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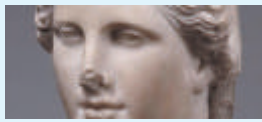
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Ode on a Grecian urn

The New Greek and Roman Galleries at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art are more than just a walk back in time. They are a passage into another dimension. You can imagine the sweat and blood that went into creating these colossal columns—which yet are so beautiful—and the countless eons they stood under the baking Mediterranean sun through the march of time and wars and the rise and fall of empires. They stayed impervious to it all, though crumbling a little every century. But they did survive to our age.

And they are more than a walk back in time because they remind us that despite the tumult of life—despite the hardship and barbarity of the ancient world (the endless wars and butchery, the slavery that was the norm)—there was a longing immemorial for beauty and peace and an ideal world that man, since the Stone Age, has felt compelled to create in the face of all his hardships.

Walking through the galleries, with their light so delicate and ethereal, so cool and classical, frankly, so unlike the real sun of the Mediterranean—more like a Van Gogh blare of color—one can imagine the ideal world these ancient people envisioned in their mind when they toiled at their task. Why else would a tinsmith work at something so delicate for hours and days and perhaps weeks and months on end? To make a little money? Yes, but somebody wanted to buy the product of his art, some connoisseur of art—enough of them to make his trade profitable.

The ancient world was full of art, some restrained and classical, as the ancient Greek in its maturity, some robust and effulgent, as the Hellenistic and the later Roman. But it was art, and it was a compulsion for these ancient people who are our kin, and for us who roam through these wonderful galleries and make contact with our ancestors and their dreams, so parallel to others.

We live a hectic life, they lived a life of sheer survival, and yet they found the time to create such beauty and lavish all their care on it. Perhaps we should take time in our busy lives to pay tribute to their devotion to beauty and its wonder that they tried to capture and which makes us all distinctly human.

Dimitri C. Michalakis

NEO

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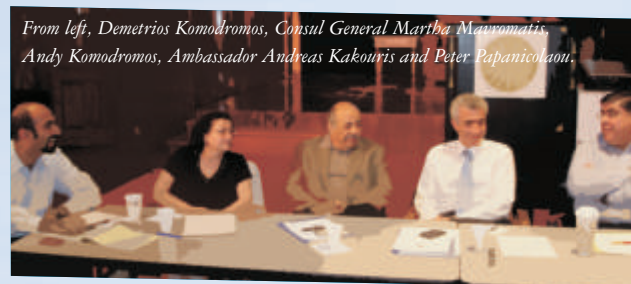
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CONVENTION OF CYPRUS YOUTH IN AMERICA



Justice for Cyprus, the preservation and expansion of the Greek language, history, culture and education in the United States along with the development of good relations and solidarity amongst young Greek Cypriot Americans were the main topics at the 1st National Cypriot Youth Convention, held recently at Astoria's Stathakion Center.

The promotion of common goals, and the coordination of their social, cultural, educational, philanthropic, and professional events also featured high during the discussion at which students and young professionals ranging from 18 to 30 years of age took part, forming "a very promising nucleus," in the words of Andreas Kakouris, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States, who along with Consul General in New York Martha Mavrommatis, President of the Cyprus Federation of America Peter Papanicolaou, President of PSEKA Philip Christopher and activists Andy Comodromos and Savvas Tsivikos lent their support by participating in the convention.



From left, Demetrios Komodromos, Consul General Martha Mavrommatis, Andy Komodromos, Ambassador Andreas Kakouris and Peter Papanicolaou.

The Cypriot Youth Committee of America, "CYCA", was established in August 2002 as a Division of the Cyprus Federation of America. "Four years ago we gathered in this room and formed this youth organization," Maria Athanasopoulos, the departing president, said in an interview with NEO. "However, we were not aware of how much power we would have someday down the road. It's a great think! My personal experience is definitely priceless, unforgettable and for sure very meaningful."

"There is vast potential and I wanted to be here at this first convention to show in practical terms my support," Ambassador Kakouris added. "I gain my strength from what the diaspora is doing. This is a two way street, I can help them and they can help me."

In fact, Mr. Kakouris has much in common with the members of the youth. "I feel very much a kinship with them. I was born and raised in the UK so I went through that process of being of Cypriot origin born abroad and having to marry where you are born and where your roots are... Both my parents come from the occupied area and I know how difficult it is to get people to be interested not just on a sporadic basis, but on a permanent basis, to become involved in a deep level."

CYCA is heavily involved in fighting for justice for Cyprus and has held many events to raise awareness to the Cyprus problem, such as the "Beyond the Green Line Exhibit," a collection of photographs of the occupied areas in Cyprus taken by young overseas Cypriots. "In America they don't even know where Cyprus is, they don't even know it's a country, let alone that there are people that illegally occupy an area and there was ethnic cleansing that went on, there were people that were killed and displaced," noted Maria Athanasopoulos.

Another CYCA initiative is the Discover Cyprus Program in partnership with the Youth Board of Cyprus, the University of Cyprus and the government's financial support. It aims to provide young overseas Cypriots with the opportunity to visit their homeland, undertake a series of cultural activities and participate in an intensive language course. Students from the USA, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, South Africa and other parts of the world participate each year.

"When you meet fellow young Cypriots there is an immediate understanding, an immediate bond that develops and I think you cannot explain it unless you experience it," Dimitris Komodromos, CYCA's chairman explained. "It's also a very basic way of establishing a connection to Cyprus. It's about really understanding who you are."

Regarding the convention, "it's not business

as usual," Comodromos said. "At this meeting we talked about Turkish issues, Maronite issues and we talked about the idea of what means to be Cypriot as opposed to just being Greek Cypriot. So we are constantly interrogating positions. At the same time, we do recognize that Cypriot culture is one that relies on Greek Orthodoxy, on Greek language, Hellenism."

There is also another very important component to that search. "It's also about developing Cypriot American culture, what it meant to be Cypriot American."

According to the Cyprus Federation of America (KOA) President Peter Papanicolaou, CYCA is the big promise for the future. "We want them to continue KOA's mission," he said. "Since this year two CYCA representatives are full members of KOA's Board." He also proposed to facilitate a weekend retreat to be held in September at the Saint Basil's Academy in order for the youth and their friends to spend some time in a relaxed environment and to decide on matters of common interest.

Savvas Tsivikos, another veteran activist, suggested that CYCA should not be overwhelmed with the Cyprus problem, as was the case with his own generation, but rather seek and develop in parallel other

aspects that can hold a youth organization together.

At the end of the convention, annual elections also took place and a new executive board was elected with Debbie Kamilaris, president, Spiro Xenophontos, 1st vice president, Myrianthe Marton, 2nd vice president, Stacey Kamilaris, general secretary, Evangelia Douros, recording secretary, Haralambos Tsivikos, 1st treasurer, and Renos Savvides, 2nd treasurer. Elpida Tsivikos, Strati Vezos and Marios Hatzikyriakou are in charge of Collegiate Relations and Maria Athanasopoulos, Georgia Lilikas and Nick Kinnis in the Media/PR Committee.

"I am very honored to be president of the Cypriot Youth Committee of America," said Debbie Kamilaris. "Our purpose and mission for the upcoming year is to strengthen the American Greek - Cypriot youth community through educational, artistic, professional, political and social programs. Another main focus for the year is to acquire new members and hope that from our ranks will emerge the next generation of leaders and members of our community's organizations and institutions."



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Photos: Maria Tolios



War as a game

War is certainly not a game, although it seems the US Military has come up with plans to make it look like one, using videogames, Hollywood talent and Star Trek to prepare the ground for recruitment first and then training of tomorrow's soldiers. This unsettling new vision is aptly demonstrated in "World War Virtual," a documentary film written and produced by Greek journalist Mihalis Gripiotis who managed to tell his story by uttering not even a word! Instead, he had key people from the industry explain their plans and he used excerpts from already available material to make his thesis crystal-clear.

"This documentary exposes a growing American military-entertainment complex," he said during a press conference after the film's premiere at the prestigious National Arts Club in New York, presented by the Kinesis Foundation, Inc. "It reveals the close relationships the US Military have developed with the commercial videogame industry and Hollywood, in order to create "compelling" tools (i.e. videogames), for recruiting and training purposes."

One of the new visions of the US Army for training and future war-fighting is to re-create in reality the science fiction virtual space "Holodeck" from Star Trek, where anything is possible. Reality and virtuality, war and entertainment, become dangerously blurred, causing confusion and paranoia, threatening our very sanity and any hopes of future peacemaking.

Among the people who appear in this documentary are James Der Derian, Director of The Watson Institute for International Studies, Professor of International Studies, Brown University, Author of Virtuous War, Ed Halter, contributing film critic for the Village Voice, Author of War and Videogames, Michael Macedonia (not a Greek-American), Director of the Office for Simulation and Training US Army, Chris

Stapleton, Institute for Simulation and Training, UCF (US Army partner,) Jim Korris, Creative Director, Institute for Creative Technologies, University of Southern California (US Army partner,) Captain Oseguera, US Army Commander for recruitment in NYC etc. Gamers, videogame industry reps, soldiers, military officials are also part of this impressive roster, highlighting the new techniques.

The Kinesis Foundation is a New York-based organization dedicated to the promotion, exhibition, and distribution of Greek films and media works in New York and throughout the United States and Canada. Each year's focal event will be the annual Festival of Greek Cinema to be held every spring in New York City. The festival will then travel throughout the US and Canada.

The Foundation is proud to announce the launching of its inaugural season this fall with the North American Premiere screening of Yiannis Economidis' award-winning and Cannes-selected film "Soul Kicking." The screening will be followed by a gala reception and discussion with the producers and directors.

Kinesis will also serve as a facilitator for - and a bridge between - Greek films and North American distributors, cinemathèques, and other domestic festivals. In addition it plans to bring together film/video artists of Hellenic descent from around the world in the spirit of collaboration and in the creation of a comprehensive network of resources. Besides "World War Virtual," most recently the Kinesis staff has already spearheaded the programming for the Mediterranean Cinema evening at the 2007 D.C. Independent Film Festival.

More information on Kinesis can be found at gokinesis@aol.org or by contacting Marisa Stefatos at 917.922.2545 or Nick Eferiades at 917.519.2890.



Photos: Maria Tolios

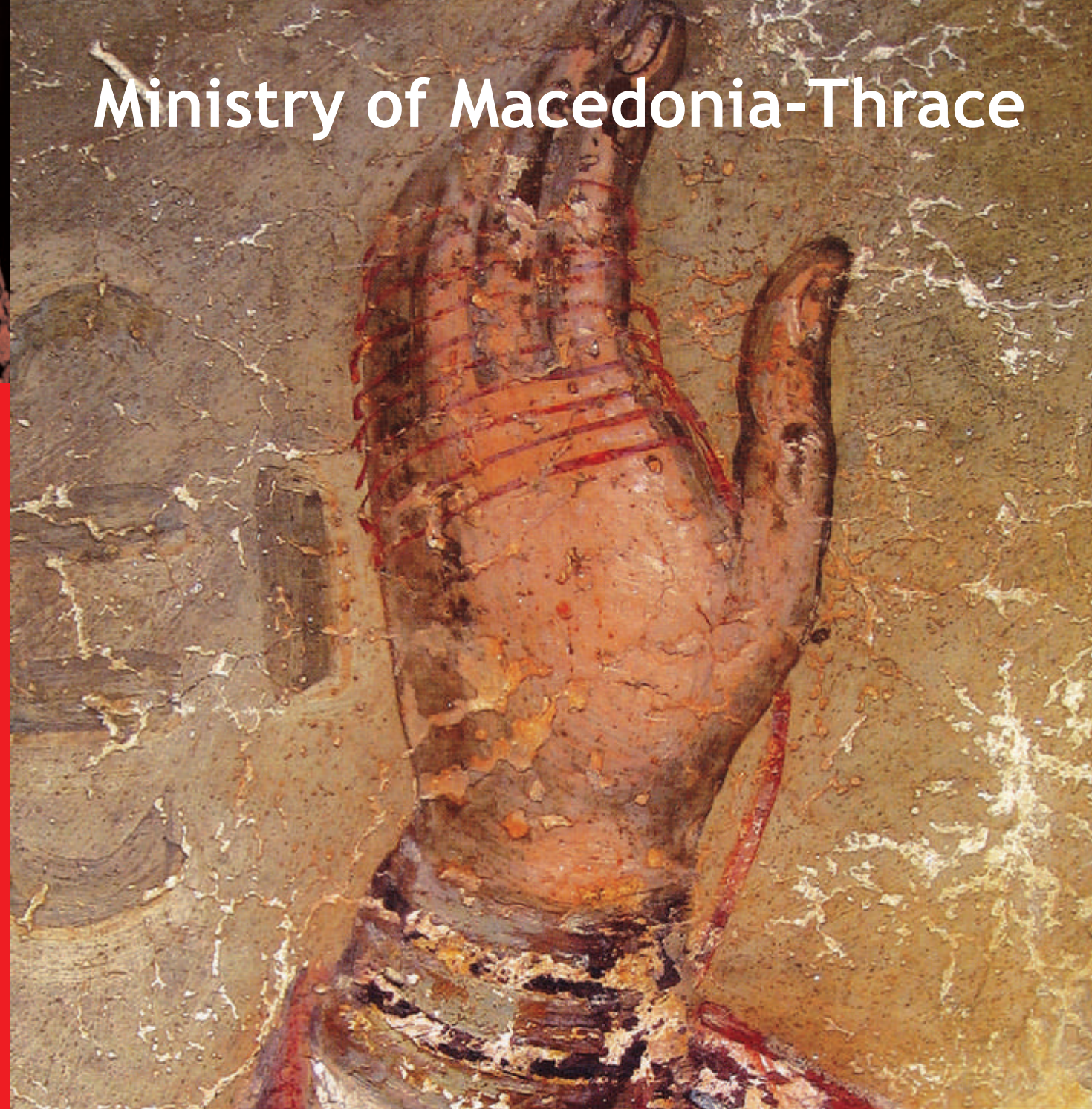
From left, Nick Eferiades, Marisa Stefatos, Mihalis Gripiotis



Photos: Maria Tolios

Marisa stefatos, Consul General of Greece Ekaterini Boura, Sharyn Grossman, National Arts Club Director, Mihalis Gripiotis and Polixeni Mastroperou, Greek Press Office Director in New York

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NEW GREEK AND ROMAN GALLERIES AT NEW YORK'S METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

This past April a spectacular “museum-within-the-museum” for the display of the extraordinary collection of Hellenistic, Etruscan, South Italian, and Roman art—much of it unseen in New York for generations—opened at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in its New Greek and Roman Galleries.

After more than five years of construction, the long-awaited opening concludes a 15-year project for the complete redesign and reinstallation of the Museum’s superb collection of classical art. Returning to public view in the new space are thousands of long-stored works from the Metropolitan’s collection, which is considered one of the finest in the world. The centerpiece of the New Greek and Roman Galleries is the majestic Leon Levy and Shelby White Court—a monumental, peristyle court for the display of Hellenistic and Roman art, with a soaring two-story atrium.

“The New Greek and Roman Galleries are a milestone in an unprecedented building campaign—more than a dozen years in the making—to construct anew within the framework of our historic buildings, to make use of new methodologies while honoring the old, and to encourage our visitors to look at ancient art in a new way,” said Philippe de Montebello, director of the Metropolitan Museum.”

redesigned mezzanine level, where galleries for Etruscan art and the Greek and Roman study collection overlook the court from two sides.

The focal point of the new galleries is the spectacular Leon Levy and Shelby White Court for Hellenistic and Roman art, which occupies an area created by the renowned architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White between 1912 and 1926. The atrium, which evoked the ambulatory garden of a large private Roman villa, has been transformed through the addition of another story and dazzling colored marble floors.

On view in the center of the court are several works that show Roman admiration for Greek culture, including the statue of Dionysus, god of wine and divine intoxication (Roman, Augustan or Julio-Claudian, 27 B.C.-A.D. 68, which is an adaptation of a fourth-century Greek statue). Two larger than life statues of Hercules face one another from either side of the court. And there is a purple stone called porphyry (from the Greek word for purple) which was especially prized for monuments and building projects in Imperial Rome.



He said some of the 5,300 works previously in storage, many of them collected soon after the museum was founded in 1870, are now installed on two levels of the new galleries, located in the Lamont Wing at the southern end of the building. The art displayed was created between 900 B.C. and the early fourth century A.D., tracing the parallel stories of the evolution of Greek art in the Hellenistic period and the arts of southern Italy and Etruria, culminating in the period of the Roman Empire.

On the first floor, contiguous to the central Leon Levy and Shelby White Court on three sides, are galleries for Hellenistic and Roman art. The installation continues on the wholly

Additionally, there are thematic displays of Hellenistic art and Hellenistic funerary art, including the Marble Garland Sarcophagus, from around A.D. 200 that was found at Tarsus in southern Turkey. And the Badminton Sarcophagus from around A.D. 260 carved in high relief from a single block of marble, which shows the god Dionysus seated on a panther and surrounded by a lusty entourage of satyrs and maenads (female devotees of Dionysus).

Visible through a window in the Sardis gallery, a pair of spectacular gold serpentine armbands (Greek, Hellenistic, 200 B.C.) draws visitors into the Hellenistic Treasury, an intimate showplace for outstanding examples

of luxury goods, primarily made of precious metals, gemstones or glass.

Another stunning work is a small statue of a veiled and masked dancer (Greek, third-second century B.C.) whose effect depends exclusively on the pose of the dancer and the treatment of the drapery. The woman's face is covered with a sheer veil, which can be discerned at its edge below her hairline and at the cutouts for the eyes.

Also on view in the Hellenistic Treasury are coins and gems, as well as refined small-scale objects having a private or religious use.

The mezzanine level gallery of Etruscan art, overlooking the court, displays the mastery of the Etruscans as metalsmiths and their connection to Greek culture, as well.

The centerpiece of the Leon Levy and Shelby White Gallery for Etruscan art is one of the great works in the Museum's collection, the newly restored, world famous Etruscan chariot (second quarter of the sixth century B.C.). One of the very few complete chariots to survive from antiquity, it is made of bronze and inlaid with precious elephant and hippopotamus ivory and depicts scenes from the life of the Greek hero Achilles.

The Homeric subject matter of the bronze chariot brings up the question of how the story of Achilles became known in Etruria, and bards may have recited the tale, although written documents may have existed, as well.

The museum already has galleries (opened in 1996) for prehistoric and early Greek arts, followed in 1999 by the opening of galleries for Archaic and Classical Greek works, and a suite of Cypriot galleries in 2000.

A new guide to the collection, Art of the Classical World in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, has been published and is available at the museum and through Yale University Press. Also, a variety of education programs will be offered in conjunction with the installation of the New Greek and Roman Galleries, including lectures, gallery talks, an international symposium, a Sunday at the Met program of lectures and films, a teacher workshop, and an all-day conference for teachers.



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The display of gourmet food, as introduced by North Shore Market four years ago in Long Island's Port Washington extended area (770 Port Washington Blvd.), got more than doubled recently by the brand new, lavish North Shore Market in neighboring Glen Cove, doubling the resounding success of this bold experiment in gourmet purveying by owner Nick Katopodis.

Acting upon his more than two decades Manhattan experience, Katopodis had introduced into the area the concept of high quality, gourmet products from all over the world, and with fresh produce from Long Island's vast fields. All that, with a home style cuisine that turned the regular supermarket chore into a completely different experience. For most of the patrons, North Shore Market became not just a store, but an institution

Experience the art of gourmet food



Mr. Lovely with part of his crew

that reflected the area's development and the new needs that came with it.

Cheese from such exotic places as Andorra, or Greece's legendary Parnassus mountain; brick oven Brooklyn bread from a family tradition that goes back generations; French pate – some of it even Kosher; cold-pressed olive oil from a variety of countries; a hard-to-beat selection of fresh fish and meats; salami that makes the offerings of a full-fledged Italian or Jewish deli look poor in comparison; Spanish Serrano ham on a par with the tastier of prosciutto; aged underground Greek gruyere; a coffee selection that gets you on high caffeine levels just by looking at it; halvah from Greece, Israel and Turkey; farm-fresh fruits and vegetables that taste and smell as fresh as they look—these are just a few of North Shore Market's staples.



Rev. Emmanuel Gratsias, Dean of the Glen Cove Greek Orthodox Parish, officiated in the traditional Haghiasmos Ceremony

"The rest are up to every gourmet adventurer to discover," says Katopodis who came to the US from Greece at the age of 18 to study Economics. Soon, the supermarket industry absorbed him completely, becoming his second nature. "When I say gourmet, I am not talking about some fancy stuff, meant for food specialists, but the kind of food every home, every family must have the opportunity to enjoy. For those of us who grew up in the old country, where everything was fresh and naturally-produced, good, healthy products should not be a luxury but a right," he pointed out. "I am not only the owner, I am

By Demetrios Rhombotis

also a customer and the same kind of quality that I reserve for my family, I want for the rest of the people as well."

For the countless of Greek-Americans living in the area, the new North Shore Market is a real ...blessing! All the Greek and Cypriot products found in Astoria's – about 35 miles away – neighborhood stores are here and in bigger varieties. Besides the staple extra virgin olive oil, cheese and spices, a whole line of home made pastries, party dishes, appetizers, spreads and other delicacies are there for them, minutes away from their homes.

Besides Nick Katopodis, Louis Alaimo and Thomas Tsamis, two of the industry's most seasoned people, are in charge of the new store. Glen Cove City Mayor Ralph V. Suozzi inaugurated the new North Shore Market with Rev. Emmanuel Gratsias, Dean of the town's Greek Orthodox Parish, officiating at the millennium old Haghiasmos Ceremony. Sea Cliff Mayor Eileen A. Krieb was also there, along with Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce President Gabor Karsai, Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Phyllis Gorham, Former Owner of the Port Washington Locations & Advisor to North Shore Farms Lou Campanelli, Developers & Builders of North Shore Farms: Joseph Graziose, Jr. & Joseph Graziose, Sr, Building Owner L.J. Martone, Andy Zoitias, Manny Tsiskakis, Nick Sahlaras representing the industry, friends and well-wishers.

The new North Shore Market is located at 190 Glen Cove Ave., in Glen Cove, with telephone number (516) 801-6031.



Glen Cove City Mayor Ralph V. Suozzi is about to inaugurate North Shore Farms. He is joined by owner Nick Katopodis (third from right) his wife Marilena, their children Angelo and Stelio, Louis Alaimo and many well wishers.

As Ntalia on "Sto Para Pente" would say,

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AHEPA Executive Director Basil Mossaides on AHEPA past and present

On the current issues AHEPA is pursuing:

Our issues after the convention in Denver will be to finalize the visa waiver issue for Greece. That's a big issue for all Greek Americans. We want to see Greece included in the original EU countries to get the visa waiver, so we've been pushing very hard. We're confident that something will be passed. In our meetings at the State Department, and with Homeland Security, and with the Executive Branch, the Supreme President has laid out a very good argument that basically says, look, all the criteria have been met. Greece having the most successful and security-safe Olympics, Greece has addressed the problems and addressed the issues, and Greece should be allowed to be included automatically. And I think the American government was receptive. All we have to do is coordinate all the offices to understand that everything has been met. I think they have heard us.

Another issue is the Brumidi recognition on Capitol Hill. You may or may not know that Konstantino Brumidi was the artist that painted the Capitol dome and several galleries in the Capitol Building. His original name was Broumides, his father was Greek, his mother was Italian, but they left Greece and ended up in Italy and Mr. Brumidi came to the United States in the 1860s. And he's commonly referred to as the Michaelangelo of Washington DC. If you've ever been to the Capitol Building you'll see the frescos. They're absolutely beautiful. And we've been working very hard to get him a Congressional Gold Medal of Honor recognition. That's not a military medal, that's a civilian medal. We're working very closely with the Italian American organizations to get this recognition for Mr. Brumidi.

We've also tried to keep the Greek language alive in some fashion. We've tried, and we've succeeded in some areas, namely in Wilmington Delaware, where there's a Greek immersion charter school, but this is an AHEPA Greek immersion charter school. There are other immersion charter schools which are far more older in age because they've been worked on for quite some time. But the AHEPA believes that we need to preserve the language and by preserving the language we can preserve a lot of our customs and heritage because with language comes—the festivals, the dancing, the culture—all that. If you lose the language, you lose a lot of things. We're trying to get different chapters to see if they can investigate how to start Greek immersion charter schools in their cities, as well.



We also want to promote our scholarship programs. This year we gave over \$100,000 on a national level, but several million dollars on a local level. Every chapter and every district in AHEPA gives money out every year. The number fluctuates, but

we estimate it between \$1.5 and \$2 million a year.

We have about 400 active AHEPA chapters and about 250 active AHEPA Daughter's chapters and a few dozen Sons and Maids chapters. We have about 750 AHEPA family chapters. The AHEPA family has a membership of about 35,000.

In the past we've several programs and projects, some of which have become permanent, like the AHEPA Cooley's Anemia Foundation, which is a permanent foundation in the AHEPA that raises money and awareness for Cooley's Anemia, and we've done a lot of fundraising and donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in research. Our monies and our efforts have extended the life expectancy of individuals with this disease from 30 to about 75 years now.

Other issues include the AHEPA Bone Marrow Registry. We have a unique AHEPA registry which identifies individuals in the Greek American community to become donors for people in need of bone marrow, which is of course a cure for cancer. That's something that is uniquely AHEPA. We have 28,000 people that have signed up in the registry—which is a good grouping because the amount of donors needed in a donor match is 1 in 25,000.

On the purpose of the convention:

This is the 85th Anniversary of our existence and the convention has been running every year since 1922, with the exception of a small 2-3 year period during the Second World War. The convention brings the AHEPA family together to deliberate over what we've done this past year or two years and what we want to do in the future. How we want to refocus our efforts to increase our membership and presence in the United States as philhellenes or Greek Americans or whatever term you want to use. The age group of our members fluctuates. We have members that are 35 and we have members that are 85. Each chapter has its own identity and each chapter performs civic duties in their communities, whether it's voter registration, whether it's running soup kitchens, whether it's donating items to soldiers in the field, the AHEPA means a lot to a lot of people. It does not have one mission, it has several.

On AHEPA staying relevant:

That's a difficult question only because it's challenging. But it's a challenge that every member-based organization faces, not just the AHEPA, but every group. How do these social member organizations stay alive? And I say to you this, that the AHEPA has experienced the least amount, percentage wise, the least amount of drop in membership because of our oath and obligation to the organization. Bringing new members in is a challenge because new members today 20-30 year olds, people that are newlyweds, people that are starting families, are not in the same position that our fathers and grandfathers were 40-50 years ago when the AHEPA was used as a social outlet, a gathering spot—the men going to play tavli or whatever. They don't need that today. That's not its purpose anymore. For someone to consciously join an organization they'll never have time for, because they're running around to soccer practice, or baseball practice, or dancing, or whatever it is that they do if their children are small—when they join an organization like this under those circumstances it's a conscious decision they make to participate. So we get members, they don't stay active in attending the meetings, or every single meeting, but they try to stay associated with an organization that uniquely identifies them as Hellenes. I think the AHEPA does that. And the church does that, too. It's an identity thing. You learn that at church, and the AHEPA does that to the same degree, but on a different level. AHEPA has a lot to offer, a lot of history, a lot of heritage, a lot of knowledge and it's a wonderful thing to be part of a brotherhood like this because it's done a lot of good, it does a lot of good, and it will continue to do a lot of good.

On his tenure:

I've been executive director since 2002. I came to Washington in '91 to work for AHEPA. I was elected to the national leadership and served in various elected positions in the AHEPA when I wasn't employed here—you can't do both. Anyway, it's just my turn to be here, the guy who follows me, it will be his turn. I grew up in the AHEPA, I was the international president of the Sons of Pericles and I got to travel the country in 1989 as the Supreme President of the Sons. And I was active member of the Sons for many years before that in my hometown in Philadelphia. And it was an eye-opening thing for me to feel pride in being a Greek—I shared the same thing with kids in California, and in Canada, and in Mexico, wherever we went. Wherever you went you would find a pocket of Greek kids and it was always like going home.

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the leading association for the nation's 1.3 million Americans of Hellenic heritage and Philhellenes, embarks on a week excursion to Denver, Colorado, (Adam's Mark, 1550 Court Place,) July 10 - 15, 2007 for the 85th Annual AHEPA Family Supreme Convention. Attendees will include members and their families from the United States, Canada, Greece, Cyprus and Australia. More than 2,500 Hellenes are expected to participate and conduct the organization's business agenda, honor those who have achieved excellence in their respective professional careers and conventioners share in their common ethnic heritage and cultural background by attending educational, cultural and social events.



Delegates at the first AHEPA Annual Convention held in Atlanta, 1923

Ahepans Converge in Colorado



Prime Minister of Greece Kostas Karamanlis (left) with AHEPA's Supreme President Gus James.

Event Highlights:

July 11:

- Continuing Medical Education, Prostate Cancer: Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment, John Triantafyllos, MD at 08:30.
- Athletic Department Awards Luncheon, honoring inductees into Hellenic Athletic Hall of Fame at 12:00.
- Educational Foundation/DOP Symposium, Emmy Award Winner Yannis Simonides solo performance of Plato's Apology of Socrates at 16:00.

July 11 - 13:

- Business Expo, between the United States and Europe.

July 12:

- Continuing Legal Education, An Overview of: Tort Reform and Your Rights vs. Pharmaceuticals, Ike Gulas, Esq. at 08:00.
- Convention City Golf Tournament, Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course at 08:00.

July 13:

- Continuing Pharmaceutical Education, You and Your Medications, Dr. John Grossomanides, R.Ph.
- Grand Banquet, honoring Pericles Award Recipient Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyiannis and Demosthenes Award Recipient Antonios Diamataris, editor-publisher of The National Herald with guest Master of Ceremonies Basile at 19:00.

July 14:

- Farewell Party starring critically acclaimed comedian Basile at 19:00.

*For over 85 years,
AHEPA has been a
proud part of the
Greek American
success story.*

OUR founding fathers shared a dream – to build a better life for their families in a new land. But when they encountered discrimination and violence in their new home they stood up together, and they stood as one – founding AHEPA to protect their families, defend their rights and fight for their dreams.

And when those battles were won, they worked even harder. To secure for their countrymen the same opportunities they had won through struggle and sacrifice, they helped thousands to become the first in their families to attend college. They raised over \$263 million in war bonds for their adopted country in its time of need during World War II – and \$500 million more in affordable housing for seniors.

Ever since our founding fathers came together more than 85 years ago, AHEPA has been a proud part of the Greek American success story. Today's Ahepans come together not only to honor that legacy, but to ensure it's future in the 21st century.

Our members know what an amazing contribution our Hellenic heritage and our community has made to this country – and at what cost. And our members know that this story has just begun. Our members know many changes and challenges to our nation and to our heritage lie ahead – and they're ready to play a vital role in that future.

That's why our members have built AHEPA chapter by chapter, and family by family, into the largest and strongest organization of it's kind – and that's why AHEPA wants you.

"From the time I was a boy, AHEPA has been for all of us in Greece, the symbol of the Greek American community."

Loucas Tsilas

*Executive Director of the Onassis Foundation
Ambassador of Greece to the U.S., 1993-1998*

"For over 85 years, AHEPA's record of service to our country and to the Greek American community is unmatched..."

In fact, your history serves as an inspiring record of all that is best about America and Americans..."

R. Nicholas Burns

*U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs
Former U.S. Ambassador to Greece, 1997-2001*

"AHEPA's contribution was always decisive in the promotion of Greek interests in the U.S.A. With the zeal and patriotism which distinguishes it, AHEPA was and is the ambassador of our national rights in their cross-Atlantic homeland, helping in every difficult case for the Greek voice to be heard clearly. The Greek State, mother-Greece, honours and thanks it."

Anastasis Papaligouras

Greek Justice Minister, 2007



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Progressive Association**

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AHEPA LEADS THE WAY

Today's AHEPA is an extended family bound by a fierce pride in our Hellenic heritage, a passion for education, and a dedication to community service, philanthropy, and individual excellence. AHEPA leads the way in...

Hellenism

Our Hellenic heritage is what binds the AHEPA family together. Its preservation is our deepest commitment. More than any other organization like it, AHEPA has stood firm in its defense of Hellenism – and in its efforts to make that heritage a vital part of the 21st century, by promoting Hellenic Studies programs in universities, and through initiatives such as our exciting Journey to Greece for young Greek Americans and Philhellenes.

Education

Every year, AHEPA members provide hundreds of scholarships to promising young Greek Americans on their way up. Over the years, we've helped thousands of outstanding young men and women go to college, and go on to success. From high school seniors to post-graduate students and seminarians, AHEPA scholars across the country are on their way to becoming tomorrow's leaders – and the latest chapter in the Greek American success story.

Philanthropy

AHEPA is the leading Greek American philanthropic organization in the world – contributing over \$1 billion to worthy causes. From the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island to the reforestation of Greek mountains ravaged by wildfire... from building urban hospital centers and rural health clinics in Greece to affordable housing for senior citizens here in America, AHEPA is where Greek Americans come together to make a difference.

For over 85 years, AHEPA members have been the heart of the Greek American community. Every year, Ahepans contribute over \$1 million to Greek Orthodox communities through their local chapters. But even more than helping build churches and community centers, we're proud of how our chapters take up new challenges every year. Many of these countless community efforts have gone on to become national successes, like the Greek Autism Project and the Greek Children's Fund at Sloan-Kettering.

And as the AHEPA family grows, so does the list of our contributions: from the Daughters of Penelope building the first shelter for battered women and children in Alabama... to our youth groups, the Sons of Pericles and the Maids of Athena, combining forces to fight Cooley's Anemia and supporting the Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation, and on to aiding other causes such as St. Basil's Academy and the Special Olympics.

Whether it's helping fund cancer research or providing relief for earthquake victims in Greece, AHEPA members are giving back to their heritage and to

their country – every day.

Civic Leadership

With 500 active chapters, AHEPA has the largest grassroots network of concerned Greeks and Philhellenes in North America. Combined with our Congressional scorecard and voter registration initiatives, this power gives AHEPA a unique ability to mobilize members on issues of importance to our community and speak loudly with one voice to our elected officials, and we do.

Individual Excellence

AHEPA stands for the Hellenic ideal of excellence – and our members are committed to keeping that ideal alive. Ahepans share a deep belief that each of us can and must strive to achieve excellence – and we work together to reach for that excellence which can only be found in man's commitment to serving his fellow man. We invite you to join us today.

YES! I'm proud of the AHEPA success story - and I want that story to continue on into the 21st century. **That's why I want to join AHEPA today as a:**

MEMBER OF LOCAL CHAPTER _____ City/State _____

Please send me an application form and information on your chapter's approval and initiation process.

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I want to join the AHEPA Family today as a National Member.

Please sign me up today as a Friend of AHEPA.*

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP \$75 (1 year) \$135 (2 year)

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As a benefit of my new national membership in AHEPA, I would like to send this gift membership, at a special rate available to member's only.

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* You can also become a National Member of AHEPA today, through our new online membership registration on the **www.ahepa.org**



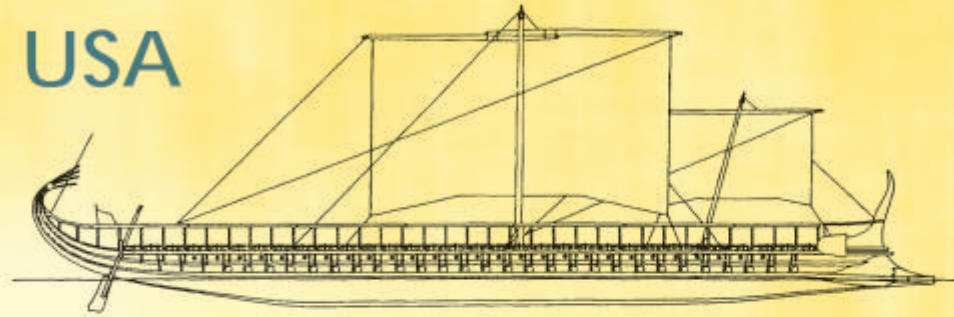
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July 2007

Greetings to AHEPA.

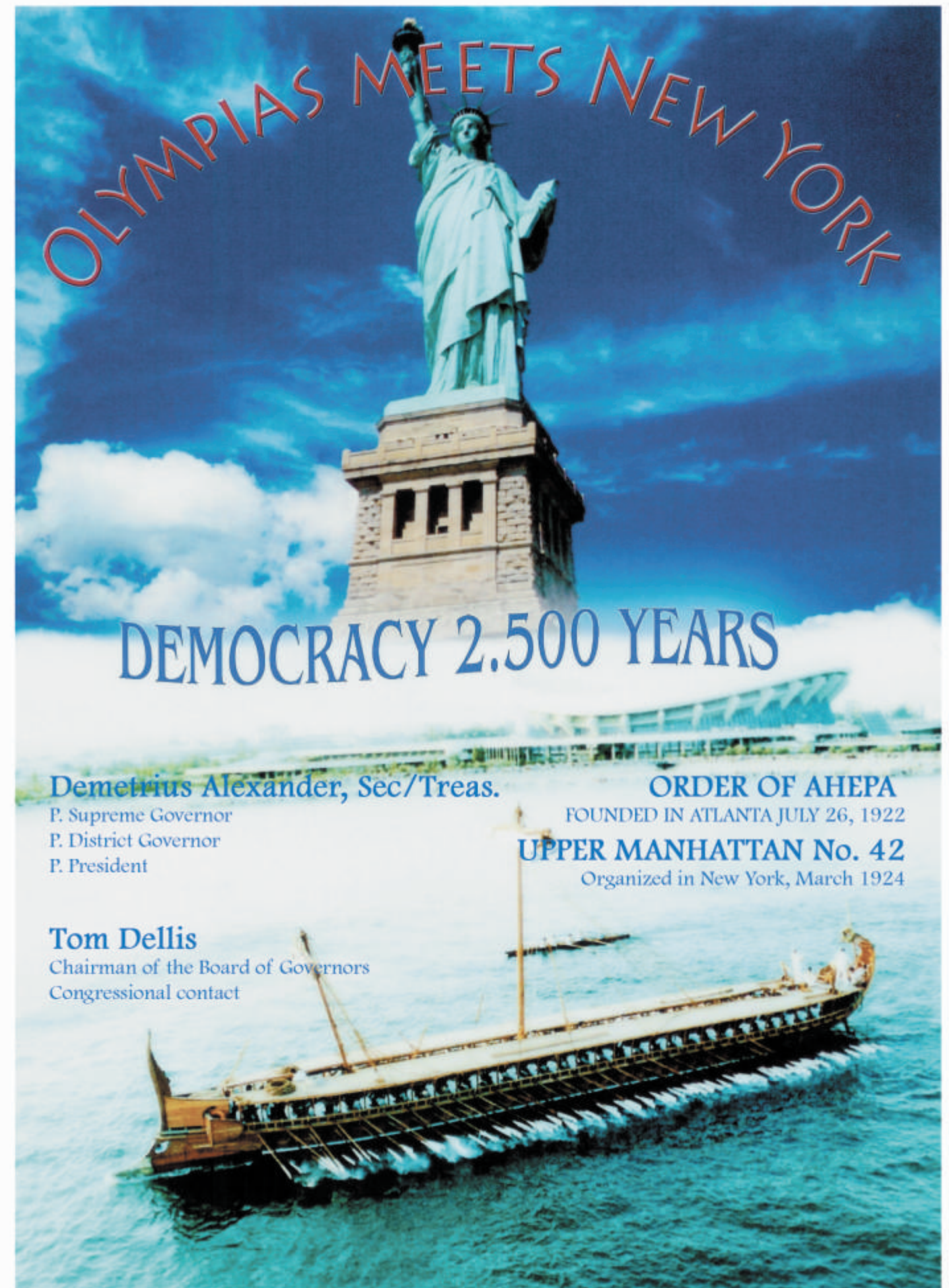
I have come here to present to you today a proposal which supports the fundamental principles of AHEPA, the commitment to humanity, freedom, and democracy. It is a proposal to bring to New York City a tangible symbol of those principles, a reconstructed ancient Greek warship from the fifth century BC, an Athenian trireme. This vessel was instrumental in turning back an invasion of Greece by the Persian empire in 480 BC at a climactic naval battle in the narrow straits between the island of Salamis and the Greek mainland. The men who manned these ships in that battle and over the next fifty years formed the bedrock of the Athenian democracy and provided an environment that nurtured and fostered the tremendous outpouring of creativity and culture which we know today as the Golden Age of Athens. The importance of these ships to the development of that culture and to the preservation of Athenian democracy was emphasized in antiquity by both Aristotle and Thucydides.

In 1987, after years of research, a replica of this remarkable vessel was built and launched in Greece and commissioned "Olympias" as the newest warship in the Greek navy. Like its illustrious predecessors, it is rowed by a large crew of 170 rowers, and the proposal before you today is to bring this ship to New York City, recruit and train a new oarcrew, display the ship in manoeuvres in the waters around Manhattan, and as a culmination, to row the ship out and around the Statue of Liberty in a celebration of democracy and freedom.

The ship has only been out of Greece once. In 1993, she was taken to London, England, to celebrate 2,500 years of democracy, from the founding of the Athenian democracy by Cleisthenes in 507 BC to its longest serving successor, the British House of Commons. With a multi-national crew trained in London, the ship was rowed on the Thames over a period of three weeks, culminating in a ceremonial visit on board by the Speaker of the House of Commons, and the unveiling of a plaque in Parliament celebrating democracy.

We seek to replicate that successful visit to London by now bringing the trireme to New York City. This project could not more fully support the mission of AHEPA by bringing to life the ideals of ancient Greece, and I am hopeful it will receive your support today. Thank you.

S. Ford Weiskittel
Executive Director



Demetrius Alexander, Sec/Treas.

P. Supreme Governor
P. District Governor
P. President

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Tom Dellis

Chairman of the Board of Governors
Congressional contact

HELLENIC NAVY, ATHENS, GREECE

Tom Lantos holds hearing on Agia Sophia



Chris Spirou with Senator Patrick Kennedy after the hearing

The President of the "Free Agia Sophia Council of America" international movement Chris Spirou testified before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus of the United States Congress. The Public Hearing took place on Wednesday, June 20, 2007, in Room 2200 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C. The hearing was Chaired by Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA), Chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and also Chairman of the powerful Committee on Foreign Affairs of the United States Congress.

The Public Hearing dealt with the escalating violations of Agia Sophia, the Mother Church of Christianity and the Cathedral of the Orthodox Christian faith, which is located in Istanbul (Constantinople,) Turkey.

Also testifying at the Public Hearing were the Honorable Raymond Buckley, former Democratic Leader in the New Hampshire House of Representatives and the current Chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party. Chairman Buckley testified as the Vice President of the "Free Agia Sophia Council of America."

Rhode Island State Senator Lou Raptakis also testified, as did attorney Steven Schneebaum, Legal Counsel to the "Free Agia Sophia Council of America." At the end of the Public Hearing, Chairman Lantos stated among other things: "Of all the Human Rights violations around the world that the Congressional Human

Rights Caucus has examined in the 25 years of its existence, the most important have been violations relating to Religious Freedom. The Caucus has paid particular attention and concern to human rights violations which deal with forced conversions of Holy Places and Holy Sites. The situation with Agia Sophia ranks amongst the most important issues to have come before our Caucus... The Public Hearing will remain open for now, so as all interested parties may submit additional written testimonies. We will continue our interest with Agia Sophia."

The Free Agia Sophia Council of America, spearheaded by former New Hampshire Democratic Party president and gubernatorial candidate Chris Spirou, launched a campaign last year with the aim to restore Agia Sophia, now a museum, as a functioning church of the Orthodox Christian faith and a house of prayer for all Christians in the world.

In 537 A.D. Byzantine Emperor Justinian consecrated the Great Church, Agia Sophia, and named it after God's Holy Wisdom. Upon entering the Great Church on its consecration Justinian is said to have exclaimed: "Solomon, I Have Surpassed Thee!" comparing Agia Sophia to King Solomon's Great Temple in Jerusalem.

In 1453 Agia Sophia was seized by the conquering Ottoman Turks and was forcibly transformed into a mosque, against the commands and the hadiths of the Prophet Mohammed, which prohibit the forced conversion of Christian churches into mosques and the disruption of Christian church services.

Fatih Mehmet, the conquering Ottoman Turk leader who captured Constantinople, named his mosque "Agia Sophia Mosque." Agia Sophia remained a symbol of Ottoman Turk behavior until 1934, when again General Kemal Ataturk, the first dictator-president of modern

the first dictator-president of modern Turkey, forcibly converted it to a museum, the "Agia Sophia Muzesi"

Since the latest conversion Agia Sophia has suffered tremendous destruction and untold violations such as promoting the sale of floor tiles and bathroom fixtures, conducting fashion shows and musical events and to holding world-class pasarellas.

"The historic violations heaped upon the Mother Church of Christianity, Agia Sophia, for 554 years, non-stop, must come to an end," said Spirou in his testimony. "Allowing states and governments to determine the use of holy places and to determine holy figures brings humanity back to the law of the jungle and to the law of the sword."



Chairman Tom Lantos with Chris Spirou

JOIN US IN PROTEST!

Greeks, Greek Cypriots, and their friends will be demonstrating outside the Turkish Embassy in Washington DC (Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC)

Friday, July 20, 2007, 2:00 PM – 5:00PM

to demand that Turkey's brutal 33 years of Turkish military invasion with use of napalm and American-made bombs, aircraft and weapons that began on July 20, 1974, end now.

NO JUSTICE! NO PEACE!

We call for FULL REMOVAL of ALL Turkish soldiers from Cyprus!

The Turkish Government is one of the most repressive regimes in the world, Greeks, as well as Armenians and Assyrians are denied basic human rights, including the right to freedom of expression and freedom of religion.

Following the early Twentieth Century Crime of Genocide against Greeks and Armenians, the Turkish State has continued its genocidal policies by targeting Kurdish civilians and villages, denying Greek and Armenian and Assyrian Genocide, and thoroughly eradicating the Greeks from Cyprus.

Get Involved! Get on the Bus to Washington DC! Call now to reserve a seat and to volunteer to help!

Cyprus Action Network of America (CANA)

New York, NY 10025

Washington DC: 530-400-5821

New York: Tel. 917-699-9935

cana@cyprusactionnetwork.org

www.cyprusactionnetwork.org

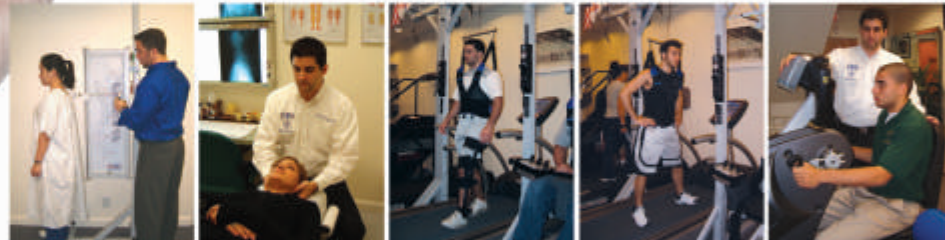
The Cyprus Action Network of America (CANA) is a grass roots, not-for-profit movement created to support genuine self determination and human rights for the people of Cyprus.

You are encouraged to forward this action alert to five or more individuals who may have an interest in our e-distributions or in CANA's mission.

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journalism

The Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation in partnership with The Fund for American Studies takes pride in presenting the 2nd annual Euro-Med Journalism Institute (EMJI) in Athens, Greece from September 29 to October 7, 2007. The Fund for American Studies seeks qualified journalists to attend the Euro-Med Journalism Institute.

You can assist us in recruiting outstanding candidates to apply for the Institute. Those selected to attend EMJI will receive a generous scholarship. Each EMJI participant will be required to pay a minimum of 150 Euros.

EMJI was developed in response to a growing

recognition that journalists must be empowered with the knowledge and skills needed to report on a variety of political economic and cultural and religious issues. EMJI is the premier program for young journalists. Journalists will have the opportunity to participate in social and networking activities while fostering new professional relationships.

The Institute curriculum emphasizes how to understand the role of a free press in promoting the values of a free society and accurately report on international, political, and economic conflicts.

Journalists can apply online at www.tfasinternational.org. The EMJI

website is the best resource for information and communication. The website provides information detailing the Institute's academic and admission procedures and it also enables applicants to check their application status online.

Applicants are encouraged to apply before the final deadline of July 15, 2007. Should you have any questions about the program please email emji@tfas.org or education@gaec.org

RAW AND UNAFRAID

BY DIANNE BOWEN

ARTIST AGNI ZOTIS
AT NEW YORK'S
TRIA GALLERY
"SACRED WAYS"
GROUP EXHIBITION

RAW: AS IN A PURE PIGMENT COLOR PALETTE OR MATERIALS
UNAFRAID: AS IN FEARLESS EXPRESSIVE MOTIONS WITH PAINT,
TEXTURE, APPROACH AND ATTITUDE WITHOUT APOLOGY

"I'm a Greek from NY", she will proudly tell you, "I'm a painter." You can find her in Agni Zotis gallery at 170 East 2nd Street the majority of time, painting, contemplating, and chatting with curious by passers or deep in intellectual conversation regarding the universe, humanity, social responsibility, love, collective awareness or a myriad of other topics. A bold generous laugh and eyes that can cut you to the quick, she has the unique capacity to question a stranger on the most intimate of subjects gaining access to the "real flesh" of their soul. This powerful depth is at the core of her work. The raw truth of it and the fearless nature of her process.

She works primarily on a large scale using raw bright colored pigments, stones, metallic leafs, and phosphorus paints on linen and canvas. Bold abstract forms of color, contemplative dripping and pooling are all a strangely highly controlled randomness in nature, which create patterns of movement within the forces of nature. Phosphorus paints create a literal second dimensional life representing the spirit, a transcendence of the

work when seen in black light. Underlying concerns addressing issues of our humanity, social responsibility and our existence in the universe converse in text, color and form on the canvas. In some cases they may smack you in the face while lovingly soothing the sting as if to say, "do you understand now?"

The raw emotions vibrate through the work leaving you to contemplate their affect. Zotis's piece titled, Basic Necessities, is a perfect example. She writes her thoughts clearly on the canvas going over the text with layers of intensely colored pigments, spray paint and metallic flakes. The word SAFE in large letters is written across the center surrounded by concepts regarding the word. The equation $infinity = \text{the square root of } I$ $M = \text{completion}$, brings you deeper into the contemplative intellectual process. "This equation is very important to understand for a happier life. Safe, what is safe, who is safe, how do you feel safe, safe can't be guaranteed, it is an ideology, uncontrollable and unpredictable." Agni states. The text exists as both words and visual vibrations reacting in

their environment.

Agni Zotis' work stole the show, "Sacred Ways" a group exhibition that opened June 7th, 2007 at Tria Gallery at 547 W. 27th Street, NYC. On view are 3 pieces from her work, - The Mediators I, The Mediators II and The Headless Pig. What I consider to be one of her major works, The Headless Pig, was the highlight. Using repetitive forms, concentrating in the atomic structure, bits of garnet, blue quartz, crystal and gold glitter, come from the beginning of existence. Bullet shaped rainbows, inner energy, repeat refracting light, capturing time with pure color in chalk pastel on the surface that can be wiped away as fragile as life itself. In the center Zotis draws a headless pig in which she paints a solid circle of gold pigment as the gift, suggesting the inner will. There is unity in her patterns. Symbolic underlying contemplations - resolutions solidify. The work reflects both her intellectual curious nature and her sense of humor. There is much more to be said, but I'd hate to give it away...see it for yourself.

CONSTANTINE MAROULIS' DEBUT ALBUM



Bold & The Beautiful on Wednesday, May 15th 2007. "Everybody Loves" is currently available on iTunes.

In 2005 Constantine Maroulis electrified America during season four of American Idol with his captivating delivery of Queen's classic "Bohemian Rhapsody." The Brooklyn-born, New Jersey-bred rocker will thrill his fans once again with the highly anticipated release of Constantine - his solo album out August 7th, 2007 (Sixth Place Records / Sony RED). Constantine debuted "Everybody Loves," the first song off the album, on The

Since his unexpected departure from American Idol, Constantine has been hard at work, starring on Broadway in "The Wedding Singer" as well as in the critically acclaimed off-Broadway revival of "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris." In between, he devoted considerable time and effort into finding the right band, assembling a talented group of musicians that meshed into a cohesive and rockin' ensemble. Constantine co-wrote several songs on the record and songwriters who lent their skills to the album include seminal singer/songwriter Willie Nile; Angie Aparo (Faith Hill); Marcel (Rascal Flatts); and Grammy nominated, Kevin Kadish (Jason Mraz).

Constantine recently became a featured star on The Bold and The Beautiful, which ranks as the Number Two most watched soap in the world. Constantine's role, which was created especially for him, is based in part on his real life. Throughout his thirteen-week stint, the show will be incorporating music from Constantine. This extraordinary cross-promotion will bring Constantine's music and personality to millions of viewers worldwide, an unprecedented opportunity for a young artist.

The album reflects Constantine's commitment to an unprocessed, live feel and organic edge. As a result, Constantine was recorded in intimate studios in New York City, including co-producer Marc Copely's living room. "The album was cut live with my own band," Constantine explains. "No programming, minimal overdubs. We've been playing these songs on the road and chose the tunes that got the best feedback from our audiences." The songs on the album showcase the singer's vocal versatility and the strong arrangements of the Maroulis band.

The diversity of the album shows off the restless creative spirit of Constantine the singer and serves notice that he's a musical force to be reckoned with.

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An event for kids ...Father's Day?

Astoria's Greek Cultural Center (KEP from its initial in Greek) hosted recently a Day of Culture and Entertainment at the Stathakion Center. The event that went on for hours, and although for children, was scheduled to coincide with Father's Day. Kids had the opportunity to engage in making shadow puppets as well as art and dance workshops. Moreover, two shadow puppet theater "Karaghiozis as a Doctor" by Aris Diakovasilis presentations took place, along with performances of traditional dances from Pontos to Crete. The program closed with a special appearance of Eros Taximi, a group by young Greek-American musicians who presented a full program with Rebetika and Smyrneika songs, Greece world-

renown blues.

KEP's mission is to preserve our language and culture through the arts. For the last 33 years it has been an active participant of cultural presentation in the Greek diaspora and has taken an active role in educating the community through its theater, dance and music initiatives. This coming Fall KEP will produce and host a comedy by Aristophanes, opening a new impressive cycle of activities.

The Greek Cultural Center is located on 27-18 Hoyt Avenue South, Astoria, and for more information its phone number is (718) 726-7329.



Classical Pianist Areti Giovanou, a KEP member, was in charge for some of the workshops

ART WORK DISPLAY AT THE ARTOPOLIS

Argie Agelarakis, an accomplished Greek-American artist, will display selections of her work, titled "Thalassa," on August 11 and 12 at the Artopolis Patisserie in Astoria. Throughout the years, Argie has developed a unique style of painting techniques and lay-out formats by blending colors through mixed media in oils, pastels, printmaking, and collage, resulting in abstraction and symbolism on a variety of themes. Inspiration is derived from life experiences, sensitivity and respect for nature and the environment, and travel throughout the Mediterranean & Caribbean.

Her collection includes more than one hundred paintings of abstract art, twenty oil paintings, more than one hundred nudes, landscapes and the Mediterranean Sea.

Agelarakis is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts of Manhattan and an MFA graduate of Adelphi University with additional studies in American and European academic institutions. Her work has been shown in individual and collective exhibits in New York and Greece.

Having her paintings displayed at the Artopolis, acting upon an idea of General Manager Regina Katopodis, is something of a breakthrough, although not an absolute surprise. Artopolis, in the heart of Astoria's Agora Plaza (23-18 31st St., tel. 718 728-8484,) has been famous for its superb, high quality deserts and baked goods, but also for its nouveau aesthetics and environment and serves as a meeting place for artists, intellectuals, professionals and people who look for something different not too far away.

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Because the most beautiful game is life itself



Launching the (first) GreekPAC

By Demetrios Rhompotis

GreekPAC, the first Greek American political action committee, hosted its inaugural event this past June 26 at the Washington's Capitol Hilton Hotel, with Congress' rising stars Gus Bilirakis, John Sarbanes and Jack Space among others as guest speakers. They were joined by two very capable Greek American Republicans, Basil Mossaidis from Virginia and Dean Scontras from Maine, who next year will seek their party's nomination to run for Congress.

"GreekPAC is a mechanism to provide financial assistance for those politicians who are either in office or running for office and who have a predisposition to assist in Greek American issues," Nick Larigakis, vice

president of the group's founding member advisory board said in an interview with NEO. "We have three members now in the House of Representatives, but I think the numbers could be higher," added George Sifakis, president of the advisory board. "There's never been, to our knowledge, a national Greek American political action committee that could make a difference in the number of member of Congress." Alex Spanos is the honorary founding chairman with George Behrakis as co-chairman.

Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Henry Brown attended and saluted the event as did Greek Americans from all over the US, among them SAE of America (Council of

Hellenes Abroad) Coordinator Ted Spyropoulos, WANDTV anchor Patricia Kakridas from Illinois, her father James Kakridas from Sacramento, California, John Politis from North Carolina, Tina Papadopoulos from Boston, James Jatras, Theo Margas and Nick Karambelas from DC, Serbian Unity Congress Director John Bosnitch and Catherine Papathanasiou, representing Republicans from Greece! "Years ago we had eight members in Congress," she reminded everyone.

Individuals may contribute up to \$5,000 per calendar year to the PAC, which can be reached at www.greekamericanpac.com



Some of the PAC's pioneers



Georgette Kakridas, her father James Kakridas with Congressman Zach Space.



Theo Margas (left) with Kostas Alexakis.



Nick Karambelas and James Jatras (right)



Tina Papadopoulos and Eugene Rossides



Sheila Page, Basil Mossaidis, Michael Zachariades and John Bosnitch



From left, Congressman Henry Brown, George Sifakis, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Nick Larigakis



Ted Spyropoulos



Taryn Sifakis (left), Patricia Kakridas, WANDTV17 anchor, and Georgette Kakridas



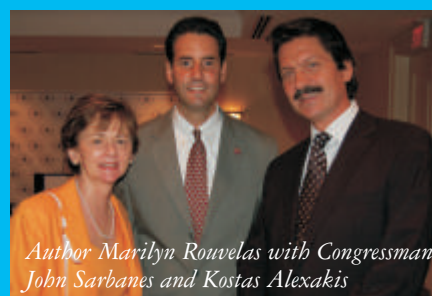
Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen with John Politis



Republican Candidate for Congress Dean Scontras with his cousin Katherine Scontras



Congressman Gus Bilirakis with Catherine Papathanasiou, representing Republicans from ... Greece!



Author Marilyn Rouvelas with Congressman John Sarbanes and Kostas Alexakis



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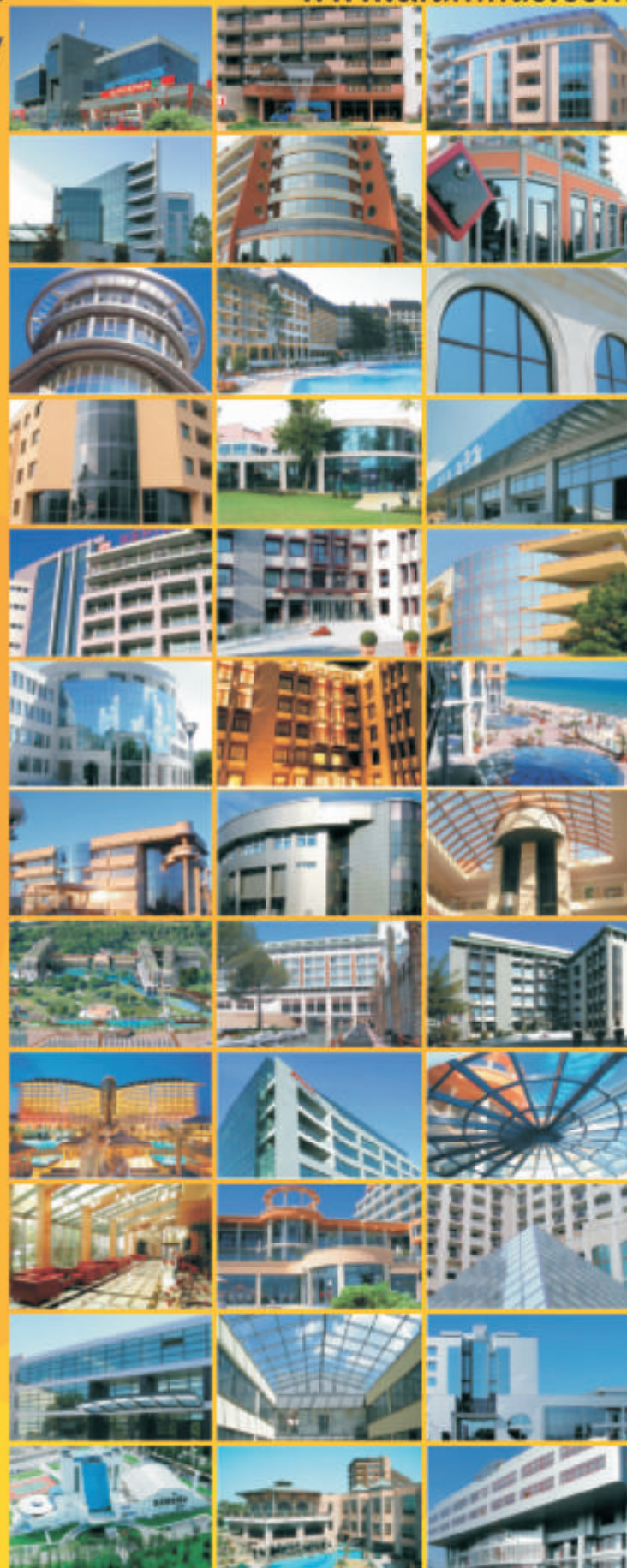
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Metropolitan Bishop Theodosius Lazor, former New York First Lady Evangelina Gouletas and Captain Miltos Kotzageridis.

Socialite Margo Grant (left) with Dr. Olga Gonko.

Consul Vladimir Khelebnikov of Russia with former New York Governor George Pataki.

Consul General of Russia Sergey Garmonyn (left) with Dr. Eugene Zubkov, Director of the House of Hope Foundation.

Day Of Russia in New York

By Demetrios Rhompotis

Former New York First Lady Evangelina Gouletas, CEO of Skyline Equities Realty, and Captain Miltos Kotzageridis, Managing Director of Magna Global, were among the Greek-Americans who showed up along with another 500 guests to celebrate this year's Day of Russia in New York that also marked the 200th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Russia and the United States. Organized by Globe PR Group and held under the patronage of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Washington, the Russian Consulate General in New York and the New York Office of the Russian Trade Representation, the event took place aboard "Cornucopia Majesty," a luxury cruise yacht that traveled along a major water route of the New York Harbor enabling the guests to enjoy a magnificent evening and a night panorama of NYC.

A group of renown Russian classical musicians and the Felix Swing Band performed ...miracles! Former New York Governor George Pataki was among the honorary guests. "Despite all disagreements that inevitably appear between states, it is very important that Russia and the United States keep their close relationship and the United States understand the need for Russia

to be strong and flourish," he noted during his welcoming remarks. The Honorary Committees of the event included Russian Senator Mikhail V. Margelov, Senator Roy M. Goodman, President and CEO of the UNDC, Yuri V. Ushakov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the USA, Louis F. Bantle, Chairman Emeritus of UST, H.E. Vitaly I. Churkin, Russian Ambassador to the UN, Sergey V. Garmonin, Russian Consul General in New York, Andrey P. Dolgorukov, Trade Representative of Russia to the US, Zurab K. Tsereteli, President of the Russian Academy of Arts, Andrey Z. Martirosov, CEO of UTair Aviation, Rick Shannon, President of AmeRussia Co and Dr. Eugene Zubkov, Director of the House of Hope.

Personalities of Cyril E. Geacintov's caliber, former US Undersecretary of Commerce and President of the Russian Nobility Association (his family's roots are traced in the 13th century Epirus,) along with a roster of internationally acclaimed artists such as Pianist Ilya Itin, Bass Mikhail Svetlov, Cellist Borislav Strulev and Soprano Anna Shaffa, among others, made the celebration an event to remember. The Russian Greek Orthodox Catholic Church in America was represented by Metropolitan Bishop Theodosius and Protopresbyter Alexander Abramov.

Russian and American officials, New York City and State Administration representatives, members of the diplomatic corps of New York, businessmen, leaders of the Russian-speaking community, renown scientists, writers, artists, sportsmen, and journalists of the leading newspapers and magazines were also present.

Senator Mikhail Margelov and Philanthropist Louis Bantle, founder of the House of Hope, were honored with the 2007 Day of Russia in New York Special Award for their outstanding contribution to the development of the bilateral relations between the United States and Russia. «We have a sincere hope that this event will make its positive impact on the strengthening and development of Russian-American relations in all areas and will create a good tradition for long years to come not only in New York, but also in other great



Zurab Tsereteli, Russian Academy of Arts president.

cities of the United States," Ioori Smirnov, President of Globe PR Group, said addressing the guests.

"It is estimated that more than a million people living in New York trace their roots in Russia," said Consul General of Russia in New York Sergey V. Garmonin, - a charismatic and energetic diplomat who was key to the event's success - in an interview with NEO. "We are so proud of them and of their accomplishments. This celebration and other events that are in the offing are just a token of appreciation and an open invitation to join us in forging a stronger US-Russia relationship, based on real people. There is a huge potential for development that in the end can only be beneficial to all." He also invited Greek American businessmen to look to Russia for new opportunities. "Our relationship is over a millennium old and there are so many things that we share. You are always welcome in my country, as other



Rick Shannon, Corporate Chair of the Day of Russia in New York 2007.



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Philanthropist Louis Bantle, Chairman Emeritus of UST, received the Day of Russia in New York 2007 Award.

