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Nia Vardalos

AHEPA in San Francisco

New Acropolis Museum

L100 Leader Stefanie Gail Roumeliotes

Advertising Maverick George Lois

James M. Orphanides honored



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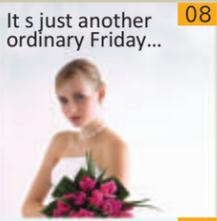
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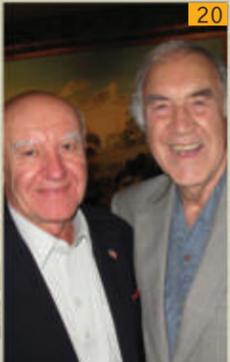
bread & honey



NIA VARDALOS: MY LIFE IN ...BLOOM!



It's just another ordinary Friday...



The New Generation of Leaders



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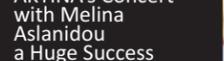
Scholarships and Travel Fellowships by Faith



George Lois



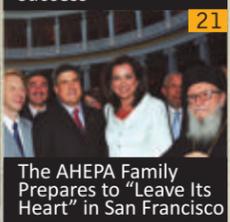
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FROM THE STAR OF "MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING"

NIA VARDALOS RICHARD DREYFUSS

MY LIFE IN RUINS



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The New Leaders

The L100/NEO New Generation leader profiled in this issue is Stefanie Gail Roumeliotis who had a pioneering grandfather who was an immigrant but managed to graduate Brown in the 1930s, and the strong women in her family, most noticeably her mother, who gave her the courage to follow her dreams.



FROM THE EDITOR

"I have always been awed by their courage, strength and grace under fire," she says. Stefanie's dream turned out to be politics, which she learned at the home of another seminal influence, her godfather. "From congressional internships starting at the age of 15 to serving as high school student body president, I have always had the drive and desire to participate actively in my community."

She went on to work for Senator Dianne Feinstein, Phil Angelides and eventually form her own political and philanthropic fundraising firm and is making a big difference in the greater community.

Light is the main attribute of the New Acropolis Museum which is scheduled to open this month in Greece to house the entire collection of surviving antiquities from the Acropolis. Light pours from the glass-floored atrium of the Parthenon Galley, light enters the archaeological excavation and the light of hope is what kept the dream alive that this museum would actually be built over the three decades that it took to make it a reality.

And it's a wonderful reality: architect Bernard Tschumi says "if architecture can be described as the materialization of concepts, this building is about the clarity of an exhibition route expressed through three materials, marble, concrete and glass."

In this issue, we also highlight the conventions of AHEPA in San Francisco and PSEKA'S 25th Annual Cyprus Conference in DC and the many faces that made it notable. Enjoy.

George Lois was a pioneer in the world of advertising, the bad boy of the industry who shook it up and whose innovations are still daring decades later. He helped create the iconoclasm of the 60s and his style is a signature style of the era. He hasn't slowed down in the decades since and is still as outspoken.

Finally, Nia Vardalos is back with her new movie based in Greece and taking full advantage of Greece's ancient and modern glory. It's a comedy (naturally) and Vardalos in it is Vardalos, once again: funny and charming and bound to fall in love.

Dimitri C. Michalakis

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It's just another ordinary Friday...



You're having your usual date night at a restaurant, trying to let loose and forget about the gruelling work week you just endured, but something is very off. Your significant other has been acting weird all day... well weirder and nicer than usual. The staff keeps staring, as if you have food all over your face, and the Maitre 'D has not stopped walking in circles and flashing his not so pearly whites at you. These actions alone are enough to make any female over the edge insecure or at least extremely nervous. You begin to wonder what gives, did you subconsciously do something wrong? Suddenly, your boyfriend downs his 5th glass of pinot noir and begins to heavily sweat. When you ask him to slow down and if there is something wrong, he jumps up and shouts no loud enough for even those outside the restaurant to hear. Okay, super embarrassing and strange, time to order dessert and leave quickly!

As you anxiously wait for your dessert to arrive, you are mentally planning a clever exit strategy while your boyfriend continues to ramble on and on about nothing. When your waiter arrives with your dessert, it's not the chocolate soufflé you ordered, rather it's a stale looking fruit tart, ick! While you are trying to motion your waiter to come back, your boyfriend seems to have fallen... or maybe not. He is down wobbling on one knee with a little black velvet box in his hands and appears to be twitching. Goosebumps rapidly cover your body and you know what's coming...now it all makes sense and you begin to cry uncontrollably. Then you hear the four words that every girl wishes to be asked all her life from her prince charming, "Will you marry me?"

Now girls, we'd be bluntly lying to each other if we didn't admit that the planning for our BIG DAY had begun from the moment our man stood on one knee. He's talking, but your thinking: flowers, limos, the cake, the venue and most importantly the dress! As you smile at him lovingly, you realize that he is still waiting for your answer. Quickly, you snap out of it and say YES!

From this moment on, many times unwillingly, you will slowly be transformed and develop

two personalities. One is the caring and sweet person your fiancé loves and wants to be with until eternity and two, the wedding monster aka "bridezilla" that wants what she wants and is willing to do anything to get it when she wants it. Whether you spend weeks, months or years planning your big day, it is extremely imperative to think the process through and having a non family member step in to help for a wide variety of reasons.

Now enter the role of the must needed wedding planner! Meet Helen, a creative and classy wedding consultant that is always seen with a smile on her face despite the chaotic conditions that often dwell around her. Helen, owner of the wedding planning company, An Unforgettable Affair, has worked with a variety of brides whose budgets range from \$800,000.00 to \$10,000.00 and has seen and heard it all. "It's my day... I am the princess... My daddy...I want, I want, I want!" Somewhere along the never ending wedding related rants, brides tend to forget they're not alone and that there is a groom involved. Doesn't he have at least a little say in all this? The answer sadly is no, the fact that there wouldn't be a wedding without him barely crosses a bride's mind. However, having a wedding planner can change all this and is much more affordable than you may think. Our unpredictable and weak economic climate can help in keeping wedding costs within your budget, you just have to speak up and demand your vendors to give you a discount. Trust me, they need your business! If the thought alone of trying to bargain makes you cringe, then once again, bring in the wedding planner! Their insider industry connections and professional negotiating skills will save you more time and money than you ever imagined.

Whatever your plans ladies, (and gentlemen remember this, when your big day arrives you will want it to be the fairytale you've always dreamed of. This is the celebration of your love for one another and the start of your life together. It shouldn't be the gateway marriage counselling or filing for bankruptcy. So take a step back and re-evaluate the situation, remember, your wedding day will come and go faster than the blink of an eye. In the end, the exotic Cymbidium orchid

arranged perfectly, the uber elegant venue and gourmet spread of food will definitely make you happy, but will not make or break your day. The materialistic things that will matter are the multiple vendor payments that are due and the fact that when you return from your honeymoon, you still don't have your own home. The majority or even all of your savings went into your "one big day" and now you are left financially insecure. Is this something you want to have happen to you?

You can have a stunning wedding if you don't allow yourself to fall prey to what society expects. There are tons of ways to have it all and not spend it all. Plan wisely and be smart. In the end, remember, it is just One Day whether it be "big" or small.

Here are some of Helen's great money saving tips for your upcoming wedding:

- Wedding venues often offer cheaper 'off-peak' rates for non-Saturday weddings. If you don't mind getting hitched on a Friday or Sunday, this could save you loads.
- Think long and hard about your guest list because this is where you can save a huge deal of money. If you haven't seen someone for a very long time, (for example: over a year), do they really need to be invited to your wedding? Will you be friends with them in 5 or 10 years?
- Make your own invitations by visiting your local craft shop and purchasing all the materials you need to add that personal touch. Ask friends who are very creative to help you make up a gorgeous invite, one that is unique and specific to your wedding theme.
- If you have a friend who is great at doing makeup, why not ask her to do yours on your special day? You'll not only save money, but your friend will be honored that you asked.
- Save by choosing seasonal flowers vs. imported or green house flowers in your bouquets and centerpieces. Flowers that are not in season significantly up the cost.

For more helpful wedding advice and tips on saving money, feel free to email Helen at kefalas_helen@hotmail.com



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Scholarships and Travel Fellowships by Faith

“Faith: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism” once again is supporting a series of academic scholarships and travel fellowships for young people throughout the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in 2009.

Metropolitan Bishop Methodios with Michael and Mary Jaharis, founders of Faith. Photos by D. Panagos



Participants of the Ionian Village program



Two years ago, Faith launched one of its most prominent funding initiatives by underwriting several merit-based scholarship awards offered by the Archdiocese to the graduating valedictorians and salutatorians of its parochial schools. The Faith Scholarships for Academic Excellence are merit-based scholarships designated for educational purposes and underscore the commitment to excellence in education throughout the Archdiocese. This year, Faith increased its funding for the scholarship programs to include Greek Orthodox valedictorians of any public or private high school in the United States.

In addition to the scholarships for academic, as part of its 2009 scholarship program, Faith once again funded several Archdiocese travel scholarships for students to participate in the Ionian Village summer program this summer. These need-based scholarships were awarded by the Archdiocese to students who displayed financial need, assisting to cover the tuition and travel fees to the program. In 2009, there were approximately 34 recipients of Faith Ionian Village Travel Scholarships. Ionian Village is located in Greece and operated by the Archdiocese under the spiritual direction and guidance of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America. Established in 1970, Ionian Village

offers its participants a unique experience to travel across Greece, venerate the relics of saints, walk in the footsteps of the Apostles, and visit significant sites of Greek history and culture.

Peter T. Kikis, President and one of the Original Founders of Faith, remarked on last year's scholarship recipients: "We are very proud to be able to support the Archdiocese scholarship programs. The past recipients of the Faith Scholarships for Academic Excellence are truly outstanding candidates - unilaterally, they not only excelled academically but they are also the young leaders in our community by commendably donating their time and effort to volunteering and actively building our community through their extracurricular activities."

Cathy Papoulias-Sakellaris, a Founder of Faith and also an alumna of Ionian Village said that "we (the Founders of Faith) are happy to support young people wishing to participate in Ionian Village, which is a truly transformative experience - one can see the intellectual, spiritual and emotional growth that takes place for young people attending the summer camp."

Faith looks toward continuing support of these vital educational programs as well as to working with the Archdiocese to

inaugurate a series of new opportunities related to its mission and the development of new programs that will support the enrichment and enlightenment of future community members and leaders.

The academic scholarship application deadline is June 26, 2009. For more information about the Archdiocese scholarship programs, please contact the Archdiocese office of Administration at 212-774-0566 or administration@goarch.org. For application guidelines and forms, please visit: www.faihendowment.org.

The core mission of Faith is to promote Hellenism and an understanding of the Greek Orthodox faith through a series of high quality innovative educational programs and cultural initiatives under the auspices of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Founded by a group of Greek American leaders representing a diversity of professional fields and philanthropic values, the organization's first priority is to fund the development and expansion of educational and cultural programs that focus on Orthodox and Hellenic heritage and cultural legacy. Faith's mission is to promote a diverse series of educational and cultural programs that will be available to the Greek American community. For more information, the website is: www.faihendowment.org.



From right to left are Vassilios Labropoulos(chair), Prof. Artemis Leondis, George Reganis, presenting the signed agreement, Larry Stassinis, Intr. President, Gus Kaounas, Sam Roumanis, John Kaounas, Mke Melhem, George Keros and Dr. Anthony Kales. All are members of FMGS Board of Directors.

FOUNDATION EXPANDS ITS SUPPORT FOR MODERN GREEK AT MICHIGAN

The Foundation of Modern Greek Studies (FMGS) has entered a new gift agreement with the University of Michigan to help the Modern Greek Program expand its curriculum and meet increasing student needs for more courses and graduate degrees in modern Greek language, culture, and history. This is the third gift agreement between the Foundation and the University, following the endowment of the C. P Cavafy Professorship (1999) and the annual commitment to provide support for student scholarships and funding for cultural events (2004).

The FMGS' new gift agreement has established a new Fund at Michigan which can be used along with additional contributions by charitable organizations and individuals to support annually visiting scholars in Modern Greek history and culture. Thus, the Fund will provide additional scholarly resources to the

University and aid in stimulating interest for the establishment of a second endowed professorship in Modern Greek History and Culture.

As part of its outreach activities, the Foundation for Modern Greek Studies held recently a Rebetiko Taverna Night at St. George Cultural Center in Bloomfield Hills, MI. It was an extraordinary evening with Greek food, wine, and music by the famous Rebetiki Istoria Band from Athens, Greece, who were invited by the University for two events, a concert at the School of Music on Saturday night and the Taverna Night on Sunday. Both events were sellouts (total attendance for the two nights of over 800) and audiences were delighted by the Rebetiki performances, their first in the U.S.

Professors Vassilis Lambropoulos and Artemis Leontis gave informative presentations

at the Sunday event on behalf of the Program, and George Reganis on behalf of the Foundation. Following the presentations, the Board of Directors of FMGS presented to the Professors a signed copy of the Foundations' third gift agreement for Modern Greek Studies with the University.

For more than ten years, the Foundation has been working in harmony with the University of Michigan, making considerable progress as it pursues its mission to support the Modern Greek Program as a world-class center for the study of Modern Greek Language, Culture and History. On average, each year enrollments in Modern Greek courses reach 400 students, and in all Greek courses 2500 students. The Foundation is grateful to the Hellenic community for its continuing support and enthusiasm for the Modern Greek Program at the University of Michigan.

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Nia Vardalos: My Life in

By Katerina Georgiou

It's probably easier to find the lost city of Atlantis than a Greek who hasn't seen "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." Not since the invention of the frappe, has a single shared experience united the Greek community in such frothy delight.

Nia Vardalos' first and most famous film shattered box office records when it came out in 2002. It has since grossed over \$240 million. Her latest film, "My Life In Ruins," opened in theatres on June 5th.

But don't wait to see it, warns Vardalos. "Theatre owners are looking for a sure thing, so we need to tell them this is a sure thing or they'll replace it with films like "Transformers," she said, referring to the big-budget blockbuster.

Vardalos calls her new film "a love letter to Greece." "It is a place where people believe magic happens, and I'm here to tell you I know it does," she said during a recent phone conversation. When it comes to magical things, Vardalos is a credible source. Her own life reads like a Cinderella success story: going from Hollywood hopeful to Oscar nominee seemingly overnight. But she's quick to note: "Luck is opportunity meeting hard work. That's what happened to me with my first movie," she said. "I had already written a script when Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson came to the play, so that was my preparedness."

She was raised to believe that with hard work anything is possible. But it turned out "not to be that true" she said.

For all her accomplishments something was still lacking. "I couldn't figure out how to get a child into my life," said Vardalos, now 46. "I'm very grateful for the career success, but...for me it felt less special because I wanted to be a parent."

Today her battle with infertility is well documented, but her struggle to have a child was the "big secret" she'd been hiding ever since she burst onto the scene with

"My Big Fat Greek Wedding." Her transformative journey to create a family inspires her latest film. Seven years after her meteoric rise to stardom, she's back in theaters with a romantic comedy about a woman who finds her kefi, or passion for life, while leading a tour group through the mystical sites of Greece.

Life Imitates Art

Although "My Life In Ruins" was written by Mike Reiss, one of the writers of "The Simpsons Movie," Vardalos contributed to the script, taking a page from her own life to enhance the story. "I promised Mike when we brought him into Playtone (Tom Hanks' production company) that this was going to be the best experience of his life working with these people. Because they're the greatest people on earth. And I said, this is what we're going to do: I'm going to add some things to your script and I'm never going to take your credit. I just want to add some authenticity."

Soon afterwards, Nia and her alter ego Georgia found themselves on a journey to Greece to get back their kefi—albeit for different reasons.

In the film, Nia plays a Greek-American history professor who has moved to Greece to work as a tour guide after being unlucky in love and unable to land her dream job back home. But her heart's desire is to get back her mojo or kefi as the locals call it—and as Anthony Quinn made famous in *Zorba the Greek*.

...Bloom!





An academic who takes pride in her Greek roots, Georgia is disenchanted when she's assigned (yet again) to lead a group of hedonistic tourists more interested in eating ice cream and frolicking on beaches than visiting Greece's abundant cultural treasures.

To make matters worse, the tour agency sticks her with Greece's version of Chewbacca, Procopi "Poupi" Kakas (Alexis Georgoulis). It's amazing he can see his feet through all that hair let alone drive the bus.

Rounding out Georgia's misfortune, she runs into her rival tour guide – the scheming Nico (Alistair McGowan) – every step of the way. Through bribery and trickery, Nico has ensured his A-listed group gets the royal treatment. Meanwhile Georgia's "Group B" is forced to roll through Greece in a dilapidated bus that blows steam instead of air conditioning. They're also relegated to budget hotels where the coffee-guzzling owner (played by Vardalos' husband Ian Gomez) propositions female guests over postage stamps.

The problem is that Georgia perceives life as difficult and isn't able to let go long enough for her soul to fully experience the magic of Greece. So it's up to the group's "funny guy" Irv, (Richard Dreyfuss) to prod her out of her comfort zone and get her to embrace life instead of focusing on all the obstacles. With his guidance, Georgia learns to listen to her heart instead of her over-educated mind.

"The truth of the matter is wherever you go there you are," said Vardalos. "So if you run away from your problems you look in the mirror and they're still there."

Just as life had called upon Georgia to take a leap of faith and go with the flow, it was doing the same with Vardalos. After 10 years of battling infertility, she had to accept that her path to motherhood would take a different direction than the one she had originally envisioned for herself. "Parenthood isn't for everyone, but without it, I felt my life would be lacking..."

For a while I did say: "why is this happening to me? The only thing I can think is that...it was just this karmic slap. We, the fates, are going to give you huge success with "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" but we're not going to let you be a parent. And so, I kind of shrugged and thought: "this is my fate."

She retreated from the public eye and spent a "quiet period of reflection" at home with her husband. "I just didn't have the kefi to go on camera," she said. "I couldn't fake it. I didn't want to smile and pretend. There was no way through this grief other than to walk it and go through it."

So she kept busy off-camera, writing scripts for Tom Hanks and Jonathan Demme. Though a difficult, soul-searching period, it was liberating for her creatively.

"I'm not afraid to go to places in my writing

A Family Affair

The idea that families are created in different ways isn't just the subtext of her personal life but of her films as well. "In my struggles with my fertility, I realized that I'm very, very family oriented," she said. So it's not surprising that her films echo this theme.

Vardalos clearly has a gift for synthesis—a knack for bridging differences through laughter. Like "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," "My Life In Ruins" brings culturally diverse people together as a family.

At first glance, Georgia's tour group looks like a mismatched band of misfits. There's Georgia in the midst of a personal and professional crisis, a couple of Spanish divorcees, an American widower and a medley of others—all of whose lives have intersected for a brief moment in time. But their shared experience bonds them and their interaction teaches Georgia, in particular, something about herself.

As for those critics who've attacked the film's characters as ethnic stereotypes, Vardalos says they've missed the point. She applauds Director Donald Petrie for taking the "risk" of allowing the characters to initially be seen through Georgia's narrow perspective so that they have room to evolve as individuals by the end of the film.

"He makes them seem like obnoxious stereotypes because he's showing the audience them through Georgia's unhappy eyes," she said. "When the tourists change and become happy human beings they actually haven't changed at all. She's changed—her vision, her worldview has changed—and she begins to see them as the people they really are."

But in real life the cast was nothing like the characters they played. They took in all the sites together and marveled at Greece's natural wonders while having a fantastic time. "We laughed so hard at each other," said Vardalos. It was one of those really relaxed film sets because we were together in one of the most beautiful settings on the planet. On our days off we went climbing, we went to cafes, we went to Lycabettus. I'd ask everyone: "Are you OK?," and they'd say: "Yeah, we're on Delphi!"

One of the most memorable scenes in the film expresses a similar sense of wonderment when Georgia assembles the group at the Acropolis towards the end of the journey. It's at that moment she senses the invisible strands of her life coming together as she listens to the wind blowing through the columns. Once again, it was a moment drawn from personal experience.

"When I was reading Mike Reiss' script I was trying to find the perfect way of expressing what it is I love about the Parthenon, and on the plane there I still didn't have the scene. I still didn't have the words. Well, when we got to Greece I just walked up there on a scout, to see which way the director was going to shoot from...to get a feeling. And that's when I heard it. I know when I see it...when I feel it. When it's right, I don't touch it again. If it's rooted in truth I know it will play. It's always such a lesson no matter how much I obsess about something, occasionally, when I take a step back from it, that's when it clicks into place."

And so it seems the pieces of Vardalos' own life have come together nicely. Since wrapping "My Life In Ruins," she directed her first film, "I Hate Valentine's Day," based on her original script which co-stars John Corbett.

Still, she says, nothing compares to the "awed sense of satisfaction" that comes with motherhood. And, at least for now, she's content to go with the flow. "Whatever happens next it will be interesting and surprising to me because, for once, I'm not going to plan it."

that aren't funny—dramas, tragedies...different things. I just poured my angst out and let scripts go where they wanted to go...that was a freeing process to not only have to write romantic comedies," she said.

In the meantime, her early attempts at adoption proved difficult, and though she was offered the chance to cut the adoption line, she never considered using her star power to trample the rights of other would-be parents. For all her hard-earned fame, she suddenly felt transported back to her earlier angst-ridden days in Hollywood, when she had difficulty getting acting jobs and had to write roles for herself.

So she mustered up the drive and persistence that had propelled her to stardom and kept her "eyes open" for adoption opportunities. "I just kept searching the internet," she said. "So when I stumbled on an American Foster Family Agency I went: "here's a path." I didn't know what was going to happen, but I chose to believe the agency when they assured me that I would be a mother by the end of the year...and I thought: "well, I'm going to go and make this movie and we'll see." Around nine months later, Vardalos became a mother. Since the adoption in 2007, she and her husband have chosen to keep the toddler out of the spotlight.

"Now it's all worked out and I have my beautiful, perfect little daughter," she said. "So God forbid, the next crisis that I'm in, I'm just gonna ride it out. Yia kalo— there's always a reason."

For Vardalos, the moment of clarity came when she and her husband brought their daughter to church one Sunday and the priest offered to bless her with a special prayer for adoption. "I realized then that the reason it was so hard for me was because I was supposed to find this little girl," she said. "And so, in the same way when I make a movie, the ones that are more difficult to get made are usually the more fun."



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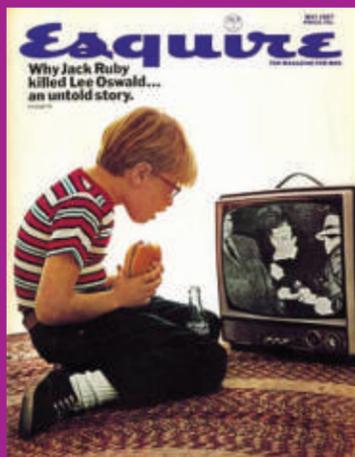


George Lois: Former "wild man" and presiding patriarch of advertising



by Dimitri C. Michalakis

"The pervading symbol of the whole Pop Art movement of that era was Warhol's Campbell's soup can. I've never been able to regard Pop Art as a serious movement...When this article in Esquire came up, I decided to show him [Warhol] drowning in his own soup...We photographed Warhol and the open can of soup separately. When we put Andy into the soup, we almost lost him."



Dubbed "The Superman of Madison Avenue" and "The Golden Greek", George Lois grabbed the advertising industry by the throat and revolutionized the game with campaigns that were always startling and never dull: the minimalist Volkswagen ads, the Braniff "When you got it, flaunt it" slogan, Mickey Mantle blubbering "I want my Maypo" and a reprise with "I want my MTV!", among others. He also worked on Robert Kennedy's 1964 senatorial campaign, fought to free Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and designed ten years of covers for Esquire magazine that encapsulated the decade. "George Lois may be nearly as great a genius of mass communication as he acclaims himself to be," declared New York Magazine.

Did you once say, "If advertising is a science, then I'm a girl"?

That was my facetious and maybe crude way of saying that advertising certainly was not a science, but was an art...Advertising is an art based on some basic understanding and knowledge of marketing. But to turn that understanding and marketing into exciting strategy, and exciting execution, and advertising that knocks you down and convinces you to do something, is so far from being measurable and so far from being a science, it isn't funny.

Your work has a "commando flair for the audacious" said The Wall Street Journal. Do you try to outrage the industry?

It was just a natural thing, I didn't think it through...They still call me a wild Greek. And that kind of reputation never bothered me. In fact, I always got a kick out of it. I talk like I'm from the Bronx, and I kind of lay it on a bit thick. I don't care. I think from the beginning I was considered the enfante terrible of Madison Avenue, Madison Avenue's bad boy...I still have the same craziness and excitement about what I do and I still have a temper when I protect my work...Most guys say, "Jesus Christ, George, how old are you now? You're sixty-six. When are you going to stop?" I say, "I don't

know." I think my passion, the passion for what I do, if anything, grows.

What did you want to contribute to advertising?

I always understood, I almost created, the idea of creating ideas. Of creating what I call The Big Idea. I always look for the startling, surprising idea...Advertising should attack your throat, your eyes should tear, you should choke up, you should almost pass out. When you see an advertising idea, it should absolutely be a blow to your stomach.

Were there risks being audacious in what is really a very conservative business?

Oh, sure, and by the way, you do take wounds. Because with all the great excitement, all the great things you do, there have been dozens and dozens of rejections of work that I thought was brilliant. But, somehow, I liked the excitement of putting an idea down on a flat piece of paper and creating a commercial that changed people's minds about something.

Why did you leave agencies you started and were very successful?

My gag was, "Hey, I'm going to keep doing it until I get it right." I started my last agency, I think in 1976-1977, so it's almost twenty years now. And I think really what happened in the first agency was that I was one of three partners. The second agency, I brought two young guys with me and made them equal partners. And I think the third time I said, "I'm not going to do this again." I mean, it's really as simple as that. I said, "This time I'm going to run it and I don't want to argue with anybody."

You also mistrust success?

What I told everybody was, "I'm too young to die." What happened, basically, was all my partners, everybody around me, were incredibly successful and they all started to chicken out and started to say, "Now that

we're big and successful, we gotta quiet our work down." And I remained the young Greek, or young Turk, raising hell. And I remember I was 35 and everybody around me was 45 and they were all acting like they were dead, or gonna retire. And I surprised the hell out of them. I just left to start another agency. I shocked the advertising world.

Why did you do the Esquire covers? To express yourself?

No, I can express myself in a million ways in advertising. No, what actually happened in 1960-1961--Harold Hayes was the editor, and a great editor, and I think he was doing a great magazine--but nobody recognized it was a great magazine. And he came to me and he said, "George, can I just have your opinion? I know you're a hot-shot art director. Do you have any suggestion how I can improve the covers?" I said, "Oh, God, I mean, how do you do that?" Well, everybody talks about what we should do...bah-bah-boo-bah-bah. And I said, "Well, that's ridiculous. Is that the way you do your articles?...I'll do one for you." And I did one, and it became very famous [Floyd Patterson, the seven-to-one favorite in a fight with Sonny Liston, shown knocked out in the ring]. The balls of calling a fight on the cover of a men's magazine. And then I just kept doing them, and the only reason I kept doing them is I told Hayes, "I'll keep doing them as long as you give me what's going to be in the magazine and I'll deliver your cover. And you gotta run it. The first time you say you don't want that cover, you won't run it, that's the end of that."

You showed Muhammad Ali as a martyred St. Sebastian for refusing the draft but portrayed an ordinary kid as a draft dodger: What's the difference?

Ali stood for his principles, as he said, it was a terrible war. It was a war of genocide, I don't think he used those words. I'm a Korean veteran, I fought in the Korean War, I thought that was a war of genocide, I thought that was an awful war, and I think

the Vietnam War was a continuation of that attitude and that war. So [Ali] made a principled stand...But then there were guys who were pure draft dodgers, draft dodgers like the Clintons of the world and half the guys you ever heard of, who did everything they could to not fight in the war. And to me, there's a moral difference between them.

You worked for many causes, including the freeing of boxer and convicted murderer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter.

I guess I'm a compassionate Greek, or is that redundant?...I like to think I stand up for truth and justice and the American way. I mean, I don't like when people get pushed around. I don't like the Nazi bastards, I'm like Jackie Mason. And I've always been involved politically. I did Bobby Kennedy's ad campaign. And I guess I feel strongly about certain things, and I'll do all I can to make things right. That doesn't mean I'm right, but at least I think I am.

Why did you title your 1972 autobiography "George Be Careful"?

Giorgo, prosexo. From the day I was born my mother told me, "Giorgo, prosexo." Certainly as far as my work is concerned, you can't be careful, you have to be dramatic, you gotta be exciting, you gotta be on the edge.

Do you think you changed the world, as you advised others to do?

Well, I mean, it's a crazy thing to say, except every time you attack a problem you gotta think that way. For good or bad, there's a lot of things I did that I know changed the world, as far as advertising is concerned. I think I influenced hundreds, thousands of people in the business...And there's a lot of things that wouldn't exist without me today, that literally changed the culture, for good or for bad: like the MTV's, the USA Today's, and the Tommy Hilfiger's, and the Lean Cuisine's, and a lot of things. Bobby Kennedy absolutely would not have won his first election in New York State, that's for sure...So it's a grandiose way of talking when you say you can change the world. But what I'm basically trying to teach people and young people, is that communications--dramatic, bold, edgy--can literally sell ideas. And the idea could be selling a product, something as mundane as a product, but important to you and important to your client, or selling the idea of justice.

Can you get as excited over selling frozen food as electing Bobby Kennedy?

I really enjoy that difference. The really silly thing about it is, I can get excited about selling almost something so mundane. I say, "How can you get so excited, George?" I think that's the excitement that when you work on something, you make that a thrilling part of your life. From selling a

restaurant...to doing Esquire covers...I don't think everything should be important. But the point is, everything I work on is important from the point of view of making it successful, because I work in commerce and people come to me and they have a product, and I gotta make that thing goddamn sell. No matter what, I'm gonna make it work and I know the only way to truly make it work is to come up with an idea that startles the hell out of you...

What keeps you motivated?

I say if you don't get burned out every day, you're a bum. When you go home at night, you should be exhausted, I mean, mentally and physically exhausted. And then you get up in the morning and you come to work and you say, "I'm going to kick ass today." And then by the end of the day you can't even see straight. And maybe a lot of it is my upbringing, it's in my blood. My father worked 20 hours a day, my mother worked 22 hours a day. It's almost a guilt thing, it's also growing up in the Depression. I mean work, work, work. Don't waste your time.

Did your parents understand your career?

No, they didn't have a clue. My father [a Bronx florist], one morning, he came to wake me up to go to the flower market...and he said, "Giorgo, get up. It's four o'clock in the morning." I said, "Dad, I'm starting college today." "What college?" "I'm going to Pratt." And he said, "Okay." That was that. And he thought I would take over the store and I just went to school. And I think he thought I was nuts, he was very worried about me obviously...Then I start an ad agency and my father comes to the agency. He's looking around, and you try to explain it, and he was a pretty sophisticated guy, but it was a little mind-boggling. What he taught me, and what I got from my parents, is that you work your ass off and do everything right. Do everything right. Just do everything perfectly. I still come in at 5:30 in the morning and first thing I do is clean the kitchen and I make the coffee. And my wife five o'clock in the morning bakes stuff I bring in with me. She's a Polish girl who has Greek instincts: I get up, she gets up.

Any regrets?

I don't think so...I remember there was an Aspen conference ten years ago and they asked me to be a speaker...And they had this big intellectual thing about how you can take advantage of learning from your mistakes. And at the very end of the whole goddamn thing, with these impressive people, the intelligentsia of the world there, I got up and I said, "I never made a mistake in my life. The second I make it, I forget about it. It doesn't teach me a goddamn thing." ...Man, I forget about it. I didn't make the goddamn mistake. Kick ass the next day.

Obama's speech in Cairo: A tangible course alteration in American foreign policy?

By Matthew Elias



"No single speech can eradicate years of mistrust, nor can I answer in the time that I have all the complex questions that brought us to this point. But I am convinced that in order to move forward, we must say openly the things we hold in our hearts, and that too often are said only behind closed doors."

This sentiment appeared early in the President's speech to the Muslim world in Cairo, and epitomizes the spirit of his oration. For all the pundits eager to chastise Obama for his perceived arrogance

and naivety in thinking that he can make foreign policy progress by speaking directly to historical adversaries, this line must have come across like a sobering slap, and a reminder that there is a new sheriff in town—one willing to speak to the American people and the rest of the world like adults. Much like his speech on race, the president's speech in Cairo faced the immense task of addressing hot button issues to a broad spectrum of listeners, many of whom hold deeply entrenched positions, ideals, and even prejudices. For this reason it seems, very few groups were one hundred percent happy with everything the President said. Nonetheless, Obama's rhetoric was even handed, and far more nuanced than that to which Americans were accustomed from his predecessor.

Indeed, the fact that ideologues on both sides of many of the more controversial aspects of Obama's speech responded with outrage is probably a good thing. For example, Conservative pundit Sean Hannity lambasted the president's speech and went as far as to claim that it was sympathetic to 9/11 and Obama's way of "faulting the U.S. for the tensions that exist between Americans and Muslims." The hard line Settlers Council on Israel Radio said "Hussein Obama preferred the false version of the Arabs over the Jewish truth, spoken in a weak and stammering voice." At the same time, Hamas leader Khaled Meshal said: "The essence of the speech was to improve the U.S. image and to placate the Muslims. We don't mind either objective, but we are looking for more than just mere words."

The reality of many of the most divisive issues in the Arab world, and in the Muslim world at large, is that they cannot be addressed as black and white. A detailed understanding of religion, politics, culture and history is needed, but often not applied. Perhaps this is symptomatic of the fact that we live in a world of twenty four hour news, and public opinion is too often dictated by who can shout the loudest and provide the most incendiary sound bytes. In this light it is not surprising that polarizing ideologues have recently dominated the discussion on Middle-Eastern politics. However, it would seem that Obama's goal is truly a lasting peace and stability, and not a quick and easy alliance with vocal ideologues on either side of the issues concerning the Muslim world.

That last sentiment is particularly vexing, in that this speech to the "Muslim world," felt an awful lot like a speech to the "Arab world." Despite the fact that the majority of the world's Muslims are not Arabs, the speech was held in Cairo, and dealt primarily with American political interests in the Arab world. It is tempting and dangerous to conflate the words Arab and Muslim, and makes the president's references to the Maronites and Copts in Lebanon and Egypt respectively all the more significant. However, one must wonder if these subtle references are enough to differentiate Arabs and Muslims to an American audience. While the reference to Maronites and Copts and even to Christians in Palestine are important in their own right, they confirmed that this was indeed a speech about many of the political situations in this Middle East, and less an address to the Muslim world per-se.

Regardless of who the speech was technically addressed to, it contained a great deal of content that set it apart from historical presidential orations on the Middle-East. Particularly notable was the President's use of clear and accurate language to describe the daily plight of Palestinians. Obama directly addressed "the pain of dislocation...refugee camps in the West Bank, and Gaza... [and] daily humiliations - large and small - that come with occupation." Such direct language is rarely used by the President of the United States to describe Palestinian life. When taken in context with the fact that Obama declared that "the United States does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements," and demanded that "Israel must also live up to its obligations to ensure that Palestinians can live, and work, and

develop their society," it is tempting to believe that this generation of Americans might actually see a tangible course alteration in American foreign policy in Palestine. At the same time, the use of the language "continued settlements" cleverly skirts the issue of the previously established illegal settlements, which is one of the greatest, if not the greatest impediment to a viable two-state solution.

With the balance of the speech, Obama spoke frankly about the desire to prevent the spread of nuclear weaponry, responsibly apply democratic principles, promote religious tolerance and freedom, advocate for women's rights, and encourage economic development and opportunity. Each of these topics in and of themselves, and their implications in the Muslim world could have filled a lecture series, but were



simply themes in the overture of this President's forthcoming foreign policy symphony. Without a doubt there was a tremendous amount of rhetoric in Obama's Cairo address, some of which will likely amount to simply that - rhetoric. However, if Obama is able to deliver on even some of the declarations made in this speech, it will go a long way in dramatically changing the way the United States relates to the Arab world, and the Muslim world at large. If anything, the Cairo address is reason to hope for change...two themes which certainly have been President Barack Hussein Obama's bread and butter.

Matthew Elias served as the New York Field Organizer for the Arab American Institute's "Yalla Vote!" initiative, and presided as the founding president of Fordham University's Middle Eastern Cultural Association. Matthew is an Antiochian Greek Orthodox Christian and currently resides in Bay Ridge Brooklyn. He can be reached at mattellias@gmail.com.



His Beatitude Anastasios, Archbishop of Albania (left) with His Eminence Demetrios, Archbishop of America and Chairman of SCOBA, during the blessing of the new Missionary Training center that bears their names.

PHOTO: DIMITRIOS PANAGOS

The New Archbishops Anastasios and Demetrios Mission Center in Florida

The new Archbishop Anastasios and Archbishop Demetrios Missionary Training and Administration Building of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) in St. Augustine, Florida, was dedicated recently, in the presence of both hierarchs whose work and spirit has been monumental throughout the Orthodox Catholic and Christian world in general. The Dedication Committee, chaired by Mrs. Helen Nicosis, OCMC staff headed by Executive Director Fr. Martin Ritsi, and Board Members were honored to receive 10 hierarchs from all the Orthodox Jurisdictions represented in the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) as well as over 300 clergy and lay people from around the world.

The night before, a reception was held at the Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village; OCMC Board President, Mr. Clifford Argue opened the evening by welcoming many of these distinguished guests after an Invocation from Metropolitan Nicholas of Amissos, of the American Carpatho Russian Orthodox Diocese in the USA, assisted by Fr. Mark Arey, General Secretary of SCOBA.

Following Mr. Argue's remarks, OCMC Missionary to Albania Mr. Nathan Hoppe offered his reflections on the past, present and future of the OCMC. "With this new center we are equipped in a new way to reach out and to powerfully proclaim that Christ is truly risen and that He has transformed all of reality."

Two men, however, were recognized for their pivotal roles in the growth of the Orthodox Missions movement. His Beatitude Anastasios, Archbishop of Tirana, Durres and All Albania, and His Eminence Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and Chairman of SCOBA, who were the honorees during the dedication. Addressing the two prelates, Board member Fr. Matthew Tate shared, "your missionary efforts throughout the Church truly are legendary, and it is most appropriate that the Mission Center building be dedicated in each of your names."

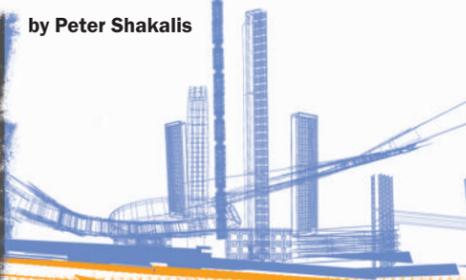
The new building will prove to be a vital resource in the continuation of this work. Broader understanding and support of missions, however, is still needed, reminded keynote speaker, OCMC Board Vice President and Chancellor of St. Vladimir's Seminary Fr. Chad Hatfield.

At the banquet, OCMC was honored to receive a \$25,000 donation from the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, presented by National President Aphrodite Skeadas.

Dedication proceedings were held immediately after next morning's Liturgy. The Ceremony included a blessing service celebrated by Archbishop Demetrios. Following the service, a hand painted icon of the Mission Center's patron saints, Cyril and Methodius, was presented by Archbishop Demetrios from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Then OCMC was blessed to receive the relics of two of Orthodoxy's most renowned missionary saints, Cosmas Aitolos, Missionary to the Balkans, presented by Archbishop Anastasios, and St. Innocent, Apostle to America, presented by His Beatitude Jonah, Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA). Following a ribbon cutting and plaque unveiling, guests took time to venerate the relics and tour the new 12,000 square foot facility.

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) is the official missions agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) dedicated to fulfilling Christ's last command to make disciples of all nations.

by Peter Shakalis



FEELING A LITTLE BETTER ABOUT A BAD SITUATION

The hedge funds and top-tier investment banks that are located in Midtown along the premier Avenues were the first companies in New York City to experience the tumult of the current recession. The decline in their business that began in the second quarter of 2008 was preceded by the collapse of the residential housing market that began a year earlier in the rest of the country.

When New York City's financial sector started to contract in 2008, the demand for office space in the Midtown market shriveled. As a result the availability of office space in the Plaza and Rockefeller/Fifth Avenue districts in the Midtown market, in particular, escalated. By the end of the 2009 first quarter, the availability rate in Midtown was substantially higher than the level in Midtown South and Downtown. The financial sector is the lead horse that pulls the New York City economy, so the other major sub-markets in Manhattan were expected to follow the downward trend and show weakness in subsequent months.

In fact, the very preliminary numbers for the second quarter of 2009 do show that the degree of weakness among the major Manhattan markets is beginning to equalize. In the second quarter, the Midtown availability of space has increased, although not quite as much as is as much as both the Downtown and Midtown South markets will likely increase.

In recent weeks there have been some references to green shoots when talking about the national economy's incipient recovery. In virtually all of these instances, it was noted that the rate of decline was slowing. The consistent uptrend in the stock market is, for the moment, confirming that upbeat assessment. While it is important not to get caught up in some type of mass self-deception, our data for the Manhattan office market also shows some green shoots among the rubble. In May, the total amount of space added to the available supply did increase, but the amount of space added was about 40% of the amount added each month during the previous six months. The deluge of new space in the Midtown market slowed even more, with the rate at about 30% of the level during the previous six months. The markets are still weakening, but at a much slower pace. Of course, one month of data does not indicate a trend, but there is additional fundamental data that may lend credence to the property level statistics.

Again, based on the preliminary data, the employment situation does not seem to be deteriorating more. The year-over-year job losses in total employment are about 100,000, or 2.4%. In the financial sector, employment levels seem to be holding steady, and the business fundamentals in that industry are improving. The unemployment rate for residents of New York City has been steady over the last few months, and the labor force number has continued to rise. These are additional positive signs, hopefully of things to come.

Peter Shakalis is a Director at FirstService Williams Real Estate
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AHEPA's Cigar Smoker Benefit

A Churchill-size success

Seasons Caterers in Westwood, NJ, was in full—season—at the 6th Annual Cigar Smoker Benefit, held earlier this spring by the AHEPA Ramapo Chapter 453. All premises, in and out, had to be reserved for the almost 1,000 people that showed up in what has become an annual ritual where locals and their friends from throughout the state and surrounding states come to welcome the summer season, to reunite with old acquaintances, or meet new ones.

At the same time, as James Giokas, the Chapter President explains, “the proceeds from this event over the past five years have supported several significant projects, which include scholarships as well as facility grants for the school and gymnasium at St. Nicholas of Wyckoff.” It is estimated that from this year’s event alone, which included an auction, more than \$100,000 will go in support of the above mentioned institutions. According to Giokas, “these programs provide valuable community services for athletic and educational activities in the Wyckoff and Northwest Bergen county area.”

Paul Savvidis was the Chairman this year and John Psomas served as co-Chairman.

This annual gathering started six years ago as a rather modest event, drawing together the Chapter’s cigar lovers and their friends to share fellowship moments and good smokes, while benefiting AHEPA’s community activities. “It didn’t take long before it turned to something bigger, until it came to be the major event it today is,” said Philip Vogis, one of the “founding fathers”. “Soon, a huge numbers of Greek and non-Greek professionals from the area saw the potential of this gathering to attract and meet customers and started to attend and sponsor it.”

According to Mr. Vogis, a major percentage of this year’s sponsors came from the wider community. Moreover, “only a small percentage of the participants are Greeks anymore. The Cigar Smoker Benefit has come to be perhaps the Northwest Bergen county major annual gathering.”

While the food and drinks are served inside the spacious and Renaissance-inspired Season’s main hall, a huge tent with bar in the Caterer’s open space serves as the cigar lovers’ refuge. There, they can enjoy drinks, cigars and talk, while those who don’t like smoking can stay inside in the clean, air-conditioned environment.

“By using the outer space, since the law doesn’t allow smoking inside, the event has also become more women friendly,” says Philip Vogis. “In the beginning it was mostly a men’s affair, but lately we see increasing numbers of women and that will make it a more integrates crowd”!

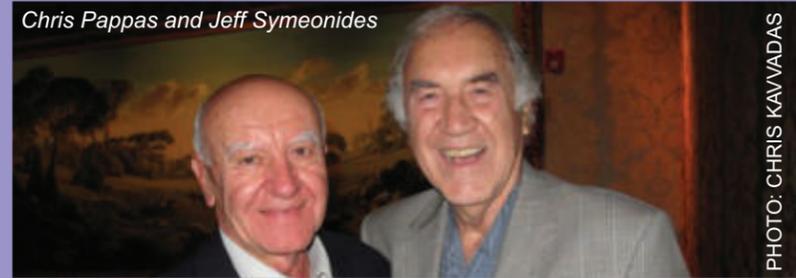
The AHEPA Ramapo Chapter #453 meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Community Center of St. Nicholas, Wyckoff, NJ, (467 Grandview Ave). More information is provided at their website www.ahepa453.org

DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS



Paul Savvidis Chairman, John Psomas Co-chairman, Jim Giokas Chapter President and committee members.

PHOTO: CHRIS KAVVADAS



Chris Pappas and Jeff Symeonides

PHOTO: CHRIS KAVVADAS



From left, Philip Vogis, Savas Tsvicos and Kosta Linardis

PHOTO: CHRIS KAVVADAS



Jim Giokas, Louis Arvanitis and Philip Vogis

PHOTO: CHRIS KAVVADAS



More than 700 people showed up for the event

PHOTO: CHRIS KAVVADAS



From the memorable Athens Convention in 2008. Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis will receive the AHEPA Pericles Award in San Francisco. From left are Convention General Chairman A. Steve Betzelos, Ambassador Daniel Speckhard, Supreme Vice President Nicholas Karacostas, Supreme President Ike Gulas, Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis, Archbishop Demetrios at the Opening Ceremony held at Zappeion. The ceremony was sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The AHEPA Family Prepares to “Leave Its Heart” in San Francisco

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), a leading association for the nation’s three million American citizens of Greek ancestry, and countless Philhellenes, will hold its 87th Annual Supreme Convention, June 29 to July 5, 2009, in San Francisco, Calif. AHEPA will be joined by its affiliated organizations: the Daughters of Penelope, Sons of Pericles, and Maids of Athena.

According to Supreme President Ike Gulas, there will be two themes for this annual gathering, which is one of the largest of Hellenes and Philhellenes in North America. “We’re excited to return to the West Coast for our Supreme Convention where we will reaffirm our commitment to community service in step with President Barack Obama’s ‘Year of Community Service’ initiative,” said Gulas. “In addition, San Francisco is a poignant location for the Daughters of Penelope which was founded there 80 years ago.”

He added, “We believe we have a wonderful program for the entire family to enjoy, including a gala affair honoring a distinguished group of Hellenes.”

Honorees attending the 87th AHEPA Grand Banquet on Friday, July 3, include: Her Excellency Dora Bakoyannis, foreign minister, Hellenic Republic, who will receive the AHEPA Pericles Award; Mr. George M. Marcus, chairman, The Marcus & Millichap Company, who will receive the AHEPA Archbishop Iakovos Humanitarian Award; and Mr. Basile Zatsikis, comedian, who will receive the AHEPA Aristotle Award. Actor Michael Papajohn will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

The Grand Banquet program will also feature remarks from His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, and His Excellency Andreas Kakouris, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Moreover, U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues,

intends to be a part of the banquet program.

“We are thrilled and honored to have such distinguished leaders, representing all facets of society, participate at the convention,” said AHEPA Executive Director Basil Mossaidis.

In addition, the convention program will consist of: educational and policy symposia, athletic events, business sessions, and social affairs hosted by the San Francisco AHEPA Family.

The policy symposia will include a policy speech by Foreign Minister Bakoyannis to the entire community on Saturday morning, July 4. Supreme President Gulas will also follow-through with the concept of hosting a “Unity Forum” with leaders of other Hellenic organizations from across the country on Saturday afternoon.

“This will be the first of what we hope will be a series of similar events to address and examine issues pertaining to the role of American Hellenic organizations in society,” said Gulas. “We aspire to provide an open forum for this initial Unity Forum, discussing our mutual goals, challenges and concerns that we face as a community. What are our realistic expectations from the Obama Administration and Congress? What are our assets and liabilities as a community? How can we get more Hellenic Americans working in government or involved in advocacy? These are just some of the questions that we seek to answer. Our ultimate vision is for our community to speak with one voice when addressing these questions.”

In addition, the AHEPA Cyprus and Hellenic Affairs Committee will host a panel discussion with Ambassador Kakouris on Friday morning, July 3. Its purpose is to brief the community on developments pertaining to the Cyprus question, what current challenges are being faced, and what the future may hold for a solution.

The Daughters of Penelope Celebrate 80 Years

The Daughters of Penelope, an affiliate organization of AHEPA, will be celebrating its 80th anniversary in the city of its founding.

“We dedicate our 2009 Supreme Convention to our Founder, Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfeld and the founding of the Daughters of Penelope 80 years ago,” said Daughters of Penelope Grand President Barbara Stavis Wolf. “We will celebrate and pay tribute to Alexandra and those members who ventured forward to join together to form a women’s organization that would work to ensure a more progressive role for women in their communities and that would give the Greek American woman the opportunity to make significant contributions to both her Hellenic and her American communities.”

One popular misconception is that the AHEPA Supreme Convention is open to members only.

Not true according to Executive Director Mossaidis. “Everyone is welcome to attend the convention,” he said. “One can register as a guest, or non-AHEPA family member; although a registration discount is offered to non-members who join.”

The social functions are open to all willing to pay a small entrance fee. The educational and policy symposia are free as a public service to the community. “We’re looking forward to a productive week of events that will enlighten and entertain the community while the AHEPA Family goes about with its administrative business,” said Mossaidis.

The AHEPA Family will hold its elections for new officers, and make legislative amendments to its governing constitution and bylaws, as is customary at each annual Supreme Convention.

For more information about the 87th AHEPA Supreme Convention, please visit www.ahepa.org/convention.

“SYN...PHONIA” in New York

“SYN...PHONIA” is a joint-effort by new friends who happen to be an esteemed group of artists, distinguished in New York jazz and Greek music scene. Panos Chrysovergis (keys), Aphrodite Daniel (vocals), Engin Gunaydin (drums), Panagiotis Andreou (bass, vocals), Christos Papadopoulos (bouzouki, vocals) and Ismail Lumanovski (clarinet) have joined talent and effort to create a winning selection of beloved Greek songs, old & new. Catch them before this season is over, every Wednesday, 9:00 p.m. at Ammos Estiatorio (52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, NY).



Leadership 100 to Continue Grants

The Leadership 100 Board of Directors at its recent meeting in New York City voted unanimously to fund its grant commitments for 2008, 2009 and 2010 for a total of \$2 million. Total grant commitments since the inception of the organization in 1984 will now reach \$30 million in 2010, an average of \$1.2 million a year.



Stephen G. Yeonas and Dr. George J. Tsioulis



Dr. George Carayannopoulos, Justin Bozonelis, Dina Theodosakis, Michael Plakogiannis, John Vavas and Iakovos Koutras



Peter P. Parthenis and Peter Pantelidis



George Demos and John A. Payiavlas



Stephen G. Yeonas, George D. Behrakis and Paulette Poulos

In 2008, Leadership 100, in response to the current economic crisis and its effect on its Endowment Fund, formed the Leadership 100 Grant Fund to fund its prior grant commitments and resume future grant distributions. Headed by Charles H. Cotros, a member of the Executive Committee, the special fund was initiated with a challenge grant of \$250,000 by Michael Jaharis, a Founder of Leadership 100, and raised more than \$1 million from members to fund the Leadership 100 Scholarship for Excellence Program at Holy Cross School of Theology in 2009.

Stephen G. Yeonas, Chairman of Leadership 100, said the development put the organization on a steady course for the future, especially since membership has now reached 820 with events planned in 2009 to recruit more members. "The positive action of our Board will allow Leadership 100 to continue support of the National Ministries of our Greek Orthodox Church while continuing scholarships to prepare our priests, fund technology infrastructure at Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology and provide assistance to our Retired Clergy in Need through 2010," he said.

The night before the Board meeting, Leadership 100 members and prospects, 60 in all, were hosted once again at Kellari's Parea in the Gramercy Park section of New York City, to continue the 25th Anniversary Membership Campaign into 2009, with a goal of 50 members. Last year, a similar event helped the 2008 goal reach 50 new members. Peter J. Pappas, Membership Chairman for the Direct Archdiocesan District and co-owner of the restaurant with James, George and Peter Pantelidis, served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Pappas welcomed members and prospects from throughout the New York region, as well as from the Midwest and West Coast, introducing many of the young professional Leadership 100 Partners. Also in attendance was the President of the Hellenic Medical Society, Dr. George Tsioulis.

Pappas introduced the other speakers, including Michael Bapis, Chairman of the Leadership 100 Partners Program, John A. Payiavlas and George D. Behrakis, Chairmen Emeriti, Paulette Poulos, Executive Director (Interim), and Stephen G. Yeonas, Leadership 100 Chairman. Gus Caras, Leadership 100, Vice Chairman, and Cassandra Romas, Secretary also attended.



Angelo J. Coutris, Christine Coutris and Peter J. Pappas

From left, John Neamonitis, Alexandra Frangos, George Soterakis and Keke Kyriakopoulos



THE NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS

Leadership 100 N&O

Neo Magazine and Leadership 100 have partnered to present a monthly profile of the New Generation of Leaders who belong to the Leadership 100 Partners Program which recruits young Greek American professionals on the rise in their careers, making membership affordable and providing a network for meeting

Leadership 100 was founded 25 years ago by the visionary Archbishop Iakovos and a small band of outstanding Greek American businessmen who wished to support the Greek Orthodox Church and perpetuate their faith and Hellenic heritage in America, passing it on to future generations.



Stefanie Gail Roumeliotes

Position: President & Founder of SGR Consulting, Fundraising & Strategic Development

Education: University of California, Los Angeles

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and grew close to my Faith and Greek heritage at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Belmont, California. I also spent each summer living on the coast of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts with family. My father arrived in America at the age of 13 and his family settled in Massachusetts after leaving Greece in the late 1940's. My mother was born and raised in the Greek Orthodox community of Dover, New Hampshire. Both felt strongly that their children return to the Northeast each year and stay connected to their first-generational roots.

Who or what were the main influences in your life?

My grandfather, who helped raise me, was a Greek immigrant who graduated from Brown University in the 1930's. He taught me the importance of education as a gateway to opportunity. But the women in my family, particularly my mother, have had the greatest influence on my life. I have always been awed by their courage, strength and grace under fire; raising children, being devoted wives, achieving success in their careers or philanthropic work and most importantly in their commitment to preserving and promoting our Greek Orthodox Faith and Hellenic culture. They were instrumental in nurturing my development and gave me the confidence that I could do or be anything in this lifetime as long as I remained true to my values, faith and heritage.

How did you get into your present work?

I believe politics chooses you, you don't choose it. I was deeply affected by my late godfather who was very involved in San Francisco and California State society and politics during my early years. I had the opportunity to observe strategic and tactical meetings hosted at his home during my formative years. This sparked a lifelong fascination with campaign politics and public service. From congressional internships starting at the age of 15 to serving as high school student body president, I have always had the drive and desire to participate actively in my community. In 2000, I jumped at the opportunity to learn fundraising on Dianne Feinstein's US Senate reelection campaign. After that, I was deputy finance director for Phil Angelides' gubernatorial campaign, and in 2004, I created my own political and philanthropic fundraising firm. Since then, I have been committed to raising funds for AIDS research and helping the Democrats regain control of our government.

As a successful American you could and perhaps have joined major organizations that are focused more on mainstream society. Why L100?

As a Greek-American, I am blessed with a heritage that combines two of the most idealistic and democratic societies the world has ever known. In addition, being raised in the Greek Orthodox Church has

given me incredibly valuable insight into my own community and culture as well as that of our ancestors. L100 is my way of supporting Orthodoxy and Hellenism on a national level. I see this commitment as an extension of my mother's long-term involvement with the Church and its philanthropic arm, Philoptochos. Her dedication and years of service inspire me to stay closely connected and involved in our local and national Orthodox and Hellenic programs.

How would you evaluate your experience in the organization so far?

I absolutely love the organization. Through the L100 Partners Program, I have been able to connect with different Orthodox Faith-based programs and financial initiatives as well as network with some of the most influential and successful leaders in our community. I am also thrilled to see that the L100 Partners Program is growing and that younger members are joining every year.

As a new generation leader, what are some ideas of yours on the future of Leadership 100?

With the L100 Partners Program on the rise and growing each year, I would like to see more L100 Partners be given the opportunity to serve in leadership roles within the Organization to help keep the charitable activities fresh and focused. I would also like to see the L100 Partners Program schedule more prospecting events throughout the country, on an annual basis, to help promote membership.

How has your involvement in Leadership 100 proved valuable in other activities of your life?

Through the annual L100 conferences, I have met like-minded Greek-Americans who have also become my close friends. These are friendships that I know will last throughout our lifetime and together we will ensure that our generation is successful in preserving and promoting our faith and heritage.

What qualities do you most admire or value in others?

Courage, Balance, Faith, Heart, Integrity, Generosity, Passion and Resilience.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

When I was asked to be Hillary Clinton's Northwestern Finance Director in the last presidential campaign, I never expected that I would play such a significant role in helping a female presidential candidate obtain over 18 million votes in the Democratic presidential primary, and therefore making 18 million cracks in the highest and hardest glass ceiling. I have been so blessed to have worked with some of the greatest political and philanthropic leaders of our time. I am humbled and amazed by these experiences, and grateful for the opportunity to have an impact on our world.

Continues on page 32

MEET & GREET RECEPTION WITH COSTAS KONDYLLIS

By Maria Athanasopoulos

The Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals had their 2nd Annual Meet and Greet Reception on May 26 at the Greek Press and Communication Office in New York City. Costas Kondylis, senior partner and CEO of the world renowned architectural firm Costas Kondylis and Partners, LLP, was the keynote speaker. Kondylis proved to be very inspirational as he captured the attention of most everyone with his speech "How I Came to Success as a Young Hellenic Professional in America." The Grecian native from the island of Samos, spoke about why he decided to be an architect and how he finally made it in such a difficult market in a foreign country.

A captivating slideshow of some of his most coveted projects was also featured. The down to earth mastermind's story and designs triggered many questions, particularly from young professionals who stood in lines after the event just to get a chance to speak with him.

Young professionals are not the only ones intrigued by Kondylis, his clients include some of the world's most powerful developers, corporations and real estate moguls. Since establishing his innovative firm in 1989, he has been named one of New York's most active, imaginative and best architects. Many call him the "Developer's Architect" due to his practical and affordable, yet fashionable designs.

Kondylis and his firm have designed more than 75 high-rise residential towers, luxury hotels and many other polarizing projects including the "W" South Beach Hotel & Residences, the intricate Plaza Hotel conversion and the Trump World Tower, which happens to be the world's tallest residential building.

For more information about Costas Kondylis and Partners LLP Architects, please contact: communications@kondylis.com.

If you are interested in attending future events hosted by the HACC Young Professionals, feel free to contact the organization's President, Anastasios Pardalis: taso@mpnfirm.com.



Costas Kondylis

Anastasios Pardalis

Mavromihalis, Pardalis & Nohavicka Attorneys at Law

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KEY US POLICYMAKERS SHOW SUPPORT FOR CYPRUS AND GREECE

This year, 1/3 of the members of the House Europe Subcommittee, four of the seven Chairmen of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittees, 15 members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, nine of the top advocates for Hellenic and Orthodox issues in the Senate were among the 50 key U.S. policymakers, including U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, that participated in the 25th Annual Cyprus and Hellenic Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., May 20-22, an event that – unlike any other in the Greek-American community – engages large numbers of elected and Administration officials who actually formulate U.S. policy toward Greece, Cyprus and Turkey. Moreover, PSEKA and CEH, who sponsored this conference, brought together over 120 Greek-American leaders from across the country to take part in the meetings.

On the closing day, conference participants visited and honored U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the State Department. Led by his Eminence Archbishop Demetrios the delegation included Philip Christopher, Andrew A. Athens, Andy Manatos, Peter Papanicolaou, Nikos Mouyiaris, George J. Tsunis, Mike Manatos, Tasos D. Zambas, Zenon Christodoulou and Michael Galanakis.

Also honored on that day were New York State Assemblyman Mike Gianaris and Greece's outgoing Ambassador to the U.S. Alexandros Mallias who was the 2009 recipient of the Conalis-Kontou Award. Both, the husband, Lefteris, and daughter, Christianna, of Marialena Conalis-Kontou, after whom this award is named, flew in to attend this ceremony. At the conference banquet, participants honored George and Cathy Sakellaris as the 2009 recipients of the Livanos Award and Illinois State Treasurer and likely candidate for the U.S. Senate, Alexi Giannoulias.

Members of Congress who were honored at the conference included: In the U.S. Senate, Assistant Majority Leader Richard Durbin (D-IL) with the Paraskevaides Award, leading advocate for Hellenic issues on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and member of the Senate Leadership Bob Menendez (D-NJ); fellow advocate for Hellenic issues on the Foreign Relations Committee, Barbara Boxer (D-CA), and long-time advocate for Hellenic issues and member of the key Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee Arlen Specter (D-PA). In the U.S. House of Representative, conference participants honored House Foreign Affairs Committee Members Ed Royce (R-CA) and Russ Carnahan (D-MO), who both just returned from separate Congressional Delegation visits to Cyprus.

On the opening day, conference participants recognized the following dignitaries who came from Cyprus to attend this important conference: the Mayor of occupied Famagusta, Cyprus, Alexis Galanos; the Mayor of occupied Lefkoniko, Cyprus, Michalis Pilikos; the Mayor of occupied Akanthou, Cyprus, Savvas Savvides; and Deputy Mayor of Morphou, Cyprus, Charalambos Charalambous. As well, Cyprus Government Director of Overseas Cypriots, Ambassador Charalambos Ioannides was honored that evening.

Other officials from Greece and Cyprus who participated in this conference included Cyprus Government Spokesman, Stefanos Stefanou; Chairman of the Hellenic Parliament's Permanent Inter-Party Committee on Greeks Abroad, Nikolaos Tsiartsionis; three other members of the Hellenic Parliament Grigoris Niotis, Spyridon Georgiadis and Eva Kaili; as well as Canada's Minister of Industry Tony Clement and Member of the Canadian Parliament James Karygiannis.

CEH leaders included in their conference the heads of several other major Greek-American organizations: AHEPA Supreme Vice President Nick Karacostas; AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis; SAE Coordinator for the U.S. Ted Spyropoulos; and Pan-Macedonian Association President Nina Gatzoulis, among others.



Secretary Clinton met with Greek American leaders. From left Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos, Tasos Zambas, Nick Karakostas, Zenon Christodoulou, Andy Manatos, Nikos Mouyiaris, Secretary Hillary Clinton, Peter Papanicolaou, Archbishop Demetrios, Philip Christopher, Andrew Athens, George Tsunis, Mike Manatos and Michael Galanakis.



Nikos Kotziamanis (left) with Charis Lapas



Member of Parliament Eva Kaili with Nick Mouyiaris



Senator Bob Menendez was honored this year. With him from left are Peter Papanicolaou; Cyprus Government Spokesman Stefanos Stefanou; Andrew Athens; Tasos Zambas; Mayor of occupied Famagusta, Cyprus, Alexis Galanos; Philip Christopher; Cyprus Government Director of Overseas Cypriots, Ambassador Charalambos Ioannides.



George Tsounis and State Senator Lou Raptakis



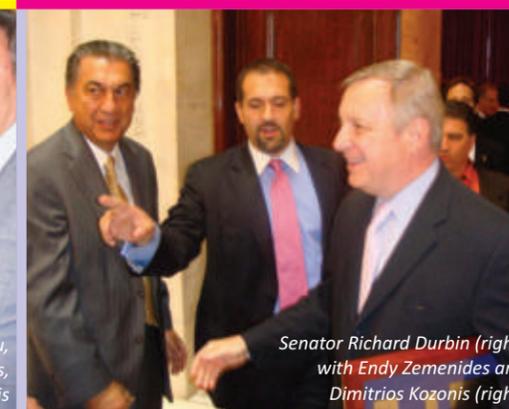
From left, Peter Papanicolaou, Congressman Mike McMahon and Member of Parliament Grigoris Niotis



Senate Assistant Majority Leader Richard Durbin was honored at the conference. With him are from left Peter Papanicolaou, Andy Manatos, Andrew Athens and Philip Christopher.



From left, Byron Georgiou, Congresswoman Dina Titus, Savvas Tsvivikos and Nick Mouyiaris



Senator Richard Durbin (right) with Endy Zemenides and Dimitrios Kozonis (right)



From left, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Howard Berman (D-CA), Andy Manatos, George Tsunis, Congressman Gary Ackerman (D-NY), Philip Christopher and Congressman Gene Green (D-TX).



From left, CEH Board Member Michael Galanakis with Irene Antonoglu and John Antonoglu



From left, Cathy and George Sakellaris, Byron Georgiou, Senator Bob Casey, George Tsounis and Andy Manatos



George and Cathy Sakellaris were honored at the Banquet. Here with Philip Christopher, Andy Manatos and Andrew Athens.



Tasos Zambas with Debbie Camilaris (left), President of Cypriot Youth of America, and friends



Over 120 Registered Conference Participants came to DC this year.

In Memoriam Mr. Lambros



Lambros at the AHL gala in DC this past March.

Lambros Papantoniou a Washington D.C. based journalist and correspondent for almost four decades, going back to President Nixon, passed away last May, at the age of 63, from a stroke.

Mr. Papantoniou, known to officials as "Mr. Lambros," was the Washington diplomatic correspondent for the Greek daily newspaper Eleftheros Typos, Radio Thessaloniki, and the U.S. weekly newspaper Greek News. Famous for his wit, humor and benevolent character, Lambros was passionate and relentless when it came to extracting news during White House and State Department briefings. His barrage of questions to then State Department Spokesperson Nicholas Burns, in the aftermath of the Turkish invasion of the Greek Imia islets, was vintage Lambros. Besides, over the years, he managed, before the dawning of the blogosphere, to develop a pioneering style of journalistic writing. Perhaps his most important legacy was the courage to come up with his own style in an era when the "wooden language" of press releases and political correctness had come to replace the journalism of Hemingway and other legendary writers.

Far from serving as a vehicle for American officials to pass messages or policy line to Greeks, Lambros as a correspondent repeatedly spearheaded the effort to get real news from those people (often paving the way for other less assertive colleagues to follow. As a real fighter he wouldn't mind being used, he cared mostly about the big picture.)

He was born on July 4, 1945 in Mandra Xanthi, a village in Greece's Western Thrace region. His parents were refugees, who fled from Asia Minor in 1922 to settle in Greece. He studied law at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, and arrived in the United States in 1973. He studied international law and political science at the University of California, Berkeley, where he obtained his Master's Degree and Juris Doctorate.

In 1975, after the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, he began working as a journalist, specializing in U.S. foreign policy issues relating to Greece, Turkey, Cyprus and the Balkans. Over the course of a prodigious career, he was correspondent to many Greek and Greek-American Media, and participated in numerous foreign policy conferences and panels in the United States, Greece, Cyprus and Australia.

PHOTO: ETA PRESS



PHOTO: ETA PRESS



PHOTO: ETA PRESS

James and Nora Orphanides with members of their family.



PHOTO: ETA PRESS

Mr. & Mrs. Orphanides with John Catsimatidis.

James M. Orphanides honored by HABA

From left, HABA Secretary Emmanuel Caravanos, Arab Bank Plc, Mistress of Ceremonies Dorie Klissas, NYU Langone Medical Center, HABA Treasurer Nicholas Agrotis, CPA Transfirst, HABA President James Hansel, Eight Winds Capital, Costas Kellas, Objective, Inc., Mr. & Mrs. Orphanides, HABA Vice President Georgia Mouzakis, Citi Private Bank, John Giapoutzis, Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management, Peggy Delfinopoulos, Prudential Financial, Inc, and Emmanuel Argerakis, Tri-State Capital.



PHOTO: ETA PRESS

"Let's stick together. If you need a job, don't be afraid to ask. You are part of our family," declared James Hansel, President of HABA, addressing hundreds of members and friends at the Executive of the Year Award Gala held earlier this spring at the historic Union League Club of New York City.

James M. Orphanides, Chairman Emeritus of First American Title Insurance Company, was this year's honoree, and echoing Hansel's words, he spoke of solidarity in these tough times for the banking industry. "We are here together tonight, because we are all linked to each other." He also sought to remind everyone of the hardships the early generations of Greek immigrants faced when they came to this country and nevertheless managed to overcome and prosper.

"Is this today as bad as what those people experienced? I don't think so," he said. He also spoke about the need to distinguish people for their real worth and not just "the size of one's checkbook." In the same spirit, Mr. Hansel added that "a good person may suffer, but his virtue remains intact."

However, far from suffering, the evening was a happy gathering, bringing together exceptionally successful people from various

fields of endeavor, such as Dr. John Brademas, President Emeritus of New York University and the first Greek-American elected to Congress in the 20th century, and New York State Minority Leader Dean Skellos. Dorrie Klissas, Director of Media Relations at NYU's Langone Medical Center was the Mistress of Ceremonies, while Rev. Frank Marangos, Dean of the Archdiocesan Cathedral, offered the Invocation and praised Mr. Orphanides' philanthropic activities. John Catsimatidis, CEO and Chairman of the Red Apple Group, himself a past recipient of the Executive of the Year Award, was the Event's Chairman.

James M. Orphanides is Chairman Emeritus of First American Title Insurance Company of New York and a Director, effective December 31, 2007. He has worked for First American since 1992 in key executive positions. From 1996 through 2007 he was President, CEO and Chairman of the Board. Prior to joining First American, Mr. Orphanides was a Principal and President of Preferred Land Title Services, Inc., from 1982 to 1992. He was Vice President and head of the National Sales department in New York for Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company from 1979 to 1982 and an Executive at Chicago Title Insurance Company from 1972 to 1979. He is currently a Trustee of two Public Companies

CB Richard Ellis Realty Trust and Wilshire Enterprises, Inc. Mr. Orphanides had been actively involved in many non-for profit organizations. Today he sits on the Boards of: the Foundation for Medical Evaluation and Early Detection, Seeds of Peace, Citizen Budget Commission and the American Ballet Theatre. He is also a member of the Lincoln Center Corporate Fund Leadership Committee, the Hellenic American Bankers Association (HABA) and the Economic Club of New York; TPC Golf Club at Jasna Polana in Princeton, New Jersey; the Nassau Club in Princeton, New Jersey and the Union League Club in New York City.

The Hellenic American Bankers Association, Inc. (H.A.B.A.) is one of the premier Greek-American organizations in the New York metropolitan area. HABA is a not-for-profit organization established in 1982 to promote the professional and educational interest of Greek-Americans in the banking and finance industries. Its current active membership consists of over 200 professionals representing more than 50 institutions across the financial spectrum.

For further information, the telephone number is 212-421-1057 and the website www.HABA.org.



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AKTINA's Concert with Melina Aslanidou a Huge Success

New York's AKTINA FM and AKTINA TV hosted recently at the Town Hall Theatre for the 4th consecutive year their concert from the series GREEK MUSIC JOURNEY (est. 1997) featuring unforgettable songs from the Greek Cinema with the popular singer Melina Aslanidou who truly won and captured the hearts of all in attendance.

Against a backdrop of videos projected on a big screen in full sequence with the live orchestra, Aslanidou was on stage for some two and a half hours reviving some of the most representative hits of Greek cinema by great Greek composers such as Theodorakis, Hadjidakis, Plessas, Xarhakos, Zambetas and others. Aslanidou shared the stage with Vangelis Douvalis a new and upcoming singer whose performance won him cheers and

enthusiastic applause from the audience. The musicians that comprised the Popular Orchestra of Greek Music EMMETRON lead by bouzouki maestro Manolis Georgostathis, were equally amazing and they were also rewarded for their talented performance with cheers and non-stop applause.

The concert opened with a video excerpt from the movie "Olga My Love" and the song "Ti Sou Kana Ke Pinis" music by M. Plessas and lyrics by L. Papadopoulos which was originally performed by legendary singer Poly Panou, however became very popular years later by Melina Aslanidou, as the song's lyricist Lefteris Papadopoulos also verifies in his Prologue in the concert's printed Program. They were followed by great hits and music themes from renowned and award winning movies such as "Stella", "Mantelena", "Never On Sunday", "Amerika, Amerika", "Honeymoon", "Serpico", "Rembetiko", "Zorba The Greek" among others. In all there were songs from 24 different movies.

The most unique aspect of the entire performance was again this year the warm reception reserved for the performers. From beginning to end people were fully engaged and acted as a big back up chorus for Melina Aslanidou and Vangelis Douvalis who truly mastered the stage with their performance but also with their pleasant and cordial personalities. They sang but also danced to the everlasting songs they revived. The orchestra made up of some of the most representative and leading musicians of Greece who are credited for recording the majority of Greek discography and working with all of the major composers and singers was equally captivating and each one displayed their talent in this one of a kind musical performance.

There were also exceptional moments for the famous drummer Yiannis Sarikos who almost brought the house down in one of his solos and in the same manner the rest of musicians, Dimos Polymeris (accordion), Panagiotis Georgotas (bass), Panagiotis Samaras (guitar) and Antonis Logothetis (keyboards). The superb sound was mastered again this year by Yiannis Paxevanis who is also an award winning composer of music for films and documentaries in Greece. AKTINA TV's

Production Director, Tom Stouras mastered beautifully the projection of the videos up on the big screen as well as the projection of the singers and the orchestra for everyone in the theatre to further enjoy and appreciate.

Over 1,100 people attended in the 1,400-capacity theatre comprised by Greek Americans and American lovers of Greek music from different ethnic groups of all ages. The participation of many young Greek Americans from the new generations who were born and raised in this country was very impressive, while equally impressive was the attendance of people who travelled to New York especially for this performance from Los Angeles, Boston, Florida and other distant states.

Upon arriving on the stage at the stage to thank the participating performers and the audience, Elena Maroulleti, AKTINA's founder and director, proudly proclaimed in Greek "Zito To Elliko Tragoudi" (Hail To Greek Song). "This is what Greek music is all about," she further said as she embraced Aslanidou and thanked her for her outstanding performance. In the same enthusiastic manner Maroulleti also praised and thanked each of the participating musicians including singer Vangelis Douvalis noting that "AKTINA always proposes the great and unforgettable songs of the old school of great singers but at the same time also proposes to all to discover and become acquainted with the talented singers of the new school". Maroulleti encouraged all to continue to support AKTINA so "that the organization may continue bringing such unique performances" and invited all to join the next GREEK MUSIC JOURNEY which has been already booked at the Town Hall on Friday, May 14, 2010 with a new musical theme.

The concert was presented by AKTINA FM and AKTINA TV and was made possible in part by The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Arch Capital Services, Inc., The Pancyprian Association of America, Astoria Federal Savings Bank, Kellari Taverna, PJ Mechanical Corp., and private individuals. Greece's Satellite Channel Antenna was a media sponsor and Kellari Taverna in Manhattan, NY, the official Caterer.

often as possible.

What are your thoughts on the current economic crisis?
I find it extremely disturbing and I do not envy those that are left to pick up the pieces. Everyone has been hit financially in some capacity and everyone will continue to feel this financial burden for years to come. Working with non-profits and in politics I have seen the impact on individuals as well as foundations and non-profit organizations. My hope is that this crisis will bring out the best in us as individuals. We have a long road ahead. The only way we get through this tough time is by supporting one another as a united America.

Where would you like to be in your professional and personal life 20 years from now?
I hope that I can continue to bring passion, commitment and vision to both my professional and personal life. I hope to achieve balance with both, and spend the next 20+ years of my life with a husband and children that will experience this great journey with me.

What is your idea of happiness?
I believe that happiness is a simple thing. Life is too short and time is too precious to dwell on what might have been. It is about being at peace everyday with who you are, where you are and who you are with; taking in each day with faith, gratitude and love, knowing that this life is a blessing.



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bread & honey

A COLUMN DEVOTED TO MAKING GREEK FOOD EASY

By Maria Athanasopoulos

Greeks firmly believe that food is one of the greatest pleasures in life. In fact, they have an entire psychology behind the preparation, cooking and serving of their favorite native delicacies. My father believes that this adheres to barbecuing, yes barbecuing. I'm sure you think that simply grilling a burger does not involve much thought, let alone a well planned out process and thesis as to how to best cook this round slab of meat. What you probably don't know is what goes on before the meat actually hits the grill and this is the art that many Greek men have deep pride in. Their secret is an old fashioned charcoal grill, this simple device is what helps give that stick of souvlaki you often buy from a side walk vendor such delicious flavor. Pre-marinating is also key and mandatory when it comes to most meat and vegetables since this is how the rich flavor is derived. My father marinates mostly everything from meat to eggplant slices with extra virgin olive oil, salt, ground pepper, oregano and fresh lemon. After one or two days of marinating the meat, its grilling time!

Grilling season was kicked off last month with the observance of Memorial Day and it is already in full swing amongst many Greek-Americans. Every church or organization is having a barbecue or a picnic featuring barbecued foods. To my family this means souvlakia and grilled fish will be making a weekly appearance on the dinner menu until Labor Day. While this sounds ideal and divine, it can get old quickly and you will yearn for variety. So I introduce to you my Greek burger recipe topped with homemade tzatziki and the perfect accompaniment of pre-marinated grilled vegetables.

Tzatziki is a popular sauce that graces nearly every Greek table and pairs beautifully with most grilled meat. If you can not find Greek yogurt, then strain regular plain yogurt for 3 hours or overnight in the fridge to remove all the liquid. Souvlaki may be the Greek equivalent to an American burger at barbecue parties, but once you try this mouthwatering recipe cooked in "Greek man grilling fashion", you may reconsider!

Greek Burgers with Homemade Tzatziki

Prep time: 25 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Serves: 4 to 6

Tzatziki

1 large seedless cucumber, peeled and grated
1 3/2 ounce plain 2% or fat-free Greek yogurt, such as Page Total or Oikos
4 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons fresh dill, chopped
1 tablespoon fresh squeezed lemon juice
dash of salt & pepper

1. Squeeze the excess liquid from the grated cucumber by pressing it over a strainer. Then place into a medium-sized bowl and mix in the garlic, cucumber, dill and lemon.

2. Season with salt and pepper. Stir it around a little, cover bowl and place in the refrigerator until ready to use.

Greek Burgers

2 pounds ground lamb or veal
1 cup grated Kasserli cheese
1 tablespoon dried oregano
1 cup sliced cucumbers
1 cup sliced tomatoes
1 medium red onion, sliced
fresh ground pepper & salt to taste
Extra virgin olive oil
4 to 6 whole wheat sesame hamburger buns

Vegetables

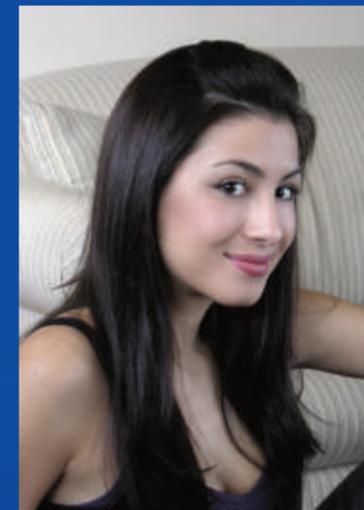
1 1/2 pounds eggplant, zucchini, and summer squash chopped and marinated overnight in extra virgin olive oil, oregano, fresh lemon juice, garlic, salt and pepper.

Preparation:

1. Place the marinated vegetables on your barbecue grill over low to medium fire until tender. Ensure to flip over every 2 to 3 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, combine ground lamb or veal, kasserli cheese, and oregano. Mix well and form 4 large or 6 smaller patties. Season patties with salt and pepper to taste.
3. Brush the burgers with olive oil and place on charcoal grill for 5 to 6 minutes per side or until your desired doneness. If you really want to have a Greek burger, make it medium well!

Serve the burgers on buns, topped with fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, red onions and a generous dollop of your homemade tzatziki sauce. The side of grilled vegetables compliment this frugal yet simple meal perfectly. Pair this barbecued delicacy with a chilled bottle of Mythos and enjoy.

Kali Orexi!



MARIA'S SLATE

How many of you are getting married or attending a wedding in June? According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, at least 80 percent of you have at least one marriage to attend during "wedding month". Ever wonder why June is such a popular month for weddings? Maybe it's the romantic notion of being a June bride or perhaps it is due to the warmer weather and access to an endless amount of seasonal flowers? What bride would turn down a wonderful selection of flowers such as delphiniums, phlox or classic lilies at a much more affordable price than would be possible in other months? Although these reasons alone may be enough to make June the official "wedding month" for many brides, the tradition stems centuries back.

The Ancient Romans named June after Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage who was the special deity of woman and for which they observed an annual festival on June 1st in her honor. Juno vowed to protect those who were married in her month and was believed to bring good health, happiness and prosperity to the young newlyweds. The Romans also believed Juno would help them give birth to their first child in the spring. This was the practical aspect to it. If a couple got married in June and the wife conceived, then the goddess would help her give birth before harvest time. This translated to the fact that she would be well enough to work the fields come harvest time. Hmm this doesn't sound as romantic as you anticipated, right?

Naturally with time, these reasons for a June wedding faded and the mere tradition of being a June bride survived. Weddings amongst Greek-Americans during this popular month also increasingly flourished over the years. Lent is over, summer officially starts and it is also before everyone leaves the states to visit yiayia and pappou in Greece and Cyprus. As mentioned, June has many beautiful perks for a marriage, but it also has its disadvantages which can be quite significant.

Lovebirds pay a premium to tie the knot in June. You are also competing with a zillion other June weddings for booking the best venues, musicians, photographers and even churches! Trying to strike a deal may be difficult with the high level of demand during this month, but remember there are always ways to have your dream wedding, how you want it when you want it! Plan early and plan wisely, remember it is your wedding and they need your business. However there are many things that you won't be able to alter, such as strict church rules or exceeding the maximum capacity at your reception site.

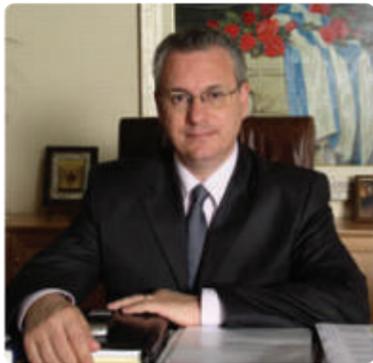
Greek Orthodox brides beware! If you've dreamt of having a violinist serenade you as you walk down the aisle, you may want to reconsider. Many Greek Orthodox Churches, such as those in New Jersey, only allow an organist or a harpist. Your very traditional parents surely have their own ideas of how your wedding should be, so before you relive your own special version of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding", sit both sets of parents down and tell them what you envision. If they are still being persistent, then my advice to you is to "surprise" them and book a few vendors on your own. You will probably have to foot the bill, but you certainly will not have Greek flags on your invitations!

I may not be a June bride, but I am getting married very soon and must say wedding planning is quite demanding and can be a full time job. Feel free to email me for some tips and advice, let's just say I am confident enough to write a book after all that I've been through and the wedding is still a few months away!

Maria

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Beyond Borders: Greece on the International Film Stage



Greece's Minister of Tourism
Kostas Markopoulos
will attend the event as guest of honor

The Los Angeles Greek Film Festival will present Beyond Borders: Greece on the International Film Stage, a special panel discussion sponsored by Greece's Ministry of Tourism on Saturday, June 27, at the Linwood Dunn Theater. Greece's Minister of Tourism Kostas Markopoulos will attend the event as guest of honor. Panelists include actor Nia Vardalos (MY LIFE IN RUINS), President of Fox International Productions Sanford Panitch, cinematographer/director Phedon Papamichael (ARCADIA LOST), Director of the Hellenic Film Commission Markos Holevas, Top Cut Founder Stamatis Athanassoulas, to be moderated by producer Terry Dougas (BRIDES).

The panel will discuss recent productions in Greece and how the Greek culture and new infrastructure aided in the telling of their stories. In addition, advantages, challenges as well as future possibilities of foreign film production will be expanded on. "With the recent success of MAMMA MIA!" and the soon-to-be-released MY LIFE IN RUINS, starring Nia Vardalos, the Greek culture is making its way to the mainstream through the art of filmmaking," said Angeliki Giannakopoulos, Festival Co-Founder and Director. 'MY LIFE IN RUINS' director Donald Petrie adds, "Greece was an amazing place to shoot a film from the breathtaking locations, to the warm and welcoming attitude of both the Greek government, and

the people."

Over the years, Greece has attracted the interest of various international producers who have taken advantage of the country's old culture, unique light and beautiful landscape. Greece is an integral part of the European Union and has a visual wealth of natural landscapes.

The Greek Film Centre, which is supervised by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, has supported the production and promotion of Greek films and fosters the participation of Greek producers in foreign productions. Since 2007, within the framework of the organization, the Hellenic Film Commission Office provides an array of services that make filming in Greece one of the most enticing places for production in Europe. MAMA MIA!, MY LIFE IN RUINS, FOREVER THE MOMENT, WANTED DEAD AND ALIVE, and ARCADIA LOST, as well as, several documentaries and TV programs, are some of the projects the organization has recently served.

Guest of honor Kostas Markopoulos was recently appointed Minister of Tourism, after an active career in politics and in the medical profession as a thoracic surgeon. He is a member of the Greek Parliament's National Defense and Internal Affairs Committee and Permanent Social Issues Committee.

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Ikaros

By Katherine Skaris



Hellenic Orthodox Club of Queens College



Established in the late 1950s, the "Ikaros" Hellenic Orthodox Club of Queens College, New York, reached its glory in the 70s, when Greek and Cypriot foreign students joined the club. Since then Ikaros has had a profound influence on the Greek community for many years. Not only is it a club, but together with Dr. Harry J Psomiadis they founded the Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies center; however it does not stop there. In the past years, Ikaros has worked with the Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies Center to promote the major and minor to the Greek and non Greek students of Queens College. They have also worked together to co-sponsor events where key speakers (poets and politicians), funded by the Onassis Foundation have offered lectures. While the center, under the leadership of Dr. Chris Ioannidis, coordinates the events, Ikaros promotes the high student attendance. The importance of these lectures is evident; the speakers not only talk about issues in Greece today but also include the Diaspora, working hard to involve and educate everyone on the subjects. It is also important to note that not only Ikaros was the largest attending Greek Club at the Greek Independence Day Parade, but it is also the only Greek club, in the New York Tristate area to celebrate Easter with a huge lamb roast; I was fortunate enough to attend it this year.

Walking to the Student Union, where the Annual Easter Lamb Roast (also called Arni Day by the many members) celebration is being held, the sounds of klarina begin to fill my ears. The smell of arni overpowers my senses, as I come closer to reaching my destination. The DJ is playing Kalamatiana

and the arni is roasting on the spit. The Ikaros club members, distinguished by their bright blue T-shirts, are running around making sure the food is set up right, and that everything is in order. The courtyard is filled with tables, as well as students that are eating, laughing and thoroughly enjoying their time.

Why does Ikaros hold this event? As Peter Markou, former Ikaros President, explains, "the annual lamb roast is significant to Ikaros because it symbolizes a cultural celebration that goes on in Greece and Greek households worldwide during Pascha." However the day does not only have a cultural side; "Ikaros also functions as a club representing Orthodox Christians, and as the sole Orthodox Christian club on campus we feel that it is our duty to represent Eastern Christendom at Queens College," Markou adds. However, it is not to say that the Annual Easter Lamb Roast is simply a day of eating and dancing; a lot more goes into the event.

"Planning began in September and continued up until this moment" John Koroneos, President of Ikaros states; "There is a lot of paperwork, checks, signatures that goes into setting up the event." Finding a caterer and a DJ are the easy parts; getting approval from the school and funding requires a lot more. Fortunately there are a group of people that continue to support Ikaros. The biggest contributors on Queens College campus have been the MSA (Muslim Student Association), Catholic Newman Center, and the Hillel. In addition, Zenon Taverna in Astoria, caters the event for Ikaros every year. In fact they have done so for the last five years, and there is no

surprise as to why; the lemon potatoes, spanakopites and pasticcio are always a hit. The DJs for the event are students that volunteered to play for Ikaros free of charge, and the T-shirts that every club member is wearing, were sponsored by Pearl of Bayside this year. In essence, this event has turned into something more than simply Greek; the entire campus wants to be a part of it as well.

"This event is what attracted me to the Greek Club my first semester at Queens College," Koroneos states. "Not only is it the biggest event that is held by the Greek Club, but it is a great success due to the large number of Greek students attending Queens College."

I am interrupted by Matina Katsihtis, Treasurer of Ikaros, passing around red eggs; I pick mine out with an exceptional scrutiny and wait for the tsougrisma to begin. Sadly I was not amongst the winners, but still laughed at those who pouted and whined about their "weak" eggs. Once again the DJ begins to play Kalamatiana, this time with about 20 students holding hands and dancing around in a circle. As spectators begin to stop their route to class, I am amazed to see how many people, Greek and non Greek, are part of this event. "It is great how all the Greeks came together, not only to have a good time, but to show the rest of Queens College our culture and traditions," said Zoe Saviolis, while Koroneos sums up: "The Annual Lamb Roast is an event to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, our culture, the end of the semester and an end to another great year for the Ikaros Greek Club."

PERISCOPE

Working for an Apartheid statelet in a EU country

When Graydon Carter wrote in the June edition of Vanity Fair about the need for us, the people, to find ways to actively protest the unpunished and, in many cases, rewarded lack of responsibility on the part of the big Wall Street and money scheme players that drove the American and world economy to shambles, I felt vindicated and, why not confess, proud!

If you remember, in NEO's March issue, that is, two full months before Vanity Fair, I attempted to herald a revolution, to call people to arms (I mean that only metaphorically; I don't want the NRA or other militias to start courting me for membership), to stop paying bills, unquestionably. It seemed a little radical then, but, boy, the idea is not radical now, as Carter showed by himself joining the revolutionary ranks. I can in all humility proclaim that it is a big thing for me that Graydon Carter had the guts to follow my leadership (even if it took him two full months)! You would normally expect it to be vice versa, as Vanity Fair is like a gospel to every magazine lover. But there is something that makes that possibility obsolete: I could have never mastered--his hair style!

In VF's July edition, which also features a very well-written story by Christopher Hitchens on the New Acropolis Museum, Carter tackles the issue of the lost ground in the newspaper industry and, among other things, he suggests the need for newspapers to reinvent themselves, to come up with a new language, one that the public can identify with again.

I was thinking all that as I was about to start a commentary on the recent PSEKA Cyprus Conference in Washington DC that brought together Greek-American leaders and key US legislators for three days, discussing ways to resolve the Cyprus issue and to address the rest of the crucial Hellenic matters. In these matters, too, we need to be more creative and come up with a new language, a breakthrough: ideas that can lead us away from the stalemate and, more importantly, won't offer a solution that could prove worse than the current division of Cyprus.

For a number of years, the negotiating policy of the Cyprus Republic -- and not the Greek Cypriot side, as very arrogantly the US and the UN have come to impose -- is geared towards "a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation." This is a basis for discussion that the representatives of the occupied territories have accepted (And not the Turkish Cypriot side: the number of the Turkish troops and colonizers brought from the Turkish mainland outnumber the remaining Turkish Cypriots; this "homogeneity" is a result of ethnic cleansing since the Greek-Cypriots, along with Armenians and Maronites, were expelled and their property was illegally confiscated.)

As Philip Christopher, President of PSEKA, one of the conference's main organizers for the past 25 years, stated, this talk on "a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation" can only lead to another "solution" along the lines of the voted down Annan Plan, ignoring at the same time two important new facts on the ground: a) Cyprus is a European Union country and the occupied territories are part of the same Union. b) The population is not Greek and Turkish anymore, as thousands of people have come from a number of countries and made Cyprus their home. Under the new conditions, in a country as diverse as it is today, where the Aquis Communitaire applies (even if it's suspended for the moment in the occupied areas) it is obsolete to talk about a federation of which one component is the result of a brutal invasion and its raison d'être will depend on maintaining its ethnically cleansed status!

Turks knew they would lose Cyprus forever the moment it entered the European Union five years ago. Erdogan, shrewder than most in the deeply corrupted Kemalist establishment, saw it coming and convinced the generals to accept the Annan Plan, hoping that the Americans would make the citizens of the Cyprus Republic do the same. After exhaustive negotiations in Switzerland, Ergogan succeeded in forcing the UN to draft a plan

that not only would elevate the new Turkish component of the federated state to an equal status with the existing Cyprus Republic, which had to be dissolved first, but through the Turkish, ethnically cleansed and purified, statelet, a control over the whole new federated republic would be exercised. Cyprus wasn't a EU member yet, so that was the last chance that such a racist, colonialist-minded plan could be imposed, if the Greek had voted yes, which as it turned down, they didn't.

European Union membership and the population enrichment that has made the island a multi-national society, provides Cyprus with a unique opportunity to seek a solution based on the Aquis Communitaire, the European Union legal framework, which cannot accept the formation of ghettos, based on ethnic or religious criteria. If the Annan Plan had been approved before the country joined the EU, Greek Cypriots would not be allowed to buy property or live in the Turkish component state, although every other European would have the right to do so!

Turks know all that and they will try to drag their feet as much and as long as possible. It is very important, though, that the Cyprus Republic does not budge, because after so many years, time is on her side, despite what many people say about things getting worse as time goes by. That was true before the European Union, and things have irrevocably changed since. Professor Van Koufoudakis who knows the Cyprus issue as few in the world, points out these facts in his new book titled International aggression and violations of human rights: The case of Turkey in Cyprus, and reminds that the Turkish

A framed cover of NEO's May issue was offered to Senator Robert Manendez at the PSEKA, Washington, DC Conference, by Demetrios Rhompotis and Tasso Zambas (left), a friend of the Senator's.



invasion of Cyprus is mainly a violation of human rights case, in which Turkey contravenes treaties she has signed.

Professor Vassilis K. Fouskas, offering a more left-leaning look in his recent book written with Professor Alex O. Tackie, Cyprus -- The Post-Imperial Constitution, also talks about the need of a new language that would move away from the colonialist framework in which talks of developing the Cyprus state and society have been based until today.

As absurd as they might sound in the beginning, new ideas on the Cyprus issue in no way can be more absurd than the effort -- with the Republic's consent - to legally establish an Apartheid-like statelet on European Union territory, the survival of which will be dependent on not allowing Greek Cypriots to live there!

DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS
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The New Acropolis Museum:

A Dream that came true

Although boasting a wide range of exhibits, including ceramics, bronzes and coins, the New Acropolis Museum, scheduled to open to the public June 22, is principally a museum of sculpture. Many of the sculptures are architectural pieces, originally adorning the monuments of the Acropolis, seen under all variations of daylight. Appreciation of these variations in the sculptures is assured for the visitor through the extensive use of glass in the Museum's design. The emphasis on natural light is reflected in all the Museum's galleries. Light penetrates down through the glass floored atrium of the Parthenon Gallery, onto the glass floor of the ground level galleries – allowing natural light to gently touch the archaeological excavation below. Natural light enters the archaeological excavation at its perimeter through the opening at the perimeter of the excavation and through the perforated walls of claustra. According to the Architect Bernard Tschumi, "if architecture can be described as the materialization of concepts, the building is about the clarity of an exhibition route expressed through three materials, marble, concrete and glass. Within the unusual constraints of the site, the project ought to appear effortless and almost undesigned: a base of pilotis above the ruins, a middle section containing the main galleries, and a glass top at the summit containing the Parthenon frieze. The goal of this orchestrated simplicity is to focus the viewers' emotions and intellect on extraordinary works of art".

The new museum is expected to increase pressure on the people in charge of the British Museum to finally agree and return to Greece the of unparalleled beauty Parthenon Marbles, extracted by Lord Elgin, after bribing the Ottoman authorities, in order to bring them to England, causing unreversed damage to many of them in the process. After Grece officially requested their return in the '80s, British would base their refusal on the lack of an appropriate place in Athens to keep and display them. Now, as the British Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Marbles says: "The Greeks have long wanted their Marbles back, but the building of the new Acropolis Museum finally gives them

the physical authority to buttress an argument that has too often relied on shrill sentimentalism and unsubtle jingoism. The museum is a provocation, an enticement, a tease. Bernard Tschumi [the Swiss architect] has done everything other than daub slogans on the exterior walls to say to the world at large: 'The Parthenon Marbles belong here, next to the building from which they were taken.'"

The construction of the New Acropolis Museum – for which two historic buildings had to be demolished - to house the entire collection of surviving antiquities from the Acropolis has been Greece's objective for more than three decades. Almost as soon as it was first built in the 19th century, the old museum became too small for the wealth of antiquities recovered on the Acropolis.

As a result, many of the finds were displayed in various Athenian museums or simply left in storage. The old museum's limitations, the extraordinary significance of the finds and the effort to reunify all the surviving pieces of the Parthenon's unique architectural sculptures, made the construction of a new museum imperative. For the first time since the completion of archaeological excavations, all significant findings from the Acropolis are consolidated in one Museum, telling the complete story of life on the Athenian Acropolis and its surrounds.

From prehistory through to the highpoint of the Classical Period and the Parthenon, to the artifacts created during the Roman Period and late Antiquity – rich collections will provide visitors with a comprehensive picture of the human presence on the Acropolis. The extensive remains of the ancient Athenian city revealed on the Museum's site by the pre-construction archaeological excavations, will also grace the Museum's exhibition program.

For more information on the New Acropolis Museum the website is www.newacropolismuseum.gr

Information for this article was taken from the American Friends of the New Acropolis Museum website www.afnam.org

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