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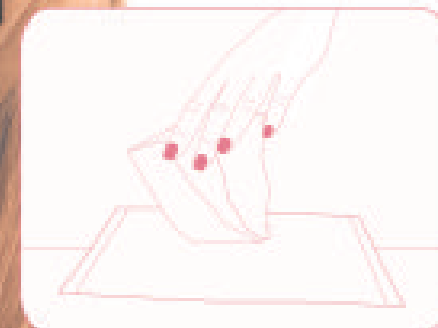
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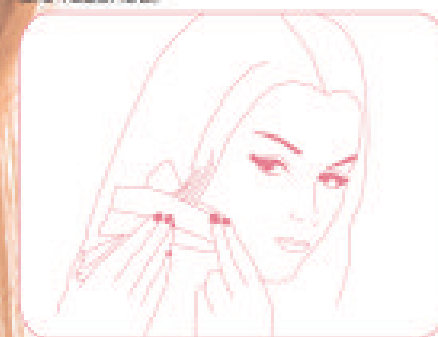


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VOICES HEARD



Since his retirement decades ago my father had been working on his memoirs. He had an epic life as I described in my valedictory to him in our previous issue and his memoirs would have been thrilling reading, as well as invaluable historic record.

FROM THE EDITOR

But he got tired and discouraged that nobody would read it—it would be buried with all his other papers after his death and be forgotten forever. And since my father was also a very social man, he preferred to tell his stories and get the reaction of his audience, rather than put them down formally on cold paper and get no reaction at all. Telling them was his special gift, he would dub all the voices, he would describe the action in detail, he was a master and he held whole tables of friends and family spellbound for hours. I remember once on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago how the guests at a dinner party, educated and sophisticated people, sat rapt all night and listened to my father tell stories about his life, from his start in the village in Chios, to his wartime service, to his venture to the new world. At the end of the evening a woman said to me, “Your father is a remarkable man.”

And he was, and so were others. We feature a story in this issue that Ellen Frisina wrote about her yiayia, another epic person who led an epic life, and who her granddaughter still remembers with such wonder.

We lost my father’s voice with his death, but his writings are with us still and his voice is recorded there. I have the skeleton and draft of his memoirs, I have his PhD thesis, I have his notes and articles on a variety of subjects, I have his last jottings. They are the record of their thoughts and feelings, they are still his living voice.

To give these voices a new hearing, and in some cases a first hearing, we are starting a new project that we hope we can expand to other cities after a trial run in New York. A group of us, from several generations, both mine and my children’s, will take the writings, the notes, the letters of our parents and grandparents, and we will spend a night reading them in a narrative of their lives and feelings on their life’s journey and voyage to their brave new world in America. We will stand at lecterns, we will use slides and photos, we will have the photo of the person we are reading from beside us as we read, to show the person we are only speaking for. Stay tuned and we’ll let you know where the first one will be in New York. We hope to do it in a number of venues here, expand it, enlist others to do the same with their families, and hopefully take it to cities throughout the United States and abroad. These voices are athanates and deserve to be heard.

To find out more about this project and be included you can contact us here through our e-mail address.

All the best for a wonderful summer. Don’t forget to visit Greece. It’s still the most glorious place on earth.

Dimitri C. Michalakos

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Editor in Chief:
Dimitri C. Michalakos
info@neomagazine.com

Lifestyle Editor
Maria A. Pardalis
mapardalis@gmail.com

Western Region Desk
- Los Angeles
Joanna Xipa
(760) 805-1691
joanna@neomagazine.com

Alexander Mizan
director@americanhellenic.org

- San Jose Office
Andrea Photopoulos
a.photopoulos@neomagazine.com

Baltimore Desk
Georgia Vavas
gvavas@comcast.net

Photo/Fashion

New York: ETA Press
fpapagermanos@yahoo.com

Los Angeles: Nick Dimitrokalis
(951) 764-5737
photobynikos@hotmail.com

Graphic Design
NEOgraphix
Adrian Sulescu

Athens Desk

Konstantinos Rhompotis
(01130) 210 51 42 446
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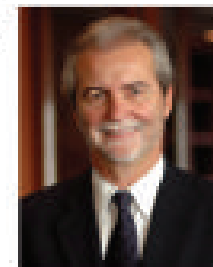
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"For Greece...Damn It!"



by Nick Larigakis*

I just returned from Greece, Cyprus, and this year Israel, after leading our annual AHI (American Hellenic Institute) delegation trip.

While in Athens for almost a week meeting with numerous government officials and political leaders, among them being: President Papoulias, Interim Prime Minister Pikrammenos, Vice President of New Democracy Dimitris Avramopoulos and Syriza chief, Alexis Tsipras, and many others that included leading business figures, the conversation inevitably always centered on the ongoing Greek economic crisis and the forthcoming elections. The conversations were sobering.

In one-on-one conversations with private citizens, the mood conveyed is not one that inspires you with confidence as to where this country is headed. However, the paradox (as with many things in Greece) is that these opinions were expressed within the confines of bustling tavernas or coffee shops. Indeed, the overwhelming scene on Athenian streets would seem to suggest that nothing is wrong as people go about their "business as usual."

One should not be fooled, however. Although one can argue that Greeks have always enjoyed a social and an economic safety net by virtue of a strong family structure and being the largest percentage of homeowners in the EU, the signs are there that this too is heading for a breaking point. When that happens...all bets are off! This safety net is no more sustainable than the continuing crippling austerity measures are against the middle and lower classes of Greek society. The wealthy will always be able to endure.

We can talk of the past and much has been written as to why Greece is on the precipice of the abyss today. I also have maintained that over the last decade plus the Greeks have mainly themselves to blame for where they are today. Of course, the global economic crisis has helped to make the crisis in Greece just a bit more acute. We all know of the out

of control public spending, corruption, tax evasion, lack of transparency, lack of competitiveness, poor foreign investment climate/laws, etc. However, I also submit that everyday rank-and-file folks are just as much to blame. Without their complicity, none of the above is completely possible.

For years, everyone's main objective was to get their son, daughter or themselves a job "sto dimosio." Retirement at 45 or 50? Sure, why not. For crying out loud, there were bonuses given for going to work on time. Subsidies given to farmers and others were never properly used for their original intention but rather to upgrade a lifestyle that was not sustainable. Consumer debt spending ran out of control and banks (irresponsibly) advertised come and get a loan to go on "Vacation." Greeks ran to get the easy money. And how many of them were ruined when they took out loans or sold their real estate assets to go invest in the stock market? For many, they probably didn't know the difference between the Athens Stock Market and "Laiki Agora" in their local neighborhoods.

Obviously, rehashing the past is not going to solve the present and shape the future. But it is important to know how you got here so you can make decisions that will take you in the right direction moving forward. The brand name, which is "Greece," is known throughout the world despite being one of the smallest nations on the planet in many regards. Greece is the size of Alabama, with the GDP of Michigan and the population of a little more than New York City. Moreover, for the record, Greece's GDP is only 1.85% of the European Union and less than one-half of 1 percent of the world's GDP. Therefore, with the proper discipline and institutional changes, it can overcome a situation that is not as overwhelming as it seems.

Whenever you are in Athens you can't help but to stare up and notice the Parthenon. It's there staring down at you. It serves to remind that the great legacy of this remarkable nation has endured for more than 2,500 years. Indeed, how many civilizations can

even come close to claiming such historical longevity? Throughout its turbulent history Greece has been ravaged by crises. It has been through numerous invasions, brutal occupations, famine, poverty, despair, dictatorships, and unfortunately, many civil wars, when you count the battles among the city-states of ancient Greece. I strongly believe in view of all these horrendous calamities that the current situation pales by comparison.

However, the one thing always present during these crises was a person or group of persons to rise to the occasion and deliver or give hope to the Greek nation to be able to not only endure, but to ultimately succeed. There was Leonidas and his 300 Spartans at Thermopylae; Themistocles at Salamis; the heroes of 1821 such as Kolokotronis; Metaxas who said "OXI" to fascist Italy in 1940; the gallant and heroic stand by Greeks of Crete against the Nazi assault of May 1941; and Constantine Karamanlis in 1974 coming back to restore democracy to Greece. In addition, let's not forget the magic of the summer of 2004 when against all odds the Greek National Soccer team won the European Championship, beating the host country, Portugal, twice along the way (maybe we will see a repeat in 2012); and finally Athens hosting the best summer Olympics the world has ever seen, defying all naysayers along the way.

All this was possible because the Greek people's collective consciousness was focused on just one goal: "For Greece...Damn it!" as was proclaimed by Voula Patoulidou upon winning a Gold Medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. This must be the rallying cry for Greece once more. There is nothing that this small nation cannot overcome as long as it understands that in the end it has to be for Greece and its people.

The approximately seven million Greeks who live outside of Greece have never forgotten this.

As Greeks go to the polls again, it is my sincere hope that they too can be reminded that it should be "For Greece...Damn it!"

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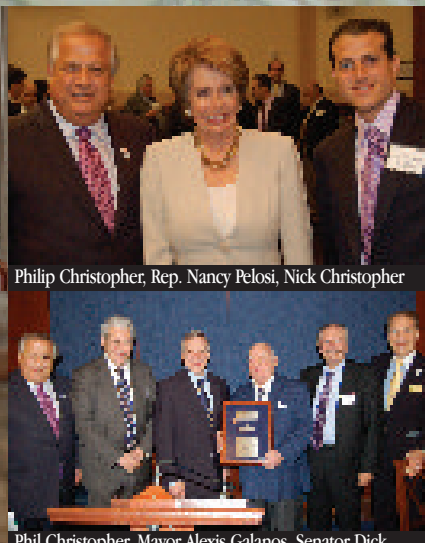
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Participants in front of the Capitol SAE of USA Coordinator Ted Spyropoulos



Reince Priebus, Chairman Republican National Committee



Philip Christopher, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Nick Christopher



Peter Papanicolaou, Andy Athens, Stefanos Stefanou, the Honoree Dinos Iordanou, Andy Manatos, Philip Christopher



Mr. Kamilaris, Consul General of Cyprus Koula Sophianou, Phil Christopher, Maria Kokkinou-Boege



Canadian Parliament Members Niki Ashton and Costas Menegakis, Alexis Galanos, Cyprus Government Spokesman Stefanos Stefanou, Andy Athens, Vassos Vassiliou, Ambassador Pavlos Anastasiades



NEO's Demetrios Rhompotis with Rep. Nancy Pelosi



Congressmen Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Jim McGovern (D-MA)



Congressman John Dingell (D-MI) and Basil Simon



Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) with Andy Athens



Christianna Conalis-Kontou, Sophia Cotzia, Helen Alexander, Susan Druckert



Andy Manatos, Reince Priebus, Andy Athens, Phil Christopher, Peter Papanicolaou



Theresa Papademetriou, Vassiliki Tsaganos, Richard Steinwurtzel



Ambassador of Cyprus Pavlos Anastasiades with SAE USA Coordinator Ted Spyropoulos



Charis Lapas and Andy Comodromos



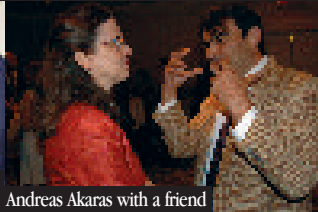
Vassos Vassiliou, Rep. Frank Palone (D-NJ) and Andy Comodromos



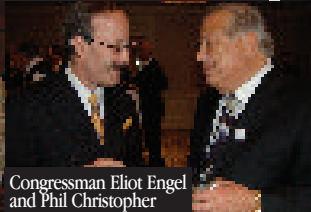
Andy Manatos, Christianna Kontou, Jason Steinbaum, Philip Christopher



Andy Manatos, Jason Isaacson, Andy Athens, Philip Christopher, Peter Papanicolaou



Andreas Akaras with a friend



Congressman Eliot Engel and Phil Christopher



Vassilios Kukorinis and Nick Laringakis, President of AHI



Phil Christopher, Andy Athens, Nikos Mouyiaris, Stefanos Stefanou, Peter Papanicolaou, Andy Manatos



DNC Chair Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz and John Arvanites, candidate for the US Congress from New Jersey



Vassos Vassiliou, Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-CA), Nikos Mouyiaris



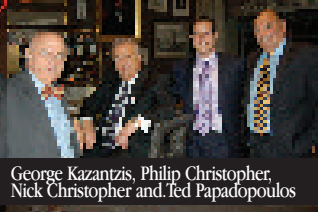
Congressman Mike Grimm (R-NY)



Tasos Zambas, Alexis Galanos, Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Stefanos Stefanou, Gary Gumpert



AHEPA Executive Director Basil Mossaides, Michael Zachariades and a friend



George Kazantzis, Philip Christopher, Nick Christopher and Ted Papadopoulos



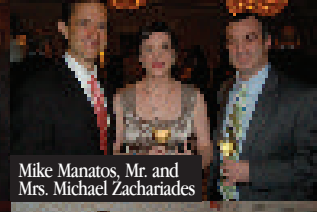
Demetra Maheras, Maria & Tasso Pardalis



Sophia Kotzia and Andreas Perikli



Vassilios Gatzoulis, Senator Jean Shaheen (D-NH), Kostas Hatzistefanidis



Mike Manatos, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zachariades



Dinos Iordanou, Nikos Mouyiaris, Vassos Vassiliou, Ted Papadopoulos



Consul General Koula Sophianou, PSEKA Secretary Sophia Cotzia and Rep. Shelley Berkley



Ourania Peletie, Councilor Morphou Municipality, George Mouktaris, Lobby for Cyprus, Nikos Kotziamanis, President, Morphou District Association in the UK, Costakis Evangelou, Vice President, Morphou District Association in the UK, Christos Karaolis, President, NEPOMAK



Lou Raptakis, running for the Rhode Island State Senate



National Council President Paul Kotrotsios, Kostas Hatzistefanidis, guests and Vassilis Kapetangiannis, Press Counselor at the Greek Embassy



Marc Grossman and Panicos Papanicolaou

Basil Mossaides, a guest and Nick Karacostas

Greek American Leaders Lobby Over 50 Key US Policymakers



"I asked a major political donor from New York to throw a fundraiser for Senator Menendez, the champion for our issues, and he told me that he's too liberal! Then another powerful individual goes out of his way to support his favorite senator, but when it comes to help our other friends in Congress, he's very reluctant! We need to understand that we can't afford the luxury of being too picky. We need to act and help as much as we can because we are Greek-Americans first and then Democrats or Republicans.", Philip Christopher

The alarming pace of the illegal colonization in the occupied Cyprus by mainland Turkish settlers and the need to mobilize the Greek American community towards a more active participation in the American electoral process this year, were key points at the 28th Annual Cyprus and Hellenic Leadership Conference, held earlier this month in the nation's capital. Dozens of Senators and Members of Congress with jurisdiction over the formulation of policy toward Cyprus, Turkey and Greece, and key Administration officials, met with Greek-American leaders from across the country and around the world. Also, the heads of President Barack Obama's and Mitt Romney's Presidential Campaigns in Washington, DC, Republican National Committee Chairman, Reince Priebus (a Greek American), who was honored at the conference banquet with the Livanos Award, and Democratic National Committee Chair, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Shultz (D-FL), addressed and met with conference participants.

"We need to step up our efforts as a community," said PSEKA President Philip Christopher in an interview with NEO. "The circle of people that participate at fundraisings and meetings with elected officials must be amplified and that has to happen from now until November." He also expressed his frustration when Greeks whom he calls for help, stick in partisan politics, missing the bigger picture. "I asked a major political donor from New York to throw a fundraiser for Senator

Menendez, the champion for our issues, and he told me that he's too liberal! Then another powerful individual goes out of his way to support his favorite senator, but when it comes to help our other friends in Congress, he's very reluctant! We need to understand that we can't afford the luxury of being too picky. The Turks are continuing the destruction of the occupied Cyprus, they threaten Greece in the Aegean, FYROM has become more intransigent and Greece is in disarray. We need to act and help as much as we can because we are Greek-Americans first and then Democrats or Republicans."

Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH) leaders, as the conference organizing group is called, worked with key Senators and Members of Congress to launch a number of major legislative and other policy-related initiatives during this conference. On June 5th, two senior members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Europe and Eurasia Subcommittee, Congressmen Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), introduced H. Res. 676 which is titled: "To expose and halt the Republic of Turkey's illegal colonization of the Republic of Cyprus with non-Cypriot populations, to support Cyprus in its efforts to control all of its territory, to end Turkey's illegal occupation of northern Cyprus, and to exploit its energy resources without illegal interference by Turkey." All 33 Members of Congress who met with conference participants were asked to cosponsor this resolution.

On June 6, Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) – a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee – and Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME), introduced this resolution in the US Senate as S. Con. Res. 47, and all 9 US Senators who met with conference participants were asked to cosponsor this resolution.

On June 7, the House Foreign Affairs Committee considered Congressman Gus Bilirakis' resolution, H. Res. 506, which "calls upon the Government of Turkey to facilitate the reopening of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Theological School of Halki without condition or further delay." Before the Committee met that day, the Committee's Chairman and Ranking Member, as well as the Europe Subcommittee's Ranking Member met with conference participants. That morning a total of 13 Committee members met with conference participants. In the end, the Foreign Affairs Committee passed this resolution.

Also on June 5, Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, sent a letter to President Barack Obama expressing great concern regarding Turkey's recent treatment of Cyprus. Among other things, Senator Menendez called for "a thorough re-evaluation of US policy toward the region... [following Turkey's] confrontational stance with respect to Cyprus and Israel that threatens US interests and stability in this crucial region." This letter to President Obama followed a letter sent by the top

Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA), to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on March 22.

After leaving post of US Ambassador to Cyprus empty for over one year, the White House announced on the first day of the conference (June 6) that President Obama was nominating John Koenig to be the next US Ambassador to Cyprus.

A total of 33 Members of Congress – many of whom serve on Committees that control Congressional policy toward Cyprus, Turkey and Greece – met with leaders at this conference. In addition, almost 10% of the entire US Senate showed up, including Assistant Senate Majority Leader, Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) – who is also

close to President Obama, a member of the Senate European Affairs Subcommittee and a member of the House Appropriations Committee's State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee; Half of the members of the European Affairs Subcommittee, including its Chairman, Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), and all but one of its majority members; Over 1/3rd of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, including senior member and champion for all Hellenic and Orthodox issues in the US Senate, Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ).

At the conference banquet, the American Jewish Committee was honored with the prestigious Frizis Award. It is named after Mordechai Frizis, the Jewish Greek hero who was the first high ranking Greek military officer to give his life in defense of freedom

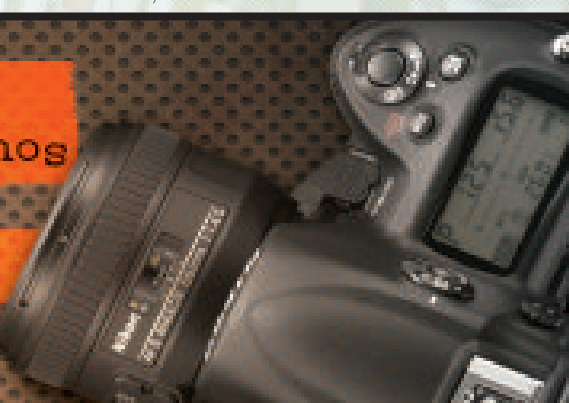
against the Axis Powers in 1940. It is awarded each year to a prominent member of the Jewish community in the U.S. who has made significant contributions to Hellenic issues. The award was received by American Jewish Committee Director of Government and International Affairs, Jason Isaacson.

Others honored at the conference included the following Greek-American community leaders: Honorary National Chairman of UHAC and Honorary World President of SAE, Andrew A. Athens – who was presented with the Paraskevaides Award and introduced by Assistant Senate Majority Leader, Richard Durbin (D-IL); Executive Vice President of the Pancyprian Association of America, Nikos Mouyiaris and Cypriot-American leader, Dinos Iordanou.

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Standing: Demetrius Govotsos, Gayle Economos, Helen Karamalakos, Matina Grammas, Georgia Vavas, Elizabeth Petrides, Joan Lattanzi
Sitting: George Petrocheilos, Aris Melissaratos, Thomas Prevas



Baltimore Deputy Mayor Kaliope Parthemios with Aris Melissaratos



Standing: Steve Mavronis, Anna Halikias, Amalia and Alex Karas, Helen Karamalakos; Sitting: Georgia Lambrinos, Zoe, Kosta and Romina Astifidis and Dr. George and Mrs. Marina Pirpiris



Eleni Vettas, Eva Giana



Maria Kaimakis, Director of the Hellenic Golden Coins

Greek Night at John Hopkins University

On the first day of the famous Johns Hopkins Spring Fair weekend, the Johns Hopkins Hellenic Association hosted its 3rd Greek Night. The event was a tremendous success, as more than 750 tickets were sold at the door or beforehand.

By Andorniki Paras

This year's food was catered buy the finest Greek-owned local restaurants: Double T Diners, Ikaros, Della Notte, Timbuktu, Valentino's, Samos, Captain James Landing, Acropolis, Speakeasy Saloon and Hazelwood Inn.

There was also a live performance by Greek-American singer Rena Tsapelas and her New York based band, as well as traditional dancing shows by the Hellenic Golden Coins of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, who performed at the Johns Hopkins Greek Night for a second consecutive year.

In the midst of the celebration, the Association's President George Petrocheilos and NEO Magazine's Publisher Dimitris Rhobotis presented an award to Kaliope Parthemios, the Dep. Mayor of Baltimore City, who also is the highest-ranking Greek-American woman in the state of Maryland. Parthemios was on the cover of NEO Magazine for the month of April, and this is why she was honored.

The event's biggest sponsors where Aris Melissaratos, the former Secretary of Business & Economic Development, who currently serves as the Senior Advisor to the Johns Hopkins President, and John Korologos, the Chief Executive Officer of the Double T Diners, the biggest and most successful diner chain in the sate.

"This year's Johns Hopkins Greek Night was a breakthrough event. It drew up to three times more locals and students than ever before, and it has established itself as a 'must go to' event for the Greek community. I am particularly proud of George Petrocheilos, as well as Neil Vranis and the entire active membership of the Hellenic Association who worked tirelessly all day to satisfy the guests," said Aris Melissaratos.



NEO's Demetrios Rhompotis (right) offering Baltimore Deputy Mayor Kaliope Parthemios a framed cover of the April issue, featuring her. George Petrocheilos (left) and Neil Vranis, President and Vice President respectively of the John Hopkins Hellenic Association, joined for the presentation

"It was such an amazing event", Petrocheilos said. "I was part of all three Greek Nights here at Hopkins, and this one was incredible. We had more people than the previous Greek Nights together, and it was the first time that the organizations profited fiscally speaking. We had our beloved Dep. Mayor receiving an award at the event, we had ten different restaurants sponsoring our buffet and a 7-people band coming all they way from NYC. The Hellenic Golden Coins brought more than 20 dancers this time and every single active member of our Association was there the entire day, working non-stop and making sure that our guests had an awesome time".

Petrocheilos was applauded for his leadership and management skills as he has led the Hellenic Association to be considered one of the top cultural organizations in the state of Maryland organizing a variety of projects and events and attracting more people to the club than ever. "At the beginning of the year I talked to the General Body and I made sure that those of us who stayed with the Organization would be those who fully understand our mission statement, who share my vision, those who really 'get it'. Since then, we have had a phenomenal year, organizing projects at the Walters Art Museum, Johns Hopkins, Michael Kosmas' house, etc. and we are currently planning even more interesting ones. Stay tuned!", he says with a big smile on his face.

Since taking over the Hellenic Association he has increased fundraising by an impressive 500%, has been introducing new projects on a monthly basis and has limited the costs dramatically. "It is our honor to have George Petrocheilos as our President. His strong motivation and willingness to help have greatly promoted Hellenism all over the state. Organizing the Greek Night 2012 is one of the latest achievements among so many over this year. George is mostly distinguished by the group for his leadership skills, but what really makes him stand out is his true friendship and support to all our members," said Markela Ibo, the Hellenic Association's Secretary.



Teddy Manolatos, Treasurer of the Johns Hopkins Hellenic Association, dancing



Secretary of the Johns Hopkins Hellenic Association Markela Ibo with member Maria Touloumes



Kristen Politis, Pavlos Pachidis and Afrodyti Xydis



N.Y. Pancyprian Freedoms Capture The New York State Cup

The last game of the season provided a victory of 4-0 against the powerful "Russian-United" team. This is the seventh "New York State Cup that the Pancyprians won which is another golden crown! In its 37 year history, the NY Pancyprians have six National championships, seven New York State Cup Crowns and numerous league championships. We express our gratitude to our members, fans and friends who supported our team through the season. Our boys gave 100% effort in a tough game and came out winners! Winning is a habit, no one remembers who finished second.



Americans like to look good and the man many New Yorkers favor to give them those good looks is Dr. Theodore Diktaban, who began his practice 30 years in reconstructive surgery and is now one of Manhattan's leading cosmetic surgeons.



Dr. Diktaban island hopping in Greece



Looking sexy in the city: NYC's first Greek American plastic surgeon, Dr. Theodore Diktaban

by Maria Elena Palau



New York City's first Greek American plastic surgeon, Dr. Theodore Diktaban, credits his high school biology teacher and his family with inspiring him to go into medicine, but it was actually his own health issue that helped him choose his specialty.

Diktaban, the oldest of four children, grew up in Westbury, NY, to first generation Greek parents. His grandparents settled in New York after leaving Greece and Turkey during the early 1900s. He is the first doctor in his family.

He says his tenth-grade biology teacher at Westbury High School motivated him to pursue pre-med in college. "He was one of the most influential teachers I ever had and biology really captured my interest."

After getting his undergraduate degree from Colgate University, Dr. Diktaban went on to New York Medical College. It was there, when he needed surgery to fix a deviated septum that his future as a surgeon decided.

Although the plan was to have the deviated septum fixed, the surgeon asked Dr. Diktaban if he wanted him to "fix the outside of his nose as well." Dr. Diktaban agreed. The rest is history.

"Not only was I able to breathe better, I looked better too," he says. Little did he know that his "nose job" would be so "fascinating." "It was amazing to me how the doctor did everything from inside the nose to sculpt a pleasing change on the outside without any scars."

It turned out to be his "aha" moment because that is when he knew he wanted to be a surgeon. He went on to complete his residency at Lenox Hill Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital.

Dr. Diktaban says when he started his practice in 1983 most of the work was reconstructive surgery. Today, after years of experience he has developed a private cosmetic surgery practice that incorporates both non-invasive and invasive procedures.

"Lasers, fillers, Botox are all very popular for very good reasons," the doctor says. "When people age now, there are so many choices that can be tailored to their individual goals, time schedules, philosophy, etc."

Diktaban, whose practice is based in midtown Manhattan, says the most popular procedures are rhinoplasty, liposuction and breast augmentation.

He says one of the best parts of being a plastic surgeon is making patients happy. "When you can meet a patient's expectations and then see the transformation take place right before your eyes, it is a feeling of sheer joy. They now look better, feel better about themselves and this carries over into how they live their lives with enhanced happiness, confidence and success. The transformation can present itself in many different ways. It could manifest itself subtly by a different look in their eye, a different look in their dress style, or on a larger scale, a career changing venture."

As a man of education and innovation, Dr. Diktaban says he also loves bringing the newest technology to his patients.

One of those revolutionary new procedures is called Cellulaze, a unique laser that works by targeting the source of cellulite, under the skin, where lotions, potions, or heating/massage devices cannot.

"Cellulaze is a game-changing advancement in the treatment of cellulite which really bothers 80% of women," says Dr. Diktaban. "It's a one-time minimally invasive office based treatment with long lasting results."



Dr. Diktaban meeting with a client

"There is no other treatment presently like it that is FDA approved and can safely correct the anatomy of cellulite," he adds.

Dr. Diktaban believes doctors must work closely with their patients in order to help them make the right decisions. There are just so many options today which can be very confusing to choose from. You need to spend the time to listen to, educate, and assist your patients with their inquiry into the field of plastic surgery. Dr. Diktaban strongly feels that the more time a doctor spends up front with his patients, the more likely a successful outcome will be achieved.

As for his Greek heritage, Dr. Diktaban says he has strong ties to the Greek Church and community. By his last name alone you might think that he is not of Greek descent. He can assure us that he is 100% Greek. It turns out that his last name was shortened from Diktabanides many years ago.

He recalls his first trip to Greece as a 15 year old with his brother, George. They were participating in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese's youth travel

program to Greece. "We traveled by boat on the Queen Frederica to Greece where we spent three gloriously memorable weeks based just outside of Athens."

He says it was a wonderful introduction to his family's homeland. Ever since that time, the doctor continues to travel to Greece periodically for both business and pleasure.

"Every time I am in Athens, I love going to the Acropolis with the intent of taking that one memorable photograph that captures either the sunlight or the moonlight as it touches the sacred marble architectural wonder of the world."

"I always try to experience different parts of Greece with every trip I have taken." Of course, I have my favorites like Mykonos, Rhodes and Sifnos.

Dr. Diktaban is also very active in the Hellenic Medical Society. He was a first vice-president for 4 years and also the chairperson of the medical student scholarship program for over 20 years. The society brings together his love for his culture and the passion for medicine.

The surgeon has lived in Manhattan ever since medical school and says, "even though it's a concrete jungle, a crowded amusement park and an expensive ala carte restaurant, I still love it."

His advice to medical school students: "you have to love the anatomy and physiology of the field that you will be specializing in." "Whether it's the heart for a heart surgeon or the kidneys for a kidney specialist, you have to love the territory and everything that goes along with it."

Dr. Diktaban also says being a doctor is a "great profession and will always be a great profession." "You're taking care of your fellow man and woman, and there is always going to be a new discovery, a new technology, or a new technique that will improve our lives." "It's never boring and it's always rewarding," he adds.

When this New York City surgeon is not practicing medicine, you can find him either on the golf course or sitting behind a set of drums. They are two passions of his dating back to when he was 12 years old. You might catch him practicing with members of his rock band, all who work in healthcare. The group is appropriately named "Life Support." They have played on multiple occasions at the Bitter End in Greenwich Village.

"I have been lucky and blessed to have been raised and loved by my immediate family and my not so far Greek relatives" he says, "to be part of a worthy profession, and to have other passions in life that provide me with joy, insight, humility and thrills."

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Picture: Joseph R. Riccio (left), President & CEO of New York Community Bancorp, Inc. and Joseph J. Parnass (right), President of NYCB Atlantic Bank

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NEW JERSEY HELLENIC FEDERATION HONORS JOHN SAKELLARIS



Mistress of Ceremonies, State Assembly Member Aravella Simotas

The Federation of Hellenic American Organizations of New Jersey held its 3rd Annual Banquet on Sunday, June 10, at the Gray Cliff Manor, Moonachie, NJ, honoring the Chairman of the Board of Pan Gregorian Enterprises of New Jersey and a great activist for Hellenism, Mr. John Sakellaris, with the Alexander the Great Award of Merit. Sakellaris was instrumental in the formation of the Federation and worked tirelessly with Andreas Comodromos, Tassos Efstratiades and the founding Board members to establish a sound and productive organization. Pan Gregorian Enterprises was one of the founding member organizations of the Federation and one of its early supporters.

US Senator Bob Menendez, Congressman Bill Pascrell, State Senator Barbara Buono, Middlesex County Freeholder James Polos and an array of guests and friends took to the podium and praised Mr. Sakellaris' work as a community activist, business leader and great humanitarian. Consuls General of Greece and Cyprus, George Iliopoulos and Koula Sophianou respectively, also addressed the event and congratulated the Honoree for his multifaceted work. Metropolitan Bishop Evangelos of New Jersey offered the invocation and reflected on the opportunities he had to work with Mr. Sakellaris since assuming his ministry in the Garden State. The lavish banquet was chaired by Stavros Antonakakis and New York Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas MCD.

Dr. Nikos Panagiotou introduced the Honoree.

John Sakellaris was born in the village of Volada in the island of Karpathos and came to the US with the last wave of immigration of the decade 1965-1975. He has been a successful restaurant owner, first with the ownership of Al's Diner in Jersey City and afterwards Lyndhurst Diner, in Lyndhurst. He was also a founding member of Pan Gregorian Enterprises of New Jersey, where he currently serves as chairman of the board of directors.

John Sakellaris was a pioneer in community involvement. He served as president of the Association of Voladioton "Saint Anargyroi" and president of the parish council of Saint Dimitrios Church in Jersey City. He supported the Karpathian Federation, where he served as chairman for two years. During his service, the funds of the Karpathian

Foundation were increased considerably, and as a result the foundation purchased the "Karpathian Home" in New Jersey. Mr. Sakellaris was also very involved in the political life of his new homeland. He supported several Philhellene political figures, including Senator Bill Bradley, Senator Bob Menendez and Governor Jim Florio. In 1987, he joined the Michael Dukakis for President Committee, becoming one of the strongest supporters of the Greek American presidential candidate.

John Sakellaris has also served the Greek Orthodox Church in many capacities, including as a member of the Metropolitan Council of the Metropolis of New Jersey. For his efforts, the Ecumenical Patriarch awarded him with the title of the Archon of St. Andrew.

Humble as is his wont, John Sakellaris thanked his family for the love and support they provided him with all these years of ceaseless community involvement and expressed his appreciation to speakers and guests for their warm words and friendship. Visibly moved, he also pledged to continue his work for the benefit of the Greek American community and New Jersey in general, and invited all Hellenes and Philhellenes to join hands in promoting the issues affecting Greece and Cyprus, especially in these trying times for the cradle of democracy and Western Civilization.

Addressing the banquet, Tassos Efstratiades, President of the Federation of Hellenic American Organizations in New Jersey, announced his intention to name an exploratory building committee

this fall in order for the organization to have its own permanent home, which will eventually serve as Hellenism's base in the Garden State.

The event concluded with the presentation of Young Leadership Awards to Natasha Manolas (The College of New Jersey), Konstantina Tsintifas (Rutgers University), Anna Zalokostas (Rutgers University), Matthew Hadodo (Rutgers University), Pantelis Efstratiades (Rutgers University) and John Pappaspanos (Seton Hall University). The students are past presidents of college Hellenic Societies who served in the Federation.

The event was organized by Axiocom, Inc. (Despina Axiotakis, President) and the Stavros Theodorou Orchestra provided entertainment.

haba celebrates 30th anniversary and honors john catsimatidis

The Hellenic American Bankers Association (HABA) honored entrepreneur and political activist John Catsimatidis, Chairman & CEO of the Red Apple Group of New York, with its Executive of the Year Award, the association's highest distinction, during a lavish, sold out gala, held at the Union League Club of New York City. Catsimatidis joined an impressive group of previous recipients, among them William S. Stavropoulos, retired Chairman and C.E.O. of Dow Chemical Company, John P. Calamos, Sr., founder, Chairman and C.E.O. of Calamos Investors, James Chanos, founder and Managing Partner of Kynikos Associates, Nicholas Tsakos of TEN Navigation, US Senator Paul Sarbanes and Dean Metropoulos of C. Dean Metropoulos & Company.



Georgia Mouzakis, Koula Sofianou (Consul General of Cyprus), Archbishop Demetrios, Evangelos Kyriakopoulos (Consul of Greece), Costas Kellas (VP- HABA Board) and Vassos N. Vassiliou, President of the Cyprus-US Chamber of Commerce

Red Apple Group has holdings in oil refining, wholesale and retail petroleum distribution, convenience stores, supermarkets, real estate, and aviation and posted revenues of over \$4 billion in 2010.

Mr. Catsimatidis is a major employer in New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio with over 8,000 workers. He is a global leader in the Greek Orthodox Church, in which he chairs the Religious Freedom Committee, bonding together Orthodox Christians, Roman Catholics, and Jews in support of religious freedom around the world. John and his wife Margo are active supporters of Hellenic youth, the Police Athletic League of New York, and the Kidney Foundation. He is also active in politics and was named a member of the transition team for New York Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2011.

"HABA is pleased to honor John Catsimatidis for his professional accomplishments, leadership and devotion to the Hellenic American Community," said the organization's President, Georgia Mouzakis Tavlarios. "The Board of HABA reviewed many candidates for our Executive of the Year Award and we unanimously chose John Catsimatidis because of his devotion and ongoing contributions to the Hellenic American community. We are deeply honored to add John Catsimatidis to our list of illustrious honorees, in this, our 30th anniversary."

This year HABA celebrated its 30th anniversary. The organization was established in 1982 to promote the professional and educational interests of Hellenic-Americans in the banking and financial services industries. Since its inception, HABA has strived to serve the interests of Hellenic-American financial professionals through the sponsoring of lectures, seminars, cocktail receptions and other events. HABA has had many distinguished speakers such as Peter G. Peterson, Senior Chairman and co-founder of The Blackstone Group, John A. Georges, retired Chairman and C.E.O. of International Paper, John P. Calamos, Sr., founder, Chairman and C.E.O. of Calamos Investors, and Dr. Charles Calomiris, Henry Kaufman, Professor of Financial Institutions at the Columbia University Graduate School of Business.

Every year HABA holds a Vasilopita event where all members and friends gather to celebrate the beginning of the New Year. During the past years, the association has grown to 250 members and has become a leading organization of Hellenic-American professionals.



John Catsimatidis addressing the event



John and Margo Catsimatidis with Michael Jabaris



The Board of Directors of HABA with Archbishop Demetrios and Honoree John Catsimatidis



John Catsimatidis and John Jr.



Leadership 100 Executive Director Paulette Poulos with John & Margo Catsimatidis



Lto R: Police Commissioner R. Kelly, Georgia Tavlarios, President of HABA, Archbishop Demetrios, Manny Caravanos and the Honoree John Catsimatidis



Lto R: Mark Simone, John Catsimatidis, HABA Board Member Manny Caravanos and Mr. and Mrs. James Orfanides



Nikos Kostakos and Christos Koutsis from Marathon Bank with a friend



Maria Kachulis and Hilda Rastoder

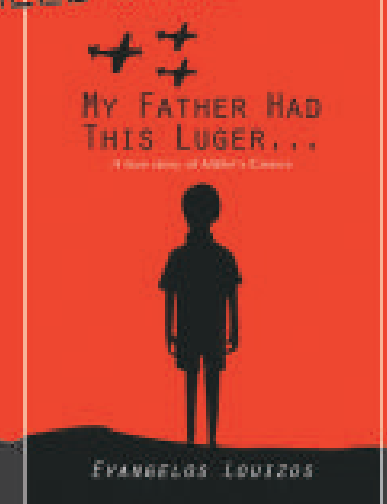


Peter Krekoukis (right) with friends



Zoe Koutsoupaki of Marathon Bank with associates and colleagues

GREEK STRUGGLE UNDER THE SWASTIKA DETAILED IN NEW BOOK



As Greece continues to battle financial problems, a timely new book reminds the world of the ordeal that Greece went through under German occupation during World War Two. MY FATHER HAD THIS LUGER... A True Story of Hitler's Greece is a gripping "non-fiction novel" that reads like a fast-paced thriller. But it's all historical fact and it presents a deeply affecting picture of what happened in Greece after the Fuhrer dispatched his army and air force to seize the country.

Anyone who really doubts that Greece's 21st-century economic worries have roots in WWII will find a rude awakening in this book. It begins by palpably evoking the calmness of life in Greece before the war, which despite a troubled political history was peaceful compared to what followed. It then records, with the visual impact of a movie, the painful ways in which the German jackboot came down on Greek civilians, leaving devastation in its wake. These swiftly-moving pages plunge you into the civilian side of war, but the soldiers are all around. It's a story that makes it easy to see how Greece's economy was shattered, with effects that influenced the whole course of the country's postwar life.

This is a mesmerizing read. One of the book's strengths is that it manages to present a complex, thought-provoking history lesson without ever being either dull or depressing, as war books often are. The real message in this deftly told, character-driven tale is that no matter how tough things get, people can pull through as long as they're willing to take advantage of universal resources like family, community and basic human decency. The book has an impressive emotional range, lulling you with cosy scenes of security one minute, scaring you silly the next, and then startling you with gee-whiz facts that you never knew about the war. A lot of the story is humorous. The central character is a little boy who gets into scrapes and takes the mind-boggling risks that all little boys do, regardless of tanks, enemy aircraft and a German encampment right across the road from his house. The child's-eye perspective also enables the book to describe the adults – soldiers and civilians alike – with the truthfulness and detachment that only children possess.

MY FATHER HAD THIS LUGER... tells the story of Evangelos Louizos, a Greek-born British resident who taught history and English before he retired. It's aimed at young adults who know very little about the war as well as at their elders who've either read a lot about the war or can even remember it. It succeeds in addressing its several audiences with equal ease and authority largely because of its tight storytelling and its crisp, plain language, devoid of frills.

It's an admirable first book in the SWORD OF ZEUS series about Greece and World War II. The series is chaired by Aris Melissaratos, senior advisor to the president of Johns Hopkins University, with the help of a distinguished panel of historical and military experts. The series is produced for Montagu House Publishers under the creative direction of writer N.J. Slabbert.

More details at www.montagupublishing.com/bookshelf#!__bookshelf or www.theswordofzeus.info

Record Participation at Posidonia 2012, the World's Biggest Shipping Show

ANDROS, GREECE THE ISLAND OF THE WATERS AND THE DREAMS!



The Union of Greek Ship Owners Conference. From left, Michael Chandris, Vice President of the Union of Greek Shipowners, Theodore Veniamis, President of the Union of Greek Shipowners, Matheos Los, Treasurer of the Union of Greek Shipowners and Ioannis Lyras, Chairman of Posidonia Coordinating Committee

The policies and strategy of Greek shipping will not be impacted by the outcome of the upcoming elections and, in spite of the challenges facing the country, the sector's prospects are secure and commitment to Greece a given, said Theodore Veniamis, Chairman of the Union of Greek Shipowners, during the traditional UGS press conference of Posidonia, the world's biggest shipping event held biennially in Greece.

"We want a competitive Greek shipping industry underpinned by a strong Greek flag which promotes the country's interests. We want to have more Greek seafarers in our fleets and this has been one of the perennial issues which have been facing Greek shipowners since 1932," said Veniamis. "Why are we not in the position to allow private initiatives to develop educational shipping institutions in order to increase the number of students and seafarers for the Greek ships in a country which is famous the world over for its seamanship and long maritime tradition?", he wondered.

"Today we are here at Posidonia where more than 1,800 companies from 87 countries have come because they respect Greece's leadership in the shipping industry. Heads of state, ministers, decision makers of major corporations are here because of our long marine heritage and market dominance which we want to maintain. This is the best recognition for Greece and for us because the congratulations belong to our country and for our country we are proud and we feel confident that next Posidonia will be even bigger and better," continued Veniamis.

Posidonia 2012 set historic records in visitor numbers with the unofficial figure exceeding the 18,000 mark spread across the four days of the event, which was inaugurated by Greek Prime Minister Panagiotis Prikrammenos.

"We estimate a 10 per cent overall increase in visitor numbers," said Theodore Vokos, Project Director, Posidonia Exhibitions, S.A. "This achievement can be mainly attributed to shift to the new state-of-the-art Metropolitan Expo venue and the comprehensive

program of specialist seminars and conferences which tackled key shipping issues from piracy to shipbuilding and fleet finance and topics around the prospects of the Greek cruise industry. Forward bookings already look strong as this year's unprecedented success compelled many exhibitors to submit participation enquiries and we are very confident that next year we will grow beyond the 45,000 square meters, which was this year's floor space." Major companies and organizations from the USA, Far East and Europe have already committed their presence in next event which is scheduled from 2-6 June 2014.

The massive appeal of Posidonia, which was visited by the President of Panama, Ricardo Martinelli, a significant shipping nation, is reflected in the comments of some of this year's exhibitors.



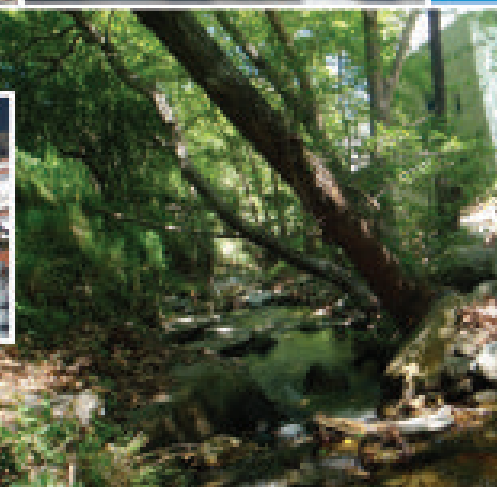
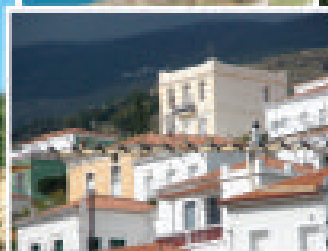
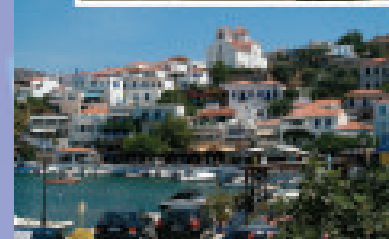
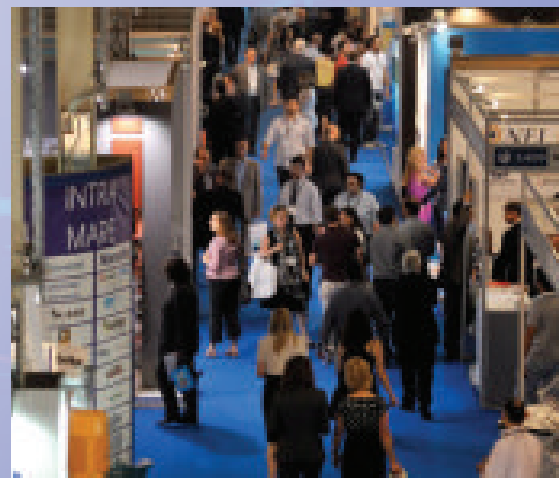
"The move to the Metropolitan Expo has been a very wise decision on behalf of the organization as it offers an increased and wider variety of facilities that are integral for the implementation of a corporate exhibition. We witnessed a huge wave of visitors which gave us the opportunity to see some of our long established clients both from Greece and abroad as well as a plethora of new clients that showed deep interest into our software services. For us, Posidonia is a unique opportunity to strengthen our relations with our existing customers and create new contacts that will hopefully evolve into new business deals," said Panagiotis Nomikos, Business Development Director of Danaos Management Consultants SA.

Eliza Neophytou Nicolaides, Maritime Marine Officer of the Cypriot Ministry of Communications

and Works, Department of Merchant Shipping, was also full of praise for Posidonia 2012: "Our participation has been fascinating. I am deeply satisfied with the new exhibition venue which offers an upgraded experience both to visitors and exhibitors but primarily because of the increased mobility around our pavilion."

International exhibitors were also not short of positive comments for the organization of the event and the new facilities. According to Charles Axisa, Marketing & Communications Manager of Transport Malta the island-nation's presence at Posidonia this year was hugely successful: "We are very proud to be part of the world's largest shipping exhibition for yet another year and enjoy the premium facilities and benefits offered by the new venue. Malta, like Greece, Cyprus and other countries, is a maritime nation with great history and tradition and a wide variety of related industries that support our economy. Our Posidonia participation was designed to promote 'Maritime Malta' and by that I mean the wide spectrum of naval activities currently flourishing in our country and we certainly achieved our objective".

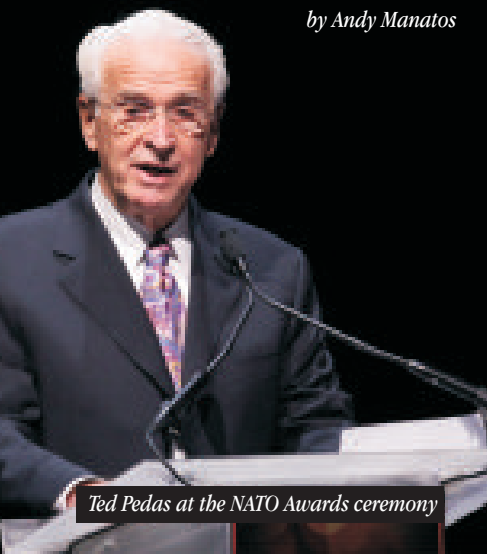
Posidonia 2012 was sponsored by the Greek Ministry of Development, Competitiveness and Shipping, the Municipality of Piraeus, the Hellenic Chamber of Shipping, the Union of Greek Shipowners, the Greek Shipping Co-operation Committee, the Hellenic Shortsea Shipowners' Association and the Association of Greek Passenger Shipping Companies.



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!
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Ted Pedas Honored by the National Association of Theatre Owners

by Andy Manatos



Ted Pedas at the NATO Awards ceremony

Ted Pedas, a Hellene who always gives and never asks, was recently recognized with one of the highest awards of the film industry. Ted, who is President of Circle Management Company of Washington, D.C., received from the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) the prestigious 2012 Marquee Award, in Las Vegas, Nevada. More than 5,000 film and theater industry people representing more than 30,000 screens across America gathered for the event at Caesars Palace.

"Ted Pedas is one of those rare industry executives, who is truly liked, truly respected and who has truly made a difference in the world of exhibition," noted Mitch Neuhauser, the Executive Director of CinemaCom. "With a rich and meaningful history, Ted Pedas, in his own quiet way, has always believed in and championed the smaller, independent film. I think we can all agree the industry has benefited greatly from his keen insight and perseverance. Ted Pedas is being singled out by the theater owners for his unequalled dedication, commitment and service to the business and community of the motion picture theatre industry."

The child of Greek immigrants, a lawyer with a degree from the Wharton School of Business, Ted and his brother Jim began with small drive-in movie theatres. They grew that business to owning a majority of all the theater screens in Washington, D.C. They also owned successful film distribution and film production companies.

With a great eye for talent, Ted and Jim Pedas gave world-renowned mystery writer and fellow Hellene George Pelecanos his start with their company. George has written many very successful books. He is also responsible for most of the writing on the HBO series The Wire. Their production company also gave the now famous Coen brothers their start with their early films Blood Simple, cult classic Raising Arizona, Miller's Crossing and Barton Fink, the winner of the Cannes Festival Golden Palm Award. The Coen brothers are well known for their films True Grit, No Country for Old Men, The Big Lebowski and O Brother, Where Art Thou.



Stella Koukides, Zoe Perdikakis, Maria Antonakas, Deputy Mayor Kaliope Parthemos and Father Michael Pastrikos



Nora Kefalas, Zoe Perdikakis, Stella Koukides, Evangelia Saliaris, Irene Vasisios, Eva Nychis

PHILOXENIA HOUSE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Philoxenia House, Inc., since opening its doors in 2002, has housed 98 patients from around the world and surrounding states. The concept of the Philoxenia House is a simple one: to provide a home-like environment where patients of any faith and background can stay with their families and can find comfort, necessities and respite during a time of great stress. Therefore, keeping families intact, we are able to provide something as powerful as the strongest medicine prescribed: hope and love.

The Saint Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos Society of Baltimore, Maryland, sponsored a three day event entitled "If These Walls Could Talk" acknowledging the courage and strength of the Philoxenia House families being a source of inspiration for all of us committed to preserving the Philoxenia House expanding its mission. The Philoxenia House is the only one of its kind in the New Jersey Metropolis. This facility presently houses between two or three families at a time depending on the severity and extent of treatments. The efforts of the Ladies Philoptochos Society are to create an endowment

fund and expand the Philoxenia House by four units on the adjacent property.

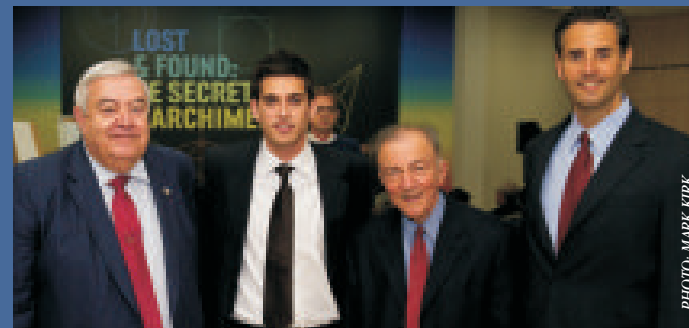
The Saint Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos Society and The Philoxenia House Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors, sponsors and long-time supporters for their generosity and for making this weekend of events a success!

The celebrations started with a Crab Feast at Jimmy's Seafood, Grand Banquet and Silent Auction at Martins West, which was attended by Baltimore's Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Deputy Mayor Ms. Kaliope Parthemos, Mrs. Maria Antonakas, representing the New Jersey Metropolis Philoptochos and may other honored guests. The events concluded with a Luncheon Cruise aboard the Spirit of Baltimore.

If you would like to make a contribution, please make checks payable to "Philoxenia House, Inc", 520 South Ponca Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21224. All donations are greatly appreciated.

MAJOR DONATION TO IOCC BY BALTIMORE PHILANTHROPIST NICHOLAS TSAKALOS

Archbishop Demetrios of America announced the establishment of the Harry and Liberty Tsakalos Endowment for Agriculture Development and Food Security by Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Tsakalos of Phoenix, Maryland, before 350 prominent Orthodox community leaders and guests at a gala celebration held recently in Washington DC to mark 20 years of humanitarian service by International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC).



From left, Aris Melissaratos, George Petrocheilos, the donor Nicholas Tsakalos, and Congressman John Sarbanes at a recent event

Archbishop Demetrios of America announced the establishment of the Harry and Liberty Tsakalos Endowment for Agriculture Development and Food Security by Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Tsakalos of Phoenix, Maryland, before 350 prominent Orthodox community leaders and guests at a gala celebration held recently in Washington DC to mark 20 years of humanitarian service by International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC).

The generous gift of \$100,000 to the newly established fund will advance programs targeting emergency food assistance such as food distribution to people affected by natural disasters and emergencies, agricultural support and training for farmers, and other initiatives that provide effective and lasting solutions to hunger and life-saving nourishment to vulnerable families around the world.

Tsakalos family member, Michael Tsakalos, says his grandparents Harry and Liberty chose IOCC for its ongoing commitment to aid those in need, without discrimination, through the Orthodox Church. "Our business has blessed us and our faith has motivated us to give back and share 'our daily bread' with those who pray for food in a more literal sense," says Tsakalos. "Just as our families came from Greece to make a new life this endowment to IOCC will ensure a new and better life for families seeking lives free from hunger."

The gift was made in honor of the legacy of the Tsakalos family and the success of H&S Bakery, the largest privately owned bakery in the United States. Harry Tsakalos was one of the original two founders of H&S Bakery together with his father-in-law, Isadore "Steve" Paterakis. The family-owned and operated bakery began in 1943 with Harry and Steve making Italian bread by hand out of their Baltimore row house. Today the bakery and its affiliates employ more than 2,000 people in seven states and distribute baked products in 23 states.

International Orthodox Christian Charities is the humanitarian agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America. Since its inception in 1992, IOCC has delivered more than \$400 million in humanitarian relief and development programs to families in 50 countries.



Gayle Economos

Gayle Economos in the Top 100 Women in Maryland

Gayle V. Economos, President/Owner of GVE Media/Public Relations, LLC, was recently named one of the Top 100 Women in Maryland 2012 by The Daily Record. This is the second time Economos was nominated and received this honor (2007 previously), which is awarded for mentoring and community service. Also, during the Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade, Economos was recognized for her service and commitment to Hellenism and the Greek community with the 2012 Senator Paul Sarbanes Public Service Award presented by Congressman John P. Sarbanes and the Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade Committee.



Gayle with Aris Melissaratos and Georgia Vavas

Economos founded GVE Media/Public Relations, LLC (GVE Media/PR) in 1995 as a full service marketing agency specializing in creating awareness for nonprofit organizations through complete public relations, media relations and advertising campaigns. By concentrating on marketing and publicity for nonprofits, Economos and her business Associate, Doris Sander, have been able to further many causes and help people from all walks of life. Several of these projects were able to:

- Help over 85,000 low-income working families get their taxes prepared for free by the Baltimore CASH Campaign and the statewide partners of the Maryland CASH Campaign
- Increase awareness of the roles of diverse peoples during the War of 1812 at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, as well as promote the opening of the new Visitor and Education Center at the Fort
- Raise awareness of Greek Independence Day and the contributions of local Greek-Americans and Greek-owned restaurants by promoting "Baltimore Greek Week" for the Baltimore-Piraeus Sister City Committee and the Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade Committee
- Prevent foreclosure for thousands of Maryland homeowners by writing "Mortgage Late? Don't Wait" for the Baltimore Homeownership Preservation Coalition, then giving permission to Governor O'Malley and the Department of Housing and Community Development to use her slogan for the statewide public service campaign.

A graduate of Goucher College, Economos has been a Lecturer since 1981 in the Communication and Media Studies Department she founded when an undergraduate, teaching public relations, advertising and the business of broadcasting. Teaching at Goucher has given Economos the opportunity to mentor hundreds of students, many of whom still keep in touch with her, forming their own "Goucher business & coaching network".

A career-long broadcaster, Economos is a Mayoral appointee who has served as Chair of the Baltimore-Piraeus Sister City Committee. She also volunteers her time as publicist for the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore, for whom she promotes the annual Festival; she also served on the Executive Committee for the Cathedral's bicentennial celebrations in 2005-2006. Her daughter, Zoe, graduated last year from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA and is now gainfully employed in New York City.

Recently, the Whitestone Philoptochos held the "Hats off to the Ladies of Philoptochos" Fashion Show Dinner. The event was very successful and inspired by the many hats we wear as women; mothers, daughters, wives, friends, business women and caretakers.

Fashion Show by the Whitestone Philoptochos

by Katherine Langadakis

The hats that each lady wore that evening was to remind all the responsibilities we have as women and we still find the heart, strength and the time to participate in the actions of human kindness.

The evening was energetic, with creations by EN-TOTO COUTURE of Great Neck, New York. The fashion show was spectacular with beautiful dresses and glamorous gowns. All the ladies at Philoptochos worked very hard and gave close attention to every detail in making a memorable evening.

With the guidance and support of Rev. Dionysios Anagnostopoulos, the Ladies Philoptochos of Whitestone have created a dynamic giving team. According to Joanna Phillips, the Philoptochos President, "when you are put in a position and you are contacted by a family that cannot afford a loved one's funeral, when a bread winner of a family is diagnosed by terminal cancer, when a parent cannot afford to pay for health care to their child with cancer, or when a family is stricken by a hardship or sudden death, you need an organization like this to be able to give economical support and help these needy people."



Rev. Dionysios Anagnostopoulos with Philoptochos President Joanna Phillips, 1st Vice President Irene Mihalios and 2nd Vice President Margie Demetriou



Rev. Dionysios Anagnostopoulos with the participating models



The Philoptochos of Whitestone donated money to help individuals with cancer, contributed to the Welfare Fund of Greece, paid summer camp programs for Young Greek Adults with special needs. Money was donated directly to families or individuals that have become homeless and that have no where else to turn.

This year the Ladies Philoptochos of Whitestone have helped to cook and serve for the homeless, they had a clothing drive and have donated monetarily to pay for food supplies. An Angel in Queens is truly an amazing organization that is here in our own backyard. Jorge Munoz, his sister and mother cook and feed approximately 140 homeless men and women every single night for the past seven years. The Ladies of Philoptochos will continue to support Angel in Queens and other like minded causes and organizations.

The evening proceeds will continue to support philanthropic causes including Angel in Queens, St. Jude's Children's Hospital and Ovarian Cancer Research. Life is difficult for some, and fine for others but when we see how the Ladies of Philoptochos come together and give help to the needy, it touches our hearts and soul. We should all be proud of the work and commitment to help the poor, sick, elderly, widowed, handicapped and the victims of disaster by The Ladies Philoptochos of Holy Cross of Whitestone.

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October 14, 2012

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6:00 Performance of Traditional Dancers

6:30 Award Presentations

7:00 Dinner Served

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National Innovation Conference by the Greek America Foundation

The Greek America Foundation hosted recently its second biennial National Innovation Conference (NIC). The three-day meeting allowed global thinkers, leaders and doers to present their "ideas worth sharing" to a captivated audience of over 500 people. NIC attendees, volunteers and presenters hailed from 30 states and 6 countries. Participants later described their feelings as inspired, emotional, unified, and hopeful - a feeling which resonates with Greeks around the world.



Peter Economides



NEO's Joanna Xipa and Demetrios Rhompotis with fellow Lefkadian Tia Angelos



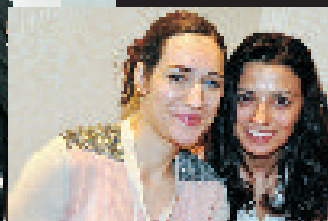
Eugenia Bazigos, Vassy and Julie Karatzis



Vassy performing



Antboula Katsimatides



Magdalini Rizakos, Marina Bifsba



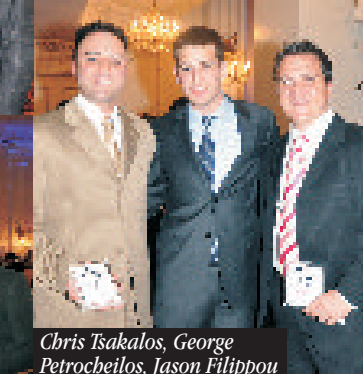
Mike Galanakis, Juanita De La Torres, Joanna Xipa, Nikos Mouyiari



Greek Consul General George Iliopoulos, Cyprus Consul General Koula Sopbianou, Gregory Pappas, Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis, Harry Mavromibalis



George Petrocheilos with George M. Logotheitis, CEO at the Libra Group



Chris Tsakalos, George Petrocheilos, Jason Filippou



Leda Karabela and Dr. Marie Bountrogianni



Basil Mossaidis, guests and Nick Karakostas



Dorie Klissas (right) with a friend

In the foundation's effort to support and promote Greek owned/inspired businesses, the weekend opened with a welcome reception Friday evening at the newly-opened Coco-Mat store in Soho, a popular Greek mattress and bedding company that only uses all-natural products. Afterwards, a few blocks away, guests ended the night sampling the creations of TV personalities Katherine and Sophie Kallinis at their wildly popular Georgetown Cupcake shop.

Saturday's all-day conference, held at New York University's Skirball Center, provided a forum for the exchange of ideas which addressed the pressing issue: how Greek diaspora can help with the current Greek financial crisis and support the affected individuals and institutions in Greece. Greg Pappas, the founder & chairman of the Greek America Foundation co-hosted the event along with Leda Karabela, leadership coach and expert in public affairs and international management, who offered commentary before and after each talk, and interacted with the audience frequently. Together they introduced and welcomed the nine conference presenters as well as an hour long panel discussion just before lunch. The panel was moderated by Kostas Mallios, vice president of Intellectual Ventures, and included guests Basil Mossaidis, Executive Director of AHEPA; Endy Zemenides, Executive Director of the Hellenic American Leadership Council; Emanuel Manousakis, Co-founder & CEO of Groopio.com; John Pyrovolakis, Executive Director of the Innovation Accelerator; and Loukas Pilitsis, CEO of Piraeus Equity Partners at Piraeus Bank. Together with a question and answer period, the discussion became a Philanthropreneurism Session: A panel discussion about how we can use philanthropy and entrepreneurship for the benefit of Greece.

Among the nine presenters were: Internationally acclaimed chef Diane Kochilas who explained how we can turn one of our most untapped resources, the Greek diet, into a positive ambassador for Greek culture; George Logotheitis, Chairman and CEO of Libra Group who described how 'philotimo' applies to business and how adherence to our Greek ideals will propel us to success; Coco-Mat's Paul Evmorfidis talking about how the economic crisis presents opportunities to return to our roots and rediscover Greece's natural resources; John Pyrovolakis, founder and CEO of the Innovation Accelerator Initiative who continued on about filling the leadership void of the Greece's economic problems which can be solved by the 'people in this room'; award-winning 22 year old filmmaker, Stefanos Sitaras, who gave an inspiring speech on living in the moment that brought the audience to tears as well as a standing ovation after opening up about his personal health struggles, and proving that crisis -

whether economic, existential, or emotional - forces us to examine who we are at our core; U.S. Marine Colonel Matthew Bogdanos, who described how he had led a mission recovering and returning 5,000 priceless jewelry and art pieces to Iraq confiscated in the chaos of war; Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, former Ontario cabinet minister, who explained how we can influence meaningful change through use of political psychology; Arianna Huffington, president and editor-in-chief of AOL Huffington Post Media Group via video, who reminded us that failure is just a stepping stone to success as we look deep inside ourselves for the leaders within; and finally, brand strategist Peter Economides, owner and founder of Felix BNI, who closed the day's conference with his outlook on how each of us is a brand, and Greeks have the unique opportunity to redefine their brand in the wake of the crisis.

The next day, during a Sunday morning breakfast for attendees at the New Yorker hotel Mr. Economides culminated the conference by making a much-anticipated announcement: the launch of a new initiative called "Ginetai", a new center for

entrepreneurship and innovation that will operate in an old hangar at the former Hellenikon Airport outside of Athens. The initiative has already attracted substantial funding.

In accordance with the innovations-themed weekend, the Greek America Foundation also recognized 40 young leaders under the age of 40 from all over the U.S. and Canada (40 Under 40), who are successful at what they do, and simultaneously make tremendous contributions to their communities and to the world around them. The awards reception was held Saturday evening after the conference in the Grand Ballroom of the New Yorker Hotel. After being a part of this splendid celebration I hope examples like these will inspire our future generations to take an active role in becoming leaders in their own lives as well as in their communities around them, so that we can induce change for the better; little by little, one by one, we can and will prove that anything is possible... "Ginetai"!

For a list of 40 Under 40 honorees, you can visit www.greekamerica.org/40-under-40.



Ψηφίστε για την Ελλάδα !

Α.ΣΑΜΑΡΑΣ

Εκλογές 17 Ιουνίου 2012



From left, Charis Lapas, Marios Ioannou, Theana Iordanou, Andy Comodromos, Philip Christopher, Charles Davidson, Vassos Vassiliou, Nicolas Nicolaou, Peter Kakoyiannis, Despina Axiotakis, Costa Kensington, Nikos Mouyiari, Theodoros David

Ambassador Andreas Jacovides, Charles Davidson, John Catsiadis, Vassos Vassiliou, Spiros Voutsinas and Edward Cox

The Cyprus-US Chamber of Commerce Honors Noble Energy

PHOTOS: ETA PRESS



Nicole Petallides, Fox News Anchor and the event's MC



Vassos Vassiliou, President of the Chamber



Despina Axiotakis



The Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce honored Noble Energy and Charles D. Davidson, Chairman & CEO, with the organization's 2012 Distinguished Merit Award during a special banquet, held recently at the New York Hilton. A number of dignitaries attended the event and Nicole Petallides, FOX Business Network Anchor, was the Mistress of Ceremonies.

Bestowed annually, the Award honors corporations and individuals who have raised the profile of Cyprus and made an extraordinary contribution to Cyprus-U.S. relations through their business endeavors. Noble Energy (NYSE: NBL) is an independent energy company engaged in worldwide oil and gas exploration and production. In addition to significant operations onshore in the U.S., in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico and offshore West Africa, Noble Energy is the leading E&P operator in the Eastern Mediterranean, having discovered an estimated 35 Tcf of natural gas resources in the Levant Basin located offshore Cyprus and Israel. These discoveries include an estimated gross mean of 7 Tcf offshore Cyprus.

"On behalf of Noble Energy, I am delighted to receive the 2012 Award from the Cyprus-United States Chamber of Commerce," Mr. Davidson said. "It's not very often you get to be part of an exploration venture that has the potential to dramatically change a country's energy supply. We are extraordinarily proud of the cooperative effort between Noble Energy and Cyprus that will allow us to apply our sophisticated technology in an effort to move Cyprus closer

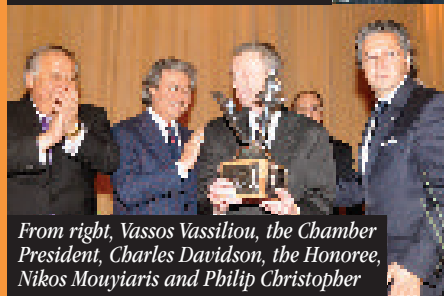
to energy independence."

"We are very excited about the 2012 Awards Dinner event, and truly proud to have Mr. Davidson as our 2012 Award recipient," said Mr. Vassos Vassiliou, President of the Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "Noble Energy's contribution to the development of Cyprus' economy is immensely important and extends beyond assisting the island in becoming energy independent. These natural gas discoveries are going to drive international investors to position themselves firmly as this new era unfolds for Cyprus and the region. Over the medium to long term, we expect to see substantial investments in infrastructure and revenue coming from the sales of hydrocarbons, and Noble Energy will be strategically and fundamentally important in helping the Republic of Cyprus achieve these goals."

The Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce was formed as a Not for Profit corporation in 1997 to promote and extend commercial, industrial and economic relations between the Republic of Cyprus and the United States. By creating a forum in which its members share ideas and knowledge, the Chamber presents opportunities to potential investors, offers advice on foreign investment projects, coordinates briefings with private and government officials, and works to build strong relationships between Cypriot and American companies and their employees, owners and other constituents. The Chamber maintains a diverse membership of corporations, entrepreneurs, executives, and professionals across all fields of commerce.



Michael Kakoyiannis, Dorothy Poli, James Pantelides



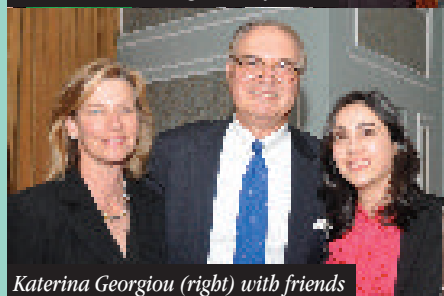
From right, Vassos Vassiliou, the Chamber President, Charles Davidson, the Honoree, Nikos Mouyiari and Philip Christopher



Michael Theodorobeakos (right) and Christos Koutsis (center) from Marathon Bank with friends



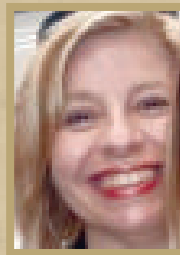
Theresa Vassiliou (right) and friends



Katerina Georgiou (right) with friends

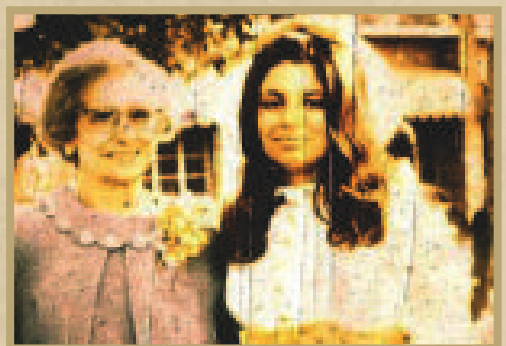
SEE SPOT RUN: TEACHING MY YIAYIA TO READ

By Ellen Tasbie Frisina



When I was 14 years old, and very impressed with my teenage status (looking forward to all the rewards it would bring), I set for myself a very special goal – a goal that so differentiated me from my friends that I don't believe I told a single one. As a teenager, I was expected to have deep, dark secrets, but I was not supposed to keep them from my friends.

My secret was a project that I undertook every day after school for several months. It began when I stealthily made my way into the local elementary school – horror of horrors should I be seen; I was now in junior high. I identified myself as a graduate of the elementary school, and being taken under wing by a favorite fifth grade teacher, I was given a small bundle from a locked storeroom – a bundle that I quickly dropped into a bag, lest anyone see me walking home with something from the "little kids" school.



heads vehemently at anyone under 16 leaving her family, and after giving her favorite gold earrings to her cousin saying, "In American, I will have all the gold I want," my young Yiayia put herself on a ship. She landed in New York in 1916.

No need to repeat the story of how it went for years. The streets were not made of gold. People weren't interested in smelling the flowers held by strangers. My grandmother was a foreigner. Alone. A young girl who



I brought the bundle home – proudly now, for within the confines of my home I was proud of my project. I walked into the living room, and one by one, emptied the bag of basic reading books. They were thin books with colorful covers and large print. The words were monosyllabic and repetitive. I sat down to the secret task at hand.

"All right," I said authoritatively to my 70-year old Yiayia, "today we begin our first reading lesson."

For weeks afterward, my Yiayia and I sat patiently side by side – roles reversed as she, with a bit of difficulty, sounded out every word, then read them again, piece by piece, until she understood the short sentences. When she slowly repeated the full sentence, we both would smile and clap our hands – I felt so proud, so grown up.

My Yiayia was born in Kalamata, Greece, in a rocky little farming village where nothing much grew. She never had the time to go to school. As the oldest child, she was expected to take care of her brother and sister, as well as the house and meals, while her mother tended to the gardens and her father scratched out what little he could from the soil.

So, for my grandmother, schooling was out. But she had big plans for herself. She had heard about America. About how rich you could be. How people on the streets would offer you a dollar just to smell the flower you were carrying. About how everyone lived in nice houses – not stone huts on the sides of mountains – and had nice clothes and time for school.

So my grandmother made a decision at 14 – just a child, I realize now – to take a long and sickening 30-day sea voyage alone to the United States. After lying about her age to the passport officials, who would shake their

winter. How to cultivate rosebushes and magnolia trees that thrived on her little piece of property. How to make baklava and other Greek delights, working from her memory. ("Now we add some milk." "How much?" "Until we have enough.") Best of all, she taught me about my ethnic heritage and what it means to be Greek and so proud.

First, we phonetically sounded out the alphabet. Then we talked about vowels – English is such a difficult language to learn. I hadn't even begun to explain the different sounds "gh" could make. We were still at the basics.

Every afternoon, we would sit in the living room, Yiayia with an afghan covering her knees, giving up her crocheting for her reading lesson. I, with the patience that can only come from love, slowly coached her from the basic reader to the second-grade reader, giving up my telephone gossiping.

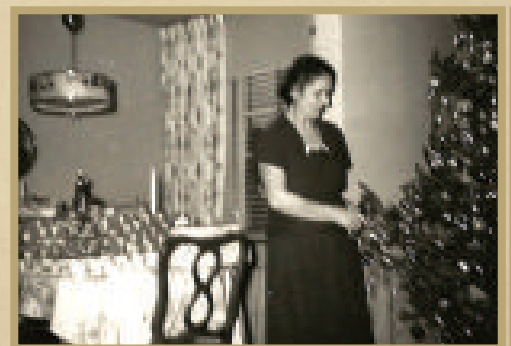
Years later, my Yiayia hadn't learned quite enough to sit comfortably with a newspaper or magazine, but it felt awfully good to see her try. How we used to laugh at her pronunciation mistakes. She laughed more heartily than I – I never knew if I should laugh. Here was this old woman, carefully and slowly sounding out each word, moving her lips, not saying anything aloud



until she was absolutely sure, and then, loudly, proudly, happily saying "Look at Spot. See Spot run."

When my Yiayia died and we faced the sad task of emptying her home, I was going through her night-table drawer and came upon the basic readers. I turned the pages slowly, remembering. I put them in a paper bag, and the next day returned them to the "little kids" school. Maybe someday, some teenager will request them again, for the same task. It will make for a lifetime of memories.

Ellen Tasbie Frisina is an Associate Professor at Hofstra University (Hempstead, New York), where she teaches in the Department of Journalism, Media Studies, and Public Relations of the School of Communication. This article, originally printed in *Newsday*, has been reprinted in many college textbooks and reading comprehension manuals around the country. It has been translated into numerous languages, including Japanese and Hawaiian. Apparently the sentiment of Yiayia love is an international emotion.





Stars and Scholars Shine at 21st Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund GALA

by Markos Papadatos

The 21st Annual Hellenic Times GALA at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City, opened with a newscast introduction that featured veteran reporters Ernie Anastos, Alexis Christoforous, as well as chief meteorologist Nick Gregory.

Nick Katsoris, the President of the Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund (HTSF), made the opening remarks and introduced Eleni Rodopoulos Kaufman and Irene Hrousis, both of which performed the Greek and American national anthems and their renditions were exceptional.

Katsoris went on to introduce Mr. Mike Emanuel, the chief congressional correspondent for Fox News Channel, who was this year's recipient of the prestigious "Humanitarian Media Achievement Award." Emanuel was hailed by Katsoris as one the "greatest role models in the Greek-American community," and as one of the most "grounded people one will ever meet." In his acceptance speech, Emanuel thanked his parents for their faith in him, as well as for their unconditional love, and for allowing him to pursue a career that he was passionate about. He went on to congratulate this year's scholarship recipients, John and Margo Catsimatidis, his wife Evangelia and his children.

Dennis Mehiel, the Chairman and CEO of US Corrugated, was the recipient of this year's "Humanitarian Leadership Award," which was presented to him by Mr. John Catsimatidis, the Chairman and CEO of the Red Apple Group.

Dressed in an elegant maroon dress, Margo Catsimatidis, the Vice Chairman of the HTSF and co-publisher of the Hellenic Times, announced the names of this year's scholarship recipients.

The GALA featured such special guests and past honorees as John Aniston from Days of Our Lives, Frank Dicapoulos of Guiding Light, Academy Award-winning actress Olympia Dukakis, Ernie Anastos, and Grammy winner Gloria Gaynor.

The evening showcased musical performances from Giannis Ploutarchos and Grammy nominated songbird Maxine Nightingale; moreover, Tony-nominated actor and American Idol alum Constantine Maroulis collaborated with Fame Story winner Kalomira. They sang Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" where his powerhouse rock voice blended well with Kalomira's mellifluous vocals, and their performance was well-received by the audience.

Following Maroulis and Kalomira's duet, Gloria Gaynor introduced fellow disco diva Maxine Nightingale who sang Donna Summer's "On the Radio," as well as a medley of "Hot Stuff" and "Bad Girls," and her hit single "Right Back Where We Started From". She also delivered a rendition of Sister Sledge's "We Are Family."

Earlier in the day, the HTSF held workshops in "Business, Law and Real Estate," which featured John Catsimatidis, Peter Kakoyiannis and Dennis Mehiel as panelists, and a "Media, The Arts and Fashion" workshop with panelists John Aniston, Alexis Christoforous, Frank Dicapoulos, Mike Emanuel and fashion designer Joanna Mastroianni. These stimulating workshops were sponsored by Mehiel and John Catsimatidis.

According to Teja Anderson, "this year it feels very exciting because our son, Jaden Dicapoulos, is a recipient."

"My wife brought to my attention that this was our seventh year attending this event, and this year we are very proud of Jaden for his accomplishments," said Frank Dicapoulos. "We support very much what John and Margo have been doing all these years in giving back to the Greek-American community!"

"It's great to be part of something that continues to grow, not only in its relevance but also in its actual substance," remarked Olympia Dukakis. Last year, the Oscar winning actress had the good fortune to present Gilles Marini with the HTSF "Artistic Humanitarian Achievement" honor, which she referred to as a "very special" moment. Dukakis revealed that her plans for the future include doing "Prospero in the Tempest with Shakespeare and Company, as well as Electra out in San Francisco, and a movie next year."

"It was an honor to be onstage and welcomed by some many inspiring dignitaries," said 2012 HTSF recipient Philip Smith from Maryland.

"It's absolutely amazing. I am so happy and honored to be here as the first Greek-American crowned Miss Teen America," said Eleana Frangedis. For the Greek-American youth who wish to find success in their dream professions in life she recommends they "always follow their dreams" and "never give up no matter what anyone tells you!"

"The Hellenic Times GALA tonight was spectacular!" exclaimed Evangelia Douros, an attendee of the event. "I was happy to see Gloria Gaynor there, as well as Maxine Nightingale, Kalomira, Ploutarchos, and Constantine Maroulis."

"Once again, I thoroughly enjoyed the HTSF's GALA," said Maria Dollas. "Last year was the first time I attended this fabulous event with my twins; we loved it so much, it is now a yearly family tradition!"

For more on the Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund, be sure to check out their official website: www.htsf.org.

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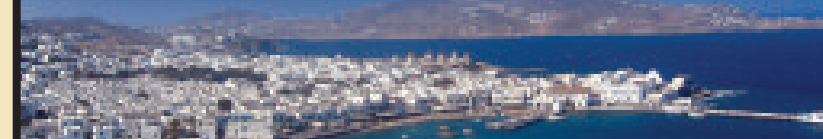
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A COLUMN DEVOTED TO MAKING GREEK FOOD EASY

By Maria A. Pardalis

Lia Kastanidi's Fanouropita

Who says food and fashion don't mix? Definitely not Greek fashion designer Lia Kastanidi! This style maven adores food and loves to bake, yet you would never know it by her 25 inch waist. Lia epitomizes a fine balance of beauty with brains. She was inspired to form her own fashion label while living in London, but it wasn't until she moved back to Greece that it all came to life. Using her passion for comfort, femininity, and Greece's natural beauty, Lia created ENOE ME.

Enoe Me was inspired by Lia's native land of Uenye in the Black Sea of Asia Minor where her grandfather was born. She wanted to dedicate something to her family through fashion. While speaking with Lia about her love for fashion, her love for food came up repeatedly and so I had to get a recipe out of her for you. Naturally, Lia shared a family favorite, a recipe for Fanourpita.

"The ingredients have to be 9! That's what my mum always said...and you bake it on 26th Aug, one day before the celebration of St. Fanourios"



Ingredients

- 3 cups self-rising flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2/3 cup olive oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped
- 1/2 cup raisins or a splash of cognac
- Confectioner's sugar for garnish

Preparation

- 1 Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a big bowl, combine flour, baking soda, cloves and cinnamon. Mix well and set aside.
- 2 Add olive oil, orange juice and sugar in another bowl.
- 3 Take wet ingredients and pour into dry ingredients. Mix well and slowly add walnuts, raisins and/or cognac.
- 4 Pour batter in an 11 inch round shaped baking pan that has been greased in olive oil and lightly sprinkled with flour. Place in preheated oven and bake for 60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
- 5 Garnish cake with confectioner's sugar and enjoy!

Kali Orexi!

For more information on Lia Kastanidi and her amazing fashion line ENOE ME, check out: www.enoeme.com

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

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

Visit lefkas this summer!

FROM AN ANONYMOUS FRIEND

PERI X SCOPE

We can finally go to Greece!



Now that the Greek elections are over, those of you who were afraid to go to Greece this summer because of the political uncertainty, you have no reason to postpone the trip! The "good guys" won, the "bad guys" are left on the left to lick their wounds, President Obama can breathe deeply hat the "communists" who came second, won't destroy the American and World economy and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany will have to look for other excuses to keep roasting Europe's favorite scapegoat (Greece).

New Democracy leader Antonis Samaras, who scored a limping victory in these elections and whose main advisor is a ... communist, even spoke in English in order to assure us that in Greece business will go on as usual (even as real business will most likely cease to exist as a result of the suffocation to which they have been condemned thanks to the "salvation" plan by the IMF and the European Union). However, keeping with the optimism of my opening statement, I should say that I'm looking forward to see who will be in the new government, what combinations will take place, because all that will determine to a great degree its longevity. (Anyway, it will last long enough to take our vacation there in safety and tranquility!) And the possibility of doing something serious for the country that is running in its 5th continuous year of recession and is in need of super intelligence galore in order to stand on her feet again. Unfortunately, more experimenting is in the offing, but at her terminal condition and given the fact that people did not choose outright rebellion by voting for SYRIZA, who can possibly say no to prescriptions, even of the late night TV infomercial kind, that promise miraculous results like that hair will grow again as grass on Chia pets!

At this point, the only real optimism emanates from our inherited ability to surprise, to come up with the unexpected, whether in good or bad times. Two days ago the National Team of Greece in soccer beat the Russians, the favorites to win, at the Euro 2012 and advanced to the next round, against many odds. They managed once more to neutralize the other team's best players and not let them employ their well proven abilities. When they made a tiny mistake, Greece scored. One would wish things were that simple in the Eurozone, but as a tactic it might be a good start nevertheless!

Coming to our shores now, the state of our democracy in the US is remarkable! Jamie Dimon (a Greek American, by the way), CEO of J.P. Morgan that lost about seven billion (and it's keep going up) a few weeks ago in bad bets, testified in front of the Senate Banking Committee and as expected, he was pampered instead of roasted! I said as expected, because J.P. Morgan is the biggest campaign contributor to the members of the Committee! No wonder. It was like the similar appearance in front of another senate committee, a couple of years ago, of oil industry CEOs in order to explain why they are ripping us off with the ridiculous prices in gas. Again, they were patted by the committee members, probably for the same reason as with Dimon. Greg Palast's book "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy" comes to mind ...

And they talk about Greek corruption! It's peanuts compared to the fraud here, especially as we, the idiots, are footing the bill!

DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS
dondemetrio@neomagazine.com

Dimitri Vassilakis at Zinc

The George "Best" Costacos Cultural and Cancer Research Foundation organized recently a wonderful evening of great jazz with the celebrated award winning saxophonist, vocalist, composer and educator Dimitri Vassilakis and his group at ZINC BAR, N.Y. Joining Dimitri were Theo Hill on piano, Essiet Essiet on bass and Sylvia Cuenca on drums. Dimitris and his group performed as part of the George "Best" Costacos Cultural and Cancer Research Foundation's program to organize events which help promote talented young performers.

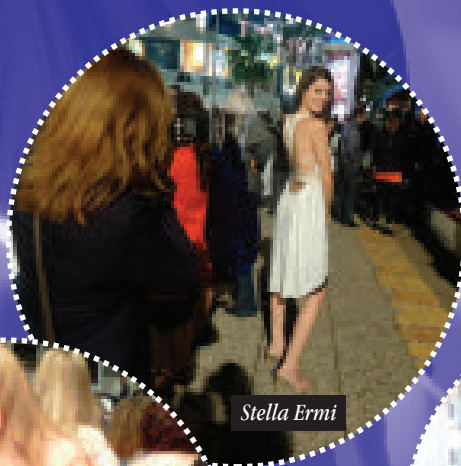
Dimitri Vassilakis studied chemical engineering at The Athens University before completing studies in music at The London College & The Royal Academy of Music in London, gaining awards and scholarships from the Onassis Foundation and the British Council. One of the first members of the international association of schools of jazz – IASJ, has travelled extensively and created ongoing educational and performing platforms for young jazz musicians. He is launching a new movement for young artists this year starting in the United States under his new "Art Escape" program.

From right, Stella Lymberis, Dora Ziongas, Dimitris Vassilakis and NEO's Demetrios Rhompotis

He has recorded 5 albums for the historic Candid Label in London. His "Labyrinth" album was voted 2nd jazz album of the year at the BBC Internet poll and was album of the month March 2002 for BBC Music Magazine. His new album "Across The Universe" was recorded in New York and includes top jazzmen from all continents. It is released on Candid Records 50th anniversary edition. Dimitri Vassilakis has performed all around the globe, notably at Birdland NY, Yale, Natural History Museum Washington DC for the Smithsonian Institute and Jazz appreciation month, Onassis Cultural Centre New York, Sweet Rhythm and Zinc New York, London Jazz Festival Royal Festival Hall, South Africa Tour and major festivals in Europe and the Balkans, while reviewers refer to him as the Greek god of jazz...

Among his many teaching engagements, Dimitri has taught at the Athens and Macedonia Universities and has presented seminars at Queens, Skidmore, Columbia, DePaul, Royal Academy of Music and Paris Conservatoire.

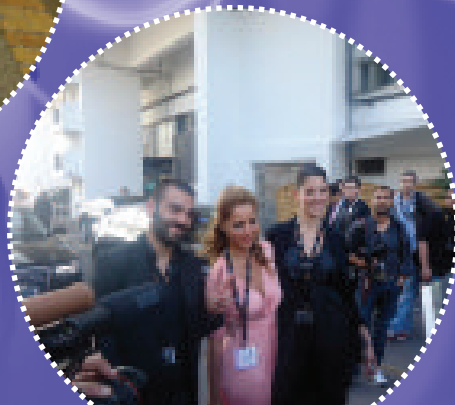
For more information those interested can go to: www.dimitriosvassilakis.com



Stella Ermi



Anna Rezan-Kritselis



Director Dimitris Gotsis with actresses Stella Ermi and Teti Kalafati

by Kelly Fanarioti

Greeks in Cannes Film Festival 2012

Hellenic spirit was all over the Croisette at this year's Cannes Film Festival, with Alexander Payne, one of our Greek cinematic gods, creator of the award-winning film "The Descendants", being one of the members of the jury.

The musical rhythm of the event was given by Alexandre Desplat, the distinguished French-Greek composer who scored "The King's Speech" and "The Tree of Life." Alexandre had five films featured in this year's competition including the "Un Certain Regard" category.

The Greek youth, talent and beauty also impressed the world's leading celebration of the seventh art. One of the most spectacular images that stood out was the 21 years-old young actress Anna Rezan Kritseli who first appeared on the big screen at the age of 14, but the biggest hit came in the past two years, thanks to her participation in the American film "La Commedia di Amos Poe" by the leading character in "No Wave Cinema", Amos Poe. Recently, she appeared at the Italian hit film "Immature il

Viaggio" made by the great director Paolo Genovese. A few months ago we saw her featured on IMDB's list with the most beautiful and young actors of the planet. The Greek beauty chose a blue maxi dress with the signing of award-winning costume designer Bianca Nikolareizi.

The other starlet from the island of Creta, Stella Ermi, looked graceful and radiant as she arrived at the festival's closing ceremony. Stella is a successful theater actress who makes her first steps in cinema by participating in the short film "Hidden Life", a dramatic thriller created by Dimitris Gotsis. It tells the story of a successful British journalist in Greece. "Hidden Life" was chosen to be screened at the Short Film Corner of the Cannes. The beautiful Cretan impressed with her elegance, wearing a creation by the famous Greek designer Stelios Kountounaris.

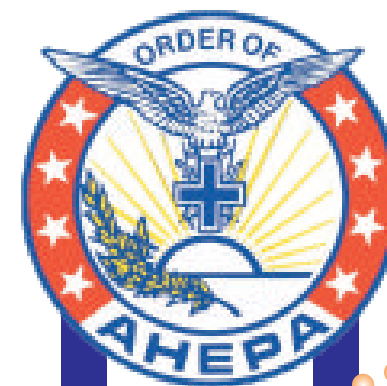
Greek productions and films were featured at The Marche du Film (Film Market) as well.

"Meteora", by Spiros Stathouloupoulos, focuses on a love story between a nun and a monk living in neighboring monasteries in the breathtaking and historic Greek area of Meteora.

"The Unfair World", by Filippos Tsitos, has already been recognized at several venues such as the San Sebastian Film Festival, where it was awarded the Silver Shell for best director and best actor (well-known Greek actor Antonis Kafetzopoulos).

"Papadopoulos & Sons", directed by Marcus Markou, is a Canadian production but it features Greeks both in the cast and behind the camera.

"Appartamento ad Atene", (An Apartment in Athens) by Ruggero Dipaola, takes place in Athens and features Greek actor Gerasimos Skiadaresis as one of the central characters. The film has already won critics over and was awarded at this year's Newport Beach Film Festival for best feature, best actor (Gerasimos Skiadaresis), best cinematographer (Vladan Radovic) and best screenplay (Ruggero Dipaola, Heldrunk Schleaf).



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PAVLIDIS GEORGIOS
MEMBER OF THE GREEK SOCIETY OF PHOTOREPORTERS
pavlidis.g@gmail.com