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Vicki Liviakis

Anchors the news
in San Francisco

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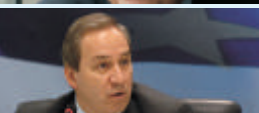


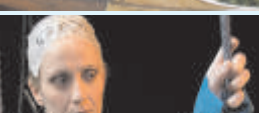




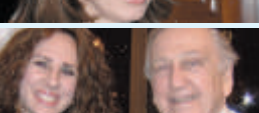


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FROM THE EDITOR

The Olympias sails again

Tom Dellis has all the enthusiasm in the world and most recently in his Astoria home (with months, if not years, of correspondence spread on the table before him) he was percolating over an ambition that is certainly breathtaking and will stand New York and America on its ear: to bring the replica of the ancient Athenian trireme Olympias to New York from Greece and sail it across the harbor to the Statue of Liberty.

"Can you imagine something like that?" he gushes. "Can you imagine what that would mean?"

It would be hard to imagine without the enthusiasm of Tom Dellis in New York and the nautical buffs of the Trireme Trust USA here in America and Britain, who have kept the dream alive since the ship was built in 1989 for the Hellenic Navy. The Olympias did sail in Greece and did sail down the Thames River in 1993 during the worldwide celebration of Democracy 2500. But the ship is now in disrepair and it will take a Herculean effort to restore it and ship it to America—though Tom Dellis and the gentlemen of the Trireme Trust never say die.

But having it come to America would be a dream come true not just for Dellis and his transatlantic shipmates, but a reminder also to the rest of us of just exactly what the Olympias represents.

As we celebrate this month the anniversary of Greek liberation, we might also remember back thousands of years to that dark night in the straits of Salamis where the gamble of Themistocles and the Athenians paid off and the little fleet of all those newly-minted triremes like the Olympias stopped the Persian horde from conquering Greece and also saved the flickering candle of a new idea called democracy.

The modern world and its concept of freedom was literally snatched from peril that night by the sails and timbers of those little ships and the sweat and blood of the oarsmen that crewed them below decks. We came this close to plunging back into Oriental servitude and seeing the flame of liberty snuffed out perhaps for centuries more, perhaps forever, and it was the tiny ships like the Olympias that did it.

So I'm sure she'll look quaint if she sails across New York harbor, with the skyline of Manhattan looming over it, the Statue of Liberty staring it down like the Colossus of Rhodes, and the hulls of all those modern cruise ships making it look as insignificant as a bobbing cork (the Olympias is no bigger than their average buffet table).

But the little ship deserves to sail the waters of New York harbor and deserves all the tribute of this new world. Because it was the prowess of the triremes on that fateful night that saved our civilization and made possible the modern marvel of democracy that is America.

Dimitri C. Michalakis

NEO

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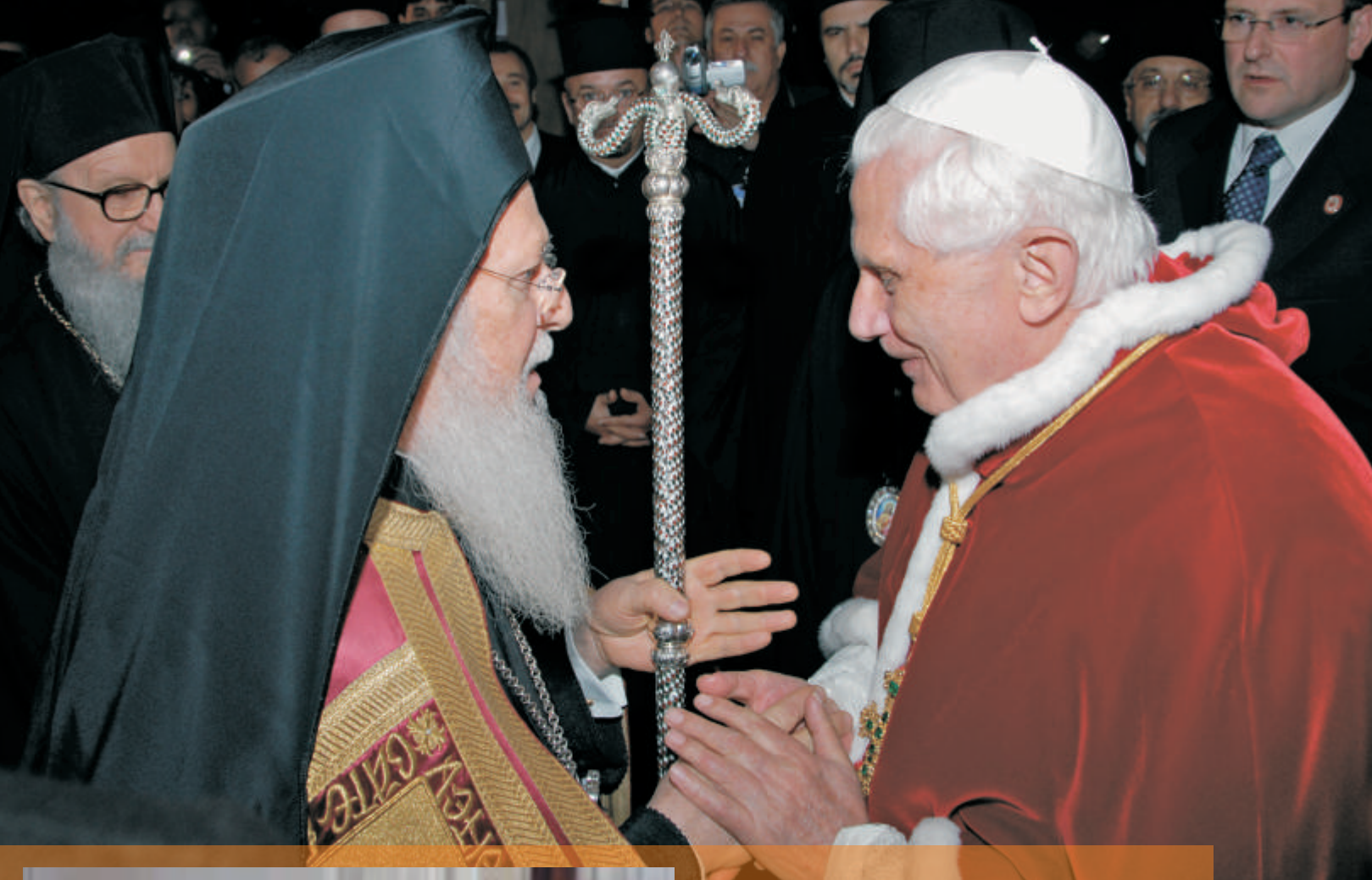
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The myth of Greece is alive for Americans

Half a million Americans are expected to visit Greece this year, according to George Tambakis, director of the Hellenic National Tourism Organization's North American office, a number that will constitute a 35% increase from last year's arrivals that reached 400,000, also breaking a previous record. Tambakis' optimism is based on the positive image that Greece managed to build after the 2004 Olympics and in the new direct flights scheduled to start before this summer by Continental and US Air, in addition to Olympic Airlines – Greece's flag carrier with more than four decades experience in crossing the Atlantic – and Delta.

Speaking to journalists after he inaugurated this year's New York Times Tourism Expo at Javits Center, with Greece as the theme country, Tambakis went even further by asserting that with good planning and the right strategy, Greece will soon be in position to attract more than two million Americans annually! It is estimated that the average American tourist in Greece spends five times more than his European counterpart. A total of 16 million visitors arrived in the country – with a population of 11 million – last year, an all time high.

Thirty six companies that deal with traveling and its multiple services comprised the impressive Greek Pavillion with its warm colors and the futuristic design, having "Greece: Explore your

senses" as its main banner. The York Times Tourism Expo, one of the most prestigious, attracts throngs of visitors despite the fact that a \$15 entrance fee per person is required. During the exposition, Rosemary Barron, author of "Flavors of Greece" and upscale restaurateur Kostas Speliades showcased Greek recipes under the title "Greece: Authentic cuisine is the soul of a culture." The Hellenic American Ballet Theater, with Olympic Gold Medal winner in gymnastics Irene Aidinli as guest star, presented a program in modern dance. Another piece of news that seems to favor Greece is this year's statement issued jointly by the Federation of Greek Industries (SEV) and the Association of Greek Tourist Enterprises (SETE), according to which Greece is third in the world in general hygiene, 18th in security and 23rd in cultural resources (23rd). These are strengthened by the positive attitude of Greeks toward tourists (23rd) and the priority of tourism for the government (22nd). In tourism competitiveness, however, Greece is 24th among 124 countries and lags behind Spain (15th), Cyprus (20th) and Portugal (22nd). Behind Greece are Croatia (38th), Turkey (52nd) and Egypt (58th).



AHI Executive Director Meets With U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to monitor the status of freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief, as defined in the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related international instruments, and to give independent policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State and the Congress.

Commissioners who participated were Felice Gaer, USCIRF Chair, and Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou, USCIRF Vice Chair. Commission staff members also participated; they included, Joseph Crapa, Executive Director, Tad Stahnke, Deputy Director for Policy, and Patricia Carley, Associate Director for Policy.

Also joining Larigakis, via conference phone, to provide supporting testimony was journalist,

Harry Moskos, of Albuquerque, NM, who was reporting from Istanbul during the time of the Pope's visit.

"The session lasted for ninety minutes and the questions asked were direct and significant. I very much welcomed the opportunity to present my observations before this esteemed group regarding the mistreatment that we received as Americans and to also further highlight the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the problems he faces in Turkey today," said Larigakis. "I want to also especially thank Commissioner Prodromou for facilitating this discussion with the Commission," continued Larigakis.

In his concluding comments to the Commission, Larigakis explained that he urged the Commission "to recommend that Turkey be designated as a 'Country of Particular Concern' under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998."

AHI Executive Director, Nick Larigakis, was invited to meet with the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) regarding his eyewitness account of the mistreatment of American citizens, as well as Greek Orthodox Christians of Turkey, by that country's officials during the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Istanbul, Turkey to meet with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. The invitation from the Commission stemmed from Larigakis' letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice of December 18, 2006, whereby he addresses this issue.

The USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan U.S. government agency that was created by the



Aris Melissaratos Joins JHU in Business Development Role

*Former DBED secretary
will strengthen
university-corporate links*

Aris Melissaratos, former secretary of Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development, will join The Johns Hopkins University as special adviser to the president for enterprise development.

Melissaratos, a 1966 Johns Hopkins graduate and longtime member of the Whiting School of Engineering's National Advisory Council, will have overall responsibility for building the university's relationship with business and forging new connections between the research and corporate communities. He begins his new job on March 1.

Specific assignments will include supervision of Johns Hopkins Technology Transfer, the office that links university researchers and businesses interested in commercializing their inventions. Melissaratos also will market opportunities for businesses to locate at Johns Hopkins-related research parks such as the Montgomery County Campus, the nearby Belward Research Campus and the Science + Technology Park at Johns Hopkins, now under construction as part of the comprehensive New EastSide redevelopment in East Baltimore.

"Aris' background, skills and accomplishments make him the perfect choice to serve as the university's point person for creating new linkages between Johns Hopkins and business," said university President William R. Brody, to whom Melissaratos will report.

Melissaratos, 63, who served as secretary of DBED for four years until last month, was widely viewed as highly effective in marketing Maryland as a location for businesses ranging from life science and technology corporations to manufacturing and retail concerns. He said he expects to find a "lot of synergy between what I did and what I will be doing" promoting Johns Hopkins as a partner to business.

"Johns Hopkins is a global institution with a global reach and a reputation that is truly global," Melissaratos said. "Its intellectual property assets, however, have not been fully appreciated. This is an exciting opportunity to help both maintain the university's traditional research focus and enhance commercialization and entrepreneurial initiatives."

Melissaratos, whose undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins is in electrical engineering, spent most of his career with Westinghouse Electronics in Baltimore, eventually becoming vice president of science and technology and chief technology officer at corporate headquarters in Pittsburgh. Before joining state government in 2003, he also served as vice president of Thermo Electron Corp. and founded Armel Private Equity Investments.

He was a founding co-chair of the Greater Baltimore Technology Council and is a former vice president of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce. He holds a master's degree in engineering management from George Washington University and did graduate work in international politics at Catholic University of America. Melissaratos also completed a program for management development at Harvard Business School.

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Minister of Economy and Finance
George Alogoskoufis



PHOTOS: Nick Apostolopoulos

Investing in Greece:

A Serious Trend

By DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS

In 2006, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Greece reached 4.3 billion euros, which was eight times higher than 2005. Corporate tax rates were lowered from 35% to 25%, and the tax system in general has been simplified. The new investment law introduced considerable incentives (state subsidies of up to 60%). At the same time, Greece has succeeded in eliminating its fiscal deficit from 7.8 of GDP in 2004 to 2.6 in 2006 and the growth rate reached 4.3% in 2006 from 3.7% in 2005. Unemployment fell to 8.3% during the third quarter of 2006 from 11.3% in the first quarter of 2004.

This is good news and “significant motives for the Greek Americans to keep in mind when considering investing in Greece,” according to Minister of Economy and Finance George Alogoskoufis in an exclusive interview with NEO. To all that should be added Greece’s role as “the business and financial hub of Southeastern Europe - an area with 140 million inhabitants,” where an extensive network of more than 3,500 Greek business – outside the country’s borders – are already thriving and they are able to provide an extensive network to those who would consider investing in the area. “Greek companies have invested more than 12 billion euros in Southeastern Europe,” Alogoskoufis pointed out, only to add that US, too, “is a prime market for the promotion of our exports.”

George Alogoskoufis, a father of three, served as advisor to the European Commission (1989-1990), advisor to the World Bank (1991-1992) and to other international economic organizations. He has been a Research Fellow at the Centre for Labour Economics at the London School of Economics (1981-82) and at the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London (1985-2001). His PhD. thesis was awarded the Sayers Prize of the London University for 1981. He is also a Professor of Economics at the Athens University of Economics and Business since 1990 and was Lecturer and Reader at the University of London from 1984 to 1992. As Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors at the Ministry of National Economy (1992-1993,) he was responsible for the drafting of the First Convergence Program for the Greek Economy. In 1996 he was elected a member of the Hellenic Parliament with the now ruling New Democracy Party (conservative.) He has written four books and published over 40 articles in the most prestigious international academic journals. His book *The Drachma: From the Phoenix to the Euro* was awarded, in December 2002, the annual Prize of the Academy of Athens.

N: Americans who have tried in the past to invest in Greece have complained of the rigid bureaucracy and other impediments that made them think twice before trying again. What has your government done to address these well-documented concerns?

A: In the past, many of the issues concerning foreign investors- including Americans- who wanted to invest in Greece, had to do with certain obscurities of the institutional framework that created additional uncertainty. We have tackled those problems, concerning the tax system as well as the physical planning sector given that as issues of land use have been the most common obstacles to potential investors. We have already, cleared the way for two major investments, one in Crete and the other in Messenia. Important investment opportunities are rising in Greece. On my part, I can assure all interested investors that we are fully committed in resolving the problems of the past and welcome foreign investors.

N: What is the feedback from all the measures you have implemented? Are there any signs that the climate is changing?

A: Putting the public finances back in order and the improvement of the economy’s competitiveness, so that development, employment and social cohesion could be strengthened, were the basic goals of our administration. With the wide reform agenda and

the fiscal adjustment policy that we are implementing, we are achieving our goals. Greece succeeded in eliminating its fiscal deficit by five points in the last two years, from 7.8 of GDP in 2004 to 2.6 in 2006. At the same time, we achieved a high rate of growth and a significant decrease in unemployment. The growth rate reached 4.3% in 2006 from 3.7% in 2005. Unemployment fell to 8.3% during the third quarter of 2006 from 11.3% in the first quarter of 2004. Greece’s competitiveness is improving. According to the Institute for Management Development, Greece climbed up 8 positions on the world competitiveness scale. This improvement is also reflected in Greece’s exports policy success. Exports increased by 13.1% in 2005 and by 18% in 2006. At the same time the business climate in Greece has followed a continuous upward trend since 2005 and the country is attracting foreign direct investment again. In 2006, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) reached 4.3 billion euros which was eight times higher than 2005. That’s 2 percent of GDP and is a result of reforms that were introduced in order to create a favourable investment climate. Last but not least, Greece serves as the gateway to the rapidly growing region of Southeastern Europe.

N: On January 1st of this year, Romania and Bulgaria, two more countries in the Southeastern Europe, officially entered the European Union, following their acceptance in the NATO a few years ago. This terminates Greece’s “monopoly” of

being the only country in the area that belonged to those coveted groups. How is the new reality going to affect Greece and its leading role as a haven of stability and development in the wider Southeastern area of Europe?

A: Greece is the business and financial hub of Southeastern Europe - an area with 140 million inhabitants. Our government encourages Greek investment to neighboring countries and over the last decade, Greek companies have invested more than 12 billion euros in Southeastern Europe thus contributing to its development. In addition, today more than 3,600 Greek companies and 1,000 Greek banking offices operate in the Balkans, outside Greek borders. At the same time, we are constantly strengthening our political ties with the countries in the region and support their bid to enter the European Union, providing that they respect the E.U. requirements. We supported wholeheartedly the accession of Romania and Bulgaria in the European Union and I am confident that this development will strengthen the cooperation and development in the region. Let me also note that the share of Greek banks in the Romanian and Bulgarian banking markets exceeds 15%. Greece is no longer an isolated economy in the Southeast border of Europe. It is at the centre of a wider region that could become the success story of the next twenty years.

N: With two more countries of the area in the EU, with a very competitive labor force in almost all the

George Alogoskoufis with Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis



PHOTOS: Nick Apostolopoulos



Walking on Wall Street

neighboring countries, plus very welcoming legislation to foreign investment in these countries, even with a willingness to completely bypass the rules in some cases—in such a competitive market, why should investors still prefer Greece as a place to invest?

A: Greece enjoys an advanced infrastructure, a high level of know-how, increased productivity and a highly skilled work force. At the same time, being the only country of the area in the Eurozone, she has the advantage of macroeconomic and monetary stability. Thus, by investing in Greece, one gains access to a dynamic network of Greek companies that are already active in the wider region. Greece serves today as the gateway to the Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.

N: In addition to the special connection for Greeks abroad to the land of their ancestors, and in addition to the new investment benefits in Greece that you mentioned before, what other reasons are there for Greek Americans to invest in Greece?

A: By lowering corporate tax rates from 35% to 25%, and through the simplification of the tax system we have managed to create an attractive investment environment. Besides, the new investment law introduced considerable incentives (state subsidies of up to 60%). These are significant motives for the Greek Americans to keep in mind when considering investing in Greece.

N: What is your opinion about the Greek-American economic and trade relations?

A: The strategic relationship between Greece and the US was always a close one and we share, in many cases, mutual goals. This naturally helps the

bilateral economic and entrepreneurial cooperation: for Greece, the US is a prime market for the promotion of its exports. The Ministry of Economy and Finance, through OPE (Hellenic Foreign Trade Board), is implementing an integrated plan for the promotion of our products in the American market. In 2007, OPE will take part in five international shows in the US, involving more than 120 Greek companies, while three business delegations to New York have already been planned. In June, our Ministry in collaboration with OPE will invite 50 major buyers and distributors in the construction, food and wine sectors and introduce them to the Greek products and the possibilities of further entrepreneurial cooperation.

N: The recent terrorist attack at the American Embassy in Athens sent shivers through all of us, as bad memories of the past resurfaced rapidly, threatening to undo the image of security that the country had very painfully managed to build up,

especially after Greece's successful hosting of the Olympic Games. Although security is not your turf, as a senior member of the government, with the information that you have, what's your assessment of the security situation in the country?

A: Greece is a safe country and has organized very successful Olympic Games in a period of elevated geopolitical risks. The recent attack against the American Embassy was condemned by all political parties. It was an act against Greek interests which failed to damage Hellenic-American relations.

N: Is there a personal message that you would like to convey to Americans of Hellenic extraction?

A: I would like to convey to our fellow Greeks in America a message of appreciation and respect both for what they have achieved and for their commitment in supporting Greece's interests. The achievements of the Greek community in the States, makes us all very proud.



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San Francisco TV Anchor Vicki Liviakis: Keeping it Cool

By Dimitri C. Michalakis



There was the time Vicki Liviakis was a college correspondent and she was invited to the White House to interview President Gerald Ford after his State of the Union speech.

"Afterwards I was invited to a party, like a cocktail party," remembers the bubbly San Francisco news anchor. "And I wandered into another room, which had a much more private party, and I didn't have the right credentials. And so I was removed—for being in places I shouldn't be. I was removed by the Secret Service and taken down to the basement to answer a bunch of questions—because they had the Squeaky Fromme incident and they were a little nervous about things like that. But I was pretty harmless, really," she laughs with a typical belly laugh.

And her journalism career didn't stop there. She once riled the Hell's Angels enough when she covered them that the government warned her about a possible death threat.

"I interviewed the leader at the time and there was some murder that had taken place of a young mother and her child—I guess it was Oregon—and

he asked me point blank if I was cooperating with the authorities," she remembers. "I said, no, no, no. But I happened to know right at the moment that there was a bust taking place at one of the gang's meth labs and I was a little nervous about it. Anyway, we did the piece and there was no problem. But we were doing a follow-up piece and apparently there is some law among the group that you get just one hit on them and that's it."

An AFT agent warned her that they had seen her name and address held up by a magnet on the gang leader's refrigerator. "It was a calendar with my name and address on it that they saw after they busted the house," she recalls. "And the AFT people contacted me and said your name and address is on a calendar of a notorious person with a violent past. And you should be careful."

Was she? "I like to live dangerously," she admits. "I've jumped out of an airplane, and almost snapped my foot off and it didn't turn out very well, but I'm used to doing dangerous things."

In fact, the attractive divorcee (she has a son, Michael, 22, who graduated Oxford and works for

a non-profit in the UK—"He's having too good a time; we have to get him home") has made a career out of pursuing the dangerous story. And though a California radio and television fixture, she's also been all over the world chasing the good lead (and even worked for the Travel Channel).

There was the story about the opium trade in Afghanistan, and then there was the one about the Olympic Truce movement at the Athens Olympics—which was true to the ancient ideals and trying to keep the game's participants from ceasing hostilities off the field during the course of the games.

"They were trying to take that ancient ideal and get those guarantees from the Palestinians and the Israelis," she says. "They were going around the world to get countries to sign off on an Olympic truce during the games."

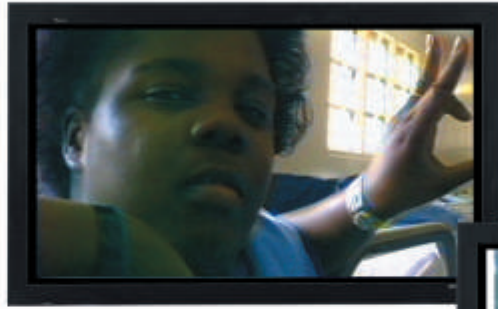
Unfortunately, there were holdouts. "Actually, sadly, one of the holdouts was George Bush," she says, and then she laughs. "But, ultimately," she continues, "the games were beautiful. And I was obviously filled with great pride because after all

the fear-mongering about terrorism, the games went off without a hitch and people were safe and it was just a beautiful, beautiful event." (She's been to Greece several times and has family in Chania, Corinth, Kalamata and Athens.)

Liviakis herself was born in Sacramento and got into television from the start. "I like to say my dad Michael was in television," she says, and then laughs: "He had two TV repair shops!" She laughs again. "And we had a TV in every room!"

She got her start in journalism at the University of California at Berkeley by doing cable TV, then got the bug for Europe and worked as a photographer, before she came back and a friend engineered a demo tape for her "and I got a job on the air based on my tape."

That was at KFRC, a legendary rock-and-roll station, and she admits she rocked with the best: "My morning show was popular. But it had horrible hours because I insisted on living the whole rocker lifestyle! Showing up at three in the morning to work—I wanted to have it all."



She became news director, and the station won several national awards (they had John Lennon's last interview only hours before he was shot) before the format changed and she says, "I just decided to walk. I was asked to stay but I just lost my heart for it." She was there almost seven years.

And then a friend contacted her about a job on television, and she made another tape with the help of a friend "and I guess it wowed them, and I ended up being hired to host the show called The West, a highly-regarded newsmagazine."

The rest is television history. She's been the anchor at KRON San Francisco since 2001, but true to form, she's never stopped pursuing "dangerous things" out in the field. There was the notorious El Serrano girl street gang that she once covered for a week.

"We shot the only video I know of that exists, maybe even now, of what's called a 'jump-in,' where they initiate members and it's kind of a violent thing," she says. "We shot that and one of the girls being initiated got bloodied during the event. Her mother saw it back in Phoenix and it

turns out she didn't even know her daughter was in a gang--that's how she found out."

And Liviakis almost got in the middle of a gang shootout. "The boys' gang showed up for a showdown," she recalls. "We were supposed to film the 'jump-in' and they came with their semi-automatics and the undercover cop working with us informed me, 'When the bullets start flying, if you are on the sidewalk, get behind the tree, if you're in the dirt, just hit the ground.' And I'm like, when the bullets come flying? With the cops and the gangs, I knew if anybody made a false move I'd end up a pincushion!"

So how did she feel?

"I just have to keep it cool," she says.



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Triremes were the predominant warship during the Golden Age of Greece, including the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars. It was a fleet of triremes dubbed Themistocles' folly that saved Greece from the invading armada of Persians during the decisive battle of Salamis.

But a trireme in New York harbor?

No trireme had been seen on the sea in 1500 years, until a group of British bankers and nautical historians working with the Hellenic Navy in 1987 built and launched a replica of the ancient ship they dubbed the *Olympias*. It had a number of sea trials in Greece, and even sailed down England's Thames River.

And now the *Olympias* might be coming to New York, perhaps this year. The Trireme Trust USA, together with Greek organization such as the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York and private individuals like Tom Dellis, are proposing to bring the *Olympias* to New York in 2007 and sail it to the Statue of Liberty.

"*Olympias* is a remarkable vessel and ship repairs conducted openly would provide a great educational experience for the public," says the Trust.

Plans are to "ship" the vessel from Greece and make it seaworthy at the landmark Brooklyn Navy Yard. Then cadets of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point would be trained to crew and after a week of training would row it the 18 miles from Kings Point to a berth in lower Manhattan. From there the ancient ship would make its maiden voyage in the new world by rowing to Liberty Island and around the Statue of Liberty and back.

"The visit of *Olympias* would complement efforts to focus attention in New York City on democracy

and ancient Greece in 2007," says the Trust. "A visit by *Olympias*, based in lower Manhattan, would be the crowning event of the year."

Talks are still underway, but the Greek government is amenable, and the trireme might be coming to New York before the summer.

The word *trireme* is an English word derived from the Latin *triremis*, which is Latin for *trieris*, a Greek word meaning "three-er." It could mean three men to an oar, or three oars to a group, or three superimposed banks of oars.

No ancient triremes have ever been found because they did not sink—they were towed off by the opposition and re-used. So nautical historians had to reconstruct the dimensions of the ship from historical records and artistic depictions, together with any archaeological evidence.

The shipsheds at Zea yielded clues about its maximum dimensions. Sunken merchant vessels showed how the hull was built. Xenophon talks of a "long day's row" covering 140 miles and it gives some idea of its speed.



Olympias itself is a reconstruction of an Athenian trireme of the 5th and 4th centuries BC, built in Greece to a design worked out by John Coates, a naval architect, taking into consideration ancient evidence researched by John Morrison, former President of Wolfson College, Cambridge. *Olympias* was commissioned into the Hellenic Navy in 1987.

She is manned by 170 oarsmen (and women), 85 to a side, arranged in three tiers, *Thranites* at the top, *Zygians* in the middle, and *Tbalamians* at the bottom. Height generally determines where the oarsmen are placed.

"I have been interested in ships all my life," says self-styled "galley slave" Paul Lipke, who rowed in the 1990 and 1992 sea trials in Greece. "When I was seven, I got modeling clay for my birthday, you know, the kind that comes in four bars of different colors? I made four fleets of war galleys, with each ship about an inch long, and had naval battles on my bedroom floor."

The crew of the trireme is arranged in vertical groups of three oars, one above the other, and separated in the water by less than 30 centimeters. The top unit is in charge because the two crews beneath row virtually blind. Timing the strokes requires synchronization, with a shrill pipe ugh



(referred in ancient texts), or through humming used by the modern crews. "Imagine sailing the wine-dark Mediterranean sea by moonlight and humming *Pachelbel*," remembers one modern oarsman.

After carrying the Olympic flame in 2004,

Olympias returned to her permanent display site as part of the Hellenic Navy Museum, based around the heavy cruiser *Averoff*, at Neon Faliron near the Piraeus.

But it looks like the trireme might be sailing soon for new voyages.



Clytemnestra's Tears at La MaMa

The solo Greek production of *Clytemnestra's Tears*, written and directed by Avra Sidiropoulou of the Persona Theater Company, will be part of the La MaMa repertory (74A East 4th Street) from May 17th-June 3rd, 2007. To be presented at the First Floor Theatre, the play is staged as a one-woman lamentation and it's based on a modern, yet universal view on the primal myth of the House of Atreus and the archetypal female character of Clytemnestra. It makes use of several elements of ritualistic theatre and creates a deeply visceral and highly visual spectacle that transcends linguistic barriers.

Clytemnestra's Tears was first presented as a staged reading in New York City, with Kristin Linklater as the main character, at the Donnell Library Auditorium as part of the Hellenic Literary Society series in the New York Public Library, in September 2001.

The Greek production was staged at Dipylon Theater in Athens (April 15th-May 4th 2004) with the support of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. It was performed by the highly acclaimed actress Themis Bazaka; shortly after, the avant-garde production was presented in Constantinople/Istanbul, Turkey, in a broader multi-cultural performance. This tri-lingual project that brought together a Greek, a Turkish

Persona Theater Company

and a British actress, existing on stage simultaneously and speaking in the three respective languages, was funded by the European Union within the framework of the Micro-Project Programme for Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue. The varying interpretations of the three performers served to highlight the universality of human emotions across cultures and ages. The trilingual *Clytemnestra's Tears* was also part of the 40th International Arts Festival of Dimitria in Thessaloniki, Greece in September 2005.

"It is our hope that this production can and will create a bridge of communication between very distinct cultures through the relevance of an ancient myth with universal appeal," says renowned director Avra Sidiropoulou, who studied theater in New York as well, before returning to Greece a few years ago. "We trust that, because ancient myths deal with issues that are timeless, fundamentally humane and universal, every new interpretation of them can potentially open up new vistas into helpings us redefine our relationship vis-à-vis humanity and diverging worldviews, and into simultaneously conceiving of and accepting alternative modes of living and perceiving the world around us."

Persona Theater Company is made up of international artists working in the theater, dance and the visual arts. The company was founded by stage director Avra Sidiropoulou and its members have presented their work in Europe and the U.S. in close collaboration. "Our company was created with a view to establishing a bridge of communication between East and West, simultaneously promoting modern Greek writing abroad and making possible collaboration among artists from all over the world," she pointed out. More over, "our artistic vision is to appeal to our spectators' emotions and cause their dynamic involvement in the theater event, stimulating them both psychologically and mentally. Persona favors the existence of a total theater, where several forms of art interweave. In our productions, text, dance performance, live musical composition, opera and the visual arts interact creatively, contributing to a theater form that is experiential, non-linear and of high aesthetic value."

Persona Theater Company is supported by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. In year 2003 it was funded by the European Union. Olympic Airlines has been Persona's air-travel sponsor.

Clarinetist Maksim Shtrykov performing with pianist Alina Kiryayeva at Carnegie Hall



Clarinetist **Maksim Shtrykov**, an already acclaimed young artist, will make his Carnegie Hall debut, accompanied by the also internationally renowned pianist **Alina Kiryayeva**, Sunday, April 1, 8:00 p.m. at the Weill Recital Hall. "Fantasiestücke" Op.73 by Robert Schumann, Brahms' Sonatas no.1 in F minor and no.2 E flat major, Op.120, Sonata for Clarinet and Piano (1962) by Francis Poulenc and a New York Premiere (2007) by renowned contemporary composer Jonathan Dawe, will be featured in the program, offering a wide range of musical styles and colors.

Maksim Strykov has burst onto the American concert scene in 2005 and is quickly gaining renown as a young artist of remarkable charisma and extraordinary musicianship. Already an acclaimed artist of his home country, Belarus, Shtrykov has appeared as a regular guest soloist with the Belarusian State Symphonic Orchestra and the Belarusian State Chamber Orchestra Since his orchestra debut recital at age 14.

Shtrykov is a winner of the Belarus National Woodwind Competition and a prizewinner of the Second D. Bida International Woodwind Competition in Ukraine. He has performed recitals and chamber music concerts in Polish Baltic Philharmonic (Festival "Gdansk Spring"), The Belarusian State Philharmonic (annual recital series), Miller Theatre at the Columbia University, Paul Recital Hall and Morse Recital Hall at The Juilliard School. While studying in The Belarusian State Music Academy Shtrykov was honored with the Presidents' Foundation Award "Young Talents of Belarus" for Achievements in Arts.

As a founding member of the Chamber Trio "Reflection", Shtrykov is a winner of the 3rd International Johannes Brahms Chamber Music Competition in Poland, where he was awarded First Prize and the Special Award for the best performance of J. Brahms work, and a prizewinner of the 8th International "Gaetano Zinetti" Chamber Music Competition, in Sanguinetto-Verona, Italy.

Pianist **Alina Kiryayeva** has performed with Shtrykov since 2005 and is recognized internationally as an accomplished recitalist, and collaborative artist. Alina Kiryayeva, native of Ukraine, had her first solo recital at age 8 and her solo debut with orchestra at the age of 11. Since then, she has claimed top prizes in several international piano competitions, including The Senigallia International Competition, Italy (1st prize), The Grace Welsh International Competition, USA (3rd prize) and The California Young Artist International Competition (special prize). Kiryayeva was honored by the Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk with the State Award for Achievements in Arts. She has also been awarded the Fannie Gottlieb-Harkavi Scholarship and, in 2004, she was honored with Susan Rose Piano Scholarship. With the recital tours, Kiryayeva traveled across her native Ukraine as well as Russia, Mexico, France Germany, Austria, Italy, Holland and United States. In recent and subsequent seasons, she has performed with the Kharkov State Philharmonic, the State Opera Theatre Orchestra and The Imperial Valley Symphony orchestra.

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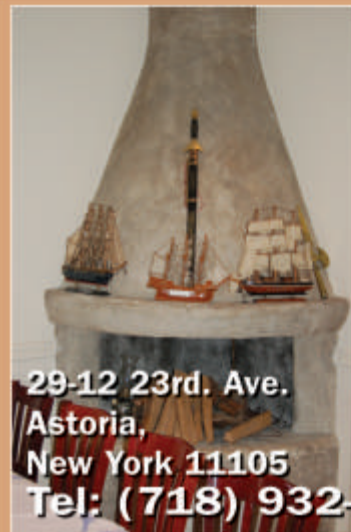
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ANDY MILONAKIS: THREE PARTS CRAZY TWO PARTS GREEK

By Penner Guayabera

While the word "comedy" comes from ancient Greece, it's hard to imagine Aristotle had the zany antics of oddball Andy Milonakis in mind when he was defining the word in his classic "Poetics." Nevertheless...

"Comedy," stated Aristotle some 2300 years ago, "is a representation of inferior people, not indeed in the full sense of the word bad, but the laughable is a species of the base or ugly."

Flash forward to the year 2005: A frenzied Milonakis is begging a fireman to get his John Stamos out of a tree. The "fireman" uses a ladder to

bring down the John Stamos, but Milonakis is horrified to discover his John Stamos is rabid and must be shot. That's right; the "inferior people" got their own television show on MTV.

Milonakis isn't ugly – in fact, over the last few years the 31-going-on-13-year-old has amassed quite a following of pretty, young females who find him both "adorable" and "sweet" – but his work certainly fits at least one of the definitions of "base."

"...inferior in value or quality."

If you've ever seen "The Andy Milonakis Show," which is now on MTV2 and slated for at least six more episodes next season, you may have mistaken it for public access. Milonakis, himself, describes his show as "intensely bad public television."

Non sequiturs, nonsensical plot twists, man-on-the-street comedy, corny green-screen special effects and ridiculous freestyle rap videos all arranged as a series of bizarre skits, make up the undercooked meat of "The Andy Milonakis Show."

In any given episode we can expect to hear a song about Milonakis' favorite pork-roast-eating sippy cup, watch platinum-tooth rapper Paul Wall give him a new "grill," and feel dumbfounded by sidekick Ralphie's commercial for "Pizza Ass Jeans: The Jeans with Pizza on the Ass."

Each half-hour ep appears to have taken about 45 minutes to create, but Milonakis assures us that's just not the case.

"It's the hardest job I've ever had," promises the former Manhattan IT guy. "When we're filming it's like 16-hour days."

Still, the show is shot and edited to have the fly-by-his-pants, make-it-up-as-he-goes-along look and feel of the online video posts which made him famous in the first place.

"One in ten household items are gay"

Flash back again to the early 1990s. Much to the dismay of equal rights advocates, kids all across the country had begun extracting the word "gay" from its homosexual context and using it as a synonym for *uncool*, lame and "sucky."

During that time Milonakis, who already looked younger than his high school peers because of a self-described "growth hormone thing," was mastering the art of using humor as a defense mechanism.

"Self-depreciation is an awesome way to steal people's thunder," says Milonakis. "You make fun of yourself, people like you."

These words of wisdom paid off, according to his mother, Kathleen Milonakis, who says he always had plenty of friends and invitations to parties back in high school.

About a decade later, the word "gay" would pay off for Milonakis, too – big time.

As Raider fans were rioting in Oakland after their loss to the Tampa Bay Bucs in Super Bowl XXXVII, a very stupid song was beginning to circulate the World Wide Web. It featured Milonakis on an out-of-tune acoustic guitar, singing about the gayness of the Super Bowl, cottage cheese, CD burners, KFC and, um, orange juice. Over the course of a month, the video, which Milonakis posted on angrynakedpat.com, blew up, attracting the attention of a writer for the late night show "Jimmy Kimmel Live," who then showed it to his boss.

"When life hands me lemons I make beef stew!"

"I love Andy more than my own children," says Jimmy Kimmel, who aired "The Super Bowl is Gay" on his show and jokingly adopted the then 27-year-old Milonakis, still looking younger than a high school student.

At the time nearly all viewers thought Milonakis

really was an attention-starved 13-year-old and he didn't do much to correct them. He's never tried to hide his age, but Milonakis is uncomfortable talking about his medical condition. He thinks of himself as a comedian and growth hormone deficiencies smack of unfunny "Barbara Walters Special," as he puts it.

Kimmel – who eventually helped Milonakis move from his apartment in New York to Los Angeles – remains somewhat agnostic about Milonakis' birth date. "We'll see if he's an adult. I'll believe it when he has a kid. Until then, I don't know."

Milonakis embraces the ambiguity about his age, fully aware it adds to his charm, but he likes to think there is more to his comedic appeal than just his outward appearance. "Some people think that my stuff is just getting seen because I look so young, but a lot of people like it because they like it," he says. "Hopefully it's more of the latter."

A wacky new world

In California Milonakis and Kimmel successfully pitched a show idea to MTV and Milonakis found himself heading back to New York, specifically Manhattan's Lower East Side, to shoot with hip hop stars like Biz Markie, the Black Eyed Peas, Snoop Dogg and Lil Jon.

"I just think it's such a weird wacky comedy-based world, and then you bring in those rappers who are typically all about money, cars and girls and we put them in these wacky situations, and we don't really treat them like celebrities," says Milonakis about all the performers he has on his show who he coerces into doing really silly things like crawling out of his television set.

In one episode Milonakis notices his *striking resemblance* to Snoop Dogg (Snoop Dogg is tall, skinny and black; Milonakis is not) while watching the rapper do an interview on TV. Dogg also manages to spot Milonakis *through* the television, interrupting the interview to ask Milonakis to be his body double and fill in for him. A quick trip through the television set and Milonakis picks up the interview where Dogg left off. More wackiness ensues.

Not all of Milonakis' special guests are rappers. Rob Schneider, Seth Green, Carson Daly and, of course, Jimmy Kimmel have all done cameos on the show.

Milonakis' absurd, chaotic world isn't always funny, but the action speeds by so quickly viewers don't have much of a chance to think about what works and what doesn't. At the very least, we get to watch John Stamos get shot by a farmer.

The fast pace appeals to the finicky attention spans of younger audiences – some audience members more than others.

"Like I had known him for years"

Bostonian Amanda Devitt, who just turned 16, calls herself Milonakis' #1 fan.

On a recent trip to California, she and her mom tried to see "Jimmy Kimmel Live." Devitt brought along her prized copy of "The Andy Milonakis Quote Book."

Timeout. Yes, there is an Andy Milonakis quote book, featuring such gems as "I am a goggle man!" and "Let's do a rap about pancakes and Jell-O. We'll do it freestyle!" Additionally, seasons one and two are available on DVD and you can pick up your very own Andy Milonakis T shirt on the Internet.

Okay, back to Hollywood on February 22 of this year, where Devitt was spending her birthday waiting in line with her mom to see "Jimmy Kimmel Live" only to discover no more seats were available.

"I didn't have a chance to get disappointed," reports Devitt. "I looked up at the stairs and there was Andy Milonakis walking down with his mother, casually."

As Amanda describes the scene – him signing her quote book, them taking a picture together, their mothers sharing a laugh – it's impossible not to be somewhat impressed and more than a little mystified by her utter devotion to Milonakis. She clearly has a crush on him and doesn't seem a bit put off by the age difference. Then again, maybe she, like Kimmel, is still in denial about his true age.

"He is one smart person," says Devitt. "Not many people can see it, but I can. He is an intelligent, creative kid."

When he grows up...

Milonakis is now in his 30s, beyond the age, he admits, of the majority of his fans. When word spread he was twice as old as the character he portrays there was definitely a backlash. Some fans felt deceived, but devotees such as Devitt saw him through to a new chapter in his life.

In addition to his show, we can expect to see more of Milonakis this year in the films "Killer Pad," "Heckler," "Parental Guidance Suggested," "Who's Your Caddy," and "Weiners." He also voiced a puppet version of himself for the offbeat prank-call show "Crank Yankers." Not to mention, a clay adaptation of him can be seen devouring "Jackass" star Steve-O this season in MTV2's over-the-top "Celebrity Deathmatch."

While Milonakis' lasting star power is far from certain, he's spent the last four years making the most out of the opportunity afforded him by his "The Super Bowl is Gay" video – or as he describes it – "the stupidest thing I'd ever done in my life."

We can only imagine what Aristotle would make of all this, but I like to think he would be proud...slightly disturbed, but proud.



Amanda Devitt and Andy Milonakis in Hollywood (Photo by Betty Devitt)

Puppet version of Milonakis for the show "Crank Yankers"



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On January 27, 2007, the Greek Independence Day Mid-Atlantic Committee of Baltimore held its annual fundraiser dance at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Hall. Many people supported this event for the purpose of raising funds for the Greek Independence Day Mid-Atlantic Parade. The Parade Committee honored the presence of the AHEPA Capital District 3 Governor Nick P. Vamvakias. Music was provided by Zephyros Orchestra. Congratulations to the dedicated 2007 Parade Committee Volunteers and the leadership of the District AHEPANS and Daughters of Penelope, who outdid themselves in making this event a huge success, and to AHEPA Capital District 3 Warden/ Lord Baltimore Chapter 364 President, Steve G. Mavronis, Parade Chairman.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- **Monday, March 19th, 6-8PM:** Annapolis, Maryland State House Reception, Miller Senate Office Building, President's Conference -West 2. AHEPA Lord Baltimore Chapter 364 and Worthington Chapter 30 have sponsored a bus open to the public leaving St. Nicholas Church in Greektown, Baltimore, MD to Annapolis Statehouse at 4PM.
- **Sunday, March 25th, 2-4PM:** Greek Independence Day Mid-Atlantic Parade 2007, Baltimore's Greektown, Spirit of America, Legacy of Greece, Freedom & Democracy for All! In commemoration of the 186th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day, this year's event is also in recognition to the many Hellenes around the world who through the Voice of Hellenism honor our past and present heroes' sacrifices for Freedom and Democracy for all!

For further details, go to www.greekparade.com

By Georgia Vavas
Daughters of Penelope, Alcmene Chapter No. 27



Daughters of Penelope Alcmene Chapter 27 Anna Halikias, Georgia Vavas and new initiates Irene Lewis, Irene Pappas, & Stasa Hatziefthimiou of the 2007 Parade Dance Committee



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Lord Baltimore Chapter No. 364/ District 3 Warden Steve G. Mavronis with Daughter's New Initiate Mataria Kardiasmenos, 2007 Parade Committee Member

MRS. TOMARAS PASSED AWAY

Tomaras, Nancy A., passed away Thursday, March 1, 2007. Mrs. Tomaras emigrated from England to the United States. She lived in Birmingham, AL and Chicago, IL with her husband Chris Tomaras, a Chicago businessman and Greek Community leader.

Mrs. Tomaras died after a long illness at the couple's home in Birmingham, where she was cared for during the last eight years.

She had a full and active life with extensive involvement in philanthropic and community affairs. A converted Greek Orthodox, she and her husband have been members of the St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church and Annunciation Cathedral, in Chicago.

Mrs. Tomaras is survived by her husband; her son Michael (Carol) Winstead; daughter Linda (Steve) Raye; grandchildren; Kristi (JD) Weir; Nikole (Donny) Burke; and 4 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2007 in Birmingham, AL. The funeral and burial will be held on

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A tribute to Serapheim Lazos

by DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS

If you want to place self-taught singer and guitarist Serapheim Lazos in the American perspective, comparisons cannot be avoided and the two names that immediately come to mind are Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen.

What Serapheim, a Greek-born artist who came to New York in the '70s (and still lives here) has in common with those giants is a lot, except, perhaps, their fame. His coarse, deep and primitively-expressive voice brings Dylan to mind, while the sensitivity and the sometimes popularly-unpopular poetry of the songs that he chooses to build his program around have more than a touch of Cohen.

What is really funny, though, is that Lazos, a father of two who managed to raise a family almost exclusively with a simple, six string classical guitar is that he ignores people like Dylan or Cohen or any influence. That makes him an original, with a value that more and more people tend to appreciate nowadays, as the previous generation did, filling venues like Carnegie Hall in the 70s or his boite (a dive on the Athenian Plaka style), the first of its kind that he opened in Astoria a couple of decades ago.

It was perhaps this sense of appreciatory revival that filled recently the roomy Cephanelian House for a solo Lazos concert. It was organized by the Ionian Cultural Federation to honor both the artist and the active member of the community that he is who on many occasions, as President Dennis Lymberatos stated, has donated his time to cultural and charity events. The night was full of beautiful Greek music that kept people in their seats for more than two hours--and wanting more. Serapheim, besides the honoring plaque that he was awarded by the federation, a cultural entity with a multifaceted presence in the community, received a huge load of emotion on behalf of the people. In turn, he helped lead them to a catharsis through the dramatic climaxes of a music that knows no other way but forward.

Lazos' latest CD is out and for more information call (917) 288-3407.



Photo: ETA Press



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From left Nick Bardis, Dennis Lymberatos and Serapheim Lazos

Serapheim Lazos in action



The guest speaker, attorney Niovi Christopoulou

HABA explores investing in Greece

By DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS

"Greece receives 15 million tourists per year and, despite the fact that it remains a top tourist destination, it lags behind in hotel and resort infrastructure, especially luxury hotels and integrated resorts. The new Incentives Investment Law provides great incentives for the development of luxury hotels," said Niovi Christopoulou, a New York and Athens qualified attorney, practicing corporate law in Arnold & Porter's New York office, during a lecture on investment opportunities in Greece, hosted recently by HABA (Hellenic American Bankers Association) at HSBC's Manhattan headquarters.

Tourism, however, is not the only area that offers unique advantages. "There is a clear opportunity in commercial real estate and the players who have been active in this area have already enjoyed great returns," she pointed out. "Greece lacks in number of malls, department stores etc, as compared to

More than 100 members of the New York banking and finance community attended HABA's latest event, indicative of the renewed interest in the opportunities that Greece has to offer to foreign investors.

Besides New York, Niovi Christopoulou has practiced as an attorney in Washington DC and Athens, Greece. She is also the co-chair of the International Committee of Columbia Business School Alumni Club, the chair of New York State Bar Association's Athens chapter, a committee member of US Council for International Business, and participates as a mentor in Columbia Business School's Global Social Venture Competition. Ms. Christopoulou graduated with honors from Columbia Law School (Juris Doctor and LL.M.) where she was an editor of Columbia Journal for Transnational Law, and Athens Law School. She is fluent in English, Greek, French, Spanish and



From left: Dino Rallis, Harry Doulas, Anthony Contomichalos, James Hansel, Niovi Christopoulou and Peter Krekoukis.

other EU countries. At the same time, consumer spending is very high and Greece attracts a huge number of tourists."

Thanks to the recent liberalization policies, energy is another sector and great incentives regarding alternative energy projects, particularly in photovoltaics, are there to be found. Healthcare, education and consumer-oriented services follow suit.

According to Christopoulou, the new Incentives Investment Law may give up to 55% cash grants to approved business plans or significant tax exemptions. The investor is required to put down a minimum 25% of the investment's value. In addition, the recent tax reform lowered the corporate tax rate from 35% to 25%. Furthermore, the time requirements for the formation of a company in Greece have been reduced significantly (for more see Minister's of Economy and Finance, Dr. George Alogoskoufis, interview at page 12) "A recent example regarding the Investment Law's successful implementation relates to Touristic Businesses of Messinia initiative, of Mr. Kostantakopoulos, a major development on the southwest coast of the Peloponese that will receive a 45% tax exempt grant amounting to 146 MM Euro. On top of all that "Greece is a Southeastern European country (an area with the highest growth rates) and the most stable and prosperous in the Balkans."

German and is the author of various legal and business articles, as well as a monograph in Greek law.

The Hellenic American Bankers Association, Inc., established in 1982 as a not-for-profit organization with the aim to promote the professional and educational interaction of Greek-Americans in the banking and finance industries, consists of about 200 professionals representing more than 50 institutions across the financial spectrum. Since its inception, it has organized and sponsored lectures, seminars, cocktail receptions with guest speakers and other events. According to James Hansel, HABA's president, "individuals employed in the financial services sector and related industries are invited to join the organization and also check our updated website www.haba.org".

HABA periodically publishes a directory of Who's Who Among Greek-Americans in Banking and Finance, which is widely distributed to financial and professional organizations and senior public officials in the United States and Greece. While it in no way includes all Greek-Americans in Finance, it does encompass a good cross-section of Greek-American financial professionals in New York and the surrounding states. It periodically updates and publishes this directory, making it the definitive guide of prominent Greek-Americans in the financial community.



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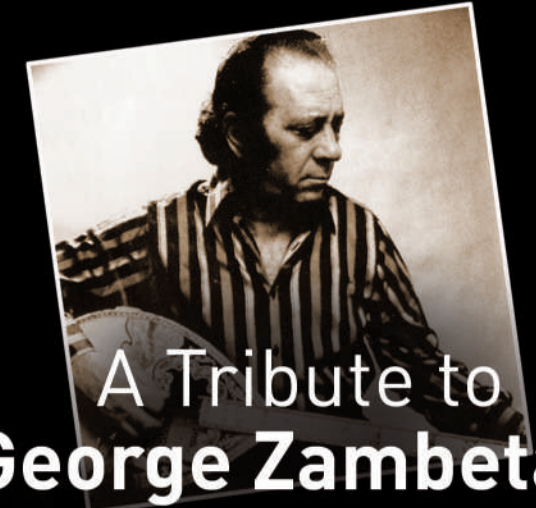
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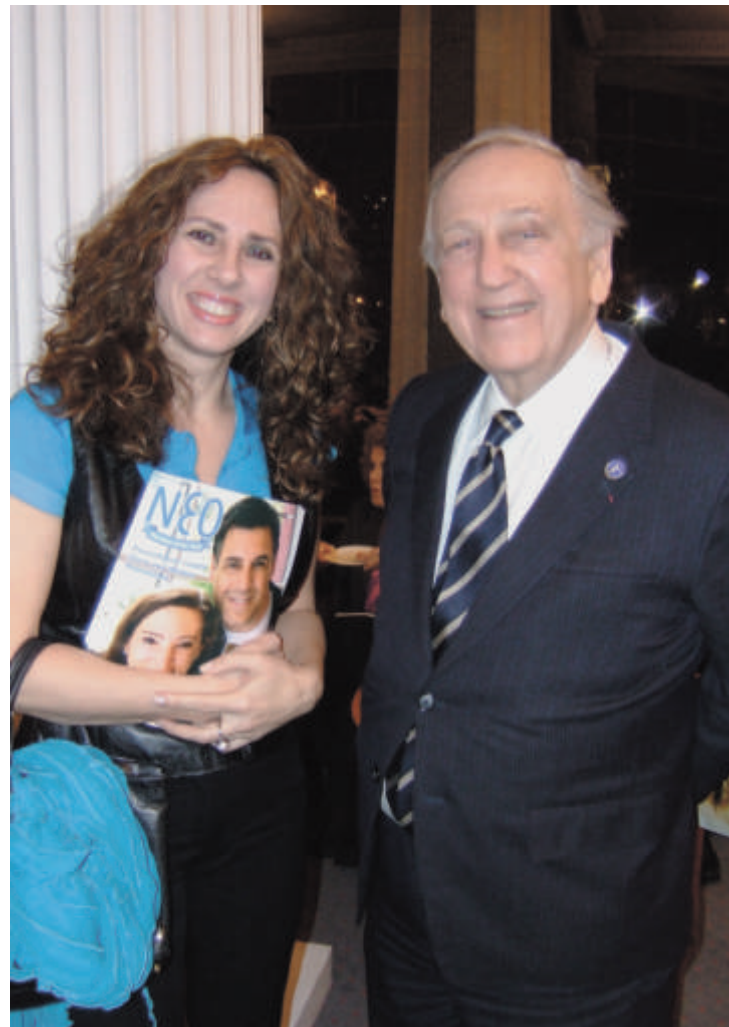
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NEO Honors Eleni and Markos Kounalakis

as Persons of the Year



We were very honored to recognize this year our first joint Persons of the Year in a "powerhouse" couple that makes a difference both jointly and individually: Eleni and Markos Kounalakis. Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis is president of AKT Development Corporation; Markos Kounalakis is a former Newsweek foreign correspondent and current publisher of The Washington Monthly.

"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 very best tradition, is making the lives of the Kounalakis' and everyone they touch around them just as remarkable," said NEO Editor-in-Chief Dimitri C. Michalakis

The couple were honored last month at a special reception held by the magazine at NYU and hosted by the university's president emeritus, John Brademas. The honored guest was Dr. Xenophon Verginis of the Hellenic Parliament.



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