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**NOVEMBER**  
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*Let's hear it for democracy*

An article in one of the newsmagazines commented on the growing disenfranchisement of the American populace from many of its traditional institutions, including the eternal whipping boys of government and the major political parties. Here in the northeast, major candidates for office even with big pockets (such as Jon Corzine running for governor in New Jersey) are fighting for their political lives, Congress is back in its proverbial doghouse and the midterm elections seem uncertain for both parties, and the rainbow luster is fast fading from the Obama presidency.



FROM THE EDITOR

What do people want? Unfortunately, in a democracy, they want often contradictory things and they want them now. The liberals want Obama to recoup all the losses they suffered during what they see as the near-Armageddon of the Bush years—and they want it in now. The conservatives are determined not to give it to them and are hunkering down for the midterm elections. The moderates see no hope in either party and nothing but despair in the eternal gridlock that is democracy, where everybody has a say, and everybody can be a naysayer.

Unfortunately, or fortunately, Obama is an incrementalist in these trying times. He does things in a measured way and will usually parse the results. He doesn't move fast enough for his constituents (and too fast for his opponents). In just one year he has been called everything from a waffler, to a dictator, to an elitist, to a Hitler, to the most dangerous man in America, by that other most dangerous man in America, Rush Limbaugh.

It's a very cacophonous world out there and few are stopping to listen, let alone change their minds, but as Greeks we should be familiar with the game. We're proud of the democracy we brought into the world, proud of the practical fulfillment of that democracy that America is, but sometimes we forget the turbulent course that democracy can take. And we might forget the cautionary tale of how the glorious ancient Greeks eventually destroyed themselves in never-ending internecine wars and how the glory that was Greece was very brief period on the historical timeline.

Americans are more forgiving than we Greeks ever were, but the choke-hold of special interests in the American political system (the army of lobbyists representing special interests, the in-bred constituency of the various governmental branches—Defense vs. State, the Congress vs. the Judiciary vs. the Executive), and the growing stridency in cyberspace and the rants it perpetuates has accounted for a very dire period of uncertainty.

Obama has his hands full and is getting the full brunt of the uncertainty that people are enduring and reacting to, and, unfortunately, the civility that he brings to government and the public debate is being drowned out by the incivility of the alarmists of every persuasion.

But we should be grateful for our democracy, warts and all, because as Winston Churchill once famously said, democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others.

Dimitri C. Michalakis

Cover photo provided by FOX Business Network

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Sons are encouraged to join this new chapter. The Gold Coast Chapter is conducting a membership drive.

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By Aris Anagnos\*

# SHOULD OUR COMMUNITY LOBBY?

The answer is an emphatic YES, because, as the proverb goes, "the squeaky wheel gets the grease".

Members of Congress are extremely busy with multiple issues and to get their attention two things are required: money or people (i.e. blocks of voters), or both. Most legislators, with various exceptions, have very little knowledge of our issues so an effort to educate them is needed.

Until we get effective campaign finance reform such as a public financing system, our elected officials are very heavily dependent on money, from whatever source. Campaigns are getting increasingly expensive, particularly in the large urban areas, because of the cost of television ads. In most instances, no sooner are the members of the House of Representatives elected than they start raising money for their reelection two years later. Senators, even though elected for six years, are not far behind. This gives the opportunity to special interests to contribute huge sums of money by "bundling" together contributions from many sources in an industry, profession or an individual large company. It gives rise to the lucrative lobbying industry.

The current debate about health care reform gives some vivid illustrations: According to



www.opensecrets.org, Senator Max Baucus of the State of Montana, with fewer than a million people, received \$1,717,130 from health care and insurance interests in the 2008 campaign cycle. Is it any wonder that he has defended their interests with such tenacity?

As we frequently say, we get the best Congress that money can buy. For those who are interested in finding out more details about the logistics of campaign financing, Charles Lewis of the Center for Public Integrity, has written a book, "The Buying of the Congress", which I highly recommend reading.

## TECHNIQUES OF LOBBYING. THE IDEAL GOAL

Here is how to organize:

Ideally we should have a permanent committee of active constituents in EVERY congressional district which would establish friendly relations with the local member of Congress and keep him or her informed about developments on our issues. Such committees should have from five to ten members and elect a chair and vice chair. They should meet periodically to discuss developments and keep informed and disseminate their information to the broader

community. If a member of the community is a friend, acquaintance or campaign contributor of the Congressional Representative, he or she should be included. When a committee member drops out, a replacement should be found. It is a good idea to have members from all spectrums of society in the committee; men, women, younger people and older folks. The committee should be non-partisan in its policies and be ready to work with both Democrats & Republicans who are willing to support our causes.

Once organized and prepared, a member of the committee should call the local field office of the congressional representative for an appointment, emphasizing that the committee represents the Greek-American community of the District. Frequently an aide will try to arrange the meeting with just a staff member but gentle insistence should in most cases produce a meeting with the congressman or woman. Material on our issues is available from the American Hellenic Council ([www.americanhellenic.org](http://www.americanhellenic.org)), the American Hellenic Institute ([www.aheworld.com](http://www.aheworld.com)) and from the National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (1100 New Hampshire Ave, N.W., Washington DC 20037)

## THE MEETING

The meeting will generally be limited to half an hour because legislators, when they are in the District, have multiple appointments with various groups. Accordingly, brevity and focus on particular issues is essential. A legislator's aide will usually be present.

The Agenda:

- 1) If the legislator has done something praiseworthy for the District or nationally, it is important to give praise and establish a warm and friendly relationship.
- 2) A brief review of the basic issues of concern to our community.

They are:

- The aggressive behavior of Turkey in the Aegean with flights over Greek territory and claims of "grey zones." This creates a danger of war between two NATO allies and could embroil the U.S. Turkey's behavior is obviously not in the national interest of the U.S.
- The protection of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from the constant harassment by Turkish authorities who use excessive taxation, confiscation of properties and the closing of the theological school of Halki. This is contrary to the basic human right of freedom of religion that every American administration supports.
- The peaceful reunification of Cyprus and the removal of the illegal Turkish troops of occupation from the northern part of the island. This violation of international law and continuation of Turkish aggression damages the U.S. national interest which requires the rule of law and absence of conflict in the area.
- The name issue of FYROM, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This issue is hard to understand for people who are not familiar with the area and the provocative acts of the FYROM's government. It needs a careful explanation with facts and examples. Again, the claims raised by FYROM as part of this issue are contrary to good neighborly relations, threaten destabilization of the region and are therefore contrary to the US national interest.

Where possible, we should ask for a commitment of support on each specific issue. There may be other issues from time to time or legislation or Resolutions that have been introduced for which the delegation can ask for support. Generally, we should not dissipate our efforts with too many issues but concentrate on the basics.

It is important that we ask the legislator to join the US House Caucus on Hellenic Affairs (also known as the Hellenic Caucus), which in the current Session has 141 members, some more active than others. If he or she is already a member we should thank them for that.

I am proud to say that, thanks to the efforts of the American Hellenic Council of California, 29 of the 53 US House Representatives from California are members of the Caucus.

After the initial meeting, the committee should keep contact with the congressional member or at least an aide from that office. One member of the delegation should record the minutes and if possible send a brief synopsis to the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes, the American Hellenic Institute or the American Hellenic Council so that they can be aware of the action. The group should also send a letter thanking the congressional representative and keep in touch thereafter, either with the Member of Congress or an aide.

I have described the ideal situation. Do we currently have the ideal? Certainly not. Yet we must strive towards it with patience and perseverance. The American Hellenic Council together with the organizations mentioned above, stand ready to help. Let us go to work!

*Aris Anagnos is one of the founders of the American Hellenic Council of California which was first created in 1974 at the time of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus as the "Save Cyprus Council." Anagnos has served several terms as President and Vice President and has been active for decades in lobbying Congress for Hellenic Causes.*



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Nick Mouyiaris, Peter Papanicolaou, John Sarbanes, John Catsimatides and George Tsunis

## Celebrating half century of Hellenism in the Public Service

This past October a group of renown Greek American political activists led by John Catsimatidis, Philip Christopher, Michael Jaharis, Peter Papanicolaou and George Tsunis who served as the Host Committee, held a fundraiser event for Congressman John P. Sarbanes (Maryland, 3rd Congressional District) at the Atrium of the Olympic Tower, in New York City.



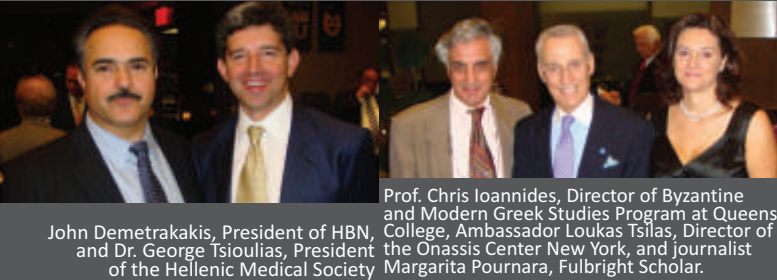
Former Senator Paul Sarbanes, Dr. John Brademas and Congressman John Sarbanes

It wasn't just that though, as the gathering served as an opportunity to celebrate 50 Years of Hellenism in the Public Service by honoring John's father, the legendary former US Senator Paul Sarbanes. Dr. John Brademas, President Emeritus of New York University and himself a veteran in Washington politics (he served as Congressman from January 3, 1959 to January 3, 1981) was there to honor his friend. Also, activist and entrepreneur Nick Mouyiaris paid his tribute as did Dr. George Tsioulis, President of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York, Dr. Chris Ioannides, Director of the Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies Program at Queens College, John Dimitrakakis, President of Hellenic Business Network, and Ambassador Loukas Tsilas, Director of the Onassis Foundation that owns both the Atrium and the Olympic Tower, among others.

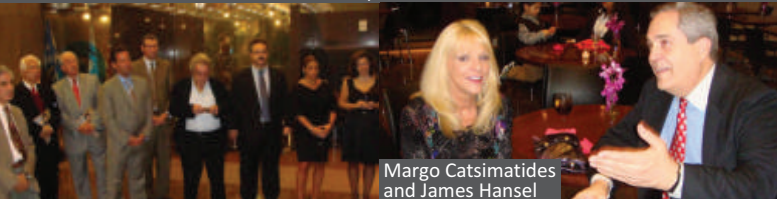
Paul Sarbanes officially entered politics in 1967, when he was elected a member in the Maryland House of Delegates where he served until 1971. The previous year he was elected as a Democrat to the Ninety-second Congress. He was reelected to the Ninety-third and Ninety-fourth Congresses (January 3, 1971-January 3, 1977). While he was not a candidate for reelection to the House of Representatives, he ran and was elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate in 1976 where he served continuously until January 2007 when he decided not to seek reelection, having completed 30 years as US Senator. However, in November 2006, his son John ran at his father's original congressional district and he won a landslide victory, repeated in 2008.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Congressman Sarbanes has nearly two decades of experience working in the private, public and non-profit sectors. While in Congress, John Sarbanes has been appointed to the Energy and Commerce Committee where he serves on the Health Subcommittee and the Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection Subcommittee and he is also a member of the Natural Resources Committee with a special focus on parks and federal lands.

Since childhood, Congressman Sarbanes has attended the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore. Over the last eighteen years, John has served as a board member of the Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies. Active with his wife and children in the Bolton Street Synagogue, John brings a special perspective to the Institute's mission of promoting understanding and dialogue among people of different religious faiths.



John Demetrakakis, President of HBN, Prof. Chris Ioannides, Director of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies Program at Queens College, Ambassador Loukas Tsilas, Director of the Onassis Center New York, and Dr. George Tsioulis, President of the Hellenic Medical Society, and Margarita Pournara, Fulbright Scholar.



Margo Catsimatides and James Hansel



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Peter Papagianakis is licensed to practice law in New York and Florida.

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# Market Outlook and Risk Posture

## How Investors Perceive and Manage Risk in Volatile Markets.

Investment  
Front



By John P. Calamos Sr.

Investors have grown increasingly confident that the worst of the global financial crisis may have passed. As the tide of negative economic data ebbed somewhat during the third quarter, the equity, high yield and convertible markets extended their rebounds from a strong second quarter. With this backdrop, the question often being asked these days is: how should the economy and the financial markets develop over the next few years?

Going forward, I believe the capital and fiscal and monetary incentives that have been largely responsible for the recent market gains should change gradually. As a result, the longer-term outlook appears less certain. I also believe that over the foreseeable future financial markets and the economy will likely benefit from several factors. The year-over-year data for revenue growth, earnings-per-share and many economic statistics should provide favorable comparisons, primarily because the numbers are no longer falling off a cliff. For example, the auto and building industries are stabilizing, and although these industries have yet to rebound meaningfully, they are no longer the huge drags on gross domestic product they were just a few months ago.

A more stable economic outlook, however, is only part of the equation when considering the future direction of asset prices. Another intertwined but separate variable is risk. This is a twofold variable, comprising the actual risks associated with an investment, and investors' attitudes toward the perceived risks. This year's strong price rebounds in financial assets could not have materialized without a major shift in investors' risk appetites. This is not a bad thing, and is a prerequisite for the market's recovery. Consider, however, that past performance may attract future asset flows, and investors' attitudes toward risk may become a considerable risk in itself. Recall that asset bubbles are byproducts of excessive risk tolerance. How investors manage risk in general, tends to vary significantly.

Some investors would try to capture each bit of potential incremental return before the market turns, hoping to exit right before it happens. This is a very risky proposition, especially if you are investing an individual's lifelong hard-

earned assets. Based on my experience of more than thirty years in the investment management industry, I recommend a more conservative, contrarian approach. Pay less attention to what markets are doing, and maintain a consistent risk posture throughout the market cycle. Your posture should factor in several variables, including (but not limited to) age, investment goals and objectives and attitudes toward risk taking.

This approach requires fortitude, as an individual's portfolio returns may lag the market's return over short-term intervals. In the recent market rally, for example, speculative bonds outperformed higher-rated investment grade bonds. In the near term, the higher returns compensated investors for the additional risks taken, but the higher probability of default associated with these bonds may reverse this quickly. Over the past few months, however, a portfolio with low or no exposure to the most speculative bond offerings would have underperformed the broader market. I advocate avoiding lower-quality investments because I am convinced they add undue risks when the objective is to maximize longer-term returns.

Going forward, slow economic growth appears to be the mostly likely scenario, but financial markets are leading indicators. The rotation into higher-quality assets should eventually occur, and opportunistic investors could benefit from what may be a protracted period of heightened market volatility. I believe that investors seeking to capitalize on potential opportunities that arise should focus on bottom-up stock selection, a key driver of relative performance in volatile environments. Investors should also maintain a global focus, to potentially benefit from many opportunities available beyond the U.S. border. Based on our research, these potential opportunities are surfacing primarily in technology and other cyclical sectors such as energy and materials.

In short, we believe that a focus on high quality, global opportunities, and bottom-up stock selection should effectively help investors manage risk and potentially benefit from the uncertain investment climate.

For questions or comments contact John: 888.857.7604, JPCsr@calamos.com, www.calamos.com

*The opinions referenced are as of October 2009 and are subject to change due to changes in the market or economic conditions and may not necessarily come to pass. Information contained herein is for informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice.*



# MidAmerica Productions Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Composer and Conductor John Rutter



Conductor Peter Tiboris



MidAmerica Productions, Inc., New York's foremost independent producer of classical concerts in Carnegie Hall, is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a gala performance in Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium on Sunday, November 29, 2009, at 2 PM.

The program features Peter Tiboris, MidAmerica's general director and music director, conducting The New England Symphonic Ensemble and the two winners of this year's prestigious Maria Callas Grand Prix, held in March in Athens, Greece—soprano Yun-Jeong Lee and tenor Jaesig Lee. Ms. Lee and Mr. Lee will sing solo works and duets including Donizetti's "Verrano a te sull'aure" (Lucia di Lammermoor), Mozart's "Der Hölle Rache" (Die Zauberflöte), Donizetti's "Una furtiva lagrima" (L'elisir d'amore), Gounod's "Ah! Je

veux vivre" (Roméo et Juliette), Donizetti's "Favorita del re...spirito gentil" (La favorita), Rossini's "Una voca poco fa" (Il barbiere di Siviglia), Donizetti's "Ah mes amis...pour mon âme" (La fille du régiment), and Rossini's "Tutto apprendi" (Guglielmo Tell).

On the same program, the eminent composer and conductor John Rutter, whose partnership with MidAmerica Productions dates back some 20 years, will celebrate his 100th performance with the company, leading his own Magnificat with Sarah Mattox, soprano, and a chorus composed of Columbus East High School Choir, IN; First Congregational Church Choir, Fall River, MA; Columbia Union College Chorale, Takoma Park, MD; Hannibal-LaGrange College Concert Choir, Hannibal, MO; Woods Chapel Church Choir, Lee's Summit, MO; Raytown High School Concert Choir and Camerata, MO; and Oak Harbor High School Choir, OH.

MidAmerica Productions, Inc., was founded

by Peter Tiboris in 1984. As an independent producer of classical concerts, MidAmerica presents soloists, choral, and instrumental ensembles from around the world in New York's Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, and Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall. MidAmerica also presents concerts in Europe and, since 2000, in Syros, Greece, as Festival of the Aegean. To date, MidAmerica Productions has produced more than 1000 concerts worldwide.

Tickets for the November 29th concert, at \$95 Parquet, 1st Tier, and 2nd Tier; \$57 Dress Circle; and \$35 Balcony, may be obtained by calling CarnegieCharge at (212) 247-7800, logging on to [www.carnegiehall.org](http://www.carnegiehall.org), or visiting the Carnegie Hall Box Office at West 57th Street and Seventh Avenue in New York City. For more information, call MidAmerica Productions at 212-239-4699 or visit [www.midamerica-music.com](http://www.midamerica-music.com).

## "A Cuckoo Family" by Ethos Productions



"A Cuckoo Family," a modern Greek play adapted and directed by Larisa Antypa will be the opening performance of the newly established ETHOS MANAGEMENT Inc (ETHOS PRODUCTIONS), a based in New York City organization with a board of professionals in the arts and management.

The story takes place in 60's Athens. Andreas and Mika meet during the Carnival in Venice, they fell in love and get married that same day. With their return to Mika's house in Athens, Andreas finds out his wife is not only very spoiled but also engaged to someone else. Their home is a place with no rules, where everybody does whatever they like. Andreas will attempt to win Mika's heart and put some order in this Cuckoo Family.

The performances begin Friday November 27th, 2009 and will run until Sunday January 17th, 2010.

Ethos Productions' mission is to Manage and promote actors, singers, vocalists, musicians, music producers, bands and all persons engaged in the field of entertainment through its various activities (theatre productions, musical concerts, movies, TV, readings and charitable functions). They are also planning to promote, organize and conduct events, parties and all other types of gatherings for corporations, organizations, associations, traditional Greek membership organizations and individuals, introducing both Greek and Greek-American performers. Ethos' scope includes providing the Greek speaking community with various artistic productions and meaningful presentations, which will promote our ethnic and cultural identity and preserve our language and culture through artistic endeavor. Finally, they will try to exchange ideas and cultures with other ethnic groups, to understand and appreciate our culture in the United States of America.

In order to achieve these goals, Ethos has undertaken and organized projects, beginning immediately and lasting until December 2010. These projects include theatrical productions, musical events, charitable fundraising events and musical concerts with both young and well-known Greek actors, musical performers and composers. For more info the company's website is [www.ethosproductions.us](http://www.ethosproductions.us)

"A Cuckoo Family" performances will be held at the "Hellenic Cultural Center of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese", located in Astoria (27-09 Crescent Street). Reservations can be made at [reservations@ethosproductions.us](mailto:reservations@ethosproductions.us) or by phone at 646-945-9429 and 718-408-4571

Discover the flavors of...



# CYPRUS



Cyprus is the jewel of the Eastern Mediterranean and has an ancient tradition of fine food culture. Quality and freshness are at the core of Cypriot home-cooking, so it's no surprise these elements are key to all products Cyprus exports. Explore the foods of Cyprus and discover a world where the past and present explode in a burst of fresh flavors.



### DAIRY AND CHEESE

Halloumi, the national cheese of Cyprus, is known and loved throughout the world for its pleasant flavor and unique texture. This semi-hard cheese is made from sheep or goat's milk, and in the spirit of the "Mediterranean Diet" is a healthy source of protein and calcium. Halloumi can be enjoyed as is, grilled, fried or baked. Cyprus also exports high quality fetta cheese, dry anari cheese, kefalotyri cheese, kefalograviera cheese and kaskavalli cheese.



### SPICES & SALTS

Cyprus produces some of the best gourmet sea salts and spices in the world. No other salt looks like it or feels like it. The delicate pyramid-shaped crystals will add a fresh, unique flavor and satisfying crunch. Sprinkled on any of your favorite recipes will add a savory true taste of the Mediterranean.



### SWEETS

Cypriots have used and enjoyed honey, carob and nuts in their cuisine for thousands of years and products that have been perfected over the generations are now available in stores.

**Pure raw Cyprus honey** from Mediterranean herbs is smooth and creamy with delicate flavors and aroma and contains a vast amount of micronutrients and phytonutrients for boosting the immune system.

**Carob** is known as the Black Gold of Cyprus. Native grown carob pods are roasted and made into carob powder or Syrup that has a pleasing flavor similar to chocolate but without the caffeine.

**Cyprus Delights (Loukoumia)** - Unlike many others, these traditional soft sweets do not rely on additives to set and are made using only the finest natural ingredients.

Just as these delicacies have been a Cypriot favorite for hundreds of years, so their sweet reputation has spread far beyond the island's shores - delights by name, delightful by nature!



### WINES

Cyprus is one of the first countries in which wine making was practiced. Commandaria, the most famous wine of Cyprus, is probably the oldest wine known in the world and the first ever to be given an 'Appellation of Origin' has been made in Cyprus with the same method since at least 1,000 B.C. Today Cyprus produces quality wine with a true expression of the Cypriot terroir and typicity of its indigenous varietals reflecting the rich history of Cyprus wine and the feelings and character of the Cyprus soil and its people.



Cyprus Embassy Trade Center

13 East 40<sup>th</sup> street | New York, NY 10016 | [ctcny@cyprustradeny.org](mailto:ctcny@cyprustradeny.org) | ph: 212-213-9100



Nicole Petallides has to stop and count just how many times she's on the air from the New York Stock Exchange for the FOX Business Network - television, radio, online - in the course of the day.

## FOX Business anchor Nicole Petallides:

## puts the fun with the facts on the stock market

by Dimitri C. Michalakis



Nicole with mom, Publisher and Political Activist Fanny Petallides-Holiday

PHOTO: FOX Business Network

"If you can wait a second, hold on," says the bubbly anchor and begins to count, "... 8:30, 9:10, 9:20, 9:30..." more counting—"by the way, I go on as it comes..." more counting "...twenty (television) shots a day!" she announces. "Then I have to do radio, and I do FOX News Radio for 145 cities. And then I do a market wrap at the end of the day and I tell you what happened here today and what to look for tomorrow. And I do our web shows—we have our FOX Business Live show—so roughly twenty times a day, plus FOX Radio hits, plus web hits."

But she wouldn't change a thing about the grueling pace that makes her omnipresent on all FOX business media practically all day. "I always say I skip to work, I never drag," she says, practically skipping on the phone as she talks from the exclusive FOX booth on the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange. "And even when I go in at 2 a.m. or 3 a.m. or 5 a.m.—I've worked every shift in television—I honestly love coming to work. The adrenaline gets you, the excitement of the market gets you from the people you work with—everybody at FOX and all the traders you work with—they're wonderful."

She says now is a particularly great time to report from the floor as the market picks up. "We're up fifty percent from our March lows. We're back to a 10,000 Dow and it's a really great time, not just for market people, but for regular folks who have 401ks and IRAs. They really got hit hard when the Dow went down to 6500. Now we're back and it's great news."

That's better than two years ago when the FOX Business Network first went on the air. "I was standing here and talking about the Dow at 14,000, which then went down to 6,500 and I used to stand here and say, 'More layoffs: General Electric, Pfizer, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs—they're all cutting jobs.' Now it's such a different picture. Now I stand here and say, 'New 52 week high for Amazon, and Microsoft, and Macy's, and JP Morgan, and Halliburton'—it's a much better environment."

And it's an environment that she loves. "The stock market is really exciting," she says, excited just talking about it. "I'm not kidding, if you felt my pulse now—it's soaring! You can see gains and losses in the blink of an eye. Even the other day: we were up 100 points and one trader said he went

to the bathroom, and by the time he got back to the floor we were down 100 points!—we had a 200 point swing in the middle of the day all on the movement of the dollar...I can't explain it. It's just fabulous. I feel like the luckiest journalist in the world to be down here."

Before joining FOX, Petallides was an anchor for Bloomberg Television reporting from the Stock Exchange, and before Bloomberg, she was an assistant producer for CNBC, where she produced daily floor reports from the NYSE. Before CNBC, she was a segment producer for Dow Jones Television's *The Wall Street Journal Report* with Consuelo Mack and international programs the *Asian Business News* and *European Business News*.

"I have a long resume," she says, "but I really love working at FOX, because there's something for everybody on this channel. It's smart enough for people who are really in tune to the jargon and the inside scoop of the market, and it also presents information in a great useful way for folks who are less business savvy: It's fun, it's smart, it's not demeaning. We're never talking at you, I'm talking to you. I'm telling you what I'm hearing. It's an exciting place to be and I

love it."

And apparently viewers love her because FOX Business Network recently beat CNBC in the ratings. "And that's a pretty fast game for a brand-new network in only two years," she says proudly.

FOX also has a leg up on the competition because it is the only media outlet with a booth on the trading floor.

"FOX was so smart to have their booth on the floor," she says, "the first booth ever on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. I'm actually sandwiched between two trading booths! The other media, NBC, Bloomberg, CNN, they're all up on top on the balconies. FOX Business is different—I sit on the floor all day—right here, where traders are running by and yelling, 'I'm buying EXXON! I'm selling Citigroup!' And I'm standing here and I can quickly plug in the stock to see what's going on. I can talk to these guys, and get it first on FOX and that's an advantage."

That's a heady atmosphere for a business reporter, but she takes a tip from the traders around her: "These guys kid me: the hotter the fire, the cooler the cucumber, because it tends to be insane here and I have to keep a

level head. If everything is running hot or running high or running low—if everything is falling—you don't want to say there's panic in the market, because things might turn around just like that."

Besides being married to her work, Petallides is married to Manhattan dentist Nicholas Tsiolias and has two boys, Eric, 7, and Michael, 5. "It can be tough, because Nick and I lead busy lives," she says. "But my mom baby sits." (Her mother is Fannie Holliday, a founder of the Greek language daily *Proini*, and her father is John Petallides, who owns several companies including U.S. Amfax, a New York-based telemarketing and promotions company.) "I was an athlete in college and I love playing sports with them. And—" of course—"I brought them to the New York Stock Exchange and they loved it."

Almost as much as their mother.

"I look at the outside of the New York Stock Exchange and it feels like home," she rhapsodizes. "I love when I know I only have thirty seconds till I'm on. I love updating my latest graphics because I don't want them to be old. I love getting the news fast, I love talking to these traders—it's really fun!"



Center left, NYS Assemblyman Michael Gianaris, Hercules Hanjjs, Former Speaker of the NYC Council Peter Vallone, Sr. present citations and family members of Hercules Hanjjs.



Hercules Hanjjs and family

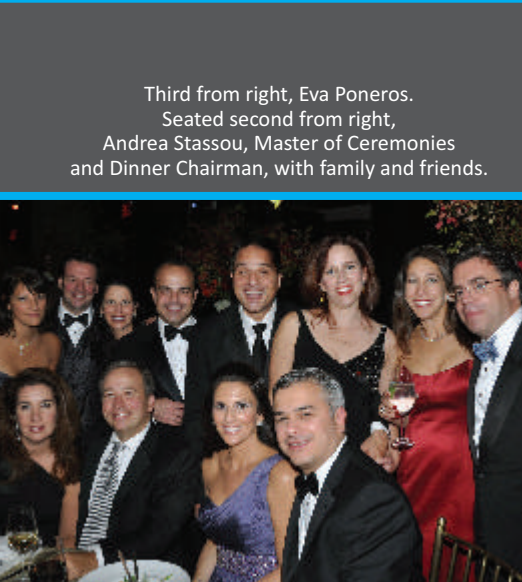


John Catsimatidis, Hercules Hanjjs and Margo Catsimatidis



Second from left, Kosta Hanjjs, Alexa Hanjjs, Hercules Hanjjs, far right Dimitri Hanjjs with family members.

NYS Assemblyman Michael Gianaris, Alexandra Rosa, Chief of Staff Queens Borough President's Office presents citation to Honoree Hercules Hanjjs; Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney and Evangeline Douris Chairman of HANAC.



Third from right, Eva Poneris. Seated second from right, Andrea Stassou, Master of Ceremonies and Dinner Chairman, with family and friends.



Spiros Voutsinos, President, Atlantic Bank and family



Hercules Hanjjs, HANAC'S HONOREE 2009, President of Mega Contracting



Savas Konstantinides, HANAC's 2007 Man of the Year; George Poulon, Mega Contracting Inc.; Zacharine Pappas, Associate Executive Director, HANAC and John P. Kaiteris, Executive Director, HANAC.



Peter J. Pappas, Sr.; Hercules Hanjjs; Nick Chirigos and Charles Manis.



Mr & Mrs Andres Latos.

PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

# HANAC celebrates new heights and honors Hercules Hanjjs

With a sold out, lavish gala event, HANAC (Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee) celebrated 37 years of service this past October at New York City's Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Hundreds of supporters poured into the function room with its breathtaking city views to mark the conclusion of another year of activities and the opening of a new one, promising even more challenges and opportunities. "I've told the Mandarin people to make this hall bigger, but they are not listening," joked Evangeline Douris, Chairman of the Board, during her welcoming remarks.

This year met another cornerstone for HANAC as the new George T. Douris Tower, a magnificent 184-unit senior residence named for the organization's founder, will open shortly in Astoria. No wonder then that the honoree at the 37th Dinner Dance Gala was the builder of this state-of-the-art edifice, Mr. Hercules Hanjjs, Founder and President of Mega Contracting Inc. The honoree was introduced by friend George Poulon, who was visibly moved. A sparkling Andrea Stassou was the event chairman and presented the program, with George Makkos as Honorary Chairman. Hercules Argyriou and George Poulon co-chaired the Journal Committee with Jonathan Williams as co-chair.

"It is with special gratitude that I extend my sincere thanks to the Grand Benefactors, Benefactors, Sponsors, Journal participants and guests for their generous support," said Evangeline Douris, not to omit "the Dinner Committee, all those who contributed to this year's success."

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney was also present, as was New York State Assemblyman Mike Giannaris. Rev. Frank Marangos, Dean of the Archdiocesan Cathedral offered the Benediction.

HANAC, with administrative offices at 49 West 45th Street in New York City, is a nonprofit service organization founded in Astoria, New York in 1972 by George T. Douris in response to the needs of the growing immigrant community of New York City. The mission of the agency is: "to develop and administer the operation of service programs for the betterment of the community and to provide



Mistress of Ceremonies Andrea Stassou

these services to any and all who are needy without discrimination as to race, creed, national origin or other defining characteristic."

Based upon its performance and record of service for 37 years, the agency has become one of New York City's largest and most successful multi-service organizations. HANAC provides a wide range of programs from 17 locations to diverse and multi-ethnic communities, touching the lives of over 30,000 individuals annually. It currently employs a staff of 2750.

Hercules Hanjjs, this year's honoree, is the Founder and President of Mega Contracting Inc. as well as a group of affiliate construction companies, which include Makro General Contractors, MetroYork Electrical, and Status General Development. These companies provide general contracting, construction management and property development services for residential, commercial, institutional, and infrastructure projects throughout New York City and the metropolitan

area.

An advocate of Affordable Housing in New York, Hercules Hanjjs has lead Mega Contracting to build more than 3,000 affordable apartment units primarily for not for profit organizations, such as HANAC, Phipps Housing, Fifth Avenue Committee and Whedco. Many of these buildings have been recognized with prestigious awards for Excellence in Construction, Environmental Responsibility, Historic Preservation and Service in the Community. In addition to the Construction industry, Mr. Hanjjs is involved in Real Estate Holding Development and Management both in New York and in Greece.

Born in Kato Kerasovo, Mesologi in Greece in 1952, Hercules Hanjjs finished high school in Athens and went on to study Maritime business in Pireaus. He moved to the United States in 1972, where he continued his studies in Business Administration in Florida. It was his passion for construction, though, that led him to earn his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in

Civil Engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of New York, while working full time to build his reputation as a contractor in the Metropolitan area. He got married in 1980 to Ms. Joanne Lignos and is the proud father of Kosta, Dimitri and Alexa.

Hercules Hanjjs has been a strong supporter and advisor to many non-profit organizations, such as Project Return Foundation, Community Access, The Lantern Group, The Institute for Community Living and many others, that provide services to the needy. At the same time, valuing his Greek heritage, Hercules Hanjjs has been actively involved in the Greek American Community. Over the years, he has served as a member of the Board of Directors for HANAC and the Byzantine Center of Queens College and has been a member of organizations, such as the Leadership 100, AHEPA and HAPAC, and the Hellenic American Construction Association.





Xenia Siamas is a young and gorgeous model who is rapidly climbing to the top of the fashion heap. The exotic grey eyed beauty has stormed multiple fashion shows, landed impressive roles in movies and appeared in many print campaigns over the past three years. Xenia has graced fashion spreads for Roberto Cavalli, J-Lo swimwear, Signora Militare Watches, Becks Beer and many others. In addition to modeling, Xenia is an up and coming film actress. She scored the lead female role in numerous music videos for MTV and FUSE Networks, appeared on ABC's One Life to Live and had parts in movies such as Shallow Hal, If Looks Could Kill, and Spiderman 3.

Xenia may soon become a household name and based on a recent NEO Magazine poll, the majority of Greek-Americans still do not know who she is. I must confess that I'm also guilty of being in the dark on this. I was immediately intrigued when a mutual friend brought her up in conversation and was utterly confused as to why I, a slave to fashion, had not heard of or read about the stunning Greek goddess. So I took it as a personal responsibility to introduce Xenia Siamas to the Greek community.

## MARIA'S SLATE INTERVIEW WITH MODEL/ACTRESS XENIA SIAMAS



**MA: How does a young Greek-Canadian from Montreal start modeling and acting in the US?**

XS: Destiny had it that I was at the right place at the right time while vacationing in South Beach. I was scouted by the infamous photographer Patrick Demarchelier's assistant who sent my photos to Elite Modeling Agency in New York City. They immediately offered me a contract and two weeks later I was living in NYC.

**MA: Are you a first generation Greek-Canadian?**

XS: I'm a 2nd generation Greek-Canadian, but I still consider myself very Greek since I can speak it, read it and write it.

**MA: What Greek meal are you crazy for? How about your favorite non-Greek meal?**

XS: I'm a real Greek when it comes to food! Love the cuisine, it's the best in the entire world! Nothing beats our fresh and healthy ingredients, but if I had to choose one dish I couldn't. My mom's pastitsio is the best, my dad's spanakopita is world class and my grandma's tsipoura rocks.

Non Greek dish would have to be sushi!

**MA: Has the Greek-American community been supportive of you as a model/actress?**

XS: Yes, the few that do know me have been very supportive and intrigued. I have tons of fans straight out of Greece emailing me daily. I was featured in STATUS magazine earlier this year and that launched my name directly into Greek media

**MA: Have you ever strutted down the runway for any Greek or Greek-American designers?**

XS: Yes and proud to say I did for Vassilios Kostetsos.

**MA: The economic environment has painfully turned many of us into "recessionistas"; can you share some frugal fashion tips and secrets?**

XS: You can say that again! Style isn't about WHO you're wearing, but HOW you're wearing it. I like to mix up old designer items with new affordable ones and combine them. I love my true religion jeans with a wife beater from H&M, paired with a cute blazer - you can't go wrong.

**MA: How would you describe your personal sense of style?**

XS: My style is all about rock! Cool Frye boots with a studded belt on skinny low riding jeans and my leather jacket! Of course the leather jacket - never leave home without it.

**MA: Tell us what a typical day is like for you.**

XS: Depends, when I'm filming a movie its rehearsals and straight to the set where I work nonstop, 12 to 14 hour days for about 2 to 4 weeks. Otherwise my day starts at 7 am with a healthy egg white mushroom and turkey omelet, then off to 3 to 6 castings a day and meetings. I also have lots of parties and networking events I attend. I feel like I'm always working, normal days end around 8pm or 9pm while late days end around 2am.

**MA: The pressure to be thin is obviously to the upmost extreme in the world of modeling. For most fashion designers, models are like hangers, the thinner a model is the better clothes will hang. How do you stay so thin while continuing to be fit and healthy?**

XS: I eat a lot, more than the average girl and always have. I do have a faster metabolism than most. I was diagnosed with a hyperthyroid very early on in my life and still struggle with this today. I take daily medicine, but must say that I am very healthy.

I eat a lot of protein and veggies. My secret is cooking mostly all my meals, that way I know what goes into them and therefore I control it all.

**MA: What is your best beauty advice?**

XS: Don't over pluck, stay away from heavy foundations and always blend. Avoid direct lines; instead blend eye shadows and lipstick with your fingers! Ohh... and stay hydrated! Drink lots of water and eat plenty of asparagus and parsley, this will help drain excess fluid from your body.

**MA: What motivates or inspires you to achieve your goals?**

XS: I am motivated by what the future holds, I envision myself succeeding and achieving all my dreams. I visualize success everyday. When preparation meets opportunity, that is when success happens, and I am always prepared. I know my hard work is paying off and

that the people in my life support and love me. They keep me strong and lift my spirits. I love my family and am grateful to have a supportive man in my life - they are all amazing.

**MA: What current projects are you working on?**

XS: I am currently working on 3 feature films: El Chico Blanco with Peter Facinelli, Alpha Numeric and Forever Dead. Updates on my site will be available soon: [www.xeniasiamas.com](http://www.xeniasiamas.com)

**MA: Controversy sells. What is controversial about you?**

XS: I am all for gay marriage and gay rights. I work with, love and accept gay people. They are normal to me and I've always thought this about them. Gay people have been around throughout the ages, society just kept it hush. Now it's time we all woke up and realized that by denying them basic rights we are refusing to evolve as a society.

**MA: What is one thing about you that not many people know?**

XS: I speak 4 languages fluently: French, English, Greek and Italian. And that I get emotional easily, I'm a mush.

**MA: What are your best words of advice for young ladies who aspire to be models and/or actresses?**

XS: There are plenty of scams out there, especially here in NYC. The main thing to remember when you are an aspiring model or actor, is not to believe the hype. Nothing comes easy and if someone is telling you that they can make you a star, it's probably a scam. Remember stars aren't handed out; they are born out of hard work and dedication.

**MA: Any specific advice for young Greek Americans?**

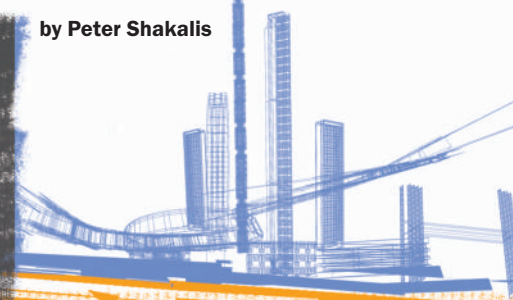
XS: Stick together and never forget your values and traditions. We must support one another and stay united as a community!

**MA: Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

XS: Accepting an academy award with a pregnant belly!



by Peter Shakalis



## Manhattan Office Fundamentals Begin to Stabilize

The good news is that the overall availability rate for office space for Manhattan at the end of the third quarter of 2009 was unchanged from the second quarter's level of 13.4%. Even if the U.S. and New York City's recessions both ended around the middle of 2009, the stabilization of the availability rate so soon after the end of the economic downturn would be remarkable. This is especially the case when one considers what happened during the last down cycle in the economy in 2001. While that previous recession ended by the final months of 2001, the amount of available space in the city continued to rise through 2002 and peaked in mid-2003.

However a new hit to business confidence could precipitate a decline in office space required by corporate tenants, pushing the availability rate higher. Additionally the completion of about 3 million square feet of new office space in late 2009 and early 2010 represents a possible risk to continued stability of available space. The consolidation of Goldman Sachs offices into its new building in the Downtown market near to the World Trade Center represents about two-thirds of that new space.

Several related but different factors account for the fact that the overall availability rate has held steady in the third quarter. First, the amount of office space leased as measured in square feet did increase during the third quarter. The average monthly figure was almost 2 million square feet, based on the preliminary numbers for the third quarter. The second quarter's average was 1.4 million square feet, and an average of just 1 million square feet in the first quarter. While the amount of space leased improved, the amount being offered on the market also declined in the third quarter. This applied to sublet space on the market as well.

A sense that the economy had found bottom and that business would eventually improve seems to have become the consensus view in the third quarter. This change in attitude has prompted some office tenants to complete their space searches or to hold onto space that was only partially utilized. Property tours also seemed to have increased over the level in the first and second quarters of 2009.

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By Eleni Elias Liakaris

## An avalanche of youth at the Fyta Society gala



Cathy De Rosa from the De Rosa Foundation thanking the syllogo for its contribution to the cause.

This past October we celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Chian Society of Fyta with a sold-out gala at the Chian House in Astoria. Hundreds of people, members and friends, but most importantly, young, American-born individuals like you and me showed up, making it clear that there is future to traditional Greek organizations in the US, if youth is allowed to take its rightful place in them.

Fytousi Society has been doing this since 1994, when under the leadership of its founders, the

sylogo was officially incorporated in Warren, Ohio. Soon it began to attract and connect members in the United States, Canada and abroad

In 2003, fresh innovations were brought to the society under the leadership of a new board. Also at this time, the syllogo joined the Chian Federation and became incorporated in New York as the "Chian Society of Fyta of North America, Agia Paraskevi." Over the course of six years and through tireless efforts, this board graciously led the organization, maintained its efforts and extended its charitable contributions.

Inspired by the example of the founding and successive boards, with the continued support of our members, and in the spirit of syllogo's mission, a new board was established in the spring of 2009. With great appreciation for all the selfless efforts that have made this society flourish, and in hopes of carrying on the traditions of the Chian Society of Fyta, the most recent board was inspired to create our first-ever event and association journal.

Since its establishment, and with the diligent efforts of its devoted members, the Chian Society of Fyta has had 13 annual dinner dances, contributed to various charitable organizations, established a scholarship fund and undertaken many projects in Fyta. Some of the organizations we have supported include the Ronald McDonald House, St. Basil's Academy, Kyriaki's Retinoblastoma Foundation, and this year we add to the list the De Rosa Foundation.

The scholarships are awarded annually at the

Chian Society of Fyta's dance and are chosen in a random lotto. All members and their children currently pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies are eligible to apply for the awards.

Most recently, the Chian Society of Fyta has witnessed a renewed excitement inspired, in part, by the involvement of its neolaia. Every year the number of youth at our dance increases as we welcome new faces to celebrate with us; a new generation has begun volunteering its support and there are eager talks of hosting youth events.

It is hard to imagine what the future holds for the Society, but after 15 wonderful years, we are still quite passionately committed to preserving our traditions for the next generation. We are eternally grateful to all the founding Fytousi, our previous and current boards, each of our enthusiastic members and everyone who has ever committed time and/or resources to the support of our causes.



Members of the Board.



# THE NEW GENERATION of LEADERS

## Leadership 100 NEO

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 their peers.

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.



## Name: Mike Manatos

Position: Senior Vice President for Public Policy, Manatos & Manatos

Education: Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs

### Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born, raised and am a lifetime resident of the Washington, DC suburb of Bethesda, Maryland.

### Who or what were the main influences in your life?

My family and my faith. I owe all that I have achieved and my profound happiness to the constant, rock-solid support and guidance they provide.

### How did you get into your present work?

I was heavily influenced by my grandfather and father. My papou was the first Greek-American to work in the White House, as Senate Liaison to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. My father was the highest-ranking Greek-American in the Carter Administration. Both spent decades leading the fight in Washington, DC, for Orthodox and Hellenic issues with U.S. policymakers. It's in my blood and I was immersed in it growing up. So like any good Greek boy (especially the oldest of 4 sons), after my last exam in college, I went into the family business and I've been there ever since. But instead of working the cash register in the family diner, I'm working the halls of Congress for the family lobbying firm. I've greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work with my father for 20 years now. We are proud to contribute our time and that of our firm's, on a daily basis, to promoting Orthodoxy and Hellenism with U.S. policymakers.

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

Leadership 100 provides a unique opportunity to support some of the most meaningful and effective efforts to strengthen our church in the United States. It also uniquely offers the chance to meet and develop personal relationships with many of the most successful Greek-Americans from across the country. By doing these things, one can more fully celebrate and embrace what it means to be a proud Greek Orthodox Christian in America.

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

Beyond my already high expectations. I have thoroughly enjoyed it, particularly in recent years as the rolls have exploded with members in their 30's and 40's.

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

I am very excited about the future of Leadership 100, particularly because of the recent influx of members in their 30's and 40's. It not only breathes new life into an already very vibrant organization, but it is also engaging a whole generation of Greek-Americans who are, as I like to say, "off the radar." Most of the first 500 members of Leadership 100 were primarily those participating in the traditional Greek-American organizations. This younger swath of Greek-, who have joined in recent years, however, are successful Americans proud of their Greek Orthodox faith and their Greek heritage, but many are not members of the traditional Greek-American organizations. Leadership 100 is uniquely attracting these Greek-Americans in their 30's and 40's and, in doing so, doing a very valuable service to the survival of our faith and our heritage

in the US.

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

It has brought into my life great new friends, business contacts and role models.

### What qualities do you most admire or value in others?

Humility, faith, always putting family first, pursuit of excellence.

### What do you consider your greatest achievement?

There are a number of things I've worked very hard for in my life – from getting into and graduating from Princeton University, to raising \$380,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation over the last 12 years and granting the wishes of 55 children, to completing an Ironman 70.3 Triathlon last year (a 6 hour race). However, I would consider my greatest achievement the happiness of my family. While I know this is something that I cannot completely control and that it changes with every day, there is nothing I work harder for or value more.

### Who are your heroes in real life?

My father and mother. My father is the ultimate role model, teacher, business partner and, most importantly, father. My mother is truly the most kind and loving person and devoted mother that I know. They both spend 99.9% of their time thinking of what they can do to improve the lives of their family members and they do it without ever asking for anything in return.

### How do you spend your time outside of work?

Every spare second with my girls – my wife and two little girls – and the rest of my family. I also train for triathlons, having completed over 30. Another passion is my involvement with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic – as a wish granter, fundraiser, race director and a board member.

### What are your thoughts on the current economic crisis?

During these challenging times where everyone is sacrificing in some way – either by choice or circumstance – I turn to the words of the Holy Apostle Paul. Facing Roman persecution he said, "we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us..." (Romans 5:3-5)

### Where would you like to be in your professional and personal life 20 years from now?

As profoundly happy as I am today, but with 20 more years experience that would allow me and my family to even more fully experience a life rich in family, faith, charity and excellence.

### What is your idea of happiness?

It is very simple, yet affects me deeply: seeing a bright smile on the face of a loved one. Few things bring me greater joy.

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HLA President, Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri (4th from left) with members of the Judiciary, officers & board members of HLA and honored guests during Judiciary Night in June, 2009 at the Onassis Center.



# Hellenic Lawyers Association holds lavish gala in New York

By Demetrios Rhompotis

This month, the Hellenic Lawyers Association (HLA) will hold its lavish annual gala at the Pierre Hotel (Fifth Avenue and 61st Street, November 20th, 7:00 p.m.), honoring George S. Canellos, the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Regional Director in New York, and John C. Stratakis, Esq. of Poles Tublin Stratakis & Gonzalez, LLP, the latter with the prestigious "Attorney of the Year Award." Federal and state court judges, local politicians, prosecutors and prominent lawyers will be attending the event which will also offer a silent auction and music by Alpha.

In an interview with NEO magazine, HLA President Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri pointed out that the organization has hosted lectures, educational events and networking opportunities throughout the year for its members and for the Greek-American and legal communities. In addition, HLA presents scholarship awards annually to deserving law students of Hellenic descent. Moreover, "we offer an opportunity for Americans of Hellenic descent to socially interact and integrate within the community by promoting cultural and political awareness and offering resources." About to enter her second year as President, she believes the experience has been rewarding and "there are several attorneys who are anxious to join our organization in light of the fact that it is ethnically-based and they consider their heritage to be extremely important to their American identity."

Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri grew up in Whitestone, New York, at the Holy Cross Parish, and attended the Transfiguration Greek School in Corona. She thereafter attended St. John's Preparatory High School in Astoria for three years as was accepted to an early admission (starting college at 16) at St. John's University, where she received a Bachelors of Art in Government & Politics with a minor in English. In 1991, she entered St. John's University School of Law and was the scholarship recipient of the Eastern Orthodox Lawyers Association in 1993.

Following graduation from St. John's School of Law in 1994, Mamie served as an Assistant District Attorney with the Queens County District Attorney's Office under District Attorney Richard Brown for 3 1/2 years and handled major narcotics investigations, including search warrants and wiretaps. In 1998, she joined the law firm of SACS, where she is now a Senior Attorney representing some of the largest medical institutions in New York.

In 2008, Mamie was elected President of the Hellenic Lawyers Association, which is the premiere organization of lawyers of Hellenic descent in the New York metropolitan area. In addition to her legal commitments, she is a committee member with the PKD (polycystic kidney disease) Foundation in NY and the DeRosa Foundation for Colon Cancer Research & Prevention. She was married to Matthew Fulgieri in 2003 at the Church of the Resurrection (in Brookville) and has two sons, Matthew (4) and Evangelo (3).

Tickets for the HLA gala are \$250 per person (\$200 for students) and may be purchased by mailing checks to "HLA" at 21-74 Steinway Street, Astoria, NY 11105 or calling Kate Christoforatos at (718) 726-5400, or by visiting HLA's website [www.hlany.org](http://www.hlany.org)



Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri gets sworn in by Judge Nicholas Tsoucalas as President of HLA on November 21, 2008 at the HLA Annual Dinner Gala at the Pierre Hotel.



HLA President, Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri with husband, Matthew Fulgieri, President of Proto Insurance.

(From left), John Saketos (past HLA President), George Tsougarakis, Esq. (HLA's Attorney of the Year 2008), Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri (President HLA), Judge Michael Chagaris (HLA 2008 Honoree), Judge Nicholas Tsoucalas (Honorary Member and Founder of the Hellenic Lawyers) at the 2008 HLA Annual Dinner Gala at the Pierre Hotel.



Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri with family at US Tennis Open in September 2009.

## Interview with President Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri

**It's been almost a year since you became president of the Hellenic Lawyers Association. How would you describe the experience so far and where do you want to see the organization a year from now?**

It has been a rewarding and active year. We hope to continue to grow and expand in order to accommodate the needs of the Hellenic community.

**Does the HLA, as a group, take stand in major legislative issues, such as the Gore-Bush standoff, for example?**

The HLA appreciates and understands each perspective but traditionally, as an organization, opts to take a non-partisan approach. Certainly, our members have varied opinions and we promote an open forum where these political issues may be addressed. If any action is required within the group, then affirmative steps will certainly be taken.

**Two very important issues of Hellenic American concern, the Turkish violations of the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the Turkish occupation of Cyprus, besides political, entail fundamentally legalistic aspects as well. Has the HLA dealt with the cases from a legal point of view?**

Although the HLA has not yet had the opportunity to assist the Greek community abroad, we are receptive and we stand in a position of empowerment. Fundamentally, as Greek-Americans, we are committed to stand together and offer whatever political and legal recourse available to those members of the community who are in need.

**Are you the first woman to lead the HLA? Has that led to an increase in the number of women involved in the organization?**

We have had a number of exceptional female presidents leading our organization in the past and in general a marked increase in female membership. Certainly, being a woman in a position to affect change, it would be my hope and objective that younger woman would be inspired to reach their goals and surpass any limitations set forth by society.

**Why should a successful attorney of Hellenic descent join HLA, especially as he or she is able to join countless other non-ethnic groups from the industry?**

We offer an opportunity for Americans of Hellenic descent to socially interact and integrate within the community by promoting cultural and political awareness and offering resources including academic scholarships. I have found that there are several attorneys who are anxious to join our organization in light of the fact that it ethnically-based and they consider their heritage to be extremely important to their American identity. Not to mention the pride they have as Greeks.

**The economy is in everybody's lips these days and lawyers are not an exception. Are things looking better or promising?**

Although we are currently in an economic flux, the economic changes tend to be cyclical and, as history has served, it is anticipated that there will be a focal turning point upward. That being said, lawyers are certainly not immune from the impact of the current unstable economy and in fact, HLA occasionally (and more in recent times) receives correspondence from law students or lawyers looking for employment. Our organization helps these lawyers by circulating their resumes to our extensive network in the hopes that one Hellene will

help the other, particularly during such trying times.

**Would you be open for closer cooperation with other major Greek-American organizations such as L100 or AHEPA? Also, would you as president seek closer ties with counterpart institutions from Greece and Cyprus with which as American Hellenes you share a special affinity?**

For the past several years, HLA has successfully collaborated with our fellow Hellenic professional organizations and we anticipate continued cooperation. The experience has been rewarding and beneficial for the members of all the organizations involved. We hope to continue along those lines and it is our ambition to extend the arm of HLA to those members of our counterpart institutions from Greece and Cyprus.

**A message to your members and the American Hellenic community in general.**

As the complexities of the justice system increase, it is our hope that with an expanding organization we would be able to assist our fellow Hellenes in navigating the waters of an often-time intricate legal system. Therefore, membership and participation in such a vital organization are imperative and necessary in order to provide much needed services to our Hellenic community on all fronts. I particularly wish to encourage our young lawyers to partake and become involved with HLA in order to further the goals of our founding members and to give back to our Hellenic community, so that we can continue to build a strong, solid foundation for our next generation of Greek-Americans to forge ahead even further than we have.



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PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

## PRESIDENT CHRISTOFIAS AT KOA'S ANNUAL GALA

President Dimitris Christofias of Cyprus was the guest of honor and the highlight at this year's annual gala of the Cyprus Federation of America, the umbrella organization of Greek Cypriot societies in the US. Archbishop Demetrios was the Honorary Chairman and Mr. Hambis Nicolaou, a long time member, past Vice President and Federation's New York Governor, was the honoree.

President Dimitris Christofias, Peter Papanicolaou and Hambis Nikolaou with members of his extended family.

Philip Christopher, President of PSEKA

The Federation's President Peter Papanicolaou welcomed the dignitaries and guests while stressing the organization's main purpose, "to promote the rights and freedoms of the Cypriot people and work towards the termination of the illegal occupation of Cyprus from Turkey."

The Cyprus Federation of America (KOA) was established along the same lines and it serves as the uniting vehicle of all major initiatives and efforts towards a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem. At the same time, its focus has also turned to the American born generations of Greek Cypriots who are already the majority and represent its big hope for the future. Through the youth organization established a few years ago, KOA is trying to bring the young adults closer to the cause and to their roots. In coordination with the University of Cyprus, a very ambitious program brings students of Cypriot descent to the island every summer in an attempt to reinforce the connection through first hand experiences.

This time Greek Cypriots and Hellenes all over the world are in anticipation of another diplomatic marathon in order to solve the Cyprus issue. While signs from the Turkish side have been mixed as always, there is a mild optimism, unofficially expressed, that something tangible might be in the offing.



From left, former Senator Paul Sarbanes, Archbishop Demetrios, President of Cyprus Dimitris Christofias and the honoree Hambis Nikolaou



Peter Papanicolaou, Cyprus Federation of America President



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## CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT OF CYPRIOT PROPERTY OWNERS AGAINST TURKEY

On Monday, October 19, 2009, a Class Action lawsuit was filed against the Republic of Turkey for depriving hundreds of thousands of property owners their rights to use and enjoy their property in northern, illegally occupied by Turkish forces, Cyprus.



The deprivation of the use and enjoyment of property started with the wrongful invasion and occupation of 40% of the island nation of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974 that continues to this day. Despite recent findings of mass murders sites of civilians and others condemned by the international community, the Republic of Turkey has failed to cooperate with the civilized world.

Unfortunately, the deplorable conduct of the Republic of Turkey continues in cooperation with the

so-called Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus ("TRNC"), an illegitimate and unrecognized government operating through the presence of the Turkish military. To this day, the TRNC through the use of the Turkish military deprive the Plaintiffs and the Class the rights to use, enjoy or return to their properties in violation of international law and the laws of the U.S.

This lawsuit seeks compensation for the denial of the use and enjoyment of the properties belonging to approximately 200,000 refugees and others who were forced to leave by military force, some of whom paying with their lives, by the Republic of Turkey in concert with the TRNC. The Turkish military equipment used to wrongfully occupy and displace the Plaintiffs and the Class from their property was sold and originated from the United States that by law requires that U.S. military equipment acquired by Turkey not be used in an offensive manner.

This lawsuit is being filed by Washington, D.C.-based attorney Athan T. Tsimpedes, the founding partner of the Tsimpedes Law Firm. Questions or requests are to be directed to Mr. Tsimpedes at 202-772-3159 or 202-345-4318.

## One third of US Congress signs letter to Secretary Clinton on Cyprus

The U.S. Congress sent Secretary of State Hillary Clinton a letter signed by 132 Members of Congress expressing support for the Administration's efforts to avoid mistakes of failed efforts of the past in helping end the division and occupation of Cyprus.

These Congressional leaders expressed support for Secretary Clinton's efforts to "avoid the resurrection of settlement provisions like those of the 2004 UN effort." They noted that "those provisions were overwhelmingly rejected and considered 'unacceptable to western democracies' by a majority of the Senate European Affairs Subcommittee. You also recognized them recently as the cause for the plan's failure."

"This letter was signed by just under one-third of the entire U.S. Congress. According to the Library of Congress database, only three other foreign policy-related issues -- Iran, Cuba and the Armenian Genocide -- had more Members of Congress expressing such deep concern as cosponsors of resolutions," said Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH) President Andrew Manatos.

In addition to the large number of Members signing this letter, the importance of those who did it was striking. Signers included the Chairmen and Ranking Republicans of the two Committees charged by the U.S. Congress with overseeing this issue in the House. As well, a majority of the two House subcommittees with jurisdiction over this region were also signers.

Members of Congress who spearheaded this effort were Representatives Albio Sires (D-NJ), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Ted Poe (R-TX), and Michael McMahon (D-NY). Their colleagues look to them, as members of the Europe Subcommittee, for expertise on this issue.

They added that, "foreign advocacy of artificial deadlines and unacceptable settlement provisions contributed to the defeat of the 2004 settlement efforts."

With regard to Turkey's illegal occupation of Cyprus, these Congressional leaders said that "no EU country could be expected to acquiesce to the occupation of a fellow EU member, much less to embrace the occupier as a member of the EU club. It is a virtual certainty that Turkey will never achieve its dream of EU membership as long as its troops continue to occupy Cyprus."

They supported efforts to "protect [today's Cypriot settlement negotiators] from foreign constraints and artificial timetables so that they can achieve a bi-communal, bizonal federation that adheres to UN resolutions."

They concluded by stressing to the Secretary that, "to succeed, a settlement effort should be of the Cypriots, by the Cypriots and for the Cypriots."



# US Congress passes Resolution highlighting Ecumenical Patriarch



PHOTO: GANP/DIMITRIOS PANAGOS

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with UN Secretary General Ban-Ki moon

The U.S. House of Representatives passed recently -- by a vote of 424 to 0 -- a resolution highlighting the international prominence of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and welcoming him to the United States.

"We would like to thank Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) who, as a key member of the House Europe Subcommittee, drafted this resolution and introduced it. He then worked very hard to -- in just one week -- secure over 50 Members of Congress as cosponsors of this resolution and get it passed by the Congress. CEH was happy to have worked with Congressman Bilirakis on this important effort," said Andy Manatos, President of the National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes.

This resolution highlights for top US policymakers and others in the U.S., a number of truly remarkable, yet little-known, accomplishments by the Ecumenical Patriarch, such as that he:

- "is head of the largest Christian church headquartered in the Muslim world and convener of an ecumenical meeting which produced the first condemnation by Muslim leaders of the 9/11 attack on the United States as an anti-religious act;"
- "was selected by Time Magazine as number 11 among 2008's 100 most influential people in the world;"
- "received on his first official visit to the United States in 1997, the Congressional Gold Medal presented by the United States

on behalf of the Congress in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to religious understanding and peace, and was recognized by the United States in a manner reserved for a very small number of world leaders;"

- "enhanced greater religious understanding by initiating a joint declaration that it is man's duty to protect the earth, signed by himself and Pope John Paul II, the spiritual leaders of nearly 1 out of every 5 people in the world;"

- "is called 'the Green Patriarch' by leaders of the international environmental community;"

As well, Bartholomew was selected by the United Nations to be the first leader with international authority designated as a Laureate Champion of the Earth.

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew arrived in New Orleans, on Oct. 20 to begin his Apostolic and Patriarchal Visit to the United States. The purpose of this, his sixth visit to our nation, was twofold: to convene and preside over the Eighth Religion, Science and the Environment (RSE) Symposium, and to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the enthronement of Archbishop Demetrios of America as the Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

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# Greek American doctor cures child with O.C. Deficiency

NBC-TV's Today Show featured recently Dr. Nancy interviewing 'Saving Sammy' author Beth Alison Maloney and Sammy, Ms Maloney's son on whom the book is based.



Dr. Catherine Nicolaidis-Codella



Sammy Maloney

Beth wrote the book after documenting every facet of her son's behavior from the day he contracted at age 10 a strept condition which developed in what is known in medical circles as p.a.n.d.a.s., a developmental condition of O.C. Deficiency. His mother observed his every strange move while in that condition and she was able to record it. She also researched for the right physician who could help her son, and found out that Dr. Catherine Nicolaidis-Codella, a developmental pediatrician

practicing in south New Jersey offered the best chances for his recovery.

Without wasting time, Ms Maloney contacted Dr. Nicolaidis-Codella, and trekked all the way from Maine where she lives, to New Jersey for her son to get the treatment he required. After a series of visits over the next seven years, Sammy has finally being proclaimed cured. The segment on the NBC show, where he discusses his illness with Dr. Nancy and another interviewer on the set, prove the fact that

the symptoms have been eliminated and he has fully recovered. His recovery is attributed to Dr. Nicolaidis-Codella's treatment, so the physician is featured on the show describing the devastating effects of this developmental disorder and the steps she had taken to cure him.

Dr. Nicolaidis-Codella is the daughter of Editor-in-Chief Bob Nicolaidis, the wife of Dr. Mark Codella and has two children, Steven and Alexandra.



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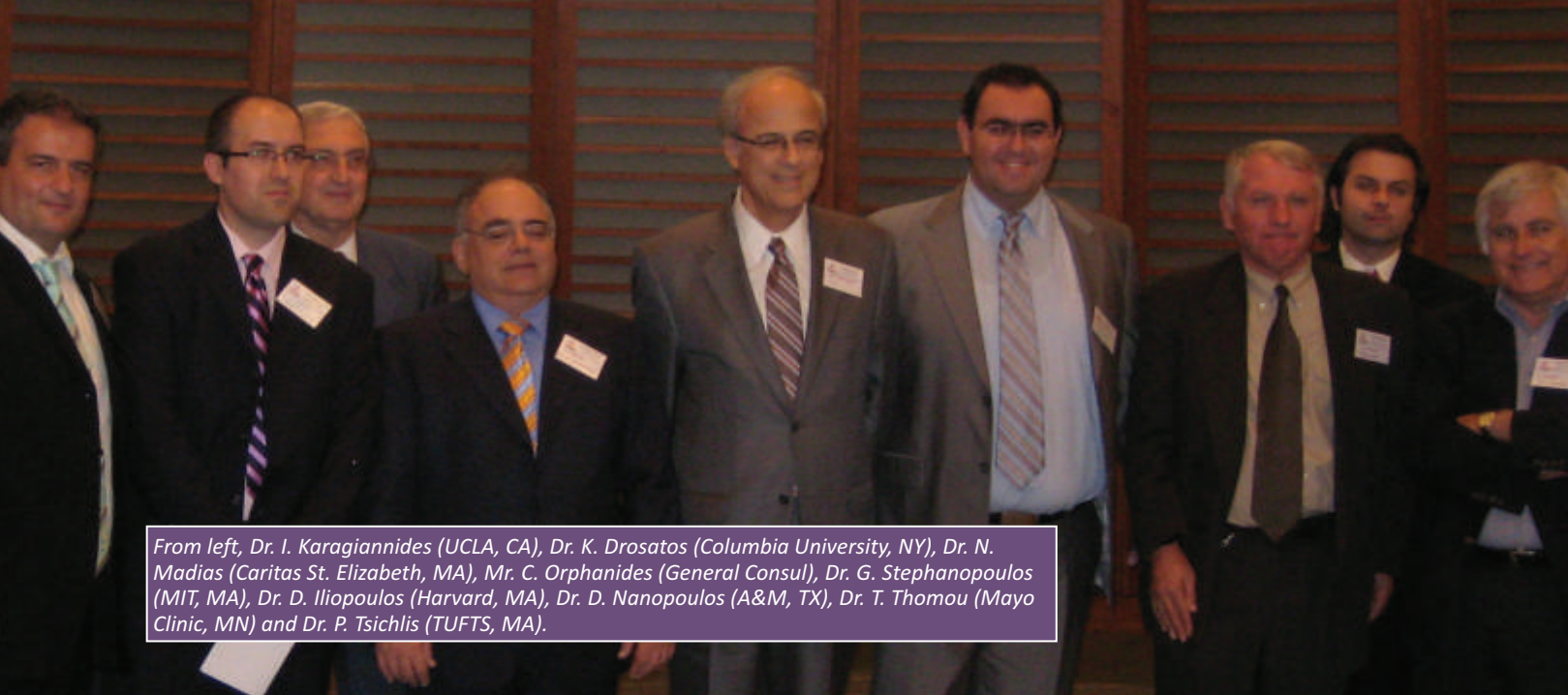
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From left, Dr. I. Karagiannides (UCLA, CA), Dr. K. Drosatos (Columbia University, NY), Dr. N. Madias (Caritas St. Elizabeth, MA), Mr. C. Orphanides (General Consul), Dr. G. Stephanopoulos (MIT, MA), Dr. D. Iliopoulos (Harvard, MA), Dr. D. Nanopoulos (A&M, TX), Dr. T. Thomou (Mayo Clinic, MN) and Dr. P. Tsihchlis (TUFTS, MA).

## HELLENIC BIOSCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION HOLDS WORKSHOP IN BOSTON

By Thomas Thomou, Ph.D.

Some 100 Greek and Greek-American researchers, professors and medical doctors from across the country gathered in Boston, Massachusetts, for the first-Multidisciplinary Workshop in Biomedical Sciences summit -- the first national convening of Greek-American scientists organized by the Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the United States of America (HBA-USA) under the auspices of the General Consul of Greece in Boston. The HBA-USA is a US based, non for profit organization that has been founded 4 years ago with the mission to create a scientific network that would promote the interests of all Greek-American scientists and trainees. During the four years of its existence, HBA-USA established itself as a scientific association encompassing more than 300 members (the vast majority of whom are distinguished professors and medical doctors) nationwide. The association proceeded with important activities including the acquisition of tax exempt status, a very-well visited website, participation in conferences and congresses organized by the Hellenic and Cypriot ministries of health and the organization of student and scientist exchange programs between the USA and Greece.

During the workshop, for two days, esteemed Greek-American scientists engaging in basic and clinical research across many disciplines, ranging from cancer genetics to cardiovascular, metabolic and neurodegenerative diseases, enjoyed the rare opportunity of meeting and learning from each other; discussing, clarifying, and codifying their common goals and disparate experiences while acknowledging the obstacles to success.

The list of the attendees at the meeting

included scientists registered with the HBA-USA from the greater Boston area, as well as 12 more states of the US (New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Virginia, Florida, Missouri, Ohio and California).

The opening ceremony included the presentation of the 1st "Aristoteles Award" of the HBA-USA by Professor Nicolaos Madias (Caritas St. Elizabeth, Boston, MA) to Professor Gregory Stephanopoulos (MIT, MA) for his outstanding achievements in Bioscientific research. Distinguished Professor Dimitri Nanopoulos (A & M University, TX) initiated the scientific part of the meeting with his keynote lecture entitled "The Quantum Life" which highlighted the importance of multidisciplinary approaches in bioscientific hypotheses.

The following plenary session included talks from three of the HBA-USA members that excelled in their research in the last year and whose work was published in peer-reviewed journals of the highest impact; Dr Nina Papavasiliou (Rockefeller University, NY), Dr. Dimitrios Vavylonis (Lehigh University, PA) and Dr Maria Hatzoglou (Case Western Reserve University, OH) showcased the importance of multidisciplinary approaches in their research while demonstrating why Greek-American scientists are among the very best in biomedical research.

The General Consul of Greece, Mr. Konstantinos Orphanides, hosted a reception in the Greek Consulate. The reception was attended by approximately 100-120 registered attendees and invitees. During the reception, participants had the opportunity to "meet and greet" with local

Greek-Americans, as well as with the Consul General and the staff of the consulate.

The program of the second day of the meeting consisted of three sessions:

1. Cancer & Neurobiology workshop with the following speakers: Dr. Theodore Krontiris (City of Hope National Medical Center, CA), Dr. Manolis Kellis (MIT, MA), Dr Philip Tsihchlis (TUFTS, MA), Dr. Nikos Robakis (Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NY) and Dr. Diomedes Logothetis (Virginia Commonwealth University, VA).

2. Cardiovascular Biology, metabolic diseases and endocrinology workshop with the following speakers: Dr. Haralambos Gavras (Boston University, MA) and Dr. Yu-Hua Tseng (Harvard University, MA). Both workshops included presentations of established scientists in every discipline and followed by an open discussion among the participants moderated by the speakers, aiming to create a framework for possible collaborations among the attendees.

3. Technology commercialization and Academia-Industry collaborations (in cooperation with the Hellenic Business Network) with the following speakers: Mr. Yiannis Cosmopoulos (TUFTS, MA and Hellenic Business Network), Dr. Christos Mantzoros (Harvard University, MA) and Dr. George Vasmatis (Mayo Clinic, MN). During this session the attendees were educated in the legal background and the current status quo regarding academia and industry collaborations and possibilities for transfer of technology from universities and teaching institutions to the market of life sciences.

The next national summit of the Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA is expected to take place in the spring of 2011.

## bread & honey

A COLUMN DEVOTED TO MAKING GREEK FOOD EASY

By Maria Athanasopoulos

### Kolokotes

As soon as fall hits, pumpkins immediately appear on every door step, in every recipe whether sweet or savory and on nearly every restaurant menu. There's pumpkin ravioli, risotto with pumpkin, pumpkin chili and, of course, the ever so popular pumpkin pie. It really seems like pumpkin is used everywhere! I am also guilty of over using Halloween's most prized prop, Bread & Honey's November 2008 Thanksgiving recipe was Greek Pumpkin Pie. For the sake of culinary creativity, I decided to go beyond pumpkin and began to experiment with various types of winter squash by incorporating it into bisques, muffins, soufflés, casseroles, and even used it as a pizza topping! Not only did I finally realize how much sweeter it tastes than pumpkin, I also discovered that squash is a power food full of phytonutrients, vitamin A, vitamin C, potassium and dietary fiber.

In the midst of my intense squash experimentation, I created many unique and exquisite squash recipes, but I kept thinking about the conventional Thanksgiving meal that many Americans feast on, which naturally includes turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, and pumpkin pie. How would an uber gourmet and "frou-frou" squash recipe fit into a menu consisting of things so ordinary? Inevitably, not well. Since this is a Greek food column I am choosing to share something Greek, that's not that fancy and goes beyond pumpkin. I introduce to you my seasonal family favorite that will make a fantastic addition to your Thanksgiving spread: Kolokotes.

These are mini sweet and savory Cypriot pies stuffed with butternut squash, raisins and bulgur wheat. My version stems from my mother's hometown Morphou and is a very traditional recipe that is centuries old. Kolokotes were originally made specifically for the Lenten period before Christmas because they are fast-friendly; however they have come to be enjoyed year-round due to their superb taste and exceptional health benefits. Kolokotes can be eaten for a snack or even as a meal when paired with some low fat yogurt or a piece of sharp artisan cheese.

This may be a complex recipe but I assure you its worth the trouble, especially since you can freeze kolokotes and enjoy them for months!



Prep time: 60 minutes

Cook time: 30 minutes

Makes 24 mini pies

### Ingredients:

#### Filling:

- 5 cups butternut squash
- 2 cups bulgur wheat, uncooked
- 2 cups raisins
- 1 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2.5 tablespoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper

#### Dough:

- 3 pounds whole wheat flour
- 1 pound all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons dry yeast
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 3 to 6 cups lukewarm water

### Directions

1. Peel the butternut squash, using a spoon remove the seeds and threads and cut into tiny ¼ inch cubes.
2. In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients for the filling together, cover and set aside for at least 3 hours or overnight if you are pressed for time.
3. Stir dry yeast and sugar into 1 cup lukewarm water to dissolve and rise. If water is cold, the yeast will not grow. Let stand for 3 minutes.
4. In a large mixing bowl, combine flours, salt, and oil. Using your hands, slowly knead in the yeast mixture. Continue to knead, add more water if dough is still very dry. When the dough is stiff enough to work, turn out on a floured board and knead a good 10 to 12 minutes, working in a little of the remaining flour as necessary. Set aside for 30 minutes to rise.
5. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Roll out a small piece of dough thinly on a lightly floured surface. Cut out a 6 inch round circle and place 2 to 3 tablespoons of the filling over the center bottom half and cover with top half of dough. Using your fingers, roll the edges inward and press down firmly with a fork to seal. The shape will resemble a half moon. Repeat above steps with remaining dough and filling.
6. Place mini pies onto oiled cookie sheets and bake for 30 minutes or until browned. Cool on racks for 10 to 15 minutes.

Did you know... that bulgur is man's oldest recorded use of wheat and more nutritious than rice or couscous?

Serve warm or at room temperature. Kolokotes are fabulous paired with a flavorful cup of chamomile tea with honey. Kali Orexi!

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The AGDC executive board together with the president of the World Council of

Hellenes Abroad U.S.A. Region, Mr. Theodore G. Spyropoulos and Fr. Chrysanthos

Kerkeres, joined in a ribbon cutting, opening the doors to the ceremonies. A procession of the American, Greek, Canadian, State of Illinois and AGDC flags entered the room as Marianna Veneri sang the American National Anthem followed by Anastasia Kakagiannis with the Canadian and Andreas Kalamatianos with the Greek. Fr. Chrysanthos Kerkeres gave the invocation and also conveyed a message from His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago.

The ceremonies were hosted by Jenny Saiger, from Boca Raton Florida and Emceed

Following the competition, the participants attended a workshop instructed by Marina Christofaki of Dora Stratou School of Dance.

Other features in the three day festivities included the Theatrical Scheme of Director Leonidas Loizides, "Trojan Women" by Euripides and music by Mikis Theodorakis, followed by a glendi with live music by the band "Paradosi" with Dimitrios Dallas, Vasilis Hioureas, Dimitri Papadimitriou, Jordan Elrod and John Themelis. Some of the participants also had the pleasure of attending the Elli Kokkinou & Giorgos Christou concert presented by Portokalada.com, followed by the choral competition with The Hellenic American Academy of Deerfield, Illinois, Choir and vocalists in solo performances.



Division I Dance Competition 1st Place "Nefeli" group from Toronto, Canada

young, talented Hellene dancers to make new friendships and to hone their skills under the direction of some of the world's leading dance and costume instructors," Spyropoulos stated. "We are looking forward to the participation of many more dance troupes next year, many of whom have already expressed their eagerness to be part of this festive occasion."

Nick Delis, Jenny Saiger and George Spilios received The Theodore G. Spyropoulos Leadership Award, presented members of the organizing committee that best exemplified leadership, Hellenism, faith, integrity, hard work & dedication. "It was a tough decision," said Ted Spyropoulos. "Congratulations to this year's recipients."

# The First America's Greek Dance & Choral Competition in Chicago



AGDC 2009 Humanitarian Award recipient Maria Karahalios

by Aris Maragoudakis and Anastasia Cucuras. A parade of the participating, dance & choral groups, followed while every director placed a piece of a puzzle with their name on a board that completed the on-stage puzzle focusing on the theme "We Are One". Ohana Polynesian dancers entertained the audience with a fire show and a grand finale inviting everyone on stage to dance "Zorba the Greek" with them. Aggeliki Christofilopoulou, Public Relations of Dora Stratou, the world leading National Dance Theatre of Athens, Greece, ended the ceremonies with a costume fashion show, spotlighting traditional dresses from various regions of Greece, including Macedonia, Thessaly, Thrace and the islands. The evening then continued with food and glendi.

Amongst the honored guests encouraging the dancers were His Eminence Metropolitan

Iakovos of Chicago, Theodore G. Spyropoulos, President SAE U.S.A Region with his wife Erika, Consul for Education in Chicago, Mr. Nikos Nikolidakis, Chris Avramopoulos, Youth Director Metropolitan of Chicago, Hon. Theodore Laliotis, SAE U.S.A. RCC, Stella Kokolis SAE U.S.A.RCC, Maurice Gritzalis Youth Coordinator SAE U.S.A. Region and Eleni Sopasis, PanCretan Youth President of America.

The Awards Gala was hosted by Hollywood personality, Patricia Kara from NBC's Deal or No Deal. His Grace Bishop Dimitrios of Mokissos along with Fr. Chrysanthos Kerkeres gave the invocation. Greetings were made by Consul General of Greece in Chicago, Ambassador Anastasios Petrovas, Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos, Mr. John Manos, 1st Vice President of the PanCretan Association of America, Steven B. Livaditis from Portokalada.com, and AGDC Humanitarian Award recipient, Mrs. Maria Karahalios. Also in attendance were the Hon. Dorothy Brown Clerk of the Circuit Court, Vice Consul Vasiliki Grivitsopoulou - Lemou, Stella Kokolis SAE U.S.A. RCC, Mr. Chris Tomaras, President Pan Hellenic Scholarship Foundation, Mr. Dimitrios Kotsakis, Executive Director of the Hellenic American Academy, Mr. Bill Mataragas, President of the Zakynthian Society, Jim Ascot, Democratic candidate for Congress, IL, Mr. Gregory Pappas, Editor & Publisher Greek America Magazine, Mr. Chris Kontos, President Sparta Society of Chicago, Anthony Papadopoulos, SAE U.S.A Youth Network, Eleni Sopasis, President, Pan Cretan Youth of America, and Sotiris Rekoumis Omogeneia newspaper & Hellenic Hour.

All attendees had the pleasure to watch the surprise performance of the magical duet from America's Got Talent, David & Dania

and special performance made by the magnificent Dance Theatre "Nefeli" from Toronto Canada, under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Athan Mvlonas.

The AGDC Executive Board presented the Humanitarian Award to an individual from the community that exemplifies the necessary principals of being a Hellene: Pride, faith, contribution, spirit, dedication and perpetuation to recipient Maria Karahalios.

Reflecting on the three day festivities, Anna Housakos, AGDC Executive Director, congratulated the participants and added that "it is completely accurate to say that every one of our dancers, singers and choir participants here today are winners." She also thanked all volunteers. "I am much honored to have been working with such a dedicated team of individuals on the organizing committee who have obligated countless hours for this event. Your presence here today demonstrates your dedication and passion to what unites a community. Promoting folk dance & singing in a learning, fun filled atmosphere is what

AGDC aspires to accomplish. It is a positive upbeat environment that also encourages competition technique, confidence and traditional merit".

According to Housakos, "our goal is not only to grow with participants from North America but internationally. Several countries have expressed interest this year and are already preparing to attend next year's event."

Closing remarks were made by the president of The World Council of Hellenes Abroad Mr. Theodore G. Spyropoulos, who congratulated all the participants and thanked the Executive board and its committees. "We should support our youth. By bringing them together, we can stand assured that our heritage and traditions will be preserved. This inaugural competition was a very special occasion for



The Theodore G. Spyropoulos Leadership Award presentation. From left, Jenny Saiger, Nick Delis, Ted Spyropoulos, George Spilios and Anna Housakos

Dedication, passion and Hellenic pride filled the Windy City as young Hellenes from across North America united in talented performances. America's Greek Dance & Choral Competition (AGDC) concluded its three day inaugural festivities in Chicago.



AGDC 2009 Division II Dance 1st Place Winner "Orpheas" group from Montreal, Canada

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Armenian Americans celebrate and honor



# Senator Menendez

Armenian Americans from throughout the Eastern United States gathered recently at New York City's trendy "Espace" to support the grassroots efforts of the Armenian National Committee of America Eastern Region, at the third annual banquet hosted by the Armenian Cultural Association of America (ACAA). The gathering gave community leaders and activists an opportunity to reminisce about past successes and collectively commit to addressing the challenges facing the Armenian nation in the upcoming year.

"The banquet is a celebration of the accomplishments of the ANCA Eastern Region and a time to honor those that go above and beyond the call for truth, justice, and the principles of freedom so cherished by the Armenian American community," explained 2009 Banquet Chairwoman Naire Hagopian, who along with a team of volunteers spanning New York to Chicago, organized the gala evening.

Among those in the spotlight and honored during the event were New Jersey Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), who received the prestigious Freedom Award; internationally renowned lawyer Mark Geragos, Ohio Congressional Candidate David Krikorian and Community Leaders Bedros Bandazian and Melanie Kerneklian, who jointly received the Vahan Cardashian Award. Also offering remarks during the evening were ANCA Eastern Region Chairman Steve

Mesrobian and ARF Central Committee Member George Aghjayan. His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan and Armenian Missionary Association of America Executive Director Andrew Torigian led attendees in the opening and closing prayers.

At least two Armenian Greeks were among the guests, Dr. Anahid Mikirditsian from Boston, whose father came to the US from Kaisariane, Athens, and journalist Bedo (Petros) Demirdjian also from Athens who's working for the American Armenian Hairenik (Fatherland) Weekly newspaper, based in Boston. This year marks Hairenik's 110th anniversary as it was established by refugees who came to Massachusetts after the massive massacres of 1894-1896 conducted against the Armenian people under the Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid.

Mark Geragos explained to NEO's Demetrios Rhompotis how he acquired his ...Greek last name! "When my grandfather came to Ellis Island, the clerk told him to shorten his last name in order to make it more American-like. So, from Geragossian, he made it Geragos and thus he became ...Greek!"

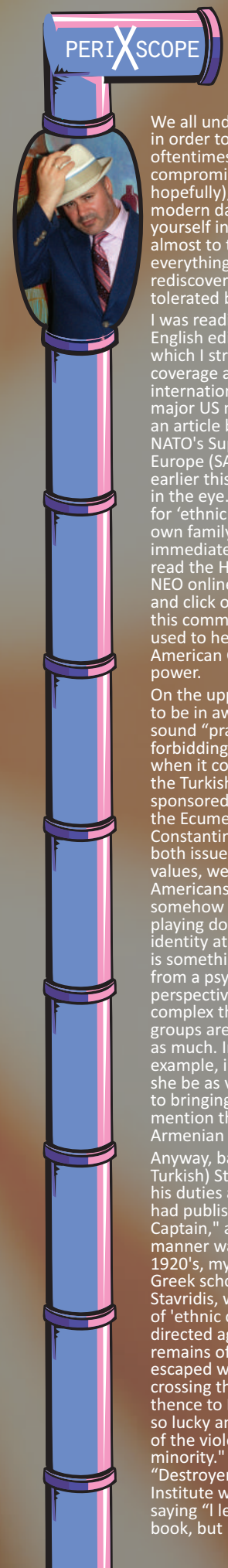
ANCA ER Chairman Steve Mesrobian, in his closing remarks, challenged attendees and supporters across the region to answer the question "have I done all that I can to help our Cause?" and urged all "to be ready to answer further calls to action. After all it is only with your support that we are able to

defend Armenian rights, counter Turkish and Azerbaijani propaganda and programs, and pursue the cause of justice for the Armenian people."

The annual banquet is organized to fund the educational efforts of the ANCA Eastern Region and encourage expanded Armenian American civic participation. As part of the banquet festivities, a silent auction was held which featured autographed memorabilia by Serj Tankian of Serjical Strike Records, Greg Mooradian, Executive Producer of Twilight, and Eli Manning, quarterback for the New York Giants.

Established in 1969, the Armenian Cultural Association of America (ACAA) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that assists and supports impoverished people of Armenian origin; welfare institutions that aid those of Armenian origin; and educational and charitable organizations that encourage and develop the Armenian cultural heritage. The ACAA also aids students, authors, artists and researchers who are pursuing intellectual efforts in Armenian culture and education, and publishes educational, scientific and literary books that raise the educational, cultural and intellectual standards of the community. The ACAA sponsors projects both in the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora. It also serves as a repository of historic Armenian national documents and archives.

## US Admiral James Stavridis: A born again ...Turk, embracing the heritage that massacred his own ancestors?



We all understand the rules of the game: in order to sustain and progress in a career oftentimes you have to make concessions, compromise your beliefs (up to a point, hopefully), even kiss ass, as we say in modern day French. But to reverse yourself in such a way that you've come almost to the opposite end, wrapping everything in a kind of ...positive personal rediscovery...I think goes beyond the tolerated back bending!

I was reading, as I often do, the online English edition of the Israeli daily Haaretz – which I strongly recommend for its coverage and analytical depth of international news that far surpasses all major US newspapers combined – when an article by Amir Oren on James Stavridis, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), whose appointment earlier this year we all celebrated, hit me in the eye. "US NATO Chief blames Turkey for 'ethnic cleansing' of Greeks, including own family", was the title of the piece and immediately drew my attention (you can read the Haaretz article in full by going to NEO online – www.neomagazine.com – and click on the Periscope page. It follows this commentary) because we are not very used to hear this kind of language from American Greeks when in positions of power.

On the upper echelons, our people seem to be in awe, they agonize to look and sound "pragmatic," they consider it forbidding to stand up to their superiors when it comes to such clear-cut issues as the Turkish invasion of Cyprus or state-sponsored persecutions by Turkey against the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul). As both issues coincide with our American values, we should feel honoured as Americans to raise them. This tendency to somehow prove your Americanism by playing down another component of your identity at the expense of truth and justice is something that has to be studied both from a psychological and a social perspective. It is certainly an inferiority complex that other ethnic or religious groups are not suffering from, at least not as much. Imagine a Cuban American, for example, in position of power. Won't he or she be as vocal as possible when it comes to bringing the Castros down? Not to mention the grievances of our Jewish or Armenian friends.

Anyway, back to Kaptan Pasha (admiral in Turkish) Stavridis, who prior to resuming his duties as NATO Europe commander, had published a book titled "Destroyer Captain," and in a very straightforward manner was saying that "in the early 1920's, my grandfather, a short, stocky Greek schoolteacher named Dimitrios Stavridis, was expelled from Turkey as part of 'ethnic cleansing' (read pogrom) directed against Greeks living in the remains of the Ottoman Empire. He barely escaped with his life in a small boat crossing the Aegean Sea to Athens and thence to Ellis Island. His brother was not so lucky and was killed by the Turks as part of the violence directed at the Greek minority." Then, in an interview about the "Destroyer Captain" on the U.S. Naval Institute web, he stood by his writings, saying "I let others decide if it's a good book, but I truly believe it is an honest

book." Now, it is expected and understood that the Turks exerted pressure on his superiors for Stavridis to recant because they didn't like what he wrote. In fact, if he were a Turkish citizen he would go to jail for offending Turkishness by mentioning anything about the massacres or genocides they committed. Given that Stavridis has under his jurisdiction Turkey, as well, one would expect him to come up with some explanation that, while it would placate the Turkish "sensitivities," wouldn't reverse the premises of his writings in his "honest book". After all, he's an American officer, and although politics should be taken into consideration, there is a limit to bowing your head. He could say, for example, that it was tough times then, uncertainty prevailed, massacres were common in the late Ottoman Empire, but we need to put all that behind us and look forward.

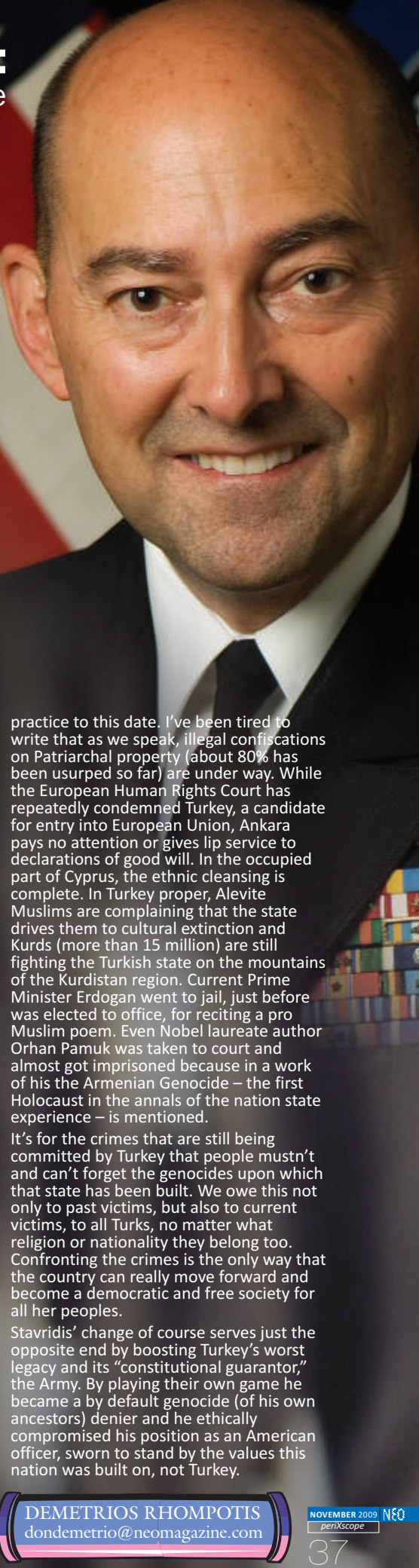
Mais non! Stavridis, fearing perhaps the wrath of the Pashas – that even made his boss, President Obama, initially keep secret and then play down his meeting with the Ecumenical Patriarch in Constantinople while visiting Turkey earlier this year – had to go even further, discovering in the process his own ...Turkishness!

As Amir Oren reports, "last March, during his Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing, the ethnic cleansing he sharply rebuked in the book (and which he contrasted with U.S. efforts worldwide to prevent) underwent some semantic cleansing. 'It's probably worth noting that although I'm ethnically Greek, my grandfather was actually born in Turkey and came through Greece on his way to the United States,' he said, as if equally proud of his double origin, much like the child of divorced parents boasting that he now has two families rather than only one."

Then "last July", Oren continues, "having visited Turkey as NATO and EUCOM chief, he again chose similar words to describe his personal connection to the country that ill-treated his grandparents. 'Turkey is a vital and important NATO ally,' he blogged, 'and for me it was a chance to return to the nation from which my grandfather and grandmother emigrated to the United States, after stopping briefly in Greece.'"

As we can see, his grandparents' agonizing escape in order to save their lives, in Stavridis' new language is made sound like an ordinary trip with a stopover in Greece, perhaps to see Parthenon and buy some Metaxa on their way to the US. Turkey even appears like the missing part on the puzzle of his identity!

I could even imagine descendants of German Jews who survived the Holocaust, to somehow re-appreciate the Teutonic part of their ancestry. It is possible, because Germans confronted their crimes, accepted responsibility and pledged never to allow that ideological venom to be part of the country's political culture. Turks on the other hand, not only never accepted responsibility for the various genocides perpetrated as a result of state planning (read Turkish Historian Taner Akcam's book "A Shameful Act"), but they continue the



practice to this date. I've been tired to write that as we speak, illegal confiscations on Patriarchal property (about 80% has been usurped so far) are under way. While the European Human Rights Court has repeatedly condemned Turkey, a candidate for entry into European Union, Ankara pays no attention or gives lip service to declarations of good will. In the occupied part of Cyprus, the ethnic cleansing is complete. In Turkey proper, Alevite Muslims are complaining that the state drives them to cultural extinction and Kurds (more than 15 million) are still fighting the Turkish state on the mountains of the Kurdistan region. Current Prime Minister Erdogan went to jail, just before was elected to office, for reciting a pro Muslim poem. Even Nobel laureate author Orhan Pamuk was taken to court and almost got imprisoned because in a work of his the Armenian Genocide – the first Holocaust in the annals of the nation state experience – is mentioned.

It's for the crimes that are still being committed by Turkey that people mustn't and can't forget the genocides upon which that state has been built. We owe this not only to past victims, but also to current victims, to all Turks, no matter what religion or nationality they belong too. Confronting the crimes is the only way that the country can really move forward and become a democratic and free society for all her peoples.

Stavridis' change of course serves just the opposite end by boosting Turkey's worst legacy and its "constitutional guarantor," the Army. By playing their own game he became a by default genocide (of his own ancestors) denier and he ethically compromised his position as an American officer, sworn to stand by the values this nation was built on, not Turkey.

DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS  
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# OPA!

By Katerina Georgiou

## A FILM WITH HEART: A CONVERSATION WITH THEODORE KATERIS



“To whom does the past belong?” asks Katerina played by Agni Scott in one of the more reflective moments of the romantic comedy “Opa!” which opened in theatres nationwide on October 16.

It’s not the sort of introspective question one would expect from a Hollywood film, but “Opa!” isn’t your typical mainstream movie. For one thing, the film was shot entirely in Greece on the island of Patmos, with many of the locals featured in bit parts or as extras. As a result, the film is told in English and Greek with subtitles.

“We felt it was a risk worth taking because we wanted to capture the realism of Greece and that’s why we used Greeks to play Greeks,” said associate producer Theodore Kateris.

A modern day love story, “Opa!” follows a tech savvy American archaeologist (Matthew Modine) on his search for the cup of St. John, the ancient relic he believes is hidden on the island. The only problem is where it’s buried: under the taverna belonging to the attractive and feisty Katerina, who has already stolen his heart.

While the plot follows the standard romantic comedy formula, Kateris insists that the film is distinguished by the rich subtext espoused by the film’s leading lady and the other locals who rise up to protect their nation’s treasures from being looted by foreigners.

“Think Elgin Marbles,” Kateris said wryly.

Using cinema to talk about the important issues of the day is what initially attracted Kateris to moviemaking.

“Ever since I was a student in elementary

school two things appealed to me: movies and history,” he said.

The son of Greek immigrants, Kateris was born in New York and raised in Washington Heights. After graduating from Farleigh Dickenson University with a dual degree in History and Political Science, he produced and appeared in news programs dealing with foreign affairs and Greek issues for cable and public access television.

“That only fueled my desire to try to become a movie producer,” he said. “The experience gained there, working in the studio, appearing in front of the camera, giving commentaries ...was good basic training.”

But his big break came in 2004, when he ran into a friend at an Upper East Side restaurant who told him that legendary producer Elliott Kastner and his producing partner George Pappas were planning to film a love story in Greece.

Kateris jumped at the opportunity to work with his boyhood idols. “They made some of the biggest movies of the 1960’s and 1970s,” he said.

Working on a movie in Patmos was a dream come true for the self-proclaimed history buff.

“The island’s connection to Christianity, Byzantine culture, military occupation ...that alone is priceless ...you can’t really get that anywhere else in the world besides Golgotha in Jerusalem,” he said. “Very few places in the world can combine all these elements together—political, religious and historical.”

Filming took place over five weeks in May and June of 2005 before the peak tourist season, giving the cast and crew an insider’s view of the island’s rhythm.

Kateris was immediately struck by the local inhabitants’ love for their island. “It’s not like other places where people want to leave,” he said. “It wasn’t a dead end.

People didn’t feel like they had to go to Athens or Thessaloniki. They could live out their whole lives there.”

He credits the island’s “adorable” inhabitants with a unique brand of hospitality that makes others feel like “they belong there. There was something mystical, holy and magical about the experience,” he said. “We felt like we had a bond with the island and its people.”

Though life on Patmos is sophisticated in many respects, filming on location wasn’t without challenges. But the tight knit international crew took it all in stride.

“We all chipped in ...carrying equipment on our backs over mountains,” Kateris said. “Many scenes were extremely simple and many were extremely difficult. And you know what, we loved every minute of it. It didn’t feel like a job. It was a pleasure.”

The Greek government, pleased with the positive portrayal of its country in the film, was also ready to lend a helping hand. “Whenever we filmed on top of a mountain or hill, the military helped us with trucks and setting up tents,” Kateris said. “Soldiers and municipal workers volunteered on their own. They made us feel like we were family.”

The film traveled the festival circuit to build up world of mouth, premiering at the 2005 Toronto Film Festival and later opened the inaugural Los Angeles Greek Film Festival in 2007. Finding the right distributor was important, said Kateris, so it wasn’t until 2009 that the film was eventually released in theaters.

Opa is Cinedigm’s first wide scale digital release. Previews were followed by the company’s innovative paradigm featuring a live broadcast with the movie’s stars fielding questions and comments from audiences nationwide.

For more information about the film and to find a theater where it’s playing, visit: <http://www.opafilm.com/>

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