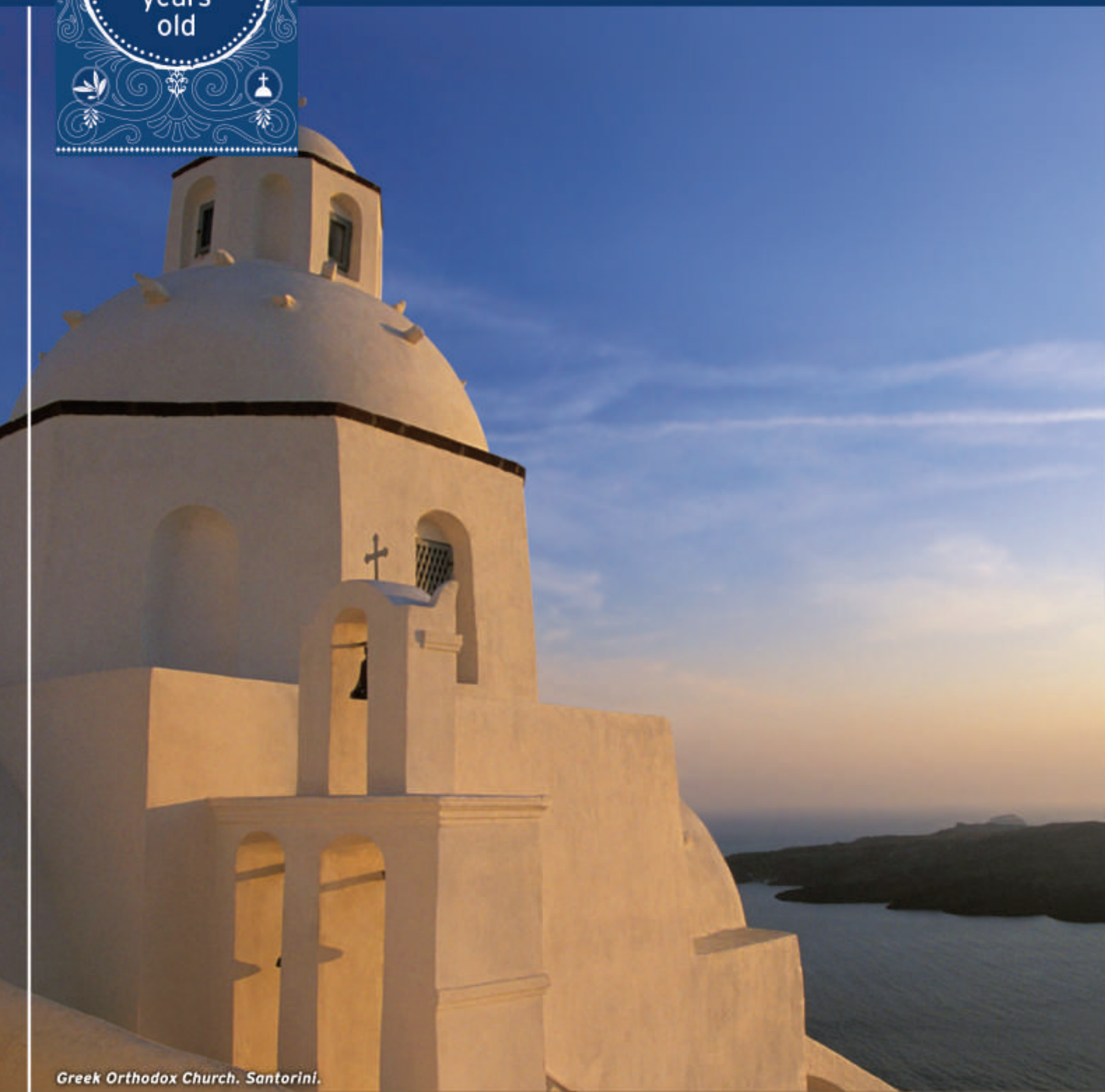




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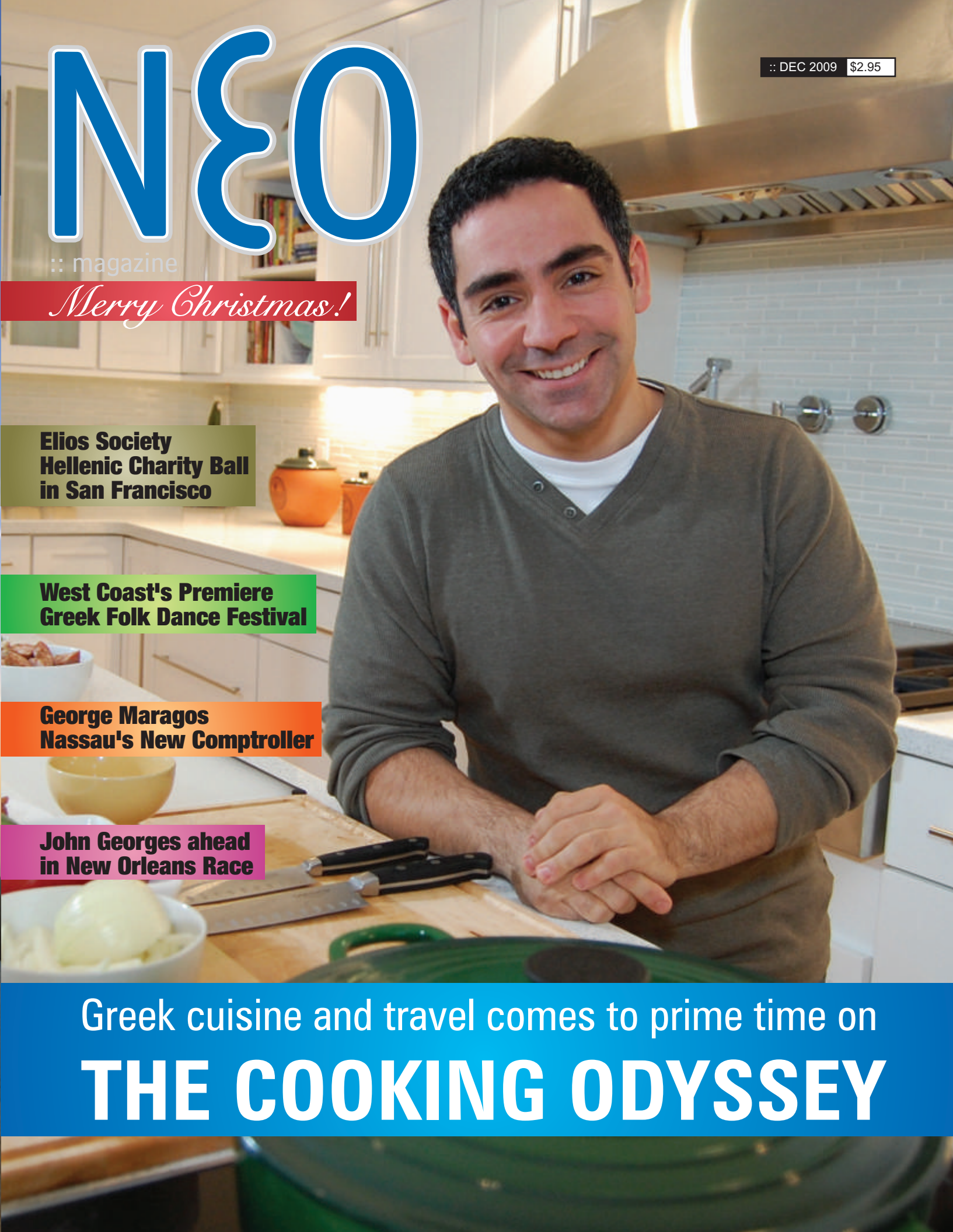
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hits prime time
with the new
PBS cooking show

The Cooking Odyssey



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Welcome to the Ahepa Family of District 6 Gold Coast Chapter No. 456!

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Food and our Greek odyssey

Our cover story on the new cooking show for PBS, The Cooking Odyssey, and the eloquent words of both its chef, Yannis Mameletzis, an Oxford scholar, and the show's producer, George Stamou, who's done a string of shows both here and abroad, brings to relief the dilemma of both Greece the country and Greek food: most people know the glamour spots of Athens, Mykonos, Santorini, and the like. And most people think of Greek food as the typical "diner" food: Greek salad, moussaka, pita, and gyro. But, as we all know (and it's been both our triumph and our downfall) Greece and Greek food is both a unique and many-splendored thing.



FROM THE EDITOR

"What I tried to relate to my chef colleagues in England," says Mameletzis, "is that one fresh tomato in season in Greece has so much flavor that it's a gourmet dish in itself. You don't have to add all that dressing on it, you don't have to manipulate it in some weird way to bring the flavor out. The most basic ingredients have such basic character."

The basic character that, Stamou says, is also ingrained in the place and the people. "Our philosophy is that the Mediterranean diet is not only the food. It's not only what's in your stomach, but also the land and the people around you." The character, in other words, of the land and the people creates the character of the food.

And a fierce character it is. The Cretans (as befitting Cretans) swear that Cretan tomatoes shipped and grown even as close as Athens never taste the same. The Santorians claim the same thing, and perhaps with good reason.

"The tomato which they have in Santorini is indeed unique because of the volcanic soil, which adds a special character," says Mameletzis. "The tomato from that region doesn't have a lot of water and it has a very intense flavor."

The relationship of people to food is very complex, and never more so than in Greece, where the climate is glorious, but the land is sparse, and people through the ages had to ration both their food and their toil. A devastating crop yield one year could devastate the economy of an entire region. The olive tree throughout the history of Greece was both a blessing responsible for everything from cooking oil, to lamp fuel, to balm for tired muscles, to the economic backbone of practically the whole of mainland Greece, and this has continued practically to modern times.

And fish? Greece is dotted with islands, more than a thousand of them, and seafood is a staple for a great part of the population both on the islands, and on the mainland. Ancient Greeks sent into the exile in what they considered the barbarism that was anywhere but Greece could barely endure the ordeal and risked even death to return to the soil and climate of their mother country.

I don't think any of us is any different, even thousands of miles away from homeland Greece, and is there any Greek anywhere, of any generation, who won't eat at a fine Greek restaurant anywhere, or even a diner with only its sampling of Greek food, and not feel instantly at home?

Dimitri C. Michalakis

We are the largest Chapter on Long Island and in the 5 Boroughs. Our meetings are held at the Elks Lodge located at 30 Haven Avenue Port Washington, NY the last Wednesday of the month.

Our annual Christmas gala dinner dance to be held at Milleridge Inn on December, 16 2009, 7:00 PM.

Please visit our website for more info: <http://sites.google.com/site/ahepa456/>



We have a new **Sons of Pericles Chapter**. Contact George Pappas at gepappas@gmail.com for more information.

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Sons are encouraged to join this new chapter. The Gold Coast Chapter is conducting a membership drive.

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Members of the Committee.
From left, Georgia Vavas, Vasi Karas,
Gayle Economos and Georgette Stavrakas
with the 300 Spartan Warriors



the Honorary Chairman of the "Aegean Evening III" along with the Director of the Walters Art Museum, Dr. Gary Vikan, who is a Byzantine scholar.

Proceeds of "Aegean Evening III" will benefit the good works of the Baltimore-Piraeus Sister City Committee and the Friends of the Ancient Collection at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore.

The Baltimore-Piraeus Sister City Committee is a volunteer program under the Baltimore Mayor's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs. Baltimore's ten Sister City Committees are operated in cooperation with Sister Cities International, an organization that was created by President Dwight D. Eisenhower after World War II to promote good will, economic development, cultural understanding and respect among U.S. and international cities around the world. The Baltimore-Piraeus Sister City Committee was founded over 25 years ago to encourage exchanges and understanding between the port cities of Piraeus, Greece and Baltimore, Maryland.

Congratulations once again to the Baltimore-Piraeus Sister City Committee for their hard work and leadership in making this memorable event a big success.

Aris Melissaratos, Gayle Economos



"Aegean Evening III" in Baltimore

By Georgia Vavas



Steve Mavronis, Amalia Karas,
Pit DuBois, Sandye DuBois, Alex Karas,
Congressman John Sarbanes,
Aris Melissaratos, Georgia Vavas

Olympian gods, goddesses and Spartan warriors abounded at Baltimore's Greek party of the year, when the Baltimore-Piraeus Sister City Committee hosted its third annual "Aegean Evening" this past November. Greek food and music were found plentiful the evening before Halloween at the Walters Art Museum, where the Committee and almost 200 friends celebrated the new blockbuster exhibition, "Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece".

Guests arrived in festive masks and costumes to celebrate the Greek theme and blended in well with the décor of the

Museum. The Hazelwood Inn catered a sumptuous assortment of Greek mezzedes and delicacies while guests were entertained by the fabulous Greek-American band "Apollonia". Live and silent auctions made available a variety of gifts, trips, art, clothing, specialty goods and wines to bidders.

Among the notables attending were US Congressman John Sarbanes and Aris Melissaratos, former Secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development and currently Senior Advisor to the President of the Johns Hopkins University. Melissaratos served as

Eleni Vettas, Eleni Peltsems,
Gayle Economos, Toni Monokroussos.

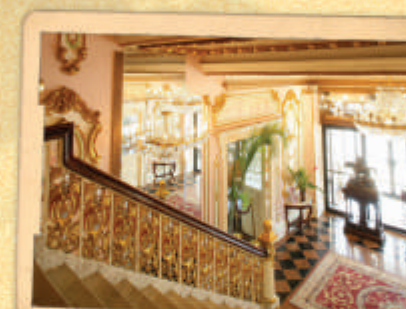
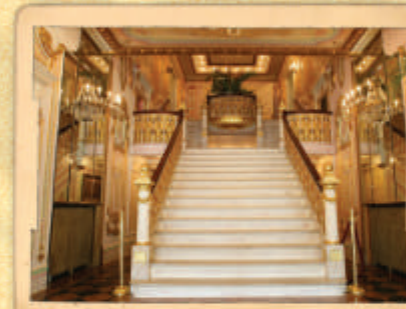
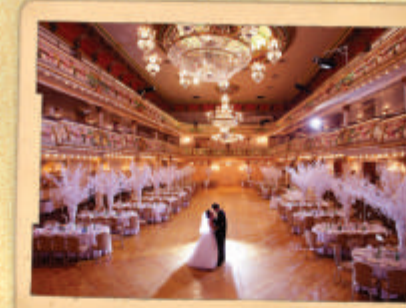


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Three of the honorees, author Nicolas Gage, actress Marilou Henner and actor Michael Chiklis



His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Roberta Economidis, Georgia Stamas, George Stamas



George Marcus, Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis and Angelo Tsakopoulos



Oscar winning actor George Chakiris



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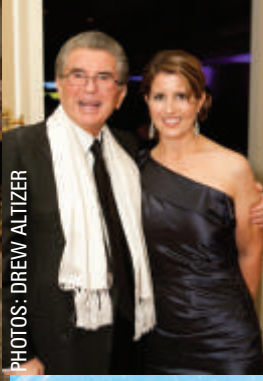
Former SF Mayor Willie Brown, Sonya Molodetskaya



George Stamas, Timothy Maniatis and Marilu Henner



TV Personality Vicki Liviakis, Last year's honoree Sid Ganis and his wife Nancy.



George Marcus with his daughter, Alexandria



Maria Menounos, Vicki Liviakis, Maria Leros



Hellenic Ball Committee Member, Roberta Economidis and her mother Cynthia Economidis, daughter and wife of Elios Society President.



Adrianna Bouzeneris, Anastacia Bouzeneris, Zleni Frangadakis, Andrea Frangadakis



Angie and Ken Frangiadakis



Ana Victor, Sophia Lagios, Marisa Scordelis



Maria Menounos with John Dimitrakakis, President of HBN.

Hollywood glitterati, political notables, honorees and more than 700 prominent members of the Greek-American community graced the historic Fairmont Hotel atop San Francisco's Nob Hill for the Elios Society's seventh Hellenic Charity Ball this past November.

This year's honorees, all well-known Greek Americans, came from a variety of disciplines. Kalomoira, the young Greek-American who rose to fame in Greece as the winner of the equivalent of "American Idol" was presented with this year's Spotlight Award. Nicolas Gage, a longtime journalist and author was another one of the honorees. In his acceptance speech, Gage set a more serious tone. "I would like to challenge Greek American celebrities to pay back their ancestors and honor their heritage by using the power of their fame to advance the just causes of the community that nurtured them," he said. He offered as examples the stolen Parthenon Marbles, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the occupation of Cyprus, drawing thunderous applause and a standing ovation.

The other honorees were Oscar-winning actor George Chakiris, Michael Chiklis, known for the hot TV series "The Shield," and TV personality Marilou Henner. The awards were presented by the talented and beautiful actress Maria Menounos and actor John Anniston.

Widely regarded as one of the premiere Hellenic charitable events in the nation, the Hellenic Charity Ball began in 1997 and is presented biennially by the Elios Society, which was founded in 1994 and is comprised of 75 distinguished Greek-Americans from the San Francisco Bay Area. The mission of the organization is to preserve and promote the spirit, values and ideals of Hellenic culture and heritage. Proceeds from this year's Ball will provide financial support for the presentation in 2010 of "The Eye of the Painter: Ancient Greek Pottery" at the Legion of Honor, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco. The project will include a major symposium; expanded materials for the antiquities gallery; a

curriculum on ancient cultures for teachers; the Museum Ambassadors program for high school students; and the Poet in The Galleries program, featuring a professional poet presenting ancient Greek art to students.

"We are immensely proud to be promoting this with the Legion of Honor Museum," stated Fanis Economidis, President of the Elios Society and Event Chairman. "The exhibit will focus on a lesser known aspect of Greek culture, and we are delighted to be able to facilitate everything connected to it."

At the event, on hand were political figures like former Governor Gray Davis and former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown. Also present were His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas, Director of the Patriarch Athenagoras Institute, Ambassador Ioannis Andreades, Consul General of Greece in San Francisco, the Honorary Consul General of Cyprus, Nicolaos Theophanous, most of the Tsakopoulos family, including Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis, who was recently appointed by President Obama as Ambassador of the United States to Hungary, George & Judy Marcus, long-time supporters of Hellenic Causes in Northern California, as well as a slew of other heavyweights. Ms. Corinna Chopei Fields, the 1964 Miss Universe, who represented Greece in Miami Beach, Florida, also attended.

"On behalf of the Elios Society, I want to thank everyone involved in making this wonderful event such a success," said Fanis Economidis, who received accolades for the outstanding black-tie evening that was professionally produced featuring IMAX screens, live entertainment and high-profile honorees. "Heartfelt thanks in particular to the sponsors, who through their generous contributions, enable Elios to achieve our mutual goals of celebrating our culture and heritage."

Alexandros Mizan and Demetrios Rhompotis contributed to this report.

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The recipes were then brought to The Cooking Odyssey studio in New York and recreated for the cameras, some with guest notables such as celebrated French pastry chef Francois Payard (who made a Greek fusion dessert from yogurt, honey, kataifi and strawberries). "The premise of the show is to have the travel portion, but then come back to the kitchen and reproduce it for an American audience and make it user-friendly," says Mameletzis.

It's not easy to reproduce the unique flavors of Greece (tomatoes from Santorini that pack a flavor punch because they're grown in volcanic soil) so Chef Yannis, as befitting a teacher (he's taught at Yale and Oxford) educated viewers on how to improvise with the ingredients on hand.

"He used ingredients such as yogurt," says Stamou, "which Americans think you eat with honey or fruit, and he cooked with it: he made pites with yogurt and desserts with yogurt. He also told viewers that if you can't find a particular cheese from Greece, you can use an American cheese or Italian cheese from the supermarket. The idea is that you can cook anything based on the Mediterranean diet, a diet good for you, and you don't have to travel all over the world to get the ingredients."

The show is being produced (among the few PBS shows shot totally in high definition) by Stamou's Divine Media Group here in New York (which has done feature films as well as documentaries and TV both here and

abroad) together with Arts n Sports in Greece, a production company headed by Nikos Ververidis, who created the popular Greek cooking show The Hungry Bear (Nistiko Arkoudi).

The studio in New York is also a first: 100% environmentally-friendly and built from recyclable material. "Kohler gave us a new series of products: recyclable sinks, and faucets that save water," says Stamou. "And we used a countertop manufactured by Cosentino which is made from crushed glass and ceramics mixed with corn oil"

One season of the show is already in the can and PBS liked it well enough to order a second season. Together with his other commitments (he's also a competitive archer), this will make Chef Mameletzis a very busy man.

"But I'm passionate about food," he says (he got his start in his uncle's restaurant in Manchester, New Hampshire and he's taught cooking seminars at Yale). "And in doing this I met people who also have a passion for their cuisine and that's where we saw eye-to-eye. That was the most memorable thing to me about this experience in traveling around Greece: we actually built relationships with people who also shared a passion for food and a passion for our heritage that was most beautiful."

Showing the food of Greece in its natural element and showing the culture that nurtured it is an equal passion with Stamou.

"I hope Greeks in the States and Greeks all over the world and in Greece appreciate what we did, because I say it with pride," he says. "I think we did something that America needed: Americans needed to realize that Greece is more than Athens and Mykonos, that there are other places worth a visit, and that Greek food is more than diner food. There's much more."

Follow The Cooking Odyssey on Facebook and YouTube.



Greek cuisine hits prime time with the new PBS cooking show The Cooking Odyssey

"This was an idea that I had for years," says George Stamou, the producer of The Cooking Odyssey, a groundbreaking television show on Greek cuisine premiering nationwide on PBS in the coming weeks that is both travelogue and cooking extravaganza. "We go to different regions of Greece to show both the beauty and the culture, and at the same time we have local people give us local recipes and demonstrate it to our host chef, who comes back to the studio kitchen in New York and teaches the audience how to cook them."

The chef is 32-year-old Yannis Mameletzis, who has a foot in several continents (born in Greece, moved to the States, currently lives in England) and who is a pastry chef for Jamie Oliver (The Naked Chef), president of the Oxford University Gastronomy Society, and a popular blogger (My Little Baklava) on food and food policy.

"I was familiar with a good number of these recipes," says the chef, who also has a public health degree from Yale and is now studying for his molecular epidemiology doctorate at Oxford. "But it's something else when you go to the actual location and use the local ingredients: when you use a tomato grown in volcanic soil and greens from the local mountainside. You can't get that out of a cookbook or when you learn the recipe in a restaurant setting."

Starting this past summer, the show visited more than a dozen regions of Greece (from Mykonos to Athens to Meteora) and whipped up recipes gathered from yiayades to papoudes to tavern owners.

"To tell you the truth, the people embraced us," says Stamou (whose crew once famously took a one-hour break to enjoy the local figs). "People kept saying, 'Hey, guys, we have a recipe for you, come to our place.' Going to Trikala, for example, Yannis was cooking with four or five of the local women and they were cooking using the brick oven in their yard. It was a unique and authentic experience."

Made more so because of the culture the show absorbed on location along with the recipes. The crew crashed a village wedding in Metsovo and, appropriately, a festival for pita in Meteora.

"Yannis was cooking with these ladies in their yard and when they were done they said to us, 'Oh, by the way, tomorrow night in the square we have a panygiri,'" Stamou remembers. "We celebrate the pita.' So we went to this place the following night and they had music, foustaneles, tsiolades, and Yannis was dancing with them—it was a unique thing. When you see it on TV, you won't believe it. And we couldn't believe it ourselves, because it was spontaneous."



By Dimitri C. Michalakis

There have been cooking shows on American television for Italian cuisine, and French cuisine, and even Scandinavian cuisine, but even with the popularity of Greece and the vaunted benefits of the Mediterranean diet there has been no television show on Greek cuisine.

Until now.

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Nearly 1,200 guests filled to capacity the New York Waldorf Astoria's Grand Ballroom at this year's grand banquet of the Order of Saint Andrew, honoring the achievements of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. His All Holiness, escorted by Archbishop Demetrios and National Commander Anthony Limberakis, was enthusiastically received as he entered the packed ballroom composed of visiting hierarchs and clergy from interfaith jurisdictions, Archons and guests. Honored dignitaries included the Honorable Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City; His Excellency Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York; and newly-invested Archon Mike Emanuel, White House Correspondent for Fox News. Archon Ernie Anastos, Emmy Award anchor for New York City's Fox 5 News, served as master of ceremonies for the evening.

PHOTO: ETA PRESS
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew bestowed upon National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis the Order's prestigious Athenagoras Human Rights Award



ARCHONS HONOR ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH AT THEIR GRAND BANQUET



Michael and Mary Jaharis

Human Rights in Strasbourg. For this and many other labors, we extend to you our abiding gratitude and fervent prayers."

Right before the program was concluded, surprising all in the ballroom, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, bestowed upon Anthony J. Limberakis the Order's prestigious Athenagoras Human Rights Award, which is presented annually to a person or organization that has consistently exemplified by action, purpose and dedication, concern for the basic rights and religious freedom of all people.

The award honors Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras who served as Archbishop of the Americas for 18 years before being elected Ecumenical Patriarch in 1948. Previous recipients have included President Jimmy Carter, President George H.W. Bush,

Former Soviet President Mikhael Gorbachev, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mother Teresa, Elie Wiesel, Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and last year's recipient, Rabbi Arthur Schneier.

While in New York, His All Holiness presided - assisted by Archbishop Demetrios - at the Investiture of twenty-seven new Archons from throughout the United States, following the Divine Liturgy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

Concelebrating hierarchs included His Eminence Geron Metropolitan Athanasios of Chalcedon; His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France; His Eminence Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea and all the members of the Holy Eparchial Synod.

Anthony Limberakis introduced a video tribute on the accomplishments of His All Holiness. At the conclusion of the video, members of the National Council's Executive Committee through the hands of the Exarch, Archbishop Demetrios, presented Bartholomew with a hand cross which was created by Pamela James, beloved niece of Archon Bouras. The cross was crafted in silver and gold and replicated to the crosses Archons are bestowed at their investiture.

The Ecumenical Patriarch, in turn, expressed his thanks to the Archons. "You have always been at the forefront of the sacred campaign of awareness and support for the Mother Church in her struggle to stand up for the religious rights of minorities as well as for the human rights of all people throughout the world... We have been deeply moved and remain profoundly grateful for your consistent and persistent labors to raise the same sacred issues at the highest level before the European Parliament and the European Court of



Ecumenical Patriarch addressing the event

Russian Orthodoxy today: The need to be freed from illusions

Analysis by Sergey Bychkov*



President Barack Obama meets with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in the Oval Office, Nov. 3, 2009. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

MOSCOW. - On November 3rd, President Barack Obama received Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the White House. It is no by coincidence that Patriarch Bartholomew became the first Orthodox hierarch to be hosted by Barack Obama. Russia's analysts saw this meeting as one more proof of the recognition by the secular authorities of the most developed country in the world, of the Ecumenical Patriarch's authority, of his primacy in real terms, not just in honor. Until now, Patriarch Bartholomew has been the accepted arbiter of disputes among the Orthodox Churches. No wonder then that the Department of External Church Relations in Moscow (an agency of the Russian Orthodox Church - ROC) decided to play down the visit of Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States and his meeting with the President. A choice which clearly indicates that the bishops in charge of administering ROC's foreign policy don't have adequate information about what is happening in the sister Orthodox Churches, especially in the United States, where several branches of Orthodoxy coexist, and failed to grasp the essence of what Bartholomew's recent visit to the US meant. On the other hand, Russian secular analysts who follow closely world events, were eager to point out this failure of the Department of External Church Relations (DECR).

Much of what is happening today in Russian church life remains a mystery to the Phanar. The new head of the DECR, the young and energetic Archbishop of Volokolamsk Hilarion (Alfeev), closely tracks the steps being taken by Constantinople in Ukraine. Recently, the talks between a delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with the head of the Autocephalous Church in Ukraine, Metropolitan Methodios (Kudryakov), provoked sharp criticism from the DECR. Archbishop Hilarion, in an interview with the Greek Internet portal Romfea.gr said among else: "In the inter-Orthodox dialogue we need to work out a position on the question: how do we,

Orthodox Christians, perceive (Constantinople's) primacy? Is it a primacy of honor? Is it a primacy of power? And what are the prerequisites for this primacy?"

Instead of focusing on the importance of the Patriarchal visit and meeting with President Obama, it seems DECR people are trying to raise contentious issues with Phanar.

Archpriest Maxim Kozlov, a member of ROC's Synodal Theological Commission, decided to elaborate on Hilarion's outlook and told news agency RIA-Novosti that if ROC is to be compared with any of the Eastern Patriarchates, it will be clear that the real power of the Russian Church doesn't only lie on numbers and certainly ROC's position in the Pentarchy isn't to be number 5. In other words, Kozlov pointed out that we are big and powerful and we can reshape the Pentarchy system based on new realities and our terms!

Thus far, two ROC representatives have questioned Pentarchy which was formed during the reign of Emperor Justinian in the 5th century AD and according to it there are five Ancient Churches, Constantinople, Rome, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem. In the DECR reasoning, if you take into consideration numbers, then ROC could claim a place in the Pentarchy, while the Patriarchates of Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem can't justify their status in the Pentarchy today.

But, were the Church Pentarchy and the Ecumenical Councils formed on a quantitative basis?

Unfortunately, these arguments and attacks on the Phanar often elude the most urgent problem for our Church today - the grave crisis of Orthodoxy. When we say Orthodoxy, we mean the world community of the Apostolic Orthodox Churches which continue to recognize the primacy among equals of the Patriarch of Constantinople.

The crisis faced by the world Orthodoxy didn't occur

yesterday. Thanks to the advancement of modern communications, its reality is obvious even to the staunchest zealots. First of all, it affects the ability to come to an agreement among ourselves on the resolution of the primary tasks put forward by our times. Fragmentation of the Orthodox faithful and baseless arguments about who is closer to the precepts of the Holy Fathers, has brought us to the point that world Orthodoxy is not in a position to convene a Pan-Orthodox Conference, not to mention an Ecumenical Council. Meanwhile, Orthodox Churches in the various countries are riddled with corruption, simony and inertia. Missionary activity has been abandoned, although in recent times we are witnessing a hopeful reversal to this trend in Romania, Serbia and Greece.

Yet the situation of the Orthodox Churches is increasingly perplexing. During a recent trip to Israel and Palestine, I realized that the ancient monasteries, glorious for their Hesychast tradition are being extinct. In the Holy Land, the Monasteries of St. Gerasimos, Saint George Hozevit, another one on the Mount of Temptation and on Mount Thabor, have only three monks! Also, the jewel of the Orthodox world - the Monastery of St. Catherine at the foot of Mount Sinai is fading. This monastery was not affected by the heresy of iconoclasm and retained a striking collection of icons and manuscripts. Isn't it disheartening that we, the Orthodox, cannot raise the necessary funds for the restoration of the monastery and the preservation of its unique collection?

When it comes to theological thought, things aren't better. If we attempt to talk about Orthodox Theology today, only Christos Yannaras comes to mind. And that shouldn't be a surprise. Until now, we haven't been able to establish a world class institution that could offer state of the art theological education! The level of theological studies has fallen so low that Orthodox representatives are rarely invited to participate in round tables with Roman Catholics or Protestants. There is none to invite!

Phanar can not yet understand that the election of a new patriarch in Moscow has changed not only the domestic but also the foreign policy of the ROC. In the near future, Moscow will be eager to demonstrate to the entire Orthodox world her claim to primacy not only in numbers but also in honor, taking over from Constantinople. However, instead of fighting each other, all Orthodox Churches still need to come up with a realistic alternative to our ultra secularized world. Every Christian is an apostle, called to testify in this cruel world for Christ. It is important to understand that today we can combine our efforts. And only the Ecumenical Patriarch, as in the ancient times, can summon the dispersed Orthodox flock to this Herculean task.

This analysis was written exclusively for NEO magazine. Dr. Sergey Bychkov, besides being a journalist, is a historian of the Russian Church and author of numerous books of the subject.



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Peter Papagianakis is licensed to practice law in New York and Florida.

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John Georges an early frontrunner in New Orleans Mayor's Race



Greek-American business leader John Georges is running again, this time for Mayor of New Orleans, and just a month after he announced his candidacy, on Wed., Nov. 4, before a diverse, packed crowd of family, friends and supporters at L'il Dizzy's Cafe in the historic Treme neighborhood, he is the frontrunner.

Not only that, but a few days later, he broke another record by raising more than \$500,000 in one night at the Hotel Monteleone in the French Quarter for his campaign.

"I am speaking to each and every citizen in each and every neighborhood in New Orleans and I am asking for the opportunity to serve you," Georges said. "I know I can solve the problems and pursue the vision of a great future for the city of New Orleans. When elected, I will allow nothing to prevent me from dedicating my best efforts and energy in the service of our City. I am under no illusion that this will be an easy process, but I am prepared for the challenge."

Georges is chairman of Georges Enterprises, which involves several types of businesses, including a grocery distribution, offshore marine services, food services, and land investments. He is a member of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarch; a member of Leadership 100, and former president of the Holy Trinity Cathedral in New Orleans. Georges was instrumental in the quick

rebuilding of the Cathedral and adjoining Educational Building after Hurricane Katrina. He also worked closely with the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during his recent environmental symposium on the Mississippi River in New Orleans.

In 2007, John Georges ran for elected office for the first time in the gubernatorial race, garnering 186,000 votes and winning New Orleans.

He was born into an immigrant Greek family that lived at Freret and Marengo streets. His parents, Dennis and Anita Georges, believed nothing came easy or free, and that with hard work, dedication and a never-give-up attitude, anything was possible. John is married to Dathel Coleman Georges, and they have three children, Zana, Liza, and Nike. Dathel is an integral part of the Georges Mayoral Campaign. She began the group Women for Georges, which claims a rapidly growing list of women who support John's candidacy.

The campaign has launched a website, GeorgesForMayor.com.



Vice-Consul Marios Bellibasakis (far right) with attendees

Hellenic Business Network (HBN) held recently an Open House & Reception for its newest Chapter in the San Francisco Bay Area. The event was held at the JW Marriott Hotel in downtown San Francisco. There were 125 people in attendance and many dignitaries, among them Consul General of Greece Ioannis Andreades, Vice-Consul Marios Belibassakis and Consul General of Russia Nickolay Esaulov.

Hellenic Business Network in San Francisco



From left, HBN Founder John Dimitrakakis, HBN-SF board member Maria Mastrokyriakos, HBN-SF President Jim Lucas and HBN-SF board member Dr. Nikos Stathopoulos

HBN Founder and President John C. Dimitrakakis gave an overview of HBN, its mission, programs, and his vision for HBN's future. "The question was asked, 'Why San Francisco?' Mr. Dimitrakakis said. "The establishment of a San Francisco chapter is a natural part of our growth given the region's rich technology and proximity to Silicon Valley. We are looking forward to establishing a strong presence on the west coast."

The HBN SF Chapter will work on energizing, mobilizing and connecting the San Francisco Bay Area Hellenic entrepreneurial community and will offer the following major programs: HBN Big Idea Competition (HBN-BIC), HBN Networking After Work (HBN-NAW), HBN Business Networking Symposium and HBN Women Leaders Initiative (HBN-WLI).

HBN-SF Chapter President Jim Lucas said that "the establishment of a San Francisco chapter networks the east coast Greek business community with the west coast Greek business community. That has never been done before. We have received an enthusiastic response from Greeks living on the west coast and they are looking to being a part of a national organization that can service their needs."

The HBN-SF Board is comprised of Jim Lucas, HBN-SF President, and board members Maria Mastrokyriakos, Dr. Nikos Stathopoulos, Marguerite Pavsidis, and Yiannis Kardaris. The HBN Advisory Board is comprised of Katerina Ioakimidi, PhD, John Protopappas, Kostas Hatzifotis, Father Peter Salmas and Vice-Consul Marios Belibassakis.

Hellenic Business Network (HBN) is a national, independent non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization whose goal is to mobilize and utilize the expertise and resources available within our community that will influence and advance the long-term professional interests of all Hellenes and Philhellenes.

HBN's strategy is to accelerate entrepreneurship within the Hellenic community by connecting entrepreneurs with the resources they need for success: education, technology, seed money, markets, management, access to a unique network of partners, sponsors and members, and support services.

Established in 1998 in Boston, HBN is a broad-based organization with members and businesses from virtually every industry and profession. For more information HBN's webpage is www.hbngroup.org



Consul General Ioannis Andreades addressing the audience

Leadership 100

Stephanopoulos, Pelecanos & Argyros To Highlight Conference



George Pelecanos



George Stephanopoulos



George Argyros

George Stephanopoulos, host of ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" and ABC News's Chief Washington Correspondent, who was President Clinton's senior political advisor and Communications Director; George Pelecanos, the award-winning author, film and television producer whose newest book, *The Way Home*, was on President Obama's reading list this summer; and George Argyros, former United States Ambassador to Spain and one of America's foremost real estate investors, will highlight the 19th Annual Leadership 100 Conference

at Hotel del Coronado, Coronado, California, from February 4-7, 2010.

The three Greek Americans will be honored for their public service and creative and business contributions. "Our theme is 'The Torchbearers of Our Faith and Hellenic Heritage: The New Generation of Leaders,' which recognizes these extraordinary leaders who exemplify our Hellenic ideals from such diverse fields," said Stephen G. Yeonas, Leadership 100 Chairman.

The program will also acknowledge the life-time achievements of two other outstanding

individuals: Harry C. Cordellos, a world class athlete who overcame childhood visual challenges and Deborah Szekely, co-founder of the modern day health and fitness movement who is the founder of two leading destination spas, Golden Door and Rancho La Puerta, and is a noted philanthropist and public servant, who will relate their inspiring life stories.

In addition, the youngest leaders, Leadership 100 Partners, now numbering 86 young professional men and women, and younger new members as well as younger members of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, will be recognized for breathing new life into the 25-year-old mission of Leadership 100.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitans from throughout the country will join the conferees for an exciting program that includes the General Assembly and Grand Banquet and, a special treat, San Diego's St. Spyridon Greek Dance and Choral School's Aegean and Ionian Dance Groups who will perform Greek Folk Dances at the traditional Glendi on Friday night.

The Hotel del Coronado is San Diego's only truly beachfront hotel. Situated on 28 beautiful oceanfront acres on Coronado Island, the 120-year-old structure is a beacon of grandeur and refinement that includes three distinct building complexes: the Victorian Building, a National Historic Landmark, Ocean Towers and California Cabanas, and Beach Village villas and cottages.

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Καλή Ορεξη!

by Peter Shakalis



A New Year Brings New Challenges to NYC Property Market

They say, "May you live in interesting times." Certainly this past year in the real estate industry has been nothing if not interesting. The situation this year in the investments sales side of the industry, that is building sales and purchases, has yet to play itself out in. With properties valued 30% to 50% less than they were as recently as 2Q08, and banks reluctant to refinance mortgages coming due, it is going to be an interesting 2010. Many developers and landlords that mortgaged their properties in the 2005 through early-2008 period anticipating rents at levels 30% to 40% higher than what is achievable today, are having long talks with their bankers.

The recent sale of Worldwide Plaza, a 1.7 million square foot building on Eighth Avenue and 50th street is in some ways indicative of challenges in the industry. Purchased in 2007 for \$1.8 billion by Harry Macklowe, the property was sold this year for \$590 million. While the sale price reflects a substantial vacancy factor, large declines in values are the norm. Since many properties are now worth less than their mortgages, bankers in many instances will opt to keep the present ownership in place with the hope of achieving the best possible returns over the long term on their assets. The average recovery rate in New York for holders of defaulted mortgages is presently 70%. Some holders, however, are just selling their paper now for whatever it will bring. The consensus in the industry is that this part of the market will have its share of challenges to traverse in the coming year.

On the commercial leasing side however the news is better. While the office space market is not completely out of the woods, the relative stabilization of pricing and the return of office tenants to the market is good news. Long term lease renewals and new space acquisition deals are getting signed. Many believe that pricing in the market is now at or near to the bottom, hence a good time lock in a long term lease at very attractive rates. Rents in the Plaza district for instance, an area generally located between Fifth and Park Avenues in the 50's, are half of what they were just 18 months ago prompting many tenants to reconsider that location since many were priced out of the market.

While space availability and rental rates may differ from one Manhattan market to the next (Grand Central, Park Avenue South, Penn Plaza, Wall Street et al), the trend over the year has seen the spread between asking and taking rents lessen. So, too, has the incremental decline in rental rates slowed down in recent quarters. While premier properties such as 450 and 390 Park Avenue may be in a rarified class of their own, both have recently signed deals in excess of \$100 per square foot – a number that was unheard of after the economic collapse began to take hold in 2008. While 2010 will bring new challenges to the industry, hopefully they'll be a bit less interesting.

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George Maragos: Nassau County Comptroller-elect

George and Angela Maragos



George Maragos, a Republican, is the new Nassau County Comptroller after defeating multi-term incumbent Howard Weitzman, a Democrat, on November 3rd by a margin so slim that it kept both sides awake until the next day's early morning hours.

The founder and president of SDS Financial Technologies, a financial and trading services company, Maragos promised to fight against tax increases and check the county's deficit and spending. He also said that the county is currently in a very difficult financial condition because of the failure of the current Democratic administration and comptroller to adequately anticipate and plan for the recession.

"Their failure to fix the tax assessment system, which is unfair and costing the county over \$80 million annually, has compounded the fiscal mess," he pointed out, adding he would fix the system and implement better budget planning and strong oversight of spending to ensure that tax dollars are well spent.

Maragos, 60, of Russell Gardens, also had the Conservative Party line.

Before founding his own company, he served as vice president at two of the nation's largest banks. He was born and raised on the island of Lefkas, Greece, and after finishing high school he went to Canada as a student, obtaining a bachelor's degree from McGill University in Montreal. He moved to the US and did his master's at New York's Pace University. He and his family have lived in Great Neck for 21 years.

On January 1st, he will be the first comptroller of Greek origin for Nassau, New York's second richest county.

George Maragos encouraged younger Greek Americans to run for office. Here with Staci and Michael Gerasimou



A few days after his breathtaking victory, an exuberant George Maragos and his wife Angela, were the honoured guests at an impromptu dinner at Bayside's "Mythos" Restaurant, hosted by his Lefkadian compatriots and friends with origins from other areas of Greece as well. Ready to assume his new position, Maragos encouraged other young people to seek elected positions because "in elections nothing is impossible." He then recalled that when he announced his candidacy, nobody would give him a chance of winning. However, "I worked very hard and expected a good outcome," he said. "I look forward to the opportunity of serving the community."



Friends of George Maragos celebrated his victory at "Mythos" Restaurant



Left to right, Mary Vouyiouklis, George Demos and Roda Plakogiannis

individuals, and co-hosts and this nice turnout thanks to everyone here, it is great to see that people are truly excited to support one of our own", remarked close friend to George Demos and Host Committee member Justin Bozonelis in his introductory speech.

George has always been close to the Greek Orthodox Church having served as an altar boy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral. He received his BA degree in Political Science from Columbia University and went on to earn his law degree from Fordham University. "George is a member of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Cathedral, Kimisis Tis Theotokou in Southampton, of the Leadership 100 and was also recently appointed to serve on the Archdiocesan Council by Archbishop Demetrios himself. It is clear that his roots in the Greek Orthodox Church, community and heritage are very important to him, as they are to many in this room tonight, continued Bozonelis in his opening remarks.

The highlight of the evening centered on Demos addressing guests by describing his goals and intentions in running for public office. He assured his supporters that the election is winnable and that the time has come to infuse fresh ideas into Washington in response to the challenges currently facing New Yorkers. A staunch opponent of tax increases, he furthered that creative strategic change is necessary as opposed to government bailout packages and continued pork belly spending. Demos expressed his deep gratitude for the backing he has received from the Greek-American community as well as from his friends. The floor then opened up for an interactive Q&A where guests were able to discuss issues and offer suggestions. Questions posed related to the dynamics of the current race, issues facing Greece and Demos' previous casework while serving the SEC.

Guests enjoyed refreshments which were generously provided by Steve Makris of Fantis Foods and Thalassa Restaurant in TriBeCa. In handling acknowledgements at the event's conclusion, Committee Host Victoria Bousis also offered words of encouragement. "It truly makes me proud to support George, a person and candidate bearing a devout heart, truthful intention, and sound purpose, representative of all the accomplished Hellenes before him," she said.

The fundraiser resulted in a complete success where all financial goals were not only met but exceeded. "This is my first fundraiser, and a night I will never forget. I can't tell you how much this means to me," concluded Demos.

Information on George Demos' 2010 campaign can be found at www.georgedemos.com.

Demi Sophocleous, Gregory Vassilakos, George Demos and Stella Moniaros.



Stefanos Economou, Sofia Karvela, Korinne Kotovos and Adoni Sikolas



Left to right, Victoria Bousis, Justin Bozonelis, Keke Kyriakopoulos and George Demos



Tina Livanos, Keke Kyriakopoulos, Maria Siounis, Elena Sarkissian and Liz Batalias.



From left, George Stephanopoulos, Elena Stephanopoulos and Dr. George Carayannopoulos



The "Host Committee," from left Mike Plakogiannis, George Soterakis, Mary Miles, George Carayannopoulos, Keke Kyriakopoulos, Victoria Bousis, George Demos, Justin Bozonelis, Stefanie Amanatides, Tony Steich, Nick Vouloumanos, Daphne Konstantinides and Despina Konstantinides.

Young Professionals support George Demos for Congress

Over 50 young-professionals attended the first fundraiser for political candidate George Demos which was held recently at a private residence in SoHo, New York City. The 33 year-old Republican running for United States Congress in the First Congressional District of New York, located in eastern Long Island, had been an Enforcement Attorney at the United States Securities and Exchange Commission for seven years before stepping down to pursue his campaign efforts. He specialized in prosecuting corporate and white collar fraud, having handled some of the SEC's most significant investigations including the case against American International Group for its phony accounting practices. George also served on the 2009 Bernard Madoff prosecution team responsible for bringing to justice the perpetrators of the largest financial fraud in American history.

The event was made possible by the George Demos for Congress Host Committee which includes members Keke Kyriakopoulos, Justin Bozonelis, Victoria Bousis, Stefanie Amanatides, Dr. George Carayannopoulos, Daphne Konstantinides, Despina Konstantinides, Mary Miles, Dr. Michael Plakogiannis, George Soterakis, Tony Steich, John Vidalakis and Nick Vouloumanos. In addition, Co-Hosts for the event based on their relative donations included Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Amanatides, Demetri and Eleni Bousis, Alexander Christon, Tina Livanos, Gregory Vassilakos and Dr. Mary Vouyiouklis. "When you consider that we have a host committee comprised of 13

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For additional information on how you can help further this mission, e-mail hopkins-patras@jhmi.edu



hopkinsmedicine.org

THE NEW GENERATION of LEADERS Leadership 100 NEO

Neo Magazine and Leadership 100 have partnered to present a monthly profile of the New Generation of Leaders who belong to the Leadership 100 Partners Program which recruits young Greek American professionals on the rise in their careers, making membership affordable and providing a network for meeting their peers.

Leadership 100 was founded 25 years ago by the visionary Archbishop Iakovos and a small band of outstanding Greek American businessmen who wished to support the Greek Orthodox Church and perpetuate their faith and Hellenic heritage in America, passing it on to future generations.

Name: Steven Hadjilgiou

Position: International Tax Attorney, Baker & McKenzie LLP, Miami, FL.

Education: Master of Laws in Taxation (LL.M.), University of Florida Levin College of Law; J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law; M.S. in Business Administration, Warrington College of Business, University of Florida; and B.S. in Business Administration, Warrington College of Business, University of Florida.

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Melbourne, Florida, and raised in a small nearby beach town by the name of Indian Harbour Beach, Florida. They are located in Central Florida directly east of Orlando.

Who or what were the main influences in your life?

My immediate and extended family members were and continue to be the main influences in my life. My grandparents, parents and older brother are all very impressive and intelligent people. I'm lucky to have had such guidance. I was also fortunate to grow up with some really good and close friends who are very good people and still great friends. Furthermore, the Greek Orthodox Church played an important part in my life. I participated in Sunday school, GOYA, Greek school, Dance group and the St. Stephens summer camps... where I made lifetime friends.

How did you get into your present work?

I am currently an international tax attorney at Baker & McKenzie law firm in Miami Florida. As a kid, I was always interested and involved in my parents' real estate business. From that moment on, I knew I wanted to be involved in business in some aspect. In undergraduate school I studied finance and went on to get an MBA focusing in real estate. Thereafter, I got my law degree and went on further to get an LL.M. in tax law. Currently, I advise multinational companies in planning their new business ventures world-wide and I also advise private wealth clients with US tax issues ranging from income tax to trust & estate planning.

As a successful American you could and perhaps have joined major organizations that are focused more on mainstream society. Why Leadership 100?

In fact, I have joined a number of other organizations. However, it is Leadership 100 that is definitely near and dear to my heart. My great aunt, Irene Ladas, of blessed memory, had been a Leadership 100 member for many years and always invited my family to events. We liked it so much that my parents decided to join and I also separately joined individually. I feel that the Greek Orthodox Church has given so much to me and my family that we as leaders in the business community should do our best to give back to, and even strengthen, the church. Also, I spent a semester at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, which is a big recipient of Leadership 100 funds. Additionally, Leadership 100 events are a lot of fun!

How would you evaluate so far your experience in the organization?

My experience so far has been great. I get a sense of satisfaction from contributing to the Greek Orthodox Church, a Church that is relied on and attended by Greeks around the country not only for spirituality, but also as a gathering place for Greek culture and a sense of community. I have made a number of great friends by attending Leadership 100 events. Many of the more senior members constitute some of the most influential and accomplished individuals in the entire United States, not just within the Greek community. I'm certain that my colleagues who have also joined as young leaders of Leadership 100 will surely leave a similar mark in the future. For example, my friend George Demos, who is a Leadership 100 member, is running for U.S. Congress out of the state of New York – you should vote for him!

As a new generation leader, what are some ideas of yours on the future of Leadership 100?

Leadership 100 is going down the right path by opening up its doors to young leaders. We are the future of this organization and I would like to see an even greater push to recruit young doctors, lawyers and businessmen who will one day make up the leadership of this organization. I think a lot of my generation will be excited to join, it's just a matter of getting the word out. Furthermore, I think we should be involved in leadership positions within the organization now. I think we can make an immediate positive contribution.

How has your involvement in Leadership 100 proved valuable in other activities of your life?

I have been able to meet some very diverse and interesting people within Leadership 100 and there is always something you can learn from people who are the best at what they do. Those are the kinds of people I've met within the organization and have definitely taken lessons by observing and emulating them.

What qualities do you most admire or value in others?

Honesty, loyalty and conviction.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

In addition to my family, through my travels and schooling I have come across and made friends with some really amazing, smart, funny and down to earth people. I consider that being able to surround myself with this network of close family and very good friends, who I can call on for friendship or in times of need, is my greatest achievement.

Who are your heroes in real life?

My family that worked so hard to come from the villages in Greece to the United States, after having lost close to everything during WWII and the Greek Civil War. They were able to come to this country to make a better life for their family through incredibly hard work, effort and very big sacrifices. People who persevere and work to improve themselves, their families, and their communities, (and don't focus on only fattening their pockets), are very impressive to me.

How do you spend your time outside of work?

I'm always doing something related to the water. I have always been an avid surfer. However, lately I have been spending a lot of time offshore fishing in my boat. Otherwise, I really enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

What are your thoughts on the current economic crisis?

It seems to be improving.

Where would you like to be in your professional and personal life 20 years from now?

Most importantly, I hope to have a strong happy family. In my career, I see myself continuing in the same area of legal practice. I anticipate that I will still be very active in the local legal and business community and in my local church, and of course Leadership 100.

What is your idea of happiness?

Being surrounded by family and friends, having a few laughs.



Salvatore "Sonny" Grosso (right) with Dino Pavlou ("the Greek"), members of Sinatra's inner circle, at the event.
PHOTO: ETA PRESS

SINATRA: NEW YORK

By Katerina Georgiou

On November 3rd, The Paley Center for Media held a premiere screening of a rare concert: previously unseen footage of Frank Sinatra performing live at Carnegie Hall on June 25, 1980. The film was followed by a panel discussion about Sinatra's love affair with New York, featuring his son, Frank Sinatra, Jr.; Nat Hantoff, a Cultural Historian/Music Critic; George Kalinsky, the official photographer of Madison Square Garden; Charlie Pignone, President of Frank Sinatra Enterprises; and legendary dancer and choreographer, Twyla Tharp.

Guests included Sinatra's closest friends, including veteran movie and television producer, Salvatore "Sonny" Grosso—the real life inspiration behind "The French Connection." Also attending was Dino Pavlou, a former supper club owner and member of Sinatra's inner circle, whom the crooner dubbed "The Greek." Grosso produced several movies for Sinatra and is currently in pre-production on a screen adaptation of Pavlou's memoir, detailing his longstanding friendships with Sinatra and actor Anthony Quinn.

The evening celebrated a small moment in the life of a giant, and the intimate film showcased Sinatra at his best—pitch perfect, charismatic and personable—a natural born performer, the likes of which has no parallel today.

With all due respect to the Yankees, no matter how many times one has heard "Theme from New York, New York," nothing comes close to generating the electrifying momentum of Ol' Blue Eyes performing the song on stage. That commanding and incomparable voice—cultivated to its highest expression—is akin to sampling nectar from the gods; it offers mere mortals a taste of immortality. There's good reason no one earned the nickname "The Voice" more than Sinatra.

The memorable Carnegie Hall performance contained material from his landmark Trilogy album, with classics such as "Summer Me, Winter Me," "I've Got The World on a String" and "I've Got You Under My Skin."

In total, seventy-one never-before-seen performances were recorded at iconic New York City venues between 1955 and 1990. All are memorialized in a new five-disc box set (4 CD's/1 DVD) entitled, Sinatra: New York. Highlights include personal photos, notes and essays, as well as tributes from Martin Scorsese, Tony Bennet, Yogi Berra and Twyla Tharp.

So if you're still searching for a holiday gift idea for the music lover in your life, look no further. Sinatra: New York is available at all retail outlets and at www.Sinatra.com.

"Great Ideas" with Jim Gianopulos



Jim Gianopulos, Chairman and CEO of Fox Filmed Entertainment, has visited Greece as part of the "Great Ideas" series and addressed public audiences in Thessaloniki and Athens on November 22nd, 23rd and 24th, respectively.

Since 2006, the "Great Ideas" series has supported educational and cultural connections between Greece and the United States. The series is organized by the Fulbright Foundation and the Embassy of the United States of America in Greece, and is supported by a grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

On Monday November 23, at 19:00, Jim Gianopulos spoke at the Athens Concert Hall (Megaron), Banquet Hall, on the topic of Hellenism and Hollywood: from Aristotle to Alexander (Payne).

Present at the lecture was the US Ambassador in Greece, Daniel Speckhard and his wife Anne, the Prime Minister's wife Ada Papandreou with their daughter Margarita, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Pavlos Geroulanos, the Member of

Parliament, Anna Dalaras, the Director of the Thessaloniki Film Festival, Despina Mouzaki and the President of the Festival George Corraface.

Attending the event were well-known Greek directors Giannis Smaragdis, Tassos Boulmetis and Dennis Eliadis, as well as the actors, Constantinos Markoulakis, Alekos Syssovitis, and Mimi Denissi, the singer Glykeria and the director of ANT1-TV, George Levendis. Moreover, the board members of the association "Together with the Child" Marianna Latsis and Alexandra Martinou, the President of the Levendis Foundation, George David, the CEO of the HSBC group, Simon Gukes, Mr. & Mrs Panos Marinopoulos, as well as Zachos Hatzifortiou, Lambis Tagmatarris, and other Greek and foreign VIP's.

For more info regarding the Series you may visit: www.fulbright.gr, www.SNF.org, <http://athens.usembassy.gov>, <http://thessaloniki.usconsulate.gov> and www.mosaiko.gr

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liberation, young Jewish families found respite from flight in the rough mountains that dot the landscape. However, as German patrols began to comb the countryside for hideouts, some crying babies betrayed their parents; in rarer instances, infants' noises were muffled by pillows that unintentionally snuffed their lives. In the event, I have been told, I was heroic by knowing to keep silent.

Still, there came a day when my father was absent, collaborating with the underground movement, and Mom was left with her baby as a German patrol discovered our seeming major. Anything could have taken place; deportation, separation of the two (with the child raised German), or instant execution, for their Jewish identity was obvious. Instead, and while staring at the babe, the leader having a flashback of the image of his own boy he left in Hamburg, smiled and demanded all "rouse," "out" never to bother the family again! The irony is inescapable: a virtual Nativity scene, replete with pathos, as his compatriots were getting ready to usher the holiday with prayer, the psalms of praise and salvation, other units were engaged in the inhuman task of genocide! His magnanimity might also be indicative of the troubled psychological state faced by the German adherents of Martin Luther, and the genesis of Lutheranism in opposition to the 1517 doctrinaire and corrupt Roman Catholicism. Surely, the soldier's refusal to participate in rounding up innocent Jews was replicated elsewhere; it is a matter of regret, however, that such examples were not widespread!

Wishfully, I have thought of that officer, and how his life might have turned out. Other ideas have made me grapple with notions of collective blame, guilt, even hatred. We now know that Hitler had willing executioners, in Germany and elsewhere, Greece, too, to be able to undertake the colossal, heinous crime that is uniquely called Holocaust. Yet, there were individuals, including that anonymous German officer, whose generous gesture has saved me from hating his people and his country; Further, whenever in Germany, I seek to engage residents of a certain age and pointedly ask: where were you, and what did you do during World War II? It seems I am entitled to the inevitable discomfort my questions engender, don't you think?

A different Christmas story...

By Asher J. Matathias

Without belittling the seriousness of the world economic crisis, nor the contentious debate that rages in our country over the no-brainer issue of providing medical coverage to 47 uninsured Americans (of course we should), both plainly pale in comparison to the then present mortal danger of living as hunted Jews in Axis-occupied Greece on December 3, 1943.

Tonight, as the first candle of the Hanukkah Menorah (candelabra) is lit, fourteen days before Christmas --- frequently but erroneously thought as comparable: the former is minor in the Hebrew lunar calendar, celebrating the triumph of spirit over ancient oppression; the latter the genesis of the Messiah who defines Christianity --- I reflect intensely how the precious gift of life my parents Jacob and Nina were to give me that very day could have been very brief, ended arbitrarily, perhaps most brutally.

The sequence of dramatic events in the Balkans begun with Italy's Mussolini demanding safe passage into Greece from Albania, and the outnumbered, outgunned Greeks writing a brilliant chapter of military history with their thrilling "OXI" the now known "NO" that would derail the Fascist Benito's plan, rekindle Greek nationalism, and divert Hitler's forces from the Caucasus, fatally compromising his dreams for a Reich to last a thousand years!

Life under the Italians was preferable, for they shared a Mediterranean joie de vivre, seeking to enjoy wine, women, and song even in wartime, frequently drawing unwelcome comments, earning even contempt from their erstwhile Nordic ally. With Il Deuce's prospects declining, his eventual fate in the hands of partisans and the awaiting hanging tree, the Germans took control and proceeded to systematically end the two-millennia Jewish presence in Greece by prosecuting the Final Solution that would eventually claim 87% of the country's Romaniote (Greek-speaking) and Sephardic (Ladino-speaking) Jews (including my mother's parents and two younger brothers)!

Desperate circumstances occasionally evoked uncommon compassion from Christian fellow citizens. One such family was the childless couple Phroso and Yorgos Stamos, who, fully knowing the dire consequences were they to be found harboring Jews, did not hesitate to take them from Volos, in Magnesia Prefecture, to a refuge in a Mt. Pelion cave. The family frequented my father's retail store on Ermou Street, Volos, purchasing the famed Panagos schemes imported from Paris, hand-embroidered by maidens on their way to the altar, and seen in fashionable homes. Their leap to courageous stardom among those called the Righteous Among Nations may be seen the normal expression one would have for the dearest of friends, or business associates. Still, the rhetorical question remains for each of us: given a similar crisis, would we have the fortitude to place our own person and/or family in jeopardy?

It was there, in Ayios Lavrendios, that a midwife, traversing the heavily-snowed paths from a nearby village came to help deliver a baby boy. (Years later, I would learn that the ritual circumcision performed on a male eight days after birth was postponed for ... eight months!)

German troops had first rounded the majority of Jews making up the famed Jerusalem of the Balkans, Thessaloniki, fulfilling the request of their spiritual leader, Rabbi Tzvi Koretz, who had counseled that the crisis facing his flock would be resolved were his people to "get along, by going along," with official orders to report for resettlement. The panic that spread among the remaining Jews upon learning the fate of their brethren, was palpable. There were no transports to America, or a State of Israel to welcome refugees.

Thus, with kindness and the befriending of would-be participants in the coming Greek civil war that would grip the nation for additional years after

Yes, the events described are miraculous, days from witnessing my first Hanukkah and Christmas. There would ensue other miracles: surviving the aforementioned civil war, our family intact and growing; and, in the 1950's, the devastating earthquakes necessitating a six-month living arrangement in a tent; culminating in our emigration, and arrival in the blessed shores of America, on January 30, 1956! Fully conscious of such existential experiences, I have embraced Eddie Cantor's immortal link of the two words love / live; switch a single letter, and they are just the same. Is it accident, I wonder, that the two words are almost interchangeable?

The author is an adjunct professor of American Government at St. John's University, president of B'nai B'rith in the Five Towns, a columnist, and frequent public speaker. He and his wife Anna live in Woodmere, NY.

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My name is Lee Theodossiades. I am 22 years old and a recent graduate from Florida State University with a degree in Finance. I enjoy sports, spending time with my family and friends and practicing my faith. My motto is FAITH NOT FEAR. Because of that, I know that God has a greater plan for me here on Earth. With that said your donation to the Be The Match Marrow Registry would not only help me but many others who suffer from the same disease. Thank you in advance for your participation.



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*Anastasia Drandaki,
Byzantine Art Curator
at the Benaki Museum*

PHOTO: ETA PRESS

"Greco: Icon Painting in Venetian Crete" is the theme of a new exhibition at the Onassis Center, opened to the public late November, that brings together an extraordinary group of 15th and 16th century paintings, including early works by El Greco. Tracing the cross-currents of Byzantine and Renaissance influences in the workshops of 15th and 16th century Crete—the setting in which El Greco was trained—the exhibition is the first to focus on the evolution of the multifaceted relationship of Cretan painters with Western art during this rich period. The exhibition, curated for the Onassis Cultural Center by Dr. Anastasia Drandaki, Curator of the Byzantine Collection at the Benaki Museum, Athens, will present 46 exceptional works from public and private collections in Greece, Italy, Russia, the United States and Canada, many of which will be traveling to the U.S. for the first time.

The Origins of El Greco at the Onassis Center

According to Dr. Drandaki, "The icon painters in the workshops on Crete in the 15th and 16th centuries were renowned for their skill in painting impeccable panels not only in the traditional Byzantine manner but also in a style inspired by Western models. Although a dialogue with Western painting was not new to Byzantine art, a number of special factors undoubtedly helped to encourage the immersion of Cretan artists in Western iconography and style, especially after the fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453."

At the core of the exhibition are eleven superb icons from the Collection of Ecclesiastical Art, Saint Catherine of the Sinaites, Heraklion, Crete. Founded around the 10th century as a dependency of the monastery of the same name at Mount Sinai, the Church of St. Catherine in Heraklion supported a large and learned monastic community by the 16th century and since 1967 has housed a highly important collection of Orthodox icons and religious objects. Ten of the panels from the Collection of St. Catherine have left Crete only once before, in 1993, for an exhibition in Athens. The eleventh of this group, a Last

Supper by Michael Damaskenos, has been outside of Greece only once, for a 1999 El Greco exhibition that traveled to Athens, Madrid and Rome.

The exhibition is organized in collaboration with the Benaki Museum in Athens and the Archdiocese of Crete and it is exclusively funded by the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (USA). It will be on view at the Onassis Cultural Center, 645 Fifth Avenue, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, until February 27. Admission is free. More information can be found at : <http://www.onassisusa.org/occ.art.htm>



*Domenikos Theotokopoulos
(El Greco). The Dormition
of the Virgin. Before 1567.
Egg tempera on wood,
62.5 x 52.5 cm.
Syros, Ermoupolis,
Holy Metropolis,
Church of the Dormition
of the Virgin.*

Photo: Makis Skiadaresis

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ANCIENT GREECE COMES ALIVE IN CONGRESS



*Professor Louis Markos during
his presentation.*

Congressman Gus Bilirakis, Co-Chairman of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus welcomed Dr. Louis Markos, a distinguished Professor in English and Scholar-in Residence at Houston Baptist University, who addressed a packed audience of distinguished guests at the U.S. House of

Representatives on October 21, 2009. Professor Markos delivered a riveting presentation that bridged the nexus between the ancient Greek democracy and its progeny as we know it: modern America.

Dr. Markos' presentation is part of the "Contemporary World through Classic Eyes Lecture Series" co-sponsored by the National Hellenic Society, The Congressional Hellenic Caucus, The American Hellenic Institute Foundation and Odyssey Magazine. The Lecture Series provides a refreshing perspective of the old world within the context of contemporary issues and challenges. Dr. Markos addressed several Congressional members of the Hellenic Caucus, staff and dignitaries that included Cyprus Ambassador Andreas Kakouris, Greece's Defense Attaché Colonel Taxiarchis Sardellis, Greece's Press Attaché, Magda Hatzopoulos, American Hellenic Institute

Executive Director, Nick Larigakis, public policy and government representatives and members of the public.

Tim Maniatis, Executive Director of the National Hellenic Society stated that "we are thrilled and grateful to have the opportunity to bring to life our rich heritage in this relevant and meaningful way. National Hellenic Society's mission is to preserve our rich heritage which Professor Markos masterfully inspires us to appreciate in our everyday lives. A democracy by definition is a transparent society that exposes its problems so that we can be made aware of them, fix them and avoid repeating mistakes of the past. The National Hellenic Society is pleased to be a cosponsor of this unprecedented Congressional lecture series."

The National Hellenic Society celebrates Hellenic heritage by sponsoring and organizing programs and activities that promote and preserve the values and ideals of our Hellenic culture thereby enriching our community and nation. For more information, please visit: www.nationalhellenicsociety.org.



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Kourabiedes

As Christmas approaches, most Greek homes quickly fill with the sweet aromas of cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and baked almonds as families begin to prepare cookies, pastries and bread for the holiday season. White mountains of shortbread-like Christmas cookies, called Kourabiedes, beautifully adorn Greek bakeries worldwide. These scrumptious yuletide tidbits along with melomakarona are a must in every Greek home during the holiday season.

Kourabiedes are wonderful for gift giving and ideal for Christmas since 'tis the season' for giving homemade gifts from the kitchen, cookie swaps and parties. These light fabulous puffs of almond instantly melt in your mouth and are the easiest of all Greek cookies to make. If you are pressed for time, like most of us are during this time of the year, you can make kourabiedes in parts. The dough can be prepared ahead and frozen up to 2 weeks. When you are ready, simply defrost the dough and continue with step 3. However, before you freeze your dough, why not make a fun and festive event out of it? Gather your friends and family for a Christmas baking party and make kourabiedes together. You will not only slash your time in the kitchen, you will also have a fantastic time and may even create a new holiday tradition!



Prep time: 30 minutes

Bake Time: 15 minutes

Makes about 35 pieces

Ingredients:

- 1 pound unsalted butter, softened
- ¾ cups powdered sugar, plus additional for coating
- 2 egg yolks
- 4 cups all purpose flour, sifted
- 1 cup almonds, finely chopped and toasted
- ¼ cup cognac
- 3 to 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Preparation:

1. Using an electric mixer on medium speed, combine butter, powdered sugar and egg yolks until light and fluffy, for about 10 to 15 minutes.
2. Gradually add vanilla, cognac, baking powder, flour and almonds. Continue to mix well for 2 minutes.
3. Transfer dough onto a piece of parchment paper. Knead dough well and let stand for about 10 minutes.
4. Break off 1-inch pieces of dough and roll between palms. Shape into crescents, rounds or ovals. If you want to make a more festive cookie, use Christmas themed cookies cutters for half the batch. I personally love tree and star shaped cutters, which are especially popular among children.
5. Place on lightly greased baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until slightly golden brown.
6. Carefully transfer the cookies onto a wire rack and immediately sift powdered sugar over cookies until generously coated.

Once they cool, place onto a festive serving tray and enjoy!

Store extra kourabiedes in an air tight container because they are fragile and become extremely soft and easily crumble when exposed to humidity.

Kali Oresi and Hronia Polla!



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The Seizmos group from Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco.



Thanos Petrelis performs before thousands of adoring fans at the 2009 FDF Awards Banquet.



His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco leads an Agiasmos Service at the opening of the 2009 FDF.

Glendi which will take place in the South Hall building just steps from the Marriott hotel. South Hall is an impressive, airplane-like hangar that will be beautifully set for the more than 2,400 anticipated guests to join in fellowship and accept their awards for the effort and dedication they have put towards their performances.

FDF is one of the most phenomenal ministries of the Metropolis of San Francisco and it is designed to bring together Greek Orthodox Christians of all ages through the love of Greek folk dance and music. It is a forum where youth can come together in friendly competition to share and showcase the history of the Greek people, share in faith and fellowship and create lifelong friendships and memories.

The festival was founded in 1976 by the Junior Parish Council of Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church in San Diego, California. Led by dedicated and faithful members of the Metropolis, FDF grew to become the event that it is today. There are at least 5 states represented each year including California, Arizona, Nevada, Washington and Oregon, over 2,000 registered dancers who participate and over 7,500 visitors throughout the weekend. There is nowhere else in the world where someone can experience this extraordinary display of Greek folk dance. Some of the best dancers and performers have been part of FDF for the last 34 years and it is recognized as the premiere Greek folk dance festival in the United States and arguably the world.

"Keeping our youth connected to their culture and faith are very important to their

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Youngest dancers attending FDF participated in the non-competitive Division III.

aspects like the "Diakonia Projects", which are community service projects that each dance group participates in prior to attending FDF. There are also several scholarships available to participants, which send dancers and directors to workshops both in Greece and within the United States. Faith based workshops are also one of the core tent poles of the event and during the weekend they give participants the opportunity to meet new friends in an intimate, non-competitive setting while learning about the Orthodox faith. One of the festival highlights of the weekend is the

special program funding, working with top-tier sponsors and developing other important initiatives that will give FDF additional resources to grow stronger in the future.

For more information on the Greek Orthodox Folk Dance and Choral Festival or the FDF 2010 weekend, you may visit the official FDF web site at www.yourfdf.org.

For sponsorship opportunities or to become an official partner, you may send inquiries to info@yourfdf.org.



FDF: The premiere Greek folk dance festival in the US

For over 30 years, West Coast's Greek Orthodox Folk Dance and Choral Festival (FDF) has become one of the most vibrant youth ministries in the Greek Orthodox Church. With over 65 parishes across the western United States which comprise the Metropolis of San Francisco, FDF has been the meeting place for thousands of Greek Orthodox Christians year after year.

This time around the 34th Annual Festival will be held in the downtown area of San Jose, CA, on January 14-17, 2010 – Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. It's the first time in many years that FDF has gone to Northern California, having spent the last five years in Los Angeles. The excitement is quickly building as many of the FDF participants and dancers come from the northern part of the state and the festival has already garnered over 1,800 registered participants. The event will take place in a variety of venues including two beautifully restored historic theatres, the Civic Auditorium and the Montgomery Theatre.

Workshops will be held at the San Jose Marriott in a number of rooms on both Friday and Saturday during the day while the dancing is going on. Workshops are led by parish priests from around the Metropolis and this year will focus on a host of Orthodox topics including presentations centered on family, tying into the festival's theme – "Family Takes Center Stage".

In the evening, after the dancing, the Glendis are where participants continue to show their love for Greek folk dancing and celebrate their culture. As the weekend comes to a close, the festival grand finale ends with the Sunday Awards Banquet and



future involvement in the Greek Orthodox Church. Many of the thousands of youth who have participated in FDF over the past 33 years have remained close to the Church, and now serve their parishes as Parish Council members, Sunday School teachers, youth advisors, and some of our former dancers are now priests in our Metropolis. We are blessed that this event brings together so many Orthodox families and provides them the opportunity to cultivate lasting friendships," stated His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. FDF isn't just Greek folk dancing and costumes. It has a plethora of important

Sunday Awards Banquet and Dinner that hosts over 2,400 people and is the place where participants receive their awards and trophies for the hard work and performance they presented throughout the weekend.

Although FDF is one of the largest youth ministries in the United States, the board of directors and FDF organization are constantly enhancing the program and encouraging more participation from across the Metropolis and beyond. Currently, the organization is working on progressive strategies to increase the FDF Endowment Fund, provide more scholarship opportunities, charitable donations, create

The Argonaftes from Saint John the Baptist in Las Vegas performed a suite of Pontian dances.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL!

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PERI X SCOPE



Lack of space has curtailed by half the extension of my message to you this month, the last for this year. Another annual cycle is about to be concluded and looking at the 2009 NEO issues gloriously spread out on my art nouveau—like--due to extensive use and damage--sofa, I enjoy the feeling of accomplishment, but at the same time, I feel the stress caused by noticing things missing or not having gone according to plan(s) or that never existed in the first place! “No matter what I do, I never win,” I want to exclaim, but then I realize it’s one in the morning and I drown my anger in a sip of Ukrainian vodka fortified with hot chilly pepper, a memento from a trip to Kiev. They say it’s good for sore throat, but I have come to realize it can cure many things, albeit temporarily.

Going back to my early morning reverie, I think that no matter how hard we try doing things, we’ll always be second even when running alone. And this is because time is outrunning us constantly, becoming our opponent and judge simultaneously, triumphantly showing up at every turn to outdo our expectations!

However, what we’ve created in the process testifies to our unwillingness to

give up, because unlike the Sisyphian stone, ours doesn’t go back down, it keeps going forward, like the bunny in the Duracell batteries ad, which thanks to technology’s advancement, can be recharged and last much longer, taking this trip to new seas and ports.

So, let us all rejoice in the fact that we almost reached the finish line this year having mastered the target number of 10 NEO issues, one slightly better than the other. A deed not to overlook if you take into consideration that it was a tough year for almost everybody, especially those in the publication business. But we can’t complain, you, our readers and supporters, stepped up to the task and made this endeavor possible, despite the surrounding Cassandras predicting one doom after the other and the end of capitalism as we knew it!

Lies! Crooks still get their bonuses, bigger than they expected, multi-billion wagers on fictitious products and money continue unabated, reform of any kind seems as remote as Mars from Earth, and banks who took our tax dollars for their rescue, now that they are on the safe side give us no loans! The rich still become richer at our expense, so if that

WRAPPING UP FOR CHRISTMAS

isn’t capitalism at its best, then what is it?

Well, I got carried away and I forgot that this is a Christmas issue, not necessarily the one where you are supposed to look back at things that happened in order to evaluate them. That process usually takes place before New Year’s, only to become scarce as the clock strikes midnight and the party regroups in full swing. Try to forget about everything bad and miserable this time and enjoy your Christmas and New Year’s Eve with less shopping, more love, good mood, funny company and intelligent conversation around pure drinks and a nice smelling-cigar here and there. This crisis has helped to remind us that we don’t need all things we perhaps don’t have now in order to be happy. As in decoration, often times less is more!

DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS
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P.S. Those of you who haven’t placed a Holiday ad in NEO’s December issue, there’s no need to feel bad. Our special issue will come out in January and that gives you a full three weeks to comply!

Equal Opportunity Lender

**Peace on earth
this holiday season.**

**Merry Christmas from all of us
at Atlantic Bank.**

Best Wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year from your friends at Atlantic Bank. We look forward to continuing to provide you with the friendly, professional service you expect and deserve. Thank you for making Atlantic Bank your partner for success in 2010.



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Maria's Slate: Recessionista Fashionista

By Maria A. Pardalis

Are you still indulging in your shoe or bag fetish despite our obvious challenging economic climate? Is your desire for fashion so strong that you rather have that new pair of purple velvet Lanvin's in place of heat? Do you already have outfits for all the upcoming holiday fetes as well as backup outfits? If so, I'm sorry to say that the time has come to alter your style and shopping habits, including your traditional Christmas routine. Financial trouble has hit us all in some shape or form and this undeniably includes the fashion industry. An example of the economic hardship we are facing globally is when one of France's biggest names, Christian Lacroix, filed for Chapter 11. Thankfully United Arab Emirates Sheikh Hassan Bin Ali al-Naimi recently offered to rescue Christian Lacroix, which is wonderful, but who will rescue you? Yes, you might be a fashionista and feel the need to protect your social status, however I must agree with Karl Lagerfeld, "Bling is over. Red-carpet-covered-with-rhinestones is out. I call it 'the new modesty'."

So ladies, get ready to transform yourselves into "Recessionista Fashionistas"! You will now be on a new quest for fine items at an affordable cost. You might have to trade your Louboutins for Jimmy Choo heels at H&M, but you certainly do not have to hit up Forever21 or Target for disposable clothing. Quality over quantity should be your new shopping motto. Now is the time to buy yourself a few good investment pieces that can be worn from day to night.



The first rule that you must follow as a recessionista is how to best maximize your wardrobe. Buying yourself a designer scarf might not sound like a budget friendly purchase, especially when you have Christmas gifts to buy, but trust me it is. Scarves can be worn tons of ways! I personally adore Hermes scarves which are timeless, always trendy and extremely versatile. I urge you to go to: <http://usa.hermes.com>, click on Scarves 90 and download "playtime with your scarf", you will be amazed and begin to dream of owning your very own Tout en Carre. Now pair your tres expensive scarf with an ultra cheap white tank top, sequenced black tights and high heels all from bargain stores like Loehmann's, Kohl's, or Century 21 and voila! You will instantly look like you just stepped off a fashion show set.

The trick is to buy five expensive wardrobe staples, the rest you can accumulate over time by checking out the latest sales and searching for coupons online. It is important to note that most stores bring in new inventory Thursday night or Friday morning, making these the best days to shop. This not only applies to clothing, there are still Christmas gifts to buy, remember? Lucky for you, holiday savings and half-yearly sales are everywhere!



Here are a few of my best
Cheap & Chic creative
Christmas gift ideas

1. Make a Scrapbook

This is the perfect gift to give to your grandparents and parents. Ask your family and friends to send you pictures, bring them to Staples to make copies, visit your local craft shop for some paper supplies and look around your home for anything sentimental that you can include. Once you have your materials, you are ready to get your craft on!

2. Homemade gifts from your kitchen

Everyone loves edible gifts. They are not only delicious but a great way to spread holiday cheer. Try my recipe for Kourabiedes featured in this month's "Bread & Honey" column or check out: <http://www.christmas-cookies.com/> for some ideas. Once your baked goods are ready, place in a festive basket or jar and make sure to include the recipe!

3. Wine

Did you know you can buy a good bottle of wine for as low as \$10.00? Trader Joe's offers many quality wines at very affordable prices. If you have a group of people who are willing to chip in for a gift, give a membership to a wine club for the vin enthusiast in your life.



4. Go Green!

Why not promote environmental awareness this year, give reusable shopping totes which became the new black thanks to the support from Hollywood. Or offer your services such as a free night of babysitting to a loved one.

5. Give Back

Charity donations are unforgettable and the gifts that keep on giving. Choose a charity that supports the values that your recipients uphold.

For more Cheap & Chic Christmas ideas or tips on reducing costs and improving your closet during tough economic times, feel free to email me at mapardalis@gmail.com.

A Happy and
Prosperous 2010



Best Wishes for
this Holiday Season

The Officers and Directors
of

The Hellenic American Bankers Association

are pleased to invite you to:

"The Recovery is for Real: Solid and Sustainable"
Featuring Chris Varvares, Macroeconomic Advisers, LLC

Thursday, December 17, 2009

6:00pm - 8:30pm

at

Barclays Wealth
745 Seventh Avenue
32nd Floor
New York, NY 10019

Wine and Hors d'oeuvres Reception

Admission: This event is free for members in good standing (2009). Friends of HABA are always welcome to attend. The non-member admission is \$40.

Tickets may be purchased online, with your credit card (except Amex) or PayPal, by visiting <http://haba20091217.eventbrite.com/>. **Pre-registration is required.**

Chris Varvares is President of Macroeconomic Advisers, a company he co-founded with Joel Prakken and Laurence Meyer as Laurence H. Meyer & Associates in 1982. The firm became Macroeconomic Advisers in June of 1996 when Dr. Meyer joined the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Mr. Varvares has over 25 years of experience in macroeconomic forecasting and policy analysis, both as a principal of Macroeconomic Advisers (1982 to present) and as a member of the staff of the President's Council of Economic Advisers (1981-1982). While at the Council, he served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the OECD in April 1982. Mr. Varvares was the president (Oct 2008 - Sept 2009) and a former director of the National Association for Business Economics, served as President of the St. Louis chapter, and is a member of the American Economic Association. He serves as a member of Time Magazine's Board of Economists, is a member of the New York State Economic and Revenue Advisory Board, serves on the Bureau of the Census Advisory Committee for Economic Programs and has been a panelist for the World Economic Forum.