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Jennifer Aniston--on bridging
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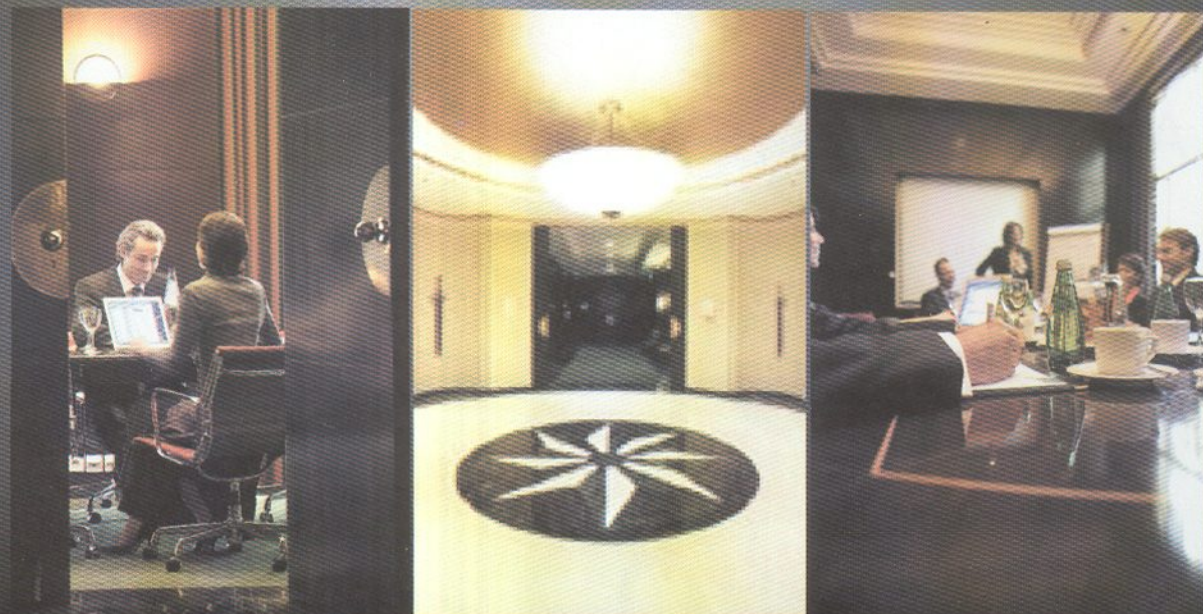


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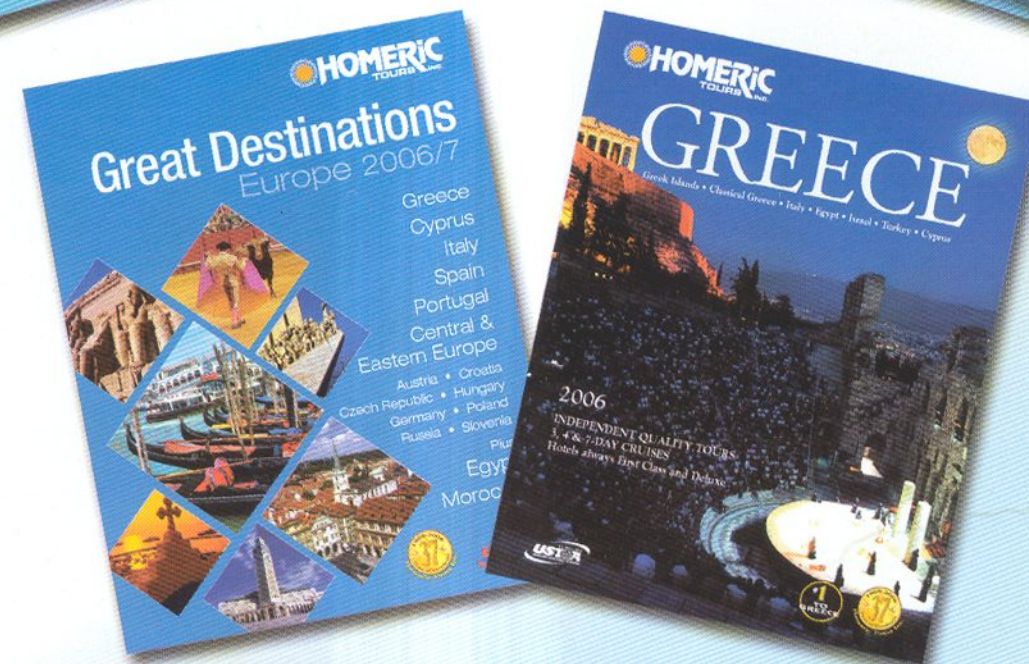
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The Greatest Generation

⌘ I had dinner with friends recently who were much younger than me, but we talked about a common experience: Their parents had come to America and worked very hard, my parents had come to America fifty years ago and done the same. They appreciated their parents and their grit and sacrifice, I include my parents in the Greatest Generation that Tom Brokaw talked about and that was certainly braver than our own.

⌘ And yet my friends had a communication problem with their parents (nothing serious, just the usual generation gap, immigrant-style). And here I am in middle age and unless I assure my parents when I visit that someday I *will* get a real job with benefits, they still won't believe I'm ever going to do anything with my life regardless of my dreams (which means, sad to say, they never will find that consolation).

⌘ They are fearful of our career choices, for sure (How much money does it make? You're going to do *what* in television? How long are you going to keep going to graduate school?). But they might be even more fearful that the ties that bound us to them and our heritage are slipping. How many of us speak Greek? How many of us send our kids, or will send them, to Greek school? How many of us go to church, except for weddings and funerals and Easter? (As our priest chides us every *Anastasi* while we hide behind our candles on the steps of the church). How many of us go to Greece regularly, will ever visit the native village, will be content now with marriage only to a Greek and have many Greek children that will all go to Greek school and speak Greek and visit the relatives every summer in Greece?

⌘ More than you think, *Baba* and *Mama*.

⌘ Kids are going to Greece to visit, or would love to, and discovering the *chorio* and loving it. And loving the music, and the food, and taking Greek studies *in college*, if not Greek school.

⌘ And they are packing all the new Greek restaurants and clubs that are sprouting everywhere in America, where they can share the buzz with all the other *kids* (of all ages) who are discovering that being Greek ultimately is cool, hip and a unique birthright we got from, who else? the Greatest Generation that is our parents and grandparents.

Dimitri C. Michalakakis

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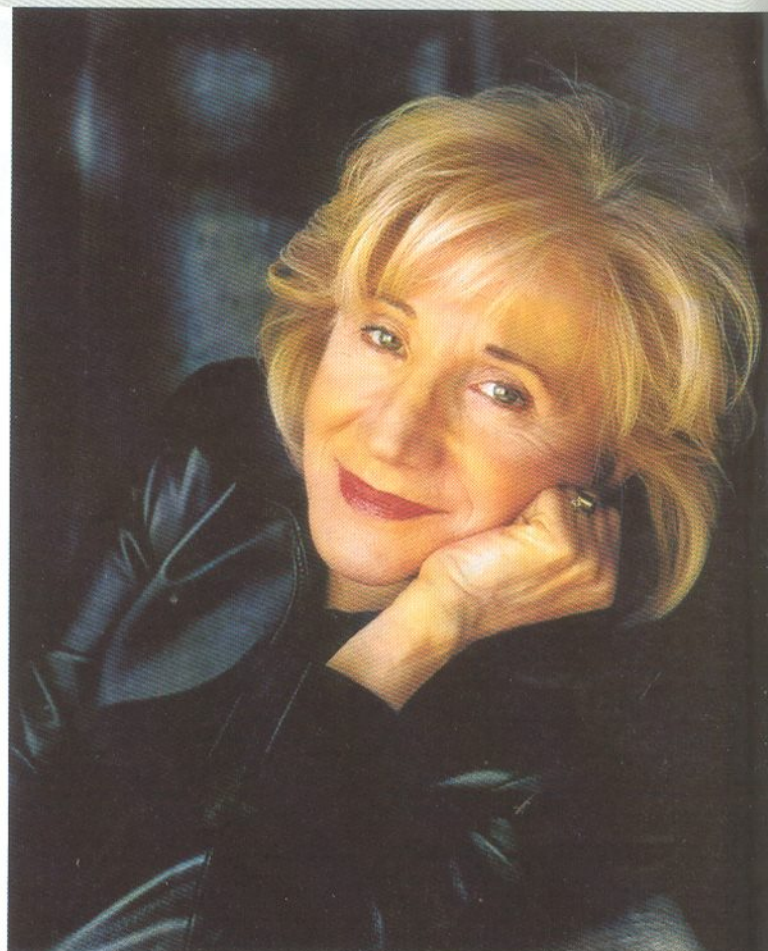
NYU'S TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS ANNOUNCES OLYMPIA DUKAKIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

New York University's Tisch School of the Arts has announced the establishment of a scholarship fund to honor the distinguished and transformative teaching career of film and stage legend Olympia Dukakis. The annual award, to be named the Olympia Dukakis Scholarship Fund, will be given to one outstanding student chosen from the Tisch School's Graduate Acting Program.

"For more than a decade beginning in the 1960s, Olympia Dukakis served as one of the creative pioneers of the Tisch School's Graduate Acting Program," said Mary Schmidt Campbell, dean of the Tisch School of the Arts and associate provost of the arts at NYU. "Her vision of the actor and of actor training required the need to develop a distinctive artistic voice, to experiment, to play and at times fail, to work in a collaborative ensemble while training, to provide close and constant attention from teachers, and to connect to the real world and the issues and problems of contemporary life. We hope this important scholarship will inspire a new generation of actors to follow her example and commitment to excellence."

The daughter of Greek immigrants, Olympia Dukakis began her theatrical career in Boston and co-founded Boston's renowned Charles Playhouse in 1958. Five years later, she made her film debut in director Robert Rossen's film *Liliuth*. She began teaching at NYU's innovative new School of the Arts soon after its founding in 1965. Her colleagues on the faculty at the time included Martin Scorsese, Saul Bellow, Jules Fischer, and Lloyd Richards, among others.

Students of Olympia Dukakis who have gone on to achieve great success include Golden-Globe winner Barry Bostwick, two time Golden-Globe



nominee Jeff Conaway, Academy-Award nominee Michael McKean, Emmy and Grammy winner Christopher Guest, and star of movies and television Dan Moran, whose Tisch School training would have not been possible without scholarship support. Others who have emerged from the Graduate Acting Program that she helped to shape include Academy-Award winner Marcia Gay Harden, Emmy-Award winner Debra Messing, Tony-Award winners Frank Wood and Stephen Spinella, Emmy and Golden-Globe winner Camryn Manheim, and Pulitzer-Prize winner Tony Kushner.

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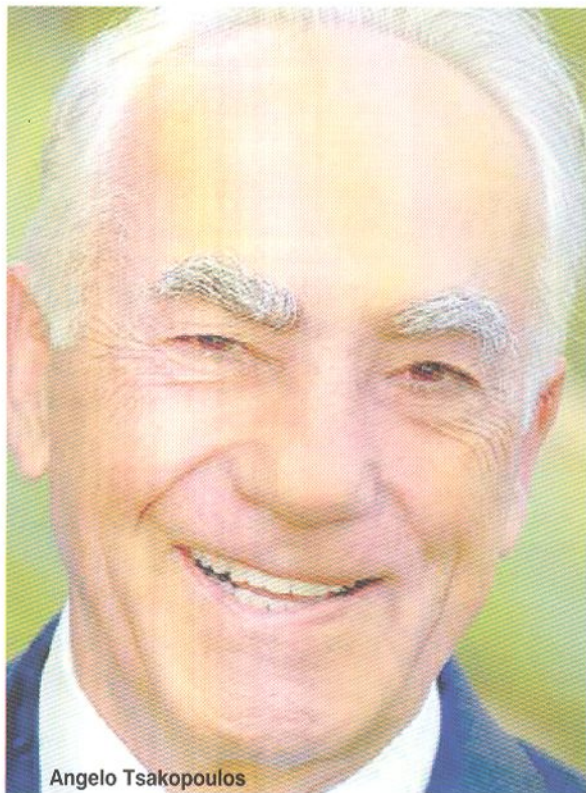
Pancretans to honor Mitsotakis and Tsakopoulos

The Pancretan Association of America (PAA) will honor former Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis and businessman Angelo Tsakopoulos with the association's "Venizelio" and "Kazantzakio" awards Friday, September 29 at New York's Terrace on the Park. Mitsotakis' daughter, Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyiannis, will also attend.

"Constantine Mitsotakis, who comes from a Cretan family with a long tradition in politics, was selected for his lifelong contribution to Greek public life as well as to the international community and his dedication to the values of freedom, democracy and the free market," said PAA President Manolis Velivasakis.

Mitsotakis, a nephew of Eleftherios Venizelos, was active in the Cretan resistance against the Nazi occupation and became a member of the Greek parliament for Chani from 1946-1967 and 1977 to 1990. He was arrested in 1967 by the military junta but escaped and lived in exile until his return in 1974. He became the leader of the New Democratic party in 1984 and was prime minister from 1990 to 1993.

Velivasakis said Angelo Tsakopoulos, "who is one of the most successful businessmen in the U.S. and philanthropist of Greek descent, will be honored for his great contributions to the promotion of Hellenism



Angelo Tsakopoulos



Constantine Mitsotakis

in the American continent."

Tsakopoulos is the founder of the Western Policy Center, considered one of the most significant think tanks on southern European issues in America. He has also contributed to the foundation of Hellenic Studies departments at the universities of California, Stanford, Georgetown and Columbia.

"The awards gala will show that we the Cretan Americans know how to honor and recognize those who have offered a great deal for the good and progress of Hellenism and the *omogenia* at large," said Velivasakis.



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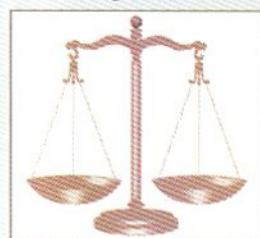
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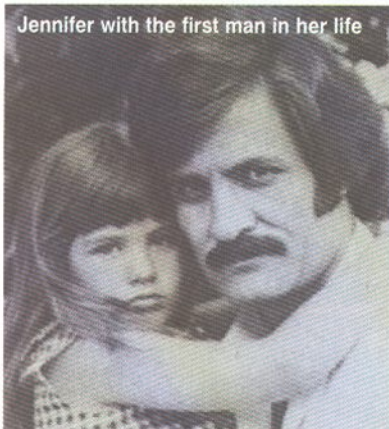
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Jennifer and John Aniston—bridging their generation gap

by Dimitri C. Michalakis

Jennifer Aniston has a new man, and she's also made peace with the man who's always been in her life—her dad.

"My dad didn't know how to be a great dad," she once said of her father John, also an actor. "I was a clown, and always sort of getting in trouble in school, and he thought I was a failure and stupid. He was bad. He wasn't a bad guy, but he was typical of his generation."



Jennifer with the first man in her life

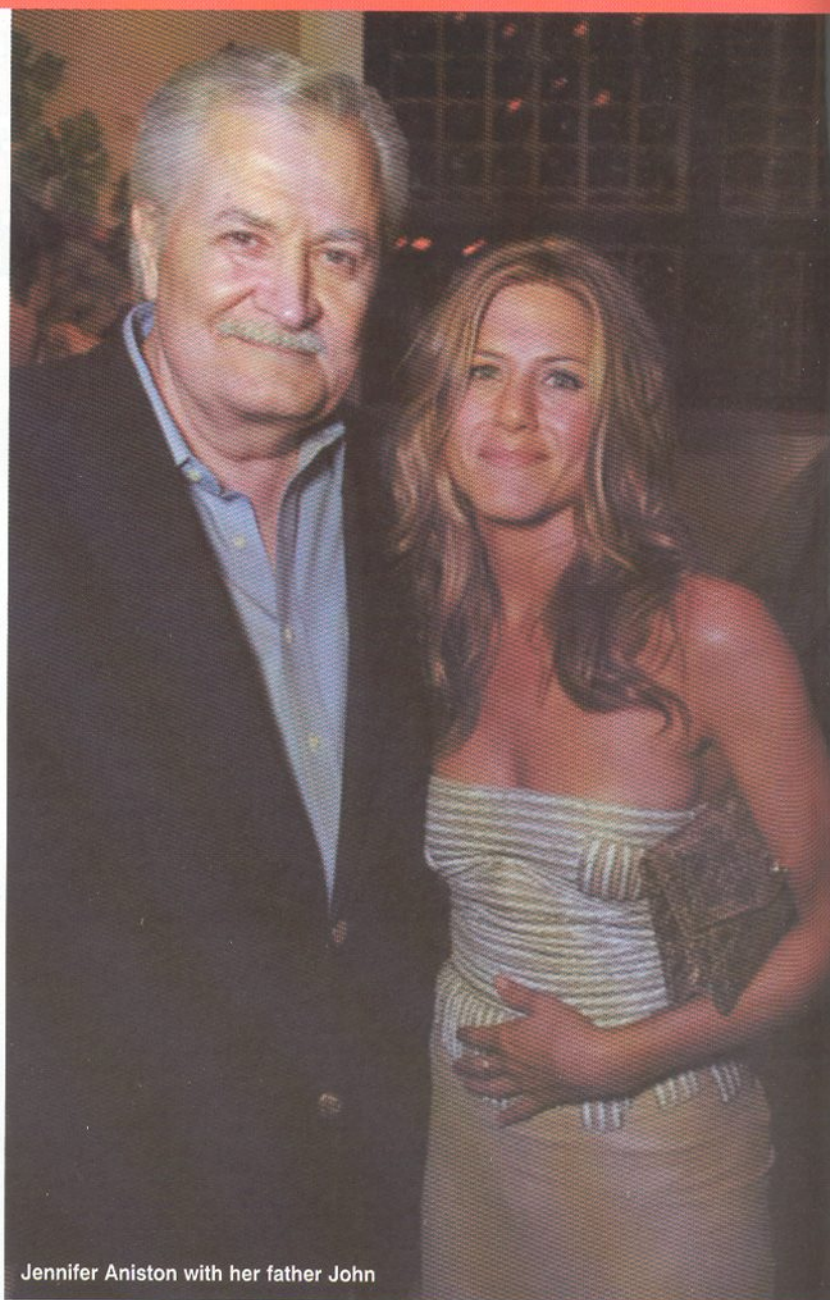
The Anistons divorced when Jennifer was nine, but there were stormy scenes before the final split and she was often the intermediary.

"I'd talk to both of them," she told *US Weekly*. "Sometimes I'd get in the middle and get really pissed off. You don't understand it when you're little; it's just what you do. But as an adult you can see that they were human and there was a divorce and another woman and there was Mother's

jealousy and anger toward Dad. And his anger towards Mom. And what happens is you just don't want any conflict. That's the main thing: Try and keep everything calm. I'd try to be the good girl so that I didn't get in trouble."

She admits she also acted up to get her parents' attention and went from being a good student to a troublemaker ("A mini-Mohawk," she describes her 'do then) so "both my parents have to come to the principal's office. It was me bringing them back together again," she told *People*.

To champion her mother's cause and make a career ("I know my mom would have been a happier person if she'd blossomed to her full potential," she says of Nancy, a model and actress), she followed in her dad's footsteps to Hollywood in 1990 and spent a year dropping 30 pounds to achieve the requisite glamour girl figure while she tackled thankless parts.



Jennifer Aniston with her father John



Jennifer with *Friends* castmates

"Greeks like to eat," comments her father. "Jennifer was built like an Aniston."

And he never wanted her to go into show business—he was adamant about it. "I tried to talk her out of it," admits the veteran soap opera star who played Victor Kiriakis on *Day of Our Lives* for twelve years. "Because it's a terrible business, most people can't make a living at it."

But she would not be denied. "She certainly is independent," he admits. "She does like to do things her way. Show business is a business of self starters. You can't just sit around and wait for somebody to come and discover you someplace. You really have to work at it. And Jennifer certainly could do that."

He would sometimes take her to the set of his soap opera and leave to do his scene—only to return and find her talking to his agent. "She was on the telephone with my agent asking him to get her an audition for a movie," he snorts.

He even enrolled her at six in Manhattan's Rudolf Steiner School, where kids are urged to refrain from movies and TV, but she still found ways to watch Donny and Marie and *The Bionic Woman* when Dad wasn't looking and only her half-brother John Melick was there to babysit her.

"I guess she was destined for television," her father begrudges.

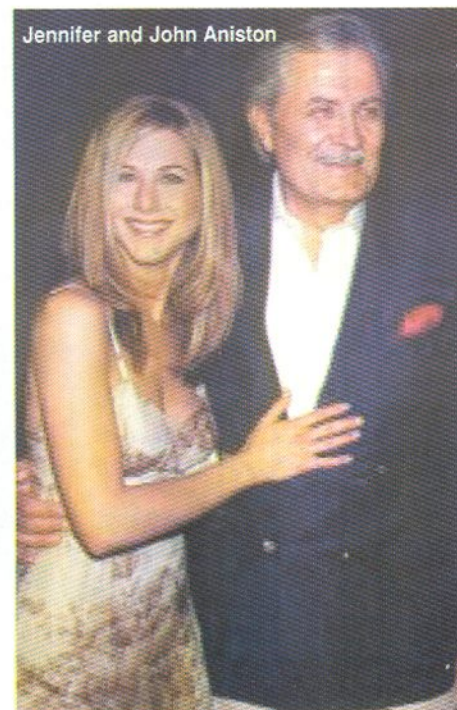
After graduating New York's High School of the Performing Arts, considered the finishing school for show business-bound teens in New York, Jennifer skipped college against her father's wishes and waited tables while she made the rounds on auditions. But in two years she bounced mostly from Off-Broadway roles to failed television series (*Molloy*, *The Edge*, *Ferris Bueller*, *Herman's Head*) in rapid succession.

Then she auditioned for the role of Monica on a pilot called *Friends Like These*, but insisted she was more suited to the spoiled Rachel, and she got the part on what became the phenomenon about six coffeeswilling singles that became just *Friends*, and now her hair, and marriage, and divorce, and possible marriage again, are tabloid fodder.

And during her stint on *Friends*, her father points out, her weekly salary was probably more than her immigrant grandfather made in a lifetime of running a diner virtually round the clock. "I think it's terrific," her father says of her success.

His career has been far-flung. He was born John Anastassakis in Crete and served as a lieutenant commander in U.S. Naval Intelligence. When Jennifer was only five he took the whole family back to Greece so he could start a whole new career as a medical student.

"Unfortunately my timing stunk," he says, "because just as I was about to arrive, the entire government collapsed. The junta was overthrown, and the reason for the overthrow was the students at the university. So the school was shut down for a year and a half. And it didn't look like things were going to resolve themselves anytime soon, either. And,



Jennifer and John Aniston

in the meantime, I had spent a lot of money, so I had to come back and go to work."

(Jennifer still remembers Greece, though. After her split from Brad Pitt, she reportedly burned her wedding dress and vowed to return to Greece.

"I lived there for a year when I was five or six. We lived in Athens for six months, then we lived in Crete. My family has a beautiful farm. I've only gone back there once. It would be a refreshing thing to be out of this bubble.")

After his adventure in Greece, John came back to the bubble, with the mixed feelings which he still shares today for himself and his daughter. "Starring in a television series is one thing," he says. "But starring in a television phenomenon like *Friends* is something else entirely."

He and a friend were mobbed once in a mall and had to be rescued by police. Jennifer's godfather Telly Savalas (John and Teddy were once housemates and Savalas also served as Aniston's best man) was regularly besieged by mobs when he filmed *Kojak* in the streets of New York City. Jennifer can hardly leave her house or her apartment when she's visiting in New York.

"Fame is overrated," Aniston admits dryly.

But with the winding down of his career ("I'm going to retire," he says. "I've been doing this for a long time."), and the cranking up of hers, they have finally come to terms with the long journey of their relationship.

"The biggest gift he gave me was to say, 'I'm sorry I wasn't there,'" she says. "Now he's a great dad."

The feeling is mutual. Her dad says of her climb to fame and perhaps their own reconciliation, "Obviously, it was just a matter of time."

Queen of all comedy: TINA FEY



Young Stamatina

Comedians are usually brassy or smartass. But Tina Fey spoke very softly, if at all, at the raucous *Saturday Night Live* staff dinners.

"She's more like sitting off in the corner...and then...under her breath, she'll say some line that brings the house down," fellow SNL castmate Rachel Dratch told the *New York Observer*.

"Our father says that Tina has the kind of humor where she'll basically rip the heart out of your chest and hold it up in front of you—and you won't know it until five minutes later," says her older brother Peter, a freelance writer.

Fey herself (born Stamatina to a Greek mother and a German-Scottish father), despite the success of her on-camera SNL Weekend Update gig despite the success of the movie *Mean Girls* which she wrote, and now her coronation as TV royalty with the creation of her own show (*30 Rock*) still carries herself more as a writer than performer (the glasses she wears on TV are props—she wears contacts).

"Paula pushed me up against the wall and threatened to beat the crap out of me as soon as she saw any change in my behavior," Fey told

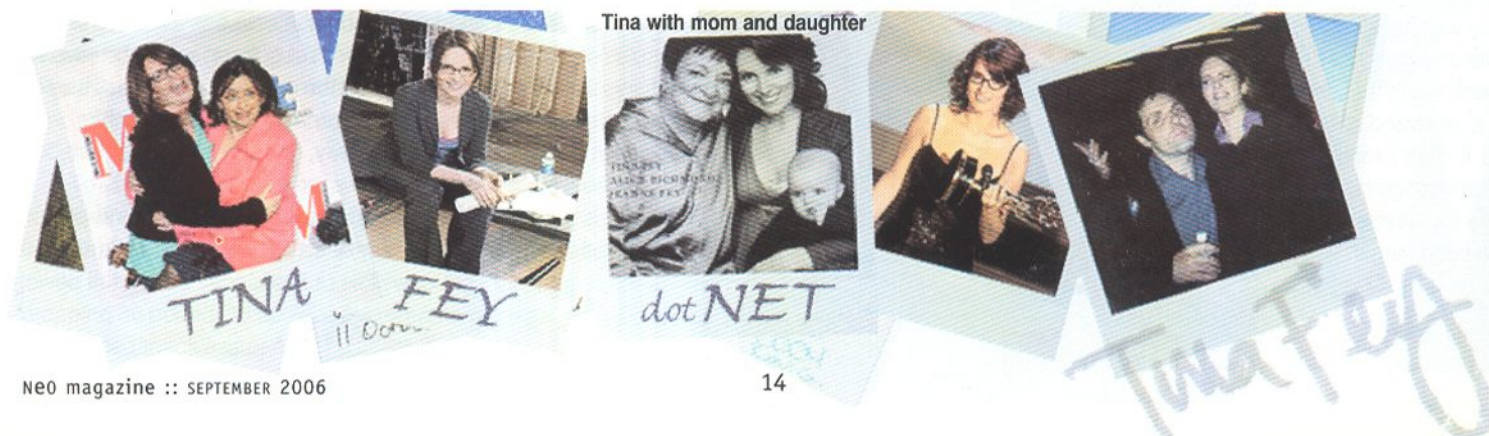
the *Observer* of fellow SNL writer Paula Pell. "She hasn't beaten me yet."

But she also resents being called "birdlike" by the SNL crew. "Do I have a birdlike, hawklike nose? Maybe it's because I s— all over the floor," she says. In fact, says Dratch, Fey is one tough bird. They wrote a two-woman show together called *Dratch & Fey* and Dratch says her writing partner is "all business. It's not like we're giggling, wearing those arrows on our heads while we are writing—There's not a lot of room for hanging out and pillow fights and stuff."

Now Fey, 36, has less room still because *30 Rock* is debuting on NBC next month and she's both the head writer and star—playing the head writer of a fictional comedy-variety show. "I had to get back to work," she says. "NBC has me under contract; the baby and I only have a verbal agreement." (Her daughter Alice Zenobia was born last September and Fey took maternity leave.)

She's also writing the follow-up feature films *Curly Oxide* and *Vic Thrill*.

"Even now, Tina says, 'I wish I had a little craft shop somewhere in



Florida," her husband Jeff Richmond told the *Observer*. "Every job she has had has been a great job—they are dream jobs to people—but they are also very hard."

They were dream jobs to Fey since she was little, growing up in a Greek neighborhood of Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, a middle class suburb of Philadelphia. Her father Donald was a grant writer for the University of Pennsylvania. Her mother Jeanne worked in a brokerage firm.

Her older brother remembers a drawing Tina did when she was seven. It shows people holding hands and walking down the street holding wedges of Swiss cheese. The caption read: "What a friend we have in cheeses!" Fey herself remembers watching a lot of comedy.

"I remember my parents sneaking me in to see *Young Frankenstein*," she says. "We would also watch *Saturday Night Live* or *Monty Python* or old Marx Brothers movies. My dad would let us stay up late to watch *The Honymooners*. We were not allowed to watch *The Flintstones*, though, which my dad hated because it ripped off *The Honeymooners*."

She graduated Upper Darby High School in 1988 (she was inducted into its Wall of Fame in 2004) and went to the University of Virginia intending to major in English. "They were too snooty-pants in the English department," she says. "So I got sucked into drama, which of course was a much easier major, since it's the only one that's graded on effort." She also wrote a short comic play. "I remember—sitting back in the back of the theater—watching people laugh," she says. "I was like—'Oh, my God, this is really cool.'"

She applied to the graduate theater program at DePaul, decided not to go, but went to Chicago, anyway, where she folded towels at the local YMCA while she took classes and did improv. She eventually found her way to the famed Second City come-



30 Rock cast



Tina Fey and Rachel Dratch

dy troupe, which was the finishing school for Bill Murray, John Candy and Martin Short among others. She began as a performer in the traveling company, but soon graduated to the main stage—and was a little overwhelmed.

"You never feel like you're funny enough," her husband remembers (he was Second City's musical director at the time). "She went through a period when she would come home and she'd cry and say, 'Oh, I'm not making it.' But, of course, she was."

She did only two main-stage shows with Second City when SNL came calling. She had sent several spec scripts to the show and Second City alum Adam McKay, then head writer at SNL. He liked them and showed them to Lorne Michaels. "She was very modest—and funny, and clearly very smart," said Michaels, who hired Fey, then 27.

She moved to New York, got a walk-up apartment on the Upper West Side, struggled at first on the show, then in a few weeks got her first sketch on the air, a Sally Jessy Raphael satire featuring an over-size baby played by Chris Farley. Parodies became her specialty and she later wrote recurring ones of *Live with Regis and Kelly* and *The View*.

Besides Weekend Update (she eventually became SNL's first woman head writer), she also wrote the popular "Sully and Denise" sketches with Dratch, featuring a pair of beer-swilling Boston teens who couldn't say the letter R, and they took their two-woman *Dratch & Fey* comedy show on the road.

Now, of course, she's become a one-woman conglomerate and her *30 Rock* comedy (named after 30 Rockefeller Center) is much anticipated. It's going up against Aaron Sorkin's *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip* drama starring Matthew Perry, about the network rescue of a live sketch-comedy show.

They're on the same network, so they're not competing, and one is a comedy and the other a drama. But they're two sides of the same coin and people are wondering which one is going to remain on the air when the smoke clears?

Fey has the final take.

"We'll probably end up doing a terrible crossover, where the Matthew Perry character on the drama rapes my character on the comedy—and then the *Law and Order* team solves the crime," she says.



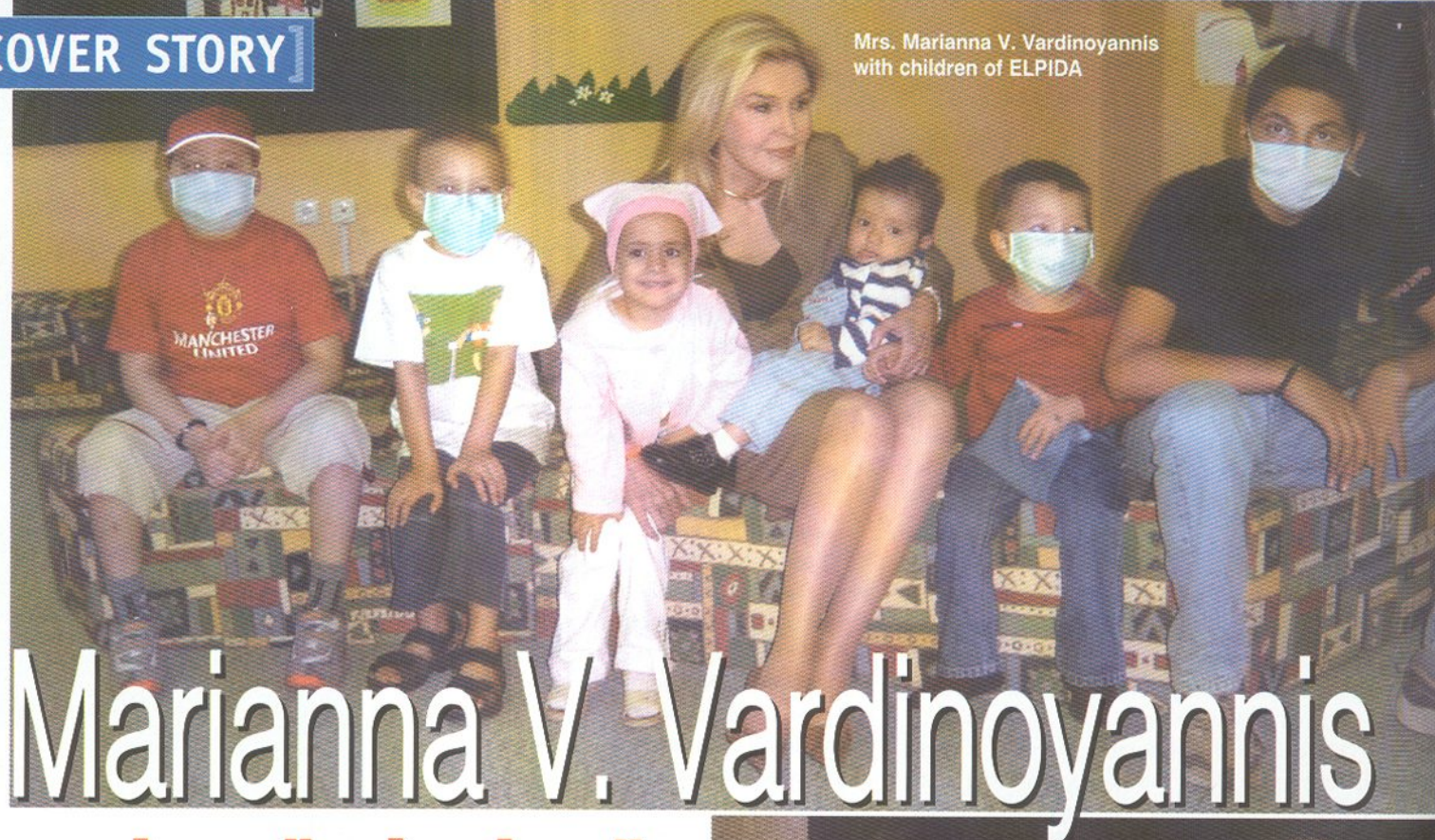
Tina Fey with husband Jeff



Doing Weekend Update



With the ladies of SNL

Mrs. Marianna V. Vardinoyannis
with children of ELPIDA

Marianna V. Vardinoyannis

on her "mission" to fight for women's and children's rights



By Demetrios Rhompotis

To say that Marianna V. Vardinoyannis-- UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, president of the ELPIDA Friends' Association of Children with Cancer, the Foundation for the Child and the Family, board member of various international agencies, PhD candidate, mother of five!--is a busy woman, would be an overstated understatement. Her philanthropic activities alone entail a schedule that could easily be compared to a head of state's. "I try to be useful," she says in an interview with NEO, the first to be published in the US in some time. Her drive "to struggle for a better world" is enhanced by the fact that she belongs to one of the most powerful business families in Greece, the Vardinoyannis dynasty. Countless celebrities, among them kings, princes, presidents, artists and intellectuals, have joined her crusade to "awake the social conscience."

Her bonds with the Greek American community are very strong. With her husband Vardis she sponsored a Hellenic library at New York Univer-



H.R.H. Princess Caroline of Monaco, H.R.H. Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, Mrs. Marianna V. Vardinoyannis during the Annual Meeting (2006) of the Goodwill Ambassadors at the Headquarters of UNESCO in Paris.

sity and Estelle Sotirhos, wife of the former ambassador of the US to Greece, Michael Sotirhos, is a co-founder of ELPIDA. A recent telethon by the Athens-based satellite Alpha Channel for the first Oncology Children's Hospital in Greece attracted numerous contributions from Greek Americans. "The only distance between us and the Greeks in America is geographical," she says.

NEO: Why do you commit yourself to so many causes?

The misery surrounding us has so many faces, and I believe none of us is justified if we ignore it, nor even more, may be forgiven for indifference toward those who suffer. I try to be useful. I have been very lucky

H.M. Queen Rania of Jordan and Mrs. Marianna V. Vardinoyannis with children of ELPIDA during Her Majesty's visit at the ELPIDA Guest House. (2005)



The "ELPIDA" Guest House that hosts the children under therapy in the Bone Marrow Transplant Units of ELPIDA and their families.

EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE AND TRAINING
Under the Patronage of Her Excellency Mrs. Si...

The laying-stone ceremony of the Early Childhood Resource and Training Center in Bethlehem. (2000)

in my life, and it is my belief that whoever has been blessed by God with a good life -- above all, with a happy family -- has a duty to give back some of those blessings to those who are in need. My struggle is for a better world. This is the focus of all I do, with diverse objectives that may at different times be major or minor, but are always targeted in the same direction. The slightest contribution I may be able to offer to realise this vision - the vision of a better world - that is the whole of humanity's, will to my mind be my greatest success.

NEO: You are particularly dedicated to the welfare of children. Can you tell us about the first Oncology Children's Hospital in Greece,

which is your most recent undertaking?

The ELPIDA Hospital will be not only the first Oncology Children's Hospital with all specializations in Greece, but also the first in the entire Balkans. This is why it brings very special hope to hundreds of families and children who are suffering. It will have the most up to date equipment, and will also comprise research laboratories, guest rooms for the families who are in the direst straits, a library and recreation areas for the hospitalized children, and so forth. It will be able to take in a considerable number of children, and we think this will mean practically eliminating the waiting list for it, which, despite the superhuman efforts being made at our Bone Marrow Transplant Units at the "Aghia Sophia" Children's Hospital, is a long one. The children it will receive will be coming not only from Greece, but other Mediterranean and Balkan countries too -- as is already the case for the Units and for our Guest House.

NEO: Through the Foundation for the Child and Family you raised the public's awareness on issues concerning the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. What is the situation in Greece regarding these issues and to what extent have the changes in Greek society during the last two decades (e.g., the influx of immigrants) created new realities on the ground?

Greek society has always been open, friendly and protective toward children, as well as foreigners. On the social map of the world, I would place Greece among the countries with the highest social conscience and respect for human rights. Even in the issue of illiteracy, which was once serious, in the rural areas particularly, there have been many changes recently, not only because of a stricter legislation but also primarily because of a change in the mentality and, of course, in the standard of living of the farming population. The right to education is self-evident nowadays, for both men and women. Furthermore, we have recently been very gratified to see stricter legislation enacted also relating to the issue of violence in the family. Abuse of children's rights in Greece is minimal, compared to what has been seen to happen in other countries.

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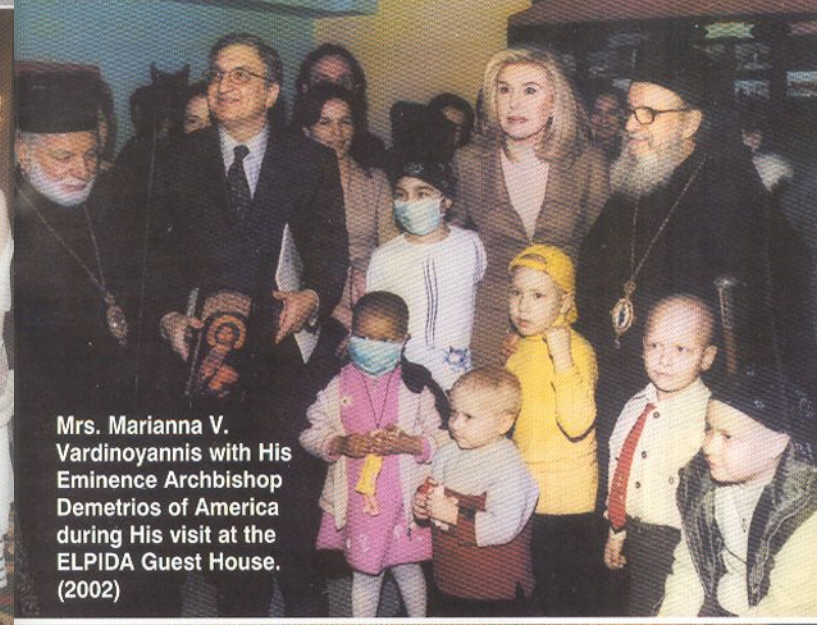
The Athens Round Table "The Business community against the Trafficking of human beings", organized by the "Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement". From the left: Mr. Naguib Sawiris-CEO of Orascom, H.H. Sheikhha Sabeeka-wife of the King of Bahrain, Mrs. Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, H.M. Queen Silvia of Sweden, Mr. David Arkless-CEO of "Manpower". (2006)



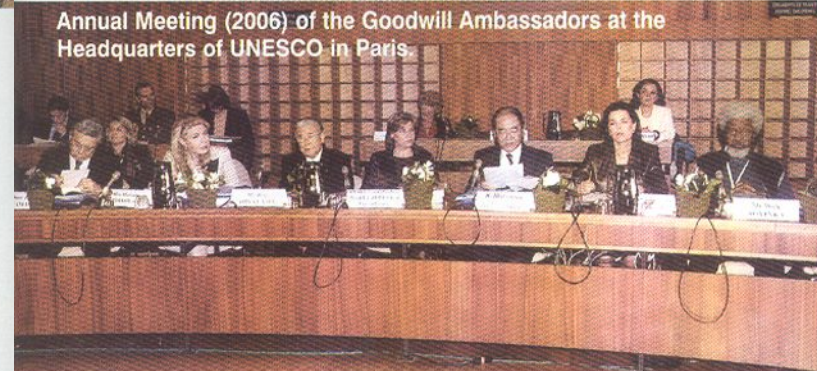
H.E. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, Mr. Richard Gere, Mr. Vardis Vardinoyannis and Mrs. Marianna V. Vardinoyannis at the fundraising gala organized in Cairo by the "Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement" to support the children of Palestine. (2005)



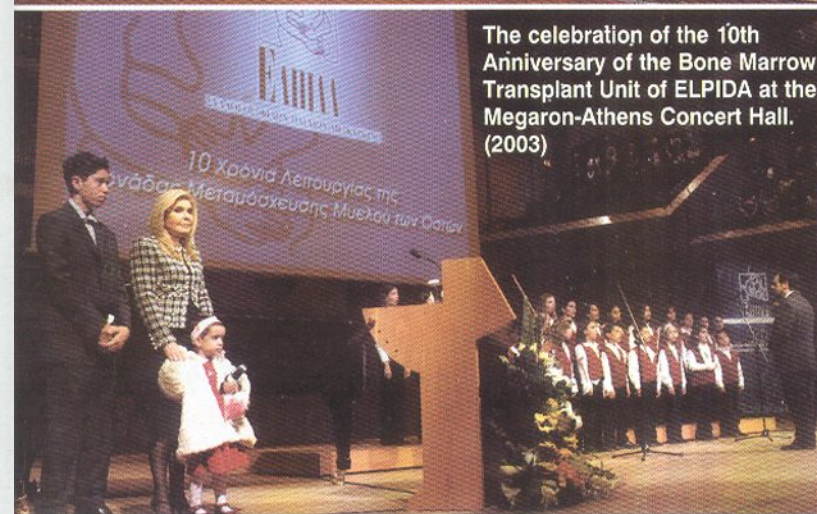
Mrs. Marianna V. Vardinoyannis with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America during his visit at the ELPIDA Guest House. (2002)



Annual Meeting (2006) of the Goodwill Ambassadors at the Headquarters of UNESCO in Paris.



The celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit of ELPIDA at the Megaron-Athens Concert Hall. (2003)



are the sole road leading to contribution to the social whole. There are other ways and we must each of us choose which is best suited to us. What matters is to want to do your bit.

NEO: With your husband you sponsored the creation of the J. P. Vardinoyannis Library at New York University. Do you plan more donations like this in the US?

When my husband and I donated the "Ioannis P. Vardinoyannis" Library at the University of New York, in memory of his father, which was complementary to the previous donation for instituting the Chair for Greek Expatriates at the same university, our wish was to do something concrete to stand by the side of the Greeks abroad, who do all they possibly can – and they are so successful! – to keep Greek culture and the Greek spirit alive as well as to make it known in the best possible way. Greeks, dispersed all over the world, have always been Greece's greatest strength! And today's

NEO: UNESCO in the US is not as popular and many times has been discredited for political or other reasons. You are a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador. Can you describe to us what that position entails and some of the ways in which UNESCO effectively deals with some of the leading social problems?

As far as I know the relations between the United States and UNESCO have been strengthened over the last few years. The United States rejoined UNESCO in October 2003 after a 19-year absence and I believe that this is very hopeful message for the future. Actually, the First Lady and UNESCO Honorary Ambassador for the Decade of Literacy, Mrs. Laura Bush, made education and literacy the centerpiece of the renewed partnership. Now the United States play an important role to UNESCO's activities. For example, the U.S. is an active member of the World Heritage Committee, is working with UNESCO in the field of ocean science and is also supporting the development of a global all-hazards warning system. Moreover, a partnership between UNESCO and NASA extends the benefits of NASA earth science research and remote sensing data, with an education and teacher-training component.

My participation in UNESCO's activity is an experience of special essence for me, since it is an endeavour conducted through teamwork with far-seeing programmes of lasting duration. I consider UNESCO's breadth of vision, foresight, immediacy and innovative approach as special elements of fundamental value. Through the enormous volume of data UNESCO processes and filters, it brings to light matters that will either have grave repercussions for humanity in the future or identifies essential sectors requiring support and protection. These issues, pertaining to the conservation of the intangible cultural heritage, the preservation of the world's cultural and natural heritage, the environment and the climate, the proliferation of AIDS, education for all – and so much more – demonstrate that UNESCO is fostering the future of our planet, with respect for the past, on the criteria of mankind and ecumenical values, armed with the instruments of technology and science. It is my opinion that, in the field of culture, UNESCO has achieved what we all wish the United Nations would achieve for peace: cooperation and dialogue among nations for a world of common action, understanding and tolerance, toward reconciliation and peace.

NEO: Since your activities involve some of the wealthiest people in the world, have you noted in them a new awareness of the need to do more not only to alleviate poverty but eradicate it?

Yes I have, I see a considerable change. Especially in the last decade, there is a strong movement of awakening of social conscience. Society

now demands that internationally a more just and sensitive, social and political environment should be secured. It is so encouraging that ever more celebrities, intellectuals, artists, athletes and personalities of other spheres are heading such a movement, that ever more large firms are mobilized, and that some of the wealthiest people devote vast amounts to bring relief to those sectors of the population who are in need. Also of significance is that a network has been formed by First Ladies, for the protection of children through their foundations. I participate in this network as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and as Board member of various international agencies, and can see the tremendous effort being made to deal with the gravest issues threatening children, such as sexual exploitation, trafficking, war, disease, and so much more.

NEO: Are your children actively involved in your philanthropic activities? What sort of world do you hope to see for them?

It's no secret that I have been, and still am, the Classic Mother! I did however try to give my children their own wings to fly with. My mother used to say: "What you need to do for your children is to give them wings and roots. Wings for them to fly, and roots for them to come back to you..." That's very wise. It makes me especially happy that today all my children support my humanitarian activities with their own initiatives and take active part in them in diverse ways. What's most important is that they and I share values and visions in common, that they in turn pass on to their own children, because most of them now have families of their own. The world that every parent wishes for his or her child...A world that is safe, peaceful, equitable and humane. But the vision of such a world needs a great deal of hard work on the part of us all.

NEO: You are obviously a very busy woman, but first and foremost a mother-how do you balance your time and to what extent do your activities take a toll on your family time? And when do you rest?

It requires strict regimentation, planning and programming and this of course, as so often happens, means putting your self last. What is certain is that my family ranks top of all in my life! I have not deprived my family of the time they need me to give them. Anything I do is subtracted from time for myself and time to rest. But I nevertheless try to find as much time as possible for occupations I really love, such as reading, sports, painting and, especially, to complete my thesis on archaeology I am preparing at Sheffield University.

NEO: Did you ever consider running for public office?

I have never considered any public office. I do not believe that politics

Hellenism abroad requires not only our admiration but also the support on the part of us all. We hope, for this reason, that we shall also have future opportunities for such initiatives.

NEO: Is your husband involved in your work? Are you involved in his projects?

We are each involved in separate activities, but together we share the same values and vision. If I had not had him by my side all these years, I would not have been able to achieve what I have done so far. He is my support in my initiatives, he inspires me, and he gives me strength to continue.

NEO: Do you find a sympathetic ear to your causes in the US? Have you ever considered starting a branch of the Foundation for the Child and the Family or the Elpida Association here in the States?

The message transmitted to us from the United States is encouraging in all ways. We have numerous friends, Greek-Americans and Americans, who have often, and so movingly, given their support to our efforts, in particular the mission of ELPIDA. And not only financially but morally also, in their concrete assistance to the families of sick children who go to the States for treatment. Besides, Mrs. Estelle Sotirhos, the wife of the former ambassador of the US to Greece, Mr. Michael Sotirhos, is co-founder of ELPIDA, which makes the relations of ELPIDA with the States even more intimate. Moreover, the message of solidarity from our fellow Greeks abroad was also transmitted to us by the His Eminence Archbishop of America Demetrios, on one of his last visits to Greece, which was a great honor for us and a powerful encouragement. Alpha Channel's recent telemarathon to reinforce the campaign for the construction of the first Oncology Children's Hospital in Greece brought the community of Greeks in the States even closer to us, and gives me hope that we shall have a great ally in this mission of ours.

This response is proof once more that for Greeks, humanitarian sentiments have no borders, and that the only distance between us and the Greeks in America is geographical, which means that there is no necessity for us to establish branches outside Greece. On the other hand, maintaining a central office in Athens assists in better coordination and improved effectiveness of our activities, which are exclusively focused on our objectives.

Of course, the Foundation for the Child and Family has an office at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris, because of the international nature of the Foundation's action and close cooperation with UNESCO, as well as its Consultative Status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

NEO: When will you next visit America? Is there a message you would like to convey to your Greek American friends and the community at large?

I hope to be visiting America soon, for at this time what has priority for me is the construction of the Hospital, which is about to commence shortly.

I should firstly like to extend my warmest thanks, from the bottom of my heart, for the enormous interest they demonstrate in my work, and particularly in the work of ELPIDA, mainly in view of the imminent building of the Hospital. Their support is of immense value to us. I should also like to express my admiration and appreciation of their great achievements in the States, which have rendered them the best ambassadors of our civilization, our history, our traditions and of the spirit of Greece. Also I wish to give them my assurance that I shall at all times be by their side for whatever they may need me.

For more information on Mrs. Vardinoyannis' philanthropic initiatives please visit www.childfamily.gr.



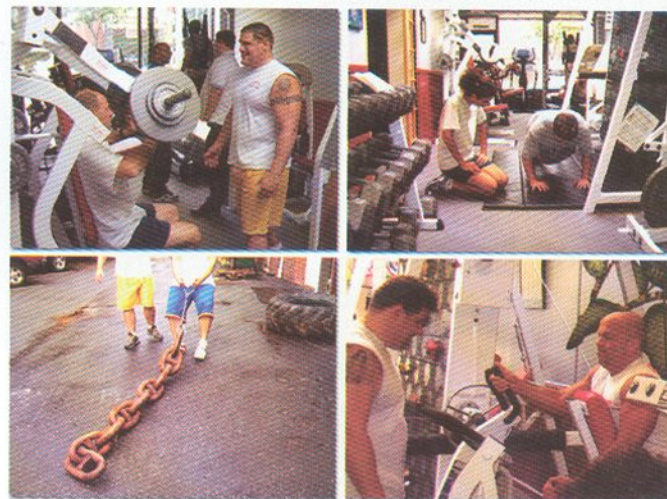
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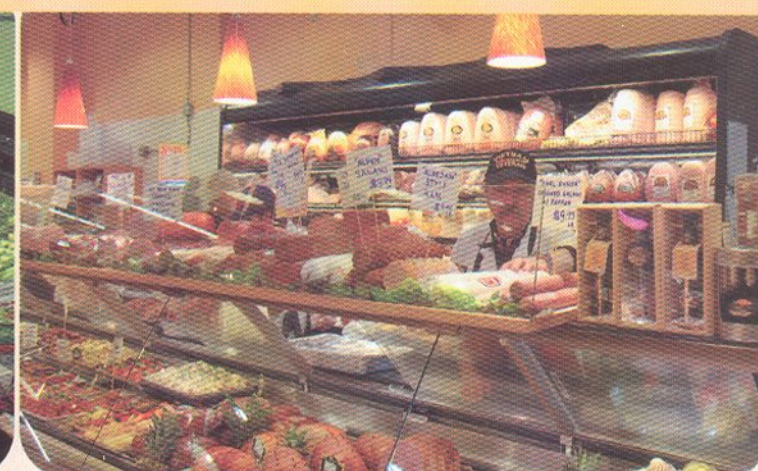
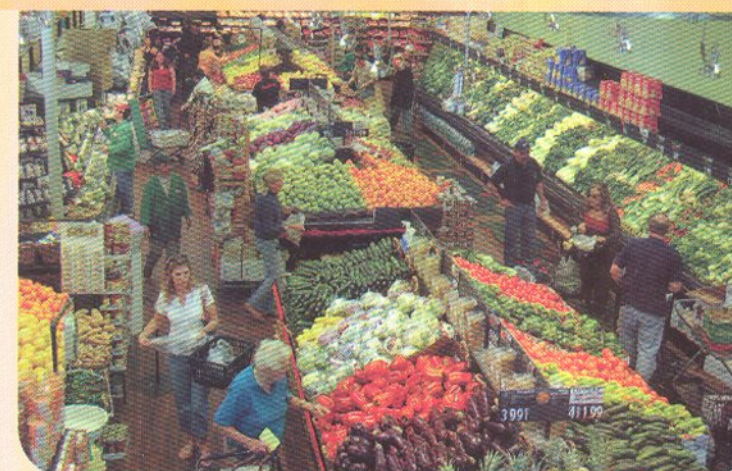
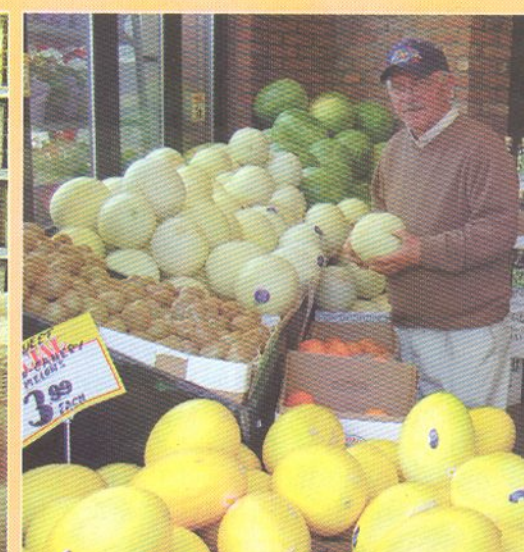
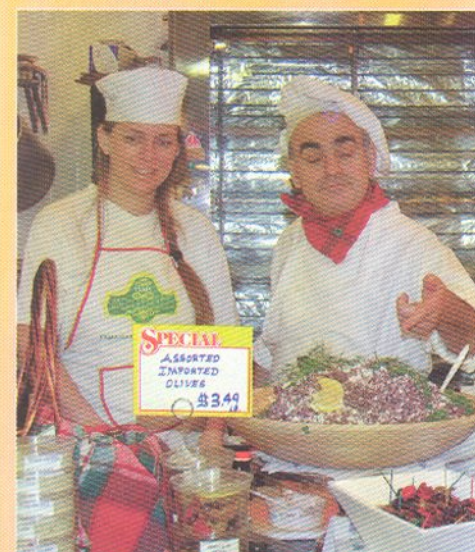
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Mobsters and lawbreakers took it on "the Chin" from former prosecutor George Stamboulidis

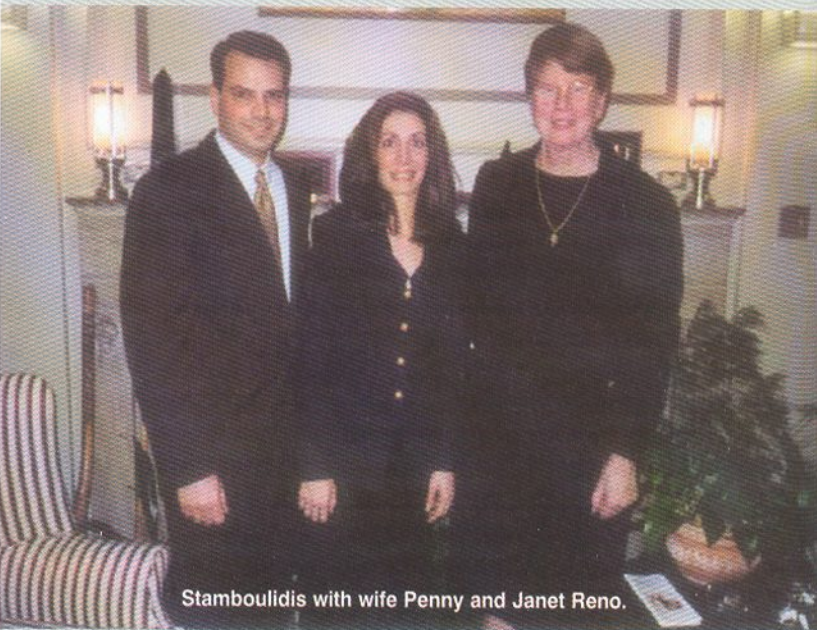
By Dimitri C. Michalakos

For thirty years, New York mobster Vincent "the Chin" Gigante had stayed out of jail by feigning mental illness and shuffling through New York in his pajamas. "He claimed that he was mentally incompetent to stand trial because he was a paranoid schizophrenic," says George Stamboulidis, the U.S. attorney who finally put "the Chin" behind bars. "He had invested a lot of years into that phony, crazy act."

"The Chin" periodically checked himself into St. Vincent's Psychiatric Ward for what friends euphemistically called "tune ups," had doctors prescribe him psychiatric drugs like Thorazine to create a paper trail and generally mumbled incoherently on the phone when he thought he was being bugged. "The reason he got the nickname Chin is because he didn't want people to use his real name, Vincent," says Stamboulidis, twelve years after he prosecuted the case still mildly-amused at the antics of "the Chin." "But then he didn't want his nickname overheard on tapes and he told his 'family' and friends to point to their chin when referring to him. And that's what they did. We had all these tapes where people are saying, 'This guy' and 'That guy' and you don't know what they're talking about, but if you were in the same room you could see them pointing at their chins."

Eventually, Stamboulidis got Gigante in the replacement windows caper (where the Chin got a piece of every window replaced in New York City high-rises) and he was indicted, stood trial (showing up in a wheelchair and a cane and feigning tremors in what turned out to be the wrong leg, until Stamboulidis pointed out the error) and he went to jail, where he died last year serving out a fourteen year sentence. "I got a call from a reporter who told me, do you have any comment?" says Stamboulidis. "I said, about what? Vincent Gigante died in a federal prison today. And my reaction was, he's faking. Only he wasn't faking it this time."

Stamboulidis, 44, left the Justice Department after 13 years in 2001 to become a partner in the litigation group at Baker Hostetler in New York and head their white collar defense and corporate investigations group. "I do some of the same work and have some of the same psychic income when I represent corporations which are victimized. I represent employees and officers of corporations, investors who get victimized by unscrupulous stock brokers and



Stamboulidis with wife Penny and Janet Reno.

Vincent Gigante



others, and sometimes I do represent those who are alleged to have committed crimes as well. My years as a prosecutor and my years of cutting my teeth on difficult issues and cases have given me the skill set to succeed as a defense attorney."

One of the most extraordinary cases he prosecuted for the government was the 2000 indictment against former Los Alamos nuclear scientist Wen Ho Lee for improperly handling classified information. Classified secrets could not be presented as evidence or mentioned unless mentioned in code, according to the Classified Information Procedures Act (CIPA). "So for example," says Stamboulidis, "if you're trying a case on what our nuclear designs are like and what our bomb codes are about and how someone would build a nuke you can't present your evidence in open court so everyone can hear it. You have to come up with a substitution that CIPA allows you and that the parties would know, and you'd let the jurors know, but the public wouldn't know it. You can't have spies from some other country sitting in the gallery of the courtroom and essentially taking notes on how to make nukes."

The case of Lee was sometimes criticized as an example of prosecutorial overkill, but Stamboulidis defends it: "I don't think Wen Ho Lee was a scapegoat. He was charged, and thoroughly charged, I would say, with mishandling classified information, which included bomb codes and bomb designs. And that's serious stuff: we're not talking about losing a can of beans or a widget, it's protected for a reason and everybody who works with it knows that."

After he left the Justice Department, Stamboulidis was named an outside independent monitor for Merrill Lynch in the wake of the Enron case. The firm had been accused of manipulating profit statements for Enron, or what Stamboulidis calls "accounting gymnastics."

"Justice really started seriously looking into corporate America and really wanting to make examples," he says. "And that's still the environment that we live in where it's open season on corporate America, at least from the perspective of the Department of Justice and the FCC and other regulatory agencies and other prosecutors."

Is he now defending corporate America as zealously as he once prosecuted it? "It's a little bit of overkill," he argues. "Prosecutors are turning standard and somewhat innocuous business practices into

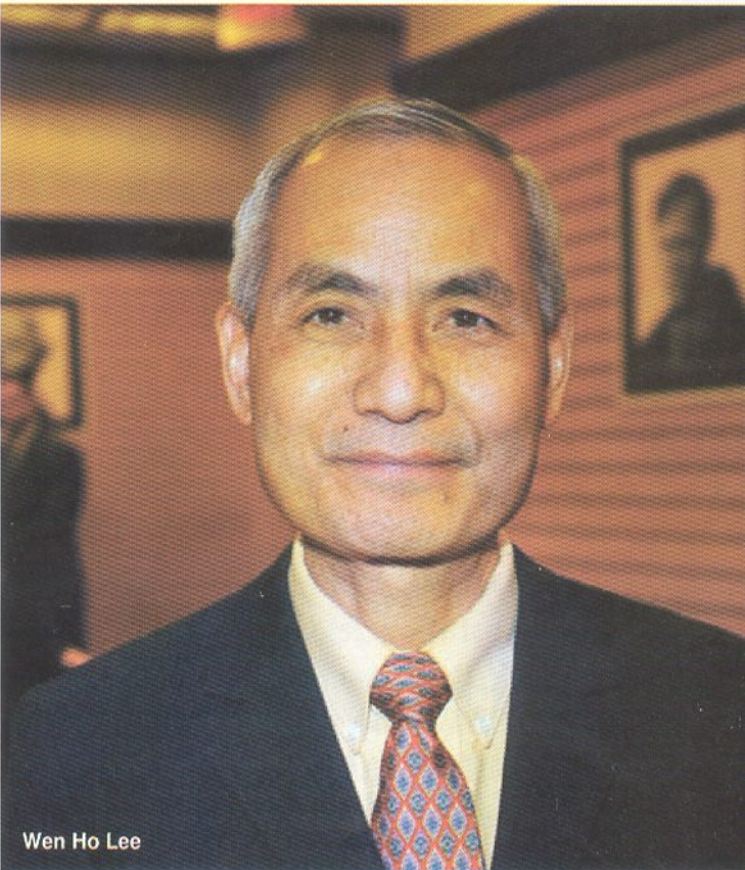
criminal behavior. In other incidents, obviously, there were crimes committed, as the people who pled guilty in Enron make clear. The accounting fraud cases against corporate America are going to continue. It's happening in just about any industry and I'm certain that corporate America has gotten the message."

When he worked as a prosecutor putting mobsters in jail did he ever get "the message" to back off? "There were threats," he concedes. "But to tell you the truth, I never took it personally. I wasn't so worried about mobsters killing me as I was about becoming the victim of a random street crime. I worked in tough neighborhoods, at all hours. And I also prosecuted tax protestors and sometimes they could be even more dangerous than Cosa Nostra hitmen. If you're ever in a courtroom where there's a tax protestor case, generally you see more armed federal agents and more high-powered weapons than you would if there was a mobster in the courtroom. You're dealing with people who are not stable. Wise guys are generally predictable."

If they were to whack me, so to speak, they knew there would be ten more of me to take my place. Generally when mobsters want to end a case, killing the prosecutor is not a cost effective way to do it."

Besides, Stamboulidis was famous for the tenacity even mobsters would fear. "If you were going to take the stand and commit perjury and lie and I was going to cross examine you, I'd say you'd be quite nervous," he says, calmly.

He says he likes to practice law by the motto he once saw on a plaque on his father's desk: "It said, 'What you might like to believe is



Wen Ho Lee

the truth may not be the truth.' And then it said, 'Don't stretch it to be the truth.' As a prosecutor that's good advice. A prosecutor has a duty to uphold the truth and justice. And that's why I really love my job now, because as a defense attorney I get to point out to jurors when a prosecutor just wants to win and forgets what was on that plaque in my dad's office."

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A Greek note at Julliard

Classical guitarists (and friends) Antigoni Goni (from Greece) and Tali Roth (from Israel) will highlight the 10 Year Anniversary Celebration of the Julliard School's Pre-College Division Guitar Program, on **Saturday, October 7th, 5-7 p.m.** in Julliard's **Paul Hall**, higher level of northwest corner of 65th St. and Broadway. Admission is free.)

Ms. Goni, founder and first teacher of the Pre-College Guitar Program, will play a solo medley while Ms. Roth, the Program's current chairwoman, will continue with *El Concierto de Aranjuez* accompanied by members of the Julliard Orchestra under the baton of Dr. Andrew Thomas.

Antigoni Goni (www.antigonigoni.com) has performed extensively in Europe, Russia, Canada, the Far East and the United States. As a recitalist, she regularly performs in concert Halls such as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall and the Julliard Theater in New York City, Spivey Hall in Atlanta, Benaroya Hall in Seattle and Herbst theater in St. Francisco, the Covent Garden in London, Gasteig Hall in Munich and the Athens Megaron as well as the Cappella Sale in St. Petersburg and the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow.

She is regularly featured on National Greek Radio and Bavarian Radio, as well as NPR and New York classical music stations, WQXR and



Tali Roth



Antigoni Goni

WNYC. She was the First Prize Winner at the 1995 International Guitar Foundation of America Competition, her success leading to a sixty-five cities North American concert tour and a contract with NAXOS records.

Ms. Goni studied with Evangelos Assimakopoulos at the National Conservatory in Athens and with John Mills and Julian Bream at the Royal Academy of Music in London and subsequently with Sharon Isbin at the Julliard School of Music from where she received her Masters degree.

Tali Roth (www.taliroth.com) has been hailed by Classical Guitar magazine as "an extraordinary chamber and solo musician." Since her Carnegie Hall debut with the Julliard Orchestra, she has performed as a soloist throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America, and her native Israel. She won Top Prize in all categories at the Twenty-Third Masterplayers Music and Conductors Competition in Switzerland, First Prize in the Israeli National Guitarist Competition, and the New York Artist International Competition Award.

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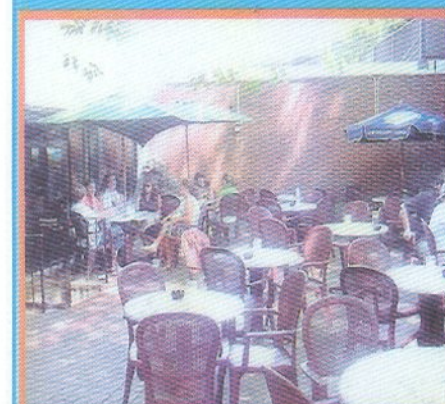
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[THEATER]

National Theatre of Greece presents The Persians at New York's City Center

The National Theatre of Greece returns for a six-performance run of Aeschylus' **The Persians** from Sept. 16 thru 20 at New York's City Center. (The play will be performed in Greek with English subtitles.)

The world famous company is the most important exponent of Greek drama in the world, and for this important new production, the great actress Lydia Koniordou heads the cast and directs the play that heralds the only Greek drama that is based on historic fact: the playwright himself took part in the great battle.

The Persians (Persae) is the oldest surviving play in history and the only surviving Greek tragedy that deals with a non-mythical theme. The play celebrates the final defeat of the armies of Xerxes in the sea-battle of Salamis (480 B.C.). After it was performed in 472 B.C. in Dionysia, Aeschylus (who himself fought in that battle) was awarded the first prize.

The play takes place in Susa, the capital of Persia, where Greeks for more than eleven years had fought against their enemies. It opens with Atossa, the Queen Mother and the Chorus representing the Persian nobles, the King's advisors. They are awaiting the news of King Xerxes' campaign against the Greeks. The Chorus is anxious and troubled by bad premonitions. Atossa describes her frightening dream about the campaign and decides to propitiate the gods with immolations. The scenes that follow offer the narrative of the defeat and ruin of the Persian forces.

The play is not only a boastful picture of the Greek triumph over Persians; It is solemn warning addressed to both victors and vanquished. It is a vision of divine justice humbling the pride of nations, a moral lesson on tyranny that touches the heart and conscience of each oppressor, whether Greek or barbarian.



New York City Center is located on West 55th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues in mid-town Manhattan. Audience entrances to the theaters (New York City Center's Mainstage, Stage I & Stage II) are on West 55th Street.

The Box Office is also located on West 55th Street in the outer lobby of the theater entrances.

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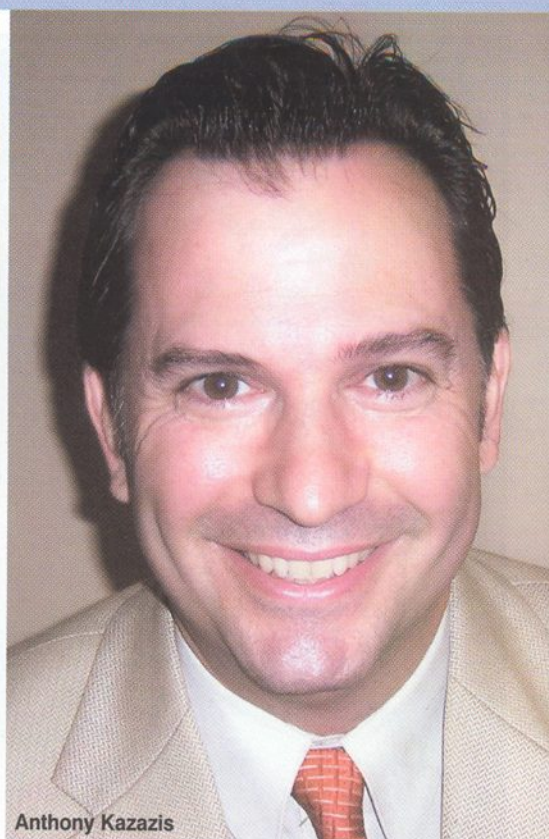
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Anthony Kazazis

The 2006 Queens Real Estate Expo—One Man's Dream

by Anthony Kazazis

What is the Queens Real Estate Expo (QREE)? The expo is an Expo/Trade Show of 80+ Exhibitors and participants who are professionals in the wide ranging field of real estate. The Expo will bring these real estate professionals and the people of Queens together for a day – where these professionals can showcase their products and services to the residents of Queens. The QREE is the first Real Estate Expo being held in Queens County of its kind.

Why an Expo? The birth of the Queens Real Estate Expo grew from my dream to put together an event that offers both affordability and flexibility to the exhibitors – as well as my desire to better educate home buyers and investors about the often confusing real estate arena. I have always enjoyed attending expos and trade shows and have also been a part of many over the years. I have not, although, been a fan of the high cost factors that have become the norm for these expos (The fees range anywhere from \$1,500 - \$3,000+.) **The fees for our booths range from \$495 - \$695. We also offer the opportunity for all real estate related businesses to have their flyers/brochures displayed at the Expo for a minimal fee of \$75.** (We also encourage these "Flyer Participants" to be at the Expo to meet people and hand out their materials personally.) As you can see, I have put this Expo together so that not only the larger company can participate, but the smaller company and the sole proprietor can afford to take part in it as well.

Why Queens County? I could never understand why there weren't

any expos in Queens County, especially when the population of Queens is the largest of all the 5 boroughs. In fact, if you were to separate Queens County from the boroughs, it can stand alone as the 7th largest city in the US. The diversity of Queens, the opportunity and ongoing development and the continued increasing property values makes Queens County the ideal location for a real estate expo. Why travel to expos in NYC, Nassau County, Westchester or New Jersey, when you have the convenience of attending an expo in your own back yard?

I suppose I should first start by mentioning I am a big "people person" and a networker at heart. I strongly believe in the "givers gain" philosophy. Of course you always offer your clients the best products and services available. But in order to be an exceptional sales person you should be able to offer something more to your clients in return. That is what I strive to do and being a natural networker assists me in that goal. If someone is looking for a new employee, I usually have 3-4 resumes already waiting on my desk for them to look at. If someone needs a job, I put the word out and they usually land a new job rather quickly. I see this Expo as a natural extension of what I do on a daily basis, which is helping and connecting people with one another. This is truly the part of my business that I enjoy most.

The QREE will be jam-packed with valuable educational information and useful advice for all attendees to benefit from. **The Expo exhibitors include banks, real estate brokers, mortgage companies, attorneys, title insurance co., contractors, insurance companies, inspectors, appraisers, etc.** It's been my experience that most people have many unanswered real estate related questions. How many individuals ask

themselves "Which mortgage program is best for me and my family?" or "How do I get these water and sewer violations removed from my investment property?" or "Do I really need title insurance when I purchase my new home?" These questions and 100's more will be answered at this event. There will be **FREE Educational Seminars** going on all day from 10AM to 5PM. Some of the seminar topics include: buying and selling your home, commercial or investment property, buying or selling a business, choosing a mortgage program, credit repair, violation removal, title insurance, asset protection and 1031 Tax Deferred Exchanges...plus much, much more. In addition to all this, we have **7 "Mini" Expos** going on at the same time. These seven companies include: **Chase Manhattan, Citibank, Commerce Bank, HSBC, Mortgage World Bankers, Suntrust and Washington Mutual.** Each of these companies will be offering their own array of educational programs, lectures and materials to the attendees. There will certainly be something of interest for everyone.

The Queens Real Estate Expo is on Saturday, September 16th at the Crowne Plaza hotel in East Elmhurst, near LaGuardia Airport (Address: 104-04 Ditmars Boulevard, East Elmhurst; Telephone: 718-457-6300) Bus lines: from Manhattan, M60 – to LaGuardia Airport, lines 23 & Q48. The Expo is from 10AM to 5PM and the cost is FREE - there is no charge to attend.

The QREE will be fun for the whole family. There will be free refreshments and the hotel is offering a 15% discount to attendees off the restaurant's breakfast and lunch buffets. There will be several giveaways from the exhibitors and if you sign in at registration, you will have the opportunity to win 1 out of the 5 DVD Players we are giving away.

For information please visit our website at www.QueensRealEstateExpo.com for a full list of seminar speakers and their schedule, exhibitor participants and their exhibit location, registration information and news updates.

If there are any specific questions, you can contact me directly at: **Tele: 646-210-2545, Fax: 646-349-3849 or Email: apkazazis@optonline.net.** I hope to see you at the QREE EXPO!

Anthony Kazazis was born in Jamaica, Queens. After graduating from Elmira College in 1985 with a bachelors of science, he moved to Astoria and began working with his father, George Kazazis, a real estate attorney in Queens for over 35 year. He opened his own mortgage company - Prota Equities at age 21 and after 15 years in the mortgage business he moved to the Title Insurance business. He currently works for Commonwealth Land Title Insurance, a Fortune 500 company, which offers Title Insurance services domestically in 49 states, as well as internationally. It also offers 1031 Tax Exchanges—a way to save on the 15% capital gains tax when selling an investment property and "exchanging" it for another of equal or greater value.



[PEOPLE & PLACES]

Noted Greeks share secrets of their success with the new generation

Some of the country's most successful Greeks recently met with young Greek-Americans in Washington, D.C. at the Third Annual *Week In Washington*. Greeks ages 16-30 had in-depth meetings with preminent Hellenes to discuss their secrets to success.

"For men and women of this stature to treat our Week in Washington youth as though they are their nieces and nephews is, in my mind, the most magical part of this program. As well, the bonding of these young Hellenes with each other will hopefully forge relations that will last a lifetime," said program creator, Andy Manatos.

Some of the featured speakers in this year's program included: Director of National Intelligence, John D. Negroponte; Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD), Congressman Michael Bilirakis

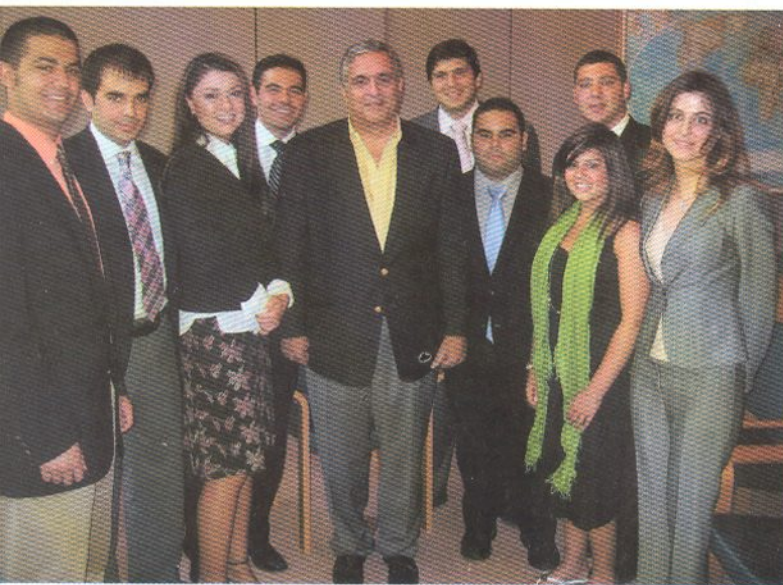


Young Hellenes in front of the Capitol

(R-FL) and his son Gus Bilirakis who is running to replace his father in the U.S. Congress; former-CIA Director George Tenet and former US-AID Administrator Andrew Natsios, both of whom are currently professors at Georgetown University; World President of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) and successful businessman, Andrew A. Athens, who was visiting Washington, D.C. that week; record-setting Washington area homebuilder Steve Yeonas, and successful restaurateur, Gregory Auger; former Associate Counsel to the President and current

partner at one of Washington's top law firms, Dimitri Nionakis; Department of Health and Human Services Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Jack Kalavritinos, White House Public Liaison Associate Director, Dana Edwards, and the Outreach Advisor for the Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Tom Manatos;

Those interested in participating in future sessions of this program should contact Manatos & Manatos at Manatos@Manatos.com or 202-393-7790.



Young Hellenes with former CIA director George Tenet



Young Hellenes talking with Sen. Paul Sarbanes

[PEOPLE & PLACES]

Albany Law School welcomes visiting professor Dr. Marina Angel

Marina Angel, a professor of law at Temple University, will join Albany Law School this year as the Kate Stoneman Visiting Professor of Law and Democracy. Professor Angel is a nationally and internationally recognized women's rights scholar who has received the Philadelphia Bar Association's Sandra Day O'Connor Award, the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Anne X. Alpern Award, and the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Award—the highest honor the ABA can confer exclusively on women. She will teach a course on Violence Against Women, affiliate with the school's Domestic Violence Clinics, and deliver a public lecture.

Professor Angel has been a faculty member at Temple University since 1978. She joined Temple after teaching at Hofstra Law School and working as an associate at Gordon & Schetman, P.C., in New York City, where she represented professional unions and handled race and sex discrimination cases.

Shortly after arriving at Temple, Professor Angel began her extensive research on women's le-

gal rights and the status of women in law. She documented, for the first time, the nature and the scope of sexual harassment perpetrated by judges. New proposed amendments to the ABA's Model Rules of Judicial Conduct incorporate her anti-harassment recommendations. Later, she focused on abuse and violence against women and girls and the criminal justice system's responses, analyzing the relationship between gender stereotypes and violence.

More recently, Angel has researched, spoken and written on discrimination against women by law schools, universities, and the legal profession. Her cutting edge statistical studies document the fact that women are becoming the contingent workers of the legal profession, increasingly occupying contract rather than tenured positions in law schools and universities and contract or at will rather than partner/shareholder positions in law firms. Angel has more than 30 publications to her credit.

At Temple, Professor Angel served as associate dean for graduate legal studies and external programs; directed Temple's summer session abroad



at the University of Athens; and founded the Pennsylvania and Delaware Valley Women Law Teachers. In addition, Professor Angel has taught abroad as a visiting law school professor at various universities, including Queensland Institute of Technology and Wollongong University in Australia; Tel Aviv University; and the University of Puerto Rico.

Professor Angel earned her bachelor's degree from Barnard College and a Juris Doctor degree from Columbia Law School, where she graduated magna cum laude. She also received an LL.M. in Criminal Law and Litigation from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Professor Angel is active in the American Bar Association (ABA), serving on seven ABA law school accreditation site inspection teams. She is also a member of the bar associations of New York City, Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, and has served on the Philadelphia Bar's Gender Bias Task Force and the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession, producing its Annual Report Card on the status of women lawyers in Pennsylvania.

The Kate Stoneman Visiting Professorship in Law and Democracy brings a nationally and internationally acclaimed legal scholar to Albany Law School for one semester to teach students critical issues in the law and democracy. The professors spend a semester or a year in research, teaching, lecturing and writing. In 1898, Katherine Stoneman became the first woman to graduate from Albany Law School. She was the first woman admitted to the practice of law in New York State.

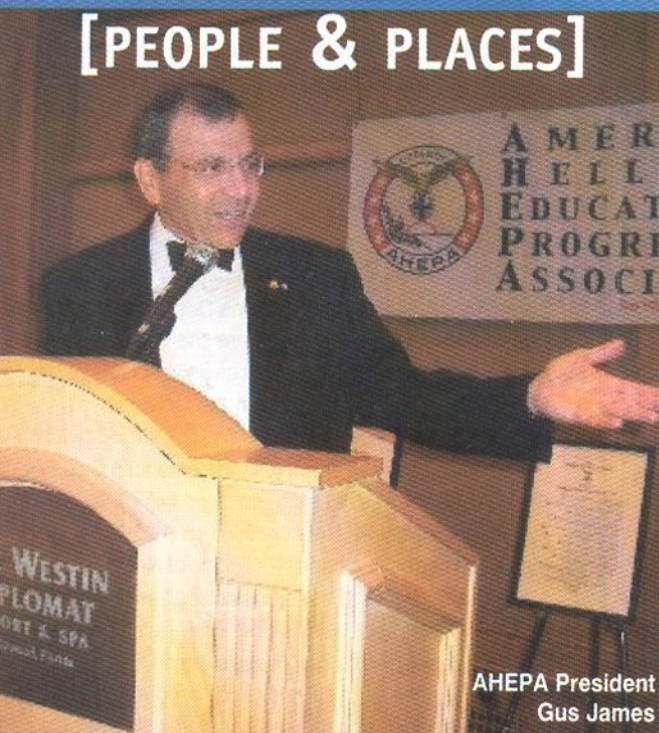


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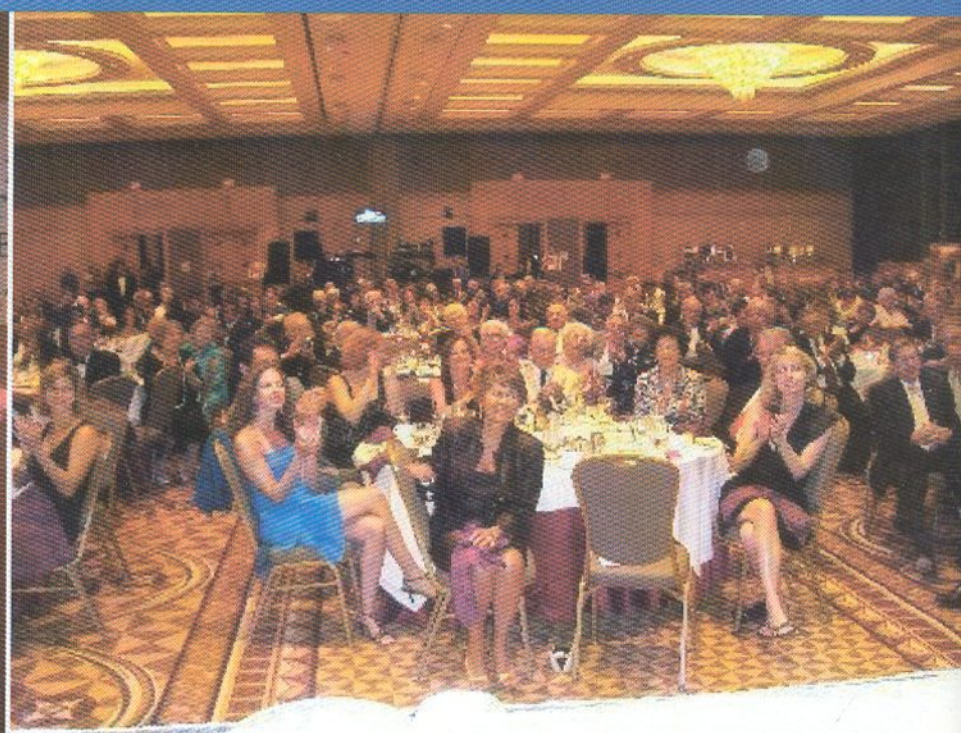
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AHEPA President
Gus James

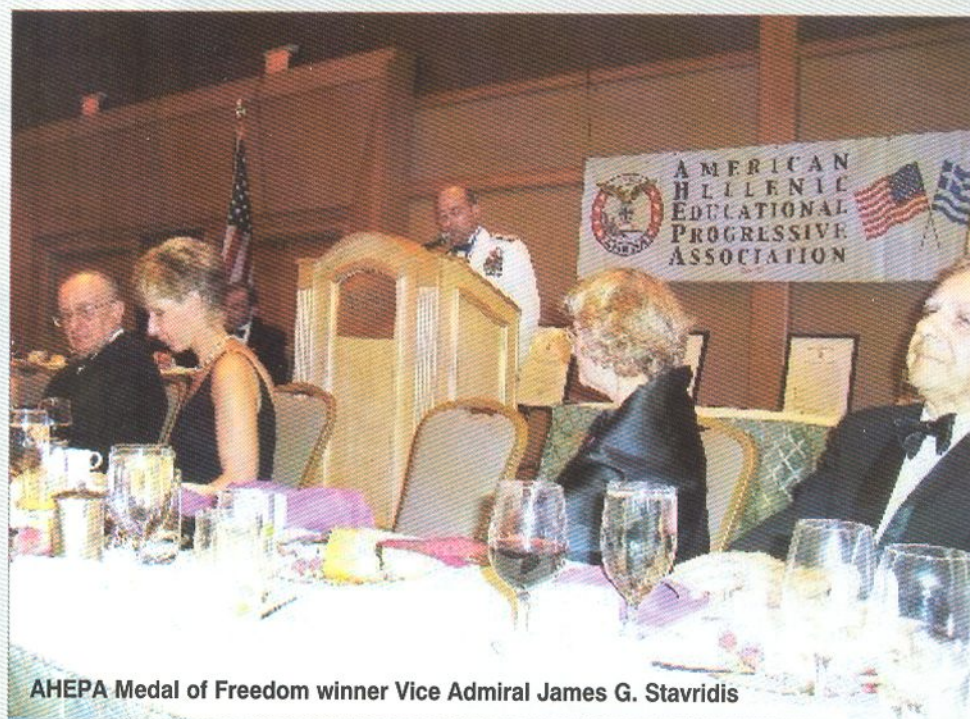


Gus J. James reelected as AHEPA president

The delegates of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), a leading Hellenic heritage organization, re-elected Gus J. James, II, Virginia Beach, Va., Supreme President for the 2006 - 2007 year during the national convention held end of July in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

"I am honored to be given the unique opportunity to serve as supreme president for a second consecutive term," said James at the convention's lavish banquet that brought together hundreds of Greek Americans from all over the country and featured as dignitaries Archbishop Demetrios of America, Metropolitan Bishop Alexios, among others, and MCed by Basile himself! "I will continue to work hard promoting AHEPA and its mission domestically and abroad. This effort, I strongly believe, will help AHEPA grow." He also thanked outgoing supreme lodge members, his wife, Helen, and family for their support.

James is the first president elected to a second term since Dr Spiro J. Macris who served



AHEPA Medal of Freedom winner Vice Admiral James G. Stavridis

from 1994 to 1996. He is a member of Robert E. Lee Chapter No. 122, Norfolk, Va., one of the strongest in the AHEPA family.

He is also the CEO and president of the Norfolk, VA, law firm Kaufman & Canoles.

James' roots are in the northern occupied

Cypriot village of Koma Tou Yialou, where his father and grandparents are buried. He left Cyprus at the age of seven with his two sisters. James is an Archon in the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle and a member of Annunciation Cathedral in Norfolk, Va.



Supreme Lodge & Board of Directors Elections

The balance of the Supreme Lodge is a fine blend of veteran leadership combined with energetic newcomers. They are: Canadian President Foti Antoniou; Supreme Vice President Gus Stefanadis; Supreme Secretary Nick Karacostas; Supreme Treasurer Dr. John Grossomanides, Jr.; Supreme Counselor Chris Rockas and Supreme Athletic Director Dr. Monthe N. Kofos.

The eight Supreme Governors are: Mark Alevizos; Anthony Drakos; Anthony Kouzounis; Michael Manios; Harry Psaltis; James Selimos; Spiro Vasilakis and Tom Cavalaris.

AHEPA Family Elections

The remaining organizations that comprise the AHEPA family also held elections. Georgia Psychogios was elected Grand President of the Daughters of Penelope; Elias Papadopoulos was elected Supreme President of the Sons of Pericles and Maria Panayotou was elected Grand President of the Maids of Athena.

AHEPA is the largest Greek-American association in the world with chapters in the United States, Canada, Greece, and Cyprus and sister chapters in Australia and New Zealand. It was

established in 1922 by visionary Greek Americans to protect Hellenes from prejudice originating from the KKK, and in its history, AHEPA joined with the NAACP and B'nai B'rith to fight discrimination.

The mission of the AHEPA is to promote

the ideals of Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility and family and individual excellence.

The AHEPA family consists of four organizations: AHEPA, Daughters of Penelope, Sons of Pericles and Maids of Athena.



Gus James with James Petheriotes, from Houston, Texas, winner of the AHEPA Lifetime Achievement Award.

New year's resolutions...

⌘ A NEO season is commencing this month and the time to roll up our sleeves has come once more. It's now that the year really starts and not January 1st. The four-season civilizations such as ours come to terms with the annual cycle of activities in September, the seventh (as its name in Latin signifies) month of the Roman calendar which was divided into ten 30 days periods of which December (tenth in Greek and Latin) was the last one. Speaking of calendars, according to Jewish tradition the year starts in September too, as does the Greek Orthodox one. It seems that people since early antiquity – again in civilizations with four seasons – felt the need to mark the beginning of their annual working and ceremonial system in autumn. Through our genes it passed then from generation to generation all the way to our own time. And despite the iconoclastic tendencies that characterize our modern world – calendar traditions are included in their "toll" – one has the feeling, the eagerness, the special drive to start all over again in September. Even people who are not that busy tend to avoid taking vacation after Labor Day. The exceptions – countless sometimes – just prove the rule.

⌘ So, since we agreed – for the sake of this column at least – that our creative year starts now, I think we are entitled to making certain resolutions that normally we keep for New Year's Day (January 1st.) Anyway, it's not unusual in America to celebrate retrospectively. For example, Labor Day moved to September from May 1st. Other holidays go a few days ahead in order to fall on Monday.

⌘ We at in NEO have made many resolutions individually, but collectively I think they can be summarized in these:

- We will keep searching for interesting stories from the American mainstream in which our people are involved as leaders (based on what they do, not necessarily their titles.)

- We will keep treating our world and that of Greece and Cyprus on an equal footing. After all, we, as people, are historically cosmopolitan (citizens of the world.) In other words, in contrast with the experience of the Jews who have sanctified over the millennia the idea of Israel as a specific piece of land, for us, Hellenes (whether Americans, Germans, Russians, Africans, Australians and yes Turks,) Hellas is everywhere we, Greeks, live and create. The same notion has been imbued to the Hellenic ver-

sion of Christianity. The Orthodox Catholic Church is to be found wherever Eucharist is communed and not to any particular "Holly Land." Those are elements of our identity that once they are fully realized, have the power to further liberate us by simultaneously binding us to a more pure form of Hellenism.

- We will keep trying incessantly to improve NEO by making each issue true to the meaning of the magazine's name. In renewal there is progress and the experience of the previous issues can guarantee the positive direction of that progress.

- We will keep taking for granted that you, our readers and supporters, will be on our side so long as we respect in deeds our commitments to you.

⌘ We are going to have some real busy months ahead. Elections are in the corner (November in the US, October in Greece) and besides the many established and promising politicians of Hellenic descent, it's time for us, the Greek voters, to prove that in numbers we are more than our candidates! Besides, as State Representative from Connecticut Demetrios Gianaros once said: "In classical Athens those who were not actively participating in politics (in the affairs of the city – polis – that is) were called scornfully 'idiotes.' That's where the word 'idiots' in English come from."

⌘ Schools of any kind and grade are also opening this time. Whether a student, parent, a concerned Greek American, get involved! Make the time and the way to participate in improving the quality of our children's education. Without 'paideia' democracy cannot function properly because it's a system conceived and applied by highly intellectually capacitated people. It's not enough to say that we are descendants of those glorious Athenians, Ionians or Macedonians. We have to prove it in our daily life by applying that nobility of spirit to those not so noble surroundings of ours.

⌘ I have to admit that I was somehow carried away in my fervor to sound convincing. The fact that the last segment of this note sounded like a first day of class speech might be due to the fact that schools begin now. That same, invisible impulse which makes most of us consider this period the real beginning of the new year, might be responsible for this tendency of mine as well.

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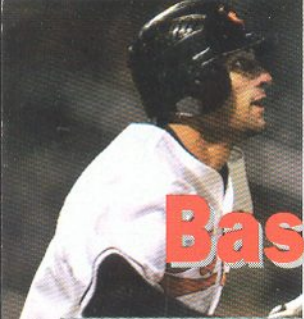
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NICK MARKAKIS: Baseball's newest "Golden Greek"

by Chris N. Karalekas

Baseball legends like Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, Reggie Jackson and Don Mattingly all stood on the same soil, and in the same batter's box at Yankee Stadium.

And on this August day, Baltimore Orioles 22-year-old rightfielder Nick Markakis stood exactly where those legends stood, and stood tall, with an undeniably bright future in major league baseball. Rarely do players have bestowed on them the greatest accolade paid to a player: that he's a "five tool player." A five tool player has speed; can hit; can hit with power; has a rifle (strong) arm; and has leather (great glove defensively). Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays, and a current player like Vladimir Guerrero are in that select company—and Nick Markakis is getting ready to join that elite club.

On this pristine summer day in New York, with not a cloud in the sky, Nick Markakis was taking batting practice at Yankee Stadium almost four hours before game time under the watchful eye of respected batting coach, Terry Crowley. Markakis took his swings methodically and almost rhythmically, lashing line drive after line drive into the outfield. From a distance he made it look so effortless, like the great ones always do. The late great Ted Williams, one of the greatest hitters of all time, always said the single most difficult thing to do in sports is to consistently hit a 90-mile-per-hour "round" fastball with a "round" baseball bat and to hit it squarely while it moves.

Baseball is a wonderful game, but it's a game of failure. Therein lies the ultimate challenge. The best hitters hit for a .300 average, which means you're considered a very good hitter on the big-league level when you get 3 hits in every 10 at bats. Ted Williams was the last player in the major leagues to hit .400 for a full season back in 1941, and a testament to his genius is that he finished his career with a .406 batting average.

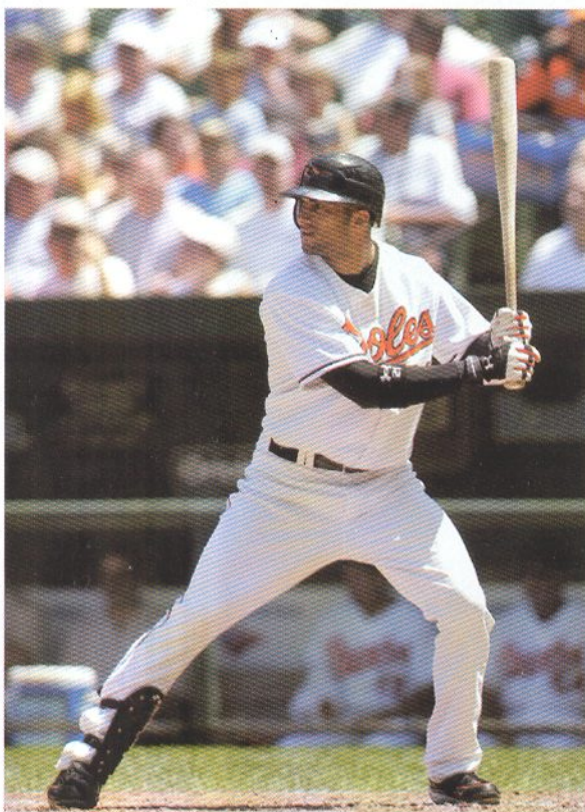
Speaking of hitting .400, after a tough start to his rookie season, Markakis hit at a blistering .400 clip for the entire month of July, to bring his overall season's average to .301 as of late August. Because Markakis had a great 2006 spring training, he made the big club by making the jump and bypassing Triple A straight to the majors. He hit .358 in Florida, and had an unreal on-base percentage of .443, and an even better slugging percentage of .522.

Ordinarily, moving to the majors from the minors is a huge jump—but Markakis has largely done it because his skills are not those of ordinary men playing this game.

To hear the modest and soft-spoken Markakis, what's helped him succeed in the big leagues so far is the 2004 Athens Olympics, where he was a member of the Greek National Baseball team and which, he says, was a key element in his development on the big league stage.

"Besides being in the big leagues, to have competed with the best athletes in the world was a rewarding experience for me, and it has helped me here," he says.

Markakis, being the gentleman he is, also credits his Orioles hitting coach,



Terry Crowley (he's "a big part of my success"). But make no mistake; he didn't get to the big leagues without having a burning desire to succeed. The word complacent is not in his lexicon. He's smart enough to know that too many people would love to have his job, and he loves it too much to take it for granted.

Interestingly, Markakis wears uniform number 21, as both a reminder and inspiration. It's the number of his boyhood idol, Roger Clemens. Around baseball, everyone knows Clemens' diligent workouts before and after games. So it's no surprise when Markakis indicates he not only wears his idol's number, he'd like to follow Clemens' ferocious work ethic.

Buck Martinez, former big leaguer and current TV broadcaster for the Orioles, praises Markakis for "never putting his head down" after his tough rookie season. "The most impressive thing to me is he never made excuses, never complained, remained positive, worked hard, and it paid off when he hit .400 in July," says Martinez. Orioles manager Sam Perlozzo says what separates his prized rookie is his "mental capacity and toughness" and he's "not intimidated or afraid of failure, or of working hard to be as good as he can be... You don't see that in young kids today."

Jim Duquette, V.P. of Baseball Operations for the Orioles, says from spring training Markakis "looked like he belonged" and he has been most "impressed by the way he carries himself" with the quiet confidence of a veteran major leaguer. Yankee skipper Joe Torre says "from the little that I've seen him so far he looks like a real good ballplayer. I know that Lee Mazzilli (current bench coach for Torre and former Orioles manager) is very high on him, and thinks the world of him as a kid and as a "talent."

Even Yankee captain Derek Jeter has something nice to say about Markakis: He looks, says Jeter, "pretty good."

Terry Crowley, eyeing practice from behind the batting cage, waxed more enthusiastic: "He has a good eye; he has power; he has a quick bat and he hits to all fields; he's only 22 years old, and he's a terrific kid — he's the best."

So on this beautiful August day, in front of a crowd of some 55,000 people in the storied Yankee Stadium, Markakis was batting second in the lineup after his great July. Once his name was announced by the stadium's legendary Bob Shepard, in his inimitable baritone resonating throughout the stadium, it seemed that the anointing moment in Markakis' career was about to occur.

And it did.

In his first at bat at the top of the order, Markakis walked up to the plate, dug in his cleats, took a deep breath, and with a throng of 55,000 fans watching, he swung at the second pitch Yankee starter Cory Lidle threw and drove the ball deep over the right center field wall and into the bleachers for a prodigious home run.

On the next night, in the third and final game of this series at Yankee Stadium, he hit another home run, this time a three-run shot to the right center field bleachers. And he made a tremendous diving catch coming in from right field.

The rookie with all the promise had just made all the promises come true.



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