

Papandreou Meets President Obama & Secretary Clinton in Washington



President Barack Obama, left, smiles with Prime Minister George Papandreou of Greece, right, as Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, speaks during a reception in the White House on Tuesday, March 9, 2010.

Greek Prime Minister Stresses He Does Not Seek Aid, Proposes Reining in Speculators

By Christopher Tripoulas
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou said on Tuesday, March 9 he had received a positive response from U.S. President Barack Obama to calls for a global campaign to rein in market speculators. The discussion was part of a closed-door meeting between the two men. The Oval Office session was closed to the media, unusual for a meeting with a foreign leader.

Following their Tuesday afternoon meeting, the two leaders met again in the evening during a reception for Greek Independence Day in the East Room. President Obama drew applause from a largely Greek American audience when he said, "Whether in good times or in bad times, the people of Greece will always have a friend and a partner in the United States of America."

President Obama added: "This solidarity continues today — whether it's the close counterterrorism efforts between our governments or the deep partnerships between our people," but made no mention of any financial proposals.

PAPANDREOU IS PLEASED WITH MEETING

Papandreou addressed reporters in the driveway of the White House.

"We have found a very positive response from President Obama, which means that this issue [of speculators] will be on the agenda in the next G20 meeting," Papandreou told reporters after his meeting with Obama at the White House. "This is very important to stabilize international markets and to not allow the crises that occurred, such as the one that occurred in Greece, to create wider destabilization," Papan-

dreou said.

Papandreou says he outlined European proposals during his session with Obama. He says the issue would be discussed at the next meeting of the Group of 20 summit of leading and emerging economies in June. Papandreou added that he had briefed Obama on a European initiative to clamp down on speculators.

Papandreou said Europe's united front on speculation sends an important signal: "There is solidarity. It will not allow speculators to play around with the stability of the Eurozone."

Regarding the steps Greece is taking to emerge from the crises, Papandreou said, "What we are doing is, first of all, re-vamping our economy. We are taking measures to put our economy on the right track," Papandreou said.

The Greek leader said he didn't ask Obama to direct aid for his nation's debt crisis, and that the president expressed support for efforts to crack down on market speculation arising from

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Greek America Responds to Greece's Big Crisis

By Angelike Contis
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - Greek Americans are concerned and sad about Greece's current financial crisis. Some are shocked. Some saw it coming. Others are too angry to comment about it on the record. Many say they'd like to help. The National Herald gathers the views here on the topic from community leaders, business people, writers and men/women-on-the-street.

THE CAUSES

Most Greek Americans blame Greek governments of the past for the mess. Author Nicolas Gage is among them. He writes, in an e-mail correspondence with TNH: "I follow what has been happening in Greece very closely and watching the country's economy unravel so badly and seeing it described as the most profligate nation in Europe pains me severely, as I'm sure it does Greeks everywhere. But considering the excesses of

Greek governments over the past 30 years, I must say I'm hardly surprised they have brought the country so low."

"The problem," according to Columbia Business School professor Charles Calomiris, "is that the Greeks have for many years — not one or two — but at least six — been spending far beyond their means." He thinks having the highest consumption expenditure, greatest corruption rating and the lowest labor participation in the eurozone — not to

mention the almighty "fakelaki" (bribe envelope) all hurt Greece.

Greek Americans critique what they perceive as an excessive reliance on the state and the lack of a work ethic in Greece. "It's nutty that people are retiring in their 50s," says Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce Chairman John C. Stratakis. Dimitrios Kalamaras, President of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater

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'The Cove' Wins Oscar, Tries to Get Message Out

NEW YORK - "We made this film to give the oceans a voice," started the speech that Louie Psihoyos would have delivered at the 82nd Academy Awards on March 7 — had he had the chance to do so. His film "The Cove", which is about the annual slaughter of dolphins in Taiji, Japan, took the award for Best Documentary.

The trouble was that once the first-time director was under Hollywood's brightest spotlight, he was prevented from speaking. It wasn't that his team ran over the 45 allotted seconds. Some 26 seconds into producer/actor Fisher Stevens' speech, the Oscar broadcasters chose to strike up the band and cut away from what was on-stage, because former dolphin trainer/activist Ric O'Barry, who stars in the film, unfurled a banner asking people to text their dolphin support.

The rest of the speech that Mr. Psihoyos, a former National Geographic photographer and founder of the nonprofit Oceanic Preservation Society (OPS), would have delivered follows: "We told the story of 'The Cove' because we witnessed a crime. Not just a crime against nature, but a crime against humanity. We made this movie because through plundering, pollution and acidification from burning fossil fuels, ALL ocean life is in peril from the great whales to plankton which incidentally is responsible for half the oxygen in this theater. Thank you, Black OPS Team for risking your lives in Japan - and thank You Academy for shining the brightest lights in the world on 'The Cove'. Japan, please see this movie! Domo Arigato!" This speech, recording by Mr. Psihoyos afterwards, is now on YouTube.

Mr. Psihoyos told The National Herald the day after the awards, that: "Awards for a documentary are the collateral of trying to achieve the real reward, which in our case is stopping the selling of dolphin as food and entertainment." He added: "It seems that the cove itself has been shut down but that the dolphin hunters must now kill the dolphins out at sea at an artificial cove in a net. It becomes much harder to kill them in this way and it means their way of life is going extinct - which is good news for news for the environment and people because all dolphin meat is toxic." According to the film, dolphin flesh includes high levels of mercury.

The director also voiced, in his e-mail communication, his opposition to dolphins also being used for human entertainment, noting: "A little gold man means that more people will see

Greece Admitted to U.S. Visa Waiver Program

TNH Staff Writers

NEW YORK - Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced on Tuesday that Greece will join the Visa Waiver Program. This decision - granting a long-standing request by Greece - is a major milestone reflective of the strong and enduring relationship between the U.S. and

Greece. The effective date is in approximately 30 days. This program will make it very convenient for most Greek citizens to travel to the United States, strengthening the long-standing family, educational, social and business ties between the two countries.

"Our efforts to guard against terrorism while enhancing legal travel and trade depend upon close collaboration with our international partners," said Secretary Napolitano. "I commend our partners in Greece for committing to strong screening and security standards and enhanced information sharing for travel by Greek citizens to the United States as we work together to protect our citizens and strengthen our economies."

Greece's VWP designation represents a major step forward in the continued and long-standing economic and security partnership between the United States and Greece—reflecting more than two years of coordination on Greece's entry into VWP.

The Order of AHEPA, which had strongly backed Greece's efforts for inclusion into the program, applauded the news that Greece has been designated a member of the VWP, in an announcement made by National President Nicholas A. Karacostas following his Tuesday meeting

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HABA And 'The Greek Debt Crisis'

NEW YORK - The Hellenic Bankers Association (HABA) hosted a presentation and discussion titled "The Greek Debt Crisis" at the Friar's Club in Manhattan on Thursday evening, March 4. The guests were welcomed by HABA Vice President Costas Kellas, in the place of HABA President Georgia S. Mouzakis Tavlarios, who was unable to be present.

Robert Savage, CEO of Track.com, an independent research company with a Web-site for research analysts, market participants and investment managers, made the presentation, which was moderated by Demetri Papacostas of Bloomberg. L. P. Papacostas introduced the topic and the speaker with thoughtful but humorous comments apropos of the landmark Friar's Club, a private club dedicated to comedy. Commenting on the media's bashing of Greece threatening to wreck the Eurozone, he expressed amazement "that tiny

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AP PHOTO/HUSSEIN TALAL, FILE

Faith and Visions at St. Catherine's of Sinai

This Oct. 15, 2009 file photo shows Saint Catherine's Monastery, founded by the Emperor Justinian the Great in 527, at the foot of Mount Sinai, Egypt. The Greek Orthodox monastery is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Chapel of the Burning Bush marks the spot of Moses' vision.

Farewell to Fr. James Moskovites

By Constantine S. Sirigos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - There was not a cloud in the sky on the day when family, friends and brother clergy, led by Archbishop Demetrios of America, gathered at the Church of the Evangelismos/Annunciation to bid a loving farewell to Rev. James Moskovites. As if opening a clear view to heaven for the spiritual children of the man who tirelessly strove to show them the path to salvation and a better way of life on earth, an infinite blue sky crowned the morning of Saturday, March 6 in Manhattan for the funeral and burial of a beloved priest and dear friend to many.

The landmark church, with its glowing Tiffany windows depicting the life of Christ, overflowed with clergy, people, flow-

ers and love for its pastor of almost two decades. More than 40 clergymen attended the Divine Liturgy and funeral and many more were unable due to the short notice for a chance to pay tribute to a man who lived too briefly and passed too quickly. Bishops Andonios of Phasiane, Savvas of Troas, and Philotheos of Meloa also participated in the funeral, which was attended as well by the Consuls General of Greece and Cyprus, Aghi Balta and Koula Sophianou, respectively and noted businessmen and philanthropists John Catsimatidis, who had served as an altar boy in the upper west side parish, and Michael Jaharis, vice chairman of the Archdiocesan Council.

Parish Council President Nick Sakellariadis welcomed the more than 400 friends and

parishioners and read from a letter sent by Secretary of State Hilary and former president Bill Clinton. "Hilary and I were deeply saddened to learn of Fr. Jim's passing. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to all who have gathered to celebrate his life. Fr. Jim served as a model of faith and enriched countless lives." Clinton noted Fr. Moskovites' tireless efforts "to keep the Greek Orthodox tradition alive," and his work at the parish that fostered "an atmosphere of compassion and fellowship." Father Moskovites' son-in-law, Rev. Demetrios Kehagias spoke on behalf of his family.

Archbishop Demetrios spoke movingly about Fr. Moskovites. He revealed that he learned of his hospitalization at the airport

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Spring Forward

On Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 2 a.m., Daylight Saving Time begins in the United States and we will move our clocks one hour ahead.

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In the Spotlight: Sophia Aslanis, RD, CDN

By Eleni Kostopoulos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK – Sophia Aslanis, a registered dietitian with the American Dietetic Association and a New York State Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionist, is the founder of Nutrition 4 Life, a New York City-based company with a primary office in Midtown Manhattan and a secondary on Wall Street. Aslanis received her Bachelor of Science degree in nutrition from Syracuse University completed her dietetic internship at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester and has served as a clinical and outpatient nutritionist for Lenox Hill Hospital and Jamaica Hospital Medical Center. Aslanis has completed the Eating Disorder training program through the Renfrew Center and was featured in several national magazines including In Touch, Shape and Men's Fitness. She was a consulting nutritionist for Trader Monthly magazine, and consulting nutritionist for The New Parkway Weight Loss Center. She is a member of the Hellenic Medical Association of New York (HMS-NY).

TNH: How did you get to where you are today?

SA: Before starting my practice in 2004, I attended Bronx School of Science and studied nutrition at Syracuse University. I was always interested in food and different cultures and always considered myself a very self-motivated individual. I always liked working with people one-on-one, so that's how the idea of building a practice came about. I really wanted to counsel my patients through my de-

sire to help others to achieve their goals. Making a difference in the health and lifestyles for my patients is my priority.

TNH: Tell us about the development of your practice.

SA: It began with the appeal of treating an individual for their whole self: body and mind, by focusing on emotional challenges with food as well as medical nutrition therapy. I really enjoy counseling a very diverse group of people - both Greek American and non-Greek, children and elderly with all types of issues: weight management, diabetes, high cholesterol, eating disorders, pediatric concerns, oncology, prenatal care, gastrointestinal disorders, Celiac disease and others. Today, my practice consists of more of a therapeutic, individualized approach, from changing irrational beliefs to prevention and treating medical conditions.

TNH: What is your greatest achievement thus far? What do you hope to achieve in the future?

SA: My greatest achievement is being the founder of a very successful private practice. I'm very proud of the work we've accomplished here. In the future, I would like to see the continued growth and expansion of Nutrition 4 Life, and to be able to provide support to even more patients in the community.

TNH: As a Greek American, what is one key concern you hold regarding your community - here or abroad?

SA: The Greek community here is clearly facing increased health problems that could be prevented with diet and exercise. My intention would be to



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Sophia Aslanis, a registered dietitian with the American Dietetic Association.

increase awareness of healthy eating habits and lifestyle, and how it contributes to mental and physical health so everyone could make health a priority in their life.

TNH: What is the most challenging aspect of your career?

SA: There are always challenges with running a business from managing an office and staff to financial planning. Besides providing treatment for my patients, I have to take on many other roles as well. Also, balancing your personal life and your professional life can be quite challenging but I take my own advice as much as possible and make time for personal activities. I try to utilize time man-

agement where I can.

TNH: Does Greek Orthodoxy play a part in your life and what you do?

SA: My religion has certainly provided me with the opportunity to take care of others and give back to community.

TNH: What part of Greece is your family from? Have you visited?

SA: My family is from the Peloponnese and Samos - I visit every year!

TNH: What's your most enjoyable pastime?

SA: I have many versatile interests from going to the beach, and skiing to pursuing outdoor activities, but I especially love traveling!

TNH: Do you have any future projects we can look forward to?

SA: One of my long-term goals is to write research book on nutrition. I would want to publish something that my patients could really relate to and benefit from.

TNH: Share with us some words of wisdom.

SA: Everything is possible. Never give up on your dreams. The more challenges you are faced with, the harder you should work to overcome them.

Contact Eleni Kostopoulos at EleniK@thenationalherald.com.

If you'd like to nominate a notable member of the Greek American community for "In the Spotlight", please contact Eleni Kostopoulos at elenik@thenationalherald.com with your suggestions.



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

American College of Greece Celebrates 135 Years

Friends of The American College of Greece, comprised of Pierce & Deere colleges, at the NYAC. (l-r.): Claudia Carydis, Greg Pappas, Eve Geroulis, Dr. S. Sue Horner, Pres. David G. Horner, Kathleen Cross, John Baworowsky, Todd & Jennifer Fritch.



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Celebrating Dodecanesian Islands' History

Dancers in traditional costumes dance as Gianis Themelis plays the tsambuna. On Sunday, March 7, The Federation of Dodecanesian Societies of America and Canada celebrated the 62nd anniversary of the island chain's incorporation into Greece.



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

NJ Metropolis Marks St. Basil's 65th Anniversary

The St. Basil's Children's Choir performs at a luncheon marking the 65th anniversary of the founding of the academy. The event was sponsored by the Metropolis of New Jersey and was held at the Pines Manor in Edison, N.J. on Sunday March 7.



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

104 Years of NY Pan Lemnian Philanthropic Assn.

The Lemnian "Hephaestus" society celebrated its 104th year at the Terrace on the Park 1. to r. Dr. Constantine Kasapis, honorees Grigoris Maninakis, Zoe Collaras and Dr. George Constantinou and the society's president, Lefteris Kasapis.

GOINGS ON...

■ MARCH 12 – MARCH 19
NEW YORK, N.Y. – The Church of the Annunciation presents its annual lenten lectures, titled "What Do the Church Fathers Say About..." on Fridays during Lent after the salutation services and a lenten dinner. March 12: Life Apart from God, Father Robert Stephanopoulos. March 19: Anti-Christ: Fact or Fiction. Schedule for all Fridays: 6:30 p.m. Akathist Hymn; 8:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner; 8:30 p.m. Lenten Lecture. The Church of the Annunciation/Evangelismos is located at 302 West 91st Street; New York, N.Y. For information call (212) 724-2070; E-mail: go-coa@aol.com or visit the Web site at: www.evangelismos.org.

■ MARCH 17
NEW YORK, N.Y. - The Hellenic Medical Society of New York invites you to a Dinner Symposium on "Carotid Disease - Controversies in Diagnosis & Current Management" with guest speakers Peter Faries, M.D., Jeffery Olin, M.D. and Ageliki Vouyouka, M.D. on March 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Thalassa Restaurant in New York City. For further information, call: (718) 398-2440.

■ MARCH 18
NEW YORK, N.Y. – The Hellenic Lawyers Association is co-hosting the Rev. Basil S. Gregory Memorial Lecture on the occasion of the observance of Greek Independence on "The idea of Greece: Literary Philhellenism and After" by David Roessel & Stella Yiannos at the Holy Trinity Cathedral Ballroom on March 18 at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please visit <http://www.hellenicamerican.c/HACC03182010.pdf>

CHICAGO, Ill. – Professor of Modern History at the University of the Peloponnese, Christina Koulouri, with the World Council of Hellenes Abroad, will be presenting an intriguing panorama of how various sweeping international movements in the early 19th century favored the development of a Greek national movement and led to the creation of the Greek state at the National Hellenic Museum on March 18 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Reception to follow. Admission: \$7 members, \$10 non-members, \$5 students and SAE Youth Network. The National Hellenic Museum is located at: 801 W. Adams Street, Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois. For further information, call: (312) 655-1234 or visit: www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org

■ MARCH 20-21
ASTORIA, N.Y. – The Hellenic Cultural Center Theatre will be hosting a unique concert featuring the best Greek songs from the Byzantine and Asia Minor tradition to Rebetiko, the golden sixties and the greatest 20th Century composers in a unique sing-along musical journey with the participation of talented 2nd and 3rd generation Greek American youth sharing the stage and performing with Grigoris Maninakis & The Mikrokosmos Ensemble on March 20th and 21st at 7:00 p.m. Participating guests artists/young singers & instrumentalists are: Athena Adamopoulos, composer/pianist; Maggie Angelakis, vocalist; Bobby Damore, bouzouki-vocals; Lina Orfanos, guest vocalist; Tania Papayannopoulou, pianist-vocalist; Fotis Papiiris, vocalist; Nikitas Tampakis, viola; Elena Tournara, vocalist; Stavroula Traitsas, vocalist; Katerina Visnjic, vocalist and Vanya Visnjic, violin. The Hellenic Cultural Center Theatre is located at: 27-09 Crescent Street, Astoria, New York. Limited seating. For reservations and information, call: (718) 626-5111 or (917) 915-8647.

■ MARCH 25
ASTORIA, N.Y. – The Greek Independence Day Celebration hosted by Assemblyman Michael Gianaris and Queens Borough President Helen Marshall will be held at the Hellenic Cultural Center on March 25 at 6:00 p.m. This event is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend and celebrate this significant day in Greek history. The Hellenic Cultural Center is located at: 27-09 Crescent Street, Astoria, N.Y. For additional information and to RSVP, please call (718) 545-3889.

■ MARCH 26
ASTORIA, N.Y. – The Annual Greek Independence Day Parade Dinner Dance will be held at the Stathakion Center on March 26. The Stathakion Center is located at: 22-51 29th Street, Astoria, N.Y. will be held. \$50 Per Ticket. For additional information and to RSVP, please call (718) 204-6500.

■ NOTE TO OUR READERS
This calendar of events section is a complimentary service to the Greek American community. All parishes, organizations and institutions are encouraged to e-mail their information regarding the event 3-4 weeks ahead of time, and no later than Monday of the week before the event, to english.edition@thenationalherald.com

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Vote on our website!

You have the chance to express your opinion on our website on an important question in the news. The results will be published in our printed edition next week along with the question for that week.

The question this week is: Are you pleased with the way Greece's Prime Minister Papandreou has handled his visit to Washington?

- Yes
 No
 Maybe

The results for last week's question: As you prepare to fill out the U.S. Census form, do you identify yourself as
64% voted "An American of Greek descent"
36% voted "A Greek living in America"

Please vote at: www.thenationalherald.com

Correction:

In our special issue "The Wealthiest Greek Americans 2010" (Feb. 13, 2010), we incorrectly stated C. Dean Metropoulos' estimated net worth as \$500 million, instead of \$1.2 billion, and his ranking on the list as 18th instead of 9th.

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Obama Hails Greek 'Philotimo' and Pledges Solidarity With Greece

By Christopher Tripoulas
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - Greece got a moral boost on Tuesday from President Barack Obama, who pledged that "Whether in good times or in bad times, the people of Greece will always have a friend and a partner in the United States of America," before a crowd of some 200 Greek Americans and high ranking U.S. officials attending the White House's annual Greek Independence Day celebration. It was also the first time that a Greek Prime Minister was in attendance. "I can't imagine a better way to celebrate the independence of Greece than with the Prime Minister of Greece," President Obama said.

Archbishop Demetrios of America and other clergymen and Archdiocesan officials were also in attendance, together with officials from leading Greek American organizations from throughout the country, and dozens of other Greek Americans.

President Obama jovially acknowledged that the event was held ahead of schedule this year. "Greek Independence Day isn't for another few weeks, but I'll be on a trip to Asia, so I appreciate you coming early. Not that Greeks have ever needed an excuse to celebrate - let's face it."

In recognition of the problems the Papandreou administration is called to address, however, the President said that "Like his father and his grandfather before him, the Prime Minister is leading Greece through challenging times," reiterating the support Greece can count on from the U.S.

A central theme in President Obama's address revolved around the Greek term "philotimo" - love of honor. "It's the determination that has driven generations of Greek Americans, like those here tonight, to struggle and sacrifice for the same



things that all Americans want: to pursue our dreams, to realize our God-given potential and to give our children an even better life," the President said.

President Obama also spoke about the contribution of Philhellenes from the U.S. in the Greek War of Independence, as well as the alliance between Greece and the U.S. through two World Wars and the Cold War.

He acknowledged Greece's efforts on the Cyprus issue, integrating the Balkans into Europe, and the Prime Minister's personal work to improve relations with Turkey, thanking Mr. Papandreou for his leadership, while also highlighting Greece's participation in NATO missions.

President Obama concluded

his speech with the phrase "Zito i Hellas" (Long live Greece).

The President singled out his good friend, and basketball buddy from Chicago - Alexi Giannoulis who is the Democratic Senate nominee for the Illinois seat. "We have some outstanding members of Congress who are here, and we've got at least one potential member of Congress," Obama said pointing to his good friend Giannoulis.

In turn, Mr. Papandreou touched on the importance of the event, saying that "Together we celebrate the proud heritage of Greek Americans. Together we recognize the longstanding friendship between Greece and the United States. And together we reaffirm our common values



Top: Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou celebrates Greek Independence Day early, with U.S. President Barack Obama and Archbishop Demetrios at the White House on March 9. Left: The Archbishop greets the U.S. president. "Zito i Hellas," said Mr. Obama, in Greek, at the event where Mr. Papandreou was able to express Greece's concerns about its economy and geopolitical challenges.

and principles, our shared desire for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, human rights and the rule of law around the world."

Mr. Papandreou highlighted the importance of the Greek American Community, calling it "a further and lasting link between our two countries." He added that "we are proud - and I am part of this community - we are proud of their accomplishments in academia, in business, in culture, in politics. They contribute much to the US, and are always a source of innovation and strength, as they bring their ideas and aspirations to Greece when they visit our country."

Extending an invitation to the first family, Mr. Papandreou said that "Greece today may be facing

problems, it remains a most hospitable country: filoxenia, an ancient concept, which holds true for all in Greece today. And our people would certainly welcome you, Michelle, and your daughters Malia and Sasha to our beautiful country whenever you find it possible."

Mr. Papandreou spoke about the challenges that lie ahead. "In these difficult times, I would like to thank President Barack Obama for his support and confidence. I can assure you, Mr. President, as I can assure the Greek American community, we are doing what it takes...to steer our economy on a new path."

Mr. Papandreou ended his speech by saying "Greece will continue to stand with the United

States in our common quest for justice, against all forms of tyranny and oppression, in order to keep our world a place where it is worth living."

In his speech, Archbishop Demetrios extended special thanks to Michelle Obama for attending the event. "The fact that the First Lady, Ms. Michelle Obama, is here also for the first time for a first lady certainly enhances the joy of the day," he said. The Archbishop also thanked the President for repeatedly advocating on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and pleaded with him to intervene in the Cyprus and FYROM issues.

Contact Christopher Tripoulas at tripoulas@ekirikas.com

Community Shocked as Greek American Leaps to his Death in Queens

By Stavros Marmarinos & Christopher Tripoulas
TNH Staff Writers

NEW YORK - The Community was left stunned by the suicide of 38-year-old Anastasi Calatzis. The Greek American from Queens, a top salesman for Lexus of Queens, was despondent over his ill mother and posed as an apartment hunter on Saturday March 6 to get inside a luxury high-rise - just so he could leap to his death from a 25th-floor balcony. He sent a grim text message to his brother before he leaped to his death.

Detective Otero of the New York Police Department's D.C.P.I. told The National Herald that the death was classified as a suicide and said there was never any suspicion of foul play. Otero claimed to be unaware that that Calatzis was employed at Lexus of Queens.

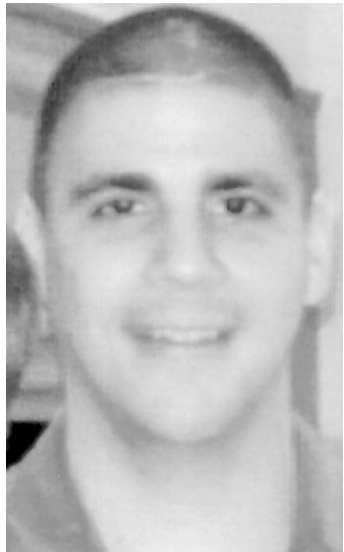
Archbishop Demetrios of America granted special permission for an orthodox funeral to be held at the Cathedral of St. Demetrios of Astoria, acting on the principle of ecclesiastical leniency (oikonomia). He urged St. Demetrios' Pastor Apostolos Koufallakis to look after the grieving family. The funeral took place on Friday morning, March 12.

Calatzis' uncle, Nicholas Rassias, told The National Herald that the N.Y. Post erroneously reported that Calatzis' action was motivated by economic problems. He said that both mother and son had health insurance, and that all bills were paid, including a mortgage that was paid

off 15-20 years ago. Rassias said his nephew had "taken a leave of absence from his job to care for his mother," who suffered a brain aneurysm during a trip to Greece last summer.

Janet Feliciano, Sales Director of Lexus of Queens, informed TNH that employees at the firm were shocked and devastated. Throughout his leave, Calatzis' desk was preserved as he left it, his nameplate still displayed, colleagues expecting his return. Lexus was also paying his health insurance premiums.

"On Friday afternoon at 4:30 p.m., he passed by here and seemed a little depressed. But none of us could have imagined that he was planning on taking



Anastasi Calatzis, 38, jumped to his death from the 25th floor of a luxury high-rise.

his own life," Feliciano said.

Angelo Christodorou, Calatzis' colleague at Lexus, said he knew him since the year 2000. "Anastasi's story is worse than a Greek tragedy. He was a great person. He had a wonderful personality, worked hard, and was honorable and honest. He did everything possible to stand by his sick mother and he was always by her side," Christodorou said.

"He was a good boy, a great son, brother, nephew, and cousin. He was a good Samaritan and a guardian angel for both family and friends. A few years ago, when I had appendicitis and my life was in danger, the deceased drove me to the hospital himself. And it's not only me; there are dozens of other friends and family who owe him a debt of gratitude," Tom Papadopoulos, his first cousin, told TNH.

TNH learned Calatzis' father died ten years ago, and that his mother, Pota, 59, became ill in Sparta last summer. She was in a coma for several months but was returned to the U.S. for treatment. She recovered, and was able to regain her memory, but she could not walk.

Calatzis was just 22 when his father Peter was stricken with cancer. He quickly took over his father's restaurant in Manhattan to help his family. "He worked 7 days a week, and spent all his free time at his father's bedside. During that time, Anastasi suffered damage to three vertebrae in his upper spinal column, but he withstood the pain and never gave himself a second thought. When Anastasi's father died, he

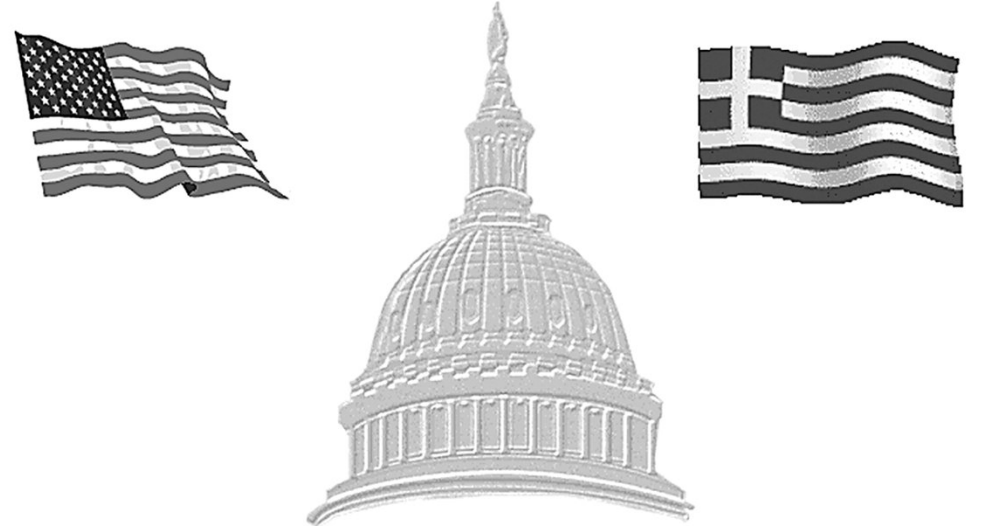
became a great comfort to his mother and younger brother, helping them to overcome the difficulties. He did the exact same thing when his mother became ill. He overcame the difficulties and brought her back to New York, even when the doc-

tors did not give her much hope. Now his mother's condition has now markedly improved," Papadopoulos said.

Staff members from the Lexus of Queens auto dealership told TNH that the expenses for the transport of Calatzis' mother

from Greece to New York were undertaken by his uncle Nicholas Rassias, who has also assumed the funeral expenses.

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Allegations of Anti-Greek Discrimination in New York Federal Lawsuit

By TNH Staff Writers

NEW YORK - "Lazy Greeks", "Hairy Greeks" and "off-the-boat Greeks" were among the slanders allegedly hurled at four New York brokers working at Independent Financial Group Inc (IFMG)/LPL Financial Corp. between 2005 and the present. There were also slurs regarding their Greek Orthodox faith, says a lawsuit filed on March 1 in the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn.

The four brokers, who are based in Nassau and Queens and have hired the Manhattan law firm of Goldberg and Fliegel to represent their case are Tasso Koumoulis, Christos Hatzis, Dominic Milito and Peter Dafniotis. The plaintiffs are suing IFMG, California-headquartered LPL Financial Corp. (which purchased IFMG in 2008), as well as Astoria Federal Savings and

Loan Association.

In a March 7 report, InvestmentNews' site reported that all four worked out of different bank branches of Astoria Federal Savings.

According to the complaint filed in Brooklyn, it was the disparaging ethnic/racial remarks of sales manager Matt Baval that each of the four Greek Orthodox plaintiffs shared. The complaint also charges that three of the brokers were illegally fired when they started to bring issue with Mr. Baval's verbal abuse.

The lawsuit accusing the defendants of "unlawful discrimination and harassment based on religion, race, color, national origin and/or disability, unlawful retaliation, and unlawful employment practices" was filed after the charges of discrimination were first submitted to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in 2008.

The complaint filed on March 1 paints a picture of relentless verbal assaults on the four men's ethnic and/or religious identities. Mr. Baval allegedly stated he wanted to "get those Greenpoint Greeks" (who had previously worked for Greenpoint Financial Officers). Mr. Baval claimed, according to the lawsuit, that Mr. Milito - who converted to Greek Orthodoxy in 2004 - was using the religion as an excuse for taking off work.

Mr. Baval is said by the plaintiffs to have critiqued Mr. Hatzis' girlfriend, asking: "Is your girlfriend Greek, because she has a big mouth?" and referring to her as a "Greek Poutana".

He also, according to the complaint, said comments to Mr. Hatzis like "You must be real holy to miss work" and "How holy are the other Greek guys?"

In the complaint, the list of Mr. Baval's comments also in-

cludes his allegedly asking Mr. Dafniotis, "Why aren't you in the diner business?" adding "that 'off-the-boat Greeks' only knew the diner business." In a few instances mentioned, another em-

In the complaint, the list of Mr. Baval's comments also includes his allegedly asking Mr. Dafniotis, 'Why aren't you in the diner business?...'

ployee joined in Mr. Baval's comments about hairy Greeks, tossing down change in front of one plaintiff for him to buy a razor.

More generally, the complaint points to a workplace where blowing the whistle - even to human resources - on discrimination issues leads to

more harassment and being fired.

The brokers are suing for an unspecified "award of appropriate relief", including back pay and damages.

Their attorney, Kenneth A. Goldberg's firm, focuses on such labor and employment discrimination cases. Mr. Goldberg told TNH that the case is at its initial stage and a trial date has not yet been set.

Mr. Dafniotis is the only broker still employed by LPL Financial Corp. The complaint filed states that Mr. Hatzis was let go while on medical leave of absence shortly after his father's death (at which point, Mr. Baval allegedly made disparaging remarks about the 40 day mourning period).

Mr. Milito was released after filing a complaint about Mr. Baval. The fourth broker, Mr. Koumoulis was subject to ageist comments such as "Turn up

your hearing aid" and "Is it past your bedtime?" Mr. Koumoulis filed a complaint in January 2008 to the company's Human Resources officer Mary Healy, followed by an EEOC complaint. Instead, the plaintiffs claim, of his complaints being taken seriously, he was sidelined, with the company issuing "false criticisms of his job performance" before being discharged in September 2009.

InvestmentNews, in its report on the case, noted that "this is the second time that LPL has been drawn into legal wrangling by one of the five broker-dealers it acquired in 2007 and 2008." The other case involved settlements and awards involving rogue brokers at three of the firms it acquired from Pacific Life in 2007.

Both LPL and Astoria Federal Savings declined to comment on the new case to the press, said InvestmentNews.

Greek America Responds to Greece's Big Crisis with Tough Love and Ideas

Continued from page 1

New York, believes a minority of the population is working to support the whole, while everyone is "maxed out" on credit.

Greek Canadian businesswoman Melina Angelica Moskovitch, who was working in finance in Greece when the country joined the Eurozone, believes: "Greece masked the real state of the economy for years in order to enter and remain in the Eurozone." She adds: "However, I find it impossible to believe that they did so without the knowledge and complicity of the EU organizations and financial institutions."

Others voice disbelief. "I just don't understand how this happened," confesses Greek American Lawyers Association president Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri.

Few Greek Americans sympathize with those protesting or striking against austerity measures. Engineer Manolis Velivasakis says his sons, watching protests on television, were amused and surprised, asking: "What are they doing over there?"

THE SPINS

Nevertheless, many Greek Americans were irked by the world's reaction. Ms. Moskovitch, in an e-mail from Germany, describes how that country has issued "disdainful reports regarding the crisis in Greece." Taxpayers in Germany are adverse to any bailout, she notes, referring to a suggestion by German politicians that Greece "raise money by selling off infrastructure or maybe some islands." Greek American Lawyers Association president Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri, refers to the same report, asking: "Are we going to sell off Florida because we are in a financial crisis?"

John Stitilides, a government relations/international affairs specialist with Trilogy Advisors LLC in Washington, D.C., believes that the "interpretation has been rather negative, fed off of European analyses of a profligate government and society in Greece." He believes the pub-

lic sector in Greece needs to be controlled, but thinks similar crises will hit other Mediterranean EU members.

The Greek problem should be put in perspective, notes author Gage: "While I regret what Greek politicians have done to the country, I don't allow non-Greeks to gloat about its misfortunes. I point out to them last year's near-collapse of U.S. banks and the mounting American deficit and remind them that people who live in glass houses should be careful about throwing rocks in any direction."

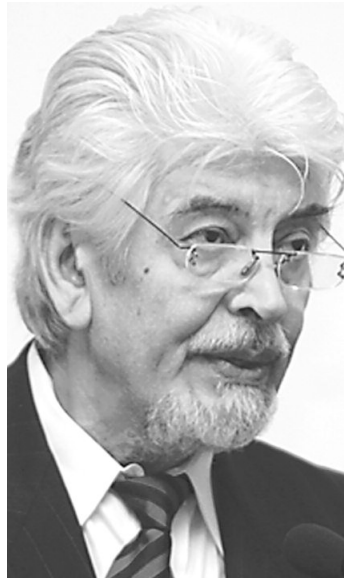
By contrast, Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, President and CEO of California's AKG Development, Investments & Group of Companies calls the reporting "even-handed and professional". He explains, in an e-mail: "Greece faces a very difficult economic reality, with just \$5 billion of its currently outstanding bonds being refinanced, and another \$15 billion of its bonds coming up for refinancing in April and May of this year."

PREDICTIONS & SOLUTIONS

E.R.T. radio correspondent and President of the Pan Arcadian Federation of America Dimitris Filios is among those who covered Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou's U.S. visit earlier this week. He says: "I believe the austerity measures announced by the new Prime Minister Papandreou are on the right track. They are long overdue." He thinks Greeks abroad can help out - as singer Nana Mouskouri did - by donating to the National Fund established in Greece. "It's not the time for finger pointing," he added, "but the time to help out with whatever we have."

Yet Mr. Calomiris is critical of Mr. Papandreou for excessively focusing on "unprincipled speculators" instead of taking responsibility. He doesn't think Greece will reduce expenditures by the necessary 8% to perhaps 15% - of GDP needed. He thinks Greece is in a state of denial and that it will default on its debt, "leaving the Eurozone and bringing back the drachma."

Thessaloniki-born Elisabeth



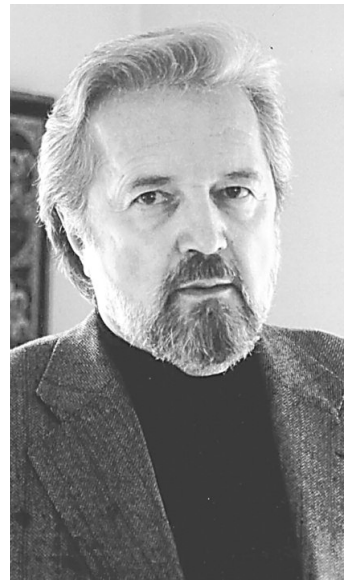
Ted Spyropoulos



John Stitilides



Elisabeth Cambanaos



Nicholas Gage

Cambanaos, an employee at GMV in Astoria echoes the economist's predictions. "I don't see the way out of it...unless the Greek people snap out of it... The E.U. is no giveaway. They will come to a point where they will claim something." Her U.S.-born colleague Cindy Vangelatos has more confidence in Mr. Papandreou, whom she calls "an Amerikanaki, like us". She's more optimistic: "I think he'll do

something." The Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) is perhaps the most proactive; SAE U.S.'s President Ted Spyropoulos proposed, in January, to Greek Finance Minister Louka Katseli, that a bond be issued that Greeks around the world can buy, with rates more favorable to Greece than those of other lenders.

While some community in-

stitutions, including this newspaper, have backed the idea, Professor Calomiris says: "I wouldn't buy a penny of those bonds from that corrupt government. Don't throw money down the toilet."

Mr. Stitilides thinks that even investing millions in such funds is a "piecemeal solution", as "Greek debt is in the tens of billions."

After meeting Mr. Papandreou earlier this week, Supreme President of the AHEPA, Nicholas A. Karacostas says: "I offered our assistance in any way possible." However, he adds: "Unequivocally, there is a unity with regards to helping them recover. There is debate about what paths." AHEPA is waiting to see what Greece will do.

"We can help with fires, earthquakes," says Mr. Kalamaras, but solving "systemic problem in the government" he thinks is out of reach.

It's a time for tough love, says Greek America. George John Tsioulis, president of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York, notes that Greeks abroad need to tell Greeks at home that they are "running out of options and have to shape up." Mr. Spyropoulos says, "They have to understand that it's nobody's fault but their own...People are used to the government taking care of everything. But the government is the people."

Greek Americans are calling for a tall order of change in Greece, saying the country requires a full makeover of state, education, labor and mentality. Mr. Gage writes: "I hope the crisis will move Greek leaders to finally bite the bullet and inject the corrective measures that will allow Greeks in Greece to show the creativity, productivity and responsibility that Greeks abroad have demonstrated wherever they have settled."

Mr. Velivasakis underlines that during this U.S. recession, Greeks in America "buttoned down and worked three times as hard to cross a terrible financial situation." By contrast, he thinks "our brothers and sisters

in Greece...are "abandoning ship, blaming everybody and climbing overboard."

Greece needs help from the EU, says businessman John Catsimatidis, explaining: "The EU has the obligation to help one of their member nations and they should help Greece with some long term financing at lower interest rates." He says he's "waiting for the other shoe to drop" in Greece.

Mr. Tsakopoulos stresses the importance of transparency: "The various financial firms that advised the previous government to take enormous expenditures 'off budget' with exotic instruments and less than transparent accounting were very harmful."

The time for investment - especially in tourism and shipping - is now, says the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce Chairman John C. Stratakis. Meanwhile, Greek American Lawyers Association president Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri said that her organization is considering starting financial lobbying on Greece's behalf. Mr. Stitilides says his contribution is to be as well-informed and "utterly dispassionate" as possible, in sharing the facts on the crisis. Dr. Tsioulis thinks Greeks should develop ties with think tanks.

Greek Americans also call for an end to tax evasion and the black market to give a sense of justice in hard times. SAE US President Ted Spyropoulos thinks Greek politicians should finally be accountable for their actions. "No one pays for what they did," he says.

Mr. Gage urges Greeks abroad to sustain their faith in Greece's people, "who have faced worse threats and prevailed." They should also "visit Greece as much as possible," he says, adding: "It's still the most magical place on earth."

Ms. Stathatos-Fulgieri adds: "It's an upsetting situation to see our motherland go through this. But I'm hopeful they will ride it out, without selling islands..."

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HABA Presents Lecture on 'The Greek Debt Crisis' at New York's Friar's Club

Continued from page 1

Greece could so shake up the world."

Savage followed with an insightful presentation about how Greece got to this point and its prospects for resolving the crisis. Savage, as Macro FX Sales Manager at Goldman Sachs for 11 years, wrote numerous articles for clients about the Foreign Exchange market and general economic events as they affected markets. He said, "I'm actually very positive on Greece and believe the crisis could actually be a "turning point in the history of Greece," noting that, "If you look at the globe Greece is perfectly placed," for commercial success.

Regarding the problems facing the Eurozone today, he said, "Everyone knew a monetary union without political union is a problem but they thought monetary union was a path to political union." Savage suggested critics are being too hard on Greece, putting Greece's economic and fiscal problems into perspective. "Greece is in a tough neighborhood with high costs of absorbing immigrants from countries like Albania and having to maintain high defense spending because of the threat from Turkey." He also reminded the audience that the 2004 Olympics were costly, but they were a very important event for Greece and they led to vital infrastructure investments.

Savage acknowledged there

is a history of tax avoidance and shady practices that sometimes makes it difficult to persuade people to do business in Greece, and admitted that, "You don't change a culture overnight." He added, however, that "Other countries, including the U.S. "play accounting games with debt and spending," citing social security budgetary practices."

He offered some positive historical perspective before continuing. Savage noted Greece has been paying economic catch up since the devastation of World War II, and impressively reached 34th place in standards of living among all nations. He said, "The hours workers put in is second in the world and highest in Europe, so Greeks know something about working hard (whether they are efficient hours or not)," that will help them to start anew.

"All EU countries have broken the rules on limits on debt. Only three have not: Finland, Belgium and Luxembourg. Germany and France have broken the rules...the ratio of 60% of debt to GDP has never worked," as an EU economic guideline. Savage said that the German newsmagazine Stern performed economic stress tests on all the nations of Europe, and all performed badly, including Germany.

Still, Savage was not taking Greece completely off the hook. He said Greece had been growing faster than the rest of Europe, but they were not saving



Members and friends of the Hellenic American Bankers Association listen to a tough yet optimistic presentation about Greece's economic crisis by Robert Savage, CEO of Track.com.

enough, though he noted there is the same situation in the U.S. and the U.K. Part of the problem is that, "In good times, Greece should have been more disciplined and they had to transform themselves."

But they did not. "When you borrow against the future" you must also invest in the future... Greeks owe it to future generations to change that dynamic."

He elaborated on the brighter sides of Greece's situation, repeating his view that Greece is well-placed to become a commercial and banking center for its region, given strong Greek

ties to Eastern Europe and the Middle East. In his opinion, the debt and deficit problems are manageable with reform and discipline. He said 5 years of 5% surpluses and up to 20 years of 2.4% surpluses would erase the deficits.

Getting tough again, Savage said entitlement societies like Greece must change. Specifically, he said that along with many other countries they must raise their retirement age from 62-67 years of age. He pointed out that when countries created their social security programs and set retirement at 65, they

knew people would live only a few years after that, and social security was meant only ease the burden of those few years. 80 to 150 years later, longer life expectancies call for later retirement.

He admitted that, "Moving from an entitlement society causes huge pain," but he also suggested NATO should pick up more of the Greek defense burden. Some guests noted, however, that is problematic due to Turkey's NATO membership.

The topic of Turkey was part of the dark side of his presentation. Noting that demographics

is an important part of a state's domestic and international reality, he pointed out that Greece's principal rival is only going to get stronger over time. "Turkey already has a population of 75 million compared to Greece's 11 million," Savage said, "and they are younger: 50% of its population is under 25 years old."

Savage concluded his presentation on positive note, insisting that, "You can change a society. From 40% of the economy [controlled by the] government [you can move] to something more acceptable, like 25-30 percent. Americans and Australians of Greek origin can go to Greece and open businesses because they know how to do that."

He can see Greece, 20 years into the future, having the role of bringing cutting-edge technology to emerging economies in its neighborhood.

In light of some of the more militant Greek responses to its difficulties, he also defended markets by explaining - notwithstanding abuses that do occur - that "Markets understand how to get things done. They make predictions and tell people what matters and what the reality is."

There was a lively question and answer period, followed by another reception. After the presentation, guests noted Greece has the potential to make economic leaps if the government encourages entrepreneurship and eliminates barriers to foreign investment and business startups.

ARCHITECTURE AND DIASPORA

Bay Ridge: Snapshot of the old Melting Pot

BROOKLYN - As I am walking through the streets of my neighborhood, Bay Ridge Brooklyn, I come across the intersection of 82nd Street and 5th Avenue, and find myself staring at a 15'x20' photograph serving as decorative wall-paper in a bank, depicting a scene of the exact same intersection 60 years ago. Then I look around me and realize that not much has changed. And by "not much" I do not mean the superficialities that one will immediately find are different. I mean the overall scale of the neighborhood and in some cases the actual buildings, the balance of commercial activities in the neighborhood, the bustle and diversity (at multiple levels) of the day-to-day life, the colors of the neighborhood, from the green of the trees, to the orange and yellows of the fruits on a grocer's stand, to the red and brown facades. All these create the impression of a community captured in a time capsule similar to that of Havana in Cuba, or San Juan in Puerto Rico. It is a community that has organically developed over time yet has remained faithful to its original life principles that allowed this beauty to emerge.

The principles that I am referring to are in sync with a characteristic of the transition from the early years of modernism to our time. This characteristic is the realization of the importance of an anthropocentric approach to community planning. From intellectuals like Jane Jacobs, to the New Urbanists, architectural and urbanist theory and practice have been reoriented towards a more traditional approach. For example, we see modern communities being designed with the pedestrian in mind, we see streets not wider than a single lane as opposed to four-lane highways, we see integration of residential and commercial functions, we see subtly decorated facades, public squares with trees and playgrounds, less space for cars and more space for life to unweave. These are all right in front of my eyes anywhere in

Bay Ridge, unfolding as I walk, in a harmonious, organic, and unimposing yet complete way.

The success of a community of this sort, and Bay Ridge in particular, is not just a matter of its physical form. The real reason lies elsewhere. If I were to take the moments of an average walk through Bay Ridge on a sunny day and isolate them and analyze them in terms of the emotions that they generate, and then compared them with walks through other types of communities anywhere in the world, I am pretty sure (and don't ask me for it, there is not scientific evidence to back this up, just a gut feeling from my own experiences as an architect and traveler) that I would find a lot of similarities with a walk through thriving villages anywhere in the world. And if we look closely at the history of Bay Ridge, we will realize that in fact its founding population (when it became an established



Special to The National Herald
by **EVANGELOS LIMPANTOUDIS**

working class community) had its roots in the village cultures of Sicily and the rest of Italy, Greece, and other places. The more we experience it as a neighborhood, the more we realize that in fact this village culture and approach to living was the predominant culture of New York immigrants in the first half of the 20th century, which is what they brought to Bay Ridge as well when they moved their families here.

What we see today, the reason why this neighborhood of the diaspora is so important, is that the New York that we are all in love with from movies and old-timer stories, is gone now. Mom-n-pop stores have been replaced by designer stores like Gucci or Kate Spade. Katz's delicatessen tickets at the entrance and sells 15\$ pastrami sandwiches to tourists. The meatpacking district is dead and full of condos and fancy restaurants. The Fulton Fish Market is gone without even a trace, etc. At the

same time that this is happening to the capital of the world, Bay Ridge remains the same as it was in the forties. And this resistance to change, growth and unnecessary development is exactly why Bay Ridge is so important.

As I walk through it on a sunny day, I pick up my newspaper from an Arabic corner store and then walk to my favorite Greek diner named after the city I was born and raised in (Salonike). On my way there, I encounter people who were born and raised in this neighborhood. Many of them know me and say hello. Sometimes, the sidewalks get a bit congested from people stopping to talk to one-another, or sit and rest on one of the street benches. I see restaurant owners opening their stores, I see dance-school instructors teaching early classes, I see mothers and fathers walking their young children to school, I see slow paces, and I feel peaceful, just like I feel when I am in my favorite village in Greece.

As Pete Hammill said, the greatest contribution of New York to the world was that is offered a home to its people: the tired, the poor, the huddled masses ... Neighborhoods like Bay Ridge keep that spirit alive, and all I can say is "thank you" to the Diaspora for this great contribution to humanity. It must be kept alive and become a template for community development that is humane and sustainable.

Evangelos is an architect registered in Greece, an Associate member of the AIA and a LEED accredited professional. He is a partner in the company P.E. Limpantoudis Developments, a luxury residential development company in Northern Greece. He currently resides in N.Y., where he has taught and published widely on issues related to architecture and urban design. For more information, visit: www.elosdesign.com. Respond to this article, e-mail to elimpan-toudis@elosdesign.com.



A parade celebrating Norwegian Independence Day illustrates the community spirit pervading neighborhoods like Bay Ridge.

Community Dismayed by Narrow Genocide Vote

By **Eleni Kostopoulos**
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - Greek American and Armenian members of the District 13 community in New York City have expressed indignation regarding the vote cast by U.S. Representative Michael McMahon (D-NY) opposing the Armenian Genocide resolution last week in the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The House voted narrowly (23-22) on March 4 to condemn the mass killings of Armenians in 1915 as genocide, resisting a plea from the Obama administration to forgo a vote that would likely offend Turkey.

Mr. McMahon, who is also on the sub-committee on Europe of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, could not be reached by The National Herald for comment before deadline.

Peter Vlitaz, executive of the local AHEPA Chapter in Bay Ridge, said the aim of a meeting the chapter organized last week was to decide on and send a letter to Mr. McMahon asking him to vote in favor of the recognition of Genocide.

"We want to show that our community is organized, and that we took the initiative to support the vote to recognize the Genocide against the Armenians", Mr. Vlitaz said. "Within our AHEPA chapter, there are executives as well as members of cultural societies. We are organized citizens, voters in the region that Congressman McMahon represents and we are interested and concerned about similar issues."

Mr. McMahon's potential congressional opponent for the 13th Congressional District, Michael Allegretti told TNH that he firmly advocated for the passing of Resolution 252.

"To put it simply, there's a right side and a wrong side of history and any public official must stand on the right side of history," said Mr. Allegretti, who is a life-long resident of Staten Island, NY. "It's something that I was very proud to do for sake of saying what's right. It's unconscionable to me that our current congressman is unable to see that and to speak to the values

that people in our district expect from people who represent them in government."

Mr. McMahon, who represents Staten Island, Bensonhurst, Dyker Heights, and Gravesend in Brooklyn, joined the Hellenic Caucus to pledge support for Cyprus and the Patriarchate. He joined the Turkish Caucus May of last year.

The following list presents the vote tally on H. Res. 252: Howard L. Berman (pro); Gary L. Ackerman (pro); Eni F.H. Faleomavaega (pro); Donald M. Payne (pro); Brad Sherman (pro); Eliot L. Engel (pro); Bill Delahunt (con); Gregory W. Meeks (con); Diane E. Watson (pro); Russ Carnahan (con); Albio Sires (pro); Gerald E. Connolly (con); Michael E. McMahon (con); John S. Tanner (con); Gene Green (pro); Lynn Woolsey (pro); Sheila Jackson Lee (—); Barbara Lee (pro); Shelley Berkley (pro); Joseph Crowley (pro); Mike Ross (con); Brad

"To put it simply, there's a right side and a wrong side of history"

Miller (con); David Scott (con); Jim Costa (pro); Keith Ellison (pro); Gabrielle Giffords (pro); Ron Klein (pro); Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (con); Christopher H. Smith (pro); Dan Burton (con); Elton Gallegly (pro); Dana Rohrabacher (pro); Donald A. Manzullo (pro); Edward R. Royce (pro); Ron Paul (con); Jeff Flake (con); Mike Pence (con); Joe Wilson (con); John Boozman (con); J. Gresham Barrett (con); Connie Mack (con); Jeff Fortenberry (con); Michael T. McCaul (con); Ted Poe (con); Bob Inglis (con); Gus Bilirakis (pro).

It is estimated that the number of slaughtered Armenians is 1,500,000. The Armenian Genocide occurred in parallel with genocide against Christian and other populations of the Ottoman Empire like the Pontian Greeks and the Assyrian (Nestorian Christians).

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The Fight for the Return of the Parthenon Marbles to Greece Lives Strong

By **Eleni Kostopoulos**
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - The struggle for the return of the Parthenon Marbles to their native home has been a long, arduous one, fought by Greeks here and overseas since 1811, after a negotiation arranged by Lord Elgin and the Ottoman authorities began a process that led to the sculptures being put on display at the British Museum.

Michael J. Reppas II, Esq., president of the American Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures told The National Herald the cause is more than just a Greek issue as was demonstrated on February 27 at a black-tie gala

fundraiser at the Westin Diplomat Resort in Hollywood, Florida in support of the upcoming Museum Exhibition: "All Sides of the Parthenon." Also hosted by the Embassy of Greece, more than 250 guests were exposed to informative presentations, international entertainment and a performing mural artist who completed a triptych of the Parthenon.

"I think the event was a surprise in just how successful it turned out to be," said Mr. Reppas. "It was a surprise that we had such an overwhelming support for the cause not just from the Greek community, but the general [public]. The committee's goal is namely to preserve, protect and repatriate cultural

property to its country of origin and we've received support from a plethora of ethnic groups. This support really reinforces what we are doing and why the Parthenon Sculptures are such a great concern to much more than just our community."

The evening's keynote speakers included Reppas, Greek Consul General Antonios Sgouropoulos and Minister Counselor of Cultural Affairs for the Embassy of Greece, Dr. Zoe Kosmidou. Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was Eleni Daniels, program host of Cosmos FM Radio. Proceeds from the fundraiser contributed to the production of "All Sides of the Parthenon, A Touring Exhibition" that will make its debut at the Coral Springs Museum of Art, Coral Springs, Florida on May 6.

According to Daniels, the exhibit will feature 50 never before seen panoramas and photographs by Peter Yalanis, taken from within and above the Parthenon, as well as four certified, life-size replicas of original Parthenon frieze sections presented by the New Acropolis Museum in Athens, and artifacts from the Golden Age of Greece presented by the Greece Ministry of Culture. Lectures by guest international scholars and educators will also accompany the exhibit.

"The bigger message needs to be spread across the nation," said Daniels. "I believe any Hellenic or Philhellene needs to support this position - this American grassroots effort to help return the Parthenon Marbles back to

Athens. From the research I've read and people I've spoken to, it's really just a matter of will to act."

In addition to the photographic images set to be displayed at the exhibit, a certified copy of a panel from the Parthenon Frieze, original artifacts from the Golden Age of Greece, and a emulated archaeological dig for children will be featured. Lectures and presentations by distinguished scholars and experts will be presented.

Discussions and historical analyses of the Parthenon and Ancient Greece, and the legal and moral considerations of "Who Owns The Past" are also on the agenda for the May exhibit at the at the renowned Coral Springs Museum of Art in May 2010.

The American Committee For The Reunification Of The Parthenon Sculptures, is a duly registered IRS 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. According to its site, "Its purpose is to

educate an international audience of the illegality and immorality of the looting of the Parthenon Sculptures (a/k/a the "Elgin Marbles") by British Lord Elgin, and to establish a grass roots campaign to affect their return from London to Athens." For more information on the organization or to donate to the cause, visit www.parthenon-sculpturesusa.org.

Email: EleniK@thenationalherald.com.



The American Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures and the Embassy of Greece hosted a black tie fundraiser in Hollywood, FL. for an exhibit set to launch soon.

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Rev. Deacon Constantine Shepherd
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On January 24, 2010

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GREEK GASTRONOMY

Baking with Olive Oil Remains a Golden Rule in Traditional Greek Cuisine

By Georgia Kofinas
Special to The National Herald

ATHENS - When I work with the culinary arts students in my Mediterranean Cuisine class, one of the first things I stress is the importance of olive oil in Greek cooking. It is easy enough to convince them that olive oil is one of the healthiest of all fats to be used in cooking. However, I sense their reluctance about using it in breads and sweets because their French-based culinary training at the school calls for using butter in baking. A few sessions in the kitchen of baking with olive oil are enough to persuade the students that the marriage of olive oil and flour breeds wonderful creations. So, while Julia Childs might have alleged that "butter is better", I say olive oil is "better than butter!"

THE HISTORY BEHIND OLIVE OIL BAKING

Baking with olive oil is a familiar feature of Greek cuisine even from antiquity.

Aristophanes vividly describes a certain bread, "artos" or "plakous", kneaded with olive oil, while other classical writers mention "nastos", a bread containing olive oil with a sweet or savory filling. Athenaeus, a 3rd century AD philosopher and gastronome writes about a bread called "escharitis" which sputtered when cooked on a clay grill because it contained so much olive oil. Yet another source cites an unusual square bread, "kyvous", kneaded with dill, cheese and olive oil.

Later on in Byzantium, olive oil became more prominent in the cuisine as the early Church fathers set up the rules of fasting dictating abstinence from meat and dairy products for a total of about 180 days of the year. Most likely, the tradition of olive oil cookery in Greek cuisine stems from the cuisine of the fasting periods so it is understandable that olive oil would be used in making breads and other baked goods. The traditional Christmas cookie, "melomacaronas", is one example of baked goods with olive oil that go back to Byzantine times as are the special breads prepared for the Service of the Five Loaves ("Arto-classia") for special feast days.

BAKING WITH OLIVE OIL IN GREEK CUISINE

The combination of olive oil and flour is especially appreciated in the rich tradition of baking bread with oil. "Ladopsomo" (oil bread), found universally in Greece, is noted for its extraordinary aroma and texture. Coarse semolina flour makes the best "ladopsomo" because it allows the olive oil in the dough to be more readily

absorbed, thereby creating a spongier texture. While olive oil is usually added to the dough together with the remaining liquids, other bread recipes call for rubbing the olive oil into the flour before adding any liquid to produce a crispier texture. Even the smallest amount of olive oil in the dough will impart a rich aroma during baking. It also keeps the bread fresher longer, as olive oil is a natural preservative.

There is also a whole gamut of flavored breads made with olive oil. The recipe of one such bread from Chios is flavored with powdered mastic, while Cyprus and some areas of Crete add various seeds and dried herbs to the dough. Adding sugar to the basic dough creates a whole new category of sweet breads with flavoring ingredients such as orange juice, various liqueurs, dried fruit and spices. The island of Zakynthos boasts of a flavorful "stafidopsomo" (raisin bread) which also contains orange zest. In the region of Achaia they make a yeastless quick oil bread named "bougatsa" flavored with wine, ouzo and various spices.

In addition to making whole loaves of bread there is the technique of scoring the dough into thick pieces and baking it, then separating the slices and baking them again until completely dried. These rusks, broken up and scattered over salads, are a delicious substitute for croutons. "Paximadia Kithiron" from the island of the same name, are some of the best in Greece, made with strong semolina flour. Sweet oil rusks are popular too, flavored with various spices such as anise, or cinnamon and cloves, and often with the addition of brandy or ouzo.

Cakes and cookies made with olive oil, especially those eaten during fasting periods, comprise a large section of Greek cuisine. Cakes made with olive oil are moister and denser in texture than those made with butter. Spices such as cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg are added for flavor while some batters also call for the addition of orange juice, grape must molasses, brandy, raisins and nuts. One such cake is named after Saint Phanourios, a popular saint who helps those who are looking for something they have either lost or hope to find. Symbolically, the cake is made with nine ingredients and is taken to the church to be blessed by the priest before it is distributed to the congregation.

Other types of flour can also be combined with olive oil to make dunking cookies or sweet cakes. Corn meal is used to make "bobota", a traditional

cake popular in the area of Rumeli. A thick batter of cornmeal, orange juice, spices and raisins is simply mixed together and baked before being doused in a classic sugar syrup. A popular trend in baked goods uses olive oil and various whole-grain flours to make crispy savory loop cookies now found in most bakeries and bread shops. Varieties include mixing in spinach, carrots, or various nuts and seeds.

Cookies made with olive oil retain their texture even when dunked into hot coffee or tea. Older recipes call for equal amounts of olive oil, fresh orange juice and sugar, together with various spices or even ouzo or wine. While the dough can be rather oily during the kneading process, these "ladokouloura" are delightfully crispy after baking. When stored properly in tightly capped containers, these cookies can last for a whole Lenten period, if there are any left by then, of course.

Few of us would ever consider brushing phyllo with olive oil but there is really no reason to not do so. In savory pites the vegetables used in the filling take on a sweeter flavor with olive oil. Sweet pastry dishes, even baklava, come out just as crisp as with butter and the flavor of the nuts and spices is more discernible.

And when making homemade phyllo, adding a little more olive oil than is called for in the recipe will guarantee a smoother more elastic dough that rolls out much more easily. The phyllo will also be crispier and more flavorful.

BENEFITS OF BAKING WITH OLIVE OIL

Not long after vegetable and seed oils became popular in Europe, Greek cooks started to replace olive oil with these oils to supposedly achieve a "lighter" flavor in baked goods. However, it is not necessary to forfeit all the nutritional benefits of using olive oil to get the same results. Adding spices, citrus juice and often cognac or other spirits to oil cakes or cookies balance out the unaccustomed taste of olive oil if this is preferred. Also, there are available, today, many types of olive oil with less intense fla-



into oblong loaves. Alternately, place in small bread pans.

5. Set in warm place, cover with towel and let rise until double in bulk (about 1 1/2 to 2 hours).

6. Bake in preheated oven at 400 for about 30 minutes. Check for doneness. While still warm, brush surface with olive oil and allow to cool before cutting.

Sweet Rusks (Paximadia)

Makes about 3 dozen

Ingredients

- 1 cup olive oil
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup fresh orange juice
- 1 1/2 one and a half tsp soda
- Juice of 1 large lemon
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp clove
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 2 1/4 lbs all purpose flour

PREPARATION

1. Beat sugar and olive oil until blended.

2. Dissolve soda in lemon juice and add immediately to sugar and oil mixture. Add orange juice and spices and beat for 2 more minutes.

3. Add flour gradually until mixture becomes rather thick. Remove from mixer and work in enough remaining flour with hands to make a soft dough.

4. Divide dough into 6 parts and form rectangular loaves about 1 1/2 one and a half inches thick and 3 inches wide (the length is not important).

5. Place rectangles on lightly greased baking sheet leaving about 1 1/2 one and a half inches in between each loaf. Score the loaves into 1 1/2 one and a half-inch thick slices being careful not to cut all the way down the dough.

6. Bake in pre-heated oven at about 350 for about 15-20 minutes until just golden. Remove from oven and cut through scored loaves to separate slices into rusks.

7. Arrange rusks flat on baking sheets. Lower heat to 300 and bake until completely dry and golden brown turning rusks over half way through baking. Cool and store in air-tight containers.

Note: Chopped nuts or small currants can also be added to the dough.

Georgia Kofinas is a food writer, cookbook author and chef instructor at Alpine College, a hotel management and tourism school in Athens, Greece. Her culinary journeys have taken her to many regions of the Eastern Mediterranean and Asia Minor.

vors on the market. It is better to choose olive oil from more mature olives rather than oil from green olives whose denser consistency may obstruct the flavors of other ingredients.

Because olive oil acts as an emulsifier to give a smoother texture to batter, baking with olive oil allows cakes to be moister and more even-textured, with a tender crumb. The anti-oxidants in olive oil act as a preservative, allowing baked goods to stay fresh longer. Herbs and spices emit their aroma much more through the dispersion of the oil in the dough or batter. Using olive oil in baking is also healthier because of the unsaturated fat found in olive oil as opposed to the saturated fat and cholesterol found in butter.

Generally speaking, a recipe will need about 25% less olive oil than butter, which also cuts down on calories. Cookies made with olive oil take slightly longer to bake than cookies made with butter or margarine. They will also be slightly lighter in color than butter cookies, so avoid over-baking them. Below is a

conversion chart for substituting olive oil for butter.

Here are two of my favorite recipes for baked goods with olive oil. I have become quite accustomed to the stronger flavor that Greece's extra virgin olive oil imparts in these baked goods, but you can opt to use the lighter olive oils readily found on the market.

Raisin Bread with Olive Oil

Makes 4 small loaves

Ingredients

- 1 lb. bread flour
- 2 envelopes instant yeast (equivalent to 1 one and three fourths oz.)
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup black raisins or 1/2 cup black raisins and 1/2 cup white raisins
- 1 tbsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. clove
- 2/3 cup olive oil
- 1 cup lukewarm water (approximately)

PREPARATION

1. Dissolve yeast in 1/2 cup lukewarm water and add salt and 1 tbsp. of the sugar. Set aside until bubbles form on surface and mixture "swells".

2. Place flour in large bowl and make a well in the center. Pour in sugar, cinnamon, clove, olive oil, raisins, dissolved yeast and water.

3. Knead well adding more water or flour as necessary to make a medium to soft dough.

4. Divide dough into four equal parts and shape each part

Butter/Margarine

1 teaspoon
1 tablespoon
2 tablespoons
1/4 one fourth cup
1/3 one third cup
1/2 one half cup
2/3 two thirds cup
3/4 three fourths cup
1 cup

Olive Oil

3/4 teaspoon
2 1/4 teaspoons
1 1/2 tablespoons
3 tablespoons
1/4 cup
1/4 cup + 2 tablespoons
1/2 cup
1/2 cup + 1 tablespoon
3/4 cup

19th Hermes Expo Gears up for Green Innovation and Networking

By TNH Staff Writers

NEW YORK - Doing business in Greece and the U.S.A., networking, promoting Greek American and Greek enterprises and learning about green issues are the plan for the 19th Hermes Expo and Green Symposium, which will be held April 22-25 in New

York City and Atlantic City. The event's founder and president Paul Kotrotsios says, "It's not only a forum for business, but a forum for ideas."

Last year 4,500 people attended the event, with 87 exhibitors. This year, there will be some 120 exhibitors (including about a dozen from Greece) in

Atlantic City, with additional events in New York, Washington, D.C. and Delaware.

The Hermes Expo will be launched on April 22 with a meet-and-greet featuring a tasting of Greek food and wine at the Queens Chamber of Commerce in Jackson Heights, New York. The next day, there will be

a visit to the Odyssey Charter School in Wilmington, Delaware.

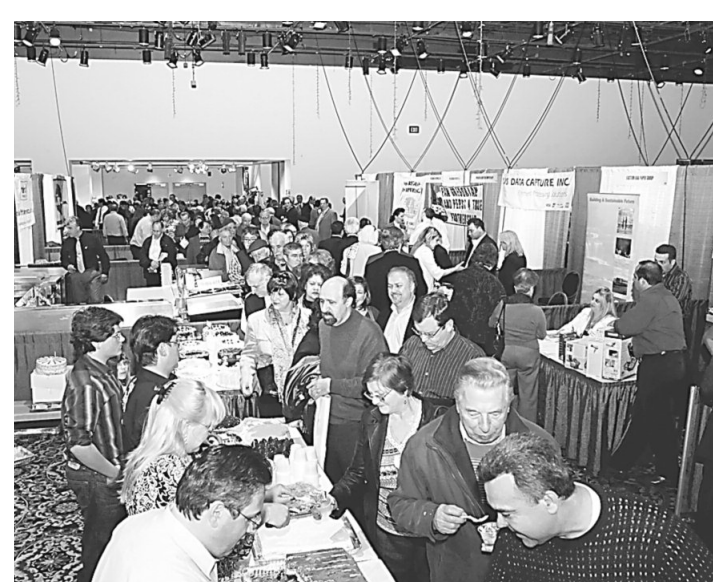
On April 24, expo booths will open at the Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The morning session will include presentations by Theodore G. Spyropoulos, President of The World Council of Hellenes (SAE) of America, Congressman Louis Raptakis (D-RI), Chris Christakis (Chairman of the U.S. Green Building Council), Drexel University's George Tsetsekos, Symposium General Chairman Aris Christakis and Hellenic Medical Association of Philadelphia's Dr. Elias Iliadis.

The expo's main theme of green and sustainable business will be introduced on April 24 by Dimitri Dandolos, John Hopkins University's Aris Melisaratos and Ambassador Angelos Pangratis, Deputy head of the Delegation of the European Commission to the U.S. Talks will focus on green IT/communications, energy, agriculture, biotech and food production. Featured companies will include HelioSphera and Ameresco as well as U.S. Foods and Tri-State Vending. Greece's Trikala Prefect Elias Vlahogiannis, Greek National Tourism Organization Deputy Director Hrysanthos Pettilas, and the Tourism Bureau of Philadelphia's Adeline Abdesaken will focus on agrotourism and ecotourism.

A for-credit CME Health Care Symposium entitled "Hippocrates Seminars: Applying Ancient Principles to Modern Medicine" will also be held on April 24 (from 2-6pm) with Hellenic Medical Society (HMS) of Philadelphia's Dr. Iliadis, Ms. Scullin and HMS of New York's Dr. George. A fee is required for non-students.

The Hermes Expo is focusing on youth with an April 24 Youth Mentor and Career Fair sponsored by the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) USA, and related events on April 25.

The banquet/awards presentation (April 24, 6 p.m.) will



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Last year, some 4,500 people attended the Hermes Expo. The event, will be held April 22-25 in New York, Atlantic City, Washington, D.C. and Delaware.

honor Congressman Space (D-OH), U.S./Greece soccer coach Alketas Panagoulas, Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos, Evripides and Evangelia Kontos (Kontos Foods), Constantine Caras (Leadership 100), Dr.

Harry Harris; the PanGregorians of Connecticut, AHEPA leadership and District #5, and Hellenic teachers.

For more information: Tel. (610) 446-1463, www.hermesexpo.com

'The Cove' Wins Oscar, Sends Message

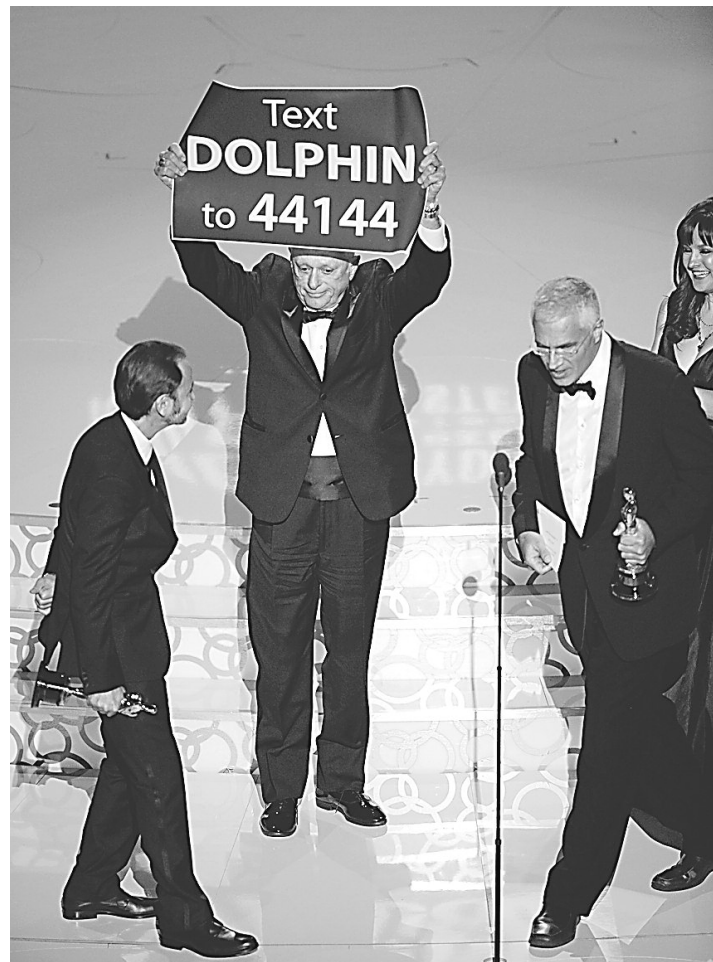
Continued from page 1

this film and all of those people will be sensitized to not see a dolphin show. Dolphin shows are an archaic display of dominance and will go the way of slavery. When you take intelligent social sentient animals out of the wild and force them to do tricks for our amusement, it says more about our intelligence than it does theirs." He pointed to "red blood on the hands of all Blackstone investors" after the recent killing of a Sea World trainer. The Blackstone Group owns Sea World.

Mr. Psihoyos, who shot "The Cove" spy-style, with disguises, as well as hidden cameras and microphones, recently collaborated with California and federal law enforcement officials in catching the illegal sale of whale meat at a Santa Monica sushi restaurant called the Hump.

Officials in the fishing town of Taiji responded to the Oscar win with unsurprising dismay. However, Mr. Psihoyos' prize is expected to boost the film's performance when it is released at the Japanese box office this summer. Mr. Psihoyos has another documentary related to the world's imperiled oceans in the works.

By Angelike Contis, TNH Staff Writer. E-mail: angelike.contis@ekirikas.com



AP PHOTO/MARK J. TERRILL

From left, producer Fisher Stevens, dolphin trainer/activist Ric O'Barry, and director Louie Psihoyos accept the Oscar for best documentary feature for "The Cove" at the Academy Awards on March 7. However, the director's speech was cut off.

GREEK POETRY

The Tomb of Orpheus

A caprock on the skirts of Mount Olympus marks the spot where poetry was laid to rest.

The man whose song moved Thracian swordsmen to surrender arms, who charmed alike wild beast and stone,

who summoned from the fresh-leaved hills whole herds of forest creatures, great flocks of broad-winged birds.

The man whom legend reminds us once intoned a chord so deep in the heart of the underworld

the damned fell silent and the Furies wept.

Damagetus (Hellenistic period). Translated by Sherod Santos

GREEK MUSIC ...PLUS

Eurovision: Harmless Child of Globalization?

NEW YORK - For the past 20 years I have been spending my summers in Greece, at a place I consider my hometown, Myrina, the capital of the North Aegean island of Lemnos. Compared with other Greek islands, Lemnos is still resisting alteration ("μεταλλαξις") caused by human greed and the intervention of modern "civilization", and still remains - I often wonder for how much longer - one of the most authentic Aegean islands.

At sunset in summer, Myrina offers a most beautiful, breathtaking view, as the sun sets far on the horizon, across the Aegean, on top of Holy Mount Athos, while the unwrinkled sea in front takes on a unique shade of a bluish-purple color.

During my summer stay in Myrina, every day friends and acquaintances, island natives and visitors, fishermen, retired civil servants and teachers, professionals, doctors, university professors, old friends and schoolmates (going back to high school and even elementary school), religiously gather at a café just a few yards from the seashore. There, while relaxing, gazing across the Aegean, enjoying a drink or a cup of coffee, we engage, much like our ancestors at the Athenian Agora, in endless discussions and arguments.

We are humorous and light-hearted about local gossip, teasing and spirited about Greek and world soccer, sober and serious about the environment. Naturally we would also engage in long and often heated discussions what kind of Greeks would we be if we did not - on politics, the economy, and also about globalization. In a humorous spirit, we have conferred the name "Open University" to these daily, summer gatherings. Indeed it's a unique, free and fun to attend "university" with no admission or graduation requirements.

Many of you will justifiably wonder what all this might have to do with today's theme, Eurovision, or with any other topic related to this music column? Here then is the "connection": Whenever "globalization" ("παγκοσμιοποισις"), has come up as a topic at our "Open University", the so-called Eurovision Song Competition, invariably enters our discussion as a case in point of the way globalization might be affecting the music culture of Greece, especially for the new generation.

It is those care-free summer chats, at a seashore café in Myrina, that have reconfirmed what I already knew. In the opinion of most Greeks, globalization - be it political, economic or cultural - is a major cause of problems in many areas of modern Greek society. This view is also widespread among many citizens of other nations in the area. Personally, while I can fully understand the overwhelming power of globalization as an economic and political reality that we must cope with, I refuse to accept it, much less surrender to it, as a force capable of altering our music, language and overall cultural identity. Unless we let it do so.

I find it quite ironic that despite all the talk about the "ill effects of globalization forced upon us by some external and mysterious force", we have willingly,

and quite often deliberately, adopted it in areas where we clearly do not have to do so. Case in point? The name of the café where our "Open University" discussions take place is "Focus", which is located next to the open air tavern named "Terrain", which borders the "Blue Waters" café etc...etc. Who is really forcing us to adopt these non-Greek names?

It's quite remarkable and rather upsetting when a proprietor of such a café, while extremely critical of globalization, defends, in the same breath and with equal fervor, the foreign name he has chosen for his café-restaurant-club as "good business". It's a shallow, rather unfounded and contradictory argument, not only because the vast majority of customers in these places are Greeks living on the island or visiting from other areas of Greece and abroad, but also because some of the most successful café-restaurant businesses in town, carry purely Greek names, such as "Πλάτανος", "Ιριδα", "Μεσογειος" etc. It is ironic and noteworthy that our ancestors "exported" thousands of Hellenic words to the world, while we modern Hellenes are practicing exactly the opposite, as eager and deliberate "consumers" of foreign words.



TNH ARCHIVES

Eurovision is the culturally "lite" competition that is taken very seriously in Greece. Is it a sign of Greek music's decay?

A similar argument can be made in the case of the Eurovision Song Contest, a subject which generates opinions and arguments, spanning the whole spectrum - from extreme to moderate and somewhat pragmatic, to dismissive and indifferent. The Eurovision Song Contest is a competition held among members of the European Broadcasting Union. The next one will be held in Oslo in May 2010.

By far, the most ridiculous position is the one expressed in occasional statements by "Super-Greek" politicians and some newscasters. They attribute political importance to the event, drawing diplomatic conclusions and even, identifying and encouraging political world alliances and strategies that supposedly may affect the outcome



Special to The National Herald
by GRIGORIS MANINAKIS

of the vote for the best song.

Some of those also believe that, much like in athletic competition, winning Eurovision is a matter of national pride and importance. What is it then that we should be proud of in Eurovision? As a lifelong soccer fan, and a soccer player during my youth, I can appreciate a feeling of pride for the successes of Greek teams and athletes in European and Olympic world competition, as these show that, we, Greek athletes and sports teams, have finally progressed to the point where we can be competitive and be taken seriously in world athletics.

On the other hand, I find no reason of substance to feel proud of success in Eurovision, at least not as it is currently practiced. How could I feel pride the trivial lyrics of commercialized songs performed in English, in compositions desperately trying to mimic American-European pop-rock culture?

Consider for a moment the titles of songs we Greeks have submitted for the past 4-5 years: "You are my number one", "You are my everything", "My secret combination", "It's our night" etc. Let's just ponder a bit on this: Would anyone be able to recognize the country of origin of a particular Eurovision song by

of the viewers all over the world are mainly "watching", not "listening".

At this point it would be appropriate to share with you some relevant comments about Eurovision, sent to me by a good friend and co-volunteer-producer at Cosmos FM, Mr. Stelios Taketzi. Along with his own opinion, Stelios also sent me a quote by the greatly respected, longtime Greek composer-singer Dionysis Savopoulos, who really put his finger on the essence of this commentary when he said: "Globalization in music should not be that we all listen to the same sounds, but that we play our own sounds and the whole world listens to them."

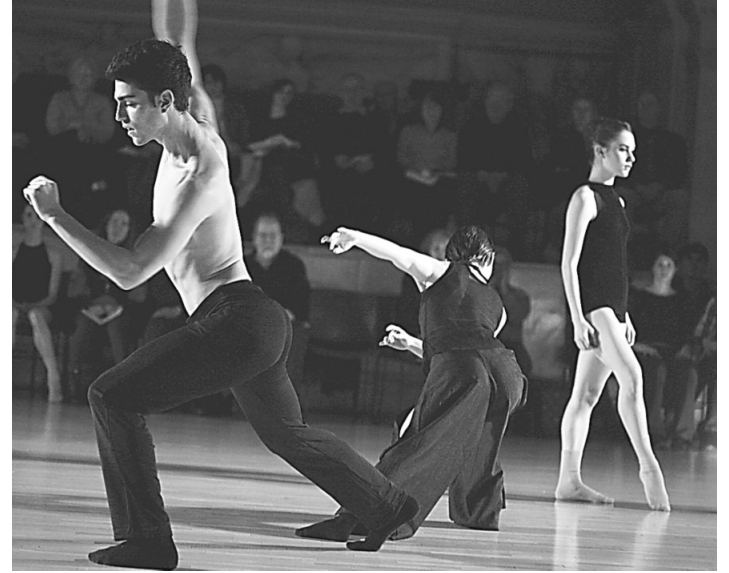
Stelios comments, somewhat humorously: "Eurovision is a pop music festival and most countries participate with pop songs. My vision is to see this competition, or another similar to it, where countries participate with songs reflecting their respective ethnic music culture. This vision, however, will not bring a lot of euros to the organizers and therefore, it will not make it as a 'Euro-Vision'."

It is more than certain that the idea of Eurovision is not about to disappear. It can, however, change. In fact, with the right kind of change, it can have an important and very positive effect in guiding and focusing the sensitivities of millions of young people around the world.

If I had the power to change Eurovision I would make a couple of simple recommendations: Require that each country participate with fresh, creative, original compositions, based on its own musical culture. Judge the songs and give Eurovision awards for three distinct categories, composition, lyrics and performance, with the potential for a particular song to win in all three categories. Finally, whatever the language, I would strongly encourage the lyrics of songs to convey a message to the world. In short, a Eurovision with a Vision - since a subtle song message about the dire environmental state of our planet, worldwide poverty, social unrest and injustice, terrorism, tolerance and understanding among nations, peace and war, will go a long way in awakening the sensitivities and the consciences of the millions of young men and women who make up the overwhelming majority of the Eurovision audience.

Now, go ahead and call me a utopian-romantic. I will proudly plead guilty to the charge but will also repeat what I have said in your previous column: "Dum spiro spero" ("While I breathe, I hope").

Grigoris Maninakis is a Professor of Engineering Technology at SUNY Farmingdale. He has been active in Greek music since the early 70s as a founding member and singer/soloist of the Greek Popular Chorus of N.Y. established by Mikis Theodorakis. He has organized quality Greek music concerts all over the U.S. and occasionally in Greece. His column will appear twice a month in The National Herald. For comments and suggestions email or visit: gkangm@aol.com, www.gmaninakis.com



SHIMPEI TAKEDA

Purchase Dance Corps members at a performance set to the music of Iannis Xenakis that explored his love of Japan.

Xenakis & Japan: Modern Dance Set to Edgy Music

By Angelike Contis
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - It's rare to go to a performance where the audience doesn't make a sound, where even in between pieces there is no sound of shuffling chairs or coughs. Silence, darkness and a sense of awe dominated the space between the four pieces of the February 28 performance "Xenakis and Japan". In between each number, no one dared to move, let alone breathe.

The performance at Manhattan's Judson Church was part of several months devoted in New York to the work of the Greek composer Iannis Xenakis (1922-2001), who was a major pioneer of electronic and mathematics-based music, on the occasion of an exhibit devoted to his visual work at The Drawing Center. The exhibit of the artist who was born in Romania and died in France runs through April 8.

The breathlessness of the "Xenakis and Japan" event was perhaps proof of the persisting newness and shock of Mr. Xenakis' work. At the Electronic Music Foundation of New York-sponsored performance, recordings of Mr. Xenakis' avant-garde, layered compositions met modern dance met Japan.

The dance was provided by over a dozen dancers of the Purchase Dance Corps, clothed in black, swimsuit-like apparel. The Japanese element came from Xenakis' own fascination with Japanese, plus a strong touch of the Noh theatrical form that the composer apparently admired, and a closing shakuhachi bamboo flutes solo by composer Yuji Takahashi, performed live by James Nyoraku Schlefer.

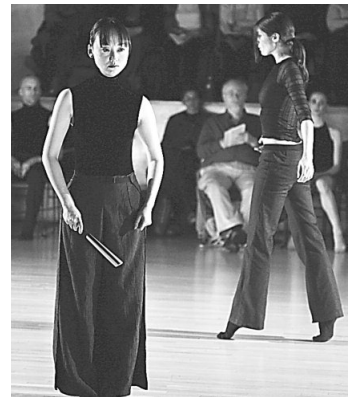
Japanese actress Ryoko Aoki provided the Noh. While the audience shuffled to their seats to the "tune" of Mr. Xenakis' piece "Concret PH", she sat, motionless as a statue. Then, in several of the other pieces, Ms. Aoki walked - or rather glided - ex-cruciatingly slowly, blank-faced, holding what looked like a knife in one hand (it was a silver fan).

The performance was choreographed and orchestrated by Luca Veggetti, who previously staged Mr. Xenakis' work "Oresteia" at the Miller Theater in New York in 2008. Mr. Veggetti's stage design was minimalist to the extreme. The stage was the square formed by two rows of chairs in the high-roofed auditorium. Dancers stepped on and off the stage into their seats, amongst the audience. The lighting consisted of a few long, naked industrial bulbs that were strung together on the floor, and rearranged during the performance. Before the performance, one of them loudly snapped into bits when someone stepped on

it - and vacuum cleaner sounds wove into the shattering sounds Mr. Xenakis' "Concret PH".

Modern dance and the Xenakis music made for a natural marriage. Male and female dancers slowly moved first to the composition "Orient-Occident", which is punctuated by outer space sounds. The second piece "Theraps", performed live by double bassist Robert Black, was accompanied by a solo; long-limbed dancer Frances Chiverini moved to the wild notes of Mr. Xenakis' composition. The double bass started with a frantic pulse, then traveled restlessly up and down the dark low and frantic high regions. The single instrument's sound morphed all along, for a long moment resembling bagpipes, then becoming a siren. Ms. Chiverini followed the changes with her body.

The third and last choreography featured Ms. Aoki and the Purchase Dance Corps. If all of



SHIMPEI TAKEDA

Ryoko Aoki (l.) and Frances Chiverini perform "Theraps".

the Xenakis works selected for the evening were ripe with emotional anxiety, this one was perhaps the most so - with its layer upon layer of sounds. It demonstrated Xenakis' radical use of traditional instruments in untraditional ways and employment of noises that are hard to identify. With the dancers' restless pairings, the aggressive percussion, angry strings and the otherworldly Noh performer, it was hard to be indifferent.

The evening ended on a more relaxing note as soloist James Nyoraku Schlefer bowed to perform. Picking one up at a time, he peacefully played on three long wooden flutes. Summoning up images of Japanese mountains, each flute filled the space of its particular range with warm breaths.

The audience broke its silence at the end with a big burst of applause of approval. The dancers took three separate bows. For more information about remaining concerts and films related to Iannis Xenakis (through to March 24), contact the Drawing Center (Tel.: 212- 219-2166, www.drawingcenter.org).

Music Festival Honors Chopin's 200th Birthday

By Eleni Kostopoulos
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - March 1 marked the start of Chopin 200, a week-long piano extravaganza in honor of what would have been the famous composer's 200th birthday. Pianist Eleni Traganas was among the 35 professional pianists and several conservatory musicians who played throughout the week at the World Financial Center's Winter Garden complex in Manhattan,



IRINA MAVRINA

Eleni Traganas performed Chopin at WFC's Winter Garden on Thursday, March 4.

which featured 200 hours of the music of Frederic Chopin, the 19th century Polish-born composer considered by many to be one of the greatest musical geniuses of all time and the man who "taught the piano to sing."

Traganas, who performed a medley of several of Chopin's works on March 4, told The National Herald she tried to select some of his Chopin's greatest music including two of the greatest polonaises he'd ever written.

"[Some of the pieces included] the third Scherzo, which was just sublime, beautiful and tremendously difficult, some mazurkas and impromptus, and the especially beloved Fantasia Impromptu," said Traganas.

"The concert was a novel idea. It was also to present five very fine concert instruments to the public and several international artists to play them for the public in a free venue so that everyone would be exposed to great music at no cost."

Other performers at the weeklong music festival included top pianists such as Christopher O'Riley and Claire Huangci, who performed every evening. Aspiring ivory ticklers were also encouraged to participate in the "Aficionado Open Mic" for from 9 a.m.-noon, daily at the Center.

Traganas said her attraction to the piano was instant and be-

gan at a very young age.

"It was an instantaneous affinity when I was three and a half years old and it happened at my Orthodox Church," she said. "When I first saw a piano in the corner I just immediately was attracted to it and I sat down and started playing, and that's how it all began!"

Eleni Traganas is a New York

City-born concert pianist and visual artist and is the author of "Twelfth House", recently-released by Seaburn Books to fine reviews by the literary press. For more about Eleni Traganas, visit her Web site at www.eleni-traganas.com.

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Father James Moskovites - "Fr. Jim" In Eternal Memory

The Parish Council and community of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Manhattan mourn the passing of our beloved Protopresbyter, Father James Moskovites, who died on March 2, 2010 after a brief illness.

Father James came to us eighteen years ago and led us to a renaissance of our community and church.

Under his skillful guidance, we undertook the restoration of our historic, landmarked 110-year-old building, key components of which are now completed. Along the way, he baptized our children, married our young couples, presided at funerals and memorials for our families, and created a strong, active and involved church family from our membership. He initiated the very popular Lenten Lecture Series, held on Friday nights throughout Lent and attended by friends from all over the area.

He also inspired us to hold a wildly popular series of Talent Shows to showcase the gifts God gave us, as well as many other annual events we have all come to love.

We all felt so much pride for what we achieved under Father James' leadership, especially in 2002 when former President William Clinton, then Senator (now Secretary of State) Hillary Clinton, Governor George Pataki, and other dignitaries attended the first of what became a new tradition, our annual Gala fundraiser.

He was spiritual father to many of us, as well as to people all over the country. Father James also served on the National Archdiocesan Council as well as the Direct Archdiocesan District Council.

He is survived by his wife, Presbyteria Diana; his daughter, Presbyteria Helen Kehagias and son-in-law, Father Demetri Kehagias; his mother, Helen; two grandsons, Jerry James and Peter Nicholas; an older brother, Peter; and, a younger brother, Nicholas.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in memory of Father James to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 302 West 91st Street, New York, NY 10024, or to Holy Cross Theological School, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445.

Community's Farewell to Fr. Moskovites

Continued from page 1

in Kansas City on Sunday, February 28, and upon landing in New York drove directly from the airport to the hospital to visit and pray for Fr. James, whom he called "a beloved, respected, highly esteemed priest of our Church." He quoted St. Paul's epistle to Timothy to characterize Fr. Moskovites' life and ministry: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

Those in attendance would acknowledge that Fr. Moskovites was more than worthy of those words. His Eminence continued, saying he was "an exemplary priest at the Annunciation, an innovator who improved not only the historic building [having overseen the renovation of the community center] but the parish," through the programs he developed, especially for young adults. "He looked inexhaustible... always thinking, with his Presbyteria, of new programs. He never said no to anything, to any Church assignment, always, 'yes. Yes I can do that.'"

Archbishop Demetrios concluded his words of praise by observing of priests like Fr. James, "They don't come in large quantities. They come as exceptions," adding that the community must thank God for men like him.

At the conclusion of the funeral services, Fr. Moskovites' clergy brothers filed passed the bier as a choir of the N.Y. metropolitan area's chanters intoned hymns of forgiveness, peace and eternal life.

The attendees were visibly moved and eager to express their love for Fr. Moskovites and the void his loss represents. Penny Kostaris, a leadership and career management consultant said, "I was touched by how many of his spiritual children came up to pray for him, whom we know is praying for us all now."

One man declared, "We are not spiritual orphans. Each of us is a bearer of his words and witness to his life." Reflecting the spiritual counseling that benefited dozens of people in every city where Fr. Moskovites served, Staz Tsiavos noted, "He left us with a lot of very good spiritual vitamins."

A caravan of cars and two buses rented by the community made their way to Oakland Cemetery in Yonkers to attend the burial, where Archbishop Demetrios also presided.

The well-wishers returned to the Church of the Annunciation for the traditional makaria meal. Nick Sakellaridis read a list of the many spiritual, cultural and educational activities undertaken by the parish during the past 12 months, and in a final tribute to Fr. James, he noted, "It is no co-incidence that none of these things were happening in 1992 when Fr. James came here."

He also cited the dedication of Presbyteria Diana, who was greeted with a rousing standing ovation. Dr. Nicholas Mezites and Tom Arianas spoke of their love and appreciation for Fr. Moskovites and they were followed by Fr. Moskovites' daughter, Presbyteria Eleni-Moskovites-Kehagias, who brought tears to guests eyes speaking of her father and her family's appreciation of the parish's support.

His Grandson, Jerry James

Kehagias also spoke lovingly and movingly about his pappou.

The makaria concluded with words from Archbishop Demetrios, who like all the guests, was moved by the words of love and appreciation, sprinkled with both humor and tears, heard throughout the day. He quoted the Greek proverb that says, "There is no wedding without tears and no funeral without joy," and turned to Mr. Arianas, saying: "It is a noble thing for a man to shed tears on a noble occasion."

His Eminence said he loved the simple and unpretentious way Fr. Moskovites presented his serious and valuable proposals. "People like that do not need theatrics. He was a man of character, and his life was one that was rich, fruitful, full of love, humility and charm. The Archbishop concluded by also honoring the Annunciation parish by pointing out that "What he offered [to his community] was embraced and reciprocated." Thusly did a grateful community mark the death and life of Father James Moskovites.

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Christina Kakava, 49, Of Fredericksburg, VA is Mourned

FREDERICKSBURG- Christina Kakava, 49, of Fredericksburg died Saturday, February 20 of brain cancer. She was born in Halkida, Greece, to the late Yianis Kakavas and Erasmia Kakava.

Christina graduated from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens with a major in Greek and English. She taught English at several institutions in Greece, including the Air Force Academy. She came to the United States to study linguistics at Georgetown University, earning a master's degree in 1989, and a Ph.D. in 1993, with Dr. Deborah Tannen as her disserta-

tion mentor.

In 1993, she was awarded the Hannah Seeger Davis Post-doctoral Fellowship in Hellenic Studies at Princeton University. She began her career as a professor of linguistics at Mary Washington College in 1994, earning the rank of full professor in 2006. She taught courses in sociolinguistics, cross-cultural communication, discourse analysis, and language and gender. She published 20 scholarly articles, chapters and reviews in leading journals and handbooks in her field, along with dozens of presentations at national and interna-

tional conferences. She was an expert in conflict, argument and identity in the oral discourse of Greeks and Greek Americans. Christina was beloved by students for her academic rigor, sprinkled with relevant personal anecdotes, and for her warm and lively teaching style.

Survivors include her husband, Paul Fallon; her son, Yanni; her sisters, Kalliopi Kakava-Tryfonidi and Faye Kakava, both of Halkida, Greece; along with several nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held on Tuesday, February 23 at the Nativity of the Theotokos Greek

Orthodox Church with the Rev. John Katsoulis officiating.

The family received friends on February 22 at Covenant Funeral Service, Fredericksburg, where a Trisagion service was held.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Mary Washington Hospice Foundation, Hospice Support Care, or to the Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church.

The above article appeared in Fredericksburg.com on February 22.

DEATHS

■ ANDROMALOS, WILLIAM H.

PITTSBURGH, Penn. - The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that William Andromalos, 81, passed away peacefully on March 2. He was born September 29, 1928 to Haralambos and Eliophotisti Andromalos in Lemnos, Greece. Mr. Andromalos owned and operated Keystone Candies in Lawrenceville for over fifty years. He is survived by his beloved wife Beatrice (Mozuch) Andromalos; his sons, William Andromalos and his partner Randall Novak and Kenneth (Nancy) Andromalos; his sister, Marie Backeris and his brother Nicholas (Winifred) Andromalos; his grandsons, Michael Andromalos, Matthew, David, and Nicholas Andromalos and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Gus Andromalos, Peter Andromalos, and sister, Chrysula Scott. Visitation was held at the Neely Funeral Home and funeral services were held at Holy Trinity, St. George Chapel. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donation to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund, 302 West North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212. Please visit our website at www.neelyfuneralhome.com Send condolences at post-gazette.com

■ NICHOLAS, PARIS

TALLAHASSEE, FL. - The Tallahassee Democrat reported that Paris J. Nicholas, 85, passed away on February 27. He was born in 1915 in Drosia, Greece. She is survived by her daughter Eleni Vaughn; daughter-in-law

Mary Ellen Nicholas; grandchildren Chris (Becky), John (Stephanie), Eleni (Noah), Gregory, and Christy; and great-grandchildren Nicole, Kevin, and Ryan. Funeral services were held at Holy Mother of God Church. Culley's MeadowWood Timberlane Road Funeral Home (850) 893-4177 in charge of arrangements.

■ NIKAS, MYRONDORA

MONTREAL, CANADA - The Montreal Gazette reported that Myrondora Nikas, 75, passed away peacefully on February 8. She is survived by her beloved husband, Christos Nikas; her daughters, Maggie (Henry David) and Irene; her grandchildren, George, Bianca, Tina, and Lianna; and her brothers, Vagelli and Manolli Linardakis. Visitation was held at Alfred Dal-laire and funeral services were held at Holy Cross Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Pulmonary Oncology department of the Jewish General Hospital or Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church.

■ PEROULAS, JAMES

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. - The Knoxville News Sentinel reported that James Peroulas, 94, passed away on January 27 at Parkwest Hospital. He was born on October 1, 1915 in Ditiki Fragista, Evrytania, Greece. He was an active member of St. George Church where he was a member of the Parish Council several times and became Parish President. He was a long time Knoxville restaurateur. He was drafted as a Lieutenant in the Greek army in 1936, later becoming Captain, specializing in

anti aircraft artillery until 1940. During this time some of Greece's neighboring countries were becoming restless. Italy and Albania were not getting along. At one point the Italian ambassador called Greek officials at 3 a.m. asking permission to enter Greece to invade neighboring Albania. Greece denies access and senses trouble to come. Italy ignores the denial and begins to enter Greece without permission. The Greek military was prepared and fought back and the Italians were defeated. The triumph became a worldwide news event. Because of Jim's leadership, dedication and command, General and Prime Minister John Metaxas respectfully decorates Jim with the War Cross for heroic duty. From 1941 through 1945 Jim served as an Officer for the National Greek Resistance Forces. Jim led the forces in the mountainous regions during Germany's occupation of Greece through 1944. Once again, the Greek government recognized Jim's leadership and presented him with the Metal of Honor for his participation.

■ PETALAS, JOHN

ALBANY, N.Y. - The Albany Times Union reported that John P. Petalas, 77, passed peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on March 3. John was born on February 23, 1933 in Agathopoli, Greece to the late Vasilos and Hariklia Baltis. Before immigrating to the United States, John Baltis was a man who worked in many trades including, a barber, police detective and served in the Greek Air Force. Once arriving in the

United States in 1961, he assumed the name Petalas in honor of his uncle who had no children of his own and sponsored his immigration. John worked very hard in many trades, honing his skills as a skilled laborer and craftsman mason for Local #6 NY eventually becoming a successful self-employed home builder and property investor. John was part of the Rensselaer County Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Home Builders and the Rensselaer Elks Club 2073. Most of all, he loved spending time with his cherished grandsons. He was survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Norma Jean; his son, Paul (Melissa) Petalas; his daughter, Anna (Pat) Tirino; his grandchildren, John Paul, Tony, Alec and Patsy; his brothers, Theodore (Ria) Baltis, Peter (Kathy) Baltis and Stelios (Evelyn) Baltis, along with several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at Saint Sophia Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the WF Bruen Rescue Squad, 1116 Red Mill Road, Rensselaer, NY 12144 for the many emergency responses over the years.

This is a service to the community. Announcements of deaths may be telephoned to the Classified Department of The National Herald at (718) 784-5255, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST or e-mailed to classifieds@thenationalherald.com

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Papandreou Meets President Obama & Secretary Clinton in Washington

Continued from page 1

Greece's problems. "We haven't asked for financial help," Papandreou said. "We have not asked for bailout money." He added: "We are taking measures to put our own economy on the right track."

Earlier in the day, the White House said Greece's fiscal crisis "can and should" be resolved by the EU. "This is an issue for the European Union," said White House spokesman Robert Gibbs. "They have and possess the capabilities to solve that."

Papandreou stressed, however, that some markets actions are exacerbating the problems. "We ourselves were in the last few months the victims of speculators. President Obama assured me that he considers the initiative useful, important, positive and that the United States will contribute in this direction," he added.

Papandreou, who has called for rules on shorts, naked shorts and credit default swaps, says the issue will be on the agenda at the next Group of 20 summit. Without action, he worries that Greece's borrowing costs could soar, limiting the effectiveness of its new austerity program.



American-born Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou meets with U.S. President Barack Obama, in an important highlight of his Washington, D.C. visit.

"We would like to be able to borrow on the world market at a lower rate," he told reporters.

It's unclear if the U.S. would be willing to go along with the European proposal. An admin-

istration official said Obama's proposed regulatory overhaul, now making its way through Congress, would make trading more transparent and give regulators enhanced tools to rein-

in manipulation through position limits, business conduct rules and tough prudential requirements.

Earlier Tuesday, European officials urged the U.S. to curb cer-

tain financial instruments.

A market frenzy in recent weeks saw traders bet billions of dollars against the euro and on the chances of Greece not repaying its massive debts. Those market activities have undermined the 16-country currency.

GREECE ADMITTED TO VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

In an unrelated boost for Papandreou, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced on Tuesday that Greece had been finally added to a list of countries whose citizens do not need visas for tourist visits to the U.S. Most European countries already enjoy that privilege, so the issue has been sensitive for the Greek government, which has been pleading for years to join the visa waiver program.

Commenting on the new development, Obama said, "As the prime minister and I discussed this afternoon, Greece's participation in the visa waiver program will strengthen security in both our countries," and added, "whether it's to do business or visit family and friends, it will now be easier for our Greek friends to visit the United States."

MEETING WITH SPEAKER PELOSI

Also on Tuesday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi extended warm greetings and broad support to Papandreou, but did not specify how the U.S. might help Greece.

At a photo opportunity outside of her office in the Capitol, Pelosi praised Papandreou for his "courage" in navigating Greece through the current economic crisis. Greece, she said, "will not be left alone" as it works through the current economic crisis. The Speaker did not expand on how the U.S. would help Greece deal with its current economic struggles.

Papandreou made only a glancing reference to this nation's current economic struggles, saying his government is "transforming" the Greek economy, and in the brief, largely ceremonial encounter there was no mention of the issue that dominated the rest of the day's agenda: taking steps to reign in speculators.

This article includes reports from NASDAQ, The Associated Press, Reuters, Xinhua and the USA Today.

Contact Christopher Tripoulas at tripoulas@ekirikas.com

Secretary of State Clinton Backs George Papandreou's Crisis Solutions

By Christopher Tripoulas
TNH Staff Writer

NEW YORK - Greece's prime minister is hoping his trip to Washington will boost efforts to get his country out of a financial crisis. But Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Monday that Greece is not asking for any specific help from Washington.

"We support the steps Greece is taking," Clinton said. "We commend the prime minister and his government for moving quickly to put in place the changes that are called for given the economic consequences of the fiscal situation he inherited."

Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, after meeting with Clinton at the State Department, told reporters that Greece is exploring ways within the EU of improving Greece's borrowing prospects.

Clinton said, "Neither the prime minister nor Greece has asked the United States for anything."

Both officials said they discussed the need for major economies to make financial reforms and clamp down on speculators.

In an earlier speech, Papandreou decried currency manipulations by speculators and called for stricter global control of currency markets.

"It is common sense, enforced by insurance regulators, that a person is not allowed to buy fire insurance on his neighbor's house — and then burn it down to collect on that insur-

ance," Papandreou said, comparing speculators to arsonists. "If Europe and America jointly step in to shore up global financial regulation — and to finally ensure enforcement of regulations — we can curtail such activities."

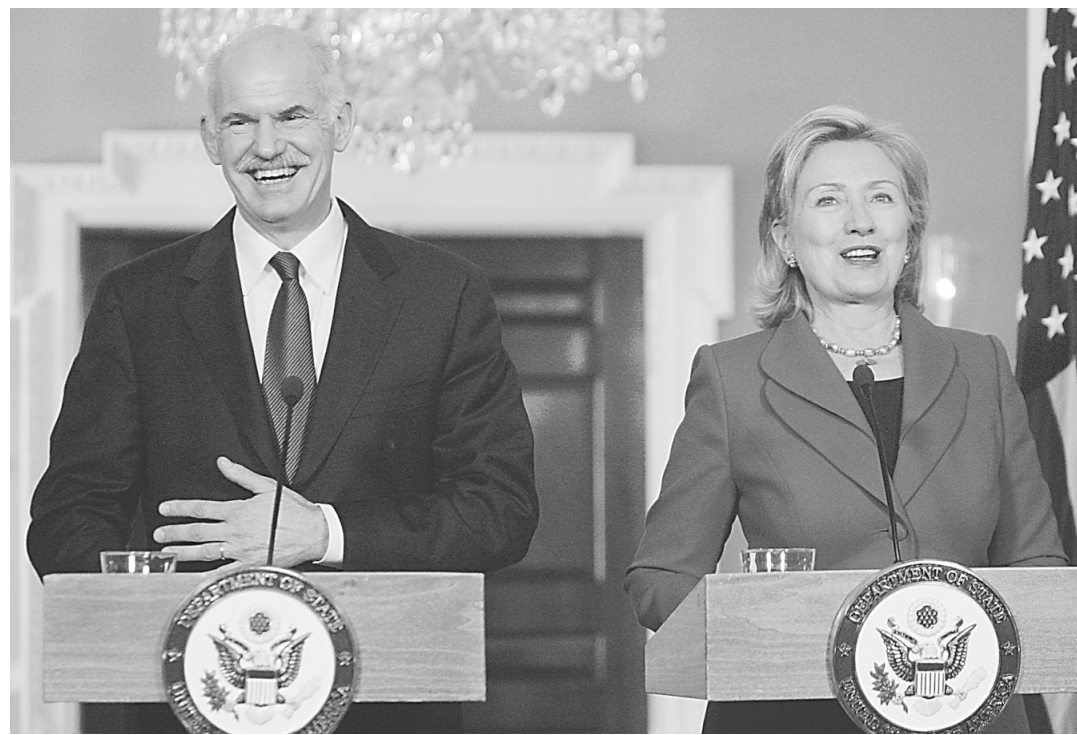
Papandreou encouraged U.S. authorities to continue investigations into possible currency manipulation involving the euro. Clinton said the U.S. could be helpful in seeking such curbs through the Group of 20 economic forum.

The International Monetary Fund, headquartered in Washington, D.C., says the lending institution is also planning informal meetings with Greek Finance Minister George Papaconstantinou, who is accompanying Papandreou.

Papandreou emphasized that financial instability in Greece and Europe posed a threat to the United States. "For America, a weak euro means a rising dollar. That, in turn, means a rising U.S. trade deficit," he said. "If the EU — still America's biggest trading partner — should falter, the consequences here would be palpable."

Papandreou has said his country is not looking for money from other governments, only help in securing loans at reasonable rates. Papandreou's trip to Washington is part of a four-country tour seeking firmer EU and U.S. support for new austerity measures to rein in Greece's massive budget gap.

Greece has committed to a



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sent a clear message of support for the reforms and emergency measures of Greek PM George Papandreou at a press conference at the State Department.

severe austerity plan to reduce its budget deficit of 12.7 percent of GDP and has warned that going to the International Monetary Fund is an option if a European solution is not found.

Papandreou also said on Monday he would meet Turkish leader Tayyip Erdogan within the next few months to discuss a "just solution" for Cyprus. "I will be meeting with (Turkish) Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan in the next few months. We

haven't yet set the date but it will be very soon," he told a news conference after talks with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Papandreou said Cyprus had long divided Turkey and Greece and required a solution "sooner the better." Turkey has about 40,000 troops in northern Cyprus and Erdogan has said Ankara would consider a withdrawal if there was a deal. "We do need to liberate this island

from that kind of activity and that kind of situation," Papandreou added.

The Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides started the latest round of peace talks in September 2008 but progress has been slow. A breakthrough could be hampered by Turkish Cypriot leadership elections in April.

"I have given my full support to (Greek Cypriot leader) Demetris Christofias and his work to move ahead and con-

tinue the peace process, the process and negotiation for finding a just solution, one which will be a federated solution," Papandreou said.

"I very much support the sooner the better, but of course a just solution, which will also be within the framework of European legislation," he added.

The Greek leader said he would like to see the issue resolved in a way that made Greek-Turkish relations on Cyprus a model for peace, to show "the world that former foes can be the best of good partners in this globalizing world."

Greece's Papandreou also touched on the issue of the Ecumenical Patriarchate when discussing Greek-Turkish relations, stressing that it "is not a bilateral issue, but is an issue of respecting religious and human rights."

In response to Clinton's call to finish the task of "integrating the Balkan countries into Euro-Atlantic institutions," which she termed essential to regional stability and development, Papandreou noted Greece's initiative on promoting the idea that the Western Balkan nations should be acceded into the EU by 2014, but also stressed that they must "live up to their prerequisites of being a member of this community of values."

This story includes reports from The Associated Press, Bloomberg, and Reuters.
E-mail: tripoulas@ekirikas.com

Greece – U.S. Travel Easier with U.S. Visa Waiver Program Admission

Continued from page 1

with officials at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

"This is exciting and welcome news," Karacostas said. "Greece has worked extremely hard to meet, and in some cases exceed, the United States' rigid visa waiver program criteria. We also thank the efforts of officials at the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department,

and our champions on Capitol Hill, especially the Hellenic Caucus, for working ceaselessly to see this process through to its proper completion."

He continued, "Greece's entry is a source of pride for the American Hellenic community. Now our relatives can visit us at a moment's notice if needed, commerce will flourish, and tourism to the United States will increase. Today, the long-stand-

ing strategic partnership between the United States and Greece becomes even stronger."

Greece's entry into the Visa Waiver Program is a significant initiative championed by AHEPA because of the organization's historical role as a bridge between the United States and Greece for 88 years. Since January 2006, AHEPA worked with Congress to introduce legislation that designates Greece as a visa waiver nation, and hosted a public policy forum with leading administration, congressional, and policy experts to create awareness of the subject. Moreover, AHEPA worked with the Departments of State and Homeland Security to present the position of the American Hellenic community on the issue.

Nick Larigakis, Executive Director of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), congratulated "the past and current governments of Greece and all the Greek American organizations who worked hard on this matter, especially the Order of AHEPA. The agreement will help to strengthen relations between our two countries."

From Athens, U.S. Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard, said, "This is an exciting day for both the United States and Greece. A lot of hard work and cooperation by a lot of people in the U.S. and Greek governments have made visa waiver a reality for Greek citizens."

The Visa Waiver Program enables Greeks travelling to the U.S. for tourism or some business purposes to stay in the United States for up to 90 days without a visa, though travelers will have to supply some information online prior to traveling. To visit the U.S. without a visa, travelers will need a passport issued with an integrated chip

containing the information on the data page which the Greek government has been issuing since August 26, 2006; a valid return or onward, non-transferable airline ticket with a VWP-participating airline; and an online authorization or permission called the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). The ESTA is an electronic form which must be filled out online, similar to the forms travelers have filled out prior to landing in the United States.

After filling out the form, in the vast majority of cases, ESTA immediately indicates travel has been authorized. The authorization should be printed and brought to the airport. The ESTA authorization normally will be valid for two years, but if the passport expires, the traveler must apply again.

Travelers without an ESTA approval or a visa will be denied admission at the U.S. port of entry. Travelers who have previously been denied a visa, previously refused entry to the United States, or previously removed from the U.S. are not likely to obtain ESTA approval. Such applicants must apply for a visa at the U.S. Embassy in Athens.

Also, visas will still be required for Greek visitors planning to stay in the U.S. for longer than 90 days or who are traveling to study, participate in exchange programs, work temporarily, or to perform duties as a media representative.

Travelers with a valid B1/B2 visa can still use it to travel for tourism or business and need not apply for an ESTA.

In accordance with the VWP designation process, DHS determined that Greece complies with key security and information-sharing requirements—

such as enhanced law enforcement and security-related data sharing with the United States; timely reporting of lost and stolen passports; and the maintenance of high counterterrorism, law enforcement, border control, aviation and document security standards. In turn, Greek citizens will be permitted to travel to the United States for up to 90 days without obtaining a visa.

With this announcement, Greece joins the 35 nations already participating in VWP — established as a pilot program in 1986 to help eliminate unnecessary barriers to travel and

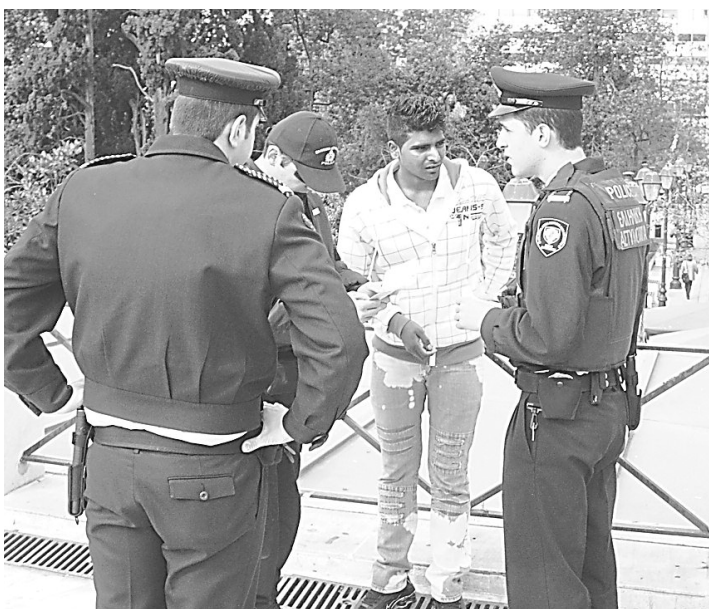
made permanent on October 30, 2000.

Greek citizens will be able to visit the United States without visas in approximately 30 days.

Today's announcement augments Secretary Napolitano's ongoing efforts to bolster the international aviation security system—including recent joint declarations to strengthen the international civil aviation system between the United States and Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Panama on February 17, and between the United States and the European Union on January 21.

HIDDEN GREECE

Andy Dabilis' camera captures life in today's Greece, in all its colorful variations.



TNH/ANDY DABILIS

Papers

The life of an immigrant isn't easy in Greece and they are routinely stopped and asked to produce identification and residency papers, and sometimes are taken to police stations without cause for questioning, scenes you may not expect to see. As the Parliament considers a bill to allow citizenship for the children born in Greece of legal immigrants, it has caused tension and protest from opponents.



AP PHOTO/PETROS KARADJIAS

Body of Former Cyprus President Recovered

The body of ex-president Tassos Papadopoulos was found on Tuesday, March 9, three months after a grave robbery, Cyprus police said on Tuesday, March 9, following a tip-off call in "broken Greek" amid reports of a ransom demand. Police spokesman Michalis Katsounotos said the suspects were arrested late Tuesday. In the photo above, police officers set up a tarpaulin during their investigations around the grave where the body was discovered at Strovolos cemetery, a suburb of capital Nicosia, Cyprus. A full article appears on our web-site: www.thenationalherald.com

Rocky Amorgos Island: Magically Off-the-Beaten Track and Pristine

By Robert Hallett
The Epoch Times

AMORGOS - Amorgos lies at the eastern end of the Cyclades in Greece on an ancient trade route. Old names for the island are Yperia and Melania (also Agoudouras), which refers to the blackish, oak-like plant that covered the Aegialis valley and was used to tan leather. While there, I found that islanders hope to protect the environment and cultural heritage, yet still promote responsible tourism for those wanting to discover the historical character of the island.

AMORGOS ENCHANTS

To me, Amorgos is people, paths, and plants; sun, sea, and stones - an undeveloped island suited for travelers rather than tourists. It is for people who want to take the time to discover an older, authentic way of life, to explore the construction styles and architecture of old stone houses, barns, churches (there are 365) and chapels (40).

It is a place in which to wander the well-marked footpaths in search of the many wild herbs and edible greens, pausing for refreshment at friendly local "tavernas," appreciating the old stone buildings, narrow, decorated streets and perhaps selecting a few handicrafts.

Highlights include the unique Byzantine Monastery of Panaghia Hozoviotissa (the Virgin Mary Chosoviotissa) which was established in 1088 and its museum, which includes displays of religious manuscripts from the 11th and 12th centuries. Another unforgettable excursion was a visit to the ancient capital Hora (or Chora) with its winding footpath streets, archaeological museum, and interesting shops and tavernas.

The many miles of dry stone fences marking boundaries and creating terraces for farming are potentially UNESCO heritage features. Aegiali port with its three traditional villages - Langada, Tholalia, and Potamos nestled in the surrounding hills - and Ormos, the port, beach, and tourist area, are worth spending time discovering.

MEDICINAL HERBS AND MAGICAL MOMENTS

The profusion of wild Amorgian herbs with medicinal and aromatic properties has generated a traditional herbal therapy business in Langada. Vagelis Vassalos, the owner, was trained in pharmacy at the University College London and then studied Oriental medicine at the International College of Oriental



The unique Byzantine Monastery of Panaghia Hozoviotissa (the Virgin Mary Chosoviotissa).

Medicine, East Grinstead. His Natural Therapy Studio sells a variety of packaged herbs.

Treatments, including acupuncture, are available at the shop/clinic. The Taverna "O Nikos", among others along the small winding streets, added to the atmosphere and helped us rest our legs.

We walked many of the footpaths and tried to identify some of the medicinal herbs along the paths. Oregano (fitilaki), sage (flaskomilo) and thyme grow wild and there are supposedly some 680 different species of herbs between Aegiali and Tholalia. There is one species whose small flowers can be used as lamp wicks floating in oil and papoulia, with yellow flowers that have honey inside, is used as a tranquilizer.

The young shoots of potika are eaten like asparagus and madragouros, with its large flat leaves and purple flowers, has a fruit used in traditional medicine. The island's 25,000 wild goats seem to love the aspartas, with its yellow flowers and spikey leaves, and azoiras is said to help them yield good milk.

We explored the abandoned village of Stroubo, between Langada and Tholalia, and tried to imagine how hard life must have been long ago. While you are there, seek out architectural features such as a triangular

apex over the front door (to bring luck), stone "hinges" for walls and fences, interesting chimney pots, and grain threshing circles paved with stone.

Donkeys are still an important means of transport on these twisting, sometimes difficult paths. Look closely at the details of island life and you might even

find yourself wanting to stay awhile. "Walk it to feel it" and appreciate the human scale of the surroundings within an apparently bleak and unforgiving landscape.

PLACES TO BE, THINGS TO DO

For sports lovers, there is scuba diving and rock climbing

that can be arranged by Dimitrios Synodinos in Ormos. For serious walking tours, Anna Butcher (United Kingdom), will arrange for small groups.

In Aegiali, try the up-market beach hotel, Lakki Village, or the five-star Aegialis Hotel and Spa overlooking the port; or Mike (pronounced "me-kay")

Hotel by the port. Off-season prices for singles are \$44 and doubles, \$53, rising to \$52 and \$65, respectively, in high season. The Camara Café in Potamos is new.

Aegialis and the traditional villages all have simple accommodation, pensions and rooms to let as well as a few smaller hotels. In Chora, the Leonidas Taverna and Grill offers good food and the owner makes pasteli, the sesame seed/honey specialty served on a fresh, diamond-shaped lemon leaf. The ologitou Polytimi offers good rooms with views of the old windmills of Chora.

Tavernas usually have home-made rakomello, a beverage made of raki (a non-sweet, anise-flavored liquor) and honey and herb flavoring. A liter jug of ordinary wine costs \$6.81-\$8.17. A basic lunch features excellent bread, feta cheese, olives, pickled beets, often deep-fried small fish, and tzatziki, an appetizer made of yogurt, cucumber, garlic and olive oil. More elaborate meals include more seafood, like calamari and prawns, and other vegetables.

Robert Hallett, a Canadian retiree, worked for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), based in Vienna, for 24 years, as a wood industry specialist. Writing was a natural extension of his occupation. During his career, and also in private travel, he visited over 80 countries.



Another unforgettable excursion is a visit to the ancient capital Hora (or Chora) with its winding footpath streets.

Alternative Tourism: Greece's Ancient, Medieval and Byzantine Castles

The castles of Greece are linked to legends and tradition from many periods and civilizations. Some sites, like the fortifications of Mycenae, illuminate the pages Greek history and literature like the Iliad, others are the remnants of forgotten occupiers like the Franks, who left behind buildings King Arthur might have live in.

The history of fortification techniques in Greece is lost in the mist of time. Since the Neolithic Age, prehistoric settlements featured an organized defence as evidenced by the ruins of the prehistoric acropolis at Diminio in Thessaly. During the Mycenaean era, fortified acropolises constituted administrative and economic centers, offering protection against enemy invasions. With the emergence of the city-state, walls were built to protect the entire city, while a large tower network was constructed for control over the countryside.

At the enchanting city of Edessa, the acropolis dates back to 800 B.C. The castle of Salona (Orgias), the Acropolis of Amphissa, has remains representing many architectural styles.

Following the Roman occupation of Greece, the Pax Ro-



mana enforced throughout the Roman Empire eliminated the need for individual fortifications until the 3rd century A.D. when the barbarian invasions and later the great wars involving the Byzantine Empire necessi-

tated the construction of new fortifications. The Byzantine walls of Thessaloniki were almost impregnable, and throughout 1000 turbulent years the city was assaulted on three occasions only.

At Pieria, one will find a very significant Byzantine castle of the 13th century at Platamonas.

In the 13th century, Frankish and Venetian conquerors erected new fortifications to protect their possessions in

Greece from Ottoman invasions, as well as against local uprisings. The use of new warfare methods and weapons brought about an improvement in the construction of fortifications, which by the 16th century were designed by specialised engineers. The walls at Herakleion and Methoni are samples of perfected Venetian forts.

In Corfu, fine examples of strong forts are the Old and New Fortress and the Castle of the Angels ("Anglokastrto") located high above Paleokastritsa.

The famous Knights' Castle in Rhodes has its own unique history. In 1309 AD the knights of St. John settled in Rhodes, and their stay endowed the island with a series of imposing buildings, protected behind a wall-castle, an excellent sample of Gothic and Renaissance architecture.

Mani was never conquered

by the Ottomans, mainly because of its many defense and surveillance castles, the quite unapproachable land and the habitants' fierceness, who continue up modern times the fortification (architecturally speaking) of their settlements with castles and tower-houses throughout the area.

The Ottoman Empire preserved the existing fortresses, which saw their last days of glory during the Greek War of Independence of 1821.

Once linked to legends and tradition, the castles of Greece now constitute symbols of security and the military might of yesteryear. They are also presently used as venues for staging cultural and other events, but they always bring back memories of days gone-by when kings, knights and their fair ladies played the leading roles.

