today obtain a visa and pay a return visit. During the past few months, at least a thousand now living in France, mainly Paris, have done so spending up to a month in the land of their birth and upbringing. In May 1948, when the State of Israel was established, there were some 64,500 Jews in Egypt. Today, there are perhaps 150, all of them elderly and many of them sick. I have just interviewed one of the returning visitors. He has lived in Paris for a long time, and his trip to Egypt was the first he made in nearly 22 years. When he left Egypt in 1956, Cairo had a population of some three million.

Today the Egyptian capital is suffocating under the weight of eight million inhabitants. Walking up and down the city's main streets, he saw the once internationally known stores and fashion boutiques, which had made the reputation of commercial Cairo, were still there. They still bore the names of their former Jewish owners, names once well known in Egypt - but that was the only Jewish thing about them. Today, their owners and staff are 100 percent Moslem or Copt.

The Shaar Ha'Shamayim Synagogue, the only one still functioning - after a fashion - in Cairo, was only a short distance from the hotel where the visitor was staying. In the old days, the late Chief Rabbi of Egypt, Rabbi Haim Nahum, had officiated there. On Holy days and festivals, every seat was occupied, and overflow services were organized in other buildings near by... Haret el-Yahoud, where once seven synagogues were always open. Not any more. All that remains of those seven houses of worship is the Rav Moshe Synagogue; closed, decrepit, decaying into ruins almost as one looks at it. The only sign of life was an elderly Nubian "caretaker"... Continuing his odyssey, our visitor traveled on to Alexandria, the great port city of his birth. Its beautiful Eliahu Hanavi Synagogue looked just as it had when he last visited it 25 years ago, spotless and carefully maintained. He went in search of the "rabbi?' an old man of 80 known as Haham Chemata Hadida. Yes, Haham Hadida told the visitor, occasional services were still held at Eliahu Hanavi - when a minyan could be scraped together. There were only about 100 Jews left in Alexandria.

They were elderly - average age, 60, but there was one "young man" of 38, who was in charge for the aged at Moharrem Bey. Almost all the other remaining Jews in Alexandria lived there or in other homes. There bad not been a wedding in the synagogue for ten years. A couple of Jewish tourists happened to come along while our visitor was talking to Haham Hadida, and he asked them whether they would like to help make up a minyan so that he could hold a service. They did so, of course, and waited while the additional men needed were summoned to the synagogue.

Our visitor was moved to tears as he heard the ancient, time-honored prayers recited once again in the synagogue where he used to worship regularly with his parents. Eliahu Hanavi is the only survivor of the many synagogues which once graced Alexandria, together with a yeshiva, a bet hamidrash and numerous schools. Of all of them, no sign remains not even the names on the doors.

The final chapter in the long and often glorious history of Egyptian Jewry is drawing to its sad close. This history has yet to be written, and time is pressing. Many of the people who lived that history are no longer with us. Soon, the material evidence will also disappear; some of it sold to tourists and visitors by the antique and curio dealers of Cairo."

L'Egypte 2002... Souvenirs Et Nostalgie

"C'est avec un vif plaisir que je recois et

lis les divers bulletins publies par l'Association des Juifs d'originaires d'Egypte. C'est agreable et interessant, mais je ne partage pas ni l'enthousiasme, en parlant du bon vieux temps, ni la nostalgie de mes compatriotes. - Les Juifs d'Egypte. En effet, je crois necessaire de rappeler les points suivants qu'on a tendance a oublier:

-Des l'annonce de la decision de l'O N U en Novembre 1947 - du partage de la Palestine, un etat Juif - un etat Musulmam, l'attitude des Egyptiens envers les Juifs a change en notre defaveur. Nous avons ete taxes de Sionistes - "sahyouni"- Le Samedi 15 Mai 1948, tous les etats Arabes partent en guerre contre Isreal. Peut-on oublier la mise sous sequestre de certains biens Juifs et arrestations de Juifs dans la nuit du Vendredi 14 Mai 1948 pour etre internes au Caire (banlieue d'Heliopolis) et a Alexandrie (camp RAF d'Aboukir)? Dans la crainte et l'incertitute, nous assistons aux departs de familles Juives - des le debut de 1949. Destination: Israel, via Marseille ou Brindisi.

-Juillet 1956 - nationalisation du Canal de Suez par Nasser. Nouvelles craintes. Suite aux evenements de Suez de Novembre/Octobre 1956, nouvelles vagues d'arrestations de Juifs dans la nuit du Jeudi ler. Novembre 1956. Tous internes du Caire a l'Ecole Juive d'Abassieh dans des conditions tres dure pendant les premiers quinze jours. Simultanement, mîs sous sequeste de tous les biens Juifs et nombreuses assignations a residence.

Grace au cessez-le feu du 12 ou 15 Novembre 1956 - une catastrophe a ete evitee. Des la mi-Novembre 1956 - ce fut le debut des expulsions massives et definitives de tous les Juifs vivant en Egypte. Je dirai, aussi, un hold up de tous les biens des Juifs et braderie de nos appartement. Pour les internes, c'etait simple: renoncer a la nationalite Egyptienne et expulsion immediate avec un "laissez-passer" - aller sans retour,... Merci bikbachi Nasser. Comment parler du bon vieux temps, de nostalgie et oublier les avanies que les Juifs ont subies avant, pendant et après Nasser. Comment oublier: Yahoudi,... ebn el Kalb ou ebn charmouta,...

En Europe ou ailleurs, les premieres annees furent tres dures surtout pour les personnes agees et presque obligees de tendre la main. Grace a Dieu, nous avons tous, drolement, reussi notre insertion. Mieux, nous avons un standard de vie tres superieur a celui que nous aurions pu avoir en Egypte, proprietaire de notre logement, voire d'une residence secondaire, voitures, etudes superieures pour nos enfant, couverture sociale, retraite a 60 ans et voyages a travers le monde pour notre plaisir.

Resultats, gardons nos souvenirs de jeunesse enfouis dans notre coeur, sans besoin des les etaler regulierement. Quand a la nostalgie, il y a longtemps qu'elle s'est estompee après 45 ans de sejour en France. Adieu, definitivement l'Egypte.Je doute fort aussi que nos enfants nes en France ou ailleurs soient vraiment interesses par notre prope jeunesse en Egypte... "El lefath mate" - le passe est mort.

Cette reflexion est dediee a tous mes camarade du camp No. 5 -Notakal 5, Le Caire, Nov. 1956.

Jacques Hasson - Marseille 18/9/02

Aboukir

Editor's Note: The following story was sent to us by Mr. **Albert Oudiz** from Paris in which he reminisces about the wonderful vacations he had with his family at ABOUKIR beach. In view of the great length of his article, we are only including the first paragraph where he evokes pleasant memories, and the last paragraph, which describes ABOUKIR today. He profoundly expresses his deep dismay combined with sorrow regarding the present condition of the beach facilities, a fabulous place during his young years Mr. Oudiz is one of those who does not believe in"El lefat mate" (What is past is dead!)

"Il m'arrive de plus souvent de laisser mon esprit vagabonder, rechercher dans le passé les moments tragiques ou heureux qui ont marqué mon enfance, ma jeunesse. Souvent aussi d'ailleurs, ma mémoire sans demander de permission quelconque s'amuse à remonter dans le temps pour s'attarder sur certains épisodes de ma vie, ne retenant que les souvenirs agréables, que le temps, aura de surplus, embellis, oubliant les mécomptes et les désagréments, pour ne garder que tout ce qui m'aura fait sourire ou rendu heureux. Je revis, alors, avec bonheur ces instants privilégiés précieusement gardés au plus profond de moi. C'est ainsi que depuis quelque temps, me reviennent en mémoire les vacances de ma prime jeunesse à Aboukir, et un sourire attendri me vient aux lèvres, car elles me font remémorer des moments de joies simples et de douceur de vivre que j'ai rarement-retrouvés depuis...

A la fin du repas nous sommes allés nous promener sur la plage. Quelle désolation! Le village était en ruine, sur le bord de mer, le cadavre d'un chien crevé finissait de souiller le sable. Un nuage passa et couvrit le soleil. Aussitôt tout prit un aspect sinistre. Il n'y avait plus d'hôtel Schmoul, plus de baigneurs s'ébattant dans l'eau ou étendus sur le sable. Les bungalows couverts de poussière semblaient déserts et abandonnés. Le sol des rues en terre battue était défoncé et recouvert de part en part de mares d'eau croupissantes. L'angoisse nous prit à la gorge devant un tel spectacle. Le temps avait inexorablement accompli son travail destructeur et sur l'image nos anciennes vacances avait tiré un voile gris couleur de deuil, déchiré par endroits, à travers les lambeaux duquel je voyais apparaître avec une étonnante précision des scènes heureuses qui avaient enchanté mon enfance."

Albert OUDIZ, Paris

Book: The Jasmine Necklace

The following memoirs are extracts from the last chapter. by **Suzanne Vidal Pirotte** (Ave des Linaigretts No. 1, B 4801 Verviers, Belgium)

The Dream that Crumbled

"We were basking in the sun in Alexandria. It was July 26, 1956 when the announcement of the nationalization of the Suez Canal was made. As we did not meddle in politics, it came as a surprise but did not worry us. Life went on as usual. We made the most of our holiday,



"Sham El Nissim" Celebration 1937

The above picture was taken in 1937 at Hawandiah, a sugar refinery town about 35 kilometers from Cairo, during the celebration of Sham el Nissim, which is a national holiday in Egypt. The ceremony goes back to ancient Egyptian history when a maiden was thrown into the Nile to ingratiate the river, which is so important to the country. Today, a doll of mud is thrown into the Nile. The festival is celebrated by the eating of a very smelly fish called "Feseekh"! in Arabic. The Editor can still smell it after being in the USA for more than 50 years. More than half of the people in the picture are not with us anymore. Your editor is on the far left, first row. Hawandiah was a village made of villas for the European employees with beautiful gardens. My Uncle Nissim Sanua who was an engineer at the plant invited the family to celebrate Sham el Nissim.

living life to the fullest. When that blessed period was up, the return trip to Cairo was scheduled...

Back home, however, an insidious then gradually violent anti-Jewish campaign was launched in newspapers and on the radio. Group of people gathered around a reader in the streets or a radio pouring out a high-pitched rhetoric to eager believers. I did not understand what was being said because it was classical Arabic and I spoke everyday Arabic, but I kept hearing the word *Yehud,* Jews, and the hate-filled looks were clear...

Fear grew with the massive arrests of men and women. No one knew where the prisoners were taken. A short time later the families received notice that these dangerous criminals were to be expelled from the country but that as a measure of clemency, only the next-of-kin would be authorized to see them on their way to no one knew where. And see them they did. Carried away, chained one to another, their wrists in handcuffs, no words could be exchanged... History repeated itself. Jewish enterprises were confiscated, their assets frozen. Others were put on a "black list"... Jews who had an Egyptian nationality lost it and became stateless persons with no one to defend them... As for the French and British subjects, these were ordered to leave in twenty-four-hours, seven days at the least. My childhood friend Jacqueline and her family were in that "enemy group"...

Two weeks later I left on my own. I was spared the indignity of the usual physical search that more Jews leaving for good had undergone. My precious books that had passed through censorship were not torn to check for any illegal matter, nor were my shoe heels broken open or my seams cracked to check for money or dangerous weapons, as was the usual routine for Customs agents...

On my way to the plane, I raised my hand and waved my scarf hoping my father would see it and know that everything had gone well. It was the last farewell, the last adieu, the end of an era and a step into the unknown. We were to settle in Italy, the country of our passport of which we did not speak the language... Leaving our sunshine, our habits and customs behind, that scarf was the flag of defeat, of the unforeseeable and of deep heartache. It was the parting of the roads that were never to meet again... *I would never wear a jasmine necklace*." Contact the author to purchase this book.

The Nebi Daniel Initiative

A Consulatiative Paper for the Preservation of the Jewish Heritage in Alexandria

"A group of us in Europe has tried to address the issue of the preservation of our heritage in Alexandria. We have reached a point where we need the broadest possible consensus among Jews from Alexandria or other cities in Egypt in support of our efforts. We are soliciting as well any practical help we can receive from interested parties. We are asking for your expression of support and for any comments you may wish to give. For those of you who can give practical help, we would also be most interested hearing from you."

Anyone interested in helping the Nebi Daniel Initiative should get in touch with Ted Nahmias: 22 Earls Terrace, London W8 6LP, UK - admin@nebidaniel.com

Biographies of Prominent Jews of Egypt

"According to Biographical appendices added to the 1942 and 1943 'Annuaire des Juifs d'Egypte et du Proche-Orient,' Published by 'Societe des Editions Historiques Juive d'Egypte." Compiled by **Mathilde Tagger**.

Remarks:

1. * Asterisk after a name indicates that the biography is found in both Annuals.
2. (P) after a name indicates that a portrait is joined to the biography.
3. For a copy of a biography, contact me at *tagger@actcom.il*
4. This list has been first published in the Journal of the Israel Genealogical Society *Sharsheret Hadorot,* vol. 13, No. 2-3,

1999.

Some Statistics for the 190 biographies: (1) 10 persons have no birth date (2) The oldest person was born in 1857 and the youngest in 1917. (3) Two thirds were born between 1880 and 1899. (4) More than 60% were born in Egypt. (5) 12% were born in Turkey. (6) 7.5% were born in Greece. (7) 7% were born in Eastern Europe (Ashkenazi Jews)

Index of countries: **Alg** = Algeria, **Byel** = Byelorus, **E-Y** = Erets Yisral, **Eg** = Egypt, **Ger** = Germany, **Gre** = Greece, **Ik** = Irak, **Ita** = Italia, **Lbn** = Lebanon, **Lyb** = Libya, **Pol** = Poland, **Rum** = Rumania, **Rus** = Russia, S. **Afr** = South Africa, **Slvn** = Slovenia, **Syr** = Syria, **Trk** = Turkey, **Tun** = Tunisia, **UK** = United Kingdom

Family and first name	Father	Birthtown	cty	date
Abecassis, Asian	Salomon	Mehalla el Kbir	Eg	1885
Acher Abramin	Samuel	Cairo	Eg	1875
Adda, Elie	Jacques	Cairo	Eg	1883
Adda, Joseph (P*)	Abram	Alexandria	Eg	1887
Adda,Rene	Cesar	Cairo	Eg	1879
Adda, Victor* (P*)	Abrahm	Nexandria	Eg	1885
Ades, Emile	Nessim	Egypt	Eg	XXX
Agami-Levy, Aslan	Moise Levy	Cairo	Eg	1882
Agami-Levy,Salomon*	David	Egypt	Eg	1906
Aghion, Gaston	Behor	Alexandria	Eg	1886
Aghion, Max	Cesar Behor	Cairo	Eg	1891
Alexander, Aron	xxx	South Africa	S.Afr	1888
Algagli, Victoil	Salavator	Alexandria	Eg	1911
Amber, Shaoul*	Ibrahim	Baghdad	Irk	1880
Amiel, Isaac	Elie	Khania (Crete)	Gre	1895
Aptekman, Alexandre	Elie	Dvinsky	Rus	1884
Arwas, Viclor*	Moise	Jerusalem	E-Y	1903
Avigdor, Samuel	Isaac Haim	Aidin	Trk	1870
Azoulai, Jacques	Mercado	Cairo	Eg	1889
Babani, Leon	xxx	Istanbul	Trk	1886
Baragan, Marc	xxx	Cairo	Eg	1893
Barcilon, Haim	Chemtov	Tantah	Eg	1900
Bassan, Leon	Albert	Aidin	Trk	1883
Benacher, Moise	Acher	Samdormierz	Pol	1900
Benghiat Joe	Ephraim	Aden	Yem	1903
Benveniste, Isaac	Vita	xxx	xxx	xxxx
Benyacar, Marco*	Behor	Salihli by Izmir	Trk	1905
Benzakein, Felix	xxx	Tantah	Eg	1895
Beressi, Victor*	Israel	Saloniki	Gre	1894
Berman, Michel (P*)	xxx	Odessa	Rus	1885
Bigio, Selim	Haim	Alexandria	Eg	1876
Bitchai, Jacob	Selig	Odessa	Rus	1894
Blattner, Henri	David	Jaffa	E-Y	1880
Bond!, Giuseppe A.	Abraham	Candia	Gre	1865
Campos, Benvenuto (P*)	xxx	Alexandria	Eg	1873
Castro, Leon	xxx	Izmir	Trk	1883
Cattan, Aslan* (P*)	xxx	Cairo	Eg	1909
Cattaui, Aslan Levy	Joseph	Alexandria	Eg	1890
Cattaui, Joseph	Asian	Cairo	Eg	1861
Cattaui, Rene (P*)	Joseph	Cairo	Eg	1896
Chalom, Rudolphe (P*)	Alfred	Cairo	Eg	1886
Chemla, Clement	Jacob	Tunis	Tun	1874
Chemla, Victor	Jacob	Tunis	Tun	1870
Chonchol, David*	xxx	Izmir	Trk	1893
Choueka,Jacques*	David	Aleppo	Syr	1895
Cicurel, David	Abraham	Izmir	Trk	1891
Cicurel, David*	Abraham	Izmir	Trk	1891
Cicurel, Salvator (P*)	Moreno	Cairo	Eg	1894
Cohen-Galatz, Isaac*	Sulim	Galatz:	Rum	1898
Cohen, Alfred N.	Isaac Haim	Tunis	Trk	1881
Cohen, Daniel	Ephraim	Alexandria	Eg	1895
Cohen, Elie	Aron	Alexandria	Eg	1899
Cohen, Rene	Elie	Cairo	Eg	1888
Cohenca, Monis	Giacomo	Alexandria	Eg	1885
Dichi, Moise	Elie	Cairo	Eg	1893
Dona, Clement	Isaac	Tantah	Eg	1895
Dorra, Haim (P*)	Isaac	Damascus	Syr	1888
Dorra, Jacques	Isaac	Damascus	Syr	1890
Douek, Raphael	Selim	Beyruth	Lbn	1892
Edrei, Max	xxx	Egypt	Eg	1888
Elia, Albert	Raphael	Alexandria	Eg	1893
Engel, Hermann	Gustave	Hamburg	Ger	1886
Errera, Isaac	Salomon	Alexandria	Eg	1882
Eskiya, Laure	Hayrn	Aidin	Trk	1914
Ezri, Abramino,	Nessim	Alexandria	Eg	1879
Ezron, Ailbert	Said	Jaffa	E-Y	1891
Farag, Mourad	Lichae	Cairo	Eg	1867
Fargeon, Maurice	Rahamim	Cairo	Eg	1906
Farhi, Joseph	Mourad	Damascus	Syr	1887
Forte, David*	Samuel	Cairo	Eg	xxx
Forte, Joseph	Leon	Cairo	Eg	1874
Franco, Moses L.	Leon	Cairo	Eg	1887
Frangi, Salomon	Nessim	Cairo	Eg	1879
Fresco, Jacques	Haim	Istanbul	Trk	1878
Fresco, Victor	Nessim	Cairo	Eg	1889
Gattegno, Maurice	Samuel	Alexandria	Eg	1877
Goar, Edwin (P*)	Joseph	Alexandria	Eg	1875
Goar, Jacques	xxx	Alexandria	Eg	1887
Goliger, Jacques*	Levi Isaac	Alexandria	Eg	1887
Gozlan, Albert*	Samuel	Tunis	Tun	1897
Green, Ralph	Salomon	Cairo	Eg	xxx
Haim, Henri	Gabriel	Izmir	Trk	1908
Hallac, Edouard*	Ibrahim	Beyruth	Lbn	1909
Hanan, Victor	Ibrahim	Cairo	Eg	1880
Hanoka, Leon	Samuel	Cavalla	Gre	1880
Harari, Clement	Ibrahim	Cairo	Eg	1891
Harad, Ernest	Ibrahim	Cairo	Eg	1889
Harari, Ralph	victor	Cairo	Cg	1892
Harari, Victor (P*)	Raphael	Cairo	Eg	1857
Haym, Albert* (P*)	Felix	Istanbul	Trk	1877
Hazen, Abramino	Eliyahou	Alexandria	Eg	1893
Hazan, Daoud	Eliyahou	Jerusalem	E-Y	1869
Hourvitz, Avinoam	Levi	Gedera	E-Y	1890
Iscaki, Salvator	xxx	Alexandria	Eg	1868
Jabes, Rachel	Abdela	Cairo	Eg	1904
Jassy, Sam	Chalorn	Galatz	Rum	1892
Jehiel, Maurice*	Leon	XXK	xxx	xxxx
Katz, Fritz	Leopold	Czaborze	Pol	1898
Kramer, Adolphe	Leon	Cairo	Eg	1893

Family and first name	Father	Birthtown	cty	date
Krichewsky, Henry*	Maurice	Cairo	Eg	1901
Kronberger, Abramino*	Maurice	Cairo	Eg	1896
Kronberger, Maurice	Abrahm	Bucarest	Rum	1871
Latis, Moise Rafaelle	Leone	Modena	Ita	1864
Leibovitz, Simon	xxx	Alexandria	Eg	1879
Levi-Babocitch, Tobia	Simha	Bakchi Saray	Rus	1882
Levi, Emilio	Vittorio	Venice	Ita	1883
Levi, Guide	JAcques	Cairo	Eg	xxxx
Levi, Isaac	Joseph	Istanbul	Trk	1878
Levi, Jacques	Moussa	Cairo	Eg	1873
Levi, Sedaka	Isaac	Mansura	Eg	1895
Levy de Benzion, Moise (P*)	Isaac	Alexandria	Eg	1873
Levy, Nellos A.	xxx	Vollos	Gre	1889
Liscovitch, Isaac	xxx	Gomel	Byel	1892
Luzzato, Pacifico	Abram	Split	Slvn	1877
Madjar, Vitali	David	Istanbul	Trk	1868
Mainzer, Fritz	Sall	Munich	Ger	1897
Maleh, Jacques	Joseph	Cairo	Eg	1905
Mani, Felix	Soliman	Mansura	Eg	1898
Mani, Simon ,	Soliman Meir	Mansura	Eg	1884
Mayerhoff, Max (P*)	Albert	Hildesheim	Ger	1874
Menasce, Baron Charles (P*)	Baron Alfred	Alexandria	Eg	1898
Menasce, Baron Felix (P*)	Behor	Aexandria	Eg	1865
Menasce, Baron George	xxx	Liverpool	UK	1891
Mizrahi, Emmanuel	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxxx
Mlzrahi, Salomon*	Salvatore	Cairo	Eg	1893
Mlzrahi, Togo	Jacques	Alexandria	Eg	1901
Modai, Raphael	xxx	Adalla	Trk	1885
Molco, Albert*	Leon	Salonild	Gre	1907
Moline, Roger	Fernand	Levallois Perret	Fr	1901
Morpurgo, Nelson*	Carlo	Cairo	Eg	1899
Mosserl, Felix N. (P*)	Nessim	Cairo	Eg	1893
Mosseri, Henri	Victor	Cairo	Eg	1906
Mosseri, Joseph V.	Vita	Cairo	Eg	1884
Mosseri, Maurice (P*)	Nessirn	Cairo	Eg	1886
Mouchili, Max	Albeit	Jaffa	E-Y	1876
Nacarnuli, Albert	Isaac E.	Alexandria	Eg	1906
Nacamuli, Isaac (P*)	Emmanuel	Alexandria	Eg	1869
Nagger, Elie	Isaac	Cairo	Eg	1889
Nahman, Raphael	Victor	Alexandria	Eg	1890
Nahourn, Haim	Joseph	Manisa	Trk	1875
Nahum, Enrico Halfalla	Pinhas	Triporl	Lyb	1899
Nawas, Zald	Abdo	Tantah	Ell	1888
Neuman, Leon*	Isaac	Cairo	Eg	1910
Ohanna, Nessim	Massoud	Midian	Aig	1882
Orebi, Zaki	Vita	Cairo	Eg	1892
Padoa, Felix	Alexandre	Alexandria	Eg	1890
Palacci, Henry*	Menahern	Cairo	Eg	1917
Pappo,Joseph	Raphael	Aidin	Trk	1891
Picard, Hugo	Salomon	Constanz	Ger	1888
Pinto, Carlo	Isaac Oreste	Alexandria	Eg	1877
Polack, Edwin	xxx	Alexandria	Eg	1897
Politi, Elie	Elie	Cairo	Eg	1900
Rabin, Jacques	xxx	Petahrikva	E-Y	1912
Rodrigue, Ezra (P*)	Nessim	Aidin	Trk	1890
Rolo, Robert J. (P*)	Jacques	Alexandria	Eg	1876
Rolo, Robert S. (P*)	Simon	Cairo	Eg	xxxx
Rosenberg, Max	Albert	Berlin	Ger	1887
Rossano, Fernand	Felix Behor	Alexandria	Eg	1896
Rossano,Jacques	Felix Behor	Alexandria	Eg	1894
Sakkal, Raphael	Haim	Tantah	Eg	1899
Salama, Joseph	Moise	Ziftah	Eg	1884
Salama, Salvalor	Moise	Ziftah	Ell	1881
Salem, Ovadia	Mercado	Salonild	Gre	1888
Salinas, Lazare	Samuel	Istanbul	Trk	1895
Saltiel, Albert*	Jacob	Salonild	Gre	1899
Sanua, Moise	Isaac	Cairo	Eg	1902
Saporta, Daniel	Sheneor	Salonild	Gre	1869
Saporta, Jacques*	Raphael	Istanbul	Trk	1892
Schlezinger, Herman	xxx	Braila	Rum	1877
Scluto, Lucien	xxx	Salonild	Gre	1886
Shindler, Robert*	Adolphe	Istanbul	Trk	1899
Sonsino, Vita	xxx	Cairo	Eg	1895
Staraselski, Albert	xxx	Cairo	Eg	1903
Suares, Leon	Felix Behor	Cairo	Eg	1877
Tiano, Isidore	Samuel	Cairo	Eg	1900
Vaena, Isaac	Jacob	Izmir	Trk	1887
Ventura, Moise	xxx	Salihli by Izmir	Trk	1897
Vidon, Asian (P*)	xxx	Alexandria	Eg	1882
Vivante, Sabino	Dario	Alexandria	Eg	1892
Weissman, Jacob	Mordekhal	Jerusalem	E-Y	1886
Weinberg, Jean	xxx	xxx	xxx	1887
Weinstein, Benjamin*	Joseph	Cairo	Eg	1915
Weinstein, Joseph*	Simon	Cairo	Eg	1889
Weinstein, Moise B.*	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxxx
Yallouz, Alfred	Shabetai	Mansura	Eg	1898
Zarmati, Lionel*	Molse	Cairo	Eg	1917
Zarmati, Moise	Leon	Cairo	Eg	1885
Zilha, Abdallah*	Khedouri	Baghdad	Irk	1913
Zilha, Khedouri*	Aboudil	Baghdad	Irk	xxx
Zilha, Maurice	Khedouri	Baghdad	Irk	1917

Readers who are interested to receive short biographies of individuals included in the above list should make such a request to the Editor. He will send the entire requests to Mrs. Mathilde Tagger. Obtaining that information is complimentary.

We asked Mrs. Tagger to send us the biographical sketch of our cousin Moise Sanua. The following is the type of information which is available:

MOISE SANUA, Son of Isaac Sanua, Secretary of the Chief Rabbi of Egypt and the Cairo Rabbinate to this day, home address: 12, rue Zaki, Le Caire, Schooling: College Francais Baccalaureat (1916), Attached to the Department of Statistics (1917-1920) and Cooperative Mutuelle (1920-1923), business 1923-1928, Founder and President of the Union Universelle de la Jeunesse Juive (1923-1936), Secretary and Founder of the Societe des Etudes Historiques Juives d'Egypte founded in 1929, Secretary for the Welfare of the Jewish community from 1934, Secretary of the Ismailia Synagogue, Secretary and one of the founders of the Societe pour la Protection et la Dotation de Jeunes Filles Pauvres, since 1935, collaborated in many Jewish local and foreign newspapers.

Picture of the Judeo-Espaniol which appeared in Issue No. 4 of the IAJE Newsletter



In number 4 of our newsletter, we asked our readers to identify people who appeared in the picture of New Year's Eve celebration in 1947 in Cairo. **Sultana Vidal Pirotte** of Belgium was able to identify 8 members of her family, 6 of them already deceased. It seems that we are slowly a dying breed. In one or two decades, very few of us will be left to report our experiences. The following response was received from Suzanne Vidal Pirotte.

"From up right to down left (1) My mother Esther Souery (Died in Milano 1967). (2) My father Elie Vidal (Died in Milano 1969). (3) My aunt Jeanne Souery (Died in Los Angeles 1999). (4) My aunt Rita Souery, living in Montreal. (5) Her husband Elie Benattar, living in Montreal. (6) My aunt Judith Souery (Died in Tel Aviv 1990). (7) Her husband Marco Levy (Died in Tel Aviv 1985). (8) My uncle Leon Souery (Died in Haifa 1994)." **Do you know of any others?**

Rachel & Sarah comment on life in Egypt

"Ci-inclus, nos cheques annuels. Votre bulletin est toujours recu avec plaisir et on le lit avidement,... Encore une fois, mes eloges pour votre perseverance a vouloir regrouper des gens qui dans un passe lointain partageaient une destinee commune et qui maintenant, sont eparpilles un peu partout dans le monde et dont la majorite, sont completement indiffèrents.

If faut avouer que les souvenirs sont différents pour les uns et pour les autres. Pour certains, c'est la nostalgie d'une douceur de vie revolue, pour d'autres, la realite d'evenements tristes que dans une certaine mesure on desire oublier Plus de Bassatins... A ce propos,... Peut-etre, nous aurions du, aussi, par principe, forcer le gouvernement Egyptien a confronter sa responsabilite pour la devastation des Bassatins et les dommages psychologiques et autres infliges a la population Juive .... Mais savoir que la tombe de mes parents est a jamais detruite, sans pouvoir jamais etre retrouvee sans que les responables soient tenus 'accountable' eclipse tout souvenir d'une possible 'douceur de vivre.' Pour mettre les choses a point, je clarifie que tout ceci n'a rien a voir avec vous ou la tache louable que vous avez entreprise d'accomplir... C'est dit simplement en guise de bavardage, une expression de pensees et sentiments surgis soudain, provoques par le sujet 'Egypte'... Excessivement interessante votre analyse du 'Arab National Character and the Middle East Conflict," publiee dans le **Jerusalem Post** de 1970

Rachel Cwerner et Sarah Douek, USA.

Editor's note: We asked Mrs. Cwerner if we could publish her letter, she responded in English in a more forceful way about her feelings as follows:

"Thank you very much for taking the time to send us a copy of your comprehensive and illuminating study of the psychology of the 'fellahim' and its impact on their behavior on the battlefield and their daily life in general. It is very interesting and edifying. As to your wanting to publish some of my rambling comments in the next issue of your bulletin, this is o.k. The reason I was against it, when I wrote the letter, is that at that specific moment the 'nostalgia' of your readers triggered some mixed personal emotions that I did not want to share other than on a one-to-one basis.

What I want to say is that those who left Egypt of their own free will, on their own terms, can afford the luxury of being nostalgic. But for those of us who were peremptorily ordered to depart within a matter of days, leaving behind everything including the possibility of ever visiting again the graves of those we loved. The experience was too sad to allow for sweet nostalgic reminiscences. Having said that, there is room once in a while for a fleeting thought to those summer evenings in June, long ago, when as youngsters, we used to walk the extra mile to buy the delicious "fetira" with powdered sugar on top which we feasted on all the way back home. A passing nostalgic thought that gets dwarfed in he larger picture. Anyway, again bravo for your unswerving motivation." **Rachel Cwerner & Sarah Douek**.

Letters

C'est avec interet et plaisir que j'ai parcouru toute la brochure de l'International Association of Jews from Egypt. Ci-joint inclus la feuille du Prof. Uri Kupferschmidt qui fait un projet academique sur la famille Juive d'Egypte -proprietaire des Grands Magasins d'Orosdi-Back. J'espere que vous trouvez le sujet interessant pour le publier, dans votre prochain "newsletter" au nom du ***Prof. Kupferschmidt****. Merci!*

Diane Brakha,
nee Diane Rosenthal, Haifa

Thank you very much for your articles. I regret that my French is not good enough to grasp the articles in that language. However, your cause is good and it brings a new picture of what I might have envisioned years ago, as "Egyptian Jews." Those wedding pictures could have been USA 1926. Enclosed is a small donation for your work.

Ruth Siegel, Brooklyn, NY

Thank you for sending me the latest edition of the IAJE Newsletter. I enjoyed it very much and I congratulate you for the efforts that you are making and for the wonderful results. I am sending you a check for $80.00, which includes my membership and a small donation of $50.00. Please keep up the good work and may God bless your future achievements.

Nelly Ades, Brooklyn, NY

You are doing a tremendous job. We love to read your bulletin of the International Association of Jews from Egypt. Keep on the good word. God bless you.

Many Levi

Thank you for sending the newsletter of the International Association of Jews from Egypt. I particularly enjoyed the enclosed article "Arab National Character and the Middle East conflict" that you wrote in 1970. It is really bearing truth in today's world.

Prof. David F. Altabé, Miami, Florida

"Ya Khawaga (Sir) Victor. I was very surprised that you have not heard about the Yiddish Theater in Cairo. There was also Yiddish Theatre in Alexandria and even Port Said. My friend, 'qu'elle repose en paix,' Mme. Rose Weiss Klein Belahovsky was one of the actresses. Among other names that I remember from her were the two Peindrik sisters ... Sophie and Elise... I believe they moved to Cleveland but I am not sure if they are still living. There was also one Simon Bernard who moved to Canada. In Cairo the Theatre performed in the Royal Opera House. They performed such Yiddish plays as Got, Mentsh un Tayvl (God, man and devil), A Yiddishe King Lear (A Jewish King Lear) etc. I have seen theatre programs, which included adds in Yiddish for Johnny Walker Red and Elizabeth Arden Cosmetics. There was also Yiddish Radio and in the 1910's or 1920's there was also a Yiddish Newspaper.

I am sure you know there was a special synagogue for the Ashkenazim until the 1967 war when the Ashkenazi community merged with the Sephardic community. I believe the last president of that community was Adolphe Deutsch. When I lived in Cairo, there was still a Yiddish and Arabic speaking Shammash in the synagogue, Victor Lourie. There was a fairly large Aschkenazi community in Cairo. Some other names of businesses whose signs I remember were Davidson and Regenstreif (Opticians in Passage Continental), Salamander, Goliger, Kroiter (Language schools), and of course Imprimerie Weinstein.

My first contact with Aschkenazim. from Cairo was in my native Philadelphia. I went to high school with one Tanya Bromberg. She had arrived in the US via Brazil. Many years later, her Uncle, Victor Bromberg, was my dentist in Cairo!"

David Hirsch, Los Angeles, USA

Ahava Ve Ahba Congregation

The Ahava ve Ahba is the first Jewish Egyptian congregation in the United States. Established in 1963 on a rented space provided by the Magen David congregation on 2066 67th. Street, NY 11204. In 1975 the congregation moved to its new building 1801 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11223. Mr. **Charles Chehebar,** a member of the IAJE, sings all the tunes of Haftaarot and Yamin Noraim according to Minhagey Misraim, also the tunes of Roch Hashanah and Yom Kippur which he learned in his youth in Egypt.

The Program for the study of Sephardic and Oriental Jewry

The Department of Religious Studies at Florida International University has established the above Program and named it after the former President **Yitzhak Navon.** On October 6, 2002, he received an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Laws (L.L.D.) from the University for his extraordinary work of the arts, and for his distinguished career in the Israeli government and politics. He graduated from the Hebrew University with a major in Islamic Studies; he served as Head of the Arab section of the Haganah in the critical years 1946-1948. He was in the diplomatic corps, and he had a long career in senior administrative posts in the office of Israel's first prime minister, David Ben Gurion. He won acclaim over the years for his writings, plays and television programs presenting and popularizing the life of the Sephardi communities in Spain and Israel.

The Department at the Florida International University provides academic training in Sephardic Studies, offers lectures and seminars presented by nationally and internationally renowned scholars.

Orosdi-Back Department Stores

What do you remember about the Orosdi-Back Department stores in Cairo, Alexandria, Beirut, Aleppo, Baghdad. Istanbul, Tunis etc? Did you shop there? Did you work there?

Information, anecdotes and material sought for an academic research project by:

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Bibliotheca Alexandrina Officially Opened

The following is an extract of an article written by Mr. Roger Bilboul in the Newsletter of the Association of Jews from Egypt, UK that appeared in the December issue 2002.

"...That despite the fact that Egyptian censorship laws have been specifically lifted in the case of the new library, there have been instances of bending to local sensitivities on religious and political mat-

ters. That the present collections of books and manuscripts are rather poor and a far cry of its rated capacity. One definite missing element in the present collection is anything Jewish. There is apparently one book in Hebrew and no specific evidence of the Jewish contribution to ancient Alexandria"

TALG

by **Suzy Vidal**

"The ice-peddler called out. He went through Malika Farida Street with his dripping cart full of ice chunks pulled by a tired-looking *homar*. We stuck our head out of the balcony and shouted in return: *talg*! No one was amazed at the shouts; one noise more or less did not make any difference. We mimicked the length of ice we wanted for the *talaga*. He then sliced a piece with his pick, loaded it on to his shoulder and trudged up through the service stairs to the fifth floor, leaving his mobile shop unattended. Sometimes when it was hot he was drenched in water from the melting ice. He was out of breath but did not complain. What became of him when we bought refrigerators? **Talg, Talg**!

A Fishy Wedding

The following is a story sent to us by **Ted Nahmias** from London. We hope that you will find the text as amusing as we did.

"The parents of the groom, Abou Galambo and Caboria, and the parents of the bride, Moussa and Om el Khouloul, cordially invite you to attend the wedding of their handsome son, Gambari, and the beautiful Fessikha. The wedding ceremony will take place at the Hotel El Bahr of Agami beach. The best man for the groom is Armout.

The bridesmaids are: Bassaria, Ballamita, Bakala, and Sepia. A reception will follow with a buffet catered by Chef Erch. The Barboni band with the talented singer Ritza, the comedians Arouss and Darfil, and the illusionist Okhtobut and his charming assistants Tuna, Barob-Tuna, Wahesh-Tuna, Anness-Tuna and Sharaf -Tuna will entertain. While we're on this fishy subject, I wonder if you're aware that Monday is **Sham el Nessim**. How many of you are into fiseekh?"

Salamat **HUBERT**

You have to watch your language when you are in a foreign country

On Oct. 15, 2002, **Mr. Nicholas D. Kristof**, a columnist for the New York Times wrote the following:

"The gulf of mutual suspicion and anger between Americans and overseas Muslims seems to have widened dangerously since 9/11, and it will grow more explosively in a war with and occupation of Iraq. This gulf reminds me of my very first conversation in Arabic, just after I'd moved to Cairo in 1983 to study the language. "**Ismak eh**?" asked a friendly looking neighbor in my building and I was thrilled that I recognized that he was asking my name. "**Ismi Nick**," I said beaming. He flinched, turned pallid and stepped back. In a barely audible voice, he croaked out the question again, "**Ismak eh**?"

Unsure what had gone wrong, I stepped forward and thundered, **"Ismi Nick."** The man fled. My bewilderment and distress at that moment seem familiar this year, for once again Americans and foreign Muslims are unwittingly outraging each other. Sometimes the difference in our assumptions and world views yawns so wide that it is difficult even to have a meaningful conversation...

Oh, and the meaning of "**Nick**!' in Arabic? It is a verb meaning to have sex, but it is even more vulgar than its English *four-letter* equivalent. And **"Nick"** is the worst possible conjugation, the command form."



Stanley Bay Beach, Alexandria 1948



Sham el Nissim in Alexandria, 1948



Gezira Swimming Pool, Cairo 1948



Picnic at Barrage Gardens Judeo Club, 1948

"AH! QUE LA VIE ETAIT BELLE ALORS!" (A. Oudiz)