

NEO

Persons of the Year

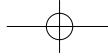
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Powerhouse couple Eleni and Markos Kounalakis



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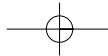


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CONTENTS :: FEBRUARY 2007

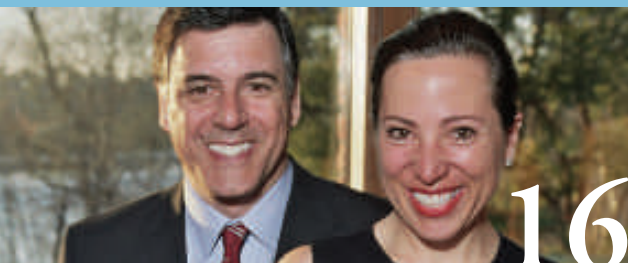


8 NEWS & NOTES

Freshmen congressmen honored by the American Hellenic Institute...Ted Venetoulis leads group to buy The Baltimore Sun.

12 THE LITTLE CHURCH

Ground Zero's St. Nicholas Church rises from the ashes.



16 PERSONS OF THE YEAR

Eleni and Markos Kounalakis have the perfect marriage of idealism and civic commitment.

20 ONE ISLAND AT A TIME

Greek MP Dr. Xenophon Verginis on the ties between Lefkada and America.



24 FREE SPIRIT

Soccer's Alexi Lalas scores front office goal

28 INVESTING IN GREECE

Fishing for Greek investments

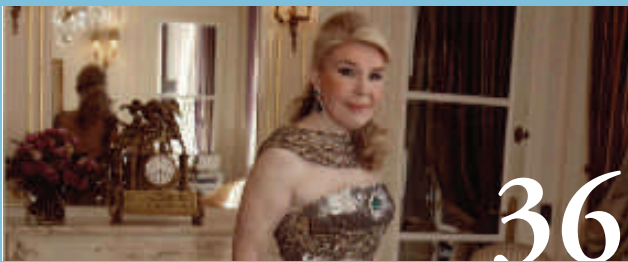
32 PEOPLE & PLACES

36 PERIXSCOPE

Marianna Vardinoyannis honored at Versailles



38 FRAPPE FOREVER





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FROM THE EDITOR

NOBLESSE OBLIGE

The French famously said that with great power and wealth comes great responsibility, and it's been the working standard for all true nobility, common and uncommon, ever since.

Greek Americans have that benevolence and civic pride in particular and regardless of their pay scale: it's reflected in their manifold devotion to family, community, God and country. And it's a birthright that's passed down in many prominent Greek American families, perhaps because the passion that drove the first generation to come to America and do good, for themselves and others, is still alive and well in those families and still an everyday example.


Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis has the example of her father, Angelo, who at 70 is just as tireless in distributing his fortune to spread the greater legacy of Hellenism as he was in amassing his wealth. "My dad always says, if you don't worry about who takes credit for things, there's a world that we can accomplish," Eleni says.

Markos Kounalakis has the example of his parents, who immigrated from Greece, and of his father, who put his life on the line in the Cretan resistance. Their son became a frontline correspondent in the world's trouble spots, perhaps because he never forgot his birthright. "My grandfather was born under Ottoman Turkish rule," he says. "When we watched the news during dinner, I did it with a very different sense of reality than other schoolchildren."

Because Eleni and Markos Kounalakis have never forgotten where they came from, and are the fitting heirs of what Markos calls their parents' "dreams," we have chosen them jointly as our 2007 **NEO** Persons of the Year.

They form the perfect union of love and devotion to each other, and love and devotion to family, community, God and country, which made the lives of their parents remarkable, and in the best tradition, is making the lives of the Kounalakis', and everyone they touch around them, just as remarkable.

Thank you.



Dimitri C. Michalakis

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[NEWS & NOTES]



AHI Chairman James Marketos, AHI President Gene Rossides, Congressman John Sarbanes, Congressman Gus Bilirakis, Congressman Zack Space and AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis.

Dinner for Congressional Greek Freshmen

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) hosted recently a dinner in honor of the newly-elected Greek American members of Congress: **Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)**, **John Sarbanes (D-MD)** and **Zack Space (D-OH)** at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC.

Opening the evening's program, AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis said: "As Greek Americans, we always take great pride and joy when someone in our community reaches a high pinnacle of success in their chosen field of endeavor. Tonight the joy has been tripled as we welcome to Washington these three. We extend our heartfelt best wishes to you for your success and longevity as you begin your career in the most noble of endeavors: serving our nation in the People's House – the U.S. Congress."

Following dinner, the three Congressmen were introduced by AHI leadership and friends. To begin the evening, AHI Chairman James Marketos introduced Congressman Gus Bilirakis who in his remarks stated: "We can't lose the identity. We can't lose the customs. We can't lose the traditions, more importantly the *thriskia* (religion) and our *glossa* (language). I know it's very advantageous to be Greek American. We are very blessed to be Greek American. We have an obligation – We have an obligation to protect our community, our Greek community here in the United States, and protect our 'Ellada' (Greece) and our 'Kypro.' (Cyprus)."

Congressman John Sarbanes was introduced by AHI member and long-time friend of the Sarbanes family **Manny Rouvelas**, Partner of Kilpatrick & Lockhart, Preston

Gates Ellis LLP. "We have to embrace everyone in our community. We have so much to offer," Congressman Sarbanes said. "And that's why I'm so proud to represent this community. And when I say represent, I don't mean represent it as an elected official. I mean be an ambassador for the Greek American community as somebody who cherishes and who feels so deeply about our heritage..."

Finally, AHI President Gene Rossides introduced Congressman Zack Space, who among else stated: "The Greek American community is more responsible than any other community for me being here. They were very generous at a time when I needed generosity. They were loyal when loyalty counted the most. And I won't forget that...I will be a very strong advocate for the Greek Americans and for the Greeks in general when it comes to those issues...I'm looking forward to working with Gus and with John as we approach those issues head on..."

Attendees included former Senator Paul Sarbanes, Ambassador of Greece to the United States Alexandros Mallias and Mrs. Mallias and Ambassador of Cyprus to the United States Andreas Kakouris and Mrs. Kakouris, AHI Advisory Committee Member and U.S. Regional Coordinator for the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) Ted Spyropoulos and Mrs. Spyropoulos, former Supreme President of AHEPA Spiro Macris and President of the Evrytalian Association of America Kostas Kazakos. Guests came from across the U.S. including New York, Michigan, New Jersey, South Carolina, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. ■



Antonia Papatzanaki

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Antonia Papatzanaki, born in Chania, on the island of Crete in Greece, is currently living in New York City. She was educated in Athens, Vienna, and New York and has exhibited her works in ten solo exhibitions and many group exhibitions in Europe and the United States.

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Ted Venetoulis.

Ted Venetoulis Leads Group To Buy The Baltimore Sun

BY DIMITRI C. MICHALAKIS

Baltimore publisher and former county executive Ted Venetoulis is leading a consortium of prominent Baltimoreans seeking to buy one of the city's most venerable institutions--the 170-year old *Baltimore Sun*.

"We think that with local ownership, there's a lot of potential to make the newspaper a greater part of the community and restore it to what all newspapers should be--the conscience of the community," says Venetoulis, who is chairman of the Baltimore Media Group, which has been in discussion with the paper's parent Tribune Company.

The Baltimore group includes Walter Sondheim, best known for leading the desegregation of Baltimore City public schools and guiding the "Baltimore Renaissance" of downtown and the Inner Harbor in the '70s and '80s; and Bob Embry, head of the Abell Foundation, founded by the family that once owned the Sun.

"And I was invited to lead the group since I have publishing experience," says Venetoulis, the current chairman and CEO of Corridor Media Inc.. "In fact I owned a number of the papers that *The Sun* has since purchased."

The Tribune Company itself is up for sale (its market capitalization is \$7.6 billion and bidders have included record mogul David Geffen), and Venetoulis says his group has been in discussion with all the bidders in hopes of spinning off *The Sun* from the new owner.

"Right now we're waiting for the Tribune to decide whether or not it's going to sell the company and to whom it's going to sell it," he says of the Tribune's current March 15 deadline of making a decision. "After that, we will undertake discussions with whoever buys the company to see if we can buy from them *The Sun* paper."

The Tribune was initially unwilling to sell the *Sun*, but reportedly came under pressure from the Chandler family in Los Angeles (Tribune shareholders and original owners of

The Los Angeles Times, now a Tribune property) to sell off individual assets and improve

We think that with local ownership, there's a lot of potential to make the newspaper a greater part of the community.

- Ted Venetoulis

the bottom line.

Venetoulis won't say how much his group is bidding for *The Sun*, but a comparable sale of the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* went for \$530 million, an ...continued on page 10

[NEWS & NOTES] ➤



ABOVE: Baltimore's inner harbor. BELOW: The Baltimore Sun

Ted Venetoulis

continued from page 9

estimated half of that paper's original selling price to the McClatchy Company.

"First of all, the paper is making money," says Venetoulis of *The Sun*, which has approximately 1500 employees and is published in Sun Park at Port Covington, its own 60-acre satellite printing and packaging facility. "It's a profitable institution. The Tribune is not losing money from it; it's just not making the heavy returns it wants. They want a 25% return and the paper might be doing an 18% return. Well, that's still substantial."

He says his group is not concerned about making "a hefty return. The return may be modest, that's okay with us. We're just determined to produce a product that all of us can be proud of in the community. And we want to share that with the workers and the community and make it a working partnership."

Venetoulis, 70 ("I'm a young 70. I feel



fifty"), is himself a venerable institution in Baltimore. He ran for governor in 1978, served as Baltimore County Executive to clean up corruption ("We won and threw

out most of the bad guys"), was a television anchor, is a visiting professor, the author of two books, and he built one newspaper chain that he sold to *The Sun*, another that he sold to *The Washington Post*, and is currently running two more publishing companies.

"I'm too young to retire," he says.

His plans for the new *Baltimore Sun* have included talking to current and former employees, including reporters, the unions, and advertisers, to get their take on what he says is "making the transition from traditional print, to print and the Internet, to print and digital. You don't want to give up the institution of *The Sun* that got it where it is, but that needs to be enhanced with this new relationship with what the Internet can provide."

And he wants the paper to reflect the growing vitality of Baltimore.

"I think the city is very vibrant," he says. "We've got good local leadership, the Harbor is thriving, the community is busting, and the paper should be equally busting." ■

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[COMMUNITY] >

The Little Church That Could

And Will Rise From The Ashes of Ground Zero

12 NEO magazine :: Feb 2007



LEFT: Archbishop Demetrios presiding at service. **RIGHT:** Fr. John Romas leading the congregation

BY DIMITRI C. MICHALAKIS

The little church stood for nearly a century dwarfed by the giants of lower Manhattan and buffeted by the traffic of the Financial District. In later years this included the twin towers of the World Trade Center, which loomed above the little Greek Orthodox church of St. Nicholas like a pair of hulking but overprotective grandsons.

“It’s all business down there, it’s all banks and steel,” says John Pitsikalis, the parish president, and grandson of the man who led the first congregation to buy the little inn on Cedar Street in 1916 and turn it into a Greek Orthodox church. “And to see a church at that location made people feel that things were just a little bit normal. It wasn’t just a large Monopoly board downtown.”

Parishioners, who were often related to the original founding families, dutifully came every Sunday for services from as far as Brooklyn and New Jersey and Connecticut. “And it was quite a hike from Bergen Beach, Brooklyn to lower Manhattan,” remembers Regina Katopodis, a current board member, whose grandfather Theodoros Maniatis

served as president, and whose father James succeeded him. “I used to see my dad get up in the morning like a real trooper and go down to the church. And it was because his parents had belonged. It was just a continuation.”

Telly Savalas’ parents belonged to the church, Aristotle Onassis visited when he was in town and the community of Greek shipowners in Manhattan took to the little church because it was the patron saint of sailors (shipping executive John Couloucoundis is current chairman of the church fundraising committee).

One successful record executive visiting from Hollywood walked in one day in blue jeans and a leather jacket, and after service *Presvytera* Lorraine Romas invited him to stay for coffee. “And he couldn’t get over it,” recalls John Pitsikalis. “The man was dressed very casually, but they didn’t care. He came into the church and he was part of that community to them. And that’s what St. Nicholas was all about.”

Presvytera Romas (whose father Christos was pastor before her husband John, the current pastor) remembers one couple from Australia visiting on their honeymoon.

“They were told about the little church of St. Nicholas, that if they went down to the World Trade Center don’t forget to stop by. And they came on a Sunday morning and they came upstairs to the hall, and they were introduced to the whole parish.”

Then, of course, came September 11, 2001 and the little church that was everybody’s way station of spiritual calm became yet another victim of the terrorist attacks.

“The sweet scent of incense was blown away by the acrid smell of senseless destruction,” said Archbishop Demetrios shortly afterwards. “And the walls came tumbling down. Our hearts are crushed. But our spirits will never be.”

And they were not. Though nothing was left of the church building itself—Fr. Romas told *NPR*, “It would break your heart. It’s one thing to see it on TV, and another thing to see it in person. St. Nicholas is buried under debris. It is the worst thing.” And though some priceless artifacts were lost (including icons given to the congregation by Czar Nicholas II of Russia and relics of St. Nicholas, St. Katherine, and St. Sava—while waxed candles were ...continued on page 14

[COMMUNITY] >

The Little Church
continued from page 13

saved, paper icons, a Bible), the little church that could is being resurrected.

"It was this little, little humble church," says Anthoula Katsimatides, who lost her brother John in the World Trade Center (he often crossed the street from his offices at Cantor Fitzgerald to light a candle at the church, she says). "And as so many innocent people lost their lives, this beautiful little church is rising from the ashes like a phoenix."

Katsimatides, who served after 9/11 on the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation organized jointly by the mayor and governor to rebuild lower Manhattan, made sure St. Nicholas became a part of the city's rebuilding agenda, and though not a member before, has become a member of the church now.

John Couloucoundis became fundraising chairman: "Within two weeks after the destruction of the church, the parish had already organized, was having meetings, and was trying to figure out how to go forward."

The sweet scent of incense was blown away by the acrid smell of senseless destruction. And the walls came tumbling down. Our hearts are crushed. But our spirits will never be.

- Archbishop Demetrios

A rebuilding committee was formed jointly with the archdiocese and is led by Archbishop Demetrios and Michael Jaharis. The city of Bari, Italy donated close to a quarter million dollars to the effort, because St. Nicholas is the city's patron saint and buried there.

And now, finally, there is talk about the



new St. Nicholas that is coming to the site, which will likely move up the block to Liberty and Greenwich streets on the north-east corner. It might still take a few years before plans are finalized (because of the underground infrastructure needed to be built first for transportation and security reasons). Actual construction of the church might be two years away, according to John Pitsikalis, and it might take two more years to complete.

But the congregation, as always, remains resilient, despite not having a home church. Fr. Romas now holds Sunday services for parishioners jointly with Fr. John Lardas at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in downtown Brooklyn. "It is the same faces, different building," board member Peter Drakoulis told the *New York Times*. "Same people. Same hearts. Same hopes."

And this past December a makeshift tent was erected on Ground Zero and mass celebrated with Archbishop Demetrios and Fr. Romas to commemorate St. Nicholas Day and the 90th anniversary of the church.

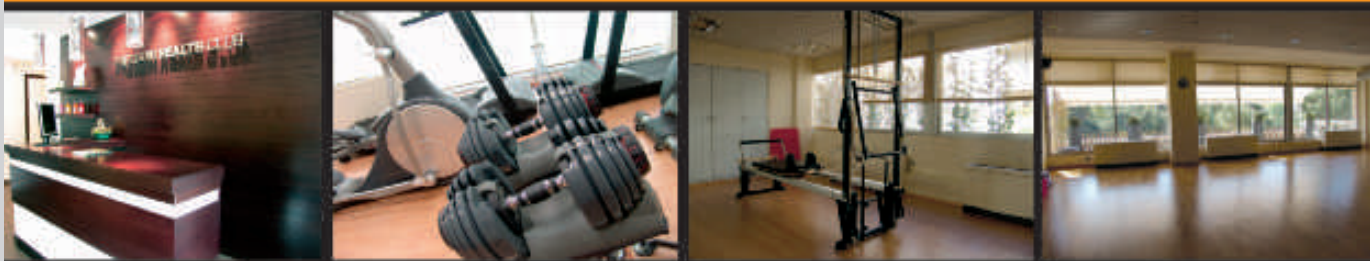
"We have constructed a church for a day," said Drakoulis, and Regina Katopodis came with an armful of *artous* to the ceremony. "And right in the street I bumped into fellow parishioners and they helped me carry the *artous* to the church," she says. "It was such a feeling of community in such a large city."

"That was the beauty of this special little church," says *Presvytera* Romas of the little church with the big heart that is rising from the ashes again.

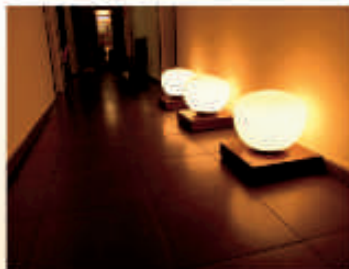
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[PERSONS of the YEAR] >



Eleni and Markos Kounalakis: Forming a Perfect Union

BY DIMITRI C. MICHALAKIS

They're on a speaker phone, so they can both speak. And yet they never interrupt each other.

"I don't want to take for granted how well Markos and I get along," says Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis in a voice surprisingly strong for a woman barely over five feet tall. "They say it takes work, but it doesn't seem very hard work for us."

Markos is a foot taller but more soft-spoken than his wife, and even more complimentary. "Really, she is the most loving person I've ever met," he says. "And it's more

than with just me and the kids. Her heart embraces so much in so many ways."

The power couple from California (she was born and raised in Sacramento; he was born and raised in San Francisco; both are the children of immigrants) embrace a number of causes with their whole heart, perhaps *because* they are the children of immigrants and have a sense of the privilege and duty it entails.

"I get misty thinking about this," Markos told the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "because I honor and respect both our families so much for what they have achieved. They started in this country with nothing, and then in later

years are meeting presidents of the United States. It's amazing. I mean, we are the products of their dream."

And civic duty is part of that dream for the couple. "Markos certainly got that from his father," says Eleni, "and I certainly got it from mine. When I was a student, I interviewed my dad for a project and I had to ask him to describe his personal philosophy. He said, 'To do good things.' I asked him to elaborate—I needed to fill a page! He thought about it and said, 'To do good things—for other people.'"

Through their individual and collective efforts, Eleni, Markos and the Tsakopoulos

family have endowed chairs in Hellenic studies at Sacramento State, Stanford, Georgetown and Columbia, established the Tsakopoulos Collection for the Study of Hellenism at Sacramento State (with books collected by Angelo over a lifetime), and funded the M.I.N.D. institute at UC Davis for neurodevelopmental disorders, among others.

"It's a very privileged feeling to participate in supporting non-profits," says Eleni, "and also to draw a circle around Hellenism. When Bush was asked right after 9/11, 'Why do the terrorists do this?' His answer was, 'They hate us for our freedom.' Well, you

I honor and respect both our families so much for what they have achieved. They started in this country with nothing,

- Markos Kounalakis

can't understand what that means if you can't understand the history of Greece and Hellenism. When Prime Minister Mitsotakis spoke at Stanford, he said, 'Greece is the birthplace of democracy and America is the greatest embodiment of that ideal.'"

Which may be why, in that tradition, the family is also very active in politics. Angelo is a founding member and leading patron of the Western Policy Center, a foreign policy think tank (Markos sits on the board). Eleni poured heart and soul and the family's money into Phil Angelides' run for California governor ("Phil," she consoled him afterwards, "you didn't get something you wanted, but you didn't lose something you have" and she calls him, "one of the most intelligent, and articulate, and capable people we have in California").

And the family has backed a slew of Republican candidates, as well as Democrats over the years, though the couple admits their heart is Democratic. Nancy Pelosi has long been a family friend (of both Angelo and Sofia, Eleni's stepmother) and Pelosi has visited Greece with the family. "All of the people she met in Sofia's home village were calling when they heard Nancy was going to be the Speaker," remembers Eleni.



TOP: The Tsakopoulos family. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Justice Anthony Kennedy with Markos. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Antoni and Vangeli

While Markos says, "I stay out of partisan politics because of my magazine; so I can maintain my journalistic distance" (he's president of the venerable *Washington Monthly*), Eleni is a passionate booster and already has a favorite in the presidential race.

"I'm very lucky because I'm surrounded by very strong men: Markos, my father and my brother," she says. "But they are all unified in our belief that Hillary Clinton is the best candidate out there, for many reasons. One is, certainly, she's a friend. Another is that she and her husband have a world view. When Mr. Clinton was president, she brought him to Istanbul and the patriarchate, and she's very aware and very dedicated and very knowledgeable. They both have a strong sense that it is necessary to keep stability in and around the region of Greece and both have been very willing to listen to input

from the Greek American community. She is really dedicated."

The dedication is what also makes the Kounalakis marriage work, despite being people with such high-powered careers. "We balance," says Eleni simply. "We're a little bit Zorba, a little bit Aristotle." The couple have a home in Sacramento, where she grew up, and an apartment in San Francisco, where he grew up. He spends one week a month in Washington working on the magazine (edited by Paul Glastris) and is still a busy journalist (he's a former *Newsweek* and NBC Radio foreign correspondent and the author of books on Isaac Newton and corporate journalism). She works as the president of AKT Development Corp., one of the largest real estate developers in the country, where he also works, and they meet to talk over business, politics, ...continued on page 18

Persons of The Year

continued from page 17

and tuck the kids in.

"We spend a great amount of time with our kids," says Markos of Antoni, 5, and Vangelis, 4. "From the moment they wake up and jump into our bed, until the moment at night when they ask us for long cuddles—that's the only way they like to go to sleep."

The boys go to a school where they learn Mandarin Chinese three hours a day. "You know," says Eleni, "China and Greece are really the two longest-running civilizations in the history of the world, and it's fun for the boys and fun for us. They're getting the opportunity to have the same role in the family that Markos had in his family (when he was learning English)—which is to bring something to the family and serve as our interpreter for it."

Markos' parents, Antoni and Vassiliki, were immigrants from Crete who eventually settled in San Francisco. His father worked as a truck driver ("And I did, too," says Markos) and had been decorated by the Allies for fighting in the Cretan underground. Markos' sister, Diane, eventually worked for the San Francisco Ballet and became president of the Pancretan Association. Markos went to New York and got a master's in journalism from Columbia University, before becoming a print and broadcast journalist and reporting the fall of communism firsthand from Russia and Eastern Europe and the war in Afghanistan.

"I get restless every day when I see what's going on overseas," admits Markos, 50, of his retirement from frontline journalism. "I get restless because it gets in your blood. When you're out there, there's no greater adrenaline rush. But now I work with Paul Glastris, and we run this non-profit venture of this venerable institution called *The Washington Monthly*, and in other people's minds and mine it's a national treasure, so it satisfies me spiritually and also journalistically."

Eleni, 40, is the daughter of a one-time immigrant farmworker (Angelo's first job in America was picking fruit) who runs a multi-million dollar business out of Sacramento, but shares her husband's wanderlust. "I had a passion and love for journalism myself," she says. "I thought of being an English teacher, I thought of being a writer, and it's something that drew Markos to me. He did things in his life that I thought I might do; so just knowing what he's accomplished made me admire him tremendously."

That's why they didn't marry just any-



TOP: Eleni Kounalakis, left, meeting with Senator Hillary Clinton

where—it was Constantinople (at the invitation of the patriarch).

And it came after a whirlwind courtship of only eight weeks. They met at a Greek embassy dinner in San Francisco and immediately knew what to talk about. "We discussed gnocchi," he says. "I lived in Italy, and Eleni had spent a year in high school in an Italian part of Switzerland, so I think we were both partial to Italian food."

Then the "confirmed bachelor and bachelorette" stunned family and friends by announcing their nuptials and in

Constantinople. "I think everyone had given up on us," admits Eleni. "So when we told all our friends it spread like wildfire. My stepmother Sofia had invitations made up and the policy was if you want to come, let us know and we'll send you an invitation. And about 150 people came."

"We got married on Saturday, and on Wednesday my mother asked, 'How did you meet Eleni?'" Markos recalls. "Three days before the wedding. So I think she was clearly surprised."

"You thought it was natural," Eleni tells him of the whirlwind romance, "I thought it was crazy."

"I don't think so," he says calmly, "it seemed so natural. The people surprised were the people who knew us."

The ceremony took place at the Phanar at the invitation of the patriarch, "who told everyone we were his spiritual children," remembers Eleni. "It was one of the kindest things anyone had said to us; very beautiful."

And their honeymoon took them through the Holy Land, when Eleni says, like a true Democrat, "Bill Clinton was still in power, there were great prospects for peace, and a lot of hope and fraternal love in the area."

Fortunately, after seven years of marriage love continues to thrive in the Kounalakis family. "We really like to be with each other and really like to be with our kids," says Markos.

"I love being with my family, too," says Eleni, of the ever-growing Kounalakis-Tsakopoulos clan.

"We get so much satisfaction out of being with each other," adds Markos, in perfect union. ■■



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MAKING THE CASE FOR GREECE:

One Island at a Time

Kathisma Beach on Lefkada

BY DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS

For Xenophon Verginis, a member of the Hellenic Parliament or Voule, representing the island of Lefkada (on the Ionian Sea, touching the Greek mainland on one side and facing Italy on the other), his constituency and the United States are much closer than one would think, he says. And he is eager to point out the connection, not only in years past, but most importantly, in the present.

Dr. Verginis will make his first visit to America and attend the **NEO** Persons of the Year reception for Eleni and Markos Kounalakis hosted by honorary chairman Dr. John Brademas at NYU. A University of Athens Lecturer in Economics, Dr. Verginis said he is looking forward to exploring ways of bringing the US even closer to his island and country by promoting tourism and investment. "The Greece of today has many things to offer," he pointed out during an interview in his Athens office, overlooking a golden winter sunset in Constitution Square.

Although he was first elected to

Parliament only three years ago, when his party, New Democracy, came to power after 11 years in the opposition, he has served in many key governmental posts in the past, including director to the Ministries of National Economy and Agriculture, among others. He also led the negotiating team of Greece on the Agricultural and Monetary sectors during its accession process to join the European Community in 1980. During intervals in his public service duties, he has managed to pursue his other passion—business—becoming a highly-accomplished entrepreneur as well.

As member of Parliament, he managed to secure state funds after a 6.5 on the Richter Scale earthquake hit the island, miraculously without human casualties, but with significant damage to homes and infrastructure. The government's effective response to the crisis was praised even in the US and it was offered as a comparison to the response of the Katrina disaster in New Orleans.

During his visit to New York he will hold meetings with a number of key people from the tourism and business community, trying

to make the pitch for his island. He will also address the Greek American community during a lecture scheduled for **Tuesday, February 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Federation of the Hellenic Societies of Greater New York (22-51 29th St. Astoria.)**

NEO: You represent the Island of Lefkada in the Hellenic Parliament. Why should Americans of Greek descent or otherwise, know more about it?

VERGINIS: Well, there are plenty of reasons for Americans in general to have a very good knowledge about Lefkada. First of all, it is one of the most beautiful islands, with great history and tradition. Let's not forget the many Greek Americans who claim their roots in my island, like the painter Theodore Stamos, an internationally acclaimed New York pioneer of Abstract Expressionism, who maintained strong connections with the land of his ancestors.

Also, Lefkada was the birthplace of one of the greatest poets in the 20th century, who was nominated for the Nobel Prize for literature in 1949. I am talking about Angelos



LEFT: Xenophon Verginis addressing the Parliament. RIGHT: Dr. Verginis with Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis.

Sikelianos, who with the support of his American wife, Eva Palmer, held the Delphic Festival, as part of his general effort towards the revival of the Delphic Idea. Sikelianos believed that Delphi was the center of the world (like in the ancient times) and that people could reach a higher level of communication and spiritual independence if they cultivate the basic principles of our classic civilization. The Delphic Festival consisted of performances of Ancient Drama, Olympic contests and folk art exhibitions. Edmund Keeley of Princeton translated and published part of his work in the US. Sikelianos' great-grand daughter lives and writes poetry in New York as we speak.

Another great international figure with American connections originating from Lefkada was Lefkadios Hern, poet and author, who immigrated to the US, became a journalist, fought against racism and ended up a university professor in Tokyo, Japan. He managed to revive the interest for the traditional Japanese short stories becoming thus Japan's national poet!

A distinguished member of the American diplomatic and business community, Ambassador Patrick Theros, is also a Lefkadian by ancestry, as is Dr. Theodore Flogaitis, who for years managed one of the biggest New York hospitals. His cousin, Spyros Flogaitis, was recently elected chief judge in matters concerning the United Nations' internal administration.

Bear, also, in mind Scorpis, the island of Aristotle Onassis, that belongs to our prefecture and a very special relation between Lefkada and the Onassis family still holds

strong. Maria Callas sang during our festival at his invitation! Also, the nowadays famous mezzo soprano Agni Baltsa, of protégée of the great Von Karajan, was born in Lefkada.

So, taking into account all those factors and the thousands of Lefkadian born or descending artists, academics, scientists, entrepreneurs and regular folks, who live and prosper in the US, the connections between the US and Lefkada are indeed well founded and very strong.



N: What else has your island to offer to the American visitor?

V: Lefkada is an island full of attractions. Every traveler has the opportunity to discover its natural beauties, when bathing or just marveling at the unique turquoise of the Ionian Sea, breathing at our thyme covered rocks, calming his/her senses at the sight of our hundred years old olive trees, enjoying the unparalleled hospitality of the local people. Even in the remotest of its 60 villages, one can immerse into the special character of Lefkada - a cross point for many cultures -

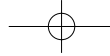
and have an unforgettable experience, which can only be surpassed by the next visit there!

Another unique characteristic of the island is her accessibility. You don't need a boat to go there. You can come by plane at Aktion Airport, which is just 15 minutes away, or just drive into the island, crossing a very small bridge of about 30 meters! If you drive from Athens, for example, you need a little over four hours! There are also state of the art hotel amenities plus more traditional lodgings for those who look for locally flavored experiences.

N: In what ways are you planning to present the case for Lefkada during your visit to the US?

V: First and foremost I have to make clear that I am visiting the US as a member of the Hellenic Parliament. Having that capacity I represent Greece and I make the case for our country as a whole. On the other hand, being from Lefkada and having the honor to represent her people in the Parliament, I am especially beholden in promoting what she has to offer.

During my stay in New York I will seek to meet with key people from the traveling industry, the entrepreneurial community, elected officials, Greek American leaders and of course people from the island. Don't forget that my trip is mostly a fact finding mission, albeit unofficial. Greece and Lefkada are not only about visiting as tourists. They offer unique opportunities for investment and again, not only in the tourism industry, the fishing sector is strong, the olive oil production, wineries etc. ...continued on page 22



Porto Katsiki Beach, chosen the best in Greece for 2006.

One Island at a Time

continued from page 21

N: Although you said your visit is more of a fact finding, exploratory character and not part of a plan for the promotion of your island, do you believe that regions in Greece should start doing that regularly, without always expecting the central government? In other words, take initiatives the same way each individual State from the US does.

V: Well, there is a big difference between Greece and the US, first of all in size. Second, the tradition of central planning is much stronger in Europe. However, there is plenty of space for initiatives by regions or prefectures and some of them have started doing so already. I believe in that and our government does as well. We encourage local authorities into exploring new ways, there are also special funds from the European Union that help them to do so. We live in a competitive world and as someone with great experience in the private sector, I know that we have to be more creative and move towards paths that lead to new opportunities if we want to be successful. I also believe that the state must provide a legal and operational framework that assist the private sector and free enterprise, and not ...replace it!

I am also privileged to belong to a political party, New Democracy, and now a government that traditionally espouses the ideas of free enterprise and close relations with the US on a basis of mutual respect, understanding and benefit. Our Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis, a graduate of Tufts University himself, has managed to steer the country towards a course that not only promises, but already has offered fruits and renewed hope.

N: A message to the Greek American community?

V: Don't forget to cultivate the Greek aspect of your identity. Don't forget the land of your ancestors, the ever embracing mother of you as well. As Hellenes, we belong to a tradition that goes beyond time, frontiers or generations. Diaspora Greeks have always played a significant role in Greece's liberation, expansion, development and conversion to what it is today, a modern, vibrating country, member of the European Union, with many opportunities to offer in every field of endeavor. Keep this noble tradition strong as I am sure you will! ■



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[SPORTS]



Free Spirit Alexi Lalas Kick Starts American Soccer

The Los Angeles Galaxy of Major League Soccer (MLS) lured the most glamorous figure in the sport to play for them when they recently signed David Beckham to a record contract that could amount to \$250 million over its term.

"I want to be part of a country that is passionate about sport," said the 31-year-old midfielder and soccer pinup. "And I've got my academy in LA, which is important to me because that is my life after the game."

The signing was a bold stroke from one of soccer's boldest personalities—now serving as president and general manager of the Galaxy—though Alexi Lalas has toned down his trademark shock of flaming red hair and three-inch goatee.

"For many people the Los Angeles Galaxy is looked upon as the jewel of MLS," said Lalas to BBC Sport. "We play in the best stadium, we have had incredible success over the history of the league and we have had great individual players and great teams. There is a

tradition of excellence."

He said, "Signing players of (Beckham's) stature would be a wonderful step in the right direction, not just for the Galaxy but for soccer in America."

Panayotis Alexander Lalas, 36, is as passionate about soccer in America (as he is about everything else), since he kicked his first soccer ball growing up in Birmingham, Michigan, where his Greek father was his first coach. He led Rutgers to the Final Four in 1989 and the NCAA Men's Soccer Championship in 1990.

He joined the U.S. National Team (and got his first cap) in 1990 playing against Canada, also in the 1992 and 1996 Olympics, before he signed with Padova of the Italian Serie A. He then crossed to America and played for several teams in the MLS, before finishing his playing career with the Galaxy, and joining their front office last April.

A free spirit on and off the field, he has released three albums with his band "The

Gypsies" (he still keeps a guitar in his office and his band once opened for Hootie and the Blowfish) and at the 2006 World Cup he drew international ire for calling Brazilian veteran Ronaldo "fat and slow."

That's because he's fluent in many languages (including Spanish and Italian) and speaks his mind in all of them.

"I shaved up, became a suit and cleaned up - at least on the outside," he says of his erstwhile shoulder-length hair and goatee. "But I'm still as much a mess on the inside as I ever was."

Though he considers himself lucky for spending his life doing what he loves. "The fact is, I live a life where I do the two things I love to do most — soccer and music — and I get paid for it," he says. "That's tremendous. I'm a very lucky person to live this life. In the great scheme of things, I take what I do seriously, but I don't take myself seriously. I don't lose track of what's important. ■■"

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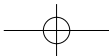
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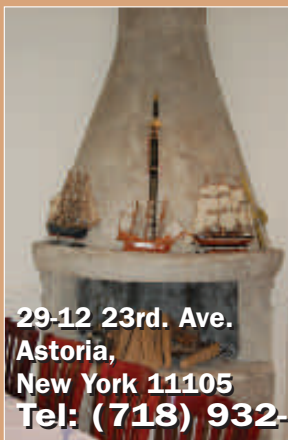
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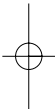
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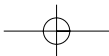
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Fishing

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BY DR. VASSILIKI LAGAROU

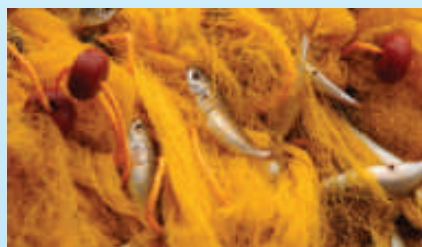
Greece is not just an ideal destination for vacations.

It's also an excellent place for investments, and this overview of the fisheries sector and its European Community financial tools, shows how attractive an opportunity it is for Greek-American businesspeople (and others) considering investing in this dynamic and highly-promising market.

The fisheries sector in Greece is considered to be very important for the economy of the land as far as the field of the primary production is concerned, mainly because of its contribution to the maintenance of the social and economic coherence of major parts of the country (such as the coastal societies not only in the mainland but also in the Aegean and Ionian islands). Greece occupies the largest coastal line within the European Union, which is more than 16,000 km in length, it has 70 lagoons and more than 40 lakes, as well as a huge number of dispersed small islands. Last but not least, the largest urban areas of the country are coastal, which in turn are inhabited by the 90 % of the Greek population.

This important sector includes the sub-sectors: a) of the marine (collective) fisheries b) of the aquaculture and the management of the inland fishing waters c) of the processing and marketing of the fishery and aquaculture products.

The socio-economic importance of the fisheries sector at the national, community and international level is summarized below. Among others the sector:



Ensures that animal proteins of high biological value are provided.

Contributes to the high growth rates observed in the Greek aquaculture and processing enterprises. More specifically, the dynamic sub-sector of the marine aquaculture occupies nowadays the first position in the field of primary production within the European Union countries and is considered to be the second of importance export field in Greece. Consequently, it satisfies on the one hand the high demand of the domestic and community market and decreases on the other hand the negative balance of the Greek trade.

Creates new job positions (of scientific, technical and other work force potential) as well as it provides for additional job positions in other relative fields (e.g. in shipyards etc).

Contributes significantly to the income of the coastal and island population.

Based on data of the year 2004, it is estimated that the working power of the whole fisheries sector reaches approximately 38,000 people and this number gets up to 40,500 people if the occasionally (part time) workers are taken into consideration.

Several years ago and in order to create a modern, sustainable and competitive fish-



TOP: Vassiliki Lagarou with Demetrios Papagiannidis, Special Secretary for the 3rd Community Framework Support. BOTTOM: The Marine Fisheries

eries sector, a number of development measures have been implemented under the authority of the Ministry of Rural Development and Foods (M.R.D.F.) These measures are sponsored to a great extent by EU Funds, mainly by the “Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance” but also partly by the “European Fund for Regional Development”.

The Ministry is implementing and has almost fulfilled the “Operational Program for Fisheries 2000-2006” which is sponsored by the 3rd Community Support Framework. The overall cost of this program is 471,570,925 million Euro, from which 330,234,159 correspond to the public financial expenditure and 141,336,766 to the private contribution. Furthermore, and in the context of the 4th Community Support Framework, the M.R.D.F. has designed the new National Strategic Plan of Development

and intends to launch promptly the new “Operational Program for Fisheries for 2007-2013”.

The “Operational Program for Fisheries 2000-2006” includes six priority axes, which are further subdivided in several measures and actions. A brief overview of the program is presented below:

Axis 1: Adjustment of Fishing Effort

(Measures: Scrapping of fishing vessels, Transfer to a third country/Other reassignment, Joint enterprises).

Axis 2: Fleet Renewal and Modernisation of Fishing Vessels (Measures: Manufacture of fishing vessels, Modernisation of fishing vessels).

Axis 3: Protection and Development of Aquatic Resources, Aquaculture, Fishing Port Facilities, Processing and Marketing and Inland Fishing (Measures: Protection

and development of aquatic resources, Aquaculture, Equipment in fishing ports, Processing and marketing, Inland fishing).

Axis 4: Other Measures

(Measures: Small-scale coastal fishing, Socioeconomic measures, Promotion, Actions which are implemented by the profession, Temporary cessation of activities and other financial compensation, Innovative measures).

Axis 5: Technical Assistance

(Measures: Technical assistance, Studies of saturation and preparation for the 4th programmatic period).

Axis 6: Financial Activities from other Structural Funds

(Measure: Financial activities from the “European Fund for Regional Development”).

Following the EU regulations, the Ministry of Rural Development and Foods defines and approves the legislative framework which determines precisely among others the process of the submission of the applications, the required supporting documents, the criteria and the way of evaluation as well as the process of the payments of the approved investments.

Further information on the implementation of the Program could be found in the Department of Fishery of the competent Prefecture, the Ministry of Rural Development and Foods-General Directorate of Fisheries, the site of the Ministry of Rural Development and Foods: www.minagric.gr, the Managing Authority of the “Operational Program for Fisheries 2000-2006” as well as in the site of the Managing Authority of the “O.P.F. 2000-2006”: www.alicia.gr. ■

Dr. Vassiliki Lagarou, an ichthyologist, is a graduate of the Department of Biology of the University of Patras in Greece, fulfilled her doctoral thesis (PhD) in the Department of Bioinorganic Chemistry and Microbiology of the University of Bielefeld in Germany, and attended further post-graduated studies in the field of Marketing and Management at London School of Economics and Political Sciences in England. She gained a long-term experience in multinational companies in the field of Research and Development as well as that of the Marketing and due to her qualification as ichthyologist serves in the Managing Authority of the “Operational Program for Fisheries 2000-2006” in the Ministry of Rural Development and Foods in Greece.



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[PEOPLE & PLACES] >



LEFT: Nicholas Agrotis, Secretary. Many Argerakis. Peggy Delfinopoulos, Treasurer, Very Rev. Sevastianos Skordallos, Many Caravanos. Georgia Tavliarios-Mouzakis. James Hansel, President. **RIGHT:** Stacy Bliagos & Stavroula Kallos, HABA Executive Administrators. **BELOW:** From left, Peter Krekoukis. James Hansel, HABA's President, Very Rev. Sevastianos Skordallos and Dinos Rallis.

A Greek Banking Tradition

BY DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS

The fact that there is only one coin in every *vassilopitta* isn't the main reason that Hellenic American Bankers Association (HABA) had three cakes to cut at this year's annual ceremony that took place at the Atrium of the Olympic Tower, marking the beginning of the 2007 cycle of activities.

It was the number of people expected that explains the number of *vassilopittas* and the fact that it really took some time for Very Rev. Sevastianos Skordallos to cut a piece for everybody, after officiating at the traditional ceremony in honor of St. Basil, one of the Church fathers and a great benefactor of the poor.

"This is a very traditional event for HABA," explained James C. Hansel, the president, during an interview with NEO. "This event is very much what HABA is about, which is to bring Greek Americans in the financial services industry together so they get a chance to meet."

"It's amazing what that kind of connection can do for the Greek Americans as a group and for all of us individually," he continued. "You never know, in one of these events you might meet your future spouse, you might meet a future business partner, or business connection or somebody that could lead you to a job."

About 200 members, and an additional mailing list of about 1,000, comprise this organization of Greek American professionals in the banking and finance sectors,

founded a quarter of a century ago.

Said Hansel, "We define financial services very inclusively. If you are a lawyer and you are involved in any kind of financing businesses or mortgages, you are in. If you are in the insurance business, you are in, you are a broker, you are in, investment banker, a lending officer or even an assisting person at a bank or any other kind of financial institution. We are very open to people involved in the industry."



However, this is not the only, or even the main reason, that Hansel says people join the organization. "There is also a very important aspect being Greek, which is to be part of the Greek community and to know other Greeks and network with other Greeks because we share a lot of common values, we share a lot of education, a lot of discourse, a lot of progress and there are things that when we get together and we meet we can often benefit one another without any cost."

Another aspect of HABA's activities is to host lectures with very well-known presenters on various topics. Hansel, managing director of Eight Winds Capital

Management, set a very high standard for his tenure by inviting last fall James Chanos, of the Kynikos Associates, the man credited with foreseeing the Wall Street plunge of a few years ago. HABA's major annual event for this year, scheduled to take place in April, will honor John Calamos, CEO of Calamos Investments.

Asked how, a very busy man like himself got to be involved with HABA, James Hansel explained that all started in the '80s when he substituted for his boss at a university course he was giving. "My mother is Greek and I don't have a Greek last name, so I'm sort of a crypto-Greek," he joked. "You only know I'm Greek if I tell you. So when I did the roll call in the class, I saw a couple of Greek last names and I guess I pronounced them pretty well, so at the end the two people, they were husband and wife, came up to me and said, what, are you Greek, nobody can pronounce our names. And I said, yes I'm Greek, and they said well, you should join HABA. And that's how I got involved."

He had served as treasurer and president before, and after an absence of a few years he's back again as president. "We will continue trying to bring in more people and stay very close to our core mission to make sure the Greek Americans in this industry know each other," he stated as his major goal.

He also invited everybody to check HABA's website--www.haba.org "We recently rebuilt it so it's much easier for us to keep it up to date and that's a very good source of information." ■



PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

LEFT: First row, from right, are Archbishop Demetrios, Consul of Greece Sophia Veve, Professor Asher Matathias and Metropolitan Paisios. **RIGHT:** Keynote speaker Asher Matathias.

Association of Nomos Magnisias, "Argonauts" Honors Greek Jews of Volos

Dr. Asher Matathias spoke and sang and recited from the Hebrew as he recounted his tale of survival as a Greek Jew in German-occupied Greece to an audience that included Archbishop Demetrios. They were gathered for a special Holocaust memorial organized recently by the *Sylogos Nomou Magnisias "Argonauts"* at the Stathakeion Cultural Center in Astoria.

"This emotion-packed event is more meaningful because my mother, Nina is here," said Prof. Matathias, a political science professor at St. John's University and a renowned author and lecturer. "She is a true heroine of our times."

Prof. Matathias was born in Volos in a cave while his family hid from the Germans. He survived with the help of his fellow Greeks, while several members of his family perished before he was able to immigrate to America. His wife Anna is also from Volos.

"When you save a life, you save the world," said Prof. Matathias. "I wanted to give my presentations mostly in Greek. We are Greeks and have lived in Greece since the first century A. D. Our family is Romaniote Greeks and Sephardic-Spanish Jews who fled to Greece during the Inquisition of the

Middle Ages."

The evening was sponsored by the Argonauts Association and the **Consul General of Greece in New York**. Argonauts president Apostolis Zoupaniotis introduced Dr. Matathias and addressed the theme of the evening: "The Jews of Greece: A long history with a future...and the brave actions of Greek Christians, who, risking their lives, protected and saved Jewish families, during the German Occupation of Greece".

The Greek Press Office presented the documentary, "It Was Nothing--It was Everything": Reflections on the Rescue of Jewish Fugitives in Greece During the Holocaust" and **Vasilios Tentolouris** of Mediterranean Foods presented special *vasilopitas* for the occasion.

Besides His Eminence Demetrios, the distinguished guests included the **Very Rev. Robert Stephanopoulos; Rev. Apostolos Koufallakis; Assemblyman Michael Gianaris; Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney; John Catsimatidis**, chairman of the 2007 Greek Parade Committee; **Dino Rallis**, of the Federation of Greek Societies; and **Sophia Veve**, representing the consulate in New York.

DIMITRI C. MICHALAKIS

Marathon Bank In Brooklyn and Staten Island

Marathon Bank, in its effort to come as close to the Greek American community as possible, opened recently two brand new branches, one in Brooklyn (399 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, tel: 718.522-7005) and one in Staten Island (1200 Forest Avenue Staten Island, tel: 718.727-5670.) One more is in the offing,



New Marathon Bank located on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn

this time in Manhasset, Long Island, where an impressive nucleus of Greek Americans with an expanding attitude has managed to make its presence felt in real estate and other business. After Atlantic Bank was sold, Marathon is the only community bank that has remained in Greek hands as a



New Marathon Bank located in Staten Island

subsidiary of Piraeus Bank of Greece, one of the biggest in Europe. Besides all the benefits that this relationship entails, especially to those who do transactions between the US and Greece, Marathon plays an active role in the community itself, by helping local organizations, sponsoring cultural and educational events and supporting local artists. ■

[PEOPLE & PLACES] >

International Celebration Honoring Greece: Port Discovery, Baltimore

BY GEORGIA VAVAS

On Saturday, December 30, 2006, Port Discovery hosted the 8th Annual Noontime New Year celebration enabling families with young children to ring in the New Year together in an environment that fosters cultural awareness and promotes a sense of community.

The country of Greece was selected as the honored nation at the Noontime New Year and was represented through traditional Greek dance and musical performances, hands-on activities and scavenger hunts that educated children on ancient Greek mythology and literature and more!

Through generous contributions from the Greek-American community, this event was FREE to all guests, enabling the Museum to reach out to Baltimore's citizens, who normally couldn't afford to visit and experience Port Discovery.

Without the dedicated support, guidance and wisdom of several members of the Greek-American community, this cultural event would not have been possible. Through all their efforts, 2,600 people were granted free admission to the Museum. The following individuals helped pave the way for the Noontime New Year 2007: An International Celebration honoring Greece:



Leslie Borenstein, Zoe Kosmidou from the Greek Embassy, Bryn Parchman and Steve Mavronis



Father Lou Noplos, Bryn Parchman, President and CEO of Port Discovery, Senator & Mrs. Paul Sarbanes, Georgia Vavas, Gayle Economos, Bob Heck, Father Dean Moralis and Aris Melissaratos.



Georgia Vavas, Nora Moynihan, Leslie Borenstein



Bob Heck, Aris Melissaratos, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sarbanes and Father Lou Noplos at the New Years Countdown.



Antonios Nicolaidis and Tony Minadakis played traditional island music on the lyra, tsambouna and lauto.



Diane Homberg, Elizabeth Weiblen, Gayle Economos, Georgia Vavas at the Sister City of Piraeus Postcard Project



Steve Mavronis, Bob Heck, Senator Paul Sarbanes with Irene, Vasili and Nicholas Kazakos, Aris Melissaratos

Event Chair - Aris Melissaratos, Secretary for the Department of Business and Economic Development
 Event Honorary Chair – Senator Paul Sarbanes
 Steering Committee
 Father Manuel Burdusi, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
 Dennis Castleman, Assistant Secretary for the Department of Business and Economic Development
 Gayle V. Economos – GVE Media/Public Relations, LLC
 Diane Homberg, Baltimore-Piraeus Sister City Committee
 Dr. Zoe Kosmidou, Cultural Counselor for the Greek Embassy

George Moniodis, AHEPA, Lord Baltimore Chapter 364
 Very Reverend Archimandrite Constantine Moralis, Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation
 Steve G. Mavronis, Chair, Greek Independence Day Mid-Atlantic Parade, President, AHEPA, Lord Baltimore Chapter 364
 Father Lou Noplos, St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
 Georgia Vavas, Baltimore-Piraeus Sister City Committee

The after school activities at Port Discovery featuring Greece will continue for the remainder of 2007. ■

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[PERIXSCOPE] >

Marianna Vardinoyannis at Versailles

UNESCO's international Good Will Ambassador, Marianna Vardinoyannis, was the official guest, representing Greece, of Mme. Anne Aymone Giscard d'Estaing at the 14th annual banquet of the latter's charity **Foundation for the Child (Fondation pour l'Enfance)**, held recently at Versailles Palace, with former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing attending, among others.

This organization's goal is to protect children from all forms of violence. The event started with the grand dame of jazz, soprano Grace Bumbry, continued with Dee Dee Bridgewater and the Gospel Dream Group, and concluded with an official banquet in honor of the guests.

Among the dignitaries were Former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, H.M. Farah Pahlavi, Princess Astrid of Belgium with her husband Prince Lorenz, Princess Isabelle of Lichtenstein with her son Prince Wenzeslaus, Princess Ekaterina of Yugoslavia, Count and Countess Jean-Francois de Clermont-Tonnerre, President of Versailles Mme. Christine Albanel, fashion designer Jean-Louis Sherrer, Mr. Nikos Vardinoyannis, Mrs. Alexia Antsakle, President of Chaumot Thierry Fritsch with his wife, Lord Michel Cavendish, entrepreneur John Whittaker, journalist Stephane Bern, Member of the European Parliament Rode Kratsa, Mrs Helena Lyberi, Mrs. Helena Samara-Konstantakatou etc.

Marianna Vardinoyannis, who was recently awarded the French Republic's Star of the Legion of Honour – France's highest - has been internationally known for her work through various charitable organizations with the aim to help children. Since October 1999, when she was appointed UNESCO Good Will Ambassador in the field of the Protection of Children, she has co-operated on several projects. In Athens, she is also founding member and President of the Friends' Association of Children with Cancer "ELPIDA" (Hope, in Greek.)

"The International Night for the Child," as the event at Versailles is officially known, was the 14th since the Foundation's of the Child inception, under the leadership of Mme. Anne Aymone Giscard d'Estaing, wife of the former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing who is currently in charge of drafting United Europe's first constitution.

DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS

36 NEO magazine :: Feb 2007



From left, Marianna Vardinoyannis, Mme Anne Aymone Giscard d'Estaing, H.M. Farah Pahlavi and H.H. Ekaterina of Yugoslavia.



Former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Princess Astrid of Belgium, US Ambassador in Paris Craig Roberts Stapleton and Mrs. Marianna Vardinoyannis.



Marianna Vardinoyannis (center), Princess Victoria of Sweden (right) and Princess Ekaterina of Yugoslavia.



From left, Rode Kratsa, Helena Lyberi and Helena Samara-Konstantakatou. Nikos Vardinoyannis and Mrs. Alexia Antsakle.

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Because the most beautiful game is life itself.



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Social Responsibility Program

frappe EVERYDAY

BY DANIEL YOUNG

Some look at a glass of frappé and see only a mixture of instant coffee, sugar, water, and ice. Authors Vivian Constantinopoulos and Daniel Young in their new book *frappé nation* take a close look at the same glass and see a symbol of idyllic summers in Greece.

"The frappé," they write, "is not merely a morning pick-me-up, an afternoon break, or a wet, cold answer to the dry, hot summer. The distinctive iced coffee lifts moods, stimulates conversation, announces your connection to a lifestyle unique to Greece, and connects you to it when you're away. Frappé is nothing less than a

modern Greek elixir."

The frappé phenomenon is extensively explored and vibrantly celebrated in *frappé nation*, a new, bilingual, illustrated and hardcover book from Editions Potamos. The book was launched at The Atrium Cafe in Manhattan's Olympic Tower, which serves the best, most authentic, creamiest frappé in midtown and co-hosted the launch with The Hellenic Museums Shop, also located in the Olympic Tower atrium, and where the book is sold.

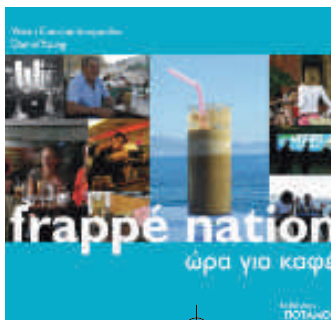
"The traditional brew," write the authors, "is commonly described as 'Greek' originated in the Middle East, is consumed throughout the Near and Middle East, and is widely known as 'Turkish,' as it was in Greece until the 1970s.

But frappé, as recognized and adored in Greece, is a Greek-born and primarily Greek phenomenon inseparable from the country's climate, character, and way of life."

frappé nation is an illustrated travelogue of the Hellenic café landscape, spotlighting cafés and frappé drinkers in New York, Chicago, London, Los Angeles, Montreal, Melbourne, and beyond. Interspersed throughout the text are boxes profiling distinctive coffee houses, with snapshots and anecdotes of the characters who make these places so special.

Learn more about the book and meet "frappé nationals" at www.frappenation.com

Bottom left *frappe nation* authors Vivian Constantinopoulos and Daniel Young.





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