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**TED LEONSIS:
FINDING SUCCESS
AND HAPPINESS
IN MANY FIELDS**

PHOTO: NED DISHMAN/IMAGETTY

**JANUARY
NEO**

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FOUNDED IN 2005 BY

Demetrios Rhompotis
Dimitri Michalakis
Kyprianos Bazanikas

Publishing

Committee Chairman

Demetrios Rhompotis

(718) 554-0308

dondemetrio@neomagazine.com

Director of Operations

Kyprianos Bazanikas

info@neomagazine.com

Marketing & Advertising Director

Tommy Harmantzis

(347) 613-4163

th@radioneo.us

ATHENS - GREECE

Public Relations &

Marketing Director

Margarita Vartholomeou

margavarth2010@hotmail.com

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P.O. Box 560105

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info@neomagazine.com

A big man with a big vision

Ted Leonsis is a big burly man who has tackled a number of business enterprises with astonishing success and a flair for the big vision that seems to be his trademark.

Perhaps it comes from his early days growing up in Brooklyn, where a teacher once famously told his parents: "I don't think Ted is college material."

What he did to prove her wrong is the stuff of the Leonsis legend: when his parents moved back to Lowell, Massachusetts, where they had lived before he was born, Leonsis drove a forklift at night and worked in a dress factory by day, sold shoes on Wisconsin Avenue, and also bagged groceries at the Demoulas Market. "My destiny was to bag groceries, move up to cashier, then manager of the produce department, then, if I really worked hard, I would get to manage a store."

Instead he graduated Georgetown University, and after college he worked in the public relations department at Wang Labs, where he found his calling: "Ted is an interesting guy, a curious guy, a bright guy," said John Cunningham, who worked with him at Wang. "He loves the limelight, more so than most people."

His instinct for marketing led him to start Redgate Communications, which put catalogues on CD-ROMs, but the company had some cliff-hangers, as in the winter of 1988, when it didn't have enough money to meet its payroll. His wife Lynn was pregnant with their first child, around the same time his mother had died, and it was at the funeral that Leonsis realized he might also lose his company.

"I don't think Christmas is going to be too good, Ted," one company executive told him, "We've got \$7 in our corporate checking account."

"I had 30 seconds of self-pity," Leonsis said.

He mortgaged some land the couple owned in Florida, then he called an investor and borrowed \$500,000. (That investor, said Leonsis, "made like \$40 million on his investment.") By 1994, the company had 120 people on the payroll and billings of \$70 million a year, which is when Steve Case and AOL came calling. AOL bought Redgate and Leonsis became an executive and later president of AOL.

"How do I get office furniture?" Leonsis asked on his first day. "Work late," Case answered him.

At AOL, Leonsis became the "visionary" and marketing whiz, running the company's online service, and heading AOL Studios, which developed the company's Internet shows and original programming. Before the Time Warner merger, he also headed the instant messaging service ICQ, and the movie listing and ticketing service MovieFone.

"This is a great time to be alive," Leonsis admitted at the time of the hurly-burly of his business life, but he also compiled a personal two-page list of "101 Things to Do" after suffering a scare in 1983 when a flight he was traveling on nearly crash-landed. "I don't want to die," he remembered thinking. "I told myself that if I live, I'm going to play offense."

He's since checked off most of the items on his to-do list (including doing stand-up comedy, catching a foul ball off Mookie Wilson at the Mets training camp, and giving to charity and his alma mater: "I'm the youngest person in the school's history to give a million bucks"). Said AOL Time Warner head Steve Case, "He's blasting right through them. He wants to live life fully. He sets targets and he achieves them."

"I want to hand out copies at my funeral and have people say, 'I was with him when he did Number 12,'" said Leonsis. He said others have made their own lists and "they call me to brag about it."

Top items on his list related to sports (he played intramural basketball and street hockey) and No. 65 was to own a sports franchise, which he ticked off when he bought the Washington Capitals and a minority share in a sports conglomerate that owned the Washington Wizards basketball team and brought in Michael Jordan as a minority partner and president of basketball operations.

"This is great," Leonsis boasted at a hockey game as the newly-minted team owner (though mostly he's soft-spoken and professorial and only has the give-away New England twang). "This is what I want."

"I'm only scared of what I don't know," he once said, and he likes to borrow a quote: "The best way to predict the future is to invent it."



FROM THE EDITOR



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Editor in Chief:

Dimitri C. Michalakis

info@neomagazine.com

Lifestyle Editor

Maria A. Pardalis

mapardalis@gmail.com

Western Region Desk

- Los Angeles

Joanna Xipa

(760) 805-1691

joanna@neomagazine.com

Alexander Mizan

director@americanhellenic.org

- San Jose Office

Andrea Photopoulos

a.photopoulos@neomagazine.com

Baltimore Desk

Georgia Vavas

gvavas@comcast.net

Photo/Fashion

New York: ETA Press

fpapagermanos@yahoo.com

Los Angeles: Nick Dimitroklis

(951) 764-5737

photobynikos@hotmail.com

Graphic Design

NEOgraphix

Adrian Salescu

Athens Desk

Konstantinos Rhompotis

(01130) 210 51 42 446

(01130) 6937 02 39 94

k.rhompotis@neomagazine.com

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Amcorjgl@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Makropoulos

SECRETARY

Larry Karantzios

LKarantzios@juniper.net

RECORDING SECRETARY

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TREASURER

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Maria Frantzis, Katbarine Pritsos, Maria Pliuas, Andrea Megaris, Alexandra Tsiatis, Maritza Pritzos

Hellenic Professional Women Host Their Holiday Networking Event



Alexia Kontogiannis, Penny Stefanakis, Dr. Toula Georgiou, Dr. Stella Lymberis

Recently, Hellenic Professional Women, Inc. [HPW] hosted their Holiday Networking Event at Kellari Taverna in New York City. The event provided an opportunity to toast the season with old and new friends and look ahead to 2011.

Hellenic Professional Women, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating and enhancing professional opportunities for Greek-American women and students through networking, mentoring and education. Founder, insurance executive, Maria Frantzis, has created a group that helps members advance their professional goals, build personal relationships, and promote their businesses while developing vibrant employment and mentorship programs. A primary focus is to advance the goals of the next generation of young professionals.

The Annual Career and Employment Forum will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at Kellari Taverna from 8AM -12:15PM. The event will offer attendees the opportunity to hear presentations from successful professionals, network with professionals from a wide range of fields and participate in workshops on employment related topics. This will be an excellent venue for college students to connect with Greek-American professional women and explore career paths and summer internship opportunities.

HPW meets every six-eight weeks in various locations throughout the New York metropolitan area. For additional information those interested should contact Maria Frantzis, Mfrantzis@hellenicprofessionalwomen.org

This past October, HPW presented Ellen Constantinides, Chief Operating Officer of Global Sourcing and Operations for Phillips Van-Heusen Corporation [PVH], as the featured speaker at their meeting.

For more information on the HPW their website is: www.hellenicprofessionalwomen.org



Mary Zias, Christina Tettonis, Nomiki Makrinos, Georgia Kaloidis, Mary Filippakis, Anna Hasapoglou



Alexandra Rigas, Penny Georgagopoulos, Menia Skreki, Ronnie Kratsios, Siss Nikolaou, Georgia Kaitery, Joanne Manis

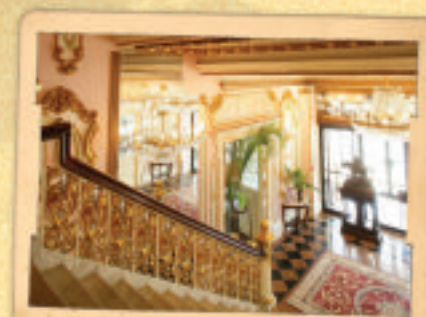


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SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM MIKE & LIBBY ANGELIADES



Mike & Libby Angeliades with children (from left) Alana, Aegina, Irena and Pbaedra and husband Emmanuel

Mike Angeliades of M.A. Angeliades, Inc. and his wife Libby hosted their annual Christmas party this past December at the Water's Edge Restaurant in Long Island City, New York.

More than 200 guests, among them family members, friends, business associates and employees gathered to toast to another year of success and hard work, having New York City skyline as background and the sounds of beautiful Greek music by the Mikrokosmos Ensemble setting the beat.

Mike Angeliades has hosted this Christmas party since 1985 and he takes the opportunity to wish all those close to him Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year.

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Libby Angeliades with daughters Alana and Aegina



Zoe Mosbovitis and Genevieve Stefatos



From left, Antbe and Alana



Cleo Kordis and Vali Statbopoulos



Mike Angeliades, Jim Stefatos, George Kasselakis and Vali Statbopoulos



From left, Mr. Stroumbakis, Ms. Sofia Milonis, Mr. Spiros Voutsinas, Atlantic Bank President, Mrs. Sophia Stroumbakis, Ms. Matilda Economou, Mr. Kimon Bakos and Ms. Nancy Papaioannou



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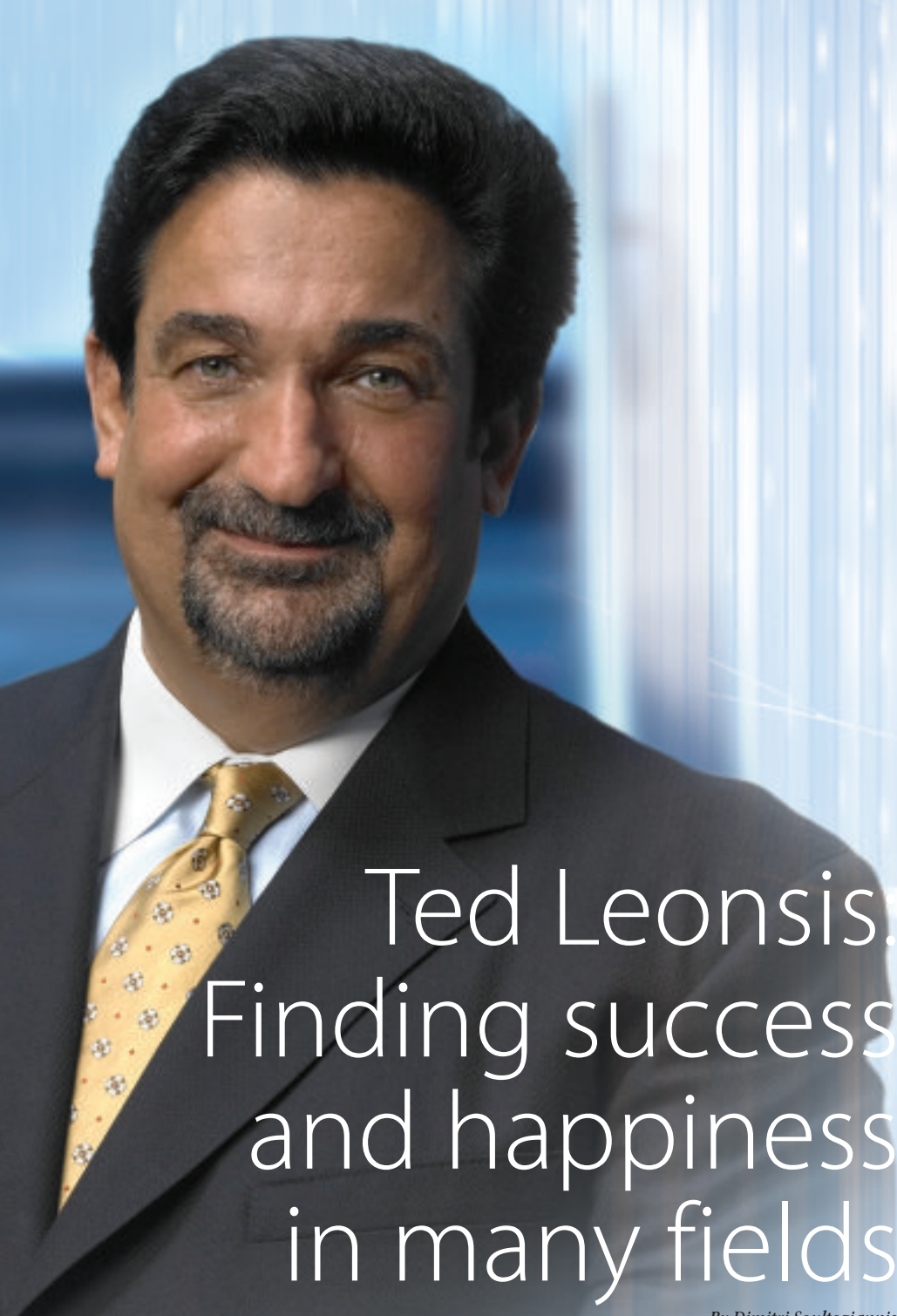
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Ted Leonsis. Finding success and happiness in many fields

By Dimitri Soultogiannis

“You don’t have to be successful to be happy, but you do have to be happy in order to become successful,” -Ted Leonsis

Ted Leonsis is a name affiliated with entrepreneurship and success, not only within the borders of the Greek-American community but way past them. A Brooklyn native, born to Greek parents Ted could not possibly have one job title. He is an Internet pioneer, a sports team owner, an investor, a filmmaker, an author as well as a philanthropist. His first “baby”, his early new media company “Redgate Communications” was acquired by America Online in 1994, and Leonsis became a senior AOL executive for the next 13

years. He is currently owner of sports properties, including the NHL’s Washington Capitals & NBA’s Washington Wizards, as well as the Chairman of Revolution Money, SnagFilms, and other companies, the producer of documentary films such as the Peabody and the Emmy Award-winning “Nanking” and the author of “The Business of Happiness”

The Greek American entrepreneur has based his very own life on one principle, the one that made

his book “The Business of Happiness” a bestseller. “You do not need to be successful to be happy, but you do need to be happy in order to become successful,” said Leonsis. During his interview with Neo Magazine, Leonsis admitted that his Greek background played a significant role in shaping his business profile. “Growing up Greek I was always involved with community activities, including church, Greek school and organizations, you learn how to team play, be creative and therefore excel,” he said. Leonsis does not necessarily come from an educated or wealthy family, he was raised, however, with much love and that certainly reflects in his biography. His parents worked as a waiter and a secretary. After skipping 8th grade, Leonsis attended Brooklyn Tech but before graduation, his family moved back to their hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts. He graduated from Lowell High School in 1973 and Georgetown University in 1977. After graduation, Leonsis moved back to his parents’ home in Lowell and began working for Wang Laboratories. After surviving an airplane crash landing in 1983, he drafted a list of 101 things to do in life and has completed many of the tasks, including owning a sports franchise. Today, Leonsis lives in McLean, Virginia, and Vero Beach, Florida, with his wife and two children. He has earned many titles in his life, enough to cover the walls of a mansion house such as Businessperson of the Year in 2001 by Washington Business Journal and Washingtonian of the Year by Washingtonian Magazine and in 2009, Leonsis was named one of Washington’s Tech Titans by Washingtonian Magazine.

Among with other businesses America on-line has been a big part of Leonsis’ business life. Brought on to help AOL compete with Microsoft, his career with AOL started in 1993 when AOL purchased his marketing company, Redgate Communications Corp. From 1994 to 1997, Leonsis helped increase AOL’s membership from fewer than 800,000 members to 8 million. Revenue also increased from \$100 million to \$1.5 billion. Even though his business partnership with AOL officially ended in 2006, he held numerous positions at AOL during his years there, completing his tenure as the audience group’s president and vice-chairman. Today, he serves as vice chairman emeritus of AOL. There is no question that Ted Leonsis has a plateful of responsibilities as he currently serves as founding chairman of SnagFilms, a social media website that lets viewers watch and share documentary films. He is also chairman of ClearSpring Technologies and Revolution Money, a subsidiary of Revolution LLC the investment company created by Steve Case. In July 2010, Leonsis was elected to the Board of Directors of American Express, he chairs the New Innovation and Technology Committee and in December 2008, Leonsis was named to the board of NutriSystem, Inc. A few months later, in June 2009, Leonsis was appointed as member of Alcatel-Lucent Board’s Technology Committee and also serves on the board of Groupon and Rosetta Stone. Aside of his busy business schedule Leonsis is currently on the board of directors at Georgetown University, his alma mater.

Ted Leonsis has collected an impressive amount of titles and awards over the years. Philanthropy and

giving to the ones in need, however, was always more important to him. Leonsis is a mentor through the Hoop Dreams program. Through Hoop Dreams, Leonsis was able to guide Michael Hendrickson into and through his first choice college. Leonsis and Hendrickson continue this relationship today. When asked about Hoop Dreams, Leonsis said, “The Hoop Dreams Scholarship Fund is extraordinary and this

2009, he received criticism for preventing visiting team fans from purchasing Capitals playoff tickets. Months after purchasing the Wizards, Leonsis criticized the NBA’s salary cap at a luncheon with business leaders. He was fined \$100,000 by the league, for “unauthorized public comments regarding the league’s collective bargaining negotiations.” Leonsis has been criticized for raising ticket prices and has been compared to



Ted with President Barack Obama

Tournament really brings together so many different segments of the city to do something good for the youth of DC. Together, we can help make the educational dreams of hard working students a reality.” In addition, Leonsis is a contributor to the See Forever Foundation and to YouthAIDS. He also sponsors his own philanthropic foundation, the Leonsis Foundation, dedicated to creating “opportunities for children that enable them to reach their highest potential.” The Foundation “partners with and supports organizations with the creativity, skill and dedication to help children overcome obstacles and achieve their goals.”

A successful and glamorous career, however, could not possibly be one with no controversies and no “ups and downs”. In 2004, Leonsis was involved in a violent altercation with a fan, Jason Hammer, who was jeering him for trading Jaromir Jagr. Though cut and bruised, Hammer decided not to press charges against Leonsis. The entrepreneur has proposed that he will restore the name of the Washington basketball franchise to the Bullets, however, critics said that this would “send the wrong message” about gun violence in Washington. In 2001, Leonsis claimed to have written a computer program that prevented Pittsburgh Penguins fans, the Capitals first-round opponent, from purchasing tickets online. When asked if the actions were unfair, Leonsis stated, “I don’t care. I’m going to keep doing it.” Again in

Washington Redskins’ owner Daniel Snyder for his treatment of fans. Despite the Capital’s first round exit in the 2010 Playoffs, ticket prices were increased between 13 and 50 percent. He allegedly mocked a fan that protested unfair ticket practices.

Ted Leonsis with Magic Johnson



PHOTO: Ned Dishman/NBAE/Getty

Putting all this behind him, Leonsis is starting his new year by participating and being one of the featured speakers at the 20th Annual Leadership 100 conference at the Breakers in Palm Beach, Florida, February 24th-27th, 2011 along with the celebrated space pioneer Peter Diamandis, noted archeologist John McKesson Camp II and Executive Chef, Michael Psilakis. When asked about the Annual Leadership 100 conference, Leonsis said “I am honored to be one of the featured speaker during this year’s conference. I am looking forward to it.” In 1984, under the guidance of Archbishop Iakovos, Leadership 100 was created as an endowment fund of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese through which Greek Orthodox leaders were asked to commit themselves to offer \$10,000 a year for a total of \$100,000 each to maintain the life-sustaining ministries of the Church. Today, Leadership 100, renamed the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund in recognition of Archbishop Iakovos’ vision, is a separately incorporated endowment fund supporting the priority needs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, but broadly dedicated to advancing the Orthodox faith and Hellenic ideals in America. Leadership 100 disburses grants ranging from scholarship funds for individuals studying for the priesthood, building an information infrastructure and Internet ministries for the Archdiocese, promoting the National Ministries and providing assistance to emergencies such as September 11, Hurricane Katrina, earthquakes and medical needs. With the initial membership of 100 soon surpassed, Leadership 100 “raised the bar” and grew progressively to 300, doubling its membership to 600 in 2000 and now to 847 members in 2010, including 88 Leadership 100 Partners, young professionals who progress in their contributions as they progress in their careers, and 5 Leadership 100 Junior Partners enrolled by their parents. The membership includes a broad spectrum of Greek Orthodox leaders, men and women of all ages from every field. Leadership 100 is a driving force to seed and nurture new programs that advance Orthodoxy and Hellenism into the 21st Century.



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*Nicholas J. Bouras
Summit, NJ*

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(L-R) Dr. John Grossomanides, AHEPA Supreme Vice President, George D. Behrakis with Award, and Nicholas A. Karacostas, AHEPA Supreme President.

GEORGE D. BEHRAKIS HONORED BY AHEPA

By John T. Baglaneas

George D. Behrakis, Chairman Emeritus of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, was presented with the 2010 Archbishop Iakovos Humanitarian Award by the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) on November 20, 2010, at the Northeast Regional Biennial Banquet of the organization at St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, Connecticut, outside of New Haven.

The Archbishop Iakovos Humanitarian Award was given for Behrakis' service and philanthropy at the local, national and international levels. He was among honorees that included former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, Connecticut

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, the Honorable Judge Socrates H. Mihalakos, and Dr. John Eleftheriades of New Haven's Yale Medical Center.

A member of AHEPA for 50 years, Behrakis has devoted his philanthropy and leadership to a variety of institutions, including Northeastern University, Brigham & Women's Hospital, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Harvard School of Public Health, and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, where The George D. and Margo Behrakis Art of the Ancient World Wing was recently dedicated.

Behrakis, who was a pioneer in the pharmaceutical industry, is an avid churchman who has served as President of Lowell's historic Holy Trinity Church, on the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council, and

as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Order of St. Andrew. After many years serving on the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of Leadership 100, he became Chairman at a critical juncture in the history of the organization that saw dramatic growth. He was instrumental in its move to the Olympic Tower in New York City. After stepping down as Chairman, he continued his involvement, chairing with his wife, Margo, the 25th Anniversary Celebration Conference in 2009.

Replacing the national banquet held in Washington, DC, AHEPA's newly instituted regional format as evidenced by the Northeast Regional Biennial Banquet has allowed greater accessibility to the area chapters in honoring their own in the presence of AHEPA's national leadership. AHEPA Supreme President Nicholas A. Karacostas and Executive Director, Basil Mossaidis, were in attendance, as were a number of trustees, including Chairman Frank Marinos, who made the trip from Warren, Ohio. Supreme Vice President, Dr. John Grossomanides, served as Master of Ceremonies at the event, which was attended by 250 members and their guests.



(L-R) Paulette Poulos, Acting Executive Director of Leadership 100, honoree George D. Behrakis and Margo Behrakis with AHEPA Supreme Vice President Dr. John Grossomanides.



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and L100 Chairman Constantine G. Caras present the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Award for Excellence with special designation as "Honorary Life-time Member, Board of Trustees", to Nicholas J. Bouras, center, at Bouras Properties in Summit, New Jersey, September 16, 2010, while Cassandra Romas, far left, Managing Director of Bouras Properties and Secretary of Leadership 100 and Paulette Poulos, Acting Executive Director of Leadership 100 and Bill Crane, far right, a Bouras friend and advisor, look on.

NICHOLAS J. BOURAS DESIGNATED LIFE-TIME BOARD MEMBER

The Leadership 100 Board of Trustees voted unanimously at their meeting in New York September 10, 2010 to designate Nicholas J. Bouras, one of the first members to join, and a member of its Board of Trustees since 1997, "Honorary Life-Time Member of the Board of Trustees." His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and Leadership 100 Chairman, Constantine G. Caras, along with Acting Executive Director, Paulette Poulos, traveled to the offices of Bouras Properties in Summit, New Jersey to bestow upon Bouras, the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Award for Excellence for his extraordinary service and philanthropy.

Chairman Caras said that the Leadership 100 Board created the special honor because of the "commitment and dedication of Mr. Bouras over the years." "Nick Bouras has gone the extra mile for our Church and Community supporting every worthwhile cause and responding to every urgent appeal; the consensus of the Board was that he is an extraordinary churchman and one of the finest persons we have had the privilege of knowing," he said.

Bouras, who was born in Pontiac, Michigan and grew up in Chicago and graduated from The School of

Commerce, Northwestern University, spent some 20 years with United States Steel Corporation before beginning his own steel construction company with his wife, Anna K. Bouras, of Blessed Memory, in 1960. He had enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942, serving in World War 2 in Europe where he flew 44 combat missions as lead bombardier and navigator, reaching the rank of Major. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, eight Air Medals and five Battle Stars.

Bouras Industries grew to consist of five operating companies with five manufacturing operations in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Illinois, which became an industry leader in joist and deck production before being sold in 2007. Bouras continues to operate Bouras Properties, LLC, the real estate arm of the company, from the same location.

Bouras is founder and active member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, New Jersey, where he served as President and Chairman of the building committee, an active member of the Archdiocesan Council, serving for 25 years, four years on its Executive Committee, and an Archon Depoutatos of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Order of Saint Andrew, where he serves as National Vice Commander. He received the Order's highest honor, the Patriarch Athenagoras Human Rights Award in 2006. He was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology and is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

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Greek Church hosts Dalaras at Lincoln Center

The Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church, Cultural and Educational Center, of Port Washington, NY, hosted a benefit concert in celebration of "The Hellenic Thread in the Tapestry of American Culture", starring Greek artist, George Dalaras, this past November at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, in New York City. The all successful event featured the City Music Cleveland Orchestra under the baton of Alexandre Myrat, joined by the musicians accompanying Dalaras. The program comprised of selections from George Dalaras' musical career and original works by the renowned composer Christos Hatzis, including the world premiere of Credo (Pistevo).

All proceeds will benefit the Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church, and their fundraising efforts to complete their new facilities. For more information on the project the website is www.hellenicthread.org

In 1980, a very small but determined group set out to establish a Greek Orthodox Church in the town of North Hempstead. The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America granted the church a charter with the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos. Soon after, in February of 1981, Father Nicholas Papageorge celebrated the first Divine Liturgy. The Sunday Church School, the Greek Afternoon School, the Parish Council and fellowship programs followed as the community grew into a family. In November of 1981, the Parish Council selected a name for the church: The Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church.

Today with over 15 organizations and numerous events, the Archangel Michael Church serves over 400 families. The community outgrew its original home and purchased a new property in Port Washington where in 2004, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios broke ground for the church which was built there.



The City Music Cleveland Orchestra under the baton of Alexandre Myrat, joined by George Dalaras and his band



Protopresbyter Dennis Strouzas, Archbishop Demetrios, George Dalaras and Presbyter Evan Evangelidis Mr. & Mrs. Michael Prokop



Archbishop Demetrios, George Dalaras, Consul General of Greece Agbie Balia (second from left), Consul General of Cyprus Koula Sopianiou (first from right) and guests



Taso Kalapoutis, Voula Serres, Spiro Paliouras



Mrs. Myrat, Alex Kapetanios



Maria & Peter Mamais, Maki Koisis, Nick & Marilena Katopodis



Demetroula Psyllos, Barbara Thermos, Tammy Psyllos, Katina Karagounis, Patty Theodoropoulos, Irene Kalogeris



Maria Pagoulatos from New York Community Bank, Patty Karounos, Michelle Lascaradis, and Bessie Ziozis



Andrew & Evangelia Cyprus, Peter Mesologites, Steve & Anna Michaelidis, Angela & Comptroller George Maragos

Dimitris Ziozis with Mr. & Mrs. Sarafoglou

Dimitris Ziozis with Nick Katopodis

John and Irini Metaxas with George Dalaras

Dimitris & Bessie Ziozis with George Dalaras

Voula Serres, George Dalaras, Kostas Zachariadis, Andre Myrat and Jim Ziozis

Tammy Ashley and Perry Alexiou (Fr. Dennis Strouzas in the background)

Emily and Michael Kavourias, Richard and Tammy Ashley, Anne and Michael Prokop, Jim and Bessie Ziozis

Leonard Zangas accepts his award from Dimitris Ziozis

The Hellenic Thread Awards Gala at the Boathouse

On the eve of the Archangel Michael's Greek Orthodox Church, of Port Washington, NY, benefit concert, starring Greek artist George Dalaras, at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, a lavish dinner reception was offered at the Central Park's Boathouse restaurant (owned by parish member Dean Poll) honoring Archbishop Demetrios, Leonard & Penelope Zangas, Mike & Libby Angeliades, Peter & Kathy Mesologites, Perry & Georgia Alexiou and Katherine L. Peters (posthumously) with the Hellenic Thread Award "in recognition of their commitment and support in strengthening and perpetuating the threads of our Greek Orthodox Faith and Hellenic ideals through words, actions and deeds," as Protopresbyter Dennis Strouzas, along with Presbyter Evan Evangelidis stated.

Demetrios Ziozis, co-chairperson and the leading coordinator of the effort, the first in its kind in New York, also thanked "a group of parishioners from the St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church in Braintree, Massachusetts, that offered a model to follow. A special note of appreciation to Cathy Sakellaris, Co-Chairperson of the "Pops Goes Hellenic" event, for all of her help and encouragement. Taking the lead from them it is out hope to share our fundraising knowledge and experiences in providing resources that will be available to guide others in similar projects."

Fr. Strouzas went on to declare that "we are deeply grateful and indebted to the persevering and exemplary efforts of Tammy Ashley, Michael Kavourias, Anne Procop and Demetrios Ziozis, co-chairpersons of this event, as well as the members of the Hellenic Thread committee. This gathering tonight and the concert that will take place tomorrow are a tribute to their hard work, synergy and generosity. I also take this opportunity to thank our sponsors for their financial support. Believe me when I say we could not have done this without you."

The Hellenic Thread is an organization within the Archangel Michael Parish that was established in order to offer "acknowledgement and celebration of the many and varied contributions of those first generations that came (to the US) with nothing other than the clothes they were wearing and the willingness and desire to succeed in this great country. Also, to celebrate the vibrant and strong threads of democracy, culture, the arts and sciences; threads that have endured the test of time and have proven to be resilient and vibrant. Add these to the American tapestry and you have a work of art that depicts all that is good in our nation and society.



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Perry Alexiou, Peter Mesologites, Leonard Zangas and Mike Angeliades



Alexandra Poll, James Stefatos and Anna Michaelidis

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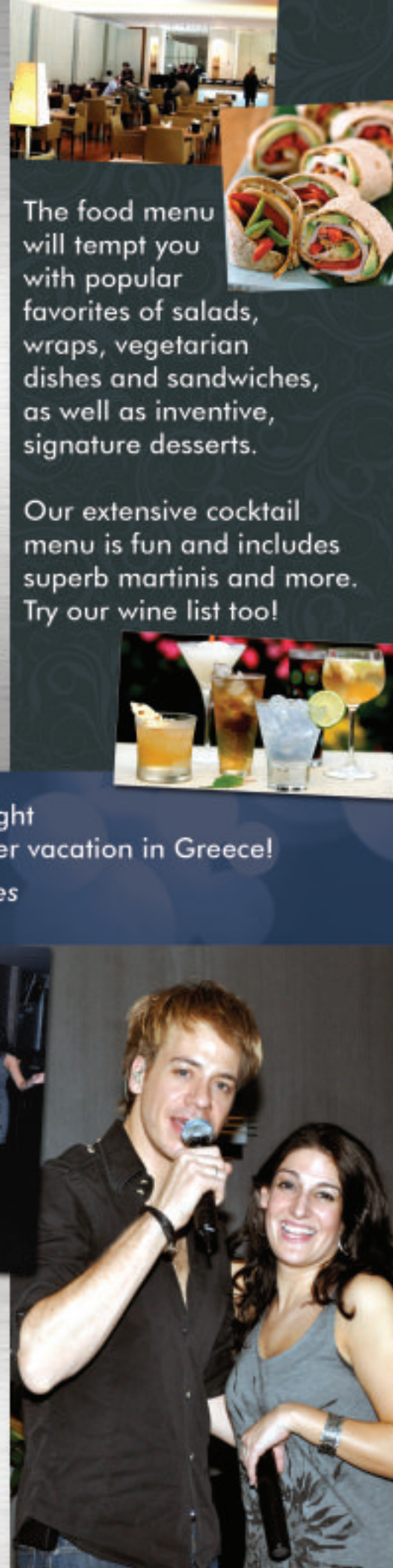


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Pan Gregorian Charitable Foundation holds 26th Annual Ball

Seasons Catering & Venetian Catering owners, Thomas Kourgelis, Christos Gourmos, Mike Kourgelis, Jim Kourgelis, George Kourgelis and Carl Carfello, were the honorees at the 26th Annual Ball of P.G.E.I. (Pan Gregorian Enterprises Inc.) of America Charitable Foundation which was held at The Venetian in Garfield, NJ. More than 500 guests showed up for the big event that culminated another year of successful activities and brought together old and new friends to celebrate and help those in need. The Foundation was established in 1987 as the charitable organization of Pan Gregorian Enterprises, Inc. and has eased the suffering of children with serious diseases. The organization's charitable activities express the gratitude of the membership to their patrons and general public for supporting their diners and restaurants.

The Foundation has succeeded over the years to donate over \$1,000,000 to the following organizations: W.T.C. Relief fund of Victims 9_11; Greek Children's Fund at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; Tomorrow's Children's Fund at Hackensack hospital; Cyprus Children's Fund; Deborah Hospital- Heart and Lung Center; Ronald McDonald House; St. Basil's Academy; Pan Epirotic Federation of America, Canada and Australia; Rutgers University; Earthquake Victims; B'nai B'rith Foundation; St. Michael's Home for the Aged and other charitable causes.

P.G.E.I. of American Charitable Foundation President James Logothetis could not make it to the event this time, having to fly overseas for a family emergency, and Pan Gregorian Enterprises President George Siamboulis offered welcoming remarks and thanked the participants for their support. Paul Kotrotsios, founder of Hermes Expo, was the Master of Ceremonies and entertainment was provided by Stavros Theodorou and Orchestra. Protopresbyter Anargyros Stavropoulos offered the Invocation.



Maria Milonas, George Simaboulis, Toni Mpletsakis, Zoe Kyrkos



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Protopresbyter Anargyros Stavropoulos and Presbytera. Thomas Kourgelis



George Kourgelis, Carl Carfello, Christos Gourmos, James Kourgelis, Michael Kourgelis and friends

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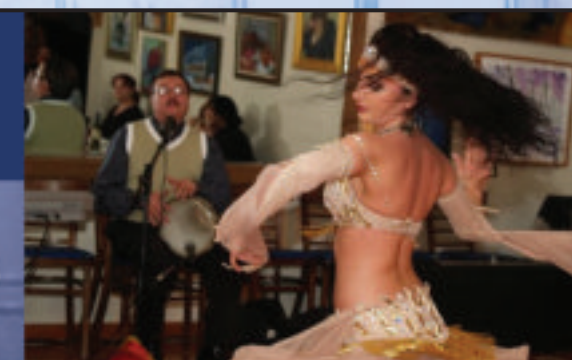
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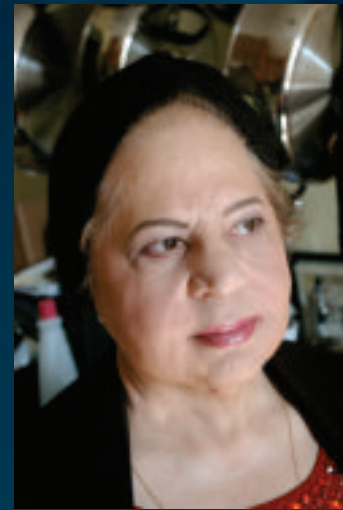
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MARY MARANGOS IN MEMORIAM



Dr. Mary Marangos, a career educator, public servant and a longtime activist in the Hellenic American community, passed away this past December, after a valiant struggle with breast cancer. She was the loving and devoted daughter of

Pantelis Marangos from Kalavassos, Cyprus, and Despina Kyriacou from Lesvos, Greece. She was devoted to them and steadfast in her care of both in their later years.

Mary Marangos was a whirlwind of activity, leading Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney to bestow upon her the nickname "the Greek Cannonball." She was active in and helped organize events for countless organizations such as the Panpaphian Association and the Women's Issues Network of the Pancyprian Association. She worked closely with local organizations such as the Greek-American Homeowners Association, the Cretan Association, and the Federation of Hellenic Societies on important activities such as citizenship and voter registration drives. She was deeply involved in every aspect of the life of the Hellenic-American community.

Her dedication to public service and helping others started early. She was an educator, administrator and coordinator at the vocational/alternative high school level in the New York City public school system, serving as a coordinator of the GED program at the Vocational Training Center at LaGuardia Airport. She coordinated the AIDS Prevention Program on the high school level, training teachers on how to teach HIV prevention and holding conferences on the epidemic. Dr. Marangos also fostered staff development initiatives for elementary school teachers and administrators.

A graduate of New York City public schools, Mary Marangos earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the New York State Education Department, a Master's Degree in high school administration and supervision from Fordham University, and a doctorate in International-Intercultural Developmental Education from Florida State University under a full fellowship from the U.S. Department of Education.

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney for whom Mary worked as liaison to the Greek community, submitted an entry into the Congressional Record to honor her. "As the Member of Congress representing Astoria, New York, home to the largest population of persons of Hellenic descent anywhere in the United States, I have depended on Mary Marangos to serve as my eyes and ears in that thriving, bustling community for the last seventeen years," Maloney stated. "Madam Speaker, I request that my esteemed colleagues join me in paying tribute to the late Dr. Mary Marangos for her extraordinary contributions to the civic life of our nation."

by Peter Shakalis



2010 Manhattan Office Market Ends on a Strong Note...

Steady progress in the Manhattan office space market continued in the fourth quarter of 2010. The overall availability rate (space being shown and marketed for lease even though it's currently leased or occupied) for Manhattan office space declined again in the fourth quarter, falling to 13.0 percent from 13.3 percent in the third quarter of 2010 and 13.8 percent at the end of 2009. As in recent previous quarters, the trend for availability to decline in the Midtown markets and to increase in the Downtown market continued. Nevertheless it appears that the New York City economy and particularly Manhattan's is robust enough to result in the positive absorption of office space.

Midtown North rents moved up again in the fourth quarter with the average asking rate at \$60.99/sf from \$59.95/sf in the third quarter, a 6.9 percent annualized gain. For the Class A buildings in Midtown North, the increase was even larger, equaling an 11.7 percent annualized increase. The availability rate declined again, falling to 12.4 percent from 12.7 percent in the third quarter of 2010 and 14.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009. In the newer glass and steel structures built over the last forty years, the availability rate is even lower. Vacancy rate in this market is now down to 7.3 percent, and the average vacancy rate for the first three quarters of 2010 was 7.6 percent. During the rent surge in the 2006 through mid-2008 period, Midtown North's vacancy rate remained in the area of 5 percent. Given the current economic/business projections for New York City and the likely few additions to the supply of newly constructed space, the Midtown North's vacancy rate could be back into the 5 percent range by the end of 2012 or early 2013.

For the last several quarters, there have been rent increases in the Midtown South market. This trend continued with average asking rents at \$42.15/sf in the fourth quarter, up from \$41.91/sf in the third quarter. The availability rate declined in the fourth quarter to 10.1 percent from 11.1 percent in the third quarter of 2010. In the fourth quarter of 2009, availability stood at 11.7 percent. The overall vacancy rate in this market fell to 5.2 percent in the fourth quarter from 5.6 percent in the third quarter of 2010. Empty space in Midtown South's Class B product is especially tight, with a vacancy rate that is slightly below 5 percent.

The Downtown market however remains in a slump with the average asking rent slipping again. The fourth quarter average was \$36.78/sf, 10.5 percent above the previous cycle's low reached at the end of 2003. One would surmise that with rents at these levels the urge to relocate to Downtown should be strong, however leasing activity in the fourth quarter doesn't point to that result. The availability rate rose at the end of the fourth quarter to 16.9 percent from the 16.4 percent level in the third quarter of 2010. Nevertheless, as companies move into this market over time taking advantage of its pricing, the market should stabilize in 2011 and begin to recover in 2012. This cyclical pattern isn't much different from that seen in previous recovery periods when Downtown lagged the rebound in the Midtown markets.

It appears that the overall rent cycle has been particularly compressed this time, much faster than the last market downturn and recovery. This may have provided the conviction on the part of landlords to push increases and at the same time the acceptance of those increases by prospective tenants. While the overall steady decline in the availability and vacancy rates account for part of the increase in lease rates, there may also be a general change in sentiment about the prospects for the regional and national economic environments.

Peter Shakalis is a Director at FirstService Williams Real Estate
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AHEPA Members Inducted into the Order of St. Andrew

"It is truly an honor for AHEPA to have so many of its members become Archons," said Supreme President Nicholas A. Karacostas. "It solidifies the historic bond that exists between AHEPA and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. I congratulate all the new inductees and wish them well. Axios!"

Ahepans who joined Executive Director Mossaidis in the Archon class that totaled 42 individuals were: Peter T. Arbes, John J. Blazakis, Paul G. Chiligiris, Jimmy Daskalos, George J. Kallins, Arthur Labros, Frank Mihalopoulos, Nicholas Nichols, Dr. Spiridon Spireas, William S. Stavropoulos, James Tasios, Demosthenes Vasiliou, James B. Zafiros and Leonard Zangas.

Last year, Supreme President Karacostas and Past Supreme President Ike Gulas joined a long line of previous supreme presidents that have been inducted into the Order. In 2003, AHEPA presented The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle with its Medal of Freedom Award for the Order's championing of religious freedom and human rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



AHEPA Executive Director Basil N. Mossaidis during the ceremony officiated by Archbishop Demetrios

The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, an organization with the fundamental goal of directing an ongoing concern for religious freedom and the defense and advancement of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, inducted 15 Ahepans into its ranks, including AHEPA Executive Director Basil N. Mossaidis, at ceremonies officiated by Archbishop Demetrios this past October in New York.



Mr. Leonard Zangas, member of the Archangel Michael Church (Port Washington, NY) is being inducted into The Order of St. Andrew



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PHOTOS: ETNA PRESS



keeping it in the family: merry christmas from dr. photopoulos and camden dental crew



Our amazing staff at our annual Christmas dinner that is multilingual with all something special to give to our patients. From left with second language listed: Cathy, Dr. Sam, and Andrea Photopoulos-Greek, Inna Engel RDA-Russian and German, Joann Davison- Greek, Lorraine Sakino RDH-Japanese, Jessica Sanchez RDA-Spanish and Dr. Anastasios Photopoulos-Greek and Spanish. How neat. What a worldly bunch.

For over 30 years, Dr. Sam has been practicing general dentistry in San Jose, California. Originally from Michigan, he moved to California as a teenager but was reunited with his east coast roots during dental school while attending University of Detroit. After graduating, Dr. Sam worked with a paedodontist for five years where he specialized in caring for children's dental needs. In 1983, he took over a family practice and eventually relocated in 1991 to his office's current location at Camden Park Center. The first one in his family to become a Doctor and join the dental field, Dr. Sam had no idea what kind of trend he had started. In 2007 his practice was introduced to Dr. Photopoulos number two, Anastasios, an honors graduate from University of the Pacific in San Francisco, aka my one and only "favorite" big brother. Father and son working op by op, changing the lives of individuals for the better. Then in August of 2008 another family addition to the practice, Miss Andrea Photopoulos, a Dental Hygienist, yes that's me. A father's dream come true, our motto "Let our family take care of your family". Not only his children, but Dr. Sam also has had his sister, Joann, working the front desk as office manager for over 25 years and his wife, Cathy, a formal dental assistant and the office's interior decorator, in and out, always putting in a helping hand. "Our Big Fat Greek Dental Office Family."

Always wanting to give back to the community, Dr. Sam and Cathy recently started teaching ballroom dance classes to raise money for San Jose's St. Nicholas Church Building Fund. The dance floor and the golf course are two of my father's favorite places.

As a child I was always very proud of my dad being a dentist, because I knew he was helping people, but now that we work together that pride has reached a whole other level. On a daily basis I am able to see him work his magic first hand. I see how much the patients adore him and how many have overcome dental fears thanks to his soothing persona. I see patients leaving the office ecstatic about their new smile. What an amazing gift to be able to have such a positive impact on someone's life and health. I am truly blessed to have such an amazing family and to be able to make a difference in our community as a team. Our office doors are always open to new patients and new friends. Please feel free to stop in and introduce yourself to "Our Big Fat Greek Dental Office Family." Happy Holidays!

Friend us "Camden Dental Center" on Facebook or visit us at www.samphotopoulosdds.com to learn more about our office.



Dr. Sam teaching his students some new dance moves. One, two CbaCbaCba!

In celebration of the Holidays, I have decided to dedicate the December article to my most precious gift, my family. Everyone has a great story to tell when it comes to family, but mine is quite unique and if there was any time, Christmas time is the best for sharing heartwarming stories. Allow me to introduce you to the head of the Photopoulos clan, Dr. Sam T. Photopoulos, aka my Dad.



Another day at Camden Dental for the Photopoulos Family. From left: Miss Joann Davison, Mrs. Cathy Photopoulos, Dr. Sam Photopoulos, Miss Andrea Photopoulos, Dr. Anastasios Photopoulos, Miss Jessica Sanchez, and Ms. Inna Engel.

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HELLENISM IN THE BLACK SEA: WHAT REMAINS?



By Alexander Billinis

One hundred years ago, a Greek ship sailing to virtually any Black Sea port would find thriving Greek communities, some new, most thousands of years old, a vital part of the Byzantine and Hellenic world. By the time the twentieth century reached its midpoint, the communities had virtually disappeared. Why did this happen, and what, if anything, remains?

What Happened . . .

The collapse of the Ottoman and Russian Empires due to the twin forces of nationalism and communism is the short answer to the Greeks' decline, but not disappearance in the area. Just under 100 years ago, the Balkan League of Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Montenegro inflicted a crushing defeat on the Ottoman Empire, expelling the Turks from nearly all of Europe minus a small salient around Constantinople. Of course, then the Balkan allies turned on each other, and a combined Greece, Serbia, Romania, and Turkey heavily defeated the Bulgarians.

The result of these Greek victories was the doubling of Greece's territory and population, but it sparked the beginning of the end for Hellenism in Asia Minor and Bulgaria. Persecutions of Asia Minor and Bulgarian Black Sea Greeks increased, and the first population exchange, between Greece and Bulgaria, resulted in about 50,000 Greeks, many from the Black Sea coast, moving to Greece. Others assimilated into the Bulgarian Orthodox population.

Greece in 1920 had become the "Greece of the Two Continents and the Five Seas," and, with newly acquired Eastern Thrace, Greece briefly touched the Black Sea shores. What followed, of course, was the Asia Minor Catastrophe, which resulted in the expulsion of approximately 1.5 million Greeks from Eastern Thrace and Asia Minor to Greece, as destitute refugees, often as not without the male head of household. Thriving Ottoman Black Sea ports with large Greek populations for millennia, such as Samsun, Sinope, and of course Trebizond, lay bereft of their Orthodox Greeks, which brought about an economic decline, which only now is being reversed, as Turkey's economy is going into overdrive.

At roughly the same time, the Russian Empire was dissolving into Civil War, with Lenin's Bolsheviks gaining the upper hand against Tsarist and other non-Communist forces. International forces supported the anti-Communist forces, including two Greek divisions sent to the Ukraine, in an area with a considerable Greek population. Greek officials also handed out passports to the local Greeks, something that the communists would not soon forget.

Nonetheless, in the aftermath of the Russian Civil War, the Greek populations in the Soviet Union, concentrated overwhelmingly around the Black Sea, while deprived of their international merchant and shipping activities, continued to survive. In certain areas, small autonomous Greek regions were established, as well as Greek schools and newspapers. Interestingly, these newspapers were in a slightly modified Greek alphabet using several Cyrillic characters. Then came the Stalinist purges.

Stalin threw down the hammer on several national groups in the Soviet Union, including the Greeks, uprooting them from their Black Sea homelands and banishing them to Central Asia. It is still unclear why he did so; unlike Germans and Tatars (also subject to expulsion) the Greeks had never been historic enemies of Russia, and further many Greeks (both in the Soviet Union and in Greece) were staunch communists. Stalin's deportations continued even after World War II, when communists in Greece were fighting to make Greece a Communist state. One theory is that the Georgian Stalin resented the wealth of the large Greek community in Georgia, another is that many Greeks retained Greek nationality which was considered subversive. Perhaps trying to make sense of the sickness of Stalin makes no sense at all.

Whatever the reason, several hundred thousand Greeks were deported from the Black Sea region between 1938 and 1949, and the Greek presence in the Black Sea region has never recovered. Some Greeks trickled back to their ancestral homes, most others left for Greece in the twenty years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, often directly from Central Asia. They are still coming. When I served in the Greek Army in 2006, many of my comrades were born and raised in the ex-Soviet Union, including one soldier in his mid 30s (like me at the time) who was from some dusty village in Uzbekistan and could not speak a single word of Greek.

And Today . . . what Remains?

Today, around the Black Sea littoral there are very few active Greek communities. Odessa, the birthplace of the Philike Etairia, still possesses a small Greek community, and the area around the city of Marioupol (Marioupolis) on the Sea of Azov has a Greek population of perhaps thirty thousand. There are other cities with a sizeable Greek population, such as Anapa near Russia's key Black Sea port of Novorossisk, and certainly hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of Russians and Ukrainians possess some Greek ancestry. However, the passing of time, a rather traumatic history, and life among fellow Orthodox nationalities has resulted in most Greeks assimilating. Greek and Russian cooperation in shipping and investment is considerable, once again showing Greek maritime skill and Russian resources, backed by geography and culture, are a symbiotic and profitable pairing.

On the West coast of the Black Sea, in Bulgaria and Romania, most Greeks either left for Greece, or many more assimilated, once again, into the Romanian and Bulgarian Orthodox majority. Several Bulgarian coastal towns, however, bear clear reminders of their Greek roots. Place names, large amounts of Greek words in the local dialect, Byzantine and Ancient Greek sites, and a great fondness for Greek music and culture were what I found when traveling and working on Bulgaria's Black Sea coast, fifteen years ago. I also found that lots of local people could speak Greek, having gleaned it from earlier generations. As Greece is one of the largest investors in Bulgaria, plenty of Greeks now work and live in the country, and the Black Sea coast plays on its Greek heritage to woo tourists.

Immediately south of Russia, on the East coast of the Black Sea, Georgia still has dozens of small Greek-inhabited villages, but many of these Greeks have left for the greater economic opportunities in Greece and to flee Georgia's political strife. The Greek government and organizations such as the SAE (Symbolio Apodimou Ellinismou) have also contributed to these communities' welfare and education, though the Greek government's coffers are now drying up.

And what of the south shore of the Black Sea, Pontus, in Turkey? Officially, there are no Greeks, because all Orthodox Christians were expelled by 1924, in accordance with the Population Exchange of the Treaty of Lausanne. There are, however, plenty of Turkish Muslims of Pontic Greek descent, many of whom still speak Pontic Greek in daily discourse. Some are very recent converts, from the time of expulsion, who converted or married Muslims to avoid the exchange. Some have kept in touch, discreetly, with relatives in Greece. This, of course, gives rise to speculation about their religious and ethnic identity. While this may be the case, and I have heard anecdotal evidence from sources in Greece and Serbia about Crypto-Christianity in Pontus and elsewhere in Turkey, I avoid this speculation, and accept that the vast majority are now quite staunch Turkish patriots and Muslims. What we can say is that these people are also the product of assimilation, though in contrast to the other Black Sea countries, the assimilation was total, as both ethnic and religious identity disappeared, but in many cases language and aspects of culture have remained in Turkey.

In the debris of empires and ideologies and in the attempt to forge mono-ethnic states from a mosaic, these Hellenes without Borders—the Black Sea Greeks, suffered expulsion, at times genocide, and succumbed to assimilation. Nonetheless, the Greeks' legacy remains in architecture, culture, and in their assimilated descendents, both Orthodox and Muslim. Like tattered standards of an old regime, pockets of highly declarative Greeks still exist around the littoral of this beautiful and haunting inner sea, at times supported by their "mother" country, Greece, and at other times left to fend for themselves.

Postscript: An excellent work in Greek chronicling the odyssey of a Black Sea Greek family in the twentieth Century is Eutyxismenos pou Ekana to Taxidi tou Odyssea, by Marianna Koromyia. Another excellent work with thoughtfully portrayed material about the Greek heritage of the area is Black Sea, by Neal Ascherson, a Scottish parliamentarian and author.

Alexander Billinis has spent a decade in international banking in the US and Europe, most recently in London. He is particularly interested in Greece's economic and cultural position in the Balkans. He has worked with companies invested in the Balkans, and is writing a travel-historical book about the post-Byzantine states of modern Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania.

Ted G. Spyropoulos
Coordinator
E-mail: president@saeusa.org

Regional Coordinating Council
Aliki Andrews
3107 Eastview Road
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Tel: 412 833-4596 412-833-4596
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Constantine Z. Economides, Esq.
Economides & Economides
One Veterans Square, Suite 200
Media, PA 19063
Tel: 610-566-5403
Fax: 800-763-9805
E-mail: cze@eelawfirm.com

Michael Galanakis
3356 Wisconsin Ave., South Gate CA
90280
Cell: 323-702-5190 Fax: 323-230-7371
E-mail: galanakis74@yahoo.com

Spyridon Garyfallis
460 Golf Court
N. Woodmere NY 11581
Tel: 718-851-2300
Fax: 718-851-2230
E-mail: spirospco@aol.com

Gus Karalekas
30-13 Broadway
Astoria NY 11106
Tel: 718-626-9522 646-739-9582
Fax: 646-739-9582
E-mail: guskaralekas@aol.com

Peter Karavitis
95 Village Dr., Quincy MA 02169
Tel: 617-328-8376
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Efthalia Katos
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17703 Orange Grove
Macomb MI 48042
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Fax: 586-977-6081 586-977-6080
E-mail: stjohngoc@sbcglobal.net

Theodore Laliotis
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*On behalf of the coordinating
council of S.A.E./U.S.A.,
and myself personally,*

*I wish fellow Hellenes
and Philhellenes everywhere
a very happy, healthy
and prosperous
New Year 2011!*

Theodore G. Spyropoulos



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*2011 wishes
from
The Cyprus Federation of America
and its President
Peter Papanicolaou
for this Holiday Season!*

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

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CAPE FEAR CHAPTER 408

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MESSAGE OF Mr. PHILIP CHRISTOPHER, PRESIDENT OF PSEKA

This past July was the 36th Year of the invasion and occupation of Cyprus . Thirty-five years have passed since that tragic summer. Thirty-five years of injustice, human rights violations, and occupation of an EU member state. Thirty-five years of individuals passing without returning to their ancestral homes. Thirty-five years of struggle for freedom, for human dignity, for human rights. Thirty-five years of drastic changes in the world, and yet Cyprus still remains under occupation by Turkey.

It is a different world today than 1974. The Republic of Cyprus is now a member of the European Union. The Republic of Cyprus is a cosmopolitan nation. The Speaker of the Parliament is of Armenian descent. There is a large Russian community, a thriving Armenian and Maronite Community, and a significant East Asian community. Cyprus is a bridge of Europe to the Middle East, with a strong economy, that guarantees all rights to all citizens.

For the last 36 years, we have been fighting a problem of invasion and continued occupation. A solution cannot be achieved without the removal of all Turkish troops and settlers, and the return of all Cypriot citizens to their ancestral homes.

Please take a few moments on Christmas Day for a special prayer for our island home. Spend a few minutes in recognition of those who gave their lives, of the missing, of the refugees, and of the enslaved. Our children and grandchildren have grown up never seeing their family homes . Our churches and graveyards that lie in ruin. The overseas Cypriots have waged their own war against the Turkish occupation, and we have struggled against seemingly insurmountable forces.

Thirty six years is a long time and have been overtaken by the feeling of complacency. The affluent Turkish lobby and the general indifference of the international community, have created more barriers for us to break down. I encourage everyone to continue the fight for justice for the Cypriot people. Some things are clearly inherently right or wrong. And right is on the side of freedom for Cyprus !

Our success depends on everyone to remaining strong and focused on battling this ongoing injustice, and I assure you that we will not stop, we will not rest, until we see the removal of Turkish troops, the removal of the illegal settlers, and return of all refugees to their homes.

I urge all individuals, to express their frustration in the way they feel appropriate.

Every action counts, every voice matters, as long as we work legally and cohesively, as long as our efforts are united and work toward a common strategy.

It is a testament to our community and that the younger generation of Cypriot and Greek Americans is active in the cause for justice for Cyprus . Our younger people may not have seen first hand the pain and violence of the war, but their hearts and souls are tied to Cyprus and the cause of justice and human rights.

I remind everyone that we have promises to keep and miles to go before we sleep. We have made promises to our children, our parents and grandparents to see a united, free Republic of Cyprus .

*Wishing you and your loved ones
a Merry Christmas and
a Happy and Healthy New Year!*

Season's Greetings from the Paliuras Family

Entrepreneur Spiros Paliuras celebrates his birthday the same date as his name day, December 12, St. Spyridon's Feast. And since Christmas is around the corner, this year he combined the three occasions, serving with his wife Callie hosts to a beautiful gathering at their warm Manhasset, Long Island, home, bringing together friends and relatives to toast to health and happiness, as another year was about to go by and a new one was waiting to come in. Food, drinks, dance, but most importantly friendliness and warm feelings were the spotlights of the night. "I prefer this kind of celebrations," Spiros Paliuras said. "In the bigger, more formal Christmas parties, you loose yourself among guests."



"This way we are all together from the moment we start until the early morning hours, when we go to sleep," his wife Callie chimed in.

Spiros Paliuras is founder and President of C.S.P.N. Paliuras Construction, which for more than 30 years has helped owners deal with the issues and enjoy the process of building. The company has received Queens Chamber of Commerce 1st Prize Award Winner for 2008 and First Prize Building Award for 2004.



The hosts, Spiros Paliuras and his wife Callie



Callie Paliuras, Maritsa Spiliotis, Nikos Spiliotis, Spiros Paliuras, Barbara Spiliotis



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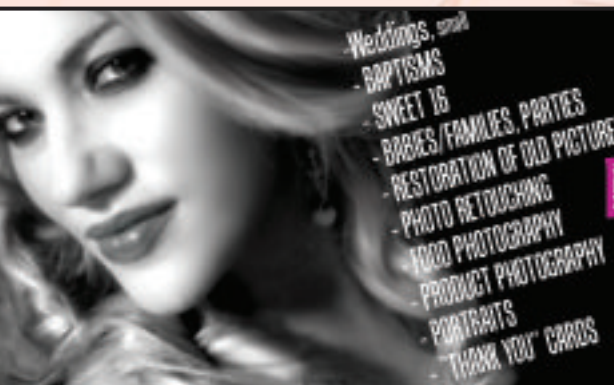
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George Chryssis to lead his Alma Mater

"I am impressed with the unique combination of practical education with strong faculty involvement now offered at the Franklin," said Chryssis. "Many more young people would benefit from this educational experience. A major goal will be to build upon the current offerings with new innovative programs that meet today's industry and business needs, attracting those young men and women who seek and would benefit from a strong cutting-edge education."

Chryssis earned his Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from Northeastern University. He also was awarded an honorary Doctor of Engineering Technology degree from Wentworth Institute of Technology. He has served on the Board of Trustees of both Northeastern University and Wentworth Institute. George C. Chryssis was born in Chania, Crete, in 1947. While in Boston, he entered the local chapter or the Pancretan Association of America. At the 34th Biennial Convention in Modesto, CA, he was elected National President (1995). During his term, President Chryssis emphasized proper development of the Pancretan Youth and adult chapters through Leadership Workshops, held under the leadership of the Task Force 2000 Chair, Erasmia Novotny.

During his career, Chryssis founded several high technology companies focused on innovation, including those specializing in fiber optics and software. Most recently, he served as Vice President of Executive Affairs at Wentworth Institute of Technology where he worked to advance the Institute's mission through strategic planning and tackling cross-divisional objectives. In addition, he oversaw Wentworth's Center for Community Learning & Partnerships.

George Chryssis

Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology has named George C. Chryssis as its next president effective January 1, 2011. "George Chryssis is ideally prepared to lead the school into the future," said Board of Trustees' Chair, Anne Bailey Berman. "George has been an entrepreneur, a financier and in academia. He personally knows the influence that the Franklin Institute can have on young people's lives. It was at the Franklin Institute that George began his own education when he entered this country at age 18."

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The south coast of Lefkas is a jigsaw of long inlets and sheltered harbours and beaches nestling beneath the pine carpeted hills. To the east is Sivota, a favourite port of call for yachting flotillas and, in the west Vassiliki, host to the world windsurfing championships. Beyond Vassiliki is the wild, windswept peninsula that ends at Cape Lefkas. A good road runs down the east coast to provide easy access but the south-west resorts are more tricky as the roads get steadily worse as you head south.

Wilder and windier than the east, the west coast has the island's best beaches. Much tamer in the north-west, they get progressively wilder as you head south. The reward for those that tackle the narrow hairpins of the west coast road of Lefkas are staggering views from the cliffs and breathtaking beaches below that many rank as among some of the best in the Mediterranean.

Visit Lefkas this summer!

FROM AN ANONYMOUS FRIEND

AFGLC

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION
FOR GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The New York Chapter of the AFGLC (AFGLCNY) www.afglc.org is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of Greek language and culture in institutions of higher learning. Our mission is to emphasize and preserve the Hellenic civilization, language and culture to all Greeks, Greek Americans and Philhellenes in the Americas, and to promote programs relevant to Hellenic Language, Culture, History and Tradition. The first immediate goal of the NY Chapter of AFGLC is to help establish a Center of Hellenic Studies associated with and Endowed Chair at Stony Brook University that will encourage the study of Hellenic culture at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The NY Chapter of the AFGLC is administered by a committee as follows:

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A personal appeal to our thriving Hellenic Community in America

We must recognize the fact that we never cease to walk on the same steps of our glorious ancestors, when on their settlement in lands beyond mother land Hellas, they solidly planted and cherished their advance multifaceted civilization.

We were preceded in these USA by our democratic system, our orders of architecture and our language so profusely embedded in the English that makes us present everywhere. Then, we came to fortify our presence where it stays and shines in perpetuity at the Centers of Hellenic Studies in selected universities.

That is the tone and rhythm of this committee, on our endeavor in establishing this Hellenic endowed center in this elite university of Stony Brook, Long Island, New York. Share the spirit of participation when you carve your name on the list of contributors. The goal is to reach the \$1,500,000 mark. Right now the needle hovers over \$130,000 – so, as you can see, we have a steep hill to ascend, but, the courage and the drive are there.

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And have a happy and glorious feeling as partner of this Hellenistic movement of vast importance!

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Long Island, NY



Bishop Savas of Troas, Andrij Dobriansky, Marilena Christodoulou, Emmanuel Tiliakos



Kyriaki Christoudia (Cathedral bookkeeper) & Lilia Zanou and guests



Dr. Sofoklis Hatzisavvas, Consul General of Cyprus Koula Sofianou, Lilia, NEO's Effie Streida and guests



Maria Drakos, Alexis & John Dimitrakakis, Karen Kalkines, Maria Haralampopoulos and friends



Nicholas Koutsomitis, Andre Gregory



Marilena Christodoulou and Rev. Frank Maragos



Georgia Kaloeides

PHOTOS: EVA PRESS

Cathedral Reception at the Rubin Museum

The Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York welcomed more than 450 Greek Americans to a special fundraiser reception held this past fall at The Rubin Museum of Art. The event, to benefit the Cathedral's programs, gave participants the opportunity to view the museum's current exhibition which examines intriguing correspondences and differences between Eastern Orthodox icons and Tibetan Buddhist thangkas (paintings on cloth). "Embodying the Holy: Icons in Eastern Orthodox Christianity and Tibetan Buddhism" is the title of the collection that will run at The Rubin Museum (150 West 17th Street, Manhattan, tel: (212) 620-5000) through March 7, 2011. Guests viewed this and other collections, while enjoying food, drinks and live Greek music by Grigoris Maninakis and the Microcosmos Ensemble.

Marilena Christodoulou who was part of the Rubin Museum's founding team and has served as its Chief Financial Officer since before it opened to the public in 2004, and Cathedral Dean Very Reverend Frank Marnagos welcomed the guests. "I never thought I would see Greek icons in a museum of Himalayan art, so this is very exciting for me," said Marilena. The list of the outstanding guests included Bishop Savas of Troas, representing Archbishop Demetrios of America, Aghi Balta, Consul General of Greece, Evangelos Kyriakopoulos, Consul of Greece, Koula Sophianou, Consul General of Cyprus in New York, Crossroads of Civilization curator Dr. Sofoklis Hadjisavvas, Father Vasilios Bassakyros, Pastor of the Church of St. John the Baptist in Manahattan, and Mr. Emmanuel Tiliakos whose collection the icons were taken from for the exhibition.

The presentation is part of the Rubin Museum's ongoing exploration of the connection between Tibetan Buddhist art and Western art. "Embodying the Holy demonstrates for the first time how two very different religious traditions have utilized similar visual language and iconography to express fundamental beliefs and narratives," says Martin Brauen, Chief Curator of the Rubin Museum of Art and one of the co-curators. The other co-curator, Senior Curator Ramon Prats, explains that "both Tibetan Buddhism and Eastern Orthodox Christianity translate their written and oral traditions into symbolic imagery which is only understood fully by the believer."



Dorothy Polli, Consul General of Greece Agbi Balta



Angela Giannopoulos & Elena Sarkissian



Helen Coussoule



Stella Pantelides and a friend



2nd from left: Viki Koletsos



Andrij Dobriansky, Marilena Christodoulou, John Stratakis, Alanna Schindewolf



Dennisia Slabakis



Consul of Greece Evangelos Kyriakopoulos, Mr & Mrs Stelios Taketzis, Polyxeni Mastroperou



Denise Kaloudis, Olga Alexakos, 4th from left: Evangellos Kyriakopoulos, 5th from left: Keke Kyriakopoulos, Aimilia Vassiliadou (1st from right) and guests



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(L-r) Vasilios Kotsatos, Demetra Atsaloglou, Nick Larigakis, Joanna Kocani and Lydia Pappas.

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By Maria A. Pardalis

bread & honey

A COLUMN DEVOTED TO MAKING GREEK FOOD EASY

Kalamata Olive and Caramelized Onion Phyllo Tart

Happy New Year! Are you still suffering from a holiday food induced hangover? How could you not, when copious amounts of food have been looming everywhere beginning from Halloween and taunting you steadily until New Year's Day? I certainly enjoyed over indulging in melomakarona, rich chocolate ganache tortes and fondue. However, it is now 2011 and officially time to cut down on the desserts and processed foods we eat and really start off this year right. Instead of making a list of resolutions, most of which quickly fall by the wayside as soon as February arrives, why not just make one or at most two and take action? I have decided to curb my sweet tooth and eat the nutritious and balanced Greek meals I make and not just skip to dessert. What changes are you making?

Losing weight and becoming healthier are the most popular New Year's resolutions in the US. This shouldn't shock anyone since over 66 percent of adult Americans are considered obese by recent studies. The best way to start feeling better and healthy again is to infuse your diet with a rainbow of antioxidants and an array of Mediterranean recipes. Color is very important since each contains a different type of antioxidant. Eating healthy does not have to be boring, try out new recipes to keep it fun!

This rustic and colorful tart will surely impress friends, not only for its taste, but also because it's nutritious! The fresh basil adds a fragrant finishing touch and the phyllo makes this a very light and balanced dish. Pair the tart with a leafy green salad, a nice glass of Sauvignon Blanc and enjoy!

Prep Time: 30 minutes

Bake Time: 30 to 35 minutes

Serves: 12



Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 375°F with rack in middle.
2. In a large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic and cook, stirring for about 30 seconds. Add onion, a generous pinch of salt and a teaspoon of sugar. Cover and cook 15 minutes or until golden brown, stirring occasionally.
3. Uncover and reduce heat to medium low. Stir in ¾ cup of the olives and cook 10 to 15 minutes more. Transfer to a bowl and stir in 1/2 tablespoon of the thyme, lemon juice and zest. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Set aside.
4. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Lay 1 sheet of phyllo on paper and brush with olive oil. Sprinkle top lightly with Kefalotyri cheese. Repeat layering 5 more times (with phyllo, oil and Kefalotyri), pressing each layer firmly so it sticks to the sheet below.
5. Lay the last phyllo sheet on top, brush with remaining olive oil and sprinkle with remaining Kefalotyri.
6. Spread the olive mixture evenly on the phyllo dough, leaving a ½ inch border. Top with the onions, dollops of the ricotta or feta cheese, and the remaining 1/4 cup olives.
7. In a small bowl, beat the egg with 1/2 tsp. water. Brush the phyllo dough border with the egg wash.
8. Bake tart until phyllo is golden brown, 30 to 35 minutes. Scatter basil leaves and remaining thyme on top. Allow to cool for 10 minutes. Cut into 2-inch squares and serve warm or at room temperature.

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon white granulated sugar
- 1 medium red onion, halved lengthwise and sliced crosswise 1/4 inch thick
- 1 cup Kalamata olives, rinsed, pitted, and coarsely chopped
- 1 medium clove garlic, minced
- 2 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp. finely grated lemon zest
- ½ cup grated Kefalotyri cheese
- 1 Tbs. fresh thyme, chopped
- 10 small fresh basil leaves
- 6 sheets phyllo dough, thawed
- 1/3 cup low fat ricotta or crumbled feta cheese
- 1 large egg
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

*Kali Orexi kai
Kali Hronia!*



Did you know... Olives are in a class of fruits called drupes, along with apricots, peaches, cherries, and plums? They are an excellent source of monounsaturated fat, iron, vitamin E and dietary fiber.

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Evangelos Alexiou and Christos Alexandridis on stage
PHOTOS: FOTI PAPAGEORGIU

The Mystery of Irma Vep in Astoria

The Greek Cultural Center kicked off its 2010-2011 season with Charles Ludlam's *The Mystery of Irma Vep* as translated by Lakis Lazopoulos and acted/directed by Evangelos Alexiou and Christos Alexandridis. Performances started in October and ended in December reaping enthusiastic reviews.

Part of the Ridiculous Theater Company's repertoire, *The Mystery of Irma Vep* was first performed in 1984 in New York at Greenwich Village, and since 1991, it has been one of the most-performed plays of the American stage, and encumbered with all sorts of Obie Awards.

It was written for two male actors who play eight characters and go through 35 costume changes while in constant motion. All the byproducts of horror are found in this parody. The play lampoons every conceivable British mass-market literary and theatrical convention, and films from the mystery and horror genre: Jane, the strict housekeeper of the

estate; Igor, the peg-legged swineherd; Alba, the young Lady and second wife of the house; Irma, the deceased and first Lady of the house; the Egyptologist Lord Edgar with his mummy, the vampire in the library, the werewolf ... all of this with a large amount of sound cues and sound effects, stage tricks and character changes in lightning speed, not only in performance but in appearance as well.

For this GCC production, the directorial and performing task of this multifaceted spectacle has been taken on by two outstanding talented directors and actors, and loyal collaborators with the GCC: Evangelos Alexiou and Christos Alexandridis. Their directorial inventiveness, along with their set-designing dexterity and costume designs fantasy is most explosive, and are supported by an amazing five people crew who have joined the game and dance that is IRMA VEP (anagram for "vampire").

Christos Alexandridis (who was seen last year in *Mommy Mother Mom* at GCC, and is known for directing *Baba-Rum* and *Madame Sousou Conquers Manhattan*) saw the play in Greece. It was translated by Lakis Lazopoulos and performed to critical acclaim in the winter of 1999-2000 at the Ivi Theatre, with Akis Sakellariou and Antonis Kafetzopoulos. The play's comedy, strangeness, and rhythm were irresistible to Christos.

Two years ago, he called Evangelos Alexiou (who was seen last year in *Dangerous Game* at GCC and directed Christos in *Agatha Christie's Ten Little Indians*) to ask him to direct him in this play. After reading it, Evangelos fell in love with it: "What a bright and challenging comedy and what a gift for two actors," Evangelos told Christos and that's how the *Irma Vep* adventure started.



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Best Wishes to all members of the
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*Happy, Healthy and Prosperous
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BY JOANNA XIPA

THE FUTURE OF HELLENISM IN AMERICA CONFERENCE



AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis

pride is on the other hand, rising among young Greek Americans!

We live in a dichotomy of honoring our family traditions, while respecting our friends & neighbors around us, enjoying the best of both worlds. The question is: How do we continue our Hellenic identity from one generation to the next? Despite all the available resources, it all starts and ends in our families. Both parents need to be consistent in their belief systems. Just being Greek-blooded is not always enough, because both Greek and mixed families have shown varying degrees in their sense of Hellenism, confirmed through my personal experiences in both private and Church-based Greek language instruction. The common thread we need is 'thelisi' i.e. a strong will. Stressing the importance of learning a 2nd language, or even a 3rd, is possible when we get involved early enough.

Even in today's global economy, there's a growing need to fill bi-lingual job vacancies for careers locally and world-wide. So why not start them young to



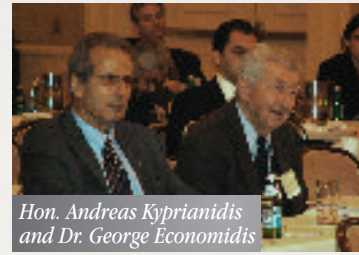
NEO's Joanna Xipa served as Youth Panel moderator

connect with the very core of our culture – our language? Learning the foundations of the richest language in the world will allow students to excel in the Maths & Sciences, as well as appreciate the heart of Greek Literature and story telling dating as far back as 1200 BC and now glamorized through today's media. I'm thrilled that Hollywood now recognizes the need to tell our story! This gives our future filmmakers the opportunity to use this powerful tool to raise awareness of Greek issues, much like the Jews did for Israel. More & more Greek Film Festivals have been surfacing across the America over the past 20 years from NY to LA, as our turn has finally come!

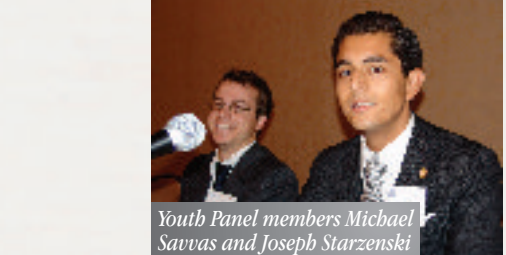
Where there's a will there's a way! We need to step forward with a much more active role in socializing our children, nurturing them from a very young age, within the family. When they go off to college, it would be nice to see them heading their respective

Hellenic Students Associations across all the major universities in the country; however there's a harsh reality today proving that the majority of the members are foreign Greek students from abroad, coming together to see familiar faces from their homeland. Sadly, not enough Greek American students are representing – proof that somewhere along the lines, we've gone astray.

We cannot become dependent on society around us, waiting for our churches, organizations, industry leaders and executives to guide our youth. These can only work alongside the pre-existing passion ignited from within our families. Take Konstantina Konugres, for example, a 16 year old high school student, who together with her cousin, took it upon themselves to start a social Greek Club at her local high school, in Orange County, CA. She noticed the



Hon. Andreas Kyprianidis and Dr. George Economidis



Youth Panel members Michael Savvas and Joseph Starzenski

need to dispel the myths/stereotypes of being Greek-American. Open to all students of all backgrounds, they called it "Get your Greek On" offering monthly club meetings/social outings enjoying Greek food, music & fellowship – a perfect way to promote Greek culture to the world around them – with an average of 20-30 new students joining per month (in a school with only 5 Greek-American students enrolled)! It doesn't take much, now does it?

So my conclusion lies in the notion of awareness: the more we talk about it amongst our colleagues, peers and especially within our own families, the more likely our chances of rekindling the eternal flame to lead by example in making our voices heard. If we care at all with what our homeland is going through, then, this, in my eyes, is where the future of Hellenism not only in America, but around the world, lies.



Actor John Aniston (right) with a friend



Wishing all Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year!

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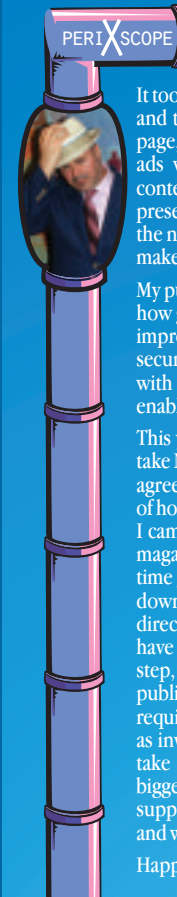
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Taking it to the next level

It took us some time again, but we made it through with this issue as well, the first of 2011 and the first of the new decade! As you can see, having looked all the way back to this page, our friends in the community showed up once more, and we got a good number of ads which will help us keep publishing for a few more months. We are seriously contemplating doing another issue in February so that we can remind you of our presence without a gap until March. Right now, we are exhausted and happy. Although the number of pages is the same as January last year, the number of ads is higher, and that makes a big difference.

My purpose is not to make an open estimation of revenues this time or to show off saying how good we did, because there is always more to be done, and we need many things to improve before we can express deep satisfaction and relax in any sort of professional security. However, from the beginning NEO has been a project in direct communication with its readers who happen to be its major supporters as well. It's this relationship that enables us to be so open and straightforward with you, in good or in not so good times.

This year we are going to work hard not to just keep publishing beautiful issues, but to take NEO to the next level. When we started out, four and a half years ago, although we all agreed on a basic formation for this magazine, each one of us had his own, particular idea, of how the publication should look and what kind of purpose would it serve. In my mind, I came to formulate the shape of something like an American Greek Vanity Fair kind of magazine, one that would feature thoughtful and provocative stories, offering at the same time glimpses at the social aspect of our people's lives here in the US. With many ups and downs, I think that, within very strict limitations, we have managed to tilt in that direction. And by constantly improving, more and more people, even skeptical ones, have come to at least appreciate what we are trying to do. And that is a very important first step, in order to go, as I said before, to the next level. That means establishing this publication on a more professional and secure basis, giving it the financial support it requires in order to blossom. Already, people have expressed interest in joining the effort as investors and hopefully their words will convert into deeds, because it really doesn't take a huge financial commitment to turn an already successful project into a much bigger one. We will keep you posted as the story unfolds, and hopefully you will keep supporting us as we move forward. We are optimistic because we know what we can do, and we have come to know what you can do as well!

Happy NEO Year to all!

DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS
dondemetrio@neomagazine.com



The mission of the **Onassis Foundation (USA)** is to disseminate information about Hellenic civilization throughout the United States of America and Canada. By cooperating with universities, colleges and art institutions in Greece and throughout America, the Onassis Foundation (USA) promotes bilateral cultural relations.

ONASSIS CULTURAL CENTER

In carrying out the mission of the Onassis Foundation (USA), the Onassis Cultural Center, opened in Fall 2000, is the venue for presenting cultural and artistic activities concerning ancient, Byzantine and modern Hellenic civilization. Invited participants may be Greeks and non-Greeks inspired by Hellenism. Activities include art exhibitions, theatrical and dance performances, musical events, lectures and poetry readings and film screenings. Following their presentation at the Onassis Cultural Center, these activities may tour other cultural and art institutions in the United States and Canada.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

In carrying out its mission, the Onassis Foundation (USA) runs a University Seminars Program that places eminent professors and scholars (Senior Visiting Scholars) from the United States and abroad at Universities throughout North, Central, and South America for the purpose of offering public lectures, seminars and courses on topics related to all periods and aspects of Hellenic Civilization. In the Onassis Series in Hellenic Culture, the Oxford University Press publishes original scholarly work first presented in the University Seminars Program. The Onassis Foundation (USA) also organizes international conferences on Classical and Hellenic Studies.

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her peers and mentors, Chara continued to expand her "range of motion", by participating in the 2007 and 2008 Professional Hip-Hop Training Course. The courses were headed by Valerie Lendore, one of the most acclaimed choreographers around the world, and considered to be among the top professional choreographers in Greece.

The hard work more than just paid off. She was given the opportunity to give back to her city in one of the greatest ways, by dancing at the Moni Lazariston Festival. The most popular artistic site in Thessalonica, Moni Lazariston constitutes a vivid



cell of culture and entertainment and Chara participated in one of its most grand events, by collaborating in a project of renowned Greek composer Mimis Plessas.

Soon after, she was approached to take part in the concert for the Friends of Children Suffering from Cancer, as she was given the distinct honor to dance

before the President of the Foundation for the Child and Family and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Ms. Marianna Vardinogianni.

From classic to mainstream, Chara began receiving media exposure by appearing in various music videos with some of Greece's most established artists, topped off by a live dance performance in 2008 for the Greek X-Factor. Audiences all over the country and beyond would soon get a closer look at the rising talent, when she took part in the Greek version of TV's famous dance competition "So You Think You Can Dance." During her run, Chara wowed judges, audiences and her peers, as her passion and skills secured her a position among the show's top 30 performers. Never one to back down from a challenge, both as a student and a teacher, Chara took her moves to Latin and Hip-Hop dance

Dancing her Way to the Top

competitions all over Greece. Her drive and dedication to her craft not only stood up to the competition, it bested the competition, as she danced her way to first place a whopping twelve times thus far! Chara's dance crew from the DanceMania school where she taught, earned a most respectful second place in Greece's 2008 National Dance Competition.

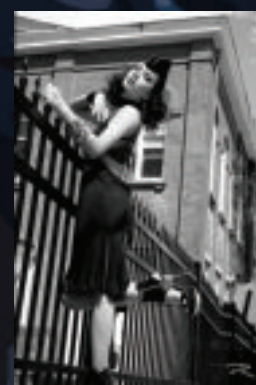
Her talents and accolades did not go by unnoticed, as she was approached to take on the task of choreographing for some of Greece's most famous artists, including Georgos Tsalikis; Greece's hottest Hip-Hop act, Master Tempo; and Vaggelis Stefanos.

As is the case with all competitive spirits searching for the next big challenge, Chara now showcases her moves on the New York dance floors, using the same passion and drive that took her to the top of Greece's dance scene, to establish herself as a force to be reckoned with among the world's best and she continues to strengthen and expand her skills at the Broadway Dance Center. The outlook already appears to be more than promising.

She has been assistant choreographer for the theatre play A Cuckoo Family, which opened to critical acclaim at the Hellenic Cultural Center. Her name and quality of work soon spread to the theater stages of 42nd Street, as she was assistant choreographer for the play Oresteia on Broadway's Theater Row.

Her NYC dance projects continue to grow and so does her reputation, as seen by her collaborations with artists such as James Madison, Ceresia, Robert Taylor Jr., Chris Semers, Chikk, Nadia Kay and Talihana. Chara's work also includes the showcases Sirens After Dark and Carnival. Her arrival was topped off by a dance appearance for the music video for Work The Middle from the hit dance film's Step Up 3D soundtrack, by Ericka June.

With such a distinct and successful background along with an equally impressive and extensive resume, at just 20 years of age, Chara seems to be on course towards bigger and greater accomplishments in her beloved field of dance. A field whose fire, passion, vibe and energy, can only be matched by that of New York City itself...



Chara Pantopoulos:

By Alexis Malaos

Being the center of multicultural talents that it is, New York City has recently embraced one of its newest, youngest and most talented arrivals yet to grace the theater stages and dance studios, from Broadway to all across the boroughs.

At just 19 years of age, Chara Pantopoulos had proven to have the training, credentials and, most importantly, the grit to say "goodbye for now" to the place where it all began on the other side of the Atlantic. As a child growing up in the bustling city of Thessalonica, Greece, Chara appeared to have an inherent aptitude for rhythm and motion. With the discipline and perseverance of a natural-born artist, she continued to hone her skills at various acclaimed dance and movement institutions in Greece. It wasn't long before she obtained her first teaching certificate from the Dance Club International Academy. Fuelled by the recognition and praise from



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