

constructed by the original merchants who had arrived in Kobe. Their architecture was influenced by the Western-European style, causing the neighborhoods to appear as foreign compared to the local unique architecture. For this reason, the composition of its congregation and the mixture of languages heard amongst its members. Thus, it continues to loyally reflect the origin of its founders.

Jewish buildings currently serve (after the departure or demise of most of the community members) as museums for touristic purposes.

Thus for instance, one of Kobe's Internet tourist sites recommends not to miss a visit to the home of the Choueke family, being the last unique home open to the public which is still populated by its owners. Visitors to this home will enjoy an exciting meeting with the owner, Mrs. Choueke, from whom they will be able to hear - and also see - memories of east and west, while getting a glimpse of the former lifestyle of the city's foreign residents.

However, life in Japan has, over the years time, left its impact on the Jews. Despite the attempts of community members to preserve the Jewish religion, this has not succeeded in preventing the assimilation of some of its members. At present, one can find at the Kobe synagogue Jews with Japanese spouses, and on the other hand, Japanese who had converted to Judaism for various reasons.

### Contemporary Jewish

#### Community:

As mentioned earlier, the Jewish community has, since the 1970s, extremely diminished.

Today, according to its president, Yacov Ben-Avi, there is hardly any remnant of the founders' generation, except Mrs. Lucy Choueke, who had arrived from Halab. The district is populated mostly by students and by isolated offspring of community members who still remained in Kobe, married to locals. According to **Joe Djmal**, most of the time there aren't even enough Jews for *minyán* at the synagogue. The community's rabbi is **Rabbi Assaf Tobi**.

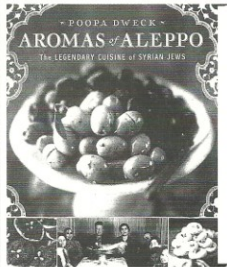
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[www.jcckobe.org](http://www.jcckobe.org)

### AROMAS OF ALEPPO : The Legendary Cuisine of Syrian

Jews

By : Poopa Dweck  
Harper Collins Publishers

This book is more than a cookbook. It tells the story of the Aleppian Jewish community through its food, describing the unique customs observed during the holidays and lifecycle events, along with the cultural significance of each dish.



The book contains 388 pages. All the recipes begin with a brief description of the role each dish plays in Aleppo Jewish culture. The receipts are organized in nine sections: Small delights, Legumes, Vegetables and Soups, Rice, Grains and Pasta, Meat, Poultry and Fish, Dairy and Eggs, Sweets and Beverages. Every section begins with an informative essay about how the geography and history of Aleppo affected its cuisine, and even ethnographic observations about markets, shopping and unusual cooking customs. In addition, the book includes special chapters on the Jews of Aleppo like "kashrut", "Shabbat", holidays and life cycle events. Glossaries

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