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# NEO



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Lanny Davis on Hillary Clinton

NEO exclusive



**Greek Tourism Minister Aris Spiliotopoulos on "The True Experience" of Greece**

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JULY 1-11, 2008



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The dates to remember for the 2008 Supreme Convention in Athens, Greece, are July 1-11, 2008.

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For additional information, please visit [www.ahepa.org](http://www.ahepa.org).

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# NEO

FROM THE EDITOR

## The spirit of exploration

Our cover story on historian Michael Wood is a personal inspiration because he has the job many of us would want in our fantasies—spanning the globe, literally, to methodically explore some of the fascinating epics of our Greek history. Did a Trojan War really take place? What were the mysteries of Eleusis and how has the sacred path changed? What drove Alexander the Great to his conquests, what was his world like, what was the Gordian knot and what did the desert look like where he famously poured the water into the sand to share the hardship of crossing that desert with his men?

Wood is a scholar, but he's also a showman, and he's made a career of combining the two. Not many of us can do that and he comes in a long line of scholars and pundits who have become showmen in the television age: Carl Sagan, David Attenborough, Alastair Cooke. That's the beauty of television, that it can take a private passion and make it into a vivid reality and an obsession for millions of television watchers. Physics may have put many of us to sleep, but Carl Sagan took the mathematics of the universe and made it into the compelling drama of man's quest for knowledge and the spirit of adventure by recreating the legendary repository of ancient knowledge, the library of Alexandria (and strolling through it), and then jetting off to visit the planets in a spaceship of his own creation—and grinning convincingly like a little boy when he took flight: a stuffy academic who was a natural for the television age.

The story of Alexander is fascinating because, to paraphrase historian Will Durant, it shows what man can do against all odds. We all have a little bit of Alexander in us—we need it to survive. But to go beyond and conquer the known world takes perhaps more courage than any of us have, and perhaps more madness.

This issue also features an interview with the minister of tourism of Greece, newly-appointed to his post, who makes us all aware that Greece can be as beautiful in the winter as it is in the summer. Greece has snow and skiing in parts, and it has the same attractions you see in the summer, but without the usual crowds. When I mention to people that I am Greek, they usually admit their dream, someday, of visiting Greece, or they remember the part of Greece they once visited on a memorable journey. Greece is a dream and destination for many of us, Greek or otherwise.

Enjoy the New Year and may it be memorable and profitable for you in spirit and happiness.



Dimitri C. Michalakis

## NEO

:: magazine

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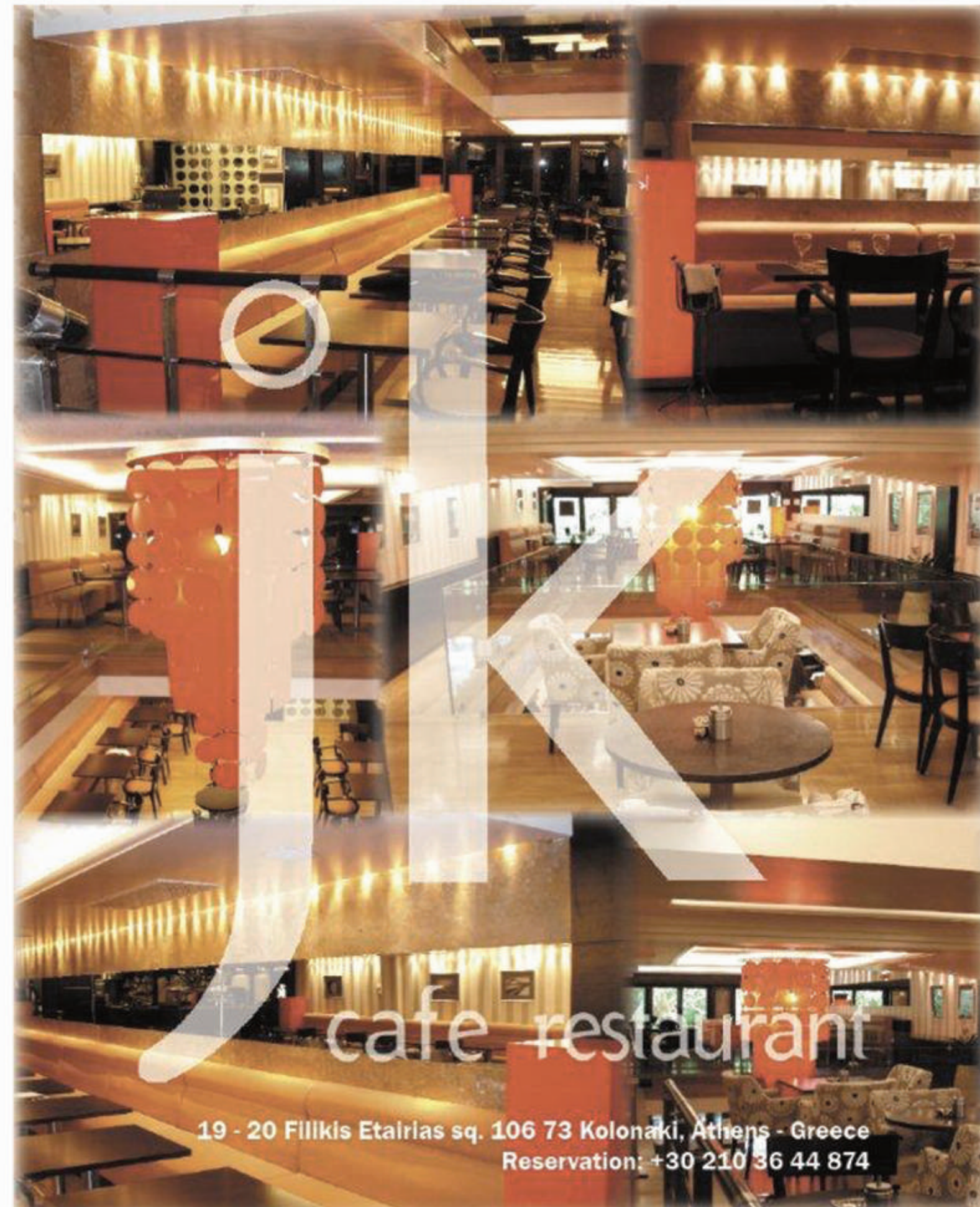
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# A Greek Seaman in New York

by Katerina Georgiou

Gus Markou



It's a rainy November day, just after daybreak at Pier 81 and the Manhattan skyline is covered with fog. Cars dash by on the West Side Highway but the familiar strands of the city are otherwise absent. It's not the drilling of the latest housing development I hear but the brisk wind that stirs the choppy waters of the Hudson. Crossing the gangplank, I enter the white barge that serves as the office of Gus Markou, 46, the man in charge of running New York's most prominent fleet of passenger vessels—the Circle Line and World Yacht.

Photos adorn the corkboard at the entrance to the barge, including one from the 1980's of Markou huddled with three co-workers. All are dressed in snappy, white uniforms smiling broadly and looking more like pals than co-workers. With most employees averaging 20 years with the company, the photos depict a camaraderie that's hard to come by in today's corporate world.

"I hope you don't get seasick," Markou says, looking up from a stack of paperwork, as I grip hold of a chair and glance at the shifting surroundings. Two icons of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of sailors, peer down at me from above the desk. Next to them hang blue architectural drawings of the new ships that Circle Line intends to launch over the next two years.

Under Markou's supervision a team of 120 people, including captains, engineers and

deck hands operate this stalwart enterprise that caters to more than 1.5 million people annually.

Markou has come a long way since he first stepped foot on a boat as a 12 year old refugee fleeing Cyprus in 1974. (With the island's only airport under Turkish occupation, there was no choice but to leave by boat.) Up until then, Markou had never given any thought to leaving his homeland.

"I thought I'd stay there forever," he says with a wistful grin. "After the invasion, I thought I'd go back."

Today, Markou still marvels at the direction his life has taken and most of all, his improbable career as a seaman in New York.

"In Cyprus, my father was a farmer so I didn't see the water a lot," he says. "We used to go to the beach in Kyrenia during the summer. Back then, it was a big deal to go the beach."

Instead, he discovered his fondness for the water as a teenager in an unlikely place: along New York's West Side Highway. While exploring the pier off Christopher Street he stumbled upon the startling sight of a 700 ft steamboat moored in the Hudson. Mesmerized by the size and bearing of the ship, he stood there for hours wondering to himself: "How does this thing stay afloat?"

He soon discovered it was no ordinary ship.

The SS John W. Brown was a WWII Liberty vessel used during the invasion of southern France. After the war, it became a floating vocational high school for young men seeking seafaring careers. Students dressed in naval uniforms and learned how to navigate the old-fashioned way—using the stars. His skill and passion garnered the attention of the school's principal, a former oil tanker captain. He encouraged Markou to spend summer vacations working with Columbia University aboard a ship that traveled between Albany and the LI Sound studying the tide and testing the water for pollutants.

"I think people are born with some kind of talent," Markou says. "Maybe it was a combination of being young and curious but it just came easily to me. I was born to do this."

He flashes a playful smile before continuing, "Besides, I would've been a lousy farmer. I have trouble planting tomatoes in my backyard."

Markou began his career as a port engineer at World Yacht and rose the ranks to his current position as Director of Maritime Operations in 1994. Today, he handles the day-to-day operations for the more than 25 ships that make up the Circle Line and World Yacht—such as ensuring passenger safety and complying with Coast Guard requirements. His biggest project to date is overseeing a \$26 million expansion that will replace some of

the older Circle Line vessels with modern, state-of-the-art ones.

In a job where no two days are alike, being calm under pressure is perhaps Markou's greatest asset. He was put to the test on 9/11 when he witnessed the second plane hit the World Trade Center. He sprang into action and together with the Coast Guard coordinated the evacuation of more than 100,000 people fleeing the city.

"Working on the water teaches you to take a situation, assess it and try to deal with it in the best way possible," he says. "You must depend on your crew because, just like in life, you can't do everything by yourself."

But he's quick to add that his job isn't for anyone.

"A lot of people don't want the responsibility," he says. "You've got to take it seriously. You have to follow the rules and regulations but you can't be afraid. You have to use your instinct."

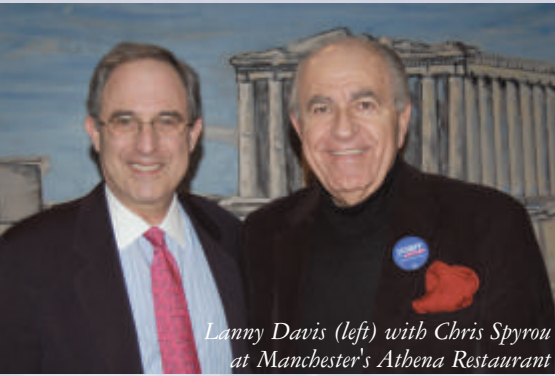
Therein lies the key to Markou's success. Guided by an internal map, he discovered the point where passion intersects with instinct and has chartered his own journey ever since.

# Lanny Davis on Hillary Clinton

By Demetrios Rhombotis



Hillary Clinton's rally at Manchester, New Hampshire. She was joined by President Bill Clinton and daughter Chelsea.



Lanny Davis (left) with Chris Spyrou at Manchester's Athena Restaurant

Primary election eve in Manchester, New Hampshire, and things didn't look very positive for Senator Clinton; in fact, her people were hoping to put New Hampshire behind them and now focus on Super Tuesday, February 5.

Hours before her final rally near Manchester Airport, at which President Clinton and daughter Chelsea joined the senator on stage, Lanny Davis, a close friend of the Clintons ("As close an it can get," in the words of another friend) was having dinner at downtown Manchester's Athena Restaurant: the unofficial headquarters of the Greek-Americans for Hillary Clinton. He was sitting with a real veteran in electoral politics, Chris Spyrou, who contrary to the general mood was confident that of the 60,000 Greeks living in the state, "95% will vote for Hillary. And I made sure it will happen!"

Lanny J. Davis, a lawyer by profession, who served as special counsel to President Bill Clinton from 1996 to 1998 (during which time he also was the spokesman for Clinton in issues regarding campaign finance investigations and other legal issues) has been a friend of Hillary's since they both went to Law School in Yale, and an unofficial adviser to her campaign. In an interview with NEO, he blamed the calendar changes in this year's primary season for not

allowing Senator Clinton to get her message through after her disappointing third place finish in Iowa.

*What's the situation in New Hampshire?*

People are overwhelmed with the media circus produced by one state in the middle of the country (Iowa) with less than 2% of the voters participating, a small, rural state. When a candidate wins and the media create a firestorm, I'm calling it a Tsunami, it overwhelms the ability of the individuals to hear the candidates and make a decision on what they hear. The noise from Iowa is like a Tsunami! Having said that, if we had the regular calendar, when we had eight days between the two primaries, what happened in this little atypical state would not have overwhelmed the people of New Hampshire. Unfortunately the Democratic Party, which has a suicide wish sometimes, allowed a rush to the front of the calendar. Five days that you have to react, aren't enough.

*But that's true for all the candidates...*

Yes, and the disadvantage for Senator Clinton versus Barack Obama is that Obama has an inspirational, emotional message that is really moving to young people and to non-active individuals, independent voters who usually do not participate. It's a very inspirational message and he does it very, very well, but it's based on emotion. So, to deal with a candidate who isn't talking about his record, on what we can actually do post 9/11 to protect us, or really talk about issues like health care, education that people care about, it takes a lot of time after an emotional victory in Iowa for a candidate like Senator Clinton who's dealing more with facts, to get her message through. If the situation were reversed and I had the emotional candidate, I'd be very happy with this little time between Iowa and New Hampshire primary.

*Most people here in Manchester cite the economy as their major concern. You would expect, given President Clinton's record, that people would be overwhelmingly supporting his wife. Why isn't this happening?*

Not yet, because of Iowa. Chris (Spyrou) gave me a very good suggestion, while on television this morning. Challenge Senator Obama, who criticized the '90s - he said, lets not go back into the '90s - to tell something about Bill Clinton's eight years in the White House that he didn't approve of. He took a deficit and made it into a surplus, he created the most prosperous economy Americans ever had and we were respected around the world. What does he not like? President Clinton today said that, I hear the argument that Obama represents the future, change and experience is a bad word. It's like saying to somebody who needs surgery don't go to a doctor, go to someone who's never done it before!

*Both Al Gore and Senator Kerry tried to distance themselves from Bill Clinton's legacy but they lost anyway. Senator Clinton too seems very reserved in using her husband's record to her advantage. Why?*

If you listen to her, she is doing it. But she is not saying it in focused fashion and I think she's gonna need to do that between now and February 5. Today and yesterday she spoke a great deal about what we achieved in the '90s and our relationship with the rest of the world. But there is some thought in the Clinton campaign that her message on prosperity and record of Bill Clinton is getting lost in the rhetoric of Barack Obama on change, which is an excited and emotional rhetoric. Yesterday and today she has been trying to focus people's attention on who is this guy and what is his real record, as opposed to his rhetoric and compared to Hillary Clinton's record in the White House where she was in the front line of every major decision Bill Clinton made. She was in the room.

*What do you think the strategy will be from now on to confront Obama's style?*

My opinion and my advice is what Chris (Spyrou) suggested: that she invites Senators Obama and Edwards and debate them twice a week between now and February 5 on their records. Barack Obama cannot survive that conversation because there is nothing to talk about. But she can't do that in this Tsunami of media hysteria.

*Do you expect this "Tsunami" to last to February 5?*

Every Tsunami wave is as big as it is. It goes as high as in getting up to the mountain and then what happens, it starts to recede. It might not withdraw by tomorrow, I'm not sure we are going to win tomorrow. Senator Clinton is ready to put her record on the table. Is Senator Obama ready to join her? February 5 will be the deciding date. New York, New Jersey and California vote then. California has about four times the number of delegates as Iowa, South Carolina, New Hampshire and Nevada together. She has 15 million dollars to spend on here's my record versus his record.

*How is Hillary's mood after Iowa?*

She is one of the greatest candidates I've ever known. Because she is so smart and she is so good on the issues, she should have advanced by far as the first runner. You and I would not have had this conversation one week ago, that's how fast things change, and we might not have had this conversation one week after. She is very up, she is very determined, she is a little frustrated, I wouldn't say angry, she is just determined to get her facts out. So when I talked to her she said we are gonna do this thing, because I'm not gonna stop.

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# NY Times premier event with Chandris' Greek Sun

The Greek Sun, a jewelry collection of some of Depy Chandris' latest creations which in the words of the artist, link the past to the present, was presented recently in an exhibition organized by The New York Times at their brand new building on Eighth Avenue in New York. The National Tourism Organization of Greece was the co-host of this remarkable event that in turn inaugurated the newspaper's new exhibition hall with a breathtaking overview of midtown's skyline.

"It shows that our strategy to take Greek tourism to new heights, is working," said George Tambakis, director of Greek Tourism Organization's American Office, speaking to NEO at the reception for the exhibition's opening. "The image of a new, dynamic, ever-evolving Greece has gone through the American tourist market and we now reap the benefits both in quantity and quality."

This is yet another chapter in the legend of Depy Chandris and her jewelry, that link past and future with the brilliance of the present. "Quality is the secret, along with a dash of romanticism, a knowledge of history applied in an innovative way and using ultra-modern

materials," she explained. "Of course there is also the commercial aspect that spoils things, creating confusion in which the artist's original idea is often derailed."

What gives her designs their timelessness is the personal touch: her temperament is what inspires her. A butterfly with an authentic Victorian brooch in the center, feathers of gold and black and red galalite with a diamond, are just some of the elements that make her work instantly recognizable in London, New York, Switzerland and Athens.

Born in Athens to George A. Chandris, Depy studied several forms of art including gemmology, theatre and interior design in both London and Paris. She became a close friend of Andy Warhol and is known for her extraordinary designs, which are a unique blend of baroque exuberance and an acutely contemporary minimalist whiff. Like herself, the jewelry is original, witty and colorful, with a touch of the theatrical. Depy has exhibited her work in prestigious museums and galleries, including the Alexander Iolas Gallery and Spinks, and sold through many top retail outlets including shops on Fifth Avenue, New York.



Depy Chandris with Greek Tourism Organization Director for North and South America George Tambakis.

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HRH Princess Michael of Kent and HRH Prince Dimitri of Yugoslavia.

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From left, Consul General of Greece to New York Ekaterini Boura, Greek Tourism Organization Director for North and South America George Tambakis, Depy Chandris, Lou Fabrizio and John Asmodeo from The New York Times.

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Jonathan Rekedal and wife Sarah from New York Times and Sophia Doxiadi.

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From left, Joerg S. Hueni, his wife, Stylist Veronica Nestora, and Dr. Guillermo Seco.

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# Greece:

## a place where every visitor can live a true experience

By Demetrios Rhompotis



*Aris Spiliotopoulos  
Minister of Tourism*

Aris Spiliotopoulos, who was appointed Greece's Minister of Tourism this past September, at the end the year's high season but just on time to start working for 2008, has set a fundamental triptych of action that will serve as the guideline principle for the rest of his policies: enhance quality at all levels and aspects, establish Greece within the top world ranking of preferred all year-round tourist destinations and attract more investment and new business ventures. With that in mind, nine fields of tourism, Nautical, Culture, Country Side, Touring, Health and Wellness, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Events,) Luxury, City Breaks and Seaside, are to be more eagerly promoted, while on the investment front new public infrastructure, PPPs projects (Public Private Partnership) and taking care of related bureaucratic problems and cross-ministerial issues are already creating new facts on the ground.

Targeting American visitors, especially high-end, is also a priority and to that extent, investments in conference centers, golf courses, nautical and luxury tourism have stepped up.

Mr. Spiliotopoulos was elected Member of the Greek Parliament in April 2000 and re-elected twice since, most recently in September 2007. He graduated from the Department of Political Science and Public Administration of the University of Athens and he completed his postgraduate studies in the Department of Communications Policy, City University, London with a Masters degree in Communications Policy and Mass Media. He is currently a Doctoral candidate in the Department of Communication and Mass Media of the University of Athens. In addition to Greek he is fluent in English and Italian. "The True Experience," is Greece's new campaign motto for 2008, outlining "a land of

unparalleled contrasts, full of interesting diversities, offering an infinite variety of experiences," under the leadership of a young and dynamic new minister who hopes his major legacy to be the fulfillment of a long-sought dream of his predecessors as well: "establish ourselves among the top tourist destinations, and make Greece a world power in the realm of tourism."

**Has 2007 marked another record for the number of people visiting Greece? If yes, what will your targets be for 2008?**

After the successful Olympic Games of Athens in 2004, Greece experienced an increase of about 10% in terms of arrivals, each following year. All the records evidence that 17 million people will be visiting our country, until the end of 2007. Moreover, tourism is one of the most powerful engines of Greek economy, accounting for more than 18,5 percent of GDP and about 19% of employment. It boosts output in many sectors - construction, agriculture, commerce. We are very well aware of the global competition and we take it into consideration, when we implement our policy. Actually, we consider it a real challenge and it invigorates our efforts for innovation, hard work and new investments. I strongly believe that especially in tourism sector, Greece has very competitive advantages. It is a safe, modern and hospitable country. But we cannot afford complacency. Our new policy consists of three clear goals. In order to yield more fruits in the tourist industry we aim at a quality revolution in services and infrastructure, a promotion through the channels of digital technology and an environmental investment policy. Efficient infrastructure and green investments will have a positive impact both in tourism and environment.

**According to your ministry's data, how did American visitors fare? Was there an increase in quantity and quality, meaning tourists that look for more than crystal-clear seas, spectacular beaches and ancient sites?**

As I mentioned before, during the past three years, total arrivals to Greece have increased on average by 7% to 10% annually. This year, in terms of arrivals, is the most successful year on record for our tourism industry. Our aim is to retain steady growth, which, over the next few years, will bring Greece to the top of the global tourism rankings. Regarding the US market, there has also been a great increase in both the quantity and the quality. We certainly expect even more people from US to visit Greece - especially up-market visitors - and we are working hard towards this objective. It is for this reason that we have stepped up investments in conference centers, golf courses, tourist accommodation (guaranteed by the Comprehensive tourism development zone mapping), nautical and luxury tourism.

**What will your campaign for the US in 2008 focus on? Are you presenting something new?**

Our efforts are focused on three main goals: Firstly, to enhance quality in all levels and aspects of our tourism industry. Secondly, to establish Greece within the top world ranking of preferred all year-round tourist

destinations and last, but not least, to attract and encourage more investment and new business ventures.

At present we are working on three short term goals:

- Re-organising the way we present and promote Greece abroad, in the framework of a unified strategy that will include both Marketing and Branding.
- Attracting more Low Cost Air Carriers.
- Implementing our new campaign. Our new slogan is The True Experience. Greece is a land of unparalleled unknown contrasts, full of interesting diversities, offering an infinite variety of experiences.
- The formation of a Digital Technology strategy. By using new technologies and implementing new types of media we can turn the tide on how we view tourism. One of the greatest challenges we are faced with is the positioning of Greece in this new form of media, not only in terms of promotion but in terms of sales as well. The creation of a well organised network that systematically attracts a larger and newer category of customers is one of our top priorities.

**One yet unfulfilled goal of most of your predecessors was having Greece's tourist season extended beyond the late spring and summer months. In what ways will you try to make it come true?**

I strongly believe that Greece is fairly well positioned in order to attract visitors all year long. Greece still has four amazing, well-diversified seasons. Each of it offers different and equivalent potential.

Apart from sea and sun, nautical and cultural tourism, for which Greece is mainly known as a destination, winter sports, touring on the mountains, rural tourism, eco-tourism, golf and wellness, city breaks in Athens and Thessalonica are also very popular forms of tourism. There are a variety of destinations for congresses, conventions and incentives. And also we try to promote our traditional gastronomy, which is one of the landmarks of our culture. In the other hand, we are working on the implementation of various measures, which aim in enhancing our competitiveness during off-season.





For instance, from November through March, fees at some regional airports could be reduced by 50%.

Are you also willing to enrich Greece's package by adding winter options, the mountainous side, lesser know islands, seasonal experiences such as Easter and in general more off-the-beaten paths?

The new broader strategic positioning of our country demands that we portray Greece as a destination of diversity and contradiction, a place where every visitor can live a true experience.

Consequently, Greece can be considered a venue for experiences, where true, unique stories take place. That is our strategy for the new image of Greece, as a destination of global appeal. Nautical

tourism, Culture tourism, Country Side tourism, Touring tourism, Health and Wellness tourism, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Events) tourism, Luxury tourism, City Breaks, Seaside tourism.

These 9 strategic branches are the ones in which Greece will invest in the following years, in order to dull the edges of seasonality and enhance the tourism product.

To this purpose winter tourism sooner or later must become a reflection and a mirror of modern Greece. For example we have already restructured the Ski Resort of Parnassos and very soon similar initiatives will be launched for many other countryside and winter tourism infrastructure.

We need to run fast in this direction. We need to look at the qualitative aspects, which even at a symbolic level can depict specific categories, small, flexible categories of high quality tourism that we are addressing. Our country does not only provide the sun and the sea, but it can also be developed in the field of country side tourism.

Are you thinking of "employing" the multi-faceted Greek-American community in your efforts, and in what ways?

Greek American people constitute one of our most powerful tools in our big effort to showcase Greece internationally as a safe, modern and top tourist destination. The Greek American community, being a great asset for modern Greece, can act as the most effective ambassador of our country back to the United States upgrading our country's profile, and through it the image of Greece itself.

And this is the greater contribution of the Greek American people to the development of Greek Tourism besides our invitation to visit Greece as often as they can. The role of Greek American community in the promotion of the national issues is well known. And for this support we, the Greeks of Metropolitan Greece, are thankful to the Greek American Community, which deserves praise and congratulations.

What about investment opportunities in tourism?

The enrichment and diversification of our tourist product is a priority to our strategy.

Therefore new convention centers, spas, luxury hotels, golf courses, modern marinas etc will enhance the quality of Greece as a destination. New public infrastructure, modern five star hotels, thorough renovation of museums, represent a steering power for Greece, which is competitive to all the advanced European destinations. We step up PPPs projects (Public Private Partnership). We encourage private investments and we solve all related bureaucratic problems and cross-ministerial issues.

We expect a great expansion of hotel capacity – which will facilitate our effort in order to attract a bigger share of the upper market tourism and at the same time we strongly encourage the preservation of our unique environmental heritage and cultural identity.

After your tenure as minister of Tourism is completed, name us one goal for the accomplishment of which you'd wish to be remembered. In other words, what is the sine qua non of your ministry?

The sine qua non of our ministry is to boost quality in all sectors. We are targeting quality at services, at tourist installations and facilities, at the category of visitors we attract, at our tourism awareness profile, at qualifications, occupational skills, and the span of tourism philosophy held by our human resources. The high wager we are placing for the years to come is that we will succeed in propelling Greek Tourism as a whole to make a distinct, quality leap forward that will allow us to win over our side the largest possible share of the tourist market, to establish ourselves among the top tourist destinations, to make Greece a world power in the realm of tourism.

Are you going to visit us anytime soon?

Yes of course. Our frequent contact is very important in our effort to promote Greece as a world power in the tourism world market. My visit to the United States will offer us the opportunity to exchange constructive views and ideas as to how we can better promote the Greek tourism product internationally. We are looking forward to communication and feedback from all of you. We seek the sort of cooperation that the Greek American Community can give us. After all tourism is Greece itself and Greece is a matter that concerns one and all. Greece is who we are.



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Trekking the globe to discover  
the epic of Greece:  
A conversation with  
documentary  
filmmaker  
Michael Wood



Photo by Maya Viston

Among the documentaries he has created and hosted for worldwide audiences and shown here on public television, British historian Michael Wood has followed the travels of heroes for his *In Search of the Trojan War*, the trek of ancient pilgrims from Athens to Eleusis in *"The Sacred Way,"* and his most ambitious journey so far: the 20,000-mile epic of conquest *In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great*. "Since I was a child, I have always been fascinated by the story of Alexander," says Wood, who holds postgraduate degrees from Oxford and has more than 60 documentaries to his credit. "It's an incredible story about one of the most dramatic events in the history of the world."

**Any modern hazards you faced retracing Alexander's journey?**

Well, you can't go into Iran, or places like that, without getting permission in advance. You can't just arrive, you have to have visas. It's only in a country like Afghanistan, where things have broken down, that a certain amount of negotiation is needed between internal frontiers. And, for instance, we wanted to get a helicopter to take us over the city of Tyre and the helicopter was in the Israeli-occupied zone in south Lebanon. That takes a bit of negotiation.

**Were you ever in danger?**

Kabul was under siege when we went there and we did have armed guards. More risky, perhaps, was taking the helicopter out of the Israeli-occupied zone in south Lebanon simply because it was a very volatile situation. But I never felt in danger of anybody's hostility towards us. I mean, something could go wrong, and there could be a point where you think, "God, I wish we had not put ourselves through this." But that happens more because of the sheer arduousness of this physical terrain, you know, sickness, weariness. I remember we had a terrible journey through one mountain in Pakistan, and the descent at night was around 5,000 feet down, it was precipitous, there was this tremendous storm, and everybody was absolutely weary from several days of tracking, and I think it was at this point that Lynette, our camera assistant, threw her bag down and said, "Stuff Alexander the Great, I never want to work with the guy again." But you'd make documentaries at home if you bothered about things like that.

**How much has the landscape changed in 2,500 years and were you able to get an authentic feel of the obstacles he faced?**

Yes, I mean, obviously the further you get away from the Mediterranean, the more you go back to the kind of conditions that, in some ways, might resemble what he saw. And, obviously, that helps: It helps from the point of view of the film, if you were walking through modernity it would be difficult to convey a sense of the living past. Whereas you can convey something of that in some of these wild places. And it gives you yourself, the traveler, a great sort of feeling of that as well. I remember when we crossed the Hindu Kush mountains on the Khawak Pass, the feeling of

being absolutely in his footsteps and seeing what he saw, conditions he went through, that was great. You really got a buzz from that.

**Did your impression of him change after the journey?**

I think you get the feeling you know somebody better having walked a mile in their footsteps, or walked 20,000 miles in this case. I think I got a much closer impression of the sheer verve, determination, and all that risk-taking, that kind of calculation, the discipline of it, all sorts of aspects of the way he did things. In terms of his actual character, I think I still think what I thought before, you know, that all the traditions about him were right: He was all the things he said. And I think most of all, you've got to remember he's a man of his time and that, sure, he might well have purged families of his closest colleagues, and he might well have had the expedition's chronicler executed, and so on, but he was a man of his time. Probably anybody under that kind of pressure, thousands of miles away from home, in hostile territory, would have reacted with absolute ruthless decision against any possible threat. I think there's probably a degree to which he was corrupted by power, but there were other aspects of his character that were incredible: He was exciting to be with, he was thrilling to travel with, he incited great loyalty in his troops and love, he was chivalrous and generous. But I can't say I warmed to him.

**Why is that?**

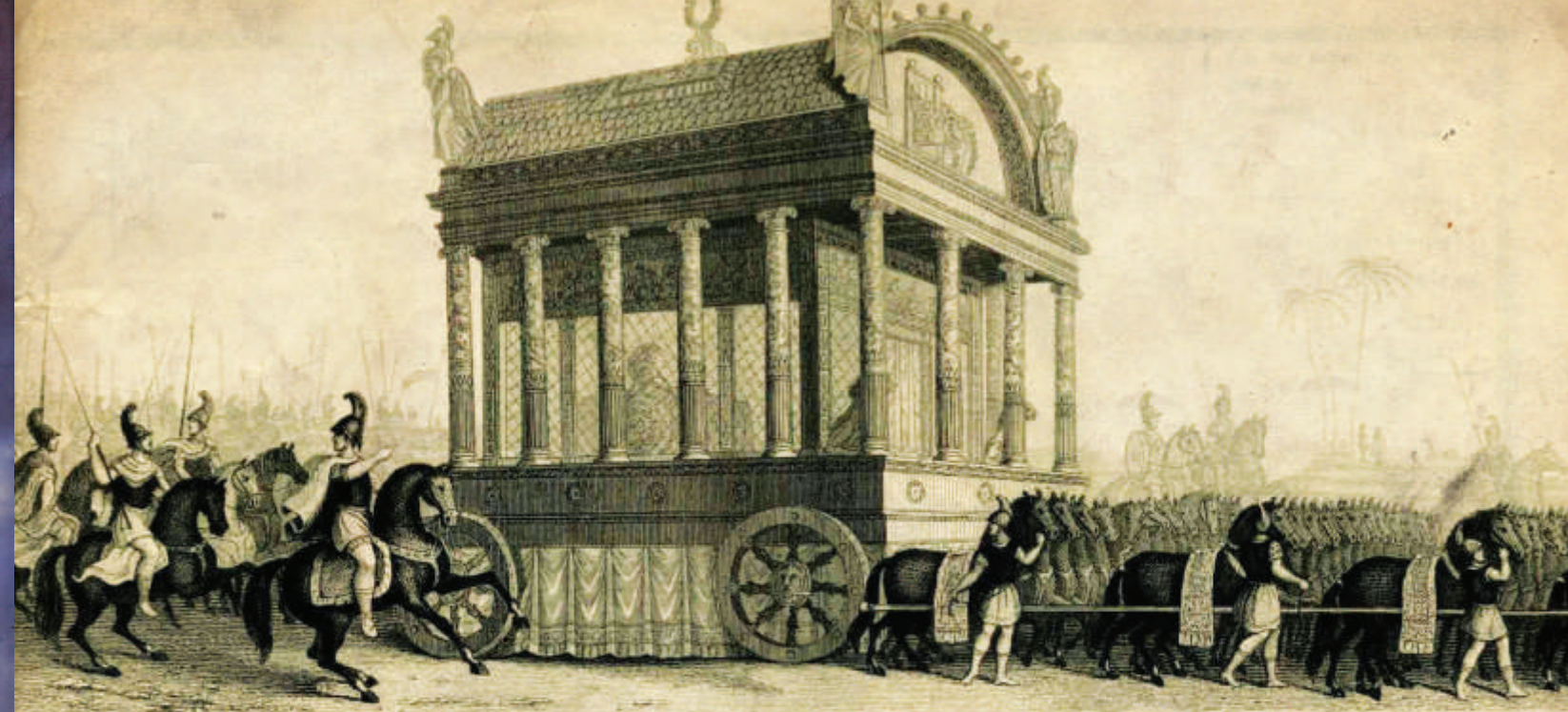
I tended to identify with the people whose lands he went through and the people who spoke against him.

**Isn't that a modern interpretation?**

Oh, I'm sure it is. But the last thing we want is people like him in the world. People like Alexander were destroyers of people and cultures in the end. My personal regret over the last twenty years in all these travels is that the world is homogenizing and we're losing all these things. I think global civilization can be taken too far, if you like, but I think it's an inevitable process.

**Have you always been interested ancient Greece?**

I've always been interested in Greece. I first hitched around Greece when I was eighteen and it's extraordinary. When you look at the great civilizations in history, obviously the most influential have been China, India, Islam perhaps, and Greece. But of the ancient civilizations, (the most influential were) China, India and Greece. And China and India were vast civilizations that covered almost continents. But Greece is a tiny country, tiny, yet nothing in human history matches the sheer spread, reach, brilliance of the Greek story. What they did in every branch of literature, science, philosophy, is an incredible story. And it's not only part of our roots, but part of the roots of the Muslim world as well, their culture spread across western Asia. So it's a fantastic story, it's an amazing story, and it's a process that just didn't happen two thousand five hundred years ago, it carried on, it had long antecedents, it flowered then, it then spread through Alexander's successors, it crossed much of Asia, it regenerated itself under Byzantium, the last tiny bit of Greece was occupied for four hundred years by an oppressive colonial regime, but tiny bits of it still came down to modern times. It's a great story.



What made you do the story of the Trojan War several years ago?

I did a series about the Dark Ages in Britain and these semi-legendary figures like King Arthur, Alfred the Great, and so on. And when we did that, and I've always been interested in Greece, I had this idea of doing something on the Greek dark ages, which of course, are much earlier, and about the tale of Troy. It's a relationship between archaeology and history and documentary and fact and fiction.

How do you document myth and fiction, which is a large part of the Troy tale?

Well, there's more to it than that, because, obviously, Bronze Age Greece did exist, the archaeologists did uncover a lot of these sites that were made famous in Homer and had been important in the Bronze Age, even though they became insignificant later on. And, most important, the diplomatic archives of the Hittites actually does refer to the Greeks and does refer to a situation that seems similar to Homer's situation. And, also, you discover how poets like Homer actually construct and pass down their tales. Television is good at telling stories and what's great is if you can lead the audience in a quest and the audience can make their own conclusions and you lead them on and show them what possible answers exist. So, if you are interested in that kind of thing, as I am,

then those were the kind of films that seemed interesting to make.

Was your journey to Eleusis also a quest?

I just decided, having done a few big journeys of various kinds in my life already, that I would do the opposite and do an anti-travel film, which was just a walk through twelve miles of industrial highway. The device of the film was to show that even through twelve miles of industry and modernity, it was possible that the past still somehow percolated through the people and the landscape and the story. And, of course, it happened to be a journey that was much more significant to that culture than most journeys that you could ever do today.

As a historian, do you regret how much the world has changed since ancient times?

Well, that's the nature of history and the nature of life. There's no point regretting it, that's life. Sure, one can regret that Eleusis was destroyed and it didn't come down to modern times, but it's futile to regret it, really. What interests me is the connection between the past and the present and whatever lives in the present.



How has your work been received in Greece and other Greek communities throughout the world?

I think there was a certain amount of enjoyment of the Trojan War, which was shown in Greece and reviewed in the papers. But they're very, very touchy about Alexander the Great. I've had Greek criticism because of this whole business about Macedonia. I did a talk in Chicago and there were people in the audience saying, "Why did you call them Macedonians?" And there were people saying, "Why did you call them Greeks?" (Laughs) You can't win. "You call him Alexander of Macedon, but Macedonia is not Greek!" And you say, "Well, hang on a minute, if you're suggesting that we all have to change what we called these people for two thousand years just because some state decides to call itself Macedonia, that's your problem, mate." The Greeks can look after themselves, I think.

Any future films with Greek subjects?

Well, yes. I really would like to do a series on the Greeks. I've written a series which not only looks at the classical legacy, but the continuity of the Greek experience from the ancient times to the modern day.

What is the status of the project?

I wrote a treatment for it, and I talked to public television about it and, as always, you're in the hands of your backers. You could get funding for it. Obviously, the important thing, though, is to keep intellectual control. What you can't have is somebody saying, "Oh, you can't say that about Macedon." That's the real problem. But that has nothing to do with somebody like me, because, obviously, I've been going to Greece for thirty years and I love Greece. And what interests me about it is also the survival--you see, it's not going to be very much longer now that you can actually film surviving living connections. The older generation of Greeks who lived through the civil war and the thirties contain a knowledge in their brains that is not transmittable, almost. They know things that have been passed down and you need to get at that before it goes. If you go down to Mani in the Peloponnese even now you can find old women who can do the old lamentations for the dead. I remember in the time that we were filming the Trojan War with a friend whose family came from Mani, going to the room in one of these old towered villages where an old lady was dying and she spoke this archaic Greek. So it won't be much longer.

You said the Greeks survived a "cultural holocaust" during the Turkish occupation?

That's putting it too strongly, but you know, the Greek culture did survive under the Turkish rule, but it had a hard time. And there was an intellectual culture which survived elsewhere. The printing of Greek books was all moved to Italy and the intellectuals like Koraes were in Paris, with a lot of the European supporters. But it's what survives in the ordinary people that really interests me: the customs, the rituals, the language, the beliefs, the lamentations, the tales, and most of it has not been recorded.



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genocide scholars  
acknowledge greek  
genocides by ottomans

In a groundbreaking move, the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) has voted overwhelmingly to recognize as genocides the massacres of Assyrian and Greek populations of the Ottoman Empire between 1914 and 1923.

The resolution passed with the support of 83 percent of IAGS members who voted. The resolution declares that "it is the conviction of the International Association of Genocide Scholars that the Ottoman campaign against Christian minorities of the Empire between 1914 and 1923 constituted a genocide against Armenians, Assyrians, and Pontian and Anatolian Greeks." It "calls upon the government of Turkey to acknowledge the genocides against these populations, to issue a formal apology, and to take prompt and meaningful steps toward restitution."

In 1997, the IAGS officially recognized the Armenian genocide. The current resolution notes that while activist and scholarly efforts have resulted in widespread acceptance of the Armenian genocide, there has been "little recognition of the qualitatively similar genocides against other Christian minorities of the Ottoman Empire." Assyrians, along with Pontian and Anatolian Greeks, were killed on a scale equivalent in per capita terms to the catastrophe inflicted on the Armenian population of the empire--and by much the same methods, including mass executions, death marches, and starvation.

IAGS member Adam Jones drafted the resolution, and lobbied for it along with fellow member Thea Halo, whose mother Sano survived the Pontian Greek genocide. In an address to the membership at the IAGS conference in

Sarajevo, Bosnia, in July 2007, Jones paid tribute to the efforts of "representatives of the Greek and Assyrian communities...to publicize and call on the present Turkish government to acknowledge the genocides inflicted on their populations," which had made Asia Minor their home for millennia. The umbrella term "Assyrians" includes Chaldeans, Nestorians, Syriacs, Aramaens, Eastern Orthodox Syrians, and Jacobites.

"The overwhelming backing given to this resolution by the world's leading genocide scholars organization will help to raise consciousness about the Assyrian and Greek genocides," Jones said on December 15. "It will also act as a powerful counter to those, especially in present-day Turkey, who still ignore or deny outright the genocides of the Ottoman Christian minorities."

The resolution also states "the denial of genocide is widely recognized as the final stage of genocide, enshrining impunity for the perpetrators of genocide, and demonstrably paving the way for future genocides." The Assyrian population of Iraq, for example, remains highly vulnerable to genocidal attack. Since 2003, Iraqi Assyrians have been exposed to severe persecution and "ethnic cleansing"; it is believed that up to half the Assyrian population has fled the country.

Extensive supporting documentation for the Assyrian and Greek genocides was circulated to IAGS members in the months prior to the vote, and is available at [http://www.genocidetext.net/iags\\_resolution\\_supporting\\_documentation.htm](http://www.genocidetext.net/iags_resolution_supporting_documentation.htm)

## Turkish Government Grants Permission to Observe Feastday of St. Nicholas in Historic Church

After five long years of constant refusal, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has been granted permission by the authorities in Ankara, to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in the historic Church dedicated to Saint Nicholas, in Demre, Turkey.

The church's origins date back to the fourth century when Saint Nicholas, a Greek, was the Bishop of the city of Myra, the ancient city which is now known as Demre. Owned by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the church was prohibited by the Turkish Government to conduct services or offer prayers. The church was converted into a museum by the State and has been an attraction for guided tours provided by the Turkish Tourism Agency. The structure is currently under renovation and becomes submerged by rain water during the winter and summer months, which damages the mosaics and frescos.

For several years, religious and political authorities have argued over whether the Divine Liturgy should be celebrated there. In a meeting last year, the Ecumenical Patriarch held discussions with the Turkish Minister of Culture, Ertugrul Gunay, in which the Minister said, "I earnestly want every citizen in this country to be able to freely celebrate their own religion in the place seen as most important for worship." Not only did the Minister keep his word, but he also contributed forty thousand Turkish Lira for the completion of the church's renovation.

The historic fourth century church dedicated to Saint Nicholas of Myra



**Manatos & Manatos**

Andrew E. Manatos  
President

*May we celebrate Christmas and the New Year  
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Hellenic and Orthodox issues in 2008.*

*And a special thank you to NEO Magazine  
for all it does in this regard.*

**Andy and Mike Manatos  
and the Manatos & Manatos family**



Members of the U. S. State Department and dignitaries from other non-governmental organizations visit hellenicare's clinic in Tbilisi, Georgia.



Andrew A. Athens, President and Founder of hellenicare is greeted by children at the clinic in Tbilisi, Georgia.

# Hellenicare: A Decade in Helping the Forgotten Hellenes



Dr. Peter J. Pantou performs the first outpatient cataract surgery at the Tbilisi clinic. Thanks to his participation and training, hellenicare will begin a new cataract surgery program in January 2008.



Before and after hellenicare's renovation at the Telavi Boarding School in the Republic of Georgia.

In January 1997, as the founding President of the World Council of Hellenes (SAE), Andrew A. Athens visited the forgotten Hellenes of the former Soviet Republics beginning with a trip to the Republic of Georgia. The poverty and lack of medical care he witnessed prompted him to immediately begin the Primary Health Care Initiative. Ten years, later this modest attempt to restore basic medical care has grown into the humanitarian organization known today as hellenicare.

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the first medical center established in Tbilisi, Georgia, hellenicare sponsored a series of events that included a special medical mission program. Traveling with Mr. Athens, were Dr. Charles Kanakis, Director of Medical Affairs of hellenicare, Dr. Peter J. Pantou, a leading ophthalmologist in the Chicago area who performed the first outpatient cataract surgery at the clinic in Tbilisi, Dr. Stavros Alexopoulos, a podiatrist affiliated with Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago, Dr. Stavroula Spyropoulos, a dentist in private practice specializing in family care and cosmetic dentistry, and Dr. Basil Spyropoulos, a psychiatrist at the Mercy Walworth Hospital in Wisconsin. These four doctors volunteered their services to provide care and training to hellenicare's medical staff in Tbilisi. In 2000, hellenicare conducted a coronary by-pass surgery and training program at the State Hospital in Tbilisi.

The events included a reception celebrating

the Tenth Anniversary and a visit to the Tbilisi clinic by a delegation of U.S. government officials and dignitaries from other non-governmental organizations. "We greatly appreciate being able to partner with the Hellenes," said Mr. Athens. "Their clinic in Tbilisi is a fine example of the type of well-run and properly maintained medical facility we hope will become the standard of care throughout Georgia."

Trips to the villages of Telavi and Tsikhisjvari were also made. In Telavi, hellenicare has just completed renovation of the shower facilities at the Telavi Boarding School. In Tsikhisjvari, which is one of the last Greek speaking villages in Georgia, hellenicare operates a small clinic and mobile medical unit program.

"Ten years ago we embarked on a mission to help the people of Georgia," said Mr. Athens. "We have accomplished much and yet our work is just beginning. I express my gratitude to our staff members who are responsible for our success and to the doctors from the U.S. who participated in our medical mission program. They are making an invaluable contribution to our program, helping us to enhance the skills of our physicians and nurses." Hellenicare's next medical mission program will be to Ukraine in 2008, focusing on women's health. "For more information about hellenicare's programs, please contact our office at 312-337-7243 or visit our web site at [www.hellenicare.org](http://www.hellenicare.org)."

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**Tom Manatos is ready for ...the 2028 election!**

**Vote for Tom He's the Bomb!**

Tom Manatos, 28, serves as adviser to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The following interview by Dan Zak was published in the Washington Post on Sunday, January 6 2008, part of a series of talks with potential candidates for the elections of 2028, 20 years from now.

Manatos's blood is rich in executiveness. His father worked for Jimmy Carter, and his father's father, a Senate liaison for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, was the first Greek American to work in the White House. A native of Montgomery County, Manatos took time off from his communications studies at Cornell in 2000 to be the second-youngest paid staffer at Gore-Lieberman headquarters in Nashville. He started working with Pelosi (D-Calif.) as an intern shortly after she became minority whip and has been with her since. In July he'll cross party lines to marry a former staffer for George W. Bush.

**What is your greatest weakness?**  
Having to remind myself that a Redskins win or loss should not affect my mood.

**Your greatest fears?**  
Global warming and the growth of world terrorism.

**Your most notable characteristic?**  
The majority opinion of my grandmothers, mother, father and fiancée (with dissenting opinions from my brothers and abstaining opinions of my sister-in-laws) is that I am perfect.

**What trait do you most value in others?**  
Honesty.

**What natural gift would you most like to possess?**  
Fashion sense.

**What movie could you watch over and over again?**  
"The Patriot" with Mel Gibson.

**Are you religious or spiritual?**  
I am Greek Orthodox and devoted to it. Although my faith is important to me, I am deeply concerned about any political leader who believes that God is directing him or her toward a decision.

**What issues should people be paying more attention to?**  
Energy independence will help the world battle climate change and other environmental issues. If Americans paid more attention to creating alternative energy, we could be investing our resources in our own country instead of the Middle East.

**What will be the main issues of Campaign 2028?**  
Energy independence and the education of our citizens to keep up with developing technology. Stronger and more violent natural disasters and rising coastal waters will be a major drain on the economy and a threat to all communities.

**What will your campaign slogan be?**  
It definitely won't be "Vote for Tom, He's the Bomb," my winning campaign slogan for senior class president in high school.

**What idea seems good today but might be toxic in 20 years?**  
The highly partisan politics that include attack ads and negative campaigning has only led to a more-divided country and ineffective government. It may be winning campaigns for majorities and presidential races, but it is injuring the country in the long term. The bipartisan compromises of the '50s, '60s, '70s and part of the '80s may not have won more races, but they benefited the country more as a whole and led to more progress.

**If you had your entire generation as a captive audience, what would you say to them?**  
I would tell them to become more engaged in their government and communities by voting, volunteering or becoming an activist on an issue that is important to them.



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# NEO Magazine and Federation of Hellenic Societies host Latin Jazz night

By Maria Elena Palau

Latin-Jazz Coalition, the critically acclaimed all-star band, presented recently an exquisite and truly eclectic concert of Afro-Cuban Jazz, traditional Greek folk music, and other diverse combinations of world music at the Stathakion Cultural Center in Astoria, Queens. The 25 world class performing artists were led by Greek-American composer, trombonist Demetrios Kastaris. This concert event was hosted by NEO Magazine and the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York with funding from the Queens Council on the Arts. A diverse audience of more than 300 attendees filled the hall, making the event a unique experience for people on and off the stage.

After greetings were made by Panagiotis Pavlou, the Federation of Hellenic Societies Chairman of the Cultural Committee, and Demetrios Rhompotis, Neo Magazine's Publishing Committee Chairman, the Latin-Jazz Coalition went into a fiery Afro-Cuban Rumba Guaguancó rhythm with a well known standard Latin tune by Puerto Rican composer Pedro Flores entitled Obsesión. Solos were performed in this piece by multi-Grammy award winning pianist Edy Martinez on the piano, jazz virtuoso Christos Rafalides on the vibraphone who had spent the previous week performing at Lincoln Center with Wynton Marsalis, the award winning group's founder Demetrios Kastaris

on trombone, and renowned veteran Bebop trumpeter Ray Vega.

There was then a short break in the music as Kastaris presented the Queens Council on the Arts with a beautifully engraved plaque in recognition of the 21 years of concert funding awarded to the Latin-Jazz Coalition. Receiving the award for the Queens Council was Community Arts Fund Director Vivian Warfield.

The group then went into an Afro-Cuban 6/8 rhythm (Bembé) of John Coltrane's Equinox. More masterful solos were taken including Angel Rodriguez on the Shekere (an Afro-Cuban gourd with beads strung around it). Vivian Warfield remained on the stage for this number at Demetrios's invitation and showed that she too was a truly masterful professional Shakere player and percussionist. Warfield's remaining on stage seemed to exhibit the infectious joy of this hybrid soulful music of Afro-Cuban and African American roots.

As if there had not been enough surprises, for the next number Kastaris took off his black jacket where underneath it he had a shirt made of a large Greek flag. He then unfolded another separate large Greek flag and set it across the music stands. The audience applauded with enthusiasm as the group went into a medley of Kalamatiano numbers. Bassist Panagiotis Andreou began this medley with a very traditional Greek vocal improvisation over the Taxim or Drone foundation that the band played. They went into To Rinaki, Souliotises (O Horos Tou Zalogou), and Annoula (Tria Paidia).

Legendary Blue Note Records recording artist Spiros Exaras played a stellar improvised solo on his guitar as did Bebop master Mike Zarifis on his alto saxophone during this jazzed up hybrid Kalamatiano medley. Cuban born multi-Grammy award nominee Alfredo de la Fé took the next and showed why he is called Latin music's Principal First Violin of Salsa. Assisted by the orchestra De la Fé performed the Buena Vista Social Club's: "El Cuarto de Tula" in an original arrangement. Being the true showman that he is, Alfredo took his cordless electric violin and walked down the aisle throughout the Stathakion Cultural Center as the audience all came to their feet in a thrilling environment of musical joy. In the middle of his solo he summoned Demetrios and fellow trombonist Noah Bless to come out into the audience and take turns trading solos as the audience clapped and danced.

Kastaris then passed the musical torch to the next generation as he called gifted flautist Ivan Rojas to the stage. Rojas is a thirteen year old flute student of Kastaris's at the Steinway Intermediate School 141Q in Astoria. Eighth grade Ivan did a rather splendid and professional rendition of a blues medley. The orchestra then went into a traditional Afro-Cuban Son-Montuno and the youngster of Salvadorian heritage held his own as he traded solos with Alfredo de la Fé and flautist Connie Grossman.

An appearance was then made by Gospel Salsa group "La Orquesta Unidad" led by led by conga drummer Gary Rosario. They

performed some very upbeat and inspirational music that provided even more contrast to an evening of very unique and diverse music. The two combined orchestras then went into an even more upbeat level of intensity with the rapid Afro-Cuban carnival rhythm known as Mozambique. All 25 artists played their hearts out and built up to an intense crescendo with fierce and dynamically improvised solos.

The magical, musical evening then ended with the entire standing room only crowd and all of the performing artists having a delicious Geek meal served to them in the reception room downstairs at the Stathakion Center. This generous complimentary reception was made possible by the hosts: the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York.

**The Latin-Jazz Coalition:** Demetrios Kastaris; trombone, Hiram Remón; lead vocals, Angel Rodriguez; congas, Jotan Afanador, drum set timbales, Noah Bless; trombone, Alí Bello; violin, Connie Grossman; flute, Enrique Haneine; piano, Ray Vega; trumpet, Alfredo de la Fé; violin, Ivan Rojas; flute, Mike Zarifis; alto sax, Spiros Exaras; guitar, Panagiotis Andreou; bass and vocals, Christos Rafalidis; vibraphone, Vivian Warfield; shakere, Orquesta Udidad: Gary Rosario; leader and conga drums, Benjamin Gonzales; bass, Mike Morales; timbales, Sam Navarro; lead vocals, Sam Martinez; electric guitar and quartet, Angelo Soto; trumpet, Edy Martinez; piano.

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)

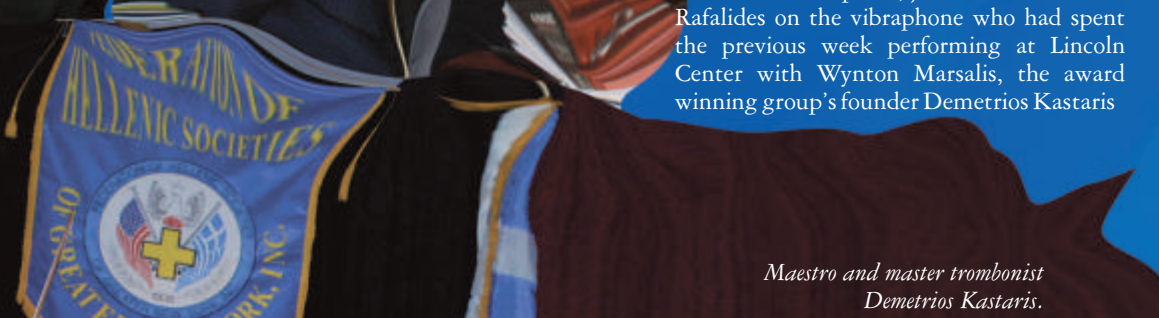


Blue Note Records recording guitarist Spiros Exaras (left) with NEO's Kyprianos Bazanikas and Demetrios Rhompotis.

Professor and Greece's former Minister of the Interior Spiros Flogaitis (left) who happened to be in New York, didn't miss the concert. Here with the Federation's President Nick Diamantides.



Multi-Grammy Award nominee Alfredo de la Fé.



Maestro and master trombonist Demetrios Kastaris.



Greek-Russian actress Larissa Antypa-Alexeeva (left) with actress and philologist Martha Tomboulidou.

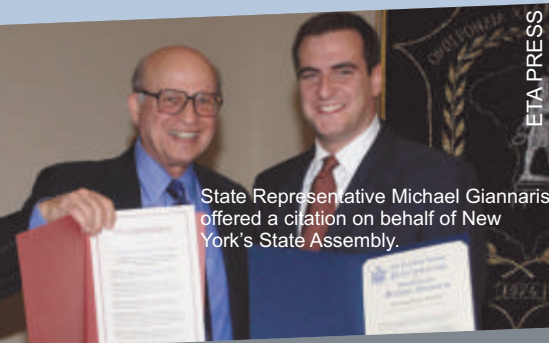
Ivan Rojas flute student

PHOTOS: ETA PRESS



From left, Chian Federation President George Almyroudis, Nikos Kostakos, Marathon Bank Manhasset Branch Director, Consul General of Greece Ekaterine Boura, AHI President Eugene Rossides, Zoe Koutsouraki, Senior Vice President Marathon Bank, Emmanouel Polychronakis, Marathon Bank President, and John Brademas, NYU President Emeritus.

# Homeric Award to Eugene Rossides



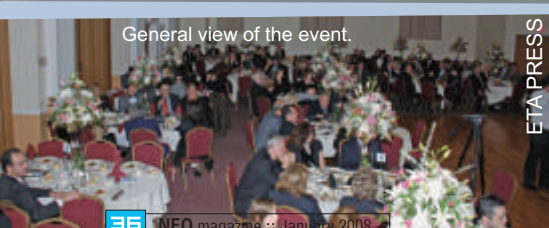
State Representative Michael Giannaris offered a citation on behalf of New York's State Assembly.



Eugene Rossides having received the Homeric Award. Former Assemblyman Mathew Mironis is on right and George Almyroudis, President of The Chian Federation, on left.



Eugene Rossides trying his dancing skills with Markella Garris and friends of the Chian Federation.



General view of the event.

Eugene Rossides, the first Greek American presidential appointee ever to be confirmed by the United States Senate and legendary starting quarterback of the Columbia University's Lions famous team, was the 30th recipient of the prestigious Homeric Award, the highest distinction of the Chian Federation of America, presented "to individuals who have demonstrated an advocacy for human rights, the rule of law and democratic ideals and have worked in strengthening relations between the United States and Greece," in the words of the organization's President George Almyroudis.

The late Archbishop Iakovos, the late President Konstantinos Karamanlis, Senators Snowe and Schumer, John Brademas, the first Greek-American to be elected in Congress, are some of the 30 so far personalities honored with the Homeric Award, established in 1977.

The lavish ceremony, at the Federation's impressive Chian Cultural Center in Astoria was preceded by a press conference during which Mr. Rossides urged Greek Americans to become more active at the upcoming election season. Markella Garris chaired the Gala committee, comprising Amalia Bournias, Andreas Kokkodis, Demetris Mestousis and Manolis Sazaklis.

Eugene Rossides was born in Brooklyn and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Columbia College in 1949 and then, in 1952, a Juris Doctor degree at the internationally renowned Columbia Law School. He served for four years as starting quarterback of the Columbia Lions famous team under the guidance of coach Lou Little, achieving feats

that even today, more than fifty years later, are hard to replicate, and have become part of American football lore.

After graduation, he practiced trade and tariff law at the renowned firm of Rogers & Wells, one of the most prestigious in the world, and became an expert in this critical specialty. He served justice in the Office of the Attorney General of the State of New York, and in 1969, the President of the United States appointed him to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, where he served until 1973.

By becoming the first Greek American presidential appointee ever to be confirmed by the United States Senate, he became a symbol for the great achievements of generations of Greek immigrants and their offspring.

His love of justice and of his heritage made him take a leading role in the long and hard effort to achieve a just resolution to the invasion and continuing occupation of northern Cyprus by Turkey. Immediately following the invasion of 1974, he formed the American Hellenic Institute and based his efforts on the blatant illegality of the act and the measures that he felt had to be taken by the United States in light of that illegality.

Since its founding, the American Hellenic Institute has expanded its scope to become a focal point for cultural, social, intellectual, and public policy activity for thousands of Greek Americans across the United States. Also, AHI has contributed greatly in cementing good relations between Greece and the United States.

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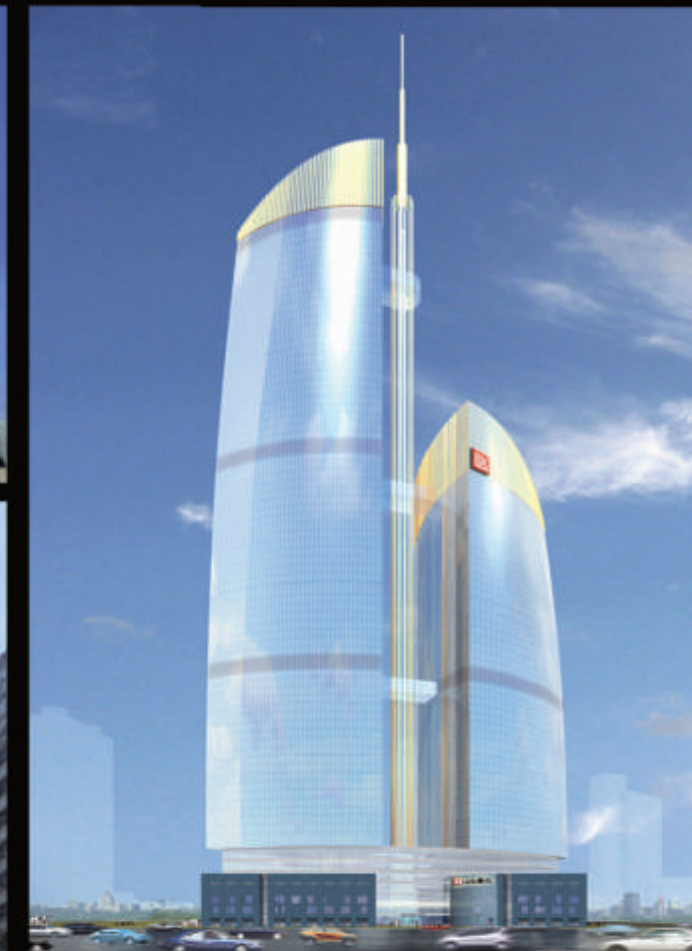
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*All of us at*

*The American Hellenic Council*

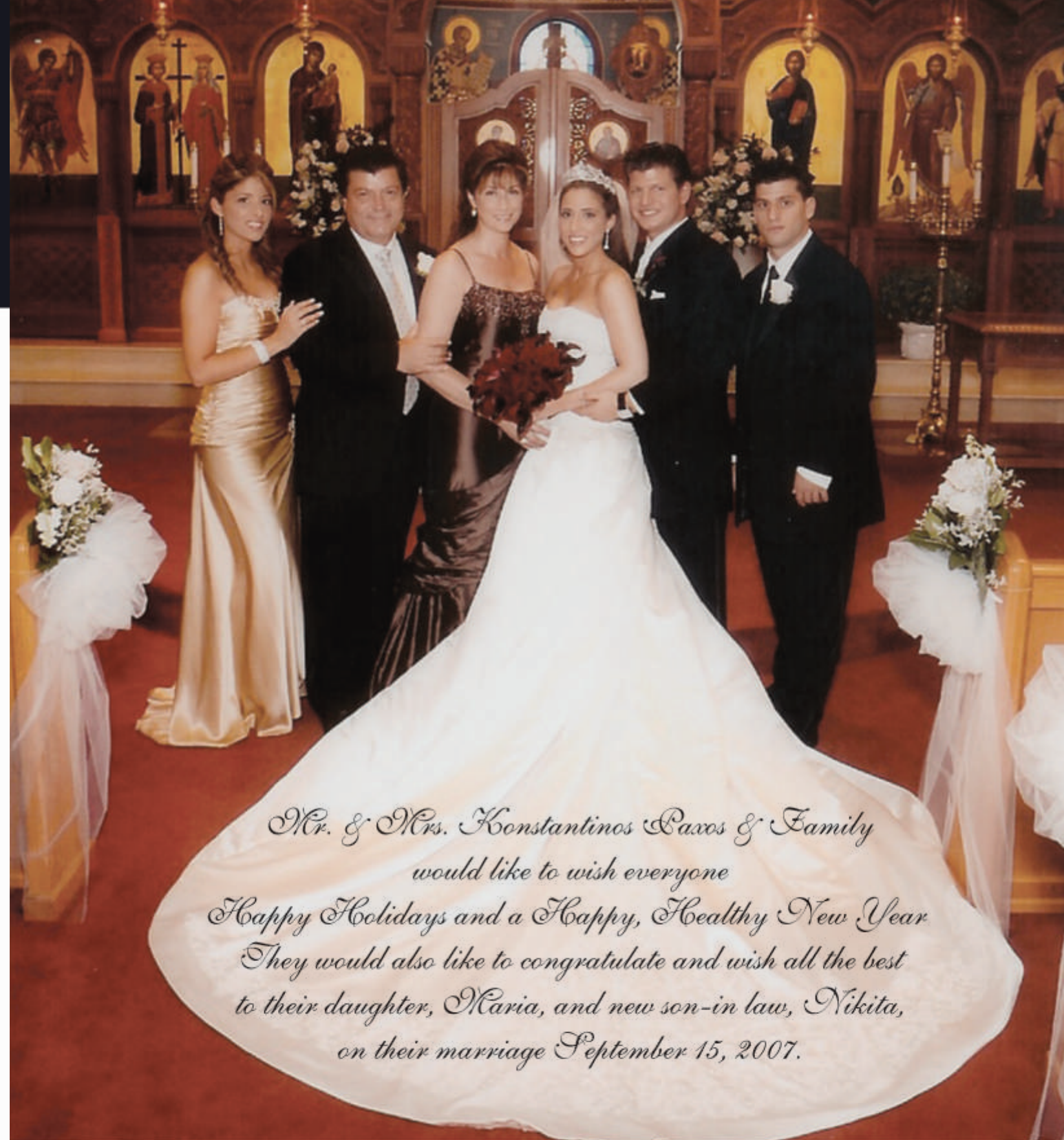
*would like to wish you a*

*Merry Christmas*

*and a*

*Happy New Year.*

**ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ**



*Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Paxos & Family  
would like to wish everyone  
Happy Holidays and a Happy, Healthy New Year  
They would also like to congratulate and wish all the best  
to their daughter, Maria, and new son-in-law, Nikita,  
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## *Peace and Good Will*

At the United Hellenic American Congress (UHAC) working toward peace is one of our main goals be it in leading the effort to secure a fair and just resolution in Cyprus; protecting the human and religious rights of our Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Hellenes living in Turkey; promoting Hellenism and Orthodoxy; or promoting mutually beneficial civic, military and social relationships between the United States, Greece and Cyprus.

*Peace is a priority.*



Through the humanitarian programs of **hellenicare**, we spread good will in a world where poverty and oppression can destroy lives. Believing that our humanitarian and moral values call us to serve, **hellenicare** is a lifeline of hope for Hellenes and their neighbors. Amid the poverty, **hellenicare** works to restore health, feed hunger, resolve conflict, create opportunity and enhance life skills.

*We believe in the value and dignity of every human life.*

Together, the United Hellenic American Congress and **hellenicare** wish you a blessed Christmas and New Year filled with peace, good will, health, happiness and prosperity. **Please remember us in your charitable gift giving!**

## *Kales Yiortes!*

**Andrew A. Athens**

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The American Hellenic Institute staff wishes  
all our members, friends and supporters  
A Very Merry Christmas and  
A Happy and Healthy New Year



(L-r) Alex Aliferis, Georgia Economou, Nick Larigakis, Vasiliki Tsombanos



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Save the Date and Join the AHEPA Family at its:  
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Best 2008  
wishes from  
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Managing Member

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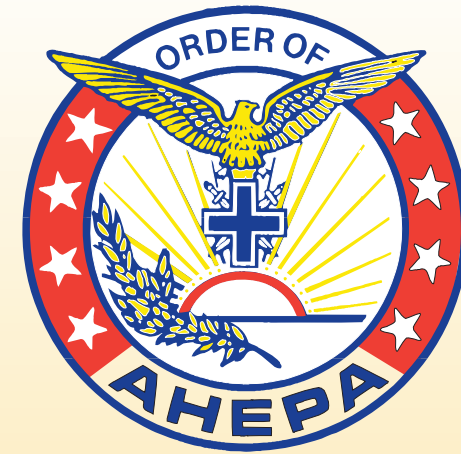
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*On behalf of the coordinating  
council of SAE/USA,  
and myself personally,*

*I wish fellow Hellenes  
and Philhellenes everywhere  
a very happy, healthy and prosperous  
New Year 2008!*

*Theodore G. Spyropoulos*



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*2008 wishes  
from  
The Cyprus Federation of America  
and its President  
Peter Papanicolaou  
for this Holiday Season!*

*May the New Year  
bring a just and viable solution  
of our country's problem,  
with no more refugees,  
no more occupying Turkish troops  
but a reunified homeland  
in progress and prosperity  
for all her people.*

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## Greek-American John Georges Wins New Orleans In 2007 Governor's Race

Out of a field of 12 candidates, New Orleans businessman John Georges ran first in the New Orleans in the race for Governor of Louisiana recently. John has also underwritten a book on the Greeks' role in World War II which will be released in 2008.

*Thanks to the Greek-American community in Louisiana and across the Diaspora for all their support.*



## CAPE FEAR CHAPTER 408

*2008 wishes from the AHEPA family of Wilmington,  
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*Happy and Healthy  
New Year to all!*



*Nicholas J. Bouras  
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*Wishes to all Hellenes  
Merry Christmas  
and  
A Happy New Year.*

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*Although we are minority, we, nevertheless, are major players in the  
formation of this new great nation, the USA. For it was Hellenic  
thought, philosophy, democracy and the influence of our language that set  
the making of the USA in this harmonious perpetuity. And to give wings  
and flight in that relationship they anew brought that rare and  
wondrous Hellenic architectural art, adding thus aura and elegance to  
the face of the new nation.*

*Another thought that should solidify for ever and ever the ties of  
Hellenism and America is and must become the establishment of a  
university by the Hellenic society, thus tying the knot of this marriage  
through the wisdom that comes from the Hellenic inventions and its  
language.*



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