



*The Anusim*

*Restoring a Beloved Legacy*

*The International Institute*

*For "Secret Jews" Studies*

*Netanya Academic College*

PROVIDING RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ACCESS TO

"SECRET JEWS" RELATED RESOURCES

# THE SECRET JEWS



Surprisingly, there are millions of people in the world who keep remnants of a Jewish tradition but are completely unaware of what their Jewish identity actually means.

These Jews were referred to as the Marranos, but are now called Anusim, secret or Crypto Jews, forced to convert to Christianity and expelled from Spain and other countries over 500 years ago.

Today, their descendants populate many countries including North (Texas, New Mexico), Central and Latin America (Brazil, Peru), The Caribbean and many places in Europe including Spain and Portugal, Italy, Turkey , Germany and Holland

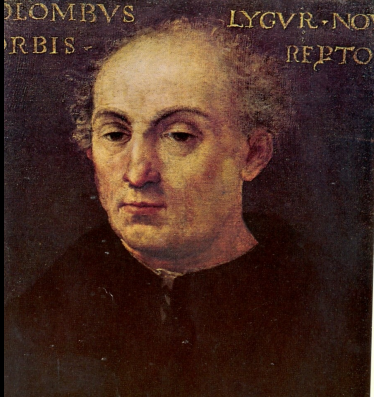
A wealth of stories has sprung up around them and their secretive and baffling customs, but the fact is that their story has never formally been entered into the history books of the Jewish nation, although, in effect, they are a lost part of the Jewish heritage and community.

The International Institute for “Secret Jews” (Anusim) Studies is a unique new centre, run by top academics, focusing on secret Jews around the world; studying their past in order to help them with their future, to help sketch out the future for those who in their hearts have always looked for their true identity and a path for them to find their way home.

These people are part of a strong and proud communal heritage that is in urgent need of investigation, definition and ultimately - redemption.

Today, over half a millennium later, it is becoming clear that the Anusim who allegedly cut themselves off from Judaism, for centuries actually kept their religion secret. And so, there are indeed millions in the world today, descendants of the Anusim, who preserve in them some remnants of Jewish tradition, without being aware of its meaning or of their Jewish identity.

# THE PLANS, THE VISION



For five hundred years the most famous Marrano has been a matter of conjecture. However, today many of the most foremost scholars believe that Christopher Columbus was from a Jewish lineage that had been forced to denounce its religion.

To house and maintain the ever growing amount of documents, music and research pertaining to the Anusim, a new purpose built centre named after Columbus is proposed at Netanya Academic College at a cost of \$5 million\*.

The Centre for the Study and Research for Secret Jews will hold records and data, and house the Columbus Exhibition (kindly donated by Mr Eli Schalit) plus other exhibits including a replica of Columbus's flagship – The Santa Maria, for which Netanya Academic College requires a donation.

- A proposed \$5 million project built within the Netanya Academic College Campus attached to our existing facility, expanding the research capabilities of the Institute, offering worldwide access to its resource facilities.
- The new Columbus Secret Jews Culture & Research Centre , headed by key public figures and relevant academics, with an advisory board including well-known international figures in the field of Jewish history who will jointly head the institute leading the theoretical and practical study.
  1. A public Governing Council will be headed by the Fifth President of Israel Yitzhak Navon together with retired Supreme Court Justice Meir Shamgar.
  2. Professor Corinaldi recipient of the President's Anusim Communities Award is Chairman of the Institute.
  3. Gloria Mound, Hon. Research Fellow of the University of Glasgow Department of Hispanics since 1988.
- The new building will have over 16,500 square feet of research and education space. The building will become a great study and tourist destination, which will be maintained by Netanya Municipality.

*\* Columbus Exhibition originally opened in Madrid by King Juan Carlos in 1992, which was 500 years after the expulsion.*

# BACKGROUND



The research work started some 30 years ago by a charity called Casa Shalom, led by first class researchers such as Gloria Mound.

The library and records of Casa Shalom is now housed in a purpose built library on Netanya Academic College's (NAC) campus.

NAC has a unique collection of several thousand books, manuscripts and documents, including many rare photographs and musical scores that will be maintained in the new centre with the ultimate aim of the entire collection being digitised so that scholars, academics, and the public around the world can have ready access to it.

The plan is to take this vision, a national, academic and historic challenge, already taking shape at the NAC to the next level essentially preserving, redeeming and in effect, rectifying this haunting historic injustice.



# CURRENT PROJECTS AVAILABLE



Under the umbrella of the Netanya Academic College - there are a number of current projects looking for support:

### **New Auditorium**

- \$190,000 - Where lectures and conferences related to the study of Secret Jews worldwide will take place

### **The Anusim Library**

- \$150,000 - The prestigious Casa Shalom Collection already housed on premises

### **10 x Scholarships**

- \$8,000 each - Researching Anusim / Secret Jews

### **10 x Purpose Built Display Units**

- \$5,000 each - housing the Casa Shalom collection in top-grade secure and hermetically sealed display units. We need to be able to provide the same level of protection to thousands of other items and documents saving them for posterity

### **Music Library**

- \$80,000 - Preserving Ladino and other rare Anusim music, converting them into digital formats and promoting worldwide distribution

### **New Lecture theatre**

- \$225,000 - Hosting Major Anusim Conferences

### **Conferences**

- \$40,000 - We already have a good track record with numerous conferences already hosted

### **3 x Stained Glass Windows**

- \$8,000 each - designed by well known artists - Jewish / Anusim themed

# CONTACT & DONATIONS



To make a donation or for more information, contact:

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***The International Institute for  
the Studies of Secret Jews***

You can also donate online at:

**[www.charititrust.org/charities/UkFriendsOf  
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**UK Friends of the Netanya Academic College**

is a registered charity in the UK

**Reg. Number 1086203**

**[www.secretjews.com](http://www.secretjews.com)**

*Donations can be sent directly to **Netanya Academic College** worldwide -*

*please contact **Simon Winters OBE** for further information*