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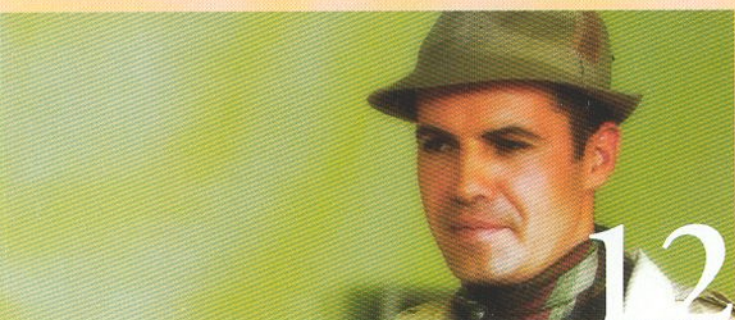
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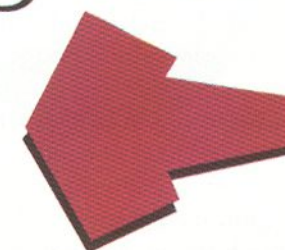
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FROM THE EDITOR

GENERATIONS

This is our first annual *Generations* issue profiling generations of successful families, and to paraphrase Tolstoy, each successful in its own way. We often measure success by material things—who has the biggest house in the nicest neighborhood, who drives the most expensive car, who takes the most vacations. But success in families is more than how materially successful you are—it's also how much you know and care about each other, how much you truly feel the pain and struggle of each other's lives.

Harry Mark Petrakis has written the most memorably about his own parents, Reverend Mark and *Presvytera* Stella, in his autobiography appropriately named after both of them, *Stelmark*. We're honored to offer in our issue an excerpt from *Stelmark* (which was combined with the journal of the writing of *The Hour of the Bell* into a 1983 volume called *Reflections*). It's only a small portion of what is a haunting book: the most poignant record we have of the life of Greek Americans in the ethnic *shtetl*s of cities like Chicago in this century. And of the struggles they endured, the heartaches they suffered, and the world they built which is our legacy, and America's legacy, while they themselves and the memory of their lives steadily vanish in the mist like ships in the night.

I remember one visit to Greece when my grandmother took me into the "parlor" of her house and yanked open the drawer of the bureau that contained all the sacred treasures sent to her by the kids. It was stacked with all the Cannon bed sheets shipped from American which she never used "because they were for formal occasions" and for formal guests—which means they were never used and had permanent creases. On this occasion, she scrabbled with her gnarled fingers into the corner of the drawer and then with glistening eyes and moist lips she produced her treasure: it was a cheap vest pocket watch my uncle had brought back from Germany for my grandfather and which, of course, my grandmother immediately appropriated and stuffed into the sacred bureau. "Keep this," she pulled me close and whispered into my ear, "to remember me by when I'm gone." And then she closed my fingers over the watch, and kissed me, and closed her eyes in satisfaction.

I still have that watch, thirty years later, and the glass is gone, and the hands are gone, and it never did work. But it's still like a talisman to me, and when I clutch it in my palm, I feel the warm touch of my grandmother again, and remember the whisper of her breath and the tickle of her the peach fuzz on her chin, and the love she felt for me that spans the generations and I hope in my own way I have passed down from her to my own children.

Thank you.



Dimitri C. Michalakis

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Top Row: (L to R) Elena Chambous, CFP, Stacey Sava, Esq., Maria Papathanasiou, Maria Stamoulas, Esq., Alik Halkias **Front Row:** Diana Armenakis, Esq., Theodora Hancock, Ambassador Mallias, Consul General Mavromatis, Maria Nicolaou, Consul General Bouras, Dora Vouyouklis. **Above Right:** Eva Poneris, Esq., Anastasia Economos, Georgia Economos, Effie Thomopoulos, Maria Lygnos.

New Generation Leads HAWC

BY DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS

Maria Stamoulas, a Washington-based attorney, was recently elected new president at the 13th annual conference of Hellenic American Women's Council (HAWC) held in New York with a record number of participants. "It was fantastic, it seems that every year we raise the bar," said Theodora Hancock, the departing president, in an interview with NEO. "It gets better and better. The organization is growing and the kind of women we attract is phenomenal. I was so impressed by the dynamism in the room."

Eva Poneris, HAWC's Education/Cultural Coordinator, added: "I think it's a tremendous success. We had women from various professional fields, from around the country. Everyone was very excited and probably it is one of the largest gatherings of Greek American women for a non-Church related event, ever!"

This year's theme was the concept of change in life—whether voluntary or involuntary. A "dream team" of panelists included Laura Corio, MD, board certified OB/GYN, attending physician at Mt Sinai Medical Center, author of *The Change Before The Change*; Marina Corodemus, JSC, retired, director of Alternative Dispute Resolutions, Corodemus & Corodemus LLC; Lori Stokes, co-anchor, *Eyewitness News "This Morning"* and *Today at Noon* on WABC-TV; Ernestine Bradley, PhD, professor of Comparative Literature, New School University, author *The Way Home*; and Elena Chambous, CFP, Financial Advisor, head of the Matrimonial

Assistance Program, Morristown Financial Group.

Ambassador of Greece to Washington Alexandros Mallias was the keynote speaker at the luncheon, and he offered to help organize a major conference in the nation's capital on human trafficking. Another piece of hopeful news was the announcement by Dr. Maria Theodoulou, oncologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, that research is closer to finding the cure for breast cancer. Dr. Theodoulou was this year's recipient of



HAWC President Elect Maria Stamoulas

HAWC's prestigious Aristeion Award, presented by former president and founding member Stacey Savva.

HAWC was formed in the early 1990's and its membership and name recognition has grown steadily, with already-active chapters in New York, New Jersey, Washington DC, Boston, Chicago and Miami. Theodora Hancock was one of the founding members and the first president. She was succeeded by Stacey Savva and then reelected, totaling eight years as head of the organization. "My term will end at the end of December and I am hoping that the new person will take HAWC to greater heights and the next to even greater and on and

on," she said to NEO.

Maria Stamoulas was elected for a two year term, and according to various HAWC veterans, she is not only a new face in the leadership, but she signals the passing of the reins to the new generation. "We have a lot to offer to the country, both as American and as Greek American and I think that our heritage gives us that strength, that inner strength to be the best that we can be," she told NEO.

Her plans for the next two years include raising the membership and lowering the age bar: "I am particularly interested in getting younger members to the organization. Our membership is from 18 on up. We believe that the current members of HAWC can act as mentors to younger women."

Asked why a woman like her, a busy professional in the American mainstream, should be active in an organization with a particular ethnic identity—although non-Greeks are welcome as members—Maria Stamoulas didn't think twice: "I am an American, I was born and raised here, but I am also Greek. Being Greek is a part of me and it's helped me to achieve what I achieved and to bring me to the point that I am at today. It's the traditions, it's the values, it's the customs of my family and that's responsible for making me what I am today."

HAWC is an H 501 (a) (3) organization and contributions are tax-deductible. For further information on the organization call Stacey Sava at (201) 944-6432 or email staceysava@aol.com

America's First Three Generations of Church Archons

For the first time in America, the third generation of a family has received the oldest honor in Christendom, *Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Order of St. Andrew*. On October 22, 2006, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Demetrios bestowed, on behalf of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, this recognition to Mike Andrew Manatos of Washington, D.C. Mike spends a significant percentage of his workday doing pro-bono work on the effort to rescue the Ecumenical Patriarchate from extinction.

Turkey requires Ecumenical Patriarchs to be Turkish citizens, while at the same time oppressing to extinction Greek Orthodox Turkish citizens. This attrition will end the 2,000-year-old Sacred See begun by the Apostle Andrew. The Ecumenical Patriarchate is threatened, as well, by Turkey's program of confiscation without compensation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's thousands of properties, including a hospital and an orphanage — 75% in the last few years.

Others in the public policy company of *Manatos & Manatos* spend a substantial part of every workday on this crisis. *Manatos & Manatos* led the recent effort that has secured 61 U.S. Senators to urge President George W. Bush to move the crisis facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate higher on the American agenda. Previously they led the effort that secured for Patriarchal legislation more Members of Congress as cosponsors than any bill in American history.

The first Manatos Archon, invested in the late 1960's shortly after the Order of St. Andrew was organized, was Mike Manatos. He is the grandfather and namesake of this year's new Archon. He was also the first Greek-American to work in the White House, serving as Administrative Assistant to Presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. From that position he undertook numerous activities in Washington to assist Orthodoxy and Hellenism. The family name is Manatakis and originated in Crete, Greece.



The Manatos' receiving the blessing clockwise from top, Mike, Mike Andrew, and Andrew.

The second generation Manatos Archon was Andrew Manatos, the father of the new Archon. Andy was the highest-ranking Greek-American in the Carter Administration, as Assistant Secretary of Commerce, and was also a U.S. Senate Staff Director. He is now President of Manatos & Manatos, which he began with his father and which his son joined immediately after graduating from Princeton University. *Regardies Magazine* selected Andy as one of the 100 most powerful people in private sector Washington, D.C.

The Order of St. Andrew is led, with the blessings of Archbishop Demetrios, by Dr. Anthony Limberakis, a practicing physician and board member of Duke University Hospital. It is made up of 777 of Orthodoxy's most prominent citizens, such as the highly-regarded U.S. Senator

Paul Sarbanes and San Diego Chargers owner and businessman Alex Spanos. Archons are chosen for their ability to protect the mother church. Under Dr. Limberakis' leadership the Order has involved in its activities some of the world's leading figures like former President George H. W. Bush, noble laureate Elie Wiesel, Mikhail Gorbachev and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The Order's spiritual advisor, Father Alexander Karloutsos, is recognized internationally for his work on behalf of the American Archdiocese, the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Hellenic community in America. He is known personally by a significant number of America's leaders from both political parties. Father Karloutsos is currently coordinating this era's most historic religious moment — the Pope's visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate later this month.

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Karina Lombard, left, Billy Zane in *The Big Kiss*, Gene Kelly, Lisa Zane

THE ACTING "WHIMSY" OF THE ZANE FAMILY

BY DIMITRI MICHALAKIS

Nothing is more remarkable about the history of the Greeks in America than their sense of family. And nothing is more remarkable than the trials and successes of succeeding generations in one family. Here's a profile of three families, each remarkable in its own way

Shortly after *Titanic* premiered a few years ago all four members of the theatrical Zane clan did their favorite thing: they gathered in London as they always have to watch a three-day whirl of matinee and evening performances at some of their favorite theaters in the world.

"Remember we saw the *Scarlet Pimpernel* there with the kids?" Thalia reminds her husband listening on the extension during a telephone interview.

"Great theater," says Bill Sr. "To see *Phantom of the Opera* when it first opened was an amazing event."

The Zanes, whose son Billy starred in *Titanic* and daughter Lisa is an actress-songwriter, went to London every September when the kids were young and for ten days saw nothing but theater, perhaps a dozen plays, "because we wanted to show the kids, if you want to go into the business, come and see the best in the world," says Bill.

He grumbles that he doesn't do any acting any-

more, after a lifetime of regional theater in and around Chicago, but he did come out of retirement to play the starched church board director who gave the activist priest and hero a hard time in the film *Do You Wanna Dance*, shot on location in Chicago. And four years before that he played Lisa's equally-starchy father in the film, *Unveiled*.

"As per usual, the Zane men always play heavies," laughs Thalia, who acted along with her husband for years in local theater and was one of the founders of the Chicago Player's Guild. She now insists her acting days are over ("There comes a time when one does hang it up, you know?"), but she doesn't rule out one more fling on the boards if the right part came along. "It would depend on the part, it would depend on where, how?" she says, then adds, "Let's face it, I'm a mom, and a mature mom. I don't think there are that many roles."

So for now the Zanes are happy seeing their children on screen and visiting them on movie sets around the world. Lisa is also now singing in New York and Paris ("She sings in French, she's like a chanteuse," says her proud mother.) and her parents sometimes fly in to catch the show.

"We make a point," says Bill.

"It's not that we're hanging on," explains Thalia.

"It's just that we like to share the experience. We love to be together, we miss our children."

Except they didn't go see Billy when he was filming that all-time blockbuster *Titanic* in Mexico. "That's the one set we didn't visit, isn't that funny?" she laughs. "Billy kept saying, 'Come on down and see the set.' But I'll be very honest with you, being on the set is boring. It's a lot of waiting."

But her son did call, and told her he loved working with taskmaster-director James Cameron, and the feeling is mutual.

"Billy is a complex guy and I felt that right away," Cameron said. "He's brilliant and in ways that have nothing to do with acting...And there was something about him that I knew he would bring a lot of complexity to a character that could be very simple."

Thalia returns the compliment. "I think the man's a genius," she says of Cameron. Though, like her husband, she's reluctant to be too frank ("Mom, don't say anything, don't say anything!" Billy warned her once.) and by being frank, inadvertently add fuel to rumors.

"They'll call about some stupid thing that they read or heard about," she says of the press, "some rumor about Billy dating somebody, and I have to be so careful."

But soon she and her husband are sharing an extension and swapping theater stories and memories.

They were high school sweethearts in Chicago and got married right after college. She was the former Thalia Colovos, he was the former Vasilios Zanetakos, and both their parents were from Sparta. They got married after college and he served an Army stint in Europe, which became a playground to the young couple. "We traveled a lot," she says. "We were stationed in the most beautiful station in Bavaria, in Germany, and we bought a little Volkswagen and traveled all through Europe. We weren't ready for children."

But after ten years of marriage they had Lisa, now 42, and a year later Billy, now 41, and they returned to Chicago, where she worked in promotion and

Chicago (he played Oscar) because it was around the time that John Wayne died. "And I said, 'Oh, my God, the Duke is gone,'" he still recalls the shock.

"Acting was more an avocation than a vocation," Thalia explains. "And because we loved it so much, we involved our children in films and in theater."

That included the two and half years they lived in Greece when the kids were little and the times when the couple visited the Epidavros. "The elements are with you, that beautiful area, a full moon that night," she still rhapsodizes. "I remember a man just twirling his cloak and a gust of wind came at the same time—it was beautiful."

Billy did hope to do a production of Aristophanes' *The Frogs*, set in Hollywood, and

"And I said, 'Oh, Billy, I don't know, I don't know,'" she recalls. "I'm thinking, (it's) my 18-year-old son, my God...But he was always a mature young man and very level-headed and very good and he wanted it so badly that we thought, 'Okay, we'll give it a shot.'"

Billy flew to Hollywood, and shipped his prized '64 Mustang by train, and in three weeks he landed the role of the bully Biff in *Back to the Future*.

"I want you to know I have a job," he called and told his parents.

"Really?"

"Yeah, it's called *Back to the Future*. It's for that guy called Spielberg."

Since 1985, Billy has made more than forty films and both he and Lisa have played numerous roles on TV, so their parents have almost gotten used to seeing them on screen. "It's kind of exciting, yeah," says Thalia. "And then, all of a sudden, you get used to it. But it's still a thrill."

The couple professes to be retired from acting, and Bill professes more adamantly, but he was the one who got a showing in Cannes when *Do You Wanna Dance* was screened.

"Hey, Pop, we saw this in Cannes!" Billy called his parents from France to tell them.

"How do you like that?" Bill admits, appreciating the irony of topping his two movie star kids. "I'm the only one in the family to have a film shown in Cannes."

Bill was also president of the Sarah Siddons society, named after the famous English actress, which every year honors a distinguished man or woman in theater and the movie business and raises money for scholarships to theater students at DePaul and Northwestern universities. Honorees have included Lauren Bacall, Bette Davis, Julie Harris and Angela Lansbury.

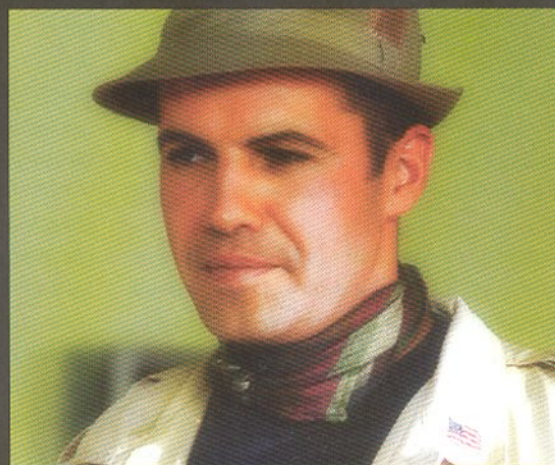
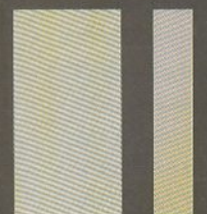
"We're always involved in theater," Thalia admits, despite their avowed retirement from acting.

"Theater people, yeah," he agrees. "(We're) people who love to go to the theater."

Which is why Billy said he got his flair for acting from his parents' "whimsy" and they admit as much. "Whimsy? Well, there's a slight madness in our family," laughs Thalia. "We would always throw great Halloween parties...And my mother and your mom, Bill," she tells him, "were dignified ladies, so I would say the madness, the whimsy, came from us."

He says the kids are also whimsical, and he mentions the Gene Kelly poster hanging on the wall that Billy dragged in one Christmas and he's staring at it now while he's talking on the phone.

"We have a lot of fun together," Thalia admits with the familiar Zane whimsy. ■■



sales, and in the late '70s they opened a vocational technology school on South Michigan called Medical Careers Institute.

They had also done theater in Germany and they now plunged into regional theater in Chicago and started their own company, the Player's Guild. "It was crazy," she says of those days of juggling work, and rehearsal, and kids. "But it wasn't really for the money, it was for the fun of it...And Bill and I just knew each other's routine. We didn't rehearse, we just did it."

As a kid, Billy remembers his parents making out on stage in a fake living room and calls his own plunge into acting a "genetic draw." Soon he was going to theater camp in summer to Wisconsin and fantasizing he was Gene Hackman sacrificing himself in the *Poseidon Adventure* or the family icon, Gene Kelly dancing up a storm in *Singing in the Rain*.

"Bill and I saw it 39 times when we were in school," Thalia says of the classic musical. In fact, they have an 8-foot by 4-foot painting of a dancing Gene Kelly hanging in their den that Billy brought them from Hollywood one Christmas.

And Bill remembers *The Odd Couple* he was doing twenty years ago at Theater on the Lake in

Lisa played Phaedre to a packed crowd at the Hellenic Museum in Chicago. On a family visit in 1983, Billy remembers getting off the plane and catching "the smell of olives in the breeze and I felt my history."

Through the Classics Trust Fund of the Goodman Theater the family also visited London every September. They saw Roger Rees in *Hamlet* at Stratford on Avon one year and when they got back to the States, Lisa said she wanted to see it again. "Mom, I have to go back to Stratford," she told her mother and she flew back to England on her own.

Lisa spent a year in Florence as a Vassar student and biked through France, and Billy attended the American School in Switzerland for his junior year of high school. After he returned and finished school in Chicago, he announced he was going to Hollywood.

"He always wanted to be an actor, from the time he was a little kid," his mother recalls. He already had an agent and done commercials while in high school (he was a production assistant on an Amore Cat Food spot when he discovered he was allergic to cats) and his agent recommended Billy try Hollywood, to his parents' dismay.

Pindar:

The Largest Winery in Long Island is a Family Affair

Jason Damianos recalls the day in 1979 when his father Herodotus took him and his brother Alexander to a stretch of dusty potato fields in Patchogue, Long Island and told them: "See over there, see all those weeds? That's twenty acres of chardonnay, and it needs to be weeded."

"So he stuck us out in this so-called vineyard, and that was my first introduction to wine," says Jason, then 13, now the wine master at the fruition of his father's dream: Pindar Vineyards on the North Fork and Duck Walk Vineyards on the South Fork (along with Jason's private stock, Jason's Vineyard in Jamesport)

Alexander, left, Pindar, Dr. Herodotus Damianos, Jason

whose combined 600 acres and an annual production of 100,000 cases make it the largest winery on Long Island and the oldest run by one family.

"I know what I wanted and I did what I wanted," says Dr. Damianos, 70s, who gave up careers in teaching and medicine to become a winemaker. As for his kids, he says, "I just want them to be happy."

Apparently they are, most in the wine business: Alexander, 40, manages Duck Walk Southampton, a new winery building in the North Fork called Duck Walk North, and the company's real estate; Jason, 39, is the chief winemaker and also produces his own Jason's Vineyard label; Pindar, 30, is the vineyard manager; Alethea, 37, works part time in the business office. Eurydice, 36, is a speech pathologist with a private practice in Manhattan and teaches at NYU.

"They kind of gravitated towards it," says their father philosophically. "I never really pushed them to do it. I wanted them to do what they wanted."

Practically all the kids took business courses, but then most of them "gravitated" back to the winery, where the drudgery of weeding was forgotten for the thrill of producing wine. Alexander got two MBAs in business administration and total quality management and ran the vineyards. Jason got a second B.S. in enology at the finishing school for California winemakers at the University of California in Fresno (winning the merit award given to only one student each year). And then he became one of the few Americans accepted to the University of Bordeaux in France where he got his masters from the *Diplôme National*

de Oenologie program. Pindar earned an A.S. in crop production and soil science and also a B.S. in plant science viticulture from Fresno and now oversees the vineyards.

"Pindar is working 80 hours a week and I say to him, I don't like you working 80 hours a week," says his father. "He's out every day at the crack of dawn." But then he adds proudly: "In 2004 he took over completely as the vineyard manager for all the properties and he's been doing an utterly outstanding job—this is thoroughly, unequivocally the best the vineyards have ever looked. And he's increased the quality while cutting labor costs 15-20%—amazing."

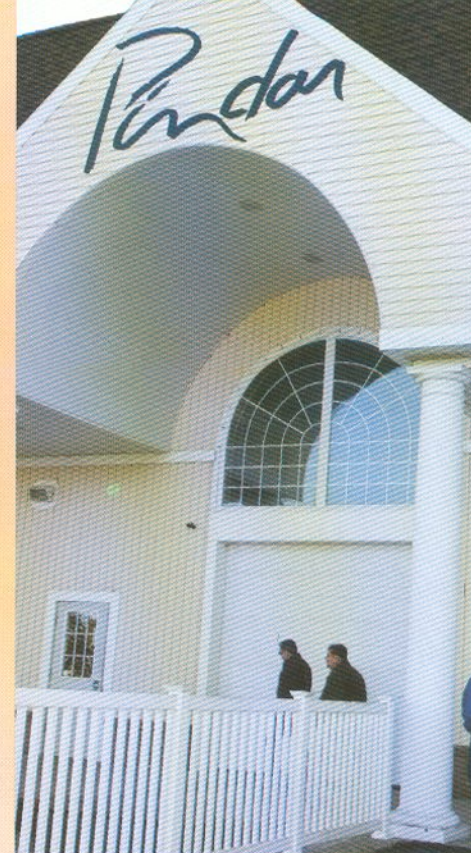
Jason came back from Bordeaux and revolutionized how Pindar grew wine. It was struggling with the trellis method recommended by New York winemakers until Jason recommended the European method of spacing vines—on the ground. "He said, Dad, we're doing this incorrectly," Dr. Damianos remembers. "So we went to very strictly European spacing—1 meter by 2 meters—and we went from 600 vines per acre to 2000. Jason is the one who really got me started on this back in 1993."

"It is twenty years of hard work and dedication," says Jason, who is as intense about his work as his father is comforting (Dr. Damianos was an internist in private practice for 34 years). "It's about making wines that are scrutinized by other wineries."

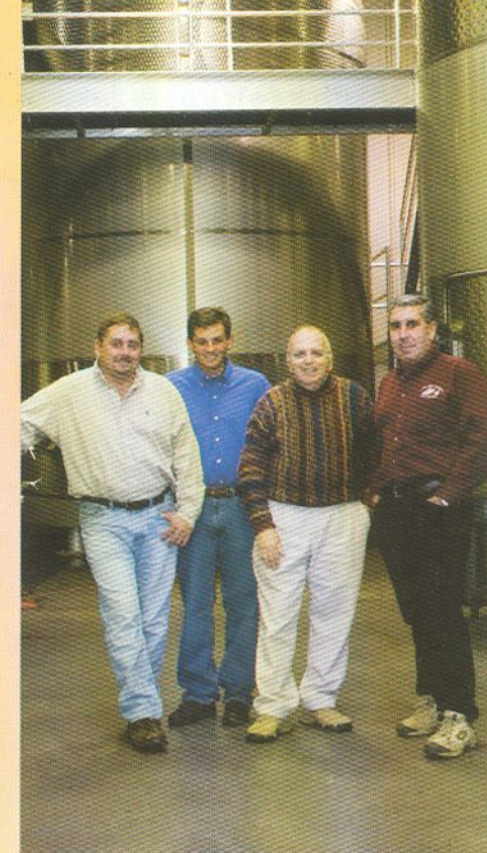
Pindar has done more than any other (local winery) in extending the reach of Long Island wines, throughout New York and the country.

—Steve Bate, LI Wine Council

And they are among the most celebrated: Pindar's 16 different labels have established a series of firsts. Its top-of-the-line red Mythology, rated by *Bon Appetit* as one of the top 50 wines of



The Damianos' stand inside the Pindar winery



the world, was Long Island's first blended wine and the first New York State wine featured at the exclusive Pierre Hotel in New York City. Its Beaujolais was the first produced from the North Fork and launched a first of affordable red varietals from that region. Its Premier Curvee was the first champagne produced commercially on Long Island and was served at the inauguration of the first George Bush in 1988. Its 1984 Nouveau was the first made from pinot noir. And Pindar's very first wine, Long Island Winter White, released in 1983, has since become the bestselling wine ever produced on Long Island.

"Long Island what?" Dr. Damianos remembers retailers asking at first. "But I knew in time they would learn."

They did learn at one New York Wine & Food Classic competition where out of 55 New York wineries Pindar and Duck Walk sent five wines to the final round, won seven double golds, and 28 medals in three weeks. "This is the most impressive medal showing by a single winemaker that I have ever seen in the competition," said competition director Karyl Hammond.

And it's why Pindar is a bestseller at thousands of retail outlets and restaurants, at its own shop in Port Jefferson, and is distributed across the country and overseas in countries as distant as Sweden and Japan.

"Pindar has done more than any other (local winery) in extending the reach of Long Island wines, throughout New York and the country," said Steve Bate of the Long Island Wine Council to *Newsday*.

Which is a tribute to Dr. Damianos, whose drive made him the youngest principal in Long Island, before he switched to medicine and became one of the island's foremost internists. And as a proud Greek he named most of his kids, and the company, after the classics. "I have a great love for the classics," he says. "Also, a great respect for the Greek heritage." As his father Pelops, a historian, named his son for the father of history, the doctor continued the tradition, and no nicknames were tolerated. "My father was very strict that when he gave his children names he wanted us to stick with them," says Alethea.

The illustration on the wine labels also have a classical stamp. The cabernet sauvignon shows Pegasus, the flying horse; the Merlot Jason's ship the Argo; the Mythology a Greek column; and the reserve chardonnay Dionysus riding a leopard. "My father is Greek and he takes his heritage very seriously," says Alethea.

He began to take wine very seriously after he bought a fabled old house in Long Island and discovered it had grapevines. "It had two grape arbors and they were sitting there for twenty-five years unattended and they produced grapes!" he recalls.

That was the start, and the winery has been growing ever since. A new 37,000-square-building dominates the acres of vineyards and contains a warehouse, barrel cellar, offices, gleaming fermenting tanks and a laboratory. And Jason hopes to bottle more than 150,000 cases annually in the next five to ten years.

"I'm now confident that we know what works well here on Long ...continued on page 16



Pindar

continued from page 15

Island and I think we'll continue to learn and grow," Dr. Damianos told *The Suffolk Times*. Last year his sons took over day-to-day operations of the winery, but he has no plans to retire.

"He's probably the most driven person I've ever met," says his daughter Alethea, who worked as comptroller at Duck Walk. "He has great vision and dreams, and that's what keeps him going."

"My father works seven days a week, twelve hours a day, and he's been doing that for forty years," Jason marvels.

The doctor admits, "I have always been blessed with the ability to work long hours, and I don't play golf. When what you are doing is something you love, it is easy to forge forward." Winemaking, he says, is equal parts "excitement" and "energy" and "learning all the time" and "joy" and "an ever-present desire to make great wine, which we all know takes time."

And his vision of Long Island's future as a winemaking region has been vindicated. In fact, Long Island is on the same latitude as Bordeaux and is similarly blessed with a maritime climate, which tempers the winters and prolongs the growing season. "Although we do have years where it's a lot harder than others, the last two years were phenomenal," says Jason.

Thanks in part to young winemakers like him who have become the pioneers in growing wine for the

region. "Look at what we have to deal with," says Jason. "We had California telling us what to do, California--hot weather, three quarters of their production comes from the central valley, which has 100-degree days in the summers. It's not the kind of climate we have." And then there was the influence of New York State growers. "Two completely different worlds," says Jason. "You want to start a winery, who do you talk to?"

"--My son Jason," Dr. Damianos points out amiably. "He came back with all this education and made us totally understand what would work better. He made very, very good sense."

Dr. Damianos still conducts tours of the winery—"It gives me a one-on-one with all the visitors." But Alexander likes it, too. "I love working at Duck Walk because each day is different," says Alexander. "I have the ability to meet so many different people throughout the wine tasting and tours that guide at the winery." And Pindar says, "Managing a vineyard of this scale is challenging and very exciting and rewarding. I know the hard work and dedication is worth it when people enjoy the wines we produce."

And Jason says his father will never slow down until his dreams are fully realized. "He's got bigger plans," he says. "We haven't begun to be in the situation we want to be in." ■

When what you are doing is something you love, it is easy to forge forward.

- Dr. Damianos



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One Family's Descent Into Hell—And Resurrection

He walked into the Manchester Cafe one day in his army uniform, a stocky man with a barrel chest named Petros Athens, though he liked to call himself Pete the Greek. And he told Pop, the proprietor, Lombros Zaharias, that he'd met his daughter Irene at a church picnic and she'd told him her father might hire him.

"Bridling at the impropriety, Pop warned Pete not to speak to Irene again unless her mother was on hand to chaperone," writes Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Rhodes in his book about Pete's son and Lombros' grandson, Lonnie Athens. "He didn't need help in the cafe, but he believed in Greek helping Greek, so he agreed to try out Pete at the front counter."

And Pete married Irene, "but he didn't last long as Pop's front counter-man, slinging hamburgers under the Dr. Pepper clock," says Rhodes. Pete had a hair-trigger temper and when the mill hands who frequented the diner made fun of the Greeks as "flat-footed guineas," made Pop recite the pie menu so they could laugh at his accent, and said Greek sounded to them like "quack-quack-quack, quack-quack" talk, Pete would throw off his apron and start a brawl.

"He threw one guy through the plate glass window," his son remembers. "Unfortunately another guy he almost killed was the foreman at Standard Paper Company and they boycotted my grandfather's cafe. So my grandfather told Pete, 'We're not here to beat up people, we're here to make money. I've had enough of this crap about

Greek pride. If you have money you have pride. You don't have any pride if you don't have any damn money.'"

Pete moved his family to a three-bedroom brick house on the other side of Byrd Park, across from University Stadium on Maplewood Avenue, and the war with the neighbors began. A redneck named McCahill lived on one side, sporting a Ku Klux Klan tattoo, a redneck named

before her son could rescue her. "They were xenophobic, full of hate," Lonnie says. "If you get around xenophobic people, it's dangerous. They want to prove they're tough, and they try to get you. I felt like we were being lynched there."

Lonnie was only twelve and felt overwhelmed. "I used to cry all the time," he says. "I was getting it at school, getting it from the rednecks in the neighborhood, getting it at home. And one day I just couldn't walk."

Home was no sanctuary. Pete had been brought up with a heavy hand by his widowed Spartan father. One day he took off after Pete with a hot poker and Pete left home permanently to shine shoes and join the army. "My father demanded respect and I respected him," Pete would say. "The implication was not that his father abused him, but that his father did the right thing," Lonnie says. "And he, in turn, would do the right thing!"

And then around the time he went to high school, Lonnie, the "Greek runt" as one neighbor called him, decided to fight back. Like his father and brother, Lonnie became the terror of the neighborhood. He was small, only five feet three inches and 120 pounds, but he was ferocious. In eighth grade he chased everyone out of the gym with a baseball bat; in ninth he turned on a bully and battered him until his sister had to rescue him; in tenth he grew a Mohawk on a dare and

earned a two-week expulsion from school. "I didn't go around challenging people," he says, "but I didn't let anybody challenge me, so I could walk anywhere. My mother and I could walk around anywhere with those rednecks."

At the same time, Lonnie felt the congregation of Saints Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Richmond disdained the family of roughnecks and Lonnie took up the issue with the dean of the church, Fr. Constantine Dombalis. "You're right," the priest told him, "this is God's house. You've got just as much right to be here as they do. If anybody says

work over long, long decades. And stuck with it. I have spent a good deal of time around Nobel laureate physicists and a few other categories of Nobel laureates, and Athens' power of insight really does stack up very well next to that of such people."

Rhodes, who was abused as a child by a stepmother, saw one of Athens' books and sought him out at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, where Athens, 56, is now dean of the department of criminal justice. When he proposed to write a book about him, Athens showed little emotion. "I just didn't really believe it, to tell the truth," he admitted to the *New York Times*. "I didn't want to be disappointed."

Athens had suffered decades of professional disappointment because his work had taken a novel approach: to study the criminal mind, you had to study the criminal. Father Dombalis arranged access for him to the Virginia State Penitentiary and for five days in December, 1969 Athens sat in the penitentiary reception center asking pre-arranged questions of 83 felons, one third of them convicted of violent crimes like

rape, assault and homicide. "I thought I was some big scientist," he now says dismissively.

Then he threw away the questions, ignored the prisons' official questionnaires, and began to have skull sessions with the inmates, often alone with them (he was once locked in a cell with an inmate who attacked him and had to defend himself by hurling a table on the inmate and standing on it until the guards came), and then transcribing his notes into the horrific monologues of the criminal mind at work. The notes from these sessions became the horrific monologues he included in his seminal books: *Violent Criminal Acts and Actors* (1980) and *The Creation of Dangerous Violent Criminals* (1992).

"I believe that readers need to be confronted with the full, ugly reality of violent crime, not only to enlarge their understanding of these offenses, but to prevent them from romanticizing their perpetrators," he says. Criminals do think

about their crimes before committing them and make a conscious choice.

His prison field studies provoked the establishment then and provoke it still, though he says a new generation has embraced him, and he's been

If I hadn't challenged authority, I would have never done the work that led to a book being written about me.

- Lonnie Athens

honored by the scientific community abroad, particularly in Italy where criminology was born. "Listen," he says in a blustery Virginia drawl that alternates with an academic murmur, "if I hadn't challenged authority, I would have never done the work that led to a book being written about me. That's the point that everybody's missed."

Pete and Irene eventually divorced and in his last years Pete lived in a trailer

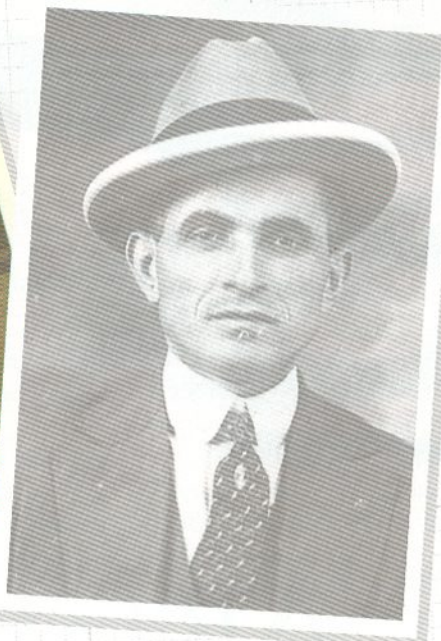
decorated with his handmade signs he displayed and sold. He called himself King Kong Flagman, drove a Plymouth hatchback with a stuffed gorilla seated next to him, and had twin flagpoles mounted on the front bumper flying the Greek flag and the Jolly Roger.

"Would you drive around with a car like that?" says his son with a laugh. "And I don't know what the hell magic it was, but nobody ever said anything...I mean he was audacious, he was his own man."

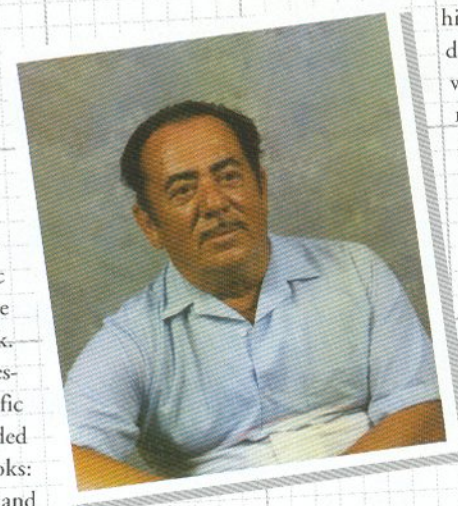
And Athens likes to think he's very much like him. "I was always an iconoclast," he admits with the bravado of Pete the Greek. "Had I not been the type of person which I think my father made me, I would have been just like any other obscure academic."



Top: Lonnie Athens with his daughter Maureen
Bottom: Pete Athens, "Pete the Greek"



Irene Zaharias, left, "Pop" Lombros D. Zaharias



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(From right) Spiros Exaras with Emre Yilmaz and Jose Ramon Rosario.

Greek-spiced Jazz in New York

BY TESSA SOUTER

It's not every day you can get to hear a world-class jazz guitarist for free. Or rather, this being New York City, jazz Mecca of the world, maybe you can. But one of the city's finest is Greek-born (Thessaloniki), New York-based guitarist Spiros Exaras. He's performed and recorded with Evanthia Reboutsika, Elias Andriopoulos, Kostas Hatzis, Antonis Kalogiannis, and Alkistis Protosalti, among others in Greece, as well as leading US jazz musicians Randy Brecker, Joel Rosenblatt and Tom Schuman (from *Spyro Gyna*), and the Grammy Award winner-Dave Valentin, to name just a few. He's also featured on Mariah Carey's single hit "My All" (his is the guitar solo in the middle).

And now you can hear him every week in the city at two wonderfully intimate and romantic sister restaurants in New York – *Via delle Zoccollette* on Thursdays and *Boom Restaurant* on Fridays – both of which serve delicious fusion-contemporary-Italian cuisine.

His critically-acclaimed Blue Note release, *Phrygianics*, to quote *Jazz Now* magazine, evokes "a world full of sweetness and fantasy within the backdrop of the exotic Mediterranean night," which is a pretty good description of what to expect from his live performances. Along with the rest of his band, guitarist/vocalist Emre Yilmaz, from Turkey, who graduated from Eastman School of Music and is currently working on his debut CD, and Jose-Ramon Rosario, a percussionist from Cuba, who is also a successful actor

who has starred in numerous TV shows and movies, Exaras delivers a passionate, world-oriented mix of genres. The trio moves easily from pop, for example, Sting's "Fragile" (now something of a jazz standard) and jazz to Flamenco and whatever else appeals to them in the moment. The atmosphere at both is romantic and intimate, perhaps more so at *Via delle Zoccollette* than at *Boom*, which attracts a trendy SoHo crowd. Both have excellent food and a good wine list and outdoor seating when the weather permits. Both, since Exaras started playing there, attract a good number of listeners on Thursdays and Fridays.

Customer Rory Thompson, a jazz enthusiast and long-time fan of Exaras' playing, says: "He's one of the best guitarists around. But he also plays in a way that is very interesting. It evokes all these different cultures and images in my mind. He plays like he loves to play and to play for people." Spiros agrees: "It's a great feeling to play live in a room like this. The energy of the people always makes you play differently – sometimes you are more dynamic, sometimes more sweet or passionate. It is inspiring to feel that interaction."

Spiros Exaras is featured Thursdays at *Via delle Zoccollette* (95 Ave. A, New York, NY 10009, tel. 212-260-6660) and on Fridays at *Boom* (152 Spring Street, NY 10012, tel. 212-431-3663), both from 8 pm to 11 pm. For more information visit www.spirosexaras.com

Tessa Souter is a singer and writer based in New York. www.tessasouter.com

Poet Yiorgos Chouliaras at the N.Y. European Dream Festival

BY NICOS ALEXIOU

The first "European Dream Festival," which highlighted for an American audience the cultural traditions of 23 European countries, this year featured poet Yiorgos Chouliaras from Greece. The festival was held at the New York Bowery Poetry Club and was co-sponsored by the Consulate General of Greece in New York.

Yiorgos Chouliaras was born in Thessaloniki, studied in Greece and the United States, and is currently the director of the Press and Communication Office at the Consulate General in Washington D.C. He founded the Greek literary reviews *Tram* and *Hartis* and was editor of the *Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora*, as well as other literary and scholarly periodicals. Following are the poems he read (translated by Maria Koundoura, Emerson College) at the Bowery Poetry Club:



1. Pledge to the Young
*He writes like a Centaur
Everything of his half a poem
Half not a poem*

*He too will get serious one day
He will become all horse
The perfect human poet.*

2. Refugees
*On the other side
Of the photograph I write so that I remember
Not the where and when but who*

That is not I in the photograph

*We were allowed to take
Nothing with us
Only this photograph*

If you turn it on the other side you will see me

*Is that you in the photograph, they ask me
I don't know what to tell you.*

Nicos Alexiou teaches Sociology at Queens College, CUNY. He has published three volumes of poetry; his latest book is a bilingual edition of his work titled "The Garden of Lost Vespers."

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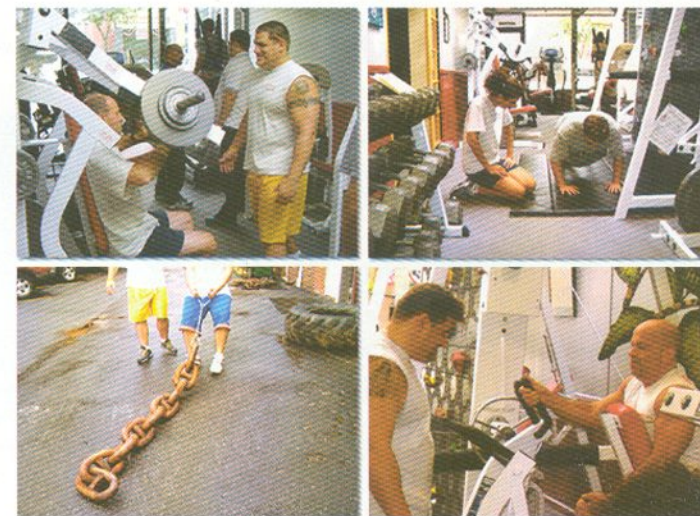


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George Kontos!

A Spartan, a Yankee, a Champion

BY CHRIS N. KARALEKAS

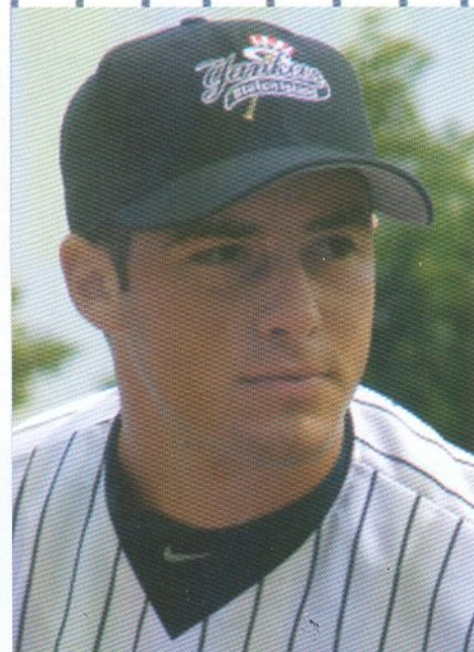
Remember the name George Kontos--and remember to look for his name on the opening day roster when the New York Yankees unveil the new Yankee Stadium in April 2009.

It's only a matter of time before the 21 year-old pride of Lincolnwood, Illinois will be seen on the pitcher's mound where greats like Whitey Ford, Catfish Hunter and Roger Clemens pitched. George Kontos attended Northwestern University and this spring he was drafted in the fifth round by the New York Yankees.

Make no mistake about it--the kid is nicknamed "G-Unit" because he can throw fastballs in the same neighborhood as the "Big-Unit"--future Hall of Famer Randy Johnson. But as his college coach and former big league Coach Tim Stoddard said, "so can a lot of other guys."

The key, he said, is for George to become "a pitcher not a thrower...he has a ton of talent." A few years before Kontos attended Niles West High School in Chicago, his father Nick had one of Chicago's legendary baseball men, Steve Sakas, work with his son. Sakas, a former professional with the 1941 Chicago White Sox organization, colorfully tells it like it is:

"He was not as he is now. Now he's fabulous. He's on his way now. George fell in love with his velocity and that's only natural for a young man his age. But we needed to work on being a pitcher not a thrower; we worked on mechanics; on balance and velocity came later. Remember, a fastball without movement is noth-



"I never saw him but I trusted my scouts, and we like his talent and ability."

- Brian Cashman

ing. Problem is scouts would come to watch George with the guns (radar guns used to measure speed of pitches) and they love speed."

Speed aside, what will separate George Kontos is he has those intangible qualities: A strong mental make-up (Northwestern produces smart kids); a maturity and humility, thanks to his father Nick and mother Teddy; a work ethic that's second to none; and don't underestimate that he has an understanding of the game thanks to people like Coach Stoddard, Coach Sakas, and his high school freshman coach, Chris Schwarz.

A lot has changed over the years in the game we all love but there's one remaining constant: Pitching and defense still win championships. Yes, the retro ballparks are smaller. The balls are wound tighter. The hitters are bigger (some have shrunk). No one pitches inside anymore. And with the designated hitter people love offense (Where have you gone Bob Gibson?). But as the GM of the old Brooklyn Dodgers Branch Rickey once said, "Luck is the residue of design."

With that said, the New York Yankees, the most storied franchise in the game, if not in all of team sports, drafted George Kontos because they have designs for him to contribute to their glorious history. Yankees G.M. Brian Cashman, a disciple of a great baseball man like Gene Michaels, is big on drafting talent and character.

"I had outstanding reports on him," says Cashman. "I never saw him but I trusted my scouts, and we like his talent and ability. We think we got a winner, and we think he'll be a sleeper."

It's important to note these comments were made at Yankee Stadium, behind the batting cage two weeks before the New York-Penn League championship game. If you knew nothing else about the 6'-3" and 215 lb right-hander all you

had to do was watch his performance under pressure in that winner-take-all championship game and decide for yourself.

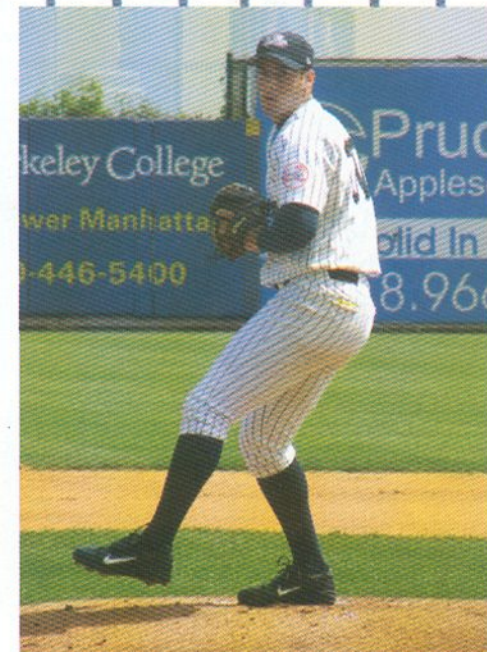
What Kontos, the pride of Lincolnwood, Illinois and Northwestern University, showed during that championship game was priceless to the eyes and ears of all that day at the Richmond County Bank Ballpark on Staten Island right across from where the Twin Towers once stood.

Kontos, under inordinate pressure and under the proverbial "bright lights," pitched six brilliant innings as the Yankees defeated the Tri-City Valley Cats 2-0 to win the New York Penn League championship for the second year in a row. And Kontos shined--giving up no runs and striking out 11 batters in 6 innings.

That's right--11 strikeouts in 6 innings. In the fourth inning he struck out the side with sizzling, electric stuff. Nobody could catch up on the movement of his fastball (that's Coach Steve Sakas smiling), and when he changed speeds with balls down in the zone he was unstoppable and in a groove.

The best was yet to come, though. In the sixth and final inning, which in many ways was a litmus test and ultimate barometer of the intangibles inside the man--along with 11 strikeouts Kontos allowed only five singles and got into trouble only once, in the sixth inning when Tri City loaded the bases on two hits and a walk. The rest was artistry, pitching, and in some ways a demonstration of boy becoming a man.

With the bases loaded, Kontos fell behind Chris Johnson 3-0 before he threw a fastball down the heart of the plate for strike one. Kontos later explained what was going through his mind and it was probably music to every coach he has ever had: "I got to a point where I knew I had too



much adrenaline going. I was rushing on my breaking points, and on the mechanics of my delivery. So, I stepped back and told myself to relax a little bit and throw an 85 mph fastball and just get it over the plate. I got him to 3-2, and just made sure I stayed back, got on top of the ball and got him to pop to second." In the past, he reflected honestly, he might not have made those choices.

Early returns on Kontos are that New Yorkers will love his talent and adore the "fight" he displayed when he did not cave in with the bases full at "crunch time" like many do...especially in New York. That people were comparing him to his idol Roger Clemens in last summer's Cape Cod League only bolstered his determination to keep working hard and take nothing for granted. That he looked like Tom Seaver cerebrally getting out of a jam is a great early sign in his career. As Coach Stoddard said, "it's only going to get tougher as he gets up the ladder...but he has the mental toughness to do it." As his colorful personal Coach Steve Sakas says, "He's on his way now. He's a Greek God. Remember the Spartan blood. It's definitely in the genes."

I had the privilege of getting to know George during a memorable week in Salonika, Greece during the first-ever Elliniada Games. He played on the baseball team that went on to defeat the Australian, Canadian and Greek national teams. His grandparents come from a town called Yarak, just outside of Sparta. His parents Nick and Teddy have raised two other younger wonderful kids, in addition to George, who is not only an exceptional athlete, but also an exceptional gentleman.

And now, a gentleman in Yankee pinstripes. ■

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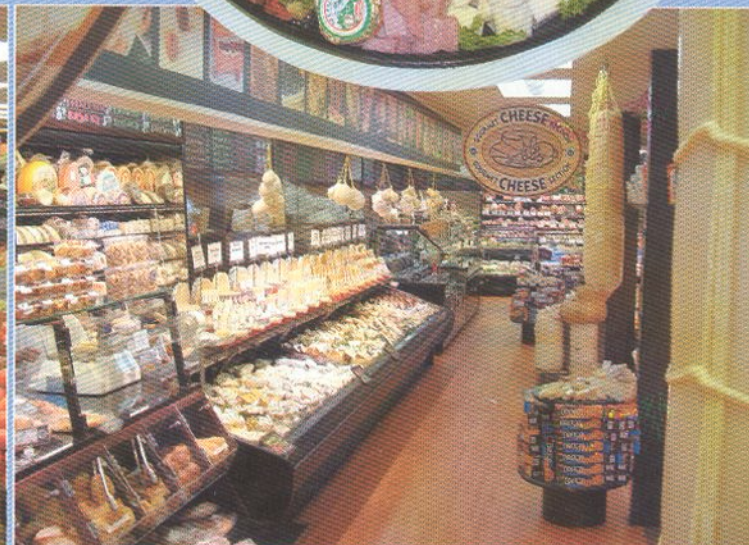


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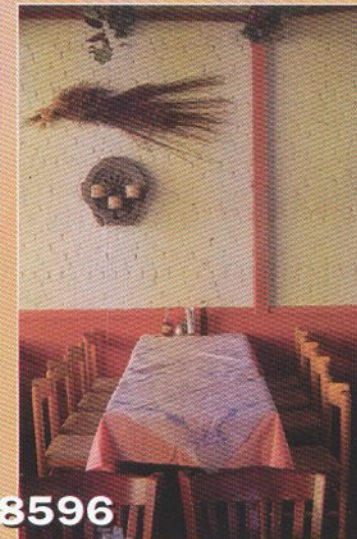
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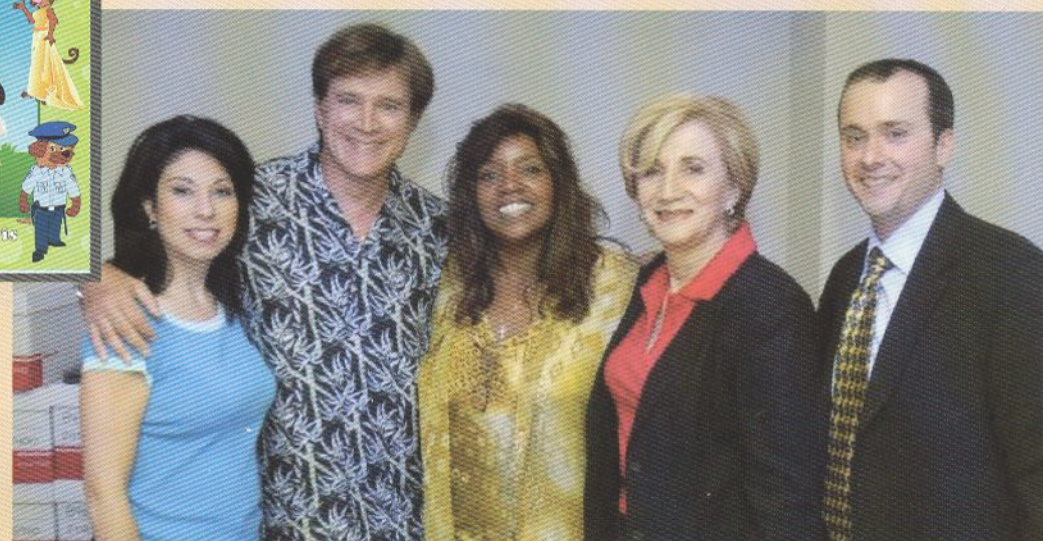
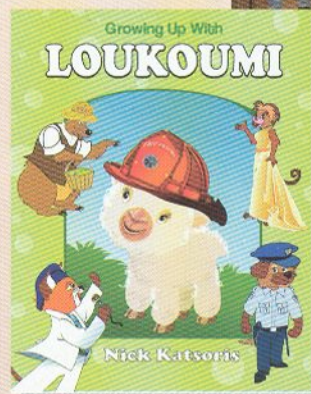


STARS RECORD CD OF GROWING UP WITH LOUKOUMI

The stars came together recently to premiere and record the CD version of the new children's book, *Growing Up With Loukoumi*. The premiere was held at the Children's Museum of Manhattan and included a live performance by Gloria Gaynor of her original song for the project, "Believe."

The stars who lent their voices to the CD are: CBS correspondent Alexis Christoforous as Loukoumi, Guiding Light star Frank Dicopoulos as Dean the dog, Grammy winner Gaynor as Fistiki the cat, Oscar-winning actress Olympia Dukakis as Marika the monkey, and American Idol pop star Constantine Maroulis as Gus the bear.

For information: (212) 397-2804 or info@loukoumi.com



Alexis Christoforous, left, Frank Dicopoulos, Gloria Gaynor, Olympia Dukakis, and author Nick Katsoris

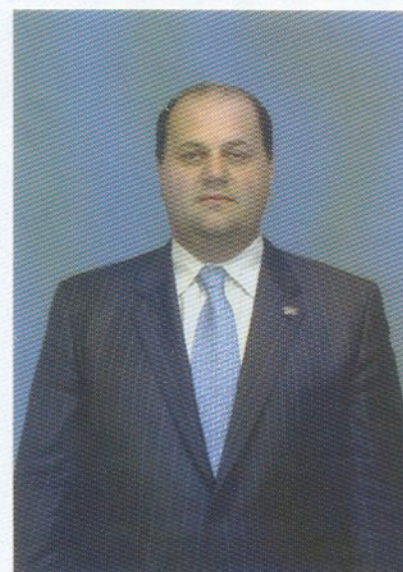
George Mouzakiotis Southampton, New York

I am running for the seat of General Secretary at the **World Council of Hellenes Abroad.**

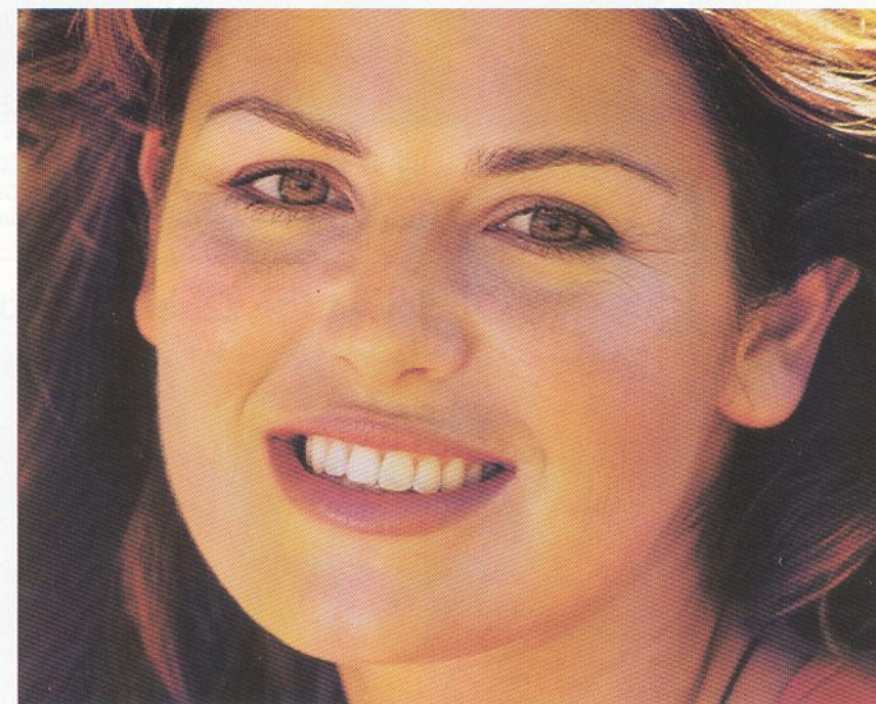
I am a paralegal in New York and Greece where my main issues are to assist Hellenes abroad with their legal matters surrounding the laws of Greece.

My reason for running is to attempt to help young people and most of all, to try to persuade young men and women in both the Hellenic and American communities.

It is time that the youth show what they are capable of. If I am given the opportunity in Thessaloniki I will give the youth a chance to prove themselves to the people that underestimate us.



All I want for Christmas...

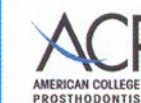


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TSAKOPOULOS-KOUNALAKIS FAMILY ENDOWS HELLENIC CHAIR AT GEORGETOWN U.

Georgetown University recently inaugurated the Eleni and Markos Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis Chair in Hellenic Studies, as part of an unprecedented family initiative to promote Hellenic Studies at major American universities. Markos Kounalakis spoke for the family and pointed out:



PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

Justice and Mrs. Kennedy with the Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis family and Georgetown President John J. DeGioia. **Left:** (L to R) Markos Kounalakis; Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy; Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte

"Democracy requires not only citizen vigilance, but a nurturing of the soul of the nation's capital. Georgetown makes up a large part of the intellectual heart and soul of Washington, DC; a place that nourishes our current leaders and prepares future ones. It is an honor for Eleni and me to give Georgetown this gift so it can infuse Hellenism into this charge."

The chair is the latest contribution by the Sacramento family toward preserving and expanding Hellenic studies. Other chairs endowed by the family are currently at Columbia University and Stanford University. A family donation to California State University, Sacramento also created a library of 70,000 written works reflecting ancient and modern Hellenic civilization.

The new chair provides Georgetown's Government Department with permanent faculty and research support for the study of Hellenism. Donations from Eleni and Markos, together with the Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic and other key donors will, according to the university, support "teaching and research that will emphasize both Greece's importance as a cornerstone of civilization and its contemporary vitality."

Remax Today at the Queens Expo



Remax Today was voted unanimously the most attractive booth at the first Queens Real Estate Expo where more than 100 exhibitors participated. From right are Kelly Lagoudis, president, Lina Lenis, Sally Kolanovic, Carmela Vlachich, Eleni Gerokostas, Lydia Roman and Antoineta Koveos.

Big Party For Cyprus' 46!

Distinguished guests, among them H.E. Archbishop Demetrios of America, the President of the UN General Assembly Sheikhha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, Under-Secretary for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari, US Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and a number of UN permanent representatives and other UN officials attended a special reception in New York commemorating the 46th Anniversary of Cyprus as an independent republic. Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the UN, Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis and Consul General of the Republic in New York Martha Mavrommatis were the hosts of this successful event that attracted various members of the diplomatic missions, presidents of Greek American organizations, prominent personalities of New York society, UN correspondents and American journalists as well as members of the Greek American media



PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

From left Ambassador and host Andreas Mavroyiannis, his wife Calliope, Ambassador Adamantios Vassilakis and N.Y. State Representative Mathew Mirones. **Right:** Consul General of Greece Ekaterine Boura (left), her Cyprus counterpart and hostess Martha Mavrommatis (right), Vice Consul of Greece Alia Papanastasiou (center) and friends seem to enjoy the moment.

"Athens - Sparta" Exhibit at the Onassis Center

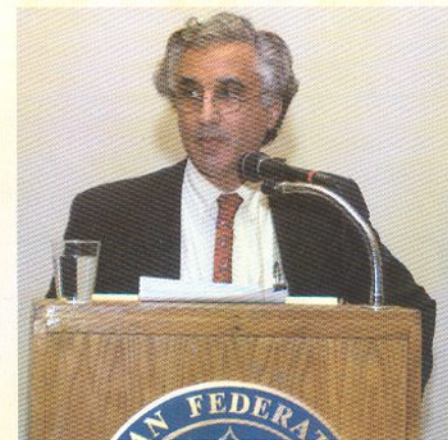
The upcoming exhibition "Athens-Sparta," presenting 288 exquisite artifacts, is scheduled to open December 6th at the Onassis Cultural Center (Olympic Tower, 645 Fifth Avenue, entrances on 51st and 52nd Streets, Manhattan). The curator is Dr. Nikos Kaltsas, Director of the National Archaeological Museum in Athens. The exhibit explores the history and cultural achievements of the two most important city-states in the ancient Greek world.



For more information: (212) 486-4448.

ATHENIAN SOCIETY

October is a very important month in Hellenic history, ancient and modern. As every year, the Athenians' Society of New York commemorated the city's liberation from the Nazi occupation with a multi-faceted cultural event held at the Cultural Center of the Chian Federation. Professor Chris Ioannides was the keynote speaker at a program that also featured music, a one-act play, a dramatized narrative of historical events, and a reception.



PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

Above: keynote speaker, Prof. Christos Ioannides. **Bottom:** Athenians' Society President Elias Neophytos opening the program. **Bottom Left:** School kids on stage for the one-act play.



PHOTO: ETA PRESS

St. Demetrios

October 26 was a big day for the St. Demetrios Parish in Astoria as hundreds of faithful flocked to the Byzantine-styled Cathedral to honor the memory of their patron saint, one of the most beloved in the Greek Orthodox world. Archbishop Demetrios of America, himself a native of Thessalonika, Greece, where St. Demetrios became a martyr of the Church and consequently the city's patron saint, officiated mass and later was the guest of honor at a community lunch. Students from the parish's high school wearing traditional Macedonian costumes greeted him upon arrival.



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Mitsotakis And Tsakopoulos Honored At the Pancretan Gala

Former Prime Minister of Greece and Honorary New Democracy Party Chairman Constantine Mitsotakis and the Sacramento region's largest land developer Angelo Tsakopoulos, were honored by the Pancretan Association of America with the Eleftherios Venizelos and the Nikos Kazantzakis Award, respectively, during a lavish gala held at Terrace on the Park in New York.



PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

Honorees, dignitaries, official guests and PAA current and former leaders.



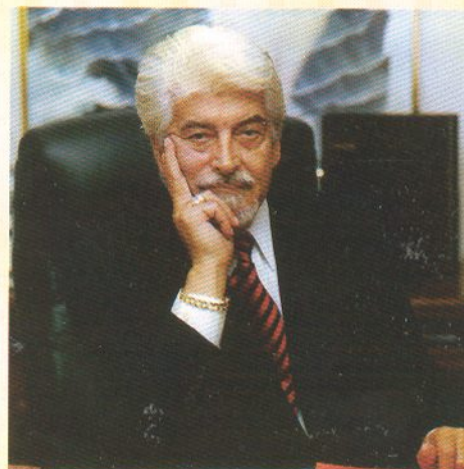
From left to right: Honoree Aggelos Tsakopoulos and his wife Sophia, Gala event organizer and PAA Task Force 2000 Chairman Kostas Travayiakis, Mrs. Orsa Velivasakis, PAA President Manolis Velivasakis, Honoree Constantine Mitsotakis, former prime minister of Greece, Past PAA President George Chryssis, Gala event organizer and PAA Women's Executive Director Carol Travayiakis, Foreign Minister of Greece Dora Bakoyiannis and Ambassador of Greece to Washington Alexandros Mallias.

Spyropoulos to lead SAE of America

Theodore Spyropoulos, a Chicago-based entrepreneur and longtime activist for Hellenic causes, was elected the new president/coordinator of the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) USA branch at the recent SAE convention in New York. He succeeds Christos Tomaras, who was the founding president and held the same position for a decade. Spyropoulos will serve a four year term that will focus mainly in the US, where the America branch is divided into four sectors: USA, Canada, Central America and South America.

The Council for Hellenes Abroad is an umbrella confederation for organized Hellenic communities throughout the world. Based in Greece (founded in Thessalonica) and funded mainly by the Greek government and wealthy individuals (the majority of them Greek-Americans, such as Christos Tomaras and Andrew Athens, the council's world wide president), SAE has done remarkable work, especially in poor and war-torn areas of the former Soviet republics, where an extensive network of clinics and schools for Greeks and non-Greeks alike has been established.

Theodore Spyropoulos, the new America branch president, was born in Kalavryta, Hellas. He studied Political Science and served in the Hellenic Navy. Besides his native Greek, he is fluent in English and German. Since 1964 he has



Theodore Spyropoulos

resided in the US and is married and the father of one daughter. He is currently president of four American companies: "T.G.S. National Wholesalers" (an automotive wholesaler operating in the USA, Europe, & Middle East); the holding company "A & T Oil Company"; "T.G.S. Petroleum Co., Inc." (petroleum products, operates in USA); and "CAM2 International" (manufacturing and marketing chemicals and lubricants in the US, Canada, Europe, Asia. He is also the director of "GTE Engineering" (Swiss) and chairman of "Hermes Expo International".

He is active, as well, in both American and Greek American organizations. He represents Illinois in the Business Council of the Republican Party and is a member of many international, American and Greek-American political and business associations. He has been president of "Hellenic American National Council" for twelve years; he is president of "ENOSIS of Hellenic American Organizations of Illinois"; president and founder of "Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce USA"; Vice Chairman of "American Hellenic Institute" (AHI); chairman and founder of "The Spyropoulos Scholarship for Hellenic-American Students in Hellas and the USA" and president of "Plant Your Roots in Greece".

Marcus & Millichap At The Queens Expo



Marcus & Millichap REIBC, another impressive booth at the 2006 Queens Real Estate Expo: Josh Sarnell, Michael Rapetti, John Belivacqua and Peter Vassiliou.

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Marianna Vardinoyannis Knighted

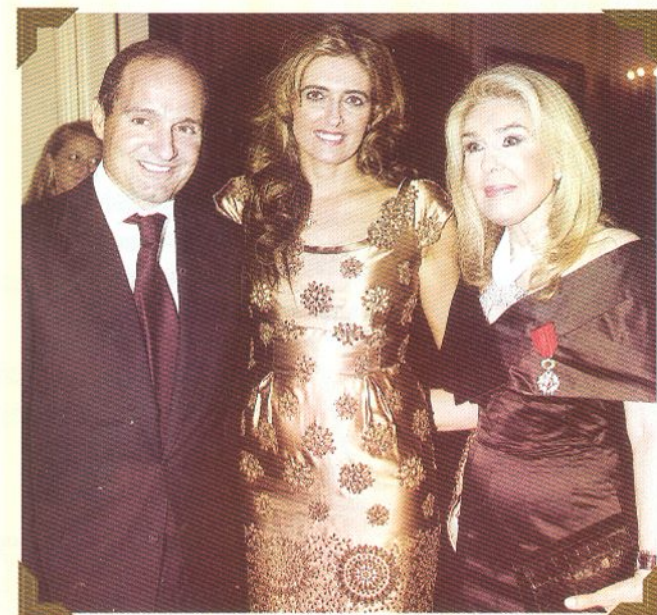
Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, founder and president of the "Foundation for the Child and the Family" and of the Friends' Association for Children with Cancer "ELPIDA," was recently awarded the French Republic' Star of the Legion of Honour (Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur) during a special ceremony at the French Embassy of Athens. Upon bestowing the distinction-France's highest-- on behalf of President Jacques Chirac, Ambassador Bruno Delaye praised her multifaceted philanthropic activities and called her "a grand citizen of the world."

Athenian high society's various representatives attended the event along with family members and friends who wanted to share the emotion and congratulate Mrs. Vardinoyannis, with the wish to see many more of her dreams fulfilled.

Mrs. Vardinoyannis has been the president of the Friends' Association of Children with Cancer "ELPIDA" since 1990, when she founded it to help and support children suffering from cancer, as well as their families. Since then, three Bone Marrow Transplant Units for children at the Athens Children's Hospital "AGIA SOPHIA" have been built and the Guest-House for the accommodation of their parents. For her social work with ELPIDA, she received the Academy of Athens Award, in 1997.

On October 21, 1999, she was appointed UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, in the field of the Protection of Children, at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. She co-operates with UNESCO on several projects. ❖

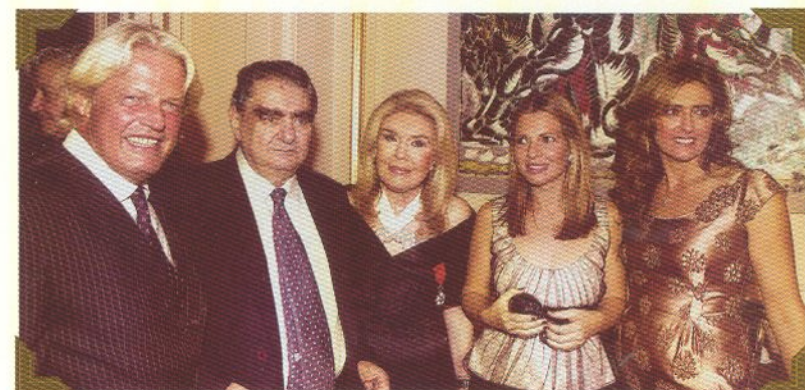
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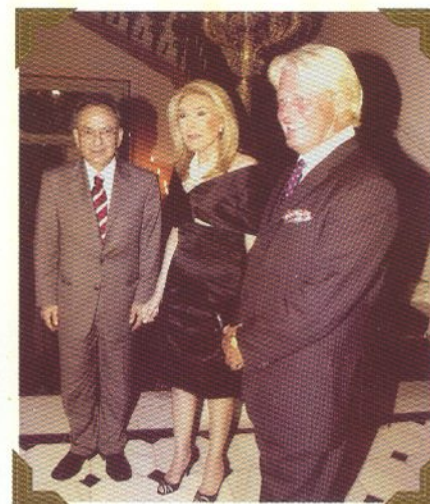
George and Christiana Goulandris with Marianna V. Vardinoyannis.



Ambassador Bruno Delaye bestows on Marianna Vardinoyannis the Star of the Legion of Honour.



From left, French Ambassador Bruno Delaye, Vardis I. Vardinoyannis, Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, Arietta Livanos-Vardinoyannis and Christiana Goulandris.



Left: Minister of Development Dimitris Sioufas, Marianna V. Vardinoyannis and Ambassador Bruno Delaye. Right: Chryssanthe Laimos and Marianna V. Vardinoyannis.



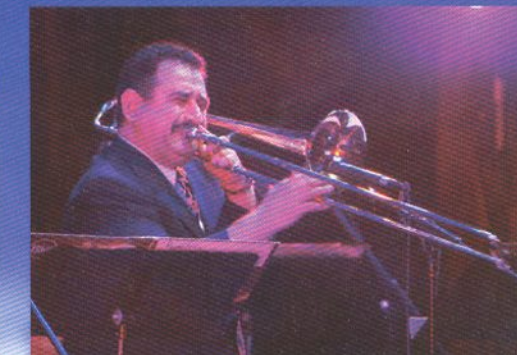
Archbishop of Athens Christodoulos, Marianna V. Vardinoyannis and Ambassador Bruno Delaye.

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Demetrios Kastaris

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Connie Grossman: flute, Ali Bello: violin,
Pablo Vergara: piano, Solo Rodríguez: bass,
Noah Bless: trombone, Panagiotis Andreou: vocals, bass

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For more details on the ensemble please visit the Latin-Jazz Coalition online on the internet at their extensive tri-lingual website at:
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Photos by Jerry Lacay

BY HARRY MARK PETRAKIS

M y father was an imposing figure to me as he moved about the sanctuary in church on Sunday mornings...

...the candles and the cross reflected on his vestments so that he radiated the majesty of a Byzantine king. Although he could be gentle and warm as well as stern and demanding, there was an irrevocable dignity about him. He was no ivory-tower cleric, but a man with a good deal of common sense. Few of his enemies in the councils of the parish made the error of underestimating him more than once. Even those who had felt the sting of his censure accorded him an unreserved respect.

Only my mother seemed to lag behind in the procession of adulation that followed my father. By her unwritten articles of dissent she implied that behind his reverend presence, his imposing demeanor, his eloquence and gift for laughter, a man with foibles and intemperate pride existed, as well. He was, she said, for all his epiphanies, a mortal, and she zealously reminded him of this simple fact.

Sometime in the early years of their marriage, for reasons which remain unknown to me, my father and mother began a resolute and unyielding struggle to impose their will upon one another. When this battle achieved only a stalemate, neither side able to assert any dominance, they divided their efforts and activities, doing what they wanted without consulting each other. Neither would compromise their position and for all the years I can remember they remained antipodal points on a compass.

Nowhere was this rivalry more clearly revealed than during the dinners we ate with guests assembled at our long dining-room table. My father sat at one end, his lambent brown eyes and fluent voice charming the guests about him with a story. He'd smile a crooked little curling of his lips, lower his voice to heighten suspense, gesture with his slender, mobile fingers, and then finish with animation. Men and women responded like a chorus of woodwinds and brasses. My father laughed delightedly with them until, as their appreciative mirth crested and declined, he picked up my mother's voice carrying an independent melody from within the circle of guests gathered at the other end of the table.

If my father was the orchestra conductor, my

mother was the coloratura soprano, a defiant, talented, and persuasive artist in her own right. Because she was less than five feet tall, she'd always tilt her chair forward, sitting on the edge, so her toes could reach the floor. From this vantage point she cajoled her coterie of listeners, enchanting them with a pithy text of her own. She had a quick, lilting voice, full of ripples, breakers, and billows

and flecked with a wry penetrating humor. As my father dominated one end of the table, my mother prevailed at the other end...

In this way my parents continued for years to live and work divided. For better or worse this division fashioned their achievements and left unresolved whatever benefits might have accrued from a placid and unchallenged union. Sometimes they worked toward the same goal, but these truces never lasted for long. Some indefinable core of unyielding strength in each of them, some wellspring of identity they had to maintain, kept them alienated. When there were no longer new grievances to muster, they'd spend hours recounting the old complaints to their sons and daughters.

"If your mother had not been so stubborn," my father said.

"If your father had been more understanding," my mother said.

"She could have helped me in so many ways," my father said.

"He would not let me help him," my mother said.

In the last few years of my father's life, when illness had weakened him and enemies snapped at his heels, my mother joined her force to my father



Family of Harry Mark Petrakis from left, Tasula, Fr. Mark Petrakis, Dan, Irene, Mike, Harry, Barbara, Presbyteria Stella.

again. Like vigorous and tenacious roots of a single great tree that had existed apart for decades, their strengths were merged once more. But they were no longer young, the years had scarred and wearied them, and all they could do in the end was to suffer with and try to console one another.

When my father entered the hospital for the last three months of his life, my mother remained with him from early in the morning until late at night, tending to his needs, shielding him from overzealous friends. She read to him for hours, told him of events taking place in the community, endured his querulous complaints, his pain, and his resignation. As his strength declined, she made a mighty, futile effort to bind him to life. They grew closer, I think, in those days than they had been since the early years of their marriage. And, sometimes, as he silently watched her, or she stared at him while he lay asleep, there was a sense of remorse, a plea for forgiveness, the mute placing of a seal once more upon their hearts.

From Reflections by Harry Mark Petrakis. Lake View Press, 1983. Due to be published by Petrakis in March, 2007 is Legends of Glory: A Novella and other Stories, Southern Illinois University Press ■



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