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# NEO

FROM THE EDITOR

## On accomplished men and women

Accomplished men and women can be exhausting—their inspiration is constant and their energy never seems to flag. You don't so much as have a conversation with them as serve as their sounding board—you can see their eyes straying even while they're finishing one thought and latching on to another. And when you do find your voice, finally, in a momentary lull in the monologue that passes for their conversation, you know they've drifted to some other thought, or some mental note of what they have to do, and you don't figure at all. You might as well be the waiter at the restaurant, the bus boy cleaning up, the woman sitting by the window, the man standing on the street corner outside the window and reading a map—you're nothing but the landscape they're seeing but not really registering because their mind is turning on something else. Their internal world is a maelstrom.

It must be so breathtaking to be so accomplished and to have that endless resource of energy to carry out all the tasks your mind and heart conceive. It's something like staying young forever and forever having those youthful enthusiasms. Did you ever see a kid not enthusiastic about something, and sometimes several somethings in the course of one day, or even one hour?

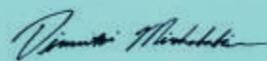
Kids at playschool pick up the nearest block and envision building a house or fire engine with it. They climb on their bike and they're suddenly salivating at the thought of the ice cream cone they're going to pick up, or the M&Ms at the candy store colored for Halloween.

Did you ever listen to your teenage daughter on the phone? Or your son talking about his favorite team? Or how going to Dunkin' Donuts for a vanilla latte is an event?

In this issue we have several people who haven't lost that vital élan of life and inspiration. Dr. Nikos Linardakis is a man with several enthusiasms that he keeps percolating all at the same time. He is a serious man of medicine, a serious entrepreneur, and a serious creative artist all at the same time. And when you talk to him, you get caught up in his enthusiasms and the notes he always makes on scraps of paper of people he has to call and thinks he has to look into. I can't imagine him being bored with anything he does because he has enthusiasm of a very precocious child.

The same with the artists featured in this issue, Babis Vekris, who "lights" up his world, literally, in any number of dazzling ways, and never lets the darkness seep in; and George Kordis, whose Byzantine works illuminate the spirit from within.

They are all an example of how inspiration and enthusiasm can be sustained and how it can sustain a world that can forever seem as promising and dazzling every day as the world we once knew as children.



Dimitri C. Michalakis

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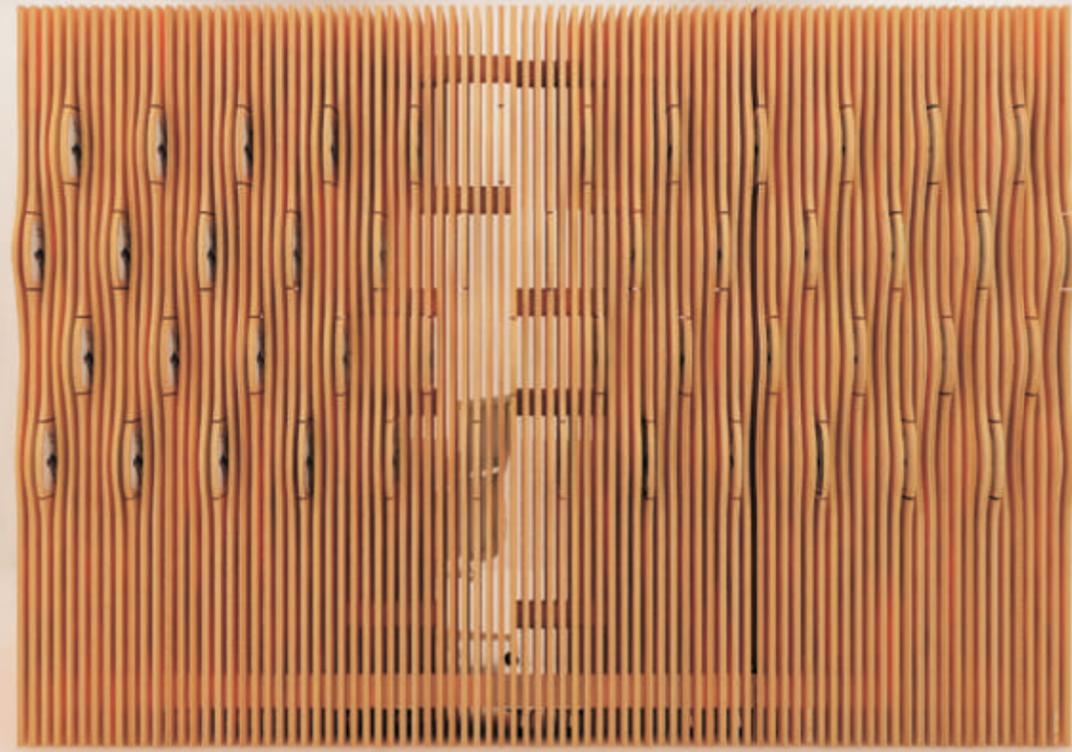
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# Hellenic Museum & Cultural Center Using Cutting Edge Technology to Remember the Past

## Ultra-Modern Frank S. Kamberos Oral History Center to be Unveiled in October

In 2004 the Hellenic Museum launched the Oral History project to document the experiences of Greek Americans and their unique stories. From life in Greece and Greek territories of Asia Minor where many Greeks once lived, to the trials and tribulations of immigration stories that included Ellis Island arrivals and long cross-country railroad journeys, the oral history project not only promotes the understanding of the immigrant experience but also teaches valuable lessons about history as seen through the eyes of our ancestors.

Important eras in American history are recalled too, like the Great Depression that decimated so many Greek American businesses and the World Wars, in which many of our parents and grandparents fought.

On October 12, 2007 the culmination of three years of work will be unveiled as the new Frank S. Kamberos Oral History Center will be unveiled at the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center in Chicago. The naming of the center comes after a generous contribution by long-time museum board member and Greek American community benefactor Frank Kamberos.

The massive undertaking was first developed with the assistance of Columbia College, whose students conducted interviews through their Growing Up Greek in Chicago project. Dedicated staff and volunteers at the museum worked diligently to see the project to fruition.

Renowned oral history scholars Prof. Artemis Leontis from the University of Michigan's Department of Modern Greek Studies and Dr. Yiorgos Anagnostou from Ohio State University were called upon to provide their expertise and to ensure the project's academic integrity.

Additionally, the museum tapped the knowledge and resources of Dr. George Tselos, Head of Reference Services at the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York and ethnic studies expert Dr. Elaine Thomopoulos, who was also instrumental in mounting a significant project about the Greeks of Berrien County.

Finally, in 2005, the museum commissioned an award winning multidisciplinary design collaborative firm named Sand\_Box, to design and construct the interactive module that will comprise the new center.

The new Oral History Center will be the first of its kind in the Greek-American community and will serve as a cornerstone of the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center. The project designed by Sand\_Box, features an ultra-modern module that was created through a combination of hand cut and milled plywood layers that are intended to draw reference to the stratification of history.

Two unique interfaces allow both the casual museum visitor and the academic researcher an enriching experience. From the front of the structure visitors interact with a curated collection of histories, tokenized through sliding picture frames, which activate a collective queue that can be navigated and viewed from either end.

The academic interface is found inside a more intimate space created by the layered plywood. Here once can search the entire collection of histories with the backdrop of the layered screen.

The center will showcase a digital recording and playback center with audio and video-taped histories of dozens of participants, which will be accessible to visiting scholars as well as to the general public for viewing and research and will be categorized in multiple ways so people researching a particular region of Greece, or a particular historical period or year, can view all corresponding histories that relate to that particular category. For example, if a scholar is interested in World War II, the digital device will be able to locate and list all oral histories that relate to that period.

Greek Americans from throughout the nation are encouraged to document their family histories in the new **Frank S. Kamberos Oral History Center at the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center** in Chicago. Video-tapings can be arranged in your hometown by our staff or you can submit your own recordings, based upon established parameters and guidelines. For additional information, please contact Vivian Haritos, Director of Education and Oral History at the Hellenic Museum at [vharitos@hellenicmuseum.org](mailto:vharitos@hellenicmuseum.org) or call 312-655-1234.



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# Katerina Papakos

## Greek Parliament Shining Star

By Demetrios Rhompotis

Katerina Papakosta, member of the unicameral Hellenic Parliament, or Voule, representing the Second Athens Electoral District for the governing New Democracy Party, has never set foot in the US, and yet she is, in the words of a Greek expert well seasoned in local politics, "perhaps the most 'American' politician Greece presently has to offer." Outspoken, dynamic, stubborn, visionary but down-to-earth, when the situation calls for it, passionate and yet cool-minded and practical, impeccably dressed but not vain, "this gifted woman is Hillary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi and Carolyn Maloney together!"

An elected member of the New Democracy Party Central Committee since 1997, the only woman from the Greater Athens area to hold that office, she was elected to parliament in 2000 (re-elected in 2004 and most recently last September), and she has become a spokesperson for women's rights, especially married women, who, in spite of the legal system's adjustment to the most updated of European standards, still encounter problems in the workplace.

"As a mother of two, I understand the peculiarities, I've faced them myself working as a lawyer and then getting involved in politics," she explained during an interview in the parliament's neoclassical, yet distinctly modern Greek cafe, its walls adorned with portraits of venerable politicians of old and heroes of the Greek revolution. "We've come a long way, but we need to do more to bring change in real terms, affecting people's mentality. I am lucky to have a husband (she is married to Theodoros Sidiropoulos) who has supported me all along and I operate within a political party that understands and promotes change. I would love the rest of the Greek women, the majority of the country's population, to be able to operate in similar frameworks."

From 2000 to 2004, she was also a member of the Athens Women's Movement. Her work was soon noticed and in 2004 Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis appointed her head of Women Affairs Secretary in New Democracy Party. Two years after, her fame crossed Greece's frontiers and she was elected Vice-President of European Popular Party Women Organisations (EPPW). "Don't think that Greece is unique in dealing with these issues within the European Union. Even the most developed of countries need a lot of work to do when it comes to women," she pointed out, as many colleagues came to shake her hand and wish her good luck on her third term minutes after the swearing-in ceremony, performed with Doric austerity and Byzantine pomp in the impressive parliament edifice, facing Constitution Square, that was built as a palace for Otto, the Bavarian-born first king of the modern Greek State. "I feel very proud that my constituents elected me for a third time," she continued. "Their trust is my major strength when struggling for them and for our country's interests."

Indeed the fighter in her was once more demonstrated when she succeeded for the second time to win more votes than any other woman candidate in Athens' Second Electoral District, a major feat given her lack of any intra-party alliances. "I ran on the issues, without any secret agendas. People understood that what they saw, they were going to get. I have nothing to hide."

Born in the port city of Piraeus and now living in western Athens, Katerina Papakosta has grown up cosmopolitan and is fluent in French, English and Italian, besides her native Greek. Being a member of the New Democracy Party Parliamentary Work Group on Defence and Foreign Affairs since 1997, she is in touch with what's going on in the world, the United States not excluded. "I've always admired the US and its people's sense of freedom. This free-spirited mentality, the motivation to creativity and constant improvement are values that I too hold dear. That's why I consider the friendship between our two countries not only real, but unique as well. It's based on values and not on temporary collusion of interests or circumstances." Here too, there is much space for improvement. "We need to build more on those elements that unite us, communicate more effectively and pass the Americans the message that Greece is their spiritual home."

Regarding the occasional accusations of some American politicians or members of the press of Greece being anti-American, Mrs. Papakosta is eager to dismiss them as baseless. "How can a country each family of which has some relatives in the US be anti-American?" she wonders. "Most of the time they accuse us of being too pro-American. A great part of the music we listen, the movies we watch, the

books we read, the trip we dream about, is American!"

That is not to say, however, that differences do not exist. "Sometimes we have distinct views on issues, especially those affecting our extended neighbourhood. America's decision, for example, to recognise FYROM as 'Macedonia' was an unnecessary move that as our government predicted, made the other side more intransigent, going as far as to be disrespectful recently to the United Nations General Assembly. We know better how the south-eastern Mediterranean area works or doesn't work; that's why we are more cautious. Besides, in every friendship there are disagreements, different understandings and sometimes passionate exchanges. But, as friends, we will always find common ground and work on it."

She also took the opportunity to invite Americans of Greek or otherwise descent to visit and revisit Greece, enjoying the beauty, the culture and the unique character of the Greek people, "adjusted, yet unspoiled throughout the centuries. I want you also to see my country as a perfect place to invest. Our government has instituted changes and modernised the legal framework, cutting bureaucracy and expediting the process. There are prime time opportunities in tourism of course, real estate, agriculture, the fishing industry, and you can also use Greece as a stable and secure springboard to venture in the neighbouring countries, in which Greek entrepreneurs have long ago open the way and hold the key to success."

She is eager to visit the US--"sooner rather than later" -- in order to get to know firsthand "that

great and beautiful country of yours." And also to see what the Greek communities have accomplished in their adopted land. "Even as a kid I would listen to people talking about Greek Americans with pride and admiration. In times of difficulty and in times of prosperity such the ones we are now living, our Diaspora in America has personified our collective success story. People who left with nothing, sometimes in extremely dire conditions, went to the other end of the world and within a generation's time they knocked on the White House's door as accomplished Americans! Isn't that a modern epic of our people," she wonders, her eyes glowing with emotion. "To me a visit to the US will be more than a dream come true, it will be like visiting another Greece, a pilgrimage to a major point in our cosmopolitan expansion as people."



Katerina Papakosta with Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis



Katerina Papakosta with the President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias

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Few artists have been as successful in navigating the digital landscape as Electros (Babis Vekris) and fewer have been able to harness the energy of the electronic age as this remarkable talent. Electros employs and manipulates digital material in the same manner that Rauschenberg juggles paper and cardboard. He imagines possibilities and pushes at the boundaries of tradition. Electros art is at once a tribute to new media and a spoof of it. He has described his work as "techno-fictional" which is the perfect portrayal for what appears at first

## Babis Vekris: electrifying the world of art

glance to be scientific and functional is soon found to be purely aesthetic...a poetry for both the eye and mind. His work touches the objectivity of mathematical logic but ultimately exists in a universe of romantic illogic.

The installation at the Butler Institute's Beecher Center extends the artist's fascination with language as well as his interest in the superficiality of our understanding of technological markers. The work is enlightening and highly entertaining. Light and sound are employed in ways that remind us of life in what Electros has called an "electro-mechanokinetic" world. But these elements are but metaphors that reach well beyond the obvious. In the end, great art has always done this. Art that has endured through the history of humankind has inspired us to imagine possibilities from the friese on the Parthenon to Michelangelo's Last Judgement. And while Electros art resides in a vastly different sphere, it's ability to move us and to touch us is no less potent.

Like a mystic who has found a sign of God in a shooting star - indeed, who regards its light as his flesh - the spectator is entranced by the electronic action of Electros' installations: the ceaseless blinking of their LEDs - a soothing spectacle of randomness, of innocent self-reflexivity - is eternity at its most accessible, cosmic light brought down to earth, if still unmanageable and incomprehensible.

Decontextualized - isolated, that is, radically separated from ordinary use by being exhibited as objects in themselves which made them seem "extraordinary" - then became enigmatic and uncanny, if one was willing to invest one's emotions in them. The assisted ready-made - a transparently absurd

construction - encouraged such investment by means of suggestion: a comic title, a juxtaposition of ordinarily incommensurate things, made the found object evocative, attractive to the unconscious, as well as provocative in itself. Like a dream, it demanded interpretation, but unlike a dream it could never be completely interpreted, because one's interpretation of it was part of one's investment in it. It really had no meaning, apart from the meaning one gave it: it was more being than meaning. As such, because it could never be objectified - because

whatever meaning one gave it was not necessarily convincing to others, since it was a meaning that grew out of one's own unconscious concerns - the surreal machine became radically subjective, that is, the emblem par excellence of blind desire.

The titles of Electros' works acknowledge that they have as strong a place in the surreal tradition of the poetic object or psychic object, as I prefer to call it - the romanticization of the familiar object into emotional unfamiliarity - as in the constructivist tradition of kinetic art. The electronic is inherently erotic for Electros: his artworks move with the speed and efficiency of the libido. More deeply, they invariably display the dialectic of desire - the dialectic or doubleness inherent to desire.

The more advanced the material, the more invested with erotic significance it becomes. By "advanced" I mean that the material is a major feat of human ingenuity, on a symbolic as well as practical level. In reconciling flexibility and durability - softness and strength - Electros' manmade materials realize the age-old, alchemical dream of combining contradictory properties in one unique substance. Their union establishes a symbolic harmony between the sacred and profane. That is, the materials, are implicitly immortal - unchanging, perfect - but everyday. They are as psychopoetic as the machines constructed of them.

It may seem strange to say so, but the third tradition of art and technology to which Electros' technological projects contribute began in the Renaissance. It is evident in the work of Leonardo da Vinci and Albrecht Durer: in the meticulous detail of their landscapes. Their goal of scientific precision - not simply of phenomenological - empirical

description, but of analytic observation, issuing in technical refinement and general principles - is realized, with ironic exactitude, in such installations as Electros "FRACTAL LANDSCAPE II". In these works, the "romantic" indeterminacy of landscape - it seems all the more amorphous the closer one attends to its details, and above all the more one tries to bring them together into a whole - is reduced to analytic clarity and subtlety by means of chaos theory. A complex mathematics has led to mastery of what Leonardo and Durer mastered with their

simpler mathematics of perspective and proportion. But their mastery looks preliminary and secondary in comparison to that evident in Electros' works. Indeed, a comparison of Electros' technological landscapes and Leonardo's deluge landscapes is instructive: Leonardo tends to the fractal detail - the breakdown of the chaotic deluge into uniform, modular fractals - that Electros' Landscapes realize.

The line from the Renaissance mathematics of landscape to Electros' ultramodern fractal mathematics of landscape is continuous. It reminds us that art at its most radical has always been catalyzed by technological innovation - always had a technical rationale. More particularly, Electros' landscapes, and his psychopoetic machine objects in general, remind us that the desire we instinctively invest in landscape, including the technological landscape of our environment, can be rendered with remarkable precision.

But Electros' projects are not only metaphors of desire and symbols of precision, not only hymns to notion and ironic fantasies of eternal life. They are also witty acknowledgments of the pervasiveness - indeed, Inescapability and irresistibility - of technology in our lives, and above all of the triumph over time and mind they represent.



### Statement of the Artist

*I create artwork inspired by my own biography, sometimes scientific, sometimes whimsical and sometimes conceptual. It becomes in its totality, my emotional response to the issue of privacy in the complexed world of technological art. Innovative concepts of art can take many forms, as the artist strives for the new aesthetic order; also the scientific questions in the artwork gives us a new way of looking at the process of art.*

*Until now we have been shaped by the invisible power of art history and education that learns from the past but is blind to the future.*

*As it does, it becomes increasingly complex and further from the truth. Subsequently, art and technology treating kinetics as an art form continue my interests in bridging concerns of art, science and cosmology.*

*I say that art seems to pose more questions than answers. Ultimately the goal of art is to understand ourselves in more inner-spiritual levels. This is the biggest school of knowledge it makes you see much further the ordinary scope of life, that moves from the visible to the invisible to the inconceivable.*

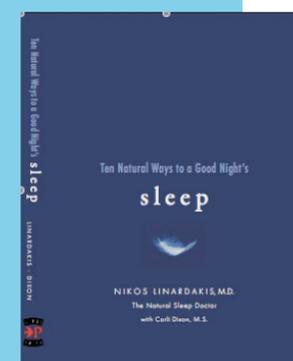
*Every event to the artist's time table happens within some period of time, that event is what molds the art historically. Working for the art creates a way for me to explore life and culture and their dual influences in our spiritual existence. I like to examine the line between cultural imposition and artistic development.*

*I view my structures as culturally generated subjects, on applied norm, which then gets filtered into individually aestheticized interpretations.*



# Renaissance man Dr. Nikos Linardakis is a doctor, author, entrepreneur and now moviemaker who wants to bring Harry Mark Petrakis to the big screen

by Dimitri C. Michalakis



Nikos Linardakis is a medical doctor who runs his own company (Tharos Laboratories, which markets a leading sleep aid and products from natural ingredients). He's also an author with scores of titles to his credit (from standard texts on microbiology, pharmacology and pathology to cookbooks and novellas and a Michael Creighton-style thriller called Cigar). He's also a musician who played with his brothers in a band for years (The Linardakis Brothers) and still has his house plugged in like a studio.

And now Nikos Linardakis is becoming a moviemaker and combining many of his loves to produce a film based on the dark and stormy Harry Mark Petrakis novel, *In The Land of Morning*. Olive Film Productions (the name of Linardakis' production company), is already in pre-production on the film, Petrakis has collaborated with his son John on the writing of the script, and shooting is slated to start on location in Chicago in the spring.

"This is something I'm doing as an act of art and passion, more than anything else," says the 39-year-old Linardakis, who seems to do most things as an act of passion and whose conversation endlessly percolates with all the passions he has. "I think I've read every book that Petrakis has written two or three times. I love his writing, and he's a real professional. I live by a motto, and I tell people this, that when you care about something, you really must get involved all the way down to the bottom line on every level and that's the way I am."

Besides a script by the Petrakis', the film will feature Mario Frangoulis producing and performing the theme song with his long-time producer and composer Steve Wood, and renowned bouzouki player Alex Galas performing on the score as well.

"I have a strong musical background with my brothers and my part is to make sure that we can produce a professional recording," says Linardakis, who played with his brothers in their band all over Chicago. "Which means an all-original score for the movie, so we can hopefully get nominated for an original score, and also to make sure we have at least one or two songs that will make it to mainstream radio."

The time has come also for a film like this to make it into the mainstream, he says, which might not have been possible five years ago.

"I felt like the last two years Greek themes are starting to surface more, most recently with Frank Miller's film, 300, even though that's based on a graphic novel," he says. "I really feel like the Spanish community is networked and they have music and movies and books out there, and there really should be enough room to publish as many Greek books and movies in this Greek arena as we possibly can, as well."

He says "if we don't keep this up, this next generation is going to lose out not only on the language and music, but also on the understanding of the arts that made us Greeks throughout history. You ask some high school students now if they've ever read Petrakis and none of them even know the name, or if you ask them about Kazantzakis, they have no idea. My Big Fat Greek Wedding was a comedy and people appreciated it from the comedy standpoint, but I want to see more of tradition, more of the arts, more of the heritage: Aesop's Fables is being lost and being replaced by computer games."

Petrakis, he says, represents modern Greek tragedy, and how it affects family and religion, "and I really think it's important for me to see this become a movie while he still is here on earth. It would be an honor for me to see this happen and have the film shown in theaters with him and his sons and his family there to see it."

Linardakis says he began to read Petrakis when he was ten years old, starting with Nick the Greek, and quickly went through all the novels and short stories (his ultimate ambition is to film the Petrakis epic of the Greek revolution, *The Hour of the Bell*), and he soon began to write himself.

"I think I published my first book at the age of like 20," he says. "It was a medical book, *Digging Up the Bones*, a medical review series, I self-published it and then sold the rights to McGraw-Hill. I have published close to 14 or 15 books, among them two cookbooks, one novella that I'm hoping will be published shortly called *Morning Café*, and two sleep medicine books: one for children called *Sleep Disorders*, and one called *Ten Natural Ways to a Good Night's Sleep*."

One cookbook, *Recipes Sworn to Secrecy: An International Collection of Family and Favorite Recipes*, he wrote with his wife, Connie, who collected the recipes, while he filled in some of the medical "dialogue" and also helped out with the recipes.

Medicine does remain his first love, however, but in keeping with his pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit, he doesn't practice it in the usual ways. Besides authoring the endless stream of his medical books (which began as a means for him to condense and digest his textbooks at school) he also started *Tharos Laboratories* (named after the Greek word for courage) four years ago to explore new medicines for age-old diseases.



Michaelis Linardakis (son of Dr. Nikos)  
Playing Guitar (Age 7)

"I've got this mission that I want to build the best phytochemical company in the world that will take the ingredients for our products from natural fruits and plants," he explains. "This requires a lot of money, a lot of high-tech research, a lot of science, but the end result is that I can help thousands of people versus helping just a few a day."

The company has a patent on a product called Procidin, which comes from the red and blue pigment in berries and is a natural antibacterial. "It promotes bacterial anti-adhesion," he says. "It doesn't kill the bacteria, but stops it from adhering to the cell walls in the body. In women, for example, who have urinary tract health problems, the bacteria can accumulate in the urinary tract and cause an infection. The goal of Procidin is to stop the accumulation of the bacteria so that when a person urinates the bacteria just falls off and there is no abundance of bacteria left."

Procidin launched on the market last year after three years of development in partnership with Rutgers University. (The company website is [tharoslabs.com](http://tharoslabs.com)).

Linardakis has also worked with HGM Medical Laser Systems of Salt Lake City (where he lives) to create a laser educational program that became a runaway success and a favorite of his own "because it got me out to teach and travel and produce a laser teaching book and internal material for the company and laser surgeons."

True to his restless spirit, though, with the money he made from HGM, he went into something completely different: the pizza business. "Since I was two years old we were eating Connie's pizza in Chicago and it was a family-run business," he explains. "Again I like the best and Connie's really had the best Chicago pizza and they've had it in the family since 1963."

He convinced the family to let him open some branches, and he launched the first one in Salt Lake City in 1998. "My goal was to open one every six months, and I did that through partnerships: we built one with Larry Miller, for example, who owned Utah Jazz, and that opened up another arena, which was the frozen food division of the company in Chicago that was being developed. My goal was to make sure the frozen version of the pizza was kept at the same quality as the actual pizza in the restaurant. This brought us cinemas as customers, Century Theaters for one, which opened theaters left and right that included our frozen pizza."

Inevitably, though, he came back to his original passion for the arts, which made him start Olive Film Productions to produce films from quality literature, starting with Petrakis.

"It requires a lot of talent, expertise and locations," he says. "In the Land of Morning was one that required only one location, in Chicago, and the story is the modern-day version of a Greek tragedy. To me there's a lot of pieces in the movie that bring out the Greek heritage. It has enough in it that could match the purpose of the company to develop Greek-spirited themes in the best tradition."

The chances of success are good, he says, "if you have the right resources in people and management, and if you add the fact that you're filming our best writer and the best of his books. That is why I think that our level of success is going to be pretty high."



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The ribbon cutting ceremony. From left Town Clerk (Hempstead) Lesley Gross, Tina Chandras, Marathon's Chairman Paul Stathouloupoulos, Marathon's President Emmanuel Polychronakis, Piraeus Bank of Greece General Manager Yannis Kyriakopoulos, Zoe Koutsoupaki, Louise Fishman and Lud Odierna, Mayor of Williston Park Village.

James Stefatos, Emmanuel Polychronakis, Yannis Kyriakopoulos, Liberty and Mike Angeliades and Paul Stathouloupoulos.

# Marathon Bank opens in Manhasset, NY

After Brooklyn and Staten Island, Manhasset was the next stop in Marathon Bank's New York expansion and its overall effort to come as close as possible to meeting the community's needs. The new branch in Manhasset (1577 Northern Blvd. tel. 516 365-0990,) Long Island, which has a dynamic nucleus of Greeks in business and real estate, is promising to become a focal point in that effort.

Since last June when it opened and the official ribbon-cutting ceremony took place, with Piraeus Bank of Greece General Manager Yannis Kyriakopoulos, Marathon's President Emmanuel Polychronakis, and Marathon's Chairman Paul Stathouloupoulos all present, the goals of this branch have been met and surpassed. "We were expecting it," said Nikos Kostacos, Manhasset's branch manager. "People were asking us to come to this area and we did. They embraced us immediately, because they already knew the quality of our products and services."

The new branch, number 14 so far, signifies a steady expanding progress in a success story that started 20 years ago, when Marathon was founded by a group of visionary Greek American investors. Later on, when Piraeus Bank of Greece became the majority stock holder, new opportunities and challenges came about and today the bank's leadership is thinking about the possibility of expanding to other US states as well.

After the Atlantic Bank was sold, Marathon remained the only bank in Greek hands, as a subsidiary of Piraeus Bank, now one of the most powerful in Europe. Besides all the benefits that this relationship entails, especially to those who do transactions between the US and Greece, Marathon plays an active role in the community by helping Hellenic community organizations, sponsoring cultural and educational events and supporting local artists.



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From left, Yannis Kyriakopoulos, Paul Stathouloupoulos, Tina Chandras, Homeric Tours President Nick Tsakanikas, Town Councilwoman Maria-Christina Poons, Bill Kartsonis, Zoe Koutsoupaki and Branch Manager Nick Kostacos.

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## Adventures in Love: A profile of the artist George Kordis

By Katerina Georgiou

Those who think of Byzantine painting as an archaic art form—stuck somewhere between the confines of art history books and holy structures—should take notice. Byzantine painting, the sacred expression of the Orthodox Church, is making a comeback. At the forefront of this revival is a painter whose work bridges the old with the new. George Kordis, a Greek-born artist, is reintroducing this mystical painting tradition, enriching it with western techniques and making it accessible to art lovers around the world.

Throughout his impressive career, Kordis has specialized in the theology and aesthetics of Byzantine painting. Both secular and religious works comprise his sizeable contribution to Modern Greek art. His paintings blend tradition with the ideals of modernism and his “personal mythology”—how he experiences the world. As an iconographer and teacher of icon painting at the University of Athens and Yale University’s Institute of Sacred Music, he’s heralding a return to this ancient art form. Whether making a creative painting or an icon, he uses the same time-honored techniques handed down by Byzantine craftsmen.

Kordis was a theology student at the University of Athens when his professor, Father Symeon Symeou, a well-respected Cypriot iconographer, encouraged him to take up icon painting. Several years later, while studying painting technique at The School of Fine Arts at The Museum of Boston, he had the idea to expand his artistic skills beyond iconography. He began studying Byzantine painting as a system of forms. In this classic art form, he saw a series of interconnecting relationships—a way to “express the contemporary man with his needs and concerns.” Realizing its functional value, he expanded the scope of his work to secular painting.



Separation, isolation and autonomy are some of the themes that his work addresses. Creating a bond with the observer is the ultimate objective of the Byzantine painter. To achieve this effect, Kordis mixes and repositions the different painting elements, for instance through drawing lines and the use of color, to establish balance and movement. This technique gives his paintings lifelike qualities, such as motion, rhythm and unity. Figures follow the observer’s movements and become part of the present life of the beholder. The painting grounds the observer in reality instead of cultivating the illusion of separation. Its energy is absorbed and felt by the senses, reflecting an image of the world in a state of harmony.

The effect is mystical—flat figures with large eyes that appear weightless—as if they’re floating on air. After all in Byzantine art, the idea is to depict the soul rather than the body. Natural forms are exaggerated or diminished depending upon the inner qualities the painter wishes to express. It’s easy to see the heavenly images and qualities of the spiritual world expressed in Kordis’ paintings. A sense of serenity and peace contributes to a transcendental experience, reminding

observers of a reality beyond themselves—somewhere deeper than the eye can see. A master craftsman, Kordis uses his paintbrush like an alchemist, blending the symbolic language of Byzantine art with a keen aesthetic eye to evoke an inner silence that, in the words of Saint Paul, “leads to truth.”

Byzantine structure, according to Kordis, is a framework in which to “unify the broken image of the world.” It’s a medium devoted to uncovering the essence of life—in its purest and simplest state—through love. In his view, love is the unifying force in life. “It’s the way things come together and communicate in order to create unity,” he says. But, he warns that an artist’s skill level is only part of the equation. The artist must have a spiritual bent in which to connect to the “ethos” that lies at the heart of this art form. And so it’s the task of the Byzantine painter to seek and find the soul in the painting—the hidden element that bridges the worlds of separateness and existence—where “isolation becomes love.”

In the end, love is the underlying element in

all of Kordis’ work and he draws inspiration from popular Greek writers and poets whose works embrace the subject, such as Kontoglou, Karkavitsas and Elytis. By adapting timeless themes into a visual language, he is reintroducing unforgettable characters and literary works in a fresh light. Though his subjects provide a platform for him to express the face of his country and to explore themes that are embedded deep in the psyche of many Greeks, their universal appeal is undeniable.

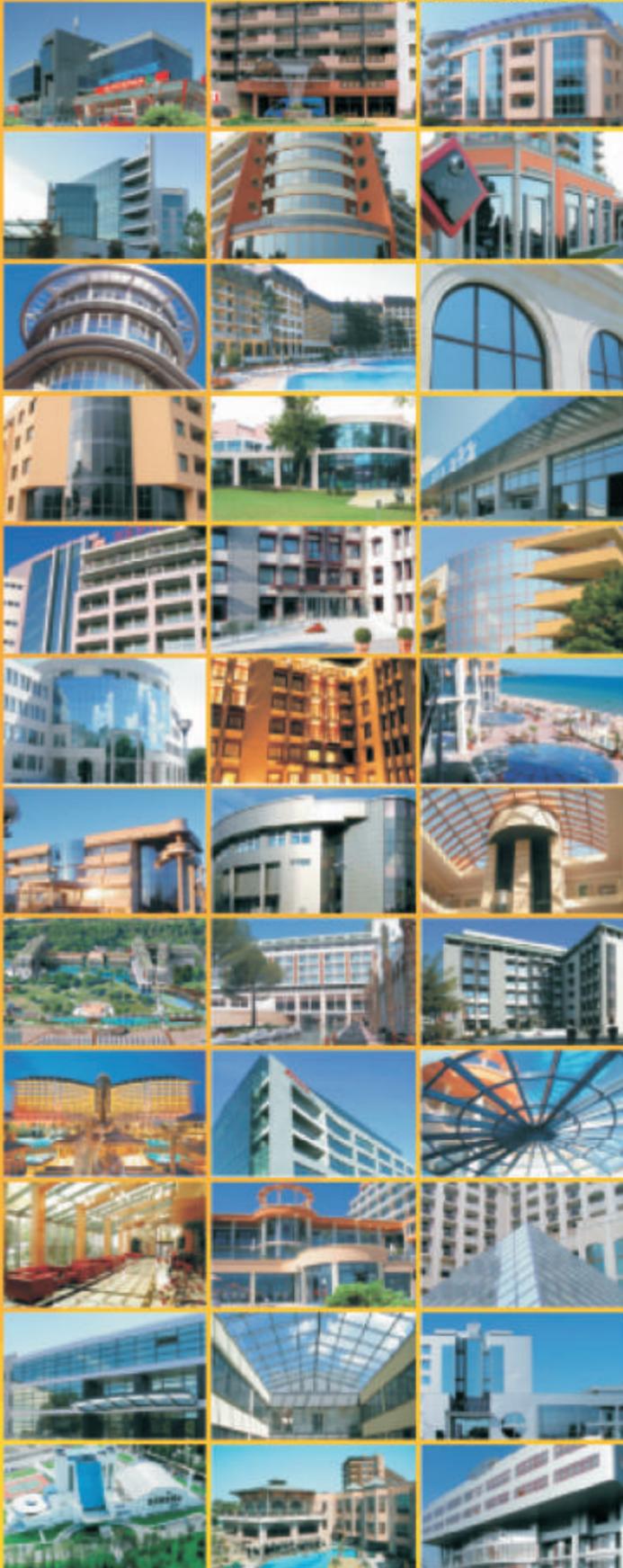
A selection of Kordis’ secular work depicting adventures in love will be on display at Yale University in New Haven, CT, from October 11 to October 25 at the Henry R. Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue. The series of paintings features a combination of 20 egg tempera paintings and 10 pencil drawings—some of which were inspired by the work of the author Alexandros Papadiamantis and the poetry of George Seferis.

Visit <http://www.yale.edu/macmillan/hsp/#> for more details.

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From left, Consul General Ekaterina Boura, Ambassador Ioannis Mounkis, Ambassador Loukas Tsilas, NYU President Emeritus John Brademas, KT President Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, Drexel University President Constantine Papadakis, AHI Chairman Eugene Rossides and HNC President Emmanuel Velivassakis.

Kyriakos Tsakopoulos with Professor Edmund Phelps

## A Nobel laureate lectures on Aristotle and the Moderns

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John Brademas, Rev. Alex Karloutsos and Eugene Rossides



Professor Edmund Phelps, recipient of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Economic Science, presented this year's Kyriakos Tsakopoulos Lecture on Aristotle & The Moderns at Columbia University. "The Good Life and the Good Economy: The View from Aristotle to Bergson and Rawls," was the theme of Dr. Phelps' speech, that took the overflow audience to a journey through various places and times, visiting such notable figures as Cervantes, William James, Henri Bergson, Voltaire, Dewey, Amartya Sen, Plato and of course, Aristotle.

Professor Phelps suggested that capitalism has tended over its history to have widened economic inclusion by creating jobs and pulling up low-end pay far beyond what east European socialism and west European

corporatism are able under normal circumstances to achieve.

At the end of the lecture, he answered questions from the participants.

The "Aristotle and the Moderns" annual lecture series was initiated in 2005, after the establishment of the Kyriakos Tsakopoulos Chair in Columbia University, held by Professor Vangelis Kalotychos. The series focuses on the importance and relevance of Aristotle's teachings in today's world, considering contemporary debates in broadly conceived, innovative and multidisciplinary ways.

The chair and the lecture are endowed by entrepreneur Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, himself a

graduate and trustee of Columbia, in memory of his grand father and namesake, Kyriakos Tsakopoulos of Arcadia, Greece.

A California native, Tsakopoulos is active in regional, state and national civic affairs and educational policy. He is a Trustee of the California State University System, the largest in the world, and sits on the boards of the University of California, Davis MIND Research Institute, the American Hellenic Institute Advisory Committee, and the Crocker Museum of Art, among several other boards and commissions. He is also a member of the California and United States Supreme Court Bars and an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

# Greek Activists Step Up Congressional Outreach Efforts

By Allen Yekikan

There's a Greek proverb that says "The iron rod bends when it is hot" and nowhere is this more true than in our nation's capitol, Washington, DC. In the fast paced and rigid confines of Congress, hundreds of groups descend upon our nation's elected leaders to capture their attention and push their issues forward. Fall is when Congress tries to address as many issues as possible before adjourning for the Winter recess. It's also the time that the American Hellenic Council makes a strong push to bend the iron rod and meet with members of Congress to advance issues of concern to the Hellenic-American community. During the last month, the AHC has met with key Congressional leaders to raise awareness and broaden support for legislation regarding the ongoing division and occupation of Cyprus, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other significant issues.

Despite U.N. denunciation of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus 33 years ago, there are still members of the U.S. Congress who are unabashedly defending Turkey's illegal occupation. Recently, Congressman Dan Burton (R-Indiana) described this international criminal act with a paragraph taken directly from the Turkish government's propaganda books by saying, "Turkish Cypriots were not only outnumbered by nearly four to one; they were also surrounded in their villages by armed Greek Cypriots; they had no way of protecting their women and children, and Turkey was 40 miles away across the sea...The fact is that the Turkish intervention was legitimate..."

In an effort to neutralize such outrageous statements from gaining any traction in Congress, AHC activists are going directly to members of Congress and enlisting their support on key legislation.

During his Southern California visit, Rep. Frank Pallone (D-New Jersey) met with members of the board of directors of the AHC to discuss his bill H.R. 1456, also known as the American-Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act. The bill aims to amend the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 to allow for certain claims of nationals of the United States against Turkey in the occupied territories. Bi-partisan support for such bills continues to grow on pace with the increase in nationwide grassroots activism by Hellenic Americans. Rep. Gus Bilirakis's (R-Florida) bill H.Res. 405 was recently voted out of committee and is gaining strong support as it awaits scheduling of a full House vote. The proposed legislation expresses the strong support of Congress for implementation for the July 8, 2006, United Nations brokered agreement between the President of the Republic of Cyprus and Turkish Cypriot Leaders relating to the reunification of Cyprus.

On the Senate side, AHC President Dinos Andrianos recently met with Senator Robert Menendez (D-New Jersey) and thanked the Senator for his stalwart support for the rights of Cypriots.

His resolution, co-introduced by Senator Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) calls on Turkey to withdraw its 43,000 troops from Cyprus and allow for the process of political reconciliation to move forward without the interference of foreign occupying forces.

"We are grateful to have such friends and supporters in the Senate who understand the vital importance of Cyprus to the international Hellenic identity and work to bring about a just and peaceful resolution to the ongoing occupation and division," said

AHC President Dinos Andrianos. "Sen. Menendez understands this and has put his name at the forefront of this effort and for that, we are very grateful."

But bending the iron rod for the AHC doesn't end with Cyprus. AHC Vice President and human rights activist Aris Anagnos recently met with Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-California), member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe to thank her for her support in raising awareness about the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Rep. Sanchez is a member of a key committee that looks to strengthen and rebuild America's partnership with key allies in Europe. As Turkey inches forward toward membership in the European Union, the AHC is making a strong effort to raise awareness about its oppressive policies towards its Christian minorities and particularly its hard line tactics against the Patriarchate. Rep. Sanchez recently signed a letter to Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan expressing the deep concern of the United States in regard to this type of religious repression. Mr. Anagnos thanked the Congresswoman for her support and assured her that the AHC will work closely with her and other members to monitor the progress of this issue.

For more information on these and other Hellenic issues contact:  
The American Hellenic Council of CA (323) 651-3507 ([www.americanhellenic.org](http://www.americanhellenic.org))  
The American Hellenic Institute (202)785-8430 ([www.aheworld.com](http://www.aheworld.com))  
The Coordinated Effort of the Hellenes (202) 393-7790

US Senator Bob Menendez (left) with AHC President Dinos Andrianos



Anthony Kazakis  
Director of The Queens Real Estate Expo



Nina Mason, William Mason,  
Stacy Wilko, Michael Larosa (DCAP)



Sofia Bliablias,  
Michelle Koss (First Investors)

# THE 2007 QUEENS REAL ESTATE EXPO A GREAT SUCCESS



John Stewart, John Bevilacqua,  
Peter Vassiliou (Marcus & Millichap)



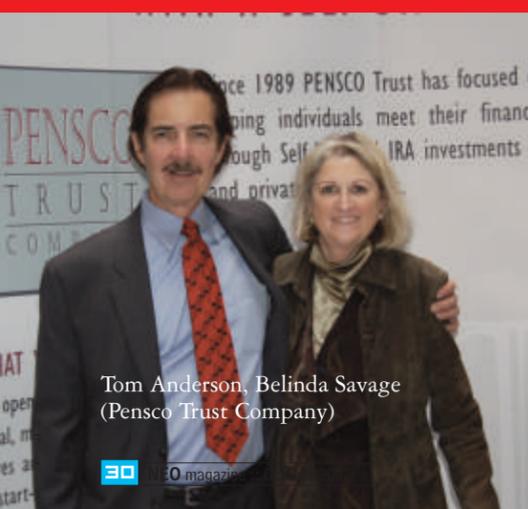
Louis Carcia, Alex Demetriou,  
Jenn Karagiannis (City Mortgage)



Steve Lagoudis, George Iliopoulos



George Iliopoulos, Anthony Kazakis



Tom Anderson, Belinda Savage  
(Pensco Trust Company)

The annual Queens Real Estate Expo held this year at York College in Queens, New York was again this year an "overwhelming success," says director of the Expo Anthony Kazakis.

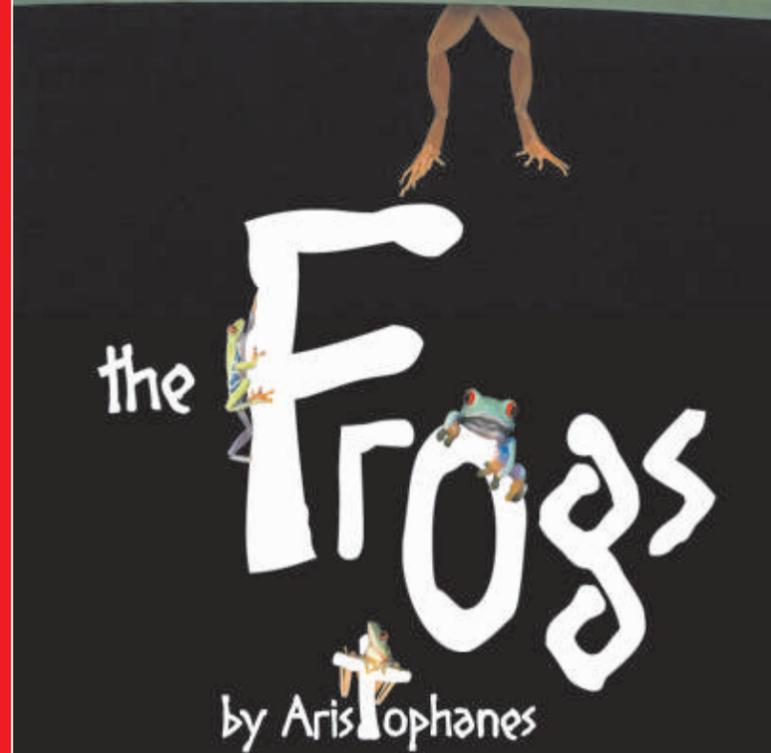
The Queens Real Estate Expo (QREE) is the only Home Show in Queens County that focuses on bringing the highest quality real-estate suppliers and service providers to home buyers/owners, investors and professionals alike. It's a chance to talk one-on-one with over 200+ exhibitors, all experts in their fields.

This "must-attend" home show in Queens is a chance to learn about the latest and the best products and services that area businesses have to offer, as well as have all real estate-related questions answered. All of this under one roof—all in one day.

The QREE also offered FREE Educational Seminars all day, and there were drawings for dozens of prizes, both at the door, and at the individual exhibitors' booths.

"I just wanted to say again what a spectacular job you did with the Expo this weekend. I know how much time, effort, and energy goes into something like that. Your event ran smoothly, and was a tremendous success. It sure didn't feel like a first time event! You hit one out of the park! An awesome job! Thank you for inviting me to participate!" said Mark Dana, HSBC Mortgage Corp (USA).

"The Expo was really well done and definitely worthwhile. My team and I look forward to next year," said Francoise Timoli of Vanderbilt Appraisal.



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Translated by Costis Kolotas  
Music by George Kalias  
Choreography by  
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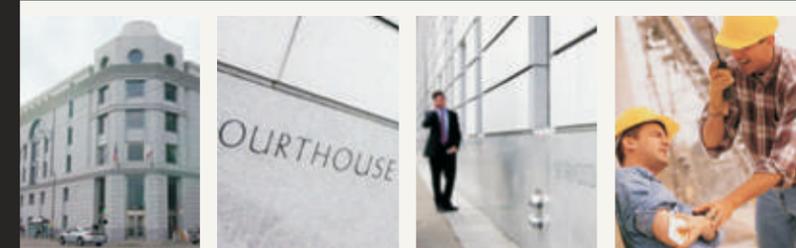


This event is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council of the Arts, a state agency; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), with the support of the Queens Borough President's Office of the Materials for the Arts.



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*Dr. Sofocleous joined UMDNJ in November 1999. He completed his radiology residency at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital / Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and fellowship training in vascular and interventional radiology at New York University Medical Center. He received an RSNA research resident/fellow award in 1998 and an RSNA Cardiovascular Research Trainee Prize in 1997.*

#### What is Interventional Radiology and what does it mean for patients?

Interventional Radiology is a unique specialty that combines imaging and surgical procedures. Unlike other specialties where the physician becomes a specialist in one organ or one disease, the interventional radiologist specializes in how to use technology in order to perform minimally invasive treatment in pretty much any part of the body, achieving results comparable to surgery while minimizing the risks.

Specifically for cancer patients it offers an additional treatment in the war against the disease. For example a patient with liver tumors that cannot be operated can now undergo embolization (cutting of the blood supply to the tumor) via a tiny needle puncture in a groin artery that will allow the interventional radiologist to travel with special catheters (small tubes) into the liver and select the vessel that goes to the tumor and then obstruct it. This approach minimizes the effects of the procedure on the entire body while maximizing the killing effect on the malignant tumor. Whether it is a biopsy or an ablation (killing of tumor by local application of heat or cold energy through a needle), interventional radiology has the ability to treat while minimizing the overall impact on the patient.

#### How were you involved in its development?

While in Greece, in the University of Athens Medical School almost 20 years ago, I was fascinated by the development of imaging and its ability to guide procedures and save the patient from the need of undergoing surgery. This fascination made me pursue a career in interventional radiology. I was fortunate enough to acquire all of my training in interventional radiology in outstanding institutions in NYC such as Columbia and NYU. Early in my training I got involved with clinical research comparing different minimally invasive treatments against thrombosis. While in my first faculty appointment I got involved with the application of radiofrequency ablation for the treatment of cancer without surgery. My



## Groundbreaking procedures in Intervention Radiology:

### An Interview with Dr. Constantinos Sofocleous *Assistant Professor, Interventional Radiology, Columbia University*

*By Demetrios Rhompotis*

interest on interventional oncology kept growing and in 2002, I joined the interventional radiology faculty of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Here I continued to explore and apply alternative treatments for the eradication of cancer, such as embolization and ablation. In a group of very bright and talented specialist we undertake multiple projects every year in an effort to improve clinical care and find new and better ways to treat cancer. Recently we set-up a study comparing the effect of embolization (blocking the blood vessel) with or without chemotherapy. In a different project we perform tissue examinations in an effort to detect early cancer recurrence after treatment with ablation.

#### Are you working on other innovative ideas right now?

My current research interest involves the combination of these treatments in order to maximize the therapeutic effect while minimizing the complications and side effects. A very unique and particular area of my current research involves methods of evaluating the results of radiofrequency ablation by early tissue examinations. This allows early detection of residual cancer that can be then treated before it grows back. In addition I am in the process of introducing a new treatment called radioembolization for the treatment of liver metastases from colon cancer or other types of malignancy. This is a very new and evolving treatment that combines local radiation into the tumor by delivering small radioactive spheres in the tumor via a catheter placed in the artery supplying the tumor. In this manner the radiation effect in the tumor is maximized and the effects in the rest of the body are minimized.

#### How close are we to curing cancer once and for all? Despite the new advancements it seems that new kinds of cancer appear all the time.

Cancer and disease in general is part of the human genetic code and life! It is like anything else in life; you can postpone or modify it, but probably not cancel it for good! I wish we could. Daily progress is made and new treatment is found and applied in every field of medicine. Cancer is no exception and research in the field is strong. But cancer modifies itself constantly and finds ways to break through. We consider it a success when we keep a patient with fatal cancer alive and with good quality of life for many years. This is especially rewarding when you are dealing with disease that would otherwise result in death within months of diagnosis.

#### As a doctor, but also as a human being, how do you manage to cope with the multi-faceted demands of your job?

#### Besides your service as a scientist, how do you provide the human touch to a patient?

It is absolutely important to maintain a human touch and true compassion for every and each patient that you treat. This is of paramount significance in building and maintaining trust in the doctor-patient relationship. This definitely contributes to an improved response to treatment and healing. In daily practice it is important to remember that you are dealing with human beings like you. So, I try to treat everyone as I like to be treated by others. A smile and a gentle touch have an enormous effect in all aspects of human interactions. And when you are a treating physician with patients there is no difference.

Another important point to remember with patients is that you always have to treat them with respect. Inform them about all possible options and alternatives and always listen and follow their desires regarding their treatment.

#### Are you happy with the state of medical services in this country? People tend to complain about HMOs and not being able to get the kind of care they want and deserve and also about the lack of a universal health insurance. Since you are also aware of the European experience on the matter, where things are done differently, what do you think needs to be done here?

This is a very difficult question for anyone to answer. There is no panacea when it comes to this. There are many different health systems and all have weaknesses and advantages. When thinking about health care it is necessary to remember that the goal is to provide the best quality service to everyone that needs it. This is the ideal. However the growing expenses of health care are related to enormous administration costs, the lack of investment in preventive medicine and the continuing introduction of hi tech applications into medicine. The American system suffers when it comes to people without insurance but many European systems suffer too. It is not uncommon to hear stories of bankrupt national health systems or complaints about the very low quality health care and long waiting times for medical services in many European countries. Health care certainly needs a reform so that patients in need and particular non-employed patients or children have

access to good quality medical services as they need them.

#### Which patients are candidates for your services and how can they reach you?

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# A new play by THEATRON

In celebration of the 100th year of the birth of D. Psathas, Greece's foremost comedic playwright, THEATRON is proud to present *Apateones & Sia!* (Crooks & Co!) one of Psathas' most highly acclaimed comedies by Etairia Thavmaton / The Miracle Co. The theatrical adaptation is by Loukas N. Skipitaris, in collaboration with Stelios Manolakakis. The production is directed by Manolakakis assisted by Larisa Antypa.

Somewhere in today's Greek countryside, a celibate and God-fearing young man, Ilarios, owns a field that, unbeknownst to him, has oil. Gus, a Greek-American, and Kosmas, an Athenian, concoct a plan to swindle Ilarios out of his field by creating fake miracles, which they tell him are the deeds of a "saint" who was said to have lived and died in his field. But Ilarios isn't as naïve as they think and they're not as clever as they believe they are. When betrayals occur and love intervenes, all plans go haywire, with unpredictable and hilarious consequences.

The performances – with English supertitles – will take place from October 12th through November 11th, Fridays and Saturdays at 8PM, and Sundays at 2:30PM & 7:30PM. Performances will be at the Hellenic Cultural

Center Theatre, located at the intersection of Newtown Avenue and Crescent Street in Astoria.

Members of the cast include Ioanna Armata, Demetrios Bonaros, John Kallianiotis, Stan Kayafas, Ero Lefa, Elena Paloumbis, and Manos Pantelidis.

Tickets are \$25.00. Advance reservations are recommended. Call THEATRON at 718 721-7610 or email [tickets@theatroninc.org](mailto:tickets@theatroninc.org). The organization's website is [www.theatroninc.org](http://www.theatroninc.org)

*THEATRON, the GREEK AMERICAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established to project the rich theatrical and cultural tradition of ancient and contemporary Greece to the general public. THEATRON is committed to being a vital and beneficial institution of the theatrical, artistic and cultural community, and its goals are reached by producing, presenting and promoting performance arts programs and events in both English and Greek. The presentations include but are not limited to plays, readings, dance, concerts, video and film, Internet communications, workshops and lectures.*



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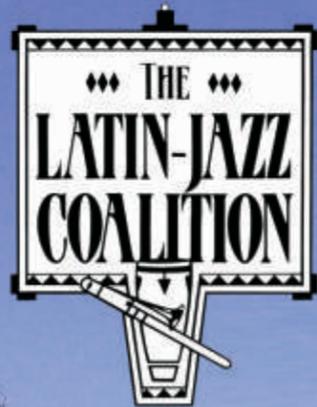
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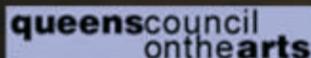
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This concert is made possible in part with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, and public funding from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, administered by the Queens Council on the Arts

For more details about this concert and the Latin-Jazz Coalition on the internet go to their extensive tri-lingual web site at:  
[www.latinjazzcoalition.com](http://www.latinjazzcoalition.com)



Photos by Jerry Lacay

# "The Frogs"

by Aristophanes  
 in New York

The Greek Cultural Center in Astoria will present Aristophanes' great comedy "The Frogs" premiering on October 26th 2007 at the Cultural Center. The play is directed by Magdalena Zira, with English supertitles.

The dominant theme of the play is the theatre's potential to find solutions to the chaos of our civic ethics. Aristophanes' proposition is to save the city through theatrical art and is still pertinent today. In the play Dionysus' quest for a better theater and his disappointment with the state of intellectual life in Athens, leads him through a world of magic and ritual, with elements of the Eleusinian Mysteries, to realizing his own potential as god of theater and to choosing the right playwright to save Athens. The unexpected, the satirical, the inexplicable, the absurd, are the ingredients of this world of Aristophanes' "Frogs."

This production is based on a strong, versatile and collaborative ensemble of nine actors who

will create and interpret all roles. The director's inspiration for this concept comes from the play itself: the play asks profound questions about theatricality and transformation: the stage is seen as a place where the true nature and value of things is revealed.

Magdalena Zira has been working professionally in theater in NY, California and Greece. Original choreography is by Irina Costantine Poulos. Original Music: Giorgos Kolias. Costume Design: Meg Zeger. Vocal Coach: Christos Alexandrou. Lighting Design: Timothy Cryan.

Actors in alphabetical order: Evangelos Alexiou, Petros Christoforides, Yiorgos Kakouris, Marika Kasma, Alexandros Malaos, Diodoros Pagoudis, Areti Palouki, Marina Smargiannakis, Andreas Tselepos.

Performances every Friday and Saturday @ 8pm and Sundays @ 7pm. The Greek Cultural Center is located at 27-18 Hoyt Ave South, Astoria, New York.

Tickets: \$20 General Admission/ \$15 Students-Seniors-Children  
 For more information and reservations contact 718-726-7329 or [reservations@greekculturalcenter.org](mailto:reservations@greekculturalcenter.org)

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# HELLENIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO PRESENT GREEK FILM FESTIVAL IN NEW YORK CITY

Twelve quality Greek films will be coming to New York City early in November when the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce presents the New York City Greek Film Festival.

November 2 through 8, the festival will run at the Cinema Village, 22 East 12 Street, just east of Fifth Avenue, in Manhattan. November 9 through 15, the festival will be at the CineMart Cinema, 106-03 Metropolitan Avenue, in Forest Hills Queens. Performances will start daily at 1 p.m. and run into the evening. Films will have English subtitles.

Chamber president John Stratakis has announced that 100 percent of the net proceeds from the festival will be donated to an appropriate fund designated to assist the victims of the recent tragic fires in Greece.

"We will be showing films that represent some of the best work done in Greece over the past few years," said festival programmer Dan Georgakas. "We have a wide variety of strong films, ranging from comedies to dramas. We will also be screening three outstanding documentaries."

The festival films include the two biggest box office hits in the history of Greek movies. These are the much acclaimed "A Touch of Spice" ("Politiki Kouzina") and "Brides" ("Nyfes") by master director Pandelis Voulgaris. "Chariton's Choir," a best picture award winner at the Thessaloniki Film Festival, will also be shown.

boy coming to grips with the unexpected death of his father; "Dust," about a journalist obsessed with discovering his father's true role in the Greek civil war; "Hostage," a controversial film about an Albanian who hijacks a bus in northern Greece, taking seven passengers hostage; and "The Wake," about two estranged brothers, one a police officer and the other a priest, who are brought together again when one of them commits a crime.

Three award winning documentaries complete the roster of films. "Buzz," the only film in English, presents the story of Greek-Armenian Hollywood screenwriter A. I. Bezzerides. Director Valerie Kontakos will present her film "Who's On First?" which deals with what happened when Greek American professionals intervened in the creation of the national baseball team of Greece in the 2004 Olympics. "Song of Life," a moving film about how the residents of Zakynthos saved the island's Jews from harm during the German Occupation, completes the roster. Screenings of this film will be accompanied by a presentation by Marcia Haddad Ikononopoulos, president of Friends of Greek Jewry.

Detailed descriptions of all films as well as screening schedules will be available on the Chamber website: [www.hellenicamerican.cc](http://www.hellenicamerican.cc)

"This is the new Greek cinema that will be on view," said festival coordinator James DeMetro. "This event will offer New Yorkers the all too rare opportunity to see Greek films and experience how exciting and talented moviemakers are changing the face of Greek cinema."

Among the other films to be shown are: "Back Door," a coming of age story about a 13 year old



Well known actor-director Renos Haralambidis will be coming to New York to



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