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# JOHN P. CALAMOS

PILOTS HIS OWN JETS  
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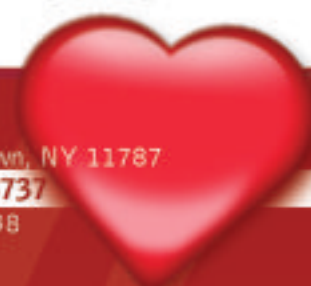
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**The Museum of our lives**

In our cover story on bond tycoon John Calamos, he recounts how his father came over on a ship hugging the shore to avoid the German U-boats on patrol during World War I and then in his early years earning a living by peddling fruits and vegetables in the streets and alleyways of Chicago, until he could scrape together the money to open up his first grocery market, where he worked for over thirty years.



It's a typical story of immigrant grit and survival and it's resonated with his son all his life and led to his own ambition and work ethic and immeasurable success in the biggest market in the world—the stock market.

**FROM THE EDITOR**

But as Calamos himself admitted, the memory of those early pioneers and their lives is fast fading and will fade further as succeeding generations meld into the American mainstream and the legend of the pioneers becomes just that—a legend that mixes fact with fiction and becomes just as quaint and murky as those daguerreotypes you occasionally see as musky curiosities.

My father just turned 90 this year and it's a milestone my family is both proud of and fearful because it means the legacy of his life will soon become only a memory and a life that heroic will soon vanish into the pages of old photo albums and family mementos stored in closets and basements and smelling increasingly of mold and dust.

It should rightly be honored and cherished and kept alive in the memory and consciousness of the family and be an eternal inspiration to succeeding generations—and it's up to us to see that it is. But if we did our job as parents well, and as immigrants even better, by helping our children grow up and fashion their own brave new world, the immigrant experience will soon fade into a very distant memory for them and the rich musto of their immigrant heritage, with all its sights and sounds of the old country, like a bazaar of spices, and all the joys and heartaches our forefathers encountered in this new country, like some cold harbor at dawn, will soon vanish into the echoes of time.

We can take our children to Greece, we can show them the old farms (if they still exist) and the mountain villages and wheat fields where our ancestors made their living, and if we ourselves lived there before we emigrated, we might describe with breathless abandon what it was like to live in a world without electricity and with the moon guiding your path at night and with the lemon trees that scented the fields and which you plucked for dinner and the chickens under the floorboards where you collected your eggs and the songs you heard at night from aunts and uncles and distant relatives who sat around the gas lamp in the sala and sang about their firsthand memories of the sklavias in Greece and the heartbreak of the ships that took away your loved ones it seems forever.

Our kids can only imagine this world, which is becoming faint even to those of us who lived through its sunset, and as I watch my parents getting older like a candle guttering, I cling to those memories even more dearly and appreciate the efforts of people like John Calamos, who are keeping the flame alive by making possible the National Hellenic Museum in Chicago, where our collective memories can live and still speak to us.

Many more efforts like that are needed.

*Dimitri C. Michalakis*  
Dimitri C. Michalakis

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

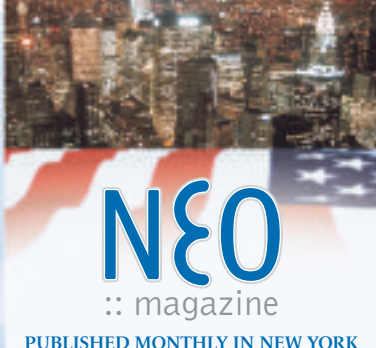
*Marketing & Advertising*  
*Director*  
**Tommy Harmantzis**  
(347) 613-4163  
th@radioneo.us

**ATHENS - GREECE**  
*Public Relations &*  
*Marketing Director*  
**Margarita Vartholomeou**  
margavarth2010@hotmail.com

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info@neomagazine.com

*In our March 2010 issue, reporting on the annual celebrations of Andros Society in Athens, we mentioned by mistake that the Publisher of Kykladikon Fos newspaper is Eleni Fotopoulou. The Publisher's name is Eleni Terzopoulou.*

*The photo of George and Margo Bebrakis, on page 14, in March 2011 issue, was taken by Dimitrios Panagos*



**Editor in Chief:**  
**Dimitri C. Michalakis**  
info@neomagazine.com  
**Lifestyle Editor**  
**Maria A. Pardalis**  
mapardalis@gmail.com  
**Midwest Area Desk**  
**- Chicago**  
**Alexander Facklis**  
(773) 769-7639  
facklis@neomagazine.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 Dimitrokalas**  
(951) 764-5737  
photobyntikos@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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Calamos Advisers, LLC, 2020 Calamos Court, Naperville, IL 60563-2787, 800.582.6959, www.calamos.com, caminfo@calamos.com  
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# Capital Link hosts 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Shipping Forum in New York



Capital Link President Nicolas Bornozis

The Luncheon Keynote speaker, Mr. Joe Angelo, Managing Director of INTERTANKO, addressed the audience on the "Opportunities and Challenges in Shipping." In his keynote speech, Mr. Angelo first informed the audience about INTERTANKO and the good



The Luncheon Keynote speaker, Mr. Joe Angelo, Managing Director of INTERTANKO

motivated, trained, respected body of mariners aboard the ships, served by a professional shoreside staff. When this fails, events such as Deepwater Horizon and Exxon Valdez, or in other industries Bhopal (Union Carbide) or Vioxx (Merck) occurs. The second factor is an independent and experienced board of directors that works with management to guide the company forward. Too many shipping companies have boards made up of relatives, friends, or brokers dependent on company largesse. Tying this back to operating expertise and a safety culture, boards should

Capital Link's Fifth Annual Invest in International Shipping Forum gathered the world's most influential key maritime executives to examine the volatile landscape that is shaping the global shipping community. The Forum was hosted recently in cooperation with NYSE Euronext and NASDAQ OMX at the historic Metropolitan Club in New York City. Regarded as one of the most highly anticipated maritime shipping events of the year, this year's gathering attracted well over 950 delegates.

The Forum aimed to provide investors with a comprehensive review and outlook of the global shipping marketplace. It featured topical panel discussions, company presentations and one-on-one meetings with company management. It covered industry sectors including dry bulk, tankers (products & crude oil), containers, commodities, banking and shipping, capital markets and shipping as well as the global economy and how it affects shipping markets.

Capital Link is organizing on an annual basis Shipping Forums in New York City, London, and Athens that bring together foremost executives of U.S. and foreign-listed shipping companies, analysts, commercial and investment bankers, industry participants and investors. Its Shipping Forums in New York City and London are primarily focused on the global investment community, attracting large numbers of institutional investors, financial planners, financial advisors, private bankers, securities analysts, retail & institutional brokers and financial press & media.

The company's President Nicolas Bornozis outlined Capital Link's commitment to serving as a link between investors and shipping globally and highlighted the evolution and the key role of the Shipping Forums in the industry. He mentioned that the success of the Forum this year is particularly remarkable given that the shipping markets are in a transitional phase and the capital markets have not been focusing on shipping. He stressed that the Forum's success demonstrates that shipping has a following by a large investor base that are waiting for the right time to "jump back in." Mr. Bornozis also outlined Capital Link's commitment to serving as a link between investors and shipping globally. Furthermore, he highlighted the evolution and the key role of the Capital Link Shipping Forums in the industry.

performance of the tanker industry. He then focused on the two major issues confronting the industry which are piracy off the coast of Somalia and safe operating costs. He told the audience that "piracy off the coast of Somalia has spiraled out of control into the entire Indian Ocean which could have a significant change in impact on the world's economy. The governments of the world must increase their will to eradicate piracy." He also informed the audience about the newly established web site [www.SaveOurSeafarers.com](http://www.SaveOurSeafarers.com) and encouraged all to visit it. With regard to safe operating costs he said that "if the current tanker rates continue as they are, they may be well below the costs required to run a ship in compliance with both internal criteria, and broader safety requirements." This was a concern to INTERTANKO and its members and they have entered into a dialogue with charterers to address this potential problem.



Mr. Richard du Moulin, President of Intrepid Shipping and former Chairman of INTERTANKO, made introductory remarks at the luncheon. Mr. du Moulin discussed two areas that are often missed by investors and the banking community. Balance sheets, EBITDA, earnings per share, and financial metrics are well understood. But there are two key factors often ignored or only given lip service. First is operating expertise with a serious safety culture. This provides earning power, customer satisfaction and safeguards shareholder value. The core element of this skill is a

company ignores or mistreats the mariners who are on their ships, out of sight and out of mind; how will they treat their shareholders?"

Capital Link is a New York-based Advisory, Investor Relations and Financial Communications firm. Among other activities, Capital Link has made a strategic commitment to the shipping industry becoming the largest provider of Investor Relations and Financial Communications services to international shipping companies listed on the US and European Exchanges. The company's headquarters are in New York with a presence in London and Athens. Capital Link is a member of the Baltic Exchange.



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From left, Philip Christopher, Consul General Koula Sobbianou, Minister Christos Patsalides on the podium, CFA President Peter Papanicolaou and Despina Axiotakis

Citizen's Protection Minister of Greece Christos Papoutsis saluting the convention

# Cypriot-Americans Vow to Continue Struggling for Freedom in Cyprus

By Demetrios Rhompotis



Sitting, left to right: Evangelos Kyriakopoulos, NY Greek Consul, Aghi Balta, NY Consul General of Greece, Ambassador Minas Hadjimichael, Permanent Rep of Cyprus to the U.N., Ambassador Pavlos Anastasiades, Cyprus Ambassador to Washington, Cypriot Health Minister Christos Patsalides, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Greek Minister Christos Papoutsis (Minister of Citizen's Protection), Eleni Panarites, Greek Parliamentarian, and Spyros Moschopoulos, Greek Parliamentarian.

Standing: Andy Comodromos, Stavros Kamilaris, Stathis Zambas, Soteroula Karacostas, Peter Kakoyiannis, Consul General Koula Sobbianou, Christos Karamanos, Peter Papanicolaou, Michalis Andreou, Philip Christopher (in front of him), Dr. Dia Christodoulidou (behind her), Angela Georgiades, Peter Louca, Christos Nicolaou, Despina Axiotakis, Endy Zemenides, Costas Tsentas, Angelos Angeli, Vassos Vassiliou, Harry Theofanous and Nicos Zittis

A call to unity and action despite the negative messages coming from Turkey, was the main theme at this year's Cyprus Federation of America (CFA) annual National Convention held this past March in New York on the eve of the Greek-American parade. Addressing the meeting and touching upon the ongoing UN-led talks towards a solution of the Cyprus problem, the country's Ambassador to Washington Pavlos Anastasiades said that "many of the proposals put forward by the Turkish Cypriot side, jeopardize the agreed base for a settlement."

Health Minister of the Republic of Cyprus, Christos Patsalides, represented the government and

delivered a message by President Demetris Christofias, in which his heartfelt thanks to all Cypriot Americans for their contribution to the effort to solve the Cyprus problem was expressed. Pointing to Turkey's intransigence and the counterproductive positions of the Turkish Cypriot leadership, which is under Ankara's control, Minister Patsalides reaffirmed President Christofias' decisiveness for a solution with the aim to reunify the island, not to de jure separate it. "We are not the obstacle... We have to be united in order to address Turkey's plans," Patsalides declared, while making clear that contrary to the negotiation format that led to the Annan Plan failure "we do not accept any timeframes or

arbitration... Our efforts aim at reaching a mutually accepted, just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem, that will bring an end to the occupation and the illegal settling and will guarantee the human rights of all the people of Cyprus." And he concluded by calling his Cypriot American compatriots to continue the struggle, while maintaining unbreakable ties with the homeland.

A host of officials from both Cyprus and Greece addressed the meeting as did many prominent members of the diaspora, Archbishop Demetrios of America among them.

Citizen's Protection Minister of Greece Christos Papoutsis saluted CFA's Annual Convention and called for greater cooperation with the United States, especially with those segments that can play a catalyst role in solving the Cyprus issue in a way that guarantees the integrity of the state and the people's rights. He also said that despite the economic hardships, Greece will continue standing side by side with Cyprus until the island is reunified.

PSEKA President Philip Christopher addressing the convention reminded those present of the hard work still ahead and called for intensifying the efforts and focusing more in securing the votes of key members of the American Congress.

CFA President Peter Papanicolaou, who was re-elected at the convention, presented the federation's work in bringing the Cyprus problem at the forefront of the American mainstream. He ended by promising no to spare any effort in continuing the struggle, as long and as much as it takes in terms of time and financial commitment..

The federation was formed on November 10, 1950 and was registered under the name of Cyprus Federation of America, Inc. on May 25, 1951. The resolution made for the establishment of CFA was signed on April 12, 1951. The first constitution was approved by the First National Convention on October 21, 1951.



In 2002, CYCA (Cyprus Youth Association of America) was established for the Cypriot youth of ages 17 to 30. The purpose of this division of the Cyprus Federation of America is to keep the Greek Cypriot culture and identity alive. CYCA has about 100 members and operates on a global level.



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# JOHN P. CALAMOS

## PILOTS HIS OWN JETS AND THE SKIES OVER THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

by Dimitri C. Michalakis



It all started for John Calamos at Pete's Food Market on the West Side of Chicago. Between stocking shelves and sweeping up and making deliveries for his father ("I used to think: when can I go out to play?") he rummaged around the basement one day and found some stock certificates dating from the '20s and '30s.

"I asked my dad about them and he said, 'Oh, they were dropped off by an uncle of mine who was passing through,'" says Calamos of what became his first stock transaction when he was only a teen. Not that the stocks in the stockroom were any great shakes (Muntz TV, anyone?) But it spurred the nascent investor in him. "I talked my mother, who was very supportive of anything I wanted to do, into taking \$5,000 of their savings and buying five stocks I had researched and which had spurred my interest."

Fortunately, Texas Instruments was among them and the rest is history. From the basement to the boardroom, Calamos founded Calamos Asset Management in 1977, a mutual-fund company that oversees tens of billions in assets and is still family-run (he ran it with his older brother Angelo and now runs it with his son John Jr. and his nephew Nick), and it made its 71-year-old CEO and chairman a billionaire when it went public a few years ago.

And he's still in the game, still the pioneer in convertible bonds, and still hungry.

"I feel good, I work hard, and I continue to work full-time," says the affable market maven from the company's headquarters in Naperville. A former Air Force fighter pilot (he still pilots his own jet) he routinely flies around the world on business, has written a definitive book on his specialty (*Convertible Securities: The Latest Instruments, Portfolio Strategies, and Valuation Analysis*) and is still bullish on the global and domestic economy despite the erupting crises.

"We've had crises this year—we've had earthquakes, we had the Gulf oil spill, we had Katrina not long ago, but some of the near-term reaction might be overdone," he maintains. "Japan is a very smart country; they're very smart people; they know how to handle these types of things, so we're a bit more constructive about them. There's some fear out there and it might have chased out some investors, but it's also provided an opportunity."

And the unrest in the Middle East might also have a silver lining. "One of the big trends that people seem to be ignoring is that around the world what we see is a very strong trend in the growth of the global middle class. We have to remember that what made both the United States and Europe as great as they are is the growth of their middle class. And we see the middle class growing in China and India and other parts of the world and that's a very positive sign, because the middle class are the consumers of the world. Egypt, for example, has 80 million people and 40 million people of those are living at \$2 a day; we hope that the 40 million become a middle class and that's what they want, too: that's why they're marching in the street. The growth of the global middle class is a very positive longer term trend."

Domestically, he says the recession has spurred a greater surge in savings in the middle class and that's a good thing, too.

"In the United States there's always been this sort of wealth effect: people feel wealthier when the price of their house and property is going up. And obviously that's not happened. But they've done the smart thing: they've increased savings. Everybody would like them to decrease savings and spend more to get the economy going. But when you look at a family, they're saying, it's in my interest to increase savings, instead, and I think the middle class will continue to do well here."

Won't the new frugality affect the growth of the economy?

"It might, but people are doing the smart thing for them," he says. "What happened here three or four years ago is that many people, the middle class and others, used their houses as a sort of cash register to get second mortgages, to refinance and get money, and I think now they've learned their lesson. They also bought houses they couldn't afford and the government encouraged them and the builders kept building. Now things are stabilizing. We've bottomed out and both the consumer and job growth is coming back and that will help the middle class. We're also seeing corporate earnings recovering very nicely. That's a positive. And we saw a downtick in the unemployment rate. That's a positive. It might be a slow recovery, but it seems to us to be on the right track."

Unfortunately, he's a bit more guarded about the outlook in Greece.

"When you read about it, it's a bit discouraging," he admits. "I had the honor of meeting Prime Minister Papandreou when he came to Washington a few months ago, me along with about a dozen or so other Greek American businessmen, and he was very attentive; he's really trying to do the right thing. And the right thing to me is a very dramatic change in how that country is run."

That dramatic change would include, he says, "much more of a market economy. They have to grow the private sector there. And they need to do things that will help grow the private sector. Just going out and borrowing money and more money and more money doesn't work. It's like when a company gets in trouble it renegotiates its debt, and that's what they're doing there, but the company also renegotiates its

business plan. How do I grow my business? In the case of Greece, how do you grow the government's revenue stream? How do you create incentives for people to have businesses in Greece and create jobs in the private sector?"

He realizes these might be seismic changes in the Greek way of doing business. "It's got to be an awakening on the people of Greece to say, we can be a market economy, we can be a leader in that. We all honor the philosophy of Greece as the leader of Western civilization and how it showed us the way back then and modern Greece can do that now. How do you have the debts you have and still have a retirement age of 55 for men and 50 for women just because they do 'arduous' jobs? We all know that if we eat the Mediterranean diet we're going to live to be a hundred.



Well, who's going to pay for those between 50 and 100 who are retired? That's a lot of money. You eat the Greek diet and you live to be one hundred but you retire at 50? I should have been in Greece. I could have retired 20 years ago."

He says he was shocked when visiting Greece last summer by the strikes in the middle of the tourist season, the economic lifeblood of the country. "Tourism is a major part of their economy, but they go out on strike! And I'm thinking, how can people do that when this is their income and yet they're chasing people away? I would have advised Papandreou to fire them all, just like President Reagan did when the air traffic controllers went on strike here in the early '80s. He said, you go on strike, you're fired. No public employee should ever have the right to strike, because who are you arguing with?"

He admits he's not familiar with the day-to-day political challenges of Greece, but he's crunched the numbers and the numbers don't lie.

"If you look at the 10-year government bond spreads—Greece has the highest," he says. "The yield on their government bonds is over 12%, the spread is 9% against the Euro and 9% against T-bonds, so it's the highest. And then when you see some of the forecasts out there by some of the major economic forecasters, they got Ireland recovering nicely, and Spain recovering, and they have Greece going the opposite. That does not bode well."

But he knows enough about Greek philosophy and culture to hope in the midst of despair (he took Greek philosophy in college and "got immersed in it") and like every Greek he believes that a work ethic can cure many ills.

He admits working long hours as a kid at his father's grocery store was no picnic, "but it really hones your work ethic. My father used to say, we may not make any money, but we eat good."



His parents hailed from Tripoli, though his mother Maria was born here, and Calamos was the first in the family (he also has a younger sister, Lorraine) to attend college—and he's never looked back.

He graduated the Illinois Institute of Technology and got his MBA, but then admits he got bored “with the kind of job I might get working for a bank or something— so I joined the Air Force and became a pilot.”

That was 1965 and he had never been in an airplane before, but he went through one year of intensive training (“I am so proud of earning my wings—because you start with never having been in an airplane, let alone pilot one, and one year later you're flying supersonic jets in formation at night”), and then served five years at the height of the Vietnam War and earned a Distinguished Flying Cross. “It's the kind of thing you never want to do again,” he admits, “but you wouldn't trade the experience for anything.”

He loved flying so much that when he got out in 1970 he went looking for a job as an airline pilot (he did serve 12 years in the reserve) while he hung time working as a stockbroker. But the recession got worse, and in the meantime he discovered the miracle of convertible bonds and got into the business of spreading the gospel.

“Back then there were very few people doing them and I got to specialize in them,” he says. “In fact, in 1985 I set up in the United States one of the first mutual funds doing convertible bonds. The other thing we did early on that was different is we (literally wrote the book) on how to use option price theory. We were a leader in that and today we're probably one of the largest convertible bond managers in the world. We manage not only U.S. convertible bonds, but global convertible strategies, so it's still a very exciting place to be and a lot of people do it now. But back then nobody understood them at all and what we've been able to do is navigate the different market crises very well going back to the '70s and '80s: we have very long term experience in this area.”

Though his father Peter thought he'd have done better in the grocery business.

“After I had some success,” Calamos told *Chicago Magazine*, “he once said to me: ‘If you had stayed in the grocery business, we'd be bigger than Dominick's.’”

His son got bigger than Dominick's, but he still honors the legacy of his father and mother and the pioneers to this country and he's a major benefactor and booster of the National Hellenic Museum in Chicago's Greektown.

“My mother and her family grew up three or four blocks from Greektown,” he says. “And I think it's so important that my grandchildren and the next generation and the next generation after that remember the great immigrant experience here. We're the last generation to really make sure that it's not forgotten forever.”

He remembers his father telling about how he came over on a ship during World War I that hugged the shore to avoid German U-boats and how he earned his living in his early days peddling produce from a wagon.

“If you remember in the old days in Chicago you'd go to Randolph Street with your cart, buy some fruits and vegetables, then walk down the alley and sell them,” his son remembers his father's tale. And he remembers his father's pride when he finally opened his own store. “How big a deal was that? I have my own store? he thought. I don't have to walk down the alley anymore. And when I think about that today, and the success they had, and how they worked so hard to make sure I was educated, I just don't want that to be forgotten. It's very important to me, and at the National Hellenic Museum part of what we're doing is document the history of the immigrants coming through to America. To me that's extremely important.”

Does that mean he sometimes misses sweeping up the old store?

“No,” he laughs, “I don't miss Thursdays with all the deliveries I had to make.”



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# LEADERSHIP 100 CONFERENCE SETS NEW RECORDS



John Payiavlav, Patsy Kouvas, Marisa Payiavlav, Catherine and Peter Pappas

Tarsi Georgas, Constantine G. Caras and Paulette Poulos

Claire Milonas and Maria Marinakis

Eleni and Dimitris Bousis

Frank Manios, Supreme President of AHEPA, Nicolas Karacostas, Ted and Ann Zampetis, E. Jobn and Cleo Rumpakis

Mathew Mirones

Paulette Poulos addressing the conference

Philip and Louis Nicosis

Chairman Constantine G. Caras, Ted Leonis, recipient of the Archbishop Iakovos Award for Excellence, and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Peter Diamandis, recipient of the Archbishop Iakovos Award for Excellence, and Constantine G. Caras

Michael Jabaris and Conference Chair Maria Allwin

Kassandra and Annette Romas

Byron Georgiou

Stefanie Roumeliotes and Dr. John Costouros

Peter and Ethel Parthenis and George Sakellaris

PHOTOS: EIA PRESS

Markos and Maria Marinakis

Michael Bapis, Anna Caputo and Michael Psilakis

Brian Carr and Kyriakos Tsakopoulos

Harry Nick and John Saltas

Tarsi Georgas and Gregory Georgas

Louis Apostolou, Angelo Tsakopoulos, Spiros Frangiskakakis and Peter Limouris

Evangelia Pedas and Ted Veru

Archbishop Demetrios, Maria Papadakis, Eliana Papadakis and Constantine G. Caras

Michael Bapis and Charles Cotros

John and Angela Baglaneas, Stephanie and Thanasi Liakos, George and Margo Bebrakis

Peter and Adrienne Barris and William and Roula Hunter

George Tsantes and Stephen G. Yeonas

NEO's Margarita Vartolomeou and Spiro Voutsinas, President of Atlantic Bank

Thomas and Marill Demakes and Aris and Marta Gialamas

Thomas Constance, Nicholas Coch and Ted Veru

Prof. John McKesson Camp and Kostas Alexakis

National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeaadas and Maria Allwin

Peter Kikis, Kassandra Romas and Lynda Ann Costas

Carli Pantelidis, Stephanie Pantelidis, Catherine Pappas, Stella Pantelidis, Mariana Pantelidis and Elpitza Soussou

Kiki Theodorides and Alexandria Marcus

More than 400 members and guests attended the annual Leadership 100 Conference, held this past February at the Breakers in Palm Beach, Florida. It was during this gathering that Archbishop Demetrios of America asked the Executive Committee to proceed with the appointment of Paulette Poulos as the organization's Executive Director "in view of her dedicated and productive work." The committee unanimously approved the appointment. Poulos, who had been Acting Executive Director since 2006 and previously Director of Development, joined the organization in

2005 after the passing of Archbishop Iakovos whom she had served as Administrator from 1984 to 1996, continuing to assist him in his retirement. Upon hearing the news, participants gave Poulos a heartfelt ovation. In response she said, "during the past 46 years, I have learned the importance of Christian service, the dynamism of our Orthodox Church and the richness of our Hellenic heritage, as well as the importance of visionary leadership from great Churchmen such as Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory and our Spiritual Leader, Archbishop Demetrios, and from a long line of great

lay leaders too numerous to name. I will continue to draw strength, as they do, from the Lord, and to continue to serve." The 20th Annual Conference began and ended on a high note with a report by Constantine G. Caras, Chairman, to the Board of Trustees and General Assembly that despite the economic crisis the organization had rebounded with growth in membership, contributions and the value of its portfolio, allowing an increase in grants. The conference closed with a stirring performance by

Lina Orfanos, an internationally-acclaimed vocal artist who appeared at the concluding Grand Banquet. An impromptu Greek night, organized on the spot by the Pantenidis brothers with the musicians playing unplugged until the early hours of the next day, brought in additional Greek flavor and spontaneity that was greatly appreciated by the participants.

Chairman Caras cited the increase of membership to 863, with 34 new members, which included a total of 95 enrolled as Leadership 100 Partners Program and 5 enrolled in the Junior Partners Program, as well as 447 fulfilled ones. "Most significantly, the portfolio reached \$67,826,000 at the end of last year and our Grants Program was reborn with vigor and purpose, totaling \$1,031,600 for 2010, principally to the Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology scholarship program," he said. "Additional commitments of \$1,331,600 for the School are scheduled to be awarded in 2011, including another

\$1 million for the scholarship program, a \$250,000 final payment on the four-year \$1 million grant for Information Technology, and a \$50,000 payment for the third installment of a five-year \$250,000 grant for Vocation Ministry, bringing total grants to \$30.4 million since the inception of Leadership 100," he added. Maria Allwin, the Conference Chair and a member of the Board of Trustees, received accolades for a job excellently done. Allwin told conferees that this year's conference required careful and detailed

PHOTO: DIMITRIOS PAMAGOS





Peter Parthenis and Dean Metropoulos

Leab Bitounis and Chryssa Tsakopoulos

Marta and Aristotle Gialamas

Dr. John Costouros, Stefanie Roumeliotes and Mike Manatos

Carlene Soumas (standing) Philip Nicozisis, Brian and Laura Carr and Gregory Georgas

Steve and Olga Tenedios and Stavro and Audrey Soussou

George Bebrakis, Stephanie Ltakos, Maria Bebrakis and Margo Bebrakis

Dr. Chris Papadopoulos, Mary Bongiovanni and Fr. Andrew and Presvytera Maginas

Thomas Constance, Martha Fling and Janet Constance

Jeanne and Dr. Antonios Paras and Christine and Angelo Coutris

Dean and Zoe Pappas and James and Pauline Catricket

Areti Sakellaris, Artbur and Vassiliki Sakellaris

Drake Bebrakis and John Baglaneas

Stephania Patsalis, Fran Karivalis and Dina Theodosakis

L100 Partners and young professionals

George Hasiotis, Elena Limbert, Irene Komodikis and Alexander Hadjiligiou

Eleni Bapis, Demetra Ganias and sitting Maria Bebrakis

Sitting: Molly Corpas and Ann Zampetis; Standing: Catherine Bitounis, Susan Loutsion, Jeanne Paras, Christine Coutris and Elaine Cotronakis

John Payiavlus, Charles Cotros and George Bebrakis

Theodore and Catherine Mitchell with daughter Joanna Kayiaros

William B. Marianes and E. John Rumpakis

Christina Vinos, John Touloupoulos and Zacharie Vinos

Georgia Stamas, Zacharie Vinos and Christina Vinos

Sitting: Emanuel Cotronakis, Dr. Constantine Bitounis and Markos Marinakis; Standing: Angelo Coutris and Dr. Antonios Paras

Impromptu Greek night after the gala event

Mary and Frank Manios and E. John Rumpakis

Lina Orfanos and Demetrios and Patrisse Spelios

Elaine and John Thibault

Timothy Maniatis and William Marianes

Anastasia Georgas, Kelly and Paul Lountzis

Adrienne Barris, (standing) Georgia Veru, Diane Pappas and Audrey Marianes

Fay and George Zabaras and Harry and Sandra Nick

Andrew Manatos and Peter Barris

Anastasia and Manny Katsetos, Andrew Akaras, Leab Bitounis and Chryssa Tsakopoulos

planning to control costs while, at the same time, to create an inspiring program, which was evidenced by the traditional Bible Study and Lecture by Archbishop Demetrios and the featured speakers that included Ted Leonsis, the business entrepreneur, and Dr. Peter Diamandis, the space pioneer, both of whom were honored with the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Award for Excellence and John McKesson Camp II, noted classical archaeologist and Michael Psilakis, the executive chef, both of whom were given the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Award for

Achievement. A special tribute was paid to Dr. Constantine "Takis" Papadakis, of blessed memory, a member of Leadership 100, in recognition of his many innovative contributions to education in the United States and to Hellenic ideals. The award was posthumously presented and accepted by his wife, Eliana Papadakis and their daughter, Maria Papadakis, who addressed the audience in a moving presentation on her father's life and work. Caras acknowledged new members of the Board of Trustees at the Conference, including: Lily Bentas of

the Boston Metropolis; Tom Jordan of the Detroit Metropolis; John Moutsanas of the San Francisco Metropolis; Christopher Pappas of the Denver Metropolis; James A. Regas of the Chicago Metropolis; George E. Safiol of the Boston Metropolis; Kyriakos Tsakopoulos of the San Francisco Metropolis; and Theodore K. Zampetis of the Pittsburgh Metropolis. He also expressed gratitude for the long and dedicated service of outgoing Board members, including George Marcus, John Marks, John

Pappajohn, Mark Stavropoulos, Michael Stefanos, Angelo Tsakopoulos, and Nicholas J. Bouras, and Stephen G. Yeonas, noting that Bouras had been named Honorary Lifetime Board Member and Yeonas had become Chairman Emeritus upon the passing of Founder George K. Chimples. Associated with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese throughout her working career, Paulette Poulos began her responsibilities in 1965, working in various capacities, including Director of LOGOS and Associate Director for Stewardship Ministry (1972-

1984). She also served on various national commissions, including the National Youth Commission and the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches. From 1984 to 1996, she served as Administrator for His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos. Her dedication and loyalty to His Eminence and the Church enabled him to remain actively involved in ecclesiastical life and service until his passing in April, 2005.

"No one is more suited for the role of Executive Director of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, which draws its founding, vision and inspiration from Archbishop Iakovos, than Paulette Poulos," said Chairman Caras. "She has served an apprenticeship to true greatness and demonstrated in her own right the leadership skills which will take us to ever higher levels of achievement."



# Cathedral Luncheon and Fashion Show

On May 4th, the Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos is holding their Annual Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show at The Pierre Hotel to benefit the Cathedral Scholarship Fund for students at the Cathedral School. This year's fashion show features a very talented designer/artist, Angelo Lambrou. Mr. Lambrou is a Cypriot-Greek, born and raised in South Africa where he dressed some of the most prominent women in Botswana. As his name grew, he was invited to work with the Miss Botswana beauty pageant, and designed gowns for the 1999 winner. As a contestant for Miss Universe 1999, she won wearing an Angelo Lambrou gown, and became the first black African to win the crown. His beautiful gowns have also been worn on the red carpet here in the U.S., and women come from all over the country to visit his downtown boutique for wedding gowns and evening attire. "We are very excited that he has agreed to do our fashion show this year so please don't miss it," said Stella Pantelidis, one of the organizers. "Lunch will begin at 12:30 but please come early so you can take advantage of the amazing vendors that will be on display from 11:00." A portion of the proceeds from the sales of the vendors will go towards the Cathedral Scholarship Fund which benefits needy children of the Cathedral School. For more information and reservations, please call Catherine 212-249-7244 or Rallou 212-737-6267.

# Symposium honoring Greek Women Physicians



Dr. Melpo Christofidou-Solomidou, Consul General of Cyprus Koula Sofianou, Dr. Eleni Tousimis, Dr. Maria Theodoulou, Stella Kokolis, Dr. Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos holding HMS distinguished Female Physician Award, HMS President Dr. Nicholas H.E. Mezitis, Dr. Stella Lymberis, and Consul General of Greece Aglaia Balta

Institutes of Health and has published extensively in medical journals. She has been recognized with countless honors and awards throughout her career, and is a member of numerous professional organizations including the American Pediatric Society, the American Physiological Society, the Society for Pediatric Research, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

According to Dr. Stella Lymberis, Mary Kalopothakes was born in Athens in 1859, the daughter of Michael D. Kalopothakes a medical doctor from Athens, Greece, and of Martha Hooper Blackler from Marblehead, Massachusetts, USA. She studied at Greek and American schools and graduated from the Harvard Annex (now Radcliffe College). She wanted to study medicine. However, because of the difficulties posed due to the fact that she was a woman in the Greek University, she commenced her studies in Paris, France on October 1886. She returned to Athens in 1894 and passed the oral and written exams and began practicing the specialties of Pediatrics and Gynecology.

The Hellenic Medical Society (HMS) of New York organized recently the first annual Mary Kalopothakes Symposium at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Rockefeller Research Labs, honoring Hellenic Women Physicians and Scientists and featuring an array of specialists. The keynote lecture was delivered by Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos, MD, on the Mechanisms of Hypoxic Cerebral Injury in the Newborn. Dr. Delivoria-Papadopoulos is Professor of Pediatrics, Physiology, Obs/Gyn at the Drexel University College of Medicine and Director of Neonatal ICU at St. Christopher's Hospital. The speaker received the first Mary Kalopothakes Award from the HMS, for her 50 years of medical practice and pioneering work in neonatology and prenatal medical research.

The symposium was an idea of Dr. Stella Lymberis, Assistant Professor at the Department of Radiation Oncology, NYU Langone Medical Center, who ultimately organized and



Dr. Stella Lymberis, Vily Apostolatos, Roula Lambrakis, Marilena Christodoulou



L-R: Dr. Vassilis Latoussakis, Vily Apostolatos, Ages Ecos, Dr. Nicholas Mezitis, Theodora Ziongas, Rev. Dr. Frank Marangos, Dr. Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos, Presvytera Haidee Marangos, Dionisia Lymberis, Dr. Manolis Lambrakis, Captain Achilles Anastopoulos, Dr. Ioannis Zervoudakis, Stella Kokolis Seated: Dr. Stella Lymberis, Melpo Christofidou-Solomidou, Dr. Alice Zervoudakis

coordinated it along with Dr. Maria Theodoulou that graciously scheduled logistics at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Nicholas Mezitis, President of HMS, was very supportive and equally enthusiastic about the women in medicine concept. "He and the Executive Board of the Hellenic Medical Society not only approved this inaugural symposium, but also plan to hold it annually to honor distinguished female physicians," says Stella Lymberis.



Keynote speaker, Dr. Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos.

On the symposium's eve, a Lenten diner reception, featuring homemade dishes, was offered by Dr. Lymberis at her residence. Dr. Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos, like Maria Kalopothakes, performed a historical first: the successful use of a ventilator to treat premature newborns suffering from respiratory distress syndrome. Prior to her joining the Penn faculty, she resuscitated an 1800-gm (4-lb) premature infant suffering from respiratory distress syndrome at 34 weeks gestation that had complete cardiorespiratory arrest. Using the Bird respirator, she ventilated the infant for 12 days, after which it survived on its own as presented to the Society for Pediatric Research on May 2, 1963. She has served on several public advisory committees for the National

The pioneering female physician was an active member of the Union of Greek Women which was mobilized at the onset of the Greco-Turkish War of 1897. She worked as a Director and a surgeon of the Hospital of the Red Cross in Volos. She was recognized by Queen Olga for her daily training and seminars to prepare nurses to serve on the front. At the end of the war of 1897 the Greek women were also recognized by Florence Nightingale, the English nurse who made outstanding contributions to the knowledge and improvement of public health.

Mary Kalopothakes opened a clinic for women and children and trained nurses focusing on public health and the prevention of tuberculosis while always working fulltime as a pediatrician. In 1909 she published a report on public health in Greece outlining rates of infant mortality, hygiene and tuberculosis in the book "The Health of the Nations". She continued her efforts publishing the book "Elements of Hygiene for Schools" in 1912 and editing the "Hygeia" (Health) magazine. During the Balkan War of 1912 she served in Arta at the Hospital of the Red Cross. In the two wars in which she took part, her contribution as a surgeon was legendary, demonstrating unparalleled dedication, unwavering courage and heroism.



Stella Lymberis surprising Roula Lambrakis with B-day song and Artopolis chocolate cake

A modest, charitable humanitarian, she attended to poor patients as well as to refugees of the Asia Minor Catastrophe without seeking payment. She found courage in her faith practicing medicine with a selfless dedication. A daughter of the founder of the Greek Evangelical Church, she wrote many hymns. She also wrote in the "Ephemeris ton Paidon" (Childs' paper) and the "Astir tis Anatolis" (the Star of the East) newspapers that her father edited. She died in January 1941 while the Greek troops enjoyed victories at the Albanian front.

"Mary Kalopothakes will always be remembered as a philanthropic patriotic and pioneer. By honoring Mary's life and work we hope to help inspire future male and female Hellenic leaders of medicine and science," commented Stella Lymberis.

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Back row: Dr. Gerasimos Petratos, Captain Achilles Anastasopoulos, NEO's Demetrios Rhompotis, Alexia & John Dimitrakakis, Harilaos Zouvelos, Katerina Avgerinou, Yiorgos Nikolettakis and Dean Polites. In front, Harry Gaveras, Kyle Silvestro



Members of the Columbia Hellenic student association, Connie, Xanadu Halkia, Yiorgos Nikolettakis, Katerina Avgerinos, Evangelos Poulos



Eleni Daniels, Maria Frantzis and Alexis Repole, Board Members of Hellenic Professional Women, Inc.



John Dimitrakakis, Founder and President of HBN



Katie Shee, Ben Rubenstein, Steven Georges, Michael Lam

Katerina Mountanos and Katerina Avgerinos



Faye



Charis Lypiridis, George Brot



John Zakos, Harilaos Zouvelos, Andrew Sispoidis, Sam Stathis



Katie Shee, Georgia Stavropoulos

# HBN Entrepreneurship Symposium in New York

By Konstantinos Papakonstantinou



The symposium organizers, Dean Polites, Kostantinos Papakostantinou, Alex Elios



Standing, l to r: Marina Rodopoulos, Thomas Nikolakakis, Charis Lypiridis, Yiorgos Nikolettakis, Dean Polites, Alex Elios, John & Alexia Dimitrakakis. Sitting, Peter Lehrman, Jay Levy and Kostantinos Papakostantinou

The Hellenic Business Network – New York Chapter held its inaugural Entrepreneurship Symposium at Columbia University’s Schapiro Center in NYC on Saturday April 2nd. “Focus, persevere, be passionate” was the unscripted theme that was permeated to an engaged audience of more than 125, who sacrificed a beautiful Saturday but got a lot in return.

The symposium agenda included three moderated panels that presented different points of view of the entrepreneurial process: 1) the entrepreneurs discussed coming up with and executing an idea, 2) the success stories debated definitions of success and getting there, and 3) the investors shared tips on how to engage and get funded by VCs.

“I’m very pleased to see that our hard work is producing tangible results,” John Dimitrakakis, HBN Founder and President, said in an interview with NEO magazine. “This chapter has grown at a breathtaking speed and this highly successful event is indicative of what is yet to come. Kudos to our sponsors, organizers, guest speakers, attendees.”

Dean Polites, the symposium’s Chairperson and HBN Director, and Charis Lypiridis, President of the Columbia University Hellenic Association, kicked off the event and passed the reins to Graham Lawlor, Founder of Ultra Light Startups, who moderated “the entrepreneurs’ point of view” panel with Steven Georges, Alex Kombos of Event Now, Michael Lam of Radiashield Technologies, Ben Rubenstein of Yodle, and Katie Shea of Funk-tional Footwear.

Steven provided the perspective of a corporate entrepreneur and a deputy to the idea person, and concluded with a “know thyself and be passionate” message. Alex was already on his third startup and stressed the importance of solid research so that you know what you are diving into and how much money you will need as there are no lifelines in entrepreneurship when you miscalculate your runway. Michael came up with an idea that he could not believe anybody had thought of, but nevertheless recommended using one’s network as openly as possible instead of clamping up to protect the intellectual property, because “you cannot execute it alone”. Ben noted that the hardest thing is to maintain focus: entrepreneurs often come up with too many frills and add-ons, but customers care about only one or two things. His advice to fellow entrepreneurs was “cashflow, not ego”, meaning that it is ok to give up ownership for the greater benefit of the company, because it’s better to own a small piece of a much larger pie. Katie, finally, offered a younger point of view, which resonates particularly with many NYC entrepreneurs: disillusioned with the world of finance, she found opportunity in her tired feet and with her partner came up with a women’s accessory product to solve their pains, literally.

The second panel was moderated by Harilaos Zouvelos, CEO of Harmony of Motion. His questions were directed to successful entrepreneurs with decades of business experience: George Brot, ex-SONY senior executive and Founder of Beta Business Products, Andrew Sispoidis, CEO at a stealth company with multiple exits under his belt, Sam Stathis, CEO of Polo Electric, and John Zakos, Founder of MyCyberTwin.

The discussion opened with the panelists’ slightly differing definitions of success: for Sam it is making

money by doing something that you love and allows you to grow, for John it is more about contributing and the impact you make, and for Andrew it is about contributing to the world in a way that pushes things forward. The panel then discussed the importance of business plans, but recognized their value more as an internal exercise and a tool to align complex organizations. Sam compared its necessity to a music score: “a solo musician may not need a score to play good music, but a conductor needs it”. Even if business plans are not critical though, the panel highlighted the importance of perseverance and passion: you need consistent enthusiasm and to believe in yourself in order to overcome the inevitable obstacles and “no’s” you will hear, and you need to really enjoy what you are doing to endure the ups-and-downs.

The first two panels were followed by an extended networking lunch, where business cards were flying and new friendships and potential partnerships were forged. The attendees swarmed around the entrepreneurs to soak up even more of their experiences.

Eventually, the group gathered back into the auditorium for a presentation by John Dimitrakakis, HBN’s Founder and President. This was followed by the elevator pitch event, where startups TalkAboutHealth, SocialSpice, and Wall Street FPGA presented solutions to connect patients and family with experienced

survivors and experts who can help, to address once and for all the “meal for one” problem, and to make financial software ever faster.

The final event for the day was “the investor’s point of view” panel. The attendees, filled with words of perseverance and passion by that point, were keen to hear how investors actually think about ideas, teams, financing, and business plans. Konstantinos Papakonstantinou, HBN Director and entrepreneur, moderated a cozier panel with Jay Levy, co-Founder and partner of Zelvova Ventures and a serial entrepreneur, and Peter Lehrman, co-Founder and CEO of AxialMarket, a serial entrepreneur and angel investor.

Both Jay and Peter emphasized that the key elements for a startup investor are product – market – team. Elaborating on the latter two, they explained that large and growing markets are crucial, because entrepreneurs are bound to make mistakes, so exogenous tailwinds are welcome. Also, it takes the same amount of work to start a business, whether it addresses a small or a large market, so why limit the opportunity? Focusing on people is paramount because the team will have to respond to market changes, or pivot to new products or even markets as conditions change. A great piece of advice for entrepreneurs to successfully navigate capital-raising was to start a dialogue with potential investors as early-on as possible: reach out to investors in your field, bounce your ideas

off them, and send them regular updates with your progress, traction, and learnings. Entrepreneurs need to court investors before convincing them to part with their money, and through this process the money can come voluntarily without even asking.

The Symposium delivered great advice, insights, and contacts to all who attended. Hopefully there will be more events like this and there will be tangible incarnations of the wisdom imparted, in the form of new startups inspired by the group.

The Hellenic Business Network, Inc. (HBN) is an independent, not for profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization whose goal is to mobilize and utilize the expertise and resources available within our community to advance the commercial interests of all Hellenes and Philhellenes.

With chapters in Boston, New York and San Francisco Bay Area, HBN is the premier Greek-American professional organization in the US. HBN is a broad-based organization with members from virtually every industry and profession.

The HBN New York Chapter is lead by Alexandros Eliopoulos, Konstantinos Papakonstantinou, and Dean Polites.

## NICHOLAS C. KALOUDIS, M.D., F.A.C.E.

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# 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Greek Letters Day Celebration



34<sup>th</sup> Annual Greek Letters Day Honorees. From left to right, HAPS President Yannis Paulus, Marina Moustakas, His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas, Maria Mavroudi, and Anthoula Vlachos

promoting educational, cultural, social, and community ties among Greek-American professionals in Northern California. I also gave an overview of recent events, including a January "Vassilopita, Cocktails, and Conversation" jointly with the Hellenic Law Society, BAGABA (Bay Area Greek American Business Association), and the Center for Modern Greek at San Francisco State University; a talk by George Paganis, Curator of the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection in Sacramento; and a wine tasting social, to name a few.

His Eminence Nikitas, Metropolitan Bishop of the Dardanelles and Director of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute in Berkeley, presented special letters of commendation from His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. Greetings were also extended by His Excellency, Ambassador Ioannis Andreades, Consul General of the Republic of Greece, and the Honorable Nicolaos Theophanous, Honorary Consul of Cyprus.

George Mattis, Scholarship Chairman, presented the 2011 HAPS scholarship to Anthoula Vlachos, a senior at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is majoring in biology, serves as head of the UCSC dental club, is the head student coordinator for commencement at UCSC, and volunteers with the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization of Santa Cruz County. Anthoula plans to begin dental school after completing her undergraduate studies.

Patricia Lagiss, AXION Award Co-Chair with Virginia Lagiss, introduced the AXION Award, the highest honor awarded by HAPS to people of Hellenic ancestry who must have fulfilled five criteria, including achieving high goals in his or her field of endeavor and made a significant contribution in a professional, academic, or scientific field or the humanities. Former AXION award recipients were honored, of which more than 19 were present at the event, including one of the first AXION recipients 34 years ago. The 2011 AXION award was then presented to two distinguished women in our community, Maria Mavroudi and Marina Moustakas.

After each introduction, the entire crowd of more than 150 people loudly pronounced Maria Mavroudi and Marina Moustakas "AXIA!" Dr. Leonidas Petrakis and Thanasis Maskaleris presented the AXION award to Dr. Maria Mavroudi, a distinguished scholar and innovative leader studying Byzantium and its interplay with the Arab world. Maria earned a BA in Philology from the University of Thessaloniki and a Ph.D. in Byzantine Studies from Harvard University. She is a professor of history and classics at the University of California,

I served as master of ceremonies and I introduced HAPS as a group established in 1960 that is committed to

Berkeley, and has written a number of books and articles on Byzantium.

She has received numerous fellowships to fund her studies, including the prestigious MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Award.

The Honorable Theodore Laliotis presented the AXION award to Marina Moustakas, a pioneering leader working for the preservation and dissemination of Greek culture. She earned a BA and did graduate studies in Sociology from the University of Oregon with a Fulbright Scholarship.



Former AXION Award recipients with the 2011 AXION Award recipients, scholarship recipient, His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas, and HAPS President.

She has taught Greek language since 1962 and founded numerous Hellenic institutions in the Bay Area, including the St. Nicholas Hellenic School, the Greek Festival of San Jose, and the Hellenic Heritage Institute in San Jose, a beacon of Hellenism to the West. She is a leader who works tirelessly for the preservation of Hellenism.

To close the event, President of HAPS, I thanked the numerous people involved in making the event such a success, including Loula Anaston who served as chairwoman, Patricia Lagiss for serving as decorations chair, Yvonne Stamatakis who served as caterer, Jason Bezis who handled reservations, Natalie Schrik who served as photographer, Adrienne Verrios for making the programs, and the entire HAPS Executive Board for all of their assistance. Then His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas led a benediction to conclude the memorable celebration.

To join the organization or contribute to the scholarship award, you can visit HAPS online at: <http://www.hapsca.org/> More pictures are available on the HAPS group site on facebook. You can reach HAPS President Yannis Paulus at [ypaulus@stanford.edu](mailto:ypaulus@stanford.edu).



Scholarship recipient Anthoula Vlachos with her family. From left to right: Stepbania Vlachos (sister), Spiro Vlachos (father), Anthoula Vlachos, Argyro Petsakos-Vlachos (mother)

by Yannis Paulus, M.D

For this month's column I wanted to shine the light on The Hellenic American Professional Society of California (HAPS), an organization that has highlighted the achievements of Greek American professionals in California for years with the very special AXION award. I felt the person that could best define this organization and this well respected award to be the current President of HAPS himself, Dr. Yannis Paulus...



AXION recipient Maria Mavroudi being presented with the AXION award. HAPS President Yannis Paulus with Maria Mavroudi flanked by her two nominators, Thanasis Maskaleris (left) and Leonidas Petrakis (right).



AXION recipient Marina Moustakas with her children and grandchildren

were honored: AXION recipients Dr. Maria Mavroudi, Marina Velliou Moustakas and scholarship recipient Anthoula S. Vlachos. The Artoclasia and luncheon were held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

I served as master of ceremonies and I introduced HAPS as a group established in 1960 that is committed to

# ORTHODOXY WITHOUT BORDERS: SERBIA



By Alexander Billinis



Now that we are in the midst of Great Lent, it makes sense to consider borderless Orthodoxy. Here in Serbia, where we currently live, Orthodoxy is the religion of the vast majority of the population, so much that the saying "to be Greek is to be Orthodox" could apply to Serbs as well. At this time, the churches fill, Lenten foods start to appear on supermarket shelves, and fish stores do a bigger business as the Serbs, about as meat eating a nation as any on the planet, curtail their consumption.

Serbian Orthodox are about as observant as their brethren in Greece, though the years of Tito's soft communism, together with the multi-ethnicity of the former Yugoslavia (and certain parts of Serbia) result in far less Church involvement in society. Unlike in Greece, there is a strict separation of Church and State. Civil documentation and government offices have no mention of religion, though my son, in first grade, takes Orthodox Catechism as part of the curriculum. I thought of my service in the Greek Army, with mandatory liturgies and the Lord's Prayer en masse before meals. None of that here. While Serbian Churches are well-attended and adorned, the tiny chapels that are ubiquitous in Greece are far less common.

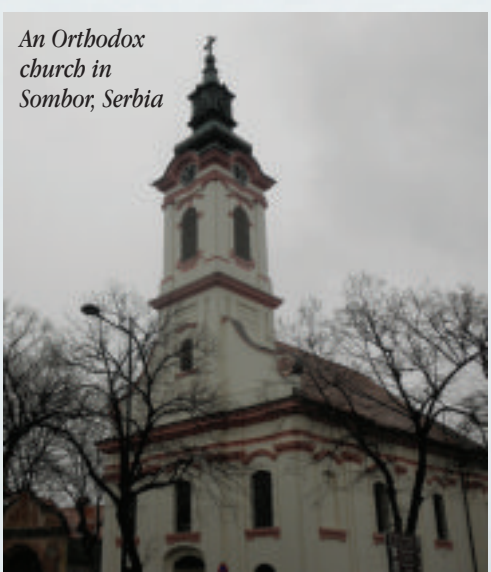
Though the Church is separate from the State, and most Serbs seem to favor this, the trappings of Orthodoxy abound. Prayer bead bracelets (komboskinia) or rear view mirror crosses are everywhere and it most houses have an icon alcove, usually of the household saint. This requires some explaining. Serbs, unique among Orthodox peoples, do not celebrate name days but rather the saint's day of their household saint, known in Serbian as the "Slava." Household saint days are the most important days for Serbians except for Easter and Christmas, and even non-religious Serbs tend to hold this tradition dear. Household saint days pass from father to son, but the eldest male (father or brother) will usually host the Slava, to which family, koumbaroi, and guests visit. Generally, kolyva in a cross pattern is provided upon entry to the house, one crosses oneself, eats the koliva and proceeds to drinking and eating.

Of course, the saint's days dates are different from the Greek Orthodox Church, as the Serbians have kept the Old Calendar, which is 13 days later than the New Calendar. This results in Christmas being

on January 7, but Easter is always the same day for all Orthodox. Most Orthodox or Eastern Christian Churches retain the Old Calendar, but the Greek, Bulgarian, and Romanian Orthodox have opted for the New Calendar.

Aside from the language of the Church, which is Old Church Slavonic, Orthodoxy is celebrated in the same way. Like in Greece, and in contrast to America, people will often mill around during the liturgy, as there are no pews, or step outside. To a degree, again like in Greece, the Church is a reference point for the Serbian national identity in the face of all the country has gone through in the face of Yugoslavia's dissolution. It thus receives a great deal of nominal respect even from completely non-religious Serbs.

The religious atmosphere also varies by region. Southern Serbia is solidly Orthodox, except for a few enclaves of Albanian or Bosnian Muslims, and Churches are in a Serbo-Byzantine style easily recognizable to a Greek. The situation is different in Vojvodina, Serbia's northern province, where we live. In Vojvodina, which experienced only a century and a half of Turkish rule but was under Austro-Hungarian rule for two centuries until 1918, the atmosphere and architecture recall Vienna and



An Orthodox church in Sombor, Serbia

Budapest. Most Vojvodina Orthodox Churches, such as the one we attend in Sombor, are in a baroque style nearly identical to Roman Catholic Churches—on the exterior. The Orthodox Churches have a different orientation to the Roman Catholic ones, and the interior, with narthex and iconostasis, is totally different, though in Vojvodina the iconostasis is likely to have frescoes clearly showing Renaissance and Baroque schools. When I mentioned this to a Serbian priest in Sremski Karlovci, a beautiful Vojvodina town that had been the seat of the Serbian Patriarchate for two centuries, the priest said, "well, the Renaissance owes itself to Byzantium, so these traditions are simply returning to us."

Vojvodina has over two-dozen nationalities; Serbs, while a small majority, live side-by-side (or in marriage) with Hungarians, Slovaks, Romanians, Croats, Carpatho-Russians, and a score of other nations, including small pockets of Greeks from the Civil War era. Orthodoxy coexists here with Roman Catholicism and a few Protestants, in the same towns, and often in the same household. This often results either in a hybridization of celebrations, or a strict division of traditions, but in a general atmosphere of tolerance. This makes Vojvodina probably the most ethnically diverse part of Europe, and while religion serves as a mark of identity, most people, particularly in Sombor, celebrate inclusively. As one Sombor journalist, a Serb married to a Hungarian, told me, "the worst insult to call a Somboretz (Sombor citizen) is that he is intolerant."

Holy Week and the Easter celebrations are to a great degree similar to those in Greece, which is not surprising given the common religion and Byzantine culture, but climate and cuisine do have some variations. The variations and difference increase the further north in the country. Post-Anastasi magiritsa is not common here, and while lamb is the preferred Easter meat, in Serbia pork is also ubiquitous. Again, mountainous southern Serbia is more likely to have lamb than further north, and in the south oven baking and spit roasting is more common than in the north, where stews and cooked meals are the norm, including for Easter. Oil, whether during the fast or the feast, is usually sunflower oil, a function of cost and climate, rather than the ever-present olive oil in Greece. Paprika, uncommon in Greek cuisine, is a staple, particularly in the region bordering Hungary, and often as not the main meal at Easter will be lamb paprikash stew.

My second Easter in Serbia is fast approaching. At times of high holidays, it is nice to be in a country where most people are your coreligionists, and move to (and are moved by) the same traditions, along with interesting differences.

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.

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SYN...PHONIA Band, a New York City based Greek-American group, has earned a reputation as the ultimate choice for extraordinary Greek musical performance and entertainment.

The Band was created in 2002 by a pair of outstanding talents, Aphrodite Daniel, daughter of famed Greek band leader Mike Daniel, and Panos Chrysovergis, an accomplished classical/contemporary pianist from Athens, Greece. While complimenting each other's artistic styles, they formed a Greek band with a classic/contemporary manner and presentation that was unique to Greek entertainment. In just a few years their audience grew as they now command a strong presence in the Greek-American music scene.

Panos earned his degree from the "Odeion" National Music Conservatory of Athens in Classical Piano Performance. For a period of seven years he performed under the direction of composer/pianist Yiannis Spanos during his live concert performances as well as at the musical stage "Odos Aristotelous". Over the years in Athens, Panos worked as musical director and pianist for concerts and live radio/television programming for acclaimed Greek artists such as Vicky Mosholiou, Tzeni Vanou, Manolis Mitsias, Lakis Lazopoulos, Angelos and Stelios Dionysiou, Lakis Pappas, Lizetta Nikolaou, Kaiti Homata, Giorgos Mouzakis, Sperantza Vrana, etc.

Aphrodite, a New York City native and daughter of the famed and beloved Greek band leader Mike Daniel, graduated Queens College with a MA. In 1983, she formed Daniel Entertainment Inc., a Greek concert promotion company that for 15 years produced North American tours for popular Greek artists. It was during these years that Aphrodite was educated and inspired by the highly acclaimed contemporary Greek vocalists Haris Alexiou, Yiannis Parios, Anna Vissy, Dimitra Galani, Gregoris Bithikotsis, Mairi Linda, Nikos Nomikos, Elpida and others.

When she was only 23, Aphrodite released her first recorded selection of original songs entitled, "Horis agapi pou tha pas" (where will you go without love), featuring original songs by the contemporary composers Antonis Vardis, Thanasis Polikandriotis and a local lyricist Stelios Ioannides.

Of her experience in the Greek music business, Aphrodite says: "It's been a wonderful ride so far... I feel blessed in that I get to do what I love in the company of the most phenomenal talents..." When asked about the status of today's Greek music, she goes on to say that "I find it sad and unjust that a social de-sensitization by the Greek media and music industries have destroyed the borders between

## syn...phonia: a harmonious combination of sound and presence



Panos Chrysovergis and Aphrodite Daniel

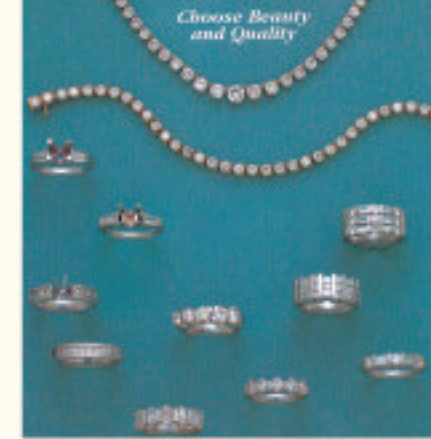
...inept, undeserving 'artists' and qualified, dignified performers."

The band also includes Takis Elenis (formerly of the famed Trio Bel Canto), Panagiotis Andreou (recently voted "best Latin Jazz Bassist in New York" by a prestigious music magazine), Nikos Manioudakis, Engin Gunaydin (Berkley School of Music) and the virtuoso clarinetist from The Julliard's School of Music Ismail Lumanovsky.

The band specializes in performances for Weddings, Baptism celebrations, Award Dinners, Annual Organization Galas (AHEPA, the Archons, the Cyprus Federation of America, Pangregorian

Enterprises are some of their clients) to the most intimate of family celebrations. "We still receive compliments on how amazing this band was and how much fun everyone had at our wedding. The dancing was nonstop as their energy and enthusiasm filled the dance floor," says a happy bride. "Aphrodite and Panos are simply the best!"

A unique and distinctive concert presentation is also an option that is ideal for any organization or Church fund-raising event. The next of these concerts is planned for May 7, 2011 by the Connecticut Chapter of AHEPA. For information on the concert and anything regarding the Syn...Phonia Band the number is (646) 623-0270 and their website [www.syn-phonia.com](http://www.syn-phonia.com)



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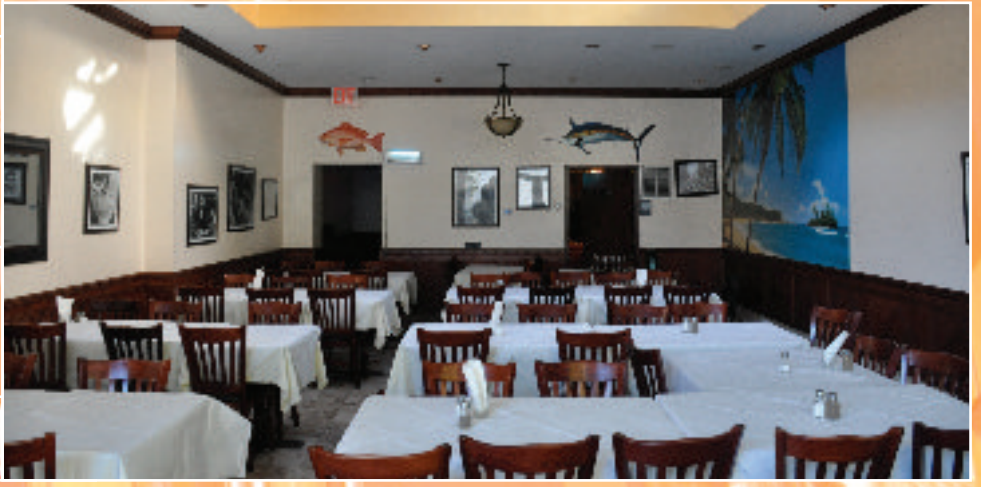
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## Hellenic Lawyers Association supports Judge Skelos



Judge Peter Skelos with his wife, Faith, and two daughters, Daphne (left) and Alexis

Judge Peter Skelos of the Appellate Division, Second Department, and an Honorary Board Member of HLA, was recently awarded the Norman Lent Award by the Criminal Courts Bar Association of Nassau County, New York. Mr. Skelos accepted this highly coveted award at the Fox Hollow Country Club in the presence of over 200 supporters, a true testament to his distinguished career, as he was recognized for his many years on the bench as a "just" and "fair" jurist. He then went on to recount stories of his early years as a trial attorney, appellate lawyer and then as an Appellate Division judge. He also acknowledged the support of his family, including his wife Faith, his daughters Daphne and Alexis, as well as his brother, New York State Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, who were all present that evening.

Judge Skelos paid tribute to his Greek roots and thanked Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri, President of the Hellenic Lawyers Association ("HLA"), and the organization for their support. He noted that he will continue to serve on the HLA Advisory Board and support its goals. Several members of the HLA were present to show their support, including HLA Board members John Saketos, Peter Metis and Michael Hartofilis, host of Legal Forum, the HLA program at Radio NEO. Also in attendance and expressing her

support for the Hellenic community was the Honorable Helen Voutsinas, newly elected District Court Judge in Nassau County, as well as philhellene and the Independence Party Leader of Nassau County Rick Bellando who noted that he was "proud to be a part of this auspicious event and to observe the universal support of Judge Skelos from so many members of the community, the courts and his family."



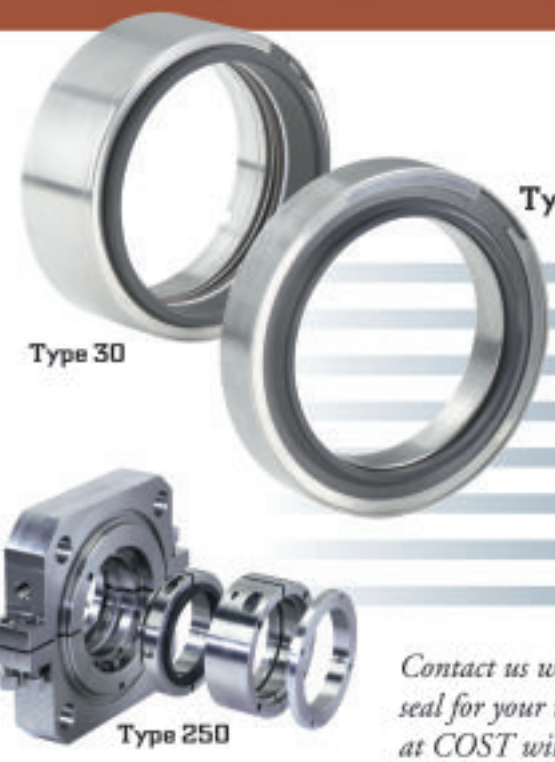
Criminal Courts Bar Association President William Kepbart, Judge Peter Skelos, Judge Helen Voutsinas, Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri, Esq., and Matthew Fulgieri

From left, John Saketos, Esq., Peter Metis, Esq., Matthew Fulgieri, Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri, Esq., Rick Bellando, Senator Dean Skelos, Judge Peter Skelos, Gregory Grizopoulos, Esq., Judge Helen Voutsinas, Antonio Grouzis and Michael Hartofilis, Esq.



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By Maria A. Pardalis

## Tsoureki



Easter is indisputably the most sanctified and popular religious holiday in Greece. Traditions include candlelight night church services, a fifty day fast, family gatherings, dyed crimson red eggs, and an elaborate spread of food and sweet delicacies. The Easter feast in Greek homes is centered on whole spit roasted lamb and fragrant baked goods such as koulourakia, flouones, kalitsounia, and the globally admired Tsoureki, a sweet braided bread made especially for the celebration. Tsoureki is typically baked on Holy Thursday and not eaten until Easter Sunday. This brioche-like bread is also called Lambrosomo, which translates to shining-bread or the Epiphany bread and represents the light given to Christians by Christ's Resurrection.

Fluffy and moist, Tsoureki bakes up plump in the oven and is perfumed with the essence of mahlepi, the seeds of Mediterranean wild cherries, and mastic, the crystallized resin from the mastic tree. Check your local specialty stores or online for hard-to-find Greek ingredients. They are essential in making a traditional and flavorful loaf of Tsoureki.

You can adorn your tsoureki with red hard boiled eggs to make it more festive, or simply garnish with almonds and sesame seeds. Leaving out the egg will allow you to freeze half the batch so your family and you can enjoy this exquisite sweet bread year round.

Bake time: 30 minutes at 350 degrees  
 Prep time: at least 3 1/2 hours  
 Makes: 8 medium loaves

Note: The dough must rise three times before baking, so be sure to allow enough time to bake the bread completely.

### Ingredients:

- 4 cups whole milk, lukewarm
- 1/2 pound fresh yeast
- 12 whole eggs, separated
- 28 cups all purpose flour
- 3 cups sugar
- 2 cups unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon mastic
- 1 teaspoon mahlepi (or vanilla extract)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg yolk mixed with 2 tablespoons whole milk, beaten (for glaze)
- Sesame seeds and/or blanched almonds (for garnish)
- Hardboiled dyed red eggs for decoration (optional)

### Preparation:

- 1 In a large bowl, cream butter, sugar, mastic, mahlepi, salt and egg yolks together until well blended. Add egg whites and continue to mix, about 10 minutes.
- 2 Pour warm milk in a bowl and stir in yeast and a teaspoon sugar to help rise. Allow to rise, about 3 minutes. Add yeast to butter mixture and blend well. Slowly add flour, one cup at a time, into large bowl mixture. Mix until well blended.
- 3 Using your hands, knead the dough well. Cover bowl with a cloth and let rise at room temperature until it doubles in size, about 2 hours. Then knead again to release any air bubbles and cover and let rise again for another hour.
- 4 Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Turn the dough out onto a generously floured work area. Cut a 10 ounce piece of dough off and separate into 3 balls. Roll each piece into a 12 to 14 inch long rope. Press the ends of the three ropes together and braid. Place each loaf on a greased cookie sheet or if you wish to shape into a wreath, place in a round bread pan. Let rise for 20 to 30 minutes until they double in size.
- 5 Brush with beaten egg and milk mixture. Decorate with sesame seeds and almonds. Lastly, if using, add the red eggs into the braid and bake for about 30 minutes or until golden.



Allow to cool and serve sliced as is or with butter and jam. Tsoureki is also wonderful for breakfast and makes perfect French toast.

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# Jazz on City

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The hosts, Peter Douskalis and Stefanie Sintakis

JazzCity 95.5 is New York's newest Jazz radio program! We broadcast over the RadioNEO 95.5 frequencies in New York and worldwide on [www.radioneo.us](http://www.radioneo.us) every Sunday from 6:30PM – 8:00PM. I, Peter Douskalis, and Stefanie Sintakis, host the show. Personally, I come from a jazz guitar performance background and have been involved in the music industry for several years as a performer, recording artist, composer, and educator.

JazzCity is a program that promotes the music of all musicians that desire. We play the works of new and upcoming musicians, experienced and classics from throughout the history of Jazz. But the show is not only about the jazz itself. It is also about Greek musicians in the community and around the world that play jazz such as myself, Spiros Exaras, and composer Kyriakos Sfetsas.

The program has had a number of guests and we have even performed live in the studio. This show allows the listener to not only be exposed to new and old jazz music, but to also learn about the music they are listening to, the musicians, and what it is like to be a professional performer. JazzCity takes submissions from artists wishing to receive airplay and promotion simply by submitting two or three songs and a biography to me at [peterdouskalis@gmail.com](mailto:peterdouskalis@gmail.com). So far we have received over 400 song submissions from artists all over the world including, but not limited to: Italy, Bulgaria, England, Australia, New Zealand, France, Brazil, Canada, Spain, and many more countries.

Jazz is a worldwide music that has no limitations. It is for this reason that we play all styles such as swing, funk, Latin, bebop, blues, and electronic. Listeners are welcome to call in at 718.362.5757. Join the fun, talk to our guests and us, and be exposed to a wonderful world of jazz music.

High quality artist and international persona Anna Rezan-Kritselis debuted as a vocalist on her first song, the sensual metal ballad "Let there be rain", a passionate song written by Billy Nikolopoulos and Markella Panayotou and produced by Nick Rollinger. Behind all, there is a special international collaboration, as the video of the song was made in New York, produced by the director Boman Modine, the British-Eskenazi actress Hannah Fierman and the Austrian upcoming director Aksel Stasny that worked on it as a visual effects director. Anna's guest on the vocals is the Greek singer Barbara Sassari. The song is produced in Luxembourg - released by Equinox Records and presented by Moda Records - thanks to music-industry guru Nicky Kalliongis. "Let there be rain" is included in one of her new feature films "ShowBitch", in which Anna leads as rock star character and performs a cabaret dancing show while singing this heavy metal song.



PHOTO: AKSEL STASNY

Anna worked on four other film projects in 2010: she took part in "La commedia di Amos Poe", a film directed by Amos Poe - the leading character in "No Wave Cinema" - something that she considers an "honor".

She also co-produced and guest-starred in Patricia Di Salvo's short film "Love at first sight", a fun, romantic comedy, set in Los Angeles that was presented at the Cannes Film Festival.

Back to her hometown, Athens, Greece, she guest-starred in two other projects, "GreenFish", an eco-friendly comedy by Yiannis Paraskevopoulos, and "Katharsi", a cult underground dramedy by Fokion Bogris.

Hers is the type of success story that always fuels the imagination of thousands of young people around the world. Meeting and getting to know her is a real surprise. She is a cultured and sincere young beautiful woman without a trace of arrogance. Her philosophy in life is that we only have one life to live, so we must live it well! The more we understand how precious life is, the more strength we get to do things that we want. Although she has been working hard since she was a kid and her career has always played an important part, she insists that the most important thing for her is love and to live her life with her beloved ones, her family, friends and of course, her boyfriend.

The just-released song is dedicated to all people whom love touched and brought them back to life. The girl that got inspired by Disney movies and dreamt to act, to put a smile on people's faces, is here to stay...



BY KELLY FANAROTI

PHOTO: ANDREAS STAVRIDIS

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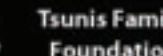
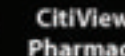
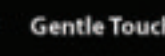
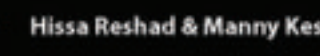
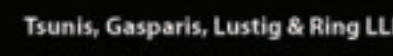
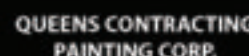
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Greeks Got Talent winner: (L-R) Emily Laliotis (second from left) with her parents, Dr. Aris and Christy Laliotis and grandparents Ted and Evangelia Laliotis.



His Eminence takes a picture with the I Pareia group from Saint George Church in Downey, CA.



Hawaii Dancers – Following their Division IV Exhibition performance, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos joins the Nisiotis from Saints Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Hawaii on stage. They came to FDF after a 22 year hiatus.



Fotis Youth Choir – The Fotisi Youth Choir from Saint George Church in Fresno, CA, under the direction of Presytera Donna Pappas, performed a suite of complex choral and folk music which won them top honors at FDF.



35 Years Ago: At Opening Ceremonies, His Eminence Metropolitan asked those who participated in the first FDF 35 years ago to join him on the stage for special recognition.

Epitibia – The Epitibia dancers from the Holy Cross Church in Belmont, CA.



Asterakia – Pasadena: The Asterakia dancers from Saint Anthony Church in Pasadena, CA form an intricate multi-level circle at FDF.



Romiosini – The Romiosini dancers from Holy Trinity Cathedral in Portland, OR.



Metropolis Philoptochos – The Metropolis Philoptochos Board met during FDF and welcomed six students from Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

“UNITED” was the theme of the 35th Annual Folk Dance and Choral Festival for the Metropolis of San Francisco. This past February, thousands of youth and adults gathered in Ontario, California to celebrate our faith and culture through a thrilling display of performances. Over 4,000 people were in attendance over the weekend including 1,100 registered dancers and singers as part of 105 groups representing 35 parishes. In addition, more than 30 priests from throughout the Metropolis were present during the weekend. Traveling from as far away as Hawaii and North Carolina, these exuberant performers captured the hearts of everyone in attendance with their commitment to excellence, their dedication, perseverance and discipline.

At Thursday evening’s Opening Ceremonies, the groups each paraded across the stage proudly carrying their banners and flags. Once everyone was assembled in the Ontario Convention Center, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos blessed the opening of FDF with an Agiasmos Service, assisted by over 20 clergy from throughout the Metropolis.

Friday’s schedule began promptly at 8:00 a.m. and was full of semi-final dance competition rounds and the choral competition. For nearly 12 hours, groups were carefully scheduled, sound checks were completed, props were assembled, and costumes from many different regions of Greece were proudly displayed. The evening began with a Paraklesis service led by the newly ordained Father Christos

Kanakis. “Greeks Got Talent” made its debut on Friday night, with performers selected prior to FDF through audition tapes. Margarita, a finalist from Greece’s “Fame Story” and California native served as the host for the evening. Judges for the night were Thanos Petrelis, one of Greece’s most famous and award-winning singers, a finalist on “Fame Story” and a popular international performer presenting sold out concerts on his recent tour to the United States, Africa and Australia; Vangelis Giannopoulos – Head of Live and Record Business for The Spice Effect, representing some of Greece’s most popular performers; and Bessie Stavropoulos – former award-winning dance director from Saint John the Baptist Church in Las Vegas and a dance judge at this year’s FDF. Nine acts graced the stage with tremendous talent including solo vocalists, bands, modern and ballet dancers and musical theater presentations. At the end of the evening, the top three performances were named: First Place – Emily Laliotis from Saints Constantine and Helen Church in Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA who accompanied herself on guitar performing “Hometown Glory” by Adele; Second Place – Constantine and Chrysanthe Pappas from Saint George Church in Fresno, CA singing a musical theater duet “Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life/Falling in Love with Someone” from Naughty Marietta; and Third Place to Penelope Koulos, a classically trained ballerina who performed a lyrical en pointe dance. Celebrity Judge Thanos Petrelis took to the stage at the end of the evening and gave an impromptu performance which generated tremendous excitement with audience members, young and old.

Saturday’s final competition round was once again a riveting display of enthusiastic performances by dancers wearing intricately decorated costumes which were handcrafted by teams of dedicated seamstresses both in the United States and in Greece. During the day on Saturday, the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board met, under the leadership of President Jeannie Ranglas.

This year’s FDF was supported by the American College of Greece – Deree who distributed information on their educational programs during the weekend.

The much-anticipated final round of the Advanced Senior Competition was held on Sunday afternoon with eight of the most accomplished groups performing intricate suites from many varied regions of Greece. Performing to a capacity audience, these groups are extremely creative in their presentations, and their hours of hard work and preparation showed in their professionalism. After a 22 year hiatus, the parish of Saints Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Honolulu, Hawaii was represented through their non-competitive exhibition performance of a Pontian dance suite on Sunday afternoon.

# Thousands of Youth at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Dance Festival in California



Elios Award – John Gumas (center) is presented with the Elios Award by (L) Ted Laliotis, Treasurer, and Fanis Economidis (R), President Emeritus of the Elios Society.



Youth Choir – Members of various youth choirs throughout the Metropolis sing for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.



Humanitarian Award – Father James T. Adams receives the Metropolitan Anthony Humanitarian Award from His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos.



Agiasmos – His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and over 20 clergy from throughout the Metropolis at the Agiasmos Service at the FDF Opening Ceremonies.



Met Gerasimos with Div III – Metropolitan Gerasimos speaks to the youngest dancers in Division III, prior to leading them in a dance.



Greeks Got Talent Judges: (L-R) Vangelis Giannopoulos, Thanos Petrelis and Bessie Stavropoulos judge the “Greeks Got Talent” competition.



Athnatoi – Sacramento: The Athnatoi dancers from Annunciation Church in Sacramento, CA.



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## Greek America Foundation Scholarships for Study in Greece



The Greek America Foundation is proud to announce the Hellenic Legacy Scholarship for college students participating in study abroad at DERE - The American College of Greece in Athens for the 2011 Fall semester which runs from September 5 to December 18, 2011. The scholarship includes the cash equivalent of full tuition for a semester.

In addition to an extensive series of programming and special events throughout the nation, the Foundation has recently launched the Hellenic Legacy Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships for semester-long study abroad programs at DERE - The American College of Greece. Two full-semester scholarships and a full-year post-baccalaureate fellowship have already been awarded.

The Hellenic Legacy Scholarship is one of the core components of the mission of the Greek America Foundation. Study abroad in Greece provides an opportunity for a truly transformative experience in which students have the chance to learn more about themselves and to develop an understanding of the place of Hellenism and Greece in the world.

The Greek America Foundation is looking for U.S. or Canadian university students with a commitment to community building and leadership who wish to spend a semester abroad in Greece. Ideal candidates are independent-minded students who wish to immerse themselves into the heart of an ancient capital city at an educational institution comprised of over 3,000 Greek and international students.

The purpose of the Hellenic Legacy Scholarship is to foster a love for Greece and Hellenism in students who are passionate about making a difference in the world around them. The scholarship aims to accomplish more than making a semester in Greece affordable; it is about how Greece and Hellenic heritage inspires the recipient to transform his or her community.

The American College of Greece is the oldest and largest American-sponsored higher education institution in Europe. DERE provides students with the best of a U.S. education that is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). With over 1,000 courses annually, students can select from a wide range of disciplines such as history, the arts, literature, languages, humanities, business and others for their semester-long course of study.

The Greek America Foundation is dedicated to the promotion, preservation and perpetuation of Greek culture, history, heritage and ideals in contemporary America. Although currently raising money for an endowment with an ultimate goal to send between 50 and 60 students to Greece annually, the Foundation will award scholarships concurrently while building the endowment fund.

For additional information, or to download application materials, visit [greekamerica.org](http://greekamerica.org)



## Multi-platinum recording group TRIFONO at the 2011 Gabby Awards

The 2011 Gabby Awards, where once again Greek America's Best and Brightest Stars, will shine on an unforgettable night of accomplishment and celebration, will take place on Saturday, June 4, 2011 on Ellis Island in New York City, the historic entry point of millions of immigrants to America.

Multi-platinum recording group TRIFONO, direct from Greece, will be performing, joining an impressive list of talent for the awards program including vocalist Glykeria, True Blood alum Theo Alexander, Oscar winner Olympia Dukakis, TV actress Melina Kanakaredes and former Academy of Motion Pictures president Sid Ganis—to name only a few.

Joining forces in 2002, TRIFONO—which translates literally to “three voices”—stormed onto the music charts and quickly rose to the top with their unique sound and style. This Greek powerhouse, comprised of Nikos Kouroupakis, Erofilis and Dimitri Yfantis, has been on fire since their inception with sold out concerts worldwide, major collaborations and multi-platinum selling records. Transforming ancient and traditional music styles into modern day contemporary sounds, TRIFONO embraces the historic beauty of Greece while capturing its modern day essence.

The Gabby Awards will be a homecoming for one of the group's founders, Nikos Kouroupakis who was born in Greece but raised in New York City. At the age of 17, Nikos left home to follow his dream of singing and not long after found himself catapulting into a North American tour for music legends George Dalaras and Dimitra Galani, and later a European tour with Haris Alexiou.

Eventually, he joined forces with Dimitris and Erofilis—both accomplished singers, songwriters and musicians on their own with accomplished careers in music, to form TRIFONO—the byproduct of their perfect chemistry and their love for music that sealed their success in contemporary Greek music.

In addition to performing at the Gabby Awards on June 4, TRIFONO will perform a special Farewell Concert at New York Town Hall on Sunday, June 5th, culminating what will be a magical weekend. The concert will be the official close to all official Gabby Awards related events and will feature a special performance of New Jersey native Lina Orfanos.

The 2009 Gabby Awards, organized by the Greek America Foundation, took place in Chicago, where over 1,200 people descended upon the Windy City to honor Greek Americans in nine categories. The event was the largest-ever gathering of talented and successful Greek Americans. The 2011 Gabby Awards are certain to follow in the footsteps of the inaugural awards. In addition to the awards show, an explosive after party is being planned, as well as a series of related events throughout the weekend in the Big Apple including a network of businesses, institutions, exhibitions and events that will share the remarkable diversity of Greek New York.

Eight awards are voted upon by the general public via web voting in Athletics, Politics, Business, Arts & Culture, Performing Arts, Education, Philanthropy and Promotion of Hellenism.

A Lifetime Achievement award winner is selected by the Gabby Academy and bestowed to an individual whose life has served as an example to others and whose accomplishments in society have resonated far and wide.

The awards are scheduled every two years in a different city, bringing hundreds of Greek Americans together from coast to coast, together for a shining night to celebrate the Best and Brightest Stars of Greek America.

For the complete Gabby experience, including videos, photos, a complete list of winners and all the news from the first Gabby Awards, visit [www.gabbyawards.com](http://www.gabbyawards.com)



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*Theodore G. Spyropoulos*



"Live from Chicago"  
host Alexander Facklis

**LIVE  
FROM CHICAGO  
ON RADIO NEO**

By Maria A. Karamitsos

Radio NEO brings Greek music and news to Chicago, via local host Alex Facklis. For the past few months, he's been broadcasting "Live from Chicago," Monday thru Friday from 9:00 – 10:00 am.

Facklis, a native Chicagoan, was born to immigrant parents. He grew up attending Holy Trinity Church and Socrates Greek School in the evening. He went on to study Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences at Northwestern University. For years, he worked for Andersen Consulting and then Accenture in various external and internally-facing organizations doing information technology consulting and information systems development, until 2009.

His love for the Greek language and all things Greek started a very young age, "thanks to my parents, my family, and playing soccer with other Greeks, which I still do," he shared. An active member of Chicago's Greek community, he previously served on the board of directors for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Young Adult League, and is currently an officer of the Hellenic Professional Society of Illinois (HPSI).

Also, Alex recently completed the Certification for Attainment in Greek, offered by the Greek Ministry of Education and Religion.

"Though I've spent my entire professional career in information systems technology and consulting, this opportunity is enabling me to return to an aspect of my past long since left behind," Facklis explained. During his years at Northwestern, he was involved at the university's WNUR 89.3 FM, serving in a variety of on-air and off-air roles. "It was a great college experience, but since I decided not to pursue a career in radio/entertainment after graduation, it I thought it would only be a fond memory."

Since leaving Accenture in 2009, he's been developing his own information services business. "A large part of my initial focus will likely involve solutions for Greek-American businesses and consumers," he revealed. The company will be launched later this year.

He heard about the radio venture from a friend in the Los Angeles-area, who connected him with two gentlemen from NEO magazine. "Though I had come across the magazine in the recent past, I didn't know much about it since it's published in New York and isn't widely available in Chicago." The two men were starting a Greek-American radio station based in Astoria, New York. The station – Radio NEO – is available over the air via SCA-capable radios in the New York area, and via the Internet everywhere else. This station differentiates itself with a focus on younger Greek-Americans more accustomed to communicating in English rather than in Greek.

The founders sought a host for a daily Chicago-based program on the station. Facklis accepted the assignment, hoping to gain exposure for his new information technology services business, and to share his passion for Hellenism.

Radio NEO is the only Greek-American radio station broadcasting 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with programming oriented toward Greek-Americans, instead of native Greek speakers. Most shows are produced in the central studios in Astoria (Queens), but in addition to "Live from Chicago," there is a daily show from Los Angeles and weekly show from Austin, Texas. There is also a fair amount of content - mostly overnight and off-hours - simulcast from Flash 96 and Proto, Athens and Nicosia based respectively, radio stations.

"Live from Chicago" will be focused on the interests of Chicago area Greek-Americans. Currently this consists of a mix of relevant news stories from Greece – in English – local events and happenings, and a wide variety of Greek music.

"My objective in hosting the show is two-fold, to be both entertaining and informative. These components are essential to create a following, and to ultimately develop a long-term relationship with listeners," he added.

"The show will also include interviews with local Greeks of interest. I'm open to ideas, so if people have ideas for the show or the station, or are interested in sponsorship, advertising, or promotional opportunities, which are essential at this early stage, they may contact me at [chicago@radioneo.us](mailto:chicago@radioneo.us)."

For requests or show information, call 773-599-9NEO or 773-599-9636. Follow Radio NEO on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/radioneochicago>. An internet connection is necessary to tune in to the daily broadcast. Visit <http://radioneo.us> and clicking on "Listen" (<http://radioneo.us/listen>).

Reprinted with permission of The Greek Star. 2011. [www.thegreekstar.com](http://www.thegreekstar.com)

by Peter Shakalis



**MANHATTAN OFFICE  
RENTS JUMP AS  
SPACE TIGHTENS...**

Rents were up in the Midtown North, Midtown South and Downtown markets during first quarter of 2011, and the magnitude of the increase was directly related to the space available in that market. Asking rents in the Midtown North market increased on average by 3.6 percent in the first quarter from the fourth quarter of 2010, a 14.4 percent annual rate of gain.

In the Midtown North market, the increase in rents was particularly intense in the Plaza district which is generally located from 50th to 57th street between Fifth and Park Avenues. For Class A properties, the average asking rent increased at a 27.3 percent annual rate in the first quarter from the fourth quarter 2010 level. The average asking rent for direct space (space offered directly from the landlord) in the Plaza district finished the first quarter just below \$75 per sf. Moreover, it is now possible to point to numerous transactions being completed at over \$100 per sf.

In the Grand Central and Times Square Districts, asking rents have held firm, but the availability of both large and moderately sized blocks of space has kept rent levels from escalating dramatically. Average rents in these markets were \$54.25 per sf and \$59.10 per sf respectively during the first quarter 2011.

Rents moved up at a 15.0 percent annual rate in the Midtown South market. The increase was especially pronounced in Class A properties where rents increased at a 21.3 percent annual rate. The drop in the availability of Class A space in the Midtown South market was especially dramatic. Rents in this market on average ranged from the low to mid \$40s per sf.

Finally, after multiple quarters of declines in the average asking rent in the Downtown market, an increase was recorded in the first quarter of 2011. As more Class A sublease space is put on the market, the overall average rent in the Downtown market is brought up. Additionally, asking rents on direct space in Class A and B buildings have stopped declining and actually increased slightly in the first quarter. Although this is a good sign for the

downtown market, the fact that the large financial institutions have not yet added substantially to their respective employment levels means that the recovery in the Downtown market will take some time. Downtown rents averaged in the hi \$30s per sf.

With the wide divergence in average asking rents between modern Midtown North and Downtown Class A properties, interest in the Downtown market is beginning to grow as exhibited by the recent renewal of Deloitte & Touche at the World Financial Center and interest in the World Trade Center buildings from tenants such as Conde Nast Publications which is presently located in Times Square.

We are in the midst of an amazingly rapid rent cycle; and the question is whether the economic and business fundamentals will be strong enough to justify this rebound in rents.

*Peter Shakalis is a Director at Colliers International NY LLC  
[peter.shakalis@colliers.com](mailto:peter.shakalis@colliers.com)*





**Maestro  
Dino Anagnost  
– In Memoriam**

Dino Anagnost, a beloved artist, gifted with a remarkable personality, passed away end of this past March, having being at the hospital for a while seriously ill. He was the longtime choir director of the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Maestro of the Little Orchestra Society, and prominent church musician of our Archdiocese, advisor to several Archbishops and the National Forum.

“He will always be remembered at the Cathedral as ‘The Maestro.’ He was a master musician, a devout Christian, passionate Hellene and dear friend to many,” according to a statement issued by the Cathedral. “May God grant the peaceful repose of his soul and may his memory be eternal.”

Maestro Dino Anagnost recently celebrated his thirty-second season as Music Director and Conductor of The Little Orchestra Society. Since 1979, he conducted the Society in over 1,000 concerts and brought to the organization not only his musical gifts, but also his remarkable programming innovations in the adult series with Sound Discoveries®, Vivaldi’s Venice, the Cathedral Concerts-Great Music Under a Byzantine Dome®; and in the children’s series with Lolli-Pops™ and Happy Concerts for Young People.

A native of Manchester, New Hampshire, Dr. Anagnost graduated from Boston University and The Juilliard School. For his musical achievements throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, Maestro Anagnost received numerous honors and citations from governments, states, universities, and civic and arts organizations. He received three advanced degrees, including a doctorate from Columbia University where he was adjunct professor of music. He was nominated for a Grammy by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, and was conferred the honor of Commendatore in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic for his service to Italian music in the United States.

Dr. Anagnost always loved working with young people and was committed to introducing the wonderful world of classical music to young audiences everywhere.



**Fr. John Asimacopoulos  
– In Memoriam**

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco announced the passing of Rev. Father John Asimacopoulos, age 79, this past March, following a brief illness. Father John was a devoted priest who served the Metropolis with distinction since his ordination in 1957.

At the time of his passing, Father John was the proistamenos of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose, CA, where he has been serving since 1987. Father John was involved in all facets of the Metropolis of San Francisco including serving as an active member of the Metropolis Council and the Board of Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center, Vicar of the Bay Area Vicariate, and Chair of the Metropolis Committee on Greek Education and Culture.

Father John is survived by his beloved wife, Presvytera Maria, whom he married in 1956, and their children: Dr. George and Antonia Lendaris, Nicholas and Stephanie Tziavaras, and George Asimacopoulos; along with grandchildren Nicholas and Maria Lendaris. He was predeceased by his first child, George.

Please visit [www.saintnicholas.org](http://www.saintnicholas.org) for more information on making a contribution in Father John's memory.

May His Memory Be Eternal.

Dedication page by Andrea Photopoulos, NEO writer and St. Nicholas Parishioner

FAITH

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*Best Wishes for a Blessed  
and Joyous Pascha*

*From  
The Founders of FAITH:  
An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism*

The core mission of *FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism* is to promote Hellenism and an understanding of the Greek Orthodox faith through a series of high quality educational programs and cultural initiatives for young people through an endowment for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

This Spring, the Founders of *FAITH* are pleased to announce the continuation and expansion of their annual scholarship programs through the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America:

1. *FAITH Scholarships for Academic Excellence* – A series of merit-based and need-based scholarships awarded to graduating high school seniors for their university studies
2. *FAITH Ionian Village Travel Scholarships* – A series of need-based scholarships awarded to young people who wish to participate in the Ionian Village Summer Camp
3. *FAITH St. John Chrysostom Festival Scholarship Awards* – A series of scholarships awarded to the top ranked festival participants
4. *FAITH sponsored US-Greece Fulbright Scholarships* – Scholarship opportunities for graduate students and/or professional scholars/lecturers to travel to Greece for research

For more information about these programs and the application process, please visit the FAITH website: [www.fait hendowment.org](http://www.fait hendowment.org)





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# Pan Gregorian Inaugurates Office Building



L-R: Charles Marangoudakis, Chryssoula Fiotodimitrakis, Rev. John Antonopoulos, Dimitri Papaioannou, Dimitris Raptis, Dimitris Kafshitsas, his mother Eleni, City Council Member Peter Vallone Jr., Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas, Tasso Manassis, Pete Tsangarakis, Maria Pakkou, Nick Bardis, Frank Lountzis, George Siamboulis and Andreas Tsagarides



Maria Koudelou, Eleni Kafshitsas, Violetta Smaragda, Stella Kordis



City Council Member Peter Vallone Jr., Chryssoula Fiotodimitrakis, Tom Cheliotis, Tasso Manassis, Pete Tsangarakis, Nikos Bardis, Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas



Tom Cheliotis, Frank Lountzis, Dimitris Kafshitsas, George Kitsios, Pete Tsangarakis, Tasso Manassis



Dr. George Tsioulis, former President of New York's Hellenic Medical Society, Tasso Manassis, Dimitris Kafshitsas, Aravella Simotas and Nick Bardis



Essay Competition winner Eugene Sarantis, Dimitris Kafshitsas, Franks Lountzis, the other winner Dimitris Perdikiogiannis and Nick Bardis



John Antzoulis of TD Bank and Debbie (from Kaufman Studios)

Councilmember Peter F. Vallone Jr. and state Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas joined community leaders, restaurant owners and many well wishers at the grand opening of the Pan Gregorian Enterprises - Metro New York and Long Island office building (28-18 Steinway St., Astoria). The new base will allow the corporation to better execute its mission and provide for the necessary, state of the art facilities that its expanded activities require.

The Pan Gregorian Enterprises of Metro New York and Long Island, Inc. is a corporation of restaurateurs established in 1988 and licensed by Pan Gregorian Enterprises of New Jersey. Its primary mission is to leverage the buying power of its stockholders and members, as well as to negotiate valuable contracts that offer considerable savings and rebates to the participating restaurants. The corporation has also established the Pan Gregorian Fund, a non-for-profit entity with a mission to advance, support and promote the Greek American education system, the Greek language and academic excellence. Last year, an essay competition open to middle and high school students who are on good academic standing was established. Eugene Sarantis and Dimitris Perdikiogiannis were the first winners, receiving an award

accompanied with a check at the inauguration of the new building. According to Pangregorian President Dimitris Kafshitsas, "the competition aims to promote the entrepreneurial spirit within the youth and help spearhead further achievements in the hospitality industry."

During the inauguration, a Lifetime Scholarship for the Hellenic children living in the remote Aegean Sea islands which the "OMADA AIGAIU" supports with humanitarian and medical services, was announced as well as a three year sponsorship to the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies of Queens College, New York. They also made a donation to the 2011 Greek Parade in support of the "Dance Exhibition Pre-Parade Event".

Anastasios Manassis, Chairman Emeritus of Pan Gregorian Enterprises Metro NY & LI, a veteran restaurateur and political activist, offered welcoming remarks followed by Dimitris Kafshitsas, the corporation president.

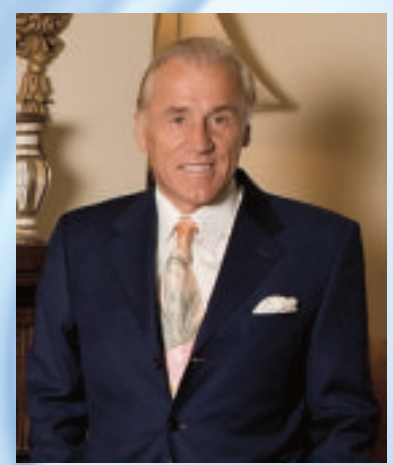
For more information on Pan Gregorian and its activities, those interested may contact Chryssoula Fiotodimitrakis, Director of Operations, at (718) 728-6000.

# NEW YORK EMMY AWARDS



CUNY TV Producer Despina Teodorescu-Mari with Fox5 Anchor Ernie Anastos at the New York Emmy® Awards, held Sunday, April 3, 2011 at the Marriott Marquis. Teodorescu-Mari is a Greek-American who was nominated for Best Community/Public Service Campaign. Anastos was being honored with a special Emmy for Lifetime Achievement for his outstanding contributions to television.

# HABA honors C. Dean Metropoulos



The Hellenic American Bankers Association will honor C. Dean Metropoulos as its 2011 Executive of the Year on Thursday, June 9, 2011 at the Union League Club of New York City, for his professional accomplishments and exemplary leadership. There will be a cocktail reception from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. followed by a seated dinner at which the award will be presented. Dignitaries will also be in attendance as guests of honor.

Dean Metropoulos is the Chairman and C.E.O. of C. Dean Metropoulos & Company ("CDM"), a boutique acquisition and management firm with offices in New York and Greenwich, CT.

CDM has partnered with several high-profile private equity firms. Some of the private equity transactions led by CDM include Stella Foods, The Morningstar Group Inc., Ghirardelli Chocolate and Pabst Brewing Co.

CDM has participated in more than 72 acquisitions involving over \$12 billion in invested capital over the past 25 years and has earned some of the most attractive returns on Wall Street. Dean Metropoulos is highly respected for his integrity and commitment and is a much sought after partner by many of the major private

equity firms. He sits on the boards of a number of companies both in the United States and in Europe. He also invests in high quality real estate properties and boutique luxury hotels.

Mr. Metropoulos has been featured in many national publications including The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Forbes and Investor's Business Daily.

The Hellenic American Bankers Association (H.A.B.A.) was established in 1982 to promote the professional and educational interests of Greek-Americans in the banking and finance industries. Since its inception, H.A.B.A. has strived to serve the interests of Greek-American financial professionals through the sponsoring of

lectures, seminars, cocktail receptions and other events featuring many distinguished speakers.

For further information please call HABA at 212-421-1057 or visit [www.HABA.org](http://www.HABA.org). Online booking is available through the HABA website.



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PHOTOS: ETA PRESS



## Lou Raptakis & Myrna George host Greek Celebration at RI State House



Left to Right: Father Andrew George, Father George Economou, Loula Eliopoulos, Koula Rougas, Eleni Trikoulis, Dr. John Grossomanides, Myrna George, Governor Lincoln Chafee, Consul General of Greece Ilias Fotopoulos, Father Philip Zymaris, Leonidas Raptakis, Father Gregory Houlakis, Eleni Vedallis, Panayiota Vastis and the children of the Annunciation, Assumption and St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Churches

and highlighting the continuing bonds between both the United States and Greece. The resolutions also stressed the refusal of the government of Turkey to recognize the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Former State Senator Leonidas P. Raptakis and former State Representative Myrna C. George hosted a celebration of Greek Independence Day at the Rhode Island State House, bringing together state leaders and members of the Hellenic community to recognize the 190th anniversary of Greece's independence. This is the nineteenth consecutive such celebration of the event, which featured newly appointed Greek Consul General Ilias Fotopoulos.

was the birthplace of democracy," said Raptakis. George added, "We are grateful to the Governor, the Senate President and House Speaker Gordon Fox who have once again come together in the State House for this special celebration."

Both the House and Senate passed resolutions commemorating the Feast day of the Annunciation, the 190th Anniversary of Greece's independence



Left to Right: Ahepa Supreme Vice President, Dr. John Grossomanides, former Rhode Island State Senator Leonidas Raptakis, Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee, Consul General of Greece (Boston) Ilias Fotopoulos, former R.I. State Representative Myrna George and Federation of Hellenic Societies of New England President Eleni Vedallis

Rhode Island's new Governor Lincoln Chafee took part in his first ceremony, and welcomed the many guests who came to the State House to enjoy an event featuring Greek poems celebrating Hellenic history and the nation's commitment to democracy and freedom.

"This event is a wonderful expression of our strong Greek community in Rhode Island and the strong connection between this state known for its commitment to independence and the nation which

The President of the Federation Hellenic Societies of New England, Eleni Vedallis and the Supreme Vice President of AHEPA, Dr. John Grossomanides, gave remarks in the Governors State Room and also at the reception that followed at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Pawtucket. Also attending the reception at the Assumption Church was Rhode Island's newly elected Attorney General Peter Kilmartin who praised the accomplishments of Rhode Island's Greek American community.

## HBN Business Forum at



Marina Rodopoulos hosts the HBN cultural hour



The HBN (Hellenic Business Network) Business Forum that airs Saturdays, from 4:00 to 6:00PM, EST, seeks to establish a greater awareness of the social and economic advancement of all Hellenes and Philhellenes, while recognizing, unifying and strengthening the Hellenic values, and the power the community has to enhance its future.

The program has two segments: The first (from 4:00 to 5:00PM), hosted by Alex Elios and Dean Polites, focuses on business news, interviews with people from the industry, discussion of major developments in the economic and entrepreneurial world and the occasional debate between the hosts on the state of the US economy.

The second segment (5:00 to 6:00PM) is presented by Marina Rodopoulos and is devoted to arts & culture, an aspect that forms an integral part of HBN's activities. Besides a huge variety of musical themes, the program contains background information on the performers and the song selections, interviews and every now and then live in-studio shows!

The objective of the Hellenic Business Network is to mobilize the expertise and resources available within our community to advance the long-term socio-economic interests of all Hellenes and Philhellenes. Our approach is to provide a common forum for fostering, promoting, and advancing the professional interests of all Hellenes through

HBN Business Forum hosts, Alex Elios (right) Marina Rodopoulos and Dean Polites



education, networking, industry specific initiatives, continuous professional development and public relations initiatives.

Throughout the year, HBN conducts networking symposia, professional development programs, cultural activities and membership development initiatives designed to provide opportunities for sharing information about Hellenic professional and entrepreneurial activities, exchanging ideas and experiences, and learning new methods and approaches from experts and colleagues. Our emphasis is on continuous professional education and advancement, and leadership by example.

For more information on the Hellenic Business Network, visit their website at [www.hbngroup.org](http://www.hbngroup.org)

## QUEENS COLLEGE, CUNY CENTER FOR BYZANTINE & MODERN GREEK STUDIES

The Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies is holding its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Certificate of Achievement Award Dinner and the Constantinos D. Paparrigopoulos Lecture:

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By

**Dr. Nikos A. Salingaros**

Professor, Department of Mathematics, Urbanist and Architectural Theorist  
The University of Texas, San Antonio

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**REMINDER: This year's Walkathon will take place on Saturday, May 14, 2011  
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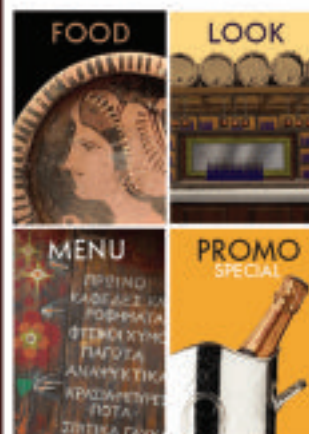
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# ANDROS, GREECE

THE ISLAND OF THE WATERS AND THE DREAMS!



An uncommon poem, its rhyme enhanced by the saltiness of the sea! A wierd, full of contradictions island, with a considerable number of magnificent beaches, many landscape variations, delightful gastronomic experiences, and unique human characters!

Andros is an island with many cultural layers, inhabited by people with cultivated taste, wealth of heart and emotions!

The municipal authorities of Andros and its inhabitants respect the island's history and natural wealth and they contribute wholeheartedly in preserving and enriching that legacy.

PERISCOPE

## Kalo Pascha – Happy Easter!

With this gloomy weather here in New York, it's extremely hard to believe that spring is in the air! However, Pascha will be coming in a few days and hopefully with it the rebirth of nature, because I don't think we can take any more winter!

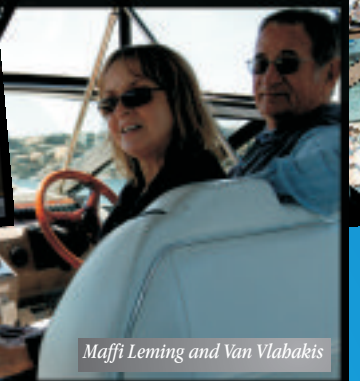
All the best to you this beautiful season! Take a pause and celebrate with family and friends, let yourself loose and try to not let worries of money and work to keep your spirits low. If necessary have an extra drink and take into consideration that hardship is what makes people worthy! OK, I'm joking, but I'm trying to be positive for your own sake, I want to make you feel better, that's why I became ... inspirational. But let's be realistic: problems of all sorts are here to stay, it's we that either deal with them properly or ... they (problems) deal with us their way!



Van Vlabakis' eco friendly boat



Toula Georgakopoulos, Ilca Moschos, Stephanie Vlabakis



Maffi Leming and Van Vlabakis



Yours trully ...



Welcome aboard! From left, Toula Georgakopoulos, Ilca Moschos, Stephanie Vlabakis, Maffi Leming, Van Vlabakis and Joanna Xipa

But, enough with all that already, time to change subject and go to something really ... inspirational. After an evening soaking up the glamour and glitz of the American Hellenic Council's Annual Gala, held at the OMNI Hotel in Los Angeles, CA, Stephanie Anton Vlahakis, Toula Georgakopoulos, Executive Director and Director of Operations respectively, at the National Hellenic Museum of Chicago, Ilca Moschos, I and our West Coast Desk Director Joanna Xipa were invited by this year's Aristeio Award in Business recipient, Mr. Van Vlahakis, the CEO & Owner of Earth Friendly Products, for an afternoon of fun in the sun, enjoying a boat ride along the man-made inlets of Long Beach.

The sun was shining bright and the sea-breeze was keeping us cool while taking in the scenic ride along the harbor with the many seals dwelling there. It was interesting to see how these creatures live in harmony basking in the sun, alongside the massive oil-drilling platforms that line the harbor. Yet somehow, appropriately enough, environmentally conscious people such as Mr. Vlahakis, have been leading by example with ways to enjoy these simple pleasures in life while drastically reducing our carbon footprints on this Earth.

After docking at his home in Huntington Harbor we took the environmentally friendly tour of Mr. Vlahakis' home. We were especially impressed that the solar panels on his rooftop generate enough electricity to 'sell back' to SoCal Edison, at the end of the day! With business leaders like that in our community, we can all learn beyond the traditional work-ethic that if we all put our minds to it, all the impossible can be possible!

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New York, NY  
Featuring on guitar  
Peter Douskalis



Photos by Gary Golembiewski



# Villionaire

by Ritchie Rich & Angelo Lambrou



Photo by Jerevntab Story

*"Style is knowing who you are, what you want to say, and not giving a damn." – Gore Vidal.*

by Maria Pardalis

This quote perfectly describes the fall/winter 2011 Villionaire runway presentation by Richie Rich during Mercedes-Benz New York Fashion Week at Hammerstein Ballroom on February 10, 2011. Richie enlisted long-time friend and couture designer Angelo Lambrou to serve as this season's design director. "Angelo's atelier, on East 7th Street, is down the block from my first fashion house," explains Rich. "I've always respected his work and given his downtown sophistication, he understands the Villionaire perfectly," says Rich.

Rich and Lambrou certainly were the ideal dynamic duo. Lambrou, who was born in Southern Africa to Greek Cypriot parents, brought his signature high-end classy touch to Rich's downtown party girl. Asymmetrical beaded cocktail dresses, revealing mesh tops, Swarovski-encrusted silk jersey fabric, sexy leather bustiers, and slinky silhouettes were perfectly combined with Lambrou's couture aesthetic to create a more refined look that was still very fun and funky.

Never has a fashion show had so much life, pure punk, creativity and been full of surprises. Amazing appearances were made down the catwalk by Tinsley Mortimer, world figure skating champion Johnny Weir and even JWOWW! The crowd was equally as impressive. Gracing the front row was the legendary fashion icon Patricia Field, Rod Stewart, New York Social Diary's Roger Webster, pop star Kat De Luna, as well as many other NYC socialites. All I can say is, Angelo you made us Greek Americans very proud! What a show and can't wait for next year!

For more information on Villionaire click below for a link to all of the show's looks: <http://nymag.com/fashion/fashionshows/2011/fall/main/newyork/womenrunway/richierich/>

For info on Angelo Lambrou, check out his website: <http://www.angelolambrou.com>



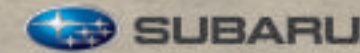
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