



*THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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**LONGTIME LEADER OF GREEK JEWISH
COMMUNITY HONORED WITH CO-NAMING OF
BROOME STREET ‘HY GENE’ WAY’**

CIVIC CENTER – Yesterday, Council Member Margaret S. Chin (D-Lower Manhattan) attended a ceremony to enact a street co-naming proposal to honor the dearly departed Hyman “Hy” Genee, a longtime president of the Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue in the Lower East Side and a leader of the Greek Jewish community in the Western Hemisphere.

“Hy Genee exemplified the spirit of the Lower East Side: diverse, vibrant, and filled with the vitality that can only come from so many ethnicities and religions coexisting side by side in one neighborhood,” said **Council Member Chin**, who joined Mayor

Bill de Blasio on Aug. 3 as he signed the proposal honoring Hy Genee into law. “As a leader of the Greek Jewish community for over 50 years, Hy single-handedly preserved Kehila Kedosha Janina, ensuring that this synagogue and museum remained an integral part of the Lower East Side for decades to come. I thank Mayor de Blasio, my City Council colleagues and the Greek Jewish community for helping recognize the joy and pride Hy took in his neighbors, his place of worship, and his City.”

“On behalf of the congregation of Kehila Kedosha Janina and the entire Greek Jewish community, we are deeply grateful and honored that this block of Broome Street will now be known as ‘Hy Genee Way.’ Hy led our community for 50 years and kept our unique Greek Jewish Romaniote traditions alive. Today we stand on Hy’s shoulders and work to carry on his legacy. Thank you so much to Councilmember Margaret Chin for all of her help in making this dream a reality,” said **Marvin Marcus, President of Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue**.

“This street co-naming is a surreal event. Never in anyone’s dreams, including our father, would we have imagined that a street would be co-named for him,” said Genee’s daughter, **Lois Genee Ledner**, who joined her brother, **Marty Genee**, at yesterday’s ceremony. “The son of immigrants from Greece, a tailor by trade and a rabbi in his heart and soul whose love for his synagogue, Romaniote liturgy and traditions and the Lower East Side have led to this day. My brother and I look forward to the day when we can discuss his legacy with his great-grandchildren and show them ‘Hy Genee Way.’”



Genee was born in 1922 on Orchard Street, and spent all his life devoted to his family, his work as a tailor, and as president of spiritual leader of the Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue – the only Greek Jewish Romaniote synagogue in the Western Hemisphere. For more than 50 years, he served as the synagogue’s president. Genee passed away in 2006 at age 83.

A ceremony formally designating Broome Street between Allen and Eldridge streets ‘Hy Genee Way’ will take place later this year.

PHOTO CAPTION [Credit: Andrew Marcus]: The late Hyman “Hy” Genee’s daughter, Lois Genee Ledner, reads a statement at a ceremony to co-name a part of Broome Street in honor of her father as her brother, Marty Genee, Council Member Margaret Chin and Mayor de Blasio look on.

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