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on the November  
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**Legendary Producer  
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FOUNDED IN 2005 BY

**Demetrios Rhompotis**  
**Dimitri Michalakis**  
**Kyprianos Bazanikas**

*Publishing*  
*Committee Chairman*  
**Demetrios Rhompotis**  
dondemetrio@neomagazine.com

*Director of Operations*  
**Kyprianos Bazanikas**  
info@neomagazine.com

*Marketing &*  
*Advertising Director*  
**Mary Politis**  
(973) 610-8944  
mpolitis@neomagazine.com

*Account Executive*  
**Emily Mihailidis**  
(973) 713-9713  
emihailidis@neomagazine.com

*ATHENS - GREECE*  
*Public Relations &*  
*Marketing Director*  
**Margarita Vartholomeou**  
margavarth@hotmail.com

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## Romancing the past



FROM THE EDITOR

I told Ariana Savalas, our cover profile this month, that when I was a teenager living in Chicago and her father's television show, Kojak, was then one of the biggest hits on television and Greeks were swellingly-proud of having a star like Telly Savalas as their own, I heard that he planned to visit Chicago one of these days and I decided to pre-empt every other Greek in Chicago who would offer him their hospitality by inviting him to our house first, and I sat down and wrote him a very long and fulsome letter, with sentiments that I thought, in my callow teenage sensibility, would be calculated to sway him.

Mr. Savalas...May I call you Telly?...If you come over to our house we will have moussaka and my mother makes the best pastitsio...And you can stay the night if you want...I love the stories you tell and the way you tell them...We will have wine...We will have music...We will invite all our friends—all Greeks—and many other of Chicago's cultural elites, if you like (I was proud of remembering and inserting the word elite, though I didn't know who those "elites" might be and how you distinguished them and how I would ever get up the nerve to invite any of them, once I knew them, to our apartment, even for such a big star like Telly Savalas).

Mercifully, Telly Savalas never took me up on my offer, and my letter must have been one of the thousands he received every week, many from Greeks throughout the world who thought they knew him just as personally as I did back in my burb in Chicago. But I did make contact, in my mind, with one of my heroes.

Just as I made contact many years later after I put him on a pedestal with one of my literary idols, Harry Mark Petrakis. I first heard his booming, orotund voice forever declaiming Petrakis maxims when I did a telephone interview with him for the National Herald, and later got to know him for the fiercely-proud and committed artist he is when I staged a play I wrote called The Petrakis Universe based on his life and work. He didn't like it much (he liked his stories uncut), but he loyally attended our reading in New York with his wife Diana, though he didn't feel well, and he still allows me a place as an acolyte while I still consider him a literary mentor.

It's heartening to hear that Ariana Savalas is very much her father's daughter (in acting and music and love of life) and that she's an incurable romantic whose protean talent spills over into many styles and media. Her father inspired many of us, and perhaps she will be an inspiration, as well, to some Greek kid in Chicago, or elsewhere in this wired world, who might send her an e-mail, or tweet, or "friend" her on Facebook, and might even get the thrill of a response.

*Hronia Polla from all of us at NEO!*

Dimitri C. Michalakis



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**Editor in Chief:**  
**Dimitri C. Michalakis**  
info@neomagazine.com

**Features Editor**  
**Katerina Georgiou**  
katerina@katerinageorgiou.com

**Lifestyle Editor**  
**Maria A. Pardalis**  
mapardalis@gmail.com

**Western Region Desk**  
**Alexander Mizan**  
director@americanhellenic.org

**Baltimore Desk**  
**Georgia Vavas**  
gvavas@comcast.net

**Photo/Fashion**  
**ETA Press**  
fpapagermanos@yahoo.com

**Graphic Design**  
**NEOgraphics Inc.**  
**Adrian Saescu**

**Athens Desk**  
**Konstantinos Rhompotis**  
(01130) 210 51 42 446  
(01130) 6937 02 39 94  
k.rhompotis@neomagazine.com

[Check our website](http://www.neomagazine.com)  
[www.neomagazine.com](http://www.neomagazine.com)

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by Dr. John Brademas

## A Political Prognostication

# LOOKING TO NOVEMBER

One of the nation's most seasoned political analysts is Charlie Cook, publisher of The Cook Political Report, who is predicting a tough November midterm election for Democrats. In his ratings of individual House races, Cook lists 26 seats currently held by Democrats as either likely to turn Republican, or tossups; another 28, although leaning Democratic presently, competitive. To take control of the House, Republicans would need a net gain of 40 seats.

A big challenge facing Democrats going into the November midterms is the retirement of several prominent members of the House and Senate. Here I point to Senator Evan Bayh of my native State of Indiana. Yet the most recent analysis by Nate Silver of the polling website, FiveThirtyEight, is showing that Democrats should, with at least 55 seats, maintain their majority in the Senate.

In speaking with several current and former Members of Congress and Administration officials, I find the theme they all touched on is that key to November elections is the economy.

The economic stimulus bill passed by Congress in 2009 helped stabilize the economy and stop the loss of jobs. John Podesta, who served as White House Chief of Staff under President Clinton, suggests that President Barack Obama get out of Washington, D.C. to connect with voters and make the case that actions by government can help jobs grow.

Congressman Zack Space, Democrat of Ohio, who first won in 2006, represents a District with 16% unemployment. According to Congressman Space, his constituents are "moderate, independent and want reasonable, substantive action.... The American people want government to be responsive to their concerns. There is a sense of urgency, but a lack of progress, and people feel frustrated."

Part of this frustration has, of course, fueled the anti-government independent Tea Party movement, which has received so much attention in the press.

Still, Democratic Congressman John Sarbanes of Maryland was optimistic and cited the success of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer. The Democratic Caucus in the House is large and diverse yet the House passed the health care reform bill, the economic stimulus package, a new expanded jobs creation bill and energy legislation. Republicans in the Senate, however, have abused the rules and traditions of that chamber to block action by the Democrats there, creating a deteriorating political environment.

Writing as I am, in early March, I think it likely that the health care reform bill will pass as will a new jobs creation bill and a financial industry reform measure. Such actions will give the President and Members of Congress eight months to communicate to voters their success in tackling one of the biggest challenges facing our country – health care – while at the same time stabilizing the economy and laying the foundation for new and sustained growth. As my valued friend and former colleague, Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland, told me recently, there is an anti-incumbent mood in the air right now. "But", he added, "next Fall is a long way away."

*Dr. Brademas served twenty-one years in the House of Representatives as a Democrat from Indiana and was appointed Majority Whip by Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill. He is a president emeritus of New York University and founder of the John Brademas Center for the Study of Congress at NYU.*

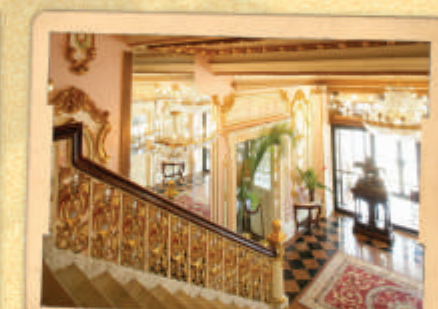
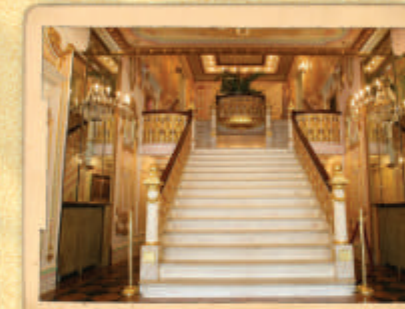


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President Barack Obama, Prime Minister of Greece George Papandreou and Archbishop Demetrios of America shared the podium during the ceremony, addressing guests from all over the US and Greece

First Lady Michelle Obama greets Mrs. Ada Papandreou, wife of Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, in the Yellow Oval Room of the White House

Congressman John Sarbanes, President of the American Hellenic Council of California Michael Galanakis, former Senator Paul Sarbanes and a friend

John and Mae Calamos with Archbishop Demetrios of America

Elina Mihalakis, Congressman Zach Space, State Assemblyman Dimitrios Giannaros and a friend

President of Hellenic Medical Society, Dr. George Tsioulas with National Commander of the Archons of St. Andrew Dr. Anthony Limberakis

NEO's Demetrios Rhompotis, Peter Parthenis, President of National Hellenic Museum Aristoteli Hallikias and AHC President Michael Galanakis

President Barack Obama, Prime Minister George Papandreou and Donna Raptakis

AHEPA Executive Director Bill Mossaidis with AHEPA Supreme President Nikos Karacostas

President of Cyprus Federation of America Peter Papanicolaou (right) with members of the Board

US Ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis, Endy Zemenides and Anna Giannoulas

Cathy Sakellaris, Ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis and George Sakellaris

Peter Parthenis, Chairman of Leadership 100 Constantine Caras and George Sakellaris

AHC President Michael Galanakis with American Hellenic Institute President Aleco Haralambides

From left, Donna Raptakis, Connecticut's Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz and Rhode Island State Senator Lou Raptakis

Archbishop Demetrios of America with White House guests

John Georges

Eliana Papadakis, President of National Philoptochos Aphrodite Skeadas and a friend

PHOTO: SAMANTHA APPELTON

# President Obama Honors Greek Independence Day at the White House

PHOTO: ETA PRESS

By Demetrios Rhompotis

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama hosted Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, his wife Ada, Archbishop Demetrios of America and more than 200 Greek Americans from all over the country for the annual celebration of Greek Independence Day at the White House's majestic East Room. A tradition that started under President George Bush Sr., acting upon an idea of the late Archbishop Iakovos, this year's event was further highlighted by the presence of a Greek prime minister for the first time and also by the participation of a first lady, again for the first time, as Archbishop Demetrios remarked in his speech. In another first, the reception took place on March 9th, instead of the 25th, because the President would have been on a trip in Asia then and also because George Papandreou was visiting the US at the time

and thus could take part in the celebration. The festive mood was enhanced since the President had announced hours earlier that Greece would enter the Visa Waiver Program, making it easier for her nationals to visit the US, and terminating a policy of discrimination against Greece vis-a-vis the rest of the Eurozone countries. According to well informed sources, the President demanded the immediate inclusion of Greece to the Program against the efforts of a militantly anti-Hellenic State Department staff that sought to further delay the decision. President Obama in his remarks at the White House event spoke of the support many Americans offered to Greeks who had revolted against their oppressors and said that the solidarity between the United States and Greece continues to this day. Excusing his own pronunciation, he used the refrain "philotimo," which means "love

of honor", throughout this speech. "It's a sense of love to family, and to community, and to country; the notion that what we're here on this Earth to do is to be all in this together. We all have obligations to each other and to work together. And so it was that the democratic example of a small group of city states more than 2,000 years ago could inspire the founding generation of this country that led one early American to imagine that 'the days of Greece may be revived in the woods of America.'" He also said that when he was a young child living in Indonesia his mother would wake him up early in the morning to teach him the legends of Greek mythology, among other books. "It's the sense of nobility and morality written in the pages of those timeless Greek texts, which have instructed students - and tormented them - down the ages, in every corner of the world." In a reference to the difficult times Greece

finds herself in today and talking about Mr. Papandreou, President Obama said that "like his father and his grandfather before him, the Prime Minister is leading Greece through challenging times. But as I told him during our meeting in the Oval Office today, whether in good times, or in bad times, the people of Greece will always have a friend and a partner in the United States of America." Prime Minister Papandreou, a Greek American himself, born in Minnesota, thanked the President for his good words and he referred to the contributions of the Greeks in the US. "The Greek American Community is a lasting link between our two countries. We are proud, and I am part of this Community, we are proud of their accomplishments in academia, in business, in culture and politics. They contribute much to the United States and they are always a source of innovation and strength

as they bring their ideas and aspirations to Greece when they visit our country." Papandreou also invited President Obama to visit Athens and pointed out that Greece and the US are always at each other's side in "our common quest for justice against all forms of tyranny and oppression in order to keep our world a place where it is worth living". Addressing the event, Archbishop Demetrios reminded all that the Greek Revolution of 1821 achieved the impossible, having gone against all odds. That should serve as an inspiration today in our struggle to consolidate democracy, freedom and peace throughout the world. He also commended President Obama for his strong support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate's right to religious freedom, his support for the reunification of Cyprus, and his commitment to the effort for a

solution to FYROM name. The reception was attended by Greek cabinet members, Ambassadors Vassilis Kaskarelis and Andreas Kakouris of Greece and Cyprus respectively, members of Congress, Metropolitan Bishops and prominent Greek Americans. President Obama singled out his friend and basketball buddy from his Chicago days, Illinois Treasurer Alexi Giannoulas who is running for Senator. "We have some outstanding members of Congress who are here, and we've got at least one potential member of Congress," he said, pointing to Giannoulas. The event menu was prepared by Greek American Chef Cat Cora and included dishes from her restaurant Kouzina, such as Fisherman's Stew, Lamb Chops, Grape Leaves with Truffle Avgolemono and various Greek salads.



# Visiting Greece and feeling special the Kyvernitis way

by Dimitri C. Michalakis



Christos Kyvernitis

Imagine your perfect vacation in Greece: you arrive at Venizelos Airport and you won't have to haggle for a taxi because a limo is waiting for you, with an English-speaking host who has already taken care of all the details of your stay. Your room is booked at one of the best hotels in Athens (the Grande Bretagne in the city or the Astir Palace Beach Resort on the coast). You have a masseuse on call, a personal shopper, a nanny for your kids, a chef at your disposal when you want to stay in, dinner reservations at Nobu when you want to eat out, a tour of the Numismatic Museum guided by the director himself, a performance at Epidaurus in the company of the head of the Hellenic Athens Festival, and carte blanche to cut the line at the New Acropolis Museum and have a private showing and access to the VIP room.

Sound like a fantasy?

Well, it's a reality for the clients of Kyvernitis Travel: a travel agency for the luxury visitor to Greece and for the discriminating traveler used to the very best.

"I want our clients to be treated the way I would like to be treated when I travel," says Christos Kyvernitis, the amiable managing director of the company during a recent visit to New York City. "And I'm interested in finding the best for our clients: the best hotels, the best restaurants, the best of everything and something that is always distinctive and special. For example, here in New York look at the hotel where I choose to stay." (The boutique Greenwich Hotel owned by Robert DeNiro and a stylish retreat in Tribeca off the beaten tourist track). "Our clients demand the best, and we provide it for them."

There was the VIP who came to Greece on a private jet and wanted a party for his son that would show him the sights of Athens. "So we booked it at a restaurant by the old marketplace and on one side the party had a view of the old marketplace and on the other the Acropolis," says Kyvernitis. "It was a magnificent."

There was another client who had chartered a boat and was cruising the islands of the Aegean, when the sea got too rough and so he switched to the Ionian, but then his wife wanted a yoga session. "So we hired a private helicopter and we flew a yoga teacher to his boat in the middle of the Ionian sea. It was a little unusual (and expensive--\$3,000)—but we did it."

And then there was the junket organized for the sponsors of the prestigious Brooklyn Academy of Music, who came to Athens and not only got to see

theater at Epidaurus but also enjoyed a reception and dinner hosted by some of the city's cultural luminaries.

"What makes us different is that we provide the highest level of personal service," says Kyvernitis. "People want what they pay for: they want the exact hotel, they want a specialized guide, they want a nice restaurant, and they don't want to cope with the mob of tourists."

That's a lot to ask when visiting a busy tourist mecca like Greece, but for the past 15 years Kyvernitis Travel has specialized in bringing civility to the process and an unheard-of level of service to visiting Americans.

"For example," says Kyvernitis, "we have something called Meet and Greet, where we can meet you at the door of your plane, escort you through customs, and then provide you with everything from a Mercedes sedan to a motor coach, from a private jet or helicopter or luxury yacht, to take you to your destination anywhere in Greece. We handle the transfers, reservations, tickets, accommodations, everything else you need. That's what makes us different: we customize our service to you and make everything possible."

You couldn't get into your favorite restaurant before? ("There is no restaurant we can't get into—they want the typical Kyvernitis client"). You couldn't find tickets on a ship to the islands? ("We have priority booking with all the shipping lines"). You couldn't get into any of the attractions at the Acropolis or survive the brutal two-hour wait in the sun? ("We buy tickets in advance, bypass the lines, even get you into the VIP room, and if something is closed at the Acropolis, we'll take you to Sounion").

The company also employs guides that are more than the standard part-timers reciting from a script or students learning English themselves and practicing on the tourists.

"A lot of our guides are from the States and they know what Americans want," says Kyvernitis.

"They are also scholars in their field and can provide more expertise, and more personal service, than the usual guide from a typical cruise ship who is escorting a party of more than 400 people."

The Athens Olympics in 2004 put a new face on the old Greece (the walls of the Metro now feature archaeological reliefs) but a high-end travel agency like Kyvernitis Travel prides itself on finding the very special places off the beaten path. "We like to anticipate the new trends," says Kyvernitis.

The company recently took a group of Swedish oenophiles through the new "winery trail" of boutique wineries that dot the countryside from Crete to Chalkidiki and feature some of the most unique flavors on earth. ("The volcanic soil of Santorini, for example, makes everything taste different.") And the people who run these wineries are just as amazing. Paris Sigalas of Domaine Sigalas in Santorini was a mathematician who took to cultivating the family vineyards and soon made his label one of the most distinct in Greece.

"And because these wineries are successful, they invest in modern equipment, and often build restaurants on the ground of their wineries, so you can have a wonderful meal, with great wine, in a very authentic setting," says Kyvernitis.

Kyvernitis has also transformed the resort experience by directing clients to premier resorts like the all-suite Elounda Peninsula in Crete or Grand Resort Lagonissi right in Athens (bungalows with private pools and villas available for \$10,000 a night) and the other-worldly Soneva Nisi by Six Senses due to open in Milos in 2012. This resort will not only feature villas in the local style, some with private spas, but eco-friendly villas, and its own Cycladic-inspired village, where guests can shop for everything and sample a wide variety of cuisines and wines on the resort's own grounds.

"But they will also be able to eat organic produce

from the resort's own gardens," says Kyvernitis. "And because the resort is by the sea and Milos has chalky sand, the spa treatment that is offered is unique."

Golf has also become a new attraction in Greece (you can now golf in Crete and Chalkidiki) and Kyvernitis cites the new resort opening soon in Messinia called Costa Navarino that will feature an 18-hole championship course designed by US Master's champion and Ryder Cup captain Bernhard Langer and will be the first signature golf course in Greece. It will also offer a state-of-the-art conference center.

"It's a very nice resort, but it will have a heli-pad for the convenience of business travelers," he says.

And, of course, Greece is no longer just a summer haven: Kyvernitis points out that there are winter pleasures in Greece (never mind the bargain \$400 airfares and less-harried service) that many travelers may never have imagined. "You can see bears in Palia Kalda. You can ski and do white-water rafting in Tripoli. You can go to Parnassus and ski and in less than twenty minutes go down to Delphi and check out the museum and then go back to Galaxidi and Arachova and have a great home-cooked meal. And some of these smaller villages have excellent amenities, like spas and indoor pools."

He sits back and smiles amiably in the cozy lounge of the Greenwich Hotel in New York City, sheltered from the winds outside the windows on a cold and blustery January day.

"I think people are rediscovering Greece," he says pleasantly. "And it's now better than ever. Yes, our clients are very discriminating. But that's why they come back to us again and again. They know what they want and they know that we take great pride in living up to their expectations."

[www.Kyvernitis.gr](http://www.Kyvernitis.gr)

As a film and television producer and author of five books, Sonny Grosso is used to telling stories. But his midtown Manhattan office tells a tale all its own: walls lined with framed awards, an enlarged mug shot of a young Frank Sinatra and photos of Richard Gere on his first movie set. There's also loads of sports memorabilia and anything and everything having to do with Marilyn Monroe. It's a veritable museum of American pop culture.

## "The Greek Connection": An Interview with Producer Sonny Grosso

By Katerina Georgiou

This setting is a far cry from the streets of Harlem where he was born and raised. And like the heroes in the stories he tells, Grosso is an ordinary guy living an extraordinary life. The kind that would make a great film—that is, if it hadn't already inspired one.

Not just any film, but a five-time Academy Award winning one—"The French Connection." The book and film were based on his real life experience in the celebrated crime bust as an undercover detective along with his partner of sixteen years, Eddie Egan, who was known as "Popeye Doyle" in the film.

In addition to launching his film career, it led to his becoming the youngest first grade detective in the history of the NYPD, accomplishing in three years what it normally takes decades to achieve.

"I didn't do anything alone," he said. "I got a lot of help from the people I worked with."

Upon entering his office, Grosso removes his Colt 38 revolver from its faded holster. It's the same gun used by Al Pacino in the legendary film, "The Godfather" on which Grosso served as technical consultant and actor. The gun is a collector's item but he has no interest in selling it. He plans to donate it to the New York City Police Museum instead.

With the success of "The French Connection," Grosso became a much sought after technical advisor and story consultant on numerous films and television shows, including "Kojak." He also helped produce the first twenty-two episodes of that series as well as the program, "Baretta."

Since co-founding Grosso Jacobson Productions in 1980, he has overseen more than \$400 million in productions.

"I just hit a stroke of luck," he said of his many accomplishments.

It's a curious choice of words given that storytellers leave nothing to chance. But, as one expects from a self-reflective man like Grosso, this comment is followed by an explanation—a personal one that he seldom shares.

"I always thought that the good things that happened to me...that was God's way of giving back for taking my father," he said of his untimely death when the younger Grosso was only fourteen.

"If you want to believe in God—and I do—then you've got to believe that's what he does."

Though his father's presence was brief, he provided him with the guiding principle that shaped his life's perspective.

He recalls one afternoon his father caught him speaking with some neighborhood kids selling stolen items and pulled him aside for a swift lesson.

"He said: 'you see that record player...you know the one in your grandmother's house?' said Grosso, mimicking his father's stern voice. "When you buy these things that's where they come from...houses like hers. He looked me in the eye, grabbed my chin and said: 'Do the right thing.' Then he turned and walked away."

Before the loss of his father, Grosso lived a carefree existence revolving around sports and Sunday dinners with his large extended Italian-American

Sonny Grosso with his friend Dino Pavlou



family—all living within arm's length of each other. His early years offered a glimpse of promise: he skipped two grades in school, was an athlete and talented artist.

But his sense of direction was eclipsed by grief. He temporarily dropped out of school and took a series of odd jobs. His homemaker mother, a widow at thirty-three, was left to care for him and his three younger sisters.

"She made a lot of sacrifices and never married again," he said.

A chance opportunity to escape a mundane existence came when his impressive cartoons caught the attention of New Yorker magazine. They published his work, and he soon found himself crossing paths with such luminary artists as Al Capp.

Being a cartoonist eventually led to disillusionment as he found little creativity in the "assembly-line" process of working for a publication. The low pay was a further disincentive, and he couldn't justify making a career of it.

Returning to his old neighborhood after serving in the army, his life took a fateful twist during a routine game of basketball with friends. A pal from the neighborhood going downtown to pick up applications for what he mistakenly thought was the fire department offered to bring some back for the others.

The applications turned out to be for the police department instead, and after applying on a whim, Grosso was accepted. His neighbor wasn't so fortunate.

"The six of us in the park were too lazy to go downtown...he goes all the way down there and doesn't make it," Sonny smiled wryly.

As a cop he was assigned to his old neighborhood in Harlem—an experience that taught him that the truth was multi-sided. Now he had the chance to observe it from the other end—this time as the "guy in blue."

"It was difficult for me to decide what to do in the given instance," he said. "You'd walk into an ice cream parlor—a place full of young guys—and you were a young guy yourself. I was trying to remember out how I felt as a kid, and how I should feel now understanding that."

Unbeknownst to him at the time, developing empathy on the job and conducting countless Q&A's would serve him well later on as a producer by giving him a deeper understanding of character motivation and a sharp ear for dialogue.

These qualities add a level of authenticity to his productions and keep him focused on his purpose of uncovering the human condition through entertainment.

Among the projects he's developing is a musical on the life of the American tenor and movie star, Mario Lanza, and he's in talks with Greek singing sensation, Mario Frangoulis, to star.

He's also working on a biopic about the Greek-born former Jimmy Weston's supper club host, Dino Pavlou, and his lifelong friendship with Frank Sinatra.

Pavlou's compelling story is about his daring escape from the hands of Communist guerillas in Greece and his piercing of the exclusive New York supper club scene where he became a trusted member of Sinatra's inner circle.

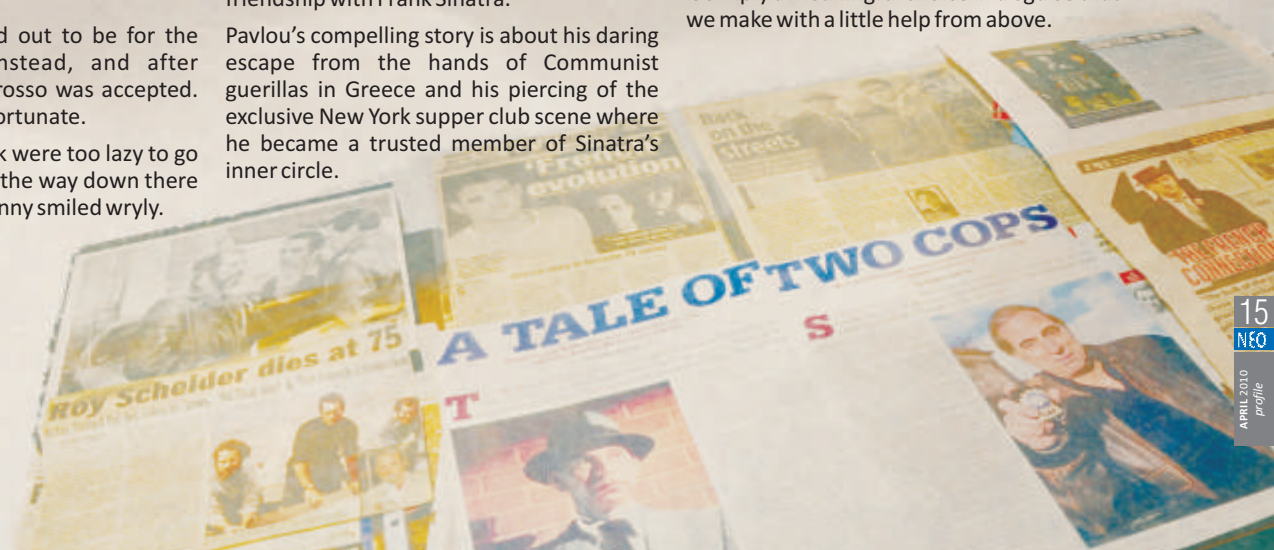
"When he was growing up as a kid I don't think Dino ever thought I'm going to be maitre d' at one of the most famous clubs in New York and mix with Presidents and Frank Sinatra. There aren't ten guys in this whole country that have that ability."

And there probably aren't many producers like Grosso—who worked on two films with Sinatra and also considered him a close friend—that can personally relate to the unusual friendship between an ordinary guy and an American icon.

"As you get older what you really have left are your memories so you should make them as good as you can," he said.

"But experiences don't make you understand everything. There are still a lot of mysteries in life that most of us call luck."

And that makes you wonder if so-called luck is simply a meaningful choice in disguise that we make with a little help from above.

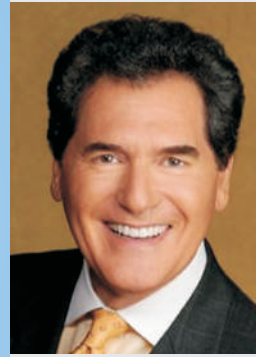




# Greek Independence Day Parade in New York



Colonel Matthew Bogdanos



Ernie Anastos



Philip Christopher

The 2010 Greek Independence Day Parade, a New York City tradition since 1938, will be held Sunday April 18, 1:00 pm, along Manhattan's 5th Avenue starting at 60th Street. This is the 72nd annual parade celebration of Hellenic heritage and freedom, commemorating the 189th anniversary of the Greek declaration of independence, March 25, 1821.

The Parade attracts a vast number of New York marchers and participants. It is a culmination of a month long celebration of Greek heritage are hosted and organized by the Federation of Hellenic Society of Greater New York.

This year's stellar Grand Marshalls include New York City's most esteemed news anchor, and most recognized Greek American, FOX network TV-My9's Ernie Anastos.

Philip Christopher is the first Greek Cypriot ever selected as a Grand Marshall of the parade and is the leading spokesperson regarding Cyprus. Mr. Christopher is the President of the Pan-Cypriot Society, President of the International Coordinating committee on Justice; an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarch and a recipient of the prestigious Ellis Island Award.

The final individual Grand Marshall is Colonel Matthew Bogdanos, who is an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan (since 1988), author (Thieves of Baghdad), and a colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserves. In 2003, while on active duty in Marine Corps, he led the investigation into the looting of Iraq's National Museum, and was subsequently awarded the National Humanities Medal for his efforts.

Finally, the group selected as Grand Marshall is the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, who celebrate their 100th year in existence.

The co-chairs of the parade this year include the Presidents of the two prominent Greek American professional organizations in New York: George Tsioulis, M.D., of the Hellenic Medical Society and Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri, Esq. of the Hellenic Lawyers Association.

John Catsimatidis, Parade Chairman Emeritus, stated, "The Parade just keeps getting bigger and better every year. Estimates are well over 250,000 spectators watched the parade from street level last year and we used every available float in the tri-state New York area."



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Fax: 800-763-9805  
E-mail: [cze@eelawfirm.com](mailto:cze@eelawfirm.com)

**Michael Galanakis**  
3356 Wisconsin Ave., South Gate CA  
90280  
Cell: 323-702-5190 Fax: 323-230-7371  
E-mail: [galanakis74@yahoo.com](mailto:galanakis74@yahoo.com)

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Fax: 586-977-6081 586-977-6080  
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**Theodore Laliotis**  
61 Dovid Dr., Los Altos CA 94022  
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WHO LOVES YA, BABY:  
**ARIANA SAVALAS**

TELLY'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER. ROMANCING HER PAST AND PRESENT



Ariana and her band at Chicago's WGN studios. From left, Vance Okraszewski, drums, Benjamin Lewis, piano, and Geoffrey Lowe, bass



By Dimitri C. Michalakis

Ariana Savalas is nothing like her father, Telly, the movie star and the icon of the 1970s television hit, *Kojak*.

He was a late bloomer who only started acting well into his thirties and crooning well after that. Ariana is only 23 and has already starred in two films (in one playing an aging Holocaust survivor), toured Europe as a teenage musical sensation, studied Shakespeare and acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, guest-starred on CBS' *Criminal Minds*, and is now recording an album of standards and original songs—all by 23!



"I'm under the impression that life is about throwing yourself anywhere you possibly can and whatever sticks is what you're supposed to do," she says from her home in LA, where she grew up and claims she is surrounded by about "30,000 members" of the Savalas clan ("We're really the type of people where if you date one of us, you date all of us").

Her career arc is very much like her father's, who had multiple stints as a radio host, theater company director, and television producer (he gave Howard Cosell his first job) before venturing before the cameras and launching himself into acting, and later, singing.

"Exactly," says Ariana. "I always thought there was something wrong with me, because I was never one of those people that had one direction. I was always grasping at anything that I thought would be really amazing,

and 99% of the time it was either music or acting. But then my dad worked as a lifeguard, had a radio show, owned a theater company, he did everything."

Her father died when she was only seven, but she says, "I had seven years to remember what an amazing guy he was and why everybody loved him so much. And my father was constantly busy, but we were always with him. Places where kids were never allowed, restaurants where kids were never allowed, clubs and casinos, my dad did not care at all. He brought us everywhere. He always wanted us with him. He was the kind of guy that would never say no and always had a smile on his face."

He also hated houses, so Ariana and her brother Christian (from Telly's third wife Julie Hovland) grew up at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City. "We literally lived in a hotel for six years," she says. "We had an apartment there, and the bartenders and the people who played the piano were our friends. We used to hang out and run around the halls and just be crazy, and we didn't think anything different existed."

After her dad died, her mother took them back to her native Minnesota. But "nothing happens in Minnesota," so they moved back to LA and Ariana went to school there surrounded by the "30,000 members" of the Savalas clan who had mostly settled in LA after moving out from their native Garden City in New York (their own parents had immigrated from Yeraka in Sparta, and only Telly's brother Teddy still remains in New York; Gus moved to LA, and George, the "Stavros" of *Kojak* legend, died on the west coast in 1985 from leukemia).

"My family was around every single day," Ariana remembers. "We would have pancakes at two in the morning, and my cousins would come over, and George's kids would come over, and we'd always have everybody around all the time. The kind of person my dad was, he wasn't a very private person. He liked to be surrounded by people."

And he liked to be surrounded by romance and drama and music. "I grew up in a very romantic, artistic family," she

says (her mother is an artist and inventor). "I grew up in a family of hopeless romantics, and passion, and drama, and crazy fun just surrounded me every single day. There's not one boring person in the Savalas family and it makes for a very, very wonderful, interesting holiday. On my mom's side of the family, too, everybody is just so great."

They sang all the time, too, and the kids put on shows for the family ("We used to have these little parties and do skits and songs for everybody and dress up in little suits and dresses") and Ariana got addicted to Disney musicals, among others, so during a vacation to Austria when a friend dared her to record a CD at a mobile karaoke machine, she readily took up the challenge.

"And I went in there and recorded just some stupid track and got my CD and came out. And the person who was running it was on the phone and looking at me and having this weird grin on her face, and I didn't really know what that was about, but they had my information, because you to fill out something, and somehow they tracked me down and found out the hotel I was staying at, and called me, and asked me if they would be able to submit me to a contest."

She agreed and they uploaded her track on the Internet and by popular vote she was invited to perform at a concert in Austria, where she won third prize. A record producer was in the audience and offered her a contract and she recorded her first single and was offered her first recording contract at 16. "I was a sophomore in high school, barely into high school," she remembers, barely seven years later. "And I had no idea what I was doing. It was a pretty amazing time in my life."

She performed in Europe (but did come back to finish high school), and between her junior and senior years she squeezed in some acting and Shakespeare studies at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. And then in the typical whirlwind of her career, she was just a month in LA and after going to her first audition, she landed her first movie gig at 18 in the film *Miriam*—the true story of Miriam Shafer, a Holocaust survivor, in a harrowing role that required the young actress to age from 15 to 50.

"This happened literally a month after I moved out to LA and I didn't even have time to be nervous," she admits. "It was obviously something I needed to do and I did it."

She landed a second movie role shortly afterwards in the film *Akrasia* by Polish director Xavier Tatariewicz and guest-starred on television, but then true to the Savalas' tradition, while pursuing her acting she also began to develop her music (she's also studied piano and dance).

Just recently she performed from her bible, "the Great American Songbook," at Davenport's in Chicago ("I'm a very old soul, a lot of people have told me; I was born in the wrong decade") and she will be performing this month at New York's Greek Independence Day Parade and later at her father's old golf tournament in Scottsdale, Arizona, the Hellenic Golf Classic.

"It will be preparing to speak a lot of Greek," she laughs. "I always tell people I'm a Greek shower speaker and singer—which means, I only speak Greek in the shower, like people only sing in the shower. This is exciting for me and absolutely horrifying—"she laughs again—"being surrounded by so many Greeks who are probably critiquing my diction and my accent—it's gonna be interesting. But it should be fun."

She will be recording her first album of standards and original songs by this summer and she might even record some Greek songs down the road.

"I love singing Greek," she says. "Being Greek is something that I'm so proud of and I want to make our people proud and do right by my heritage. So I will most certainly be including Greek music into my repertoire much more—songs like *Agape Me* and *Se' Agapo*—they're really timeless music. Even if you don't speak a lick of Greek you still understand how beautiful they are."

All in her father's tradition of romancing many genres and styles.

"He was beyond amazing," she says. "You could always tell that he loved what he did. It was never a chore."



# HELLENIC AND ORTHODOX CHAMPIONS IN THE US CONGRESS



**Name:** Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)

**District:** Florida's 9th Congressional District (suburban Hillsborough, western Pasco and northern Pinellas counties)

**Committee/Leadership Assignments:** House Committee on Homeland Security, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Management, Investigations and Oversight, Subcommittee on Border, Maritime, and Global Counterterrorism, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Member of the Republican Whip Team, Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee Veterans' Affairs Task Force, Congressional Award Board of Directors, Co-Chair of the Military Veterans Caucus and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues

**Contact:** Phone 727-773-2871, Toll Free: 866-773-2871, Fax 727-784-6471  
Email: [http://www.house.gov/formbilirakis/issue\\_subscribe.htm](http://www.house.gov/formbilirakis/issue_subscribe.htm)

**webpage:** <http://bilirakis.house.gov/>

**Regarding the state of the US economy, what are the prospects for recovery, and how soon?**

I am very concerned about the economy, and how deficit spending will impact our nation's future. We cannot sustain this type of debt, yet the Obama Administration continues to spend money we don't have.

**What are some of the particular challenges that you are facing in your district?**

Florida's unemployment has reached a record high and unemployment in the Tampa Bay is 13%. I host job fairs on a regular basis and provide other forums to help those who have been impacted by job losses. The entrepreneurial spirit of America, not government, is the engine of job creation in our country, and Congress simply cannot continue to create an economic environment that stifles job growth and economic opportunity. We should instead pass economic solutions that let families and small businesses keep more of what they earn so they can innovate, grow, and create jobs to kick-start our lagging economy.

**What would you say is the state of our democracy in these challenging and unusually polarized times?**

Democracy is alive and well. People are making their voices heard and that's always an encouraging sign. People will certainly make their votes count in November. To me we have a very robust democracy.

**In various polls conducted throughout the U.S. Congress hasn't fared well with the American people. Why is that, in your opinion, and how do you address the issue as Congressman?**

First and foremost Members of Congress must listen and represent their constituency and as I've said before, the ultimate grade of our work will take place at the polls this November.

**Would you encourage more active voter participation in your decision making as Congressman, using the advances of technology, like the Internet and other forms of**

**communication?**

In addition to being out in the community, I make a concerted effort to connect with my constituents online utilizing twitter and facebook along with my website: [bilirakis.house.gov](http://bilirakis.house.gov). The internet is a great venue for them to easily share their thoughts and suggestions. In addition I host telephone-town halls on a regular basis to keep in touch on key issues.

**What are your thoughts on the Cyprus issue and what are some of the things you've done to support settlement efforts?**

As a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and Co-Chair of the Hellenic Caucus, the Cyprus issue features prominently in the work we do. I have held regular briefings and meetings with Cypriot Ambassador Andreas Kakouris, whom I consider a good friend. In addition, I passed the first pro-Cypriot resolution in years back in 2008, H Res 405, which called for the Cypriot president and northern Turkish leader to get back to the July 8th agreement talks. The resolution passed unanimously and shortly thereafter, the talks resumed. While I don't claim responsibility for reigniting the talks, I do think the interested parties stood up and took notice when the U.S. Congress passed such a measure unanimously.

**Do you consider Turkish provocations in the Aegean a threat to regional stability and international peace? Also, what actions have you taken or do you plan to take to encourage the US to make a stronger stance against this kind of irresponsible behavior?**

It is disappointing that the European Union has not taken a more active role in protecting its member state, Greece. A sovereign nation should not be subjected to military threats by its neighbor - particularly one that aspires to become a member of the EU. The U.S. must emphasize to Turkey, that provocations in the Aegean are unacceptable.

**Are you aware of the state persecution against the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey and what**

**have you done to address this issue in Congress?**

I consider the Ecumenical Patriarchate the preeminent focus of the Hellenic Caucus. The continuous chipping away at religious freedom and property rights by the Turkish government cannot continue, and the Theological School at Halki must be re-opened. Orthodox seminarians must be allowed to learn and train there just like our current Patriarch, His All Holiness Bartholomew. The situation is untenable. Last year en route to Afghanistan, I was part of a congressional delegation that had a short layover in Ankara. I used the opportunity to demand from the Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister that Halki be re-opened.

**Since the Bush Administration recognized FYROM as "Macedonia", the country has become more intransigent when it comes to territorial and cultural irredentism against Greece that is its major financial supporter in the region. What kind of action on the part of the US would you promote in order for a mutually acceptable solution to be facilitated?**

Resolving the name issue between FYROM and Greece has also been at the top of the agenda with the Hellenic Caucus. As you may already know, there is a pending resolution, H.RES. 486, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia should work within the framework of the United Nations process with Greece to achieve longstanding United States and United Nations policy goals of finding a mutually-acceptable composite name, with a geographical qualifier and for all international uses for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Greece has exercised extraordinary flexibility by allowing FYROM to use a geographic qualifier in its name such as Northern or Upper Macedonia. It is now time for the U.S. to demand from FYROM a good faith effort in its negotiations with Greece. To date FYROM has displayed nothing but chauvinistic irredentism to Greece who has provided FYROM billions of dollars in financial assistance.



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# Greek School in Whitestone Celebrates March 25th



From left, Irene Dourountoudakis, Athena Liberatos and Kyriake-Melina Robotis



Grades 4, 5 and 6 with their instructors, Mrs. Koutsoupakis, Mrs. Giannou and Mrs. Lemonis



Kyriake-Melina Robotis and Dimitris Demetriou featuring traditional costumes



Grade 1 with instructor, Mrs. Zhonga

The Holy Cross Efstathios and Stamatiki Valiotis Greek Afternoon School in Whitestone New York honored the 25th March, Greece's Independence Day, with a beautiful program consisting of patriotic poems, songs, short plays and traditional dances. Children, some featuring costumes from various parts of Greece, proudly celebrated their heritage continuing a long held tradition that was transplanted in the US after various waves of Greek immigrants established Hellenic presence here.

The Greek language afternoon school program in Whitestone, covers grades K-8. Current enrollment is approximately 160 students. Classes are held twice a week 3:30 - 5:30 pm. Emphasis is on teaching children the Hellenic language, reading, writing and Hellenic culture, history, and values with a Greek Orthodox background. The school has a 100% passing grades record for all pupils who have taken the NY State Greek Regents Examination.

The newly constructed Efstathios and Stamatiki Valiotis School and Community Center, located in the corner of 150th Street and 12th Avenue, on the side of the recently inaugurated Byzantine style church, is state of the art. The new structure has a library, gymnasium and stage which also serves as a community center for all cultural and social events.

For more info on the school and the parish the website is [www.holycrosswhitestone.org](http://www.holycrosswhitestone.org)



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R.S.V. P. by May 10, 2010 at the Hellenic Medical Society at:  
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NΞO



Following the very successful series "New Generation of Leaders" that featured members of the Leadership 100 Partners Program, Neo Magazine and the Hellenic Medical Society of New York have come together to present a monthly profile of "New Generation of Doctors."

## THE NEW GENERATION of DOCTORS

Name: Ananea Adamidis, MD

Position: Nephrologist, Renal Medicine Associates

Education: Nephrology Fellowship, Long Island Jewish Medical Center; Internal Medicine Residency, Long Island Jewish Medical Center; MD, New York Medical College; BA (Chemistry) Cornell University



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

Like many first generation Hellenic-Americans in New York City, I was born and raised in Astoria, NY, where I was immersed in our rich Hellenic culture. As a teenager, my educational pursuits afforded me the opportunity to explore new places. At the age of 13, I attended Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan. Then at the age of 16, I left home to go to Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. During this time, I developed friendships with individuals of different ethnicities through whom I was able to learn about and appreciate various cultures.

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

There are many teachers, professors, and medical attending physicians who have helped guide me to where I am today. Undoubtedly, the greatest influence in my life came from my parents. It may sound cliché but they instilled in me a strong work ethic and the belief that I could achieve anything if I worked hard enough. I am still impressed with how they were able to make a better life for our family, especially since they came to this country with so very little.

### Why did you become a doctor?

When I was a young boy, I had my appendix removed. This initial exposure to doctors piqued my curiosity as to how doctors did what they did and so I wanted to learn more. I also wanted to help people as I had been helped myself. During my education, I always was very interested and excelled at the sciences. I found that I could best apply my scientific knowledge and skill to the assistance of others in the field of medicine. To be honest, the first year of medical school was very trying for me and I started to question my career choice. However, once I began to experience patient care activities, I truly believed that the practice of medicine was my life's calling.

### As a new generation doctor, how do you evaluate the state of health care in the US?

The United States is the world leader in health care and medical research. People from all over the world come to the US seeking medical care which is not available in their own country. I am not talking only about cutting edge procedures. In my field, I have seen patients leave their country and come to the US in order to receive life-sustaining hemodialysis which has been available here for over 50 years. The health care industry currently is in a major state of flux. The doctor-patient relationship has been undermined to a "provider-consumer" one. With this mentality, doctors and patients are being subjected to interference from outside entities such as insurance companies. Unfortunately, the effect is that physicians are losing their ability to make decisions that they feel are medically appropriate resulting in diminished

quality of care for patients. The practice of medicine is being transformed from art into algorithms. I am hoping that this trend comes to an end before our health care system becomes one of mediocrity.

### If you were a patient, what would the ideal doctor look to you like?

I believe the most important quality the ideal doctor should have is compassion. A compassionate doctor will treat you like you were a member of his/her family. The ideal doctor will clearly explain to patients about their illness, its treatment, and its prognosis. The ideal doctor would demonstrate patience and answer all questions posed by the patient and the patient's family. This level of concern diminishes the possibility of errors resulting from carelessness. If there is a poor prognosis or a bad outcome, he or she can console the patient and the patient's family. The ideal doctor will have a strong base of medical knowledge and also keep up with the medical literature. I strive to provide this level of care in my daily practice.

### Has your Hellenic heritage influenced your professional conduct and in what ways?

I am very fortunate to be of Hellenic descent since the basic rules of conduct of my profession were laid out by a Hellene, Hippocrates. It is amazing that despite the advances in technology and understanding of medicine over the past 2000 plus years, most of the principles of the Hippocratic Oath remain very relevant today. One example is the importance of maintaining patient confidentiality. Additionally, the most fundamental doctrine is to work solely for the benefit of my patients, which is of utmost relevance in these times.

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

The Hellenic Medical Society offers the chance for me to associate with other physicians with whom I share a similar heritage. This affords the opportunity for me to learn from and about prominent Hellenic physicians, both past and present, through lectures and symposia, such as the annual Papanicolaou Symposium. I also appreciate the opportunity to partake in many Hellenic cultural events which are sponsored by the Hellenic Medical Society, sometimes in association with other Hellenic professional societies.

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

Perhaps the most important quality I value in others is honesty. The truth is sometimes very difficult to tell and not always what other people want to hear. However, I believe that telling the

truth in such situations will breed trust. Trust is paramount in maintaining all types of relationships, including the doctor-patient relationship. I also admire people who demonstrate motivation in their profession. Seeing that type of energy motivates me even more.

### Who are your heroes in real life?

There are plenty of people in the world, most unknown to me, who have sacrificed of themselves for the benefit of others. To me, that is what defines a hero. Unfortunately, most of these people do not get the publicity or recognition that they deserve. If I had to choose one well-known person to name as a hero though, it would be Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. He has struggled to maintain the Orthodox Church in Constantinople despite the harassment, oppression and dangers he faces there. He has been a champion of peace, especially between religions. He is famously quoted as saying, "war in the name of religion is war against religion." Additionally, he has been called "the Green Patriarch" based on his commitment to help preserve the environment.

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

I would like to continue to advance in my professional rank and be able to assist many more patients over the next 20 years. I will also seek to become more of a proponent for my patients especially at the political level. I would also like to play more of a role in organizations I care about such as the Hellenic Medical Society. As far as my personal life in 20 years, I'd like to continue to strengthen the great friendships I currently have and to develop new ones. Last but not least, I hope to be blessed with a loving, caring, and supportive wife who will be my partner in life and in raising a healthy and happy family.

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

In the past few years, I have become much more active with various Hellenic groups such as the Hellenic Medical Society of New York, the New Jersey Hellenic Health Professionals Association, the Hellenic Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Section, and the New York City Greek Film Festival. I also like to stay physically active with regular exercise and sports whenever the opportunity arises. Religion has also become a bigger part of my life and I attend Church services and programs regularly. I enjoy Hellenic music and dancing as well. Perhaps one thing that few people know about me is my passion for alternative/independent rock music.

### What is your idea of happiness?

Simply stated, happiness is the ability to enjoy time spent with loved ones.

The Hellenic Medical Society of New York (HMS) has its origins in the Greek-American Medical Fraternity, an entity co-founded by the renowned physician George N. Papanicolaou during the First World War. This organization officially registered with the New York State authorities in 1920.

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## CONSTANTINOPLE: "TO THE CITY" OF THE TSARS



Constantinople, Agia Sophia

Names resonate. Just think of the various terms used to describe Istanbul. Konstantinoupolis, the City of Constantine, named for the Emperor who institutionalized Christianity in the Roman Empire, connotes a totality of belief and thought, a vastness of faith and polity. "The City," I Polis, to a Greek requires no further explanation, there can only be one "City." Even the Turkish Istanbul derives from the Greek prepositional phrase Is tin Polin—"To the City." My favorite is the term used by Orthodox Slavs, Tsarigrad. The City of the Tsars, where the Tsar should sit, and the Tsar who reigns from that city, by definition reigns over all of his people. Tsarigrad connotes totality and universality. In 2010 it reigns as the Cultural Capital of Europe.

In October 2007 we finally went to Istanbul, after decades of false starts. "The City" was simply too vast and emotional for a Greek to travel too lightly. The flight from Athens, where we lived at the time, to Istanbul takes less than an hour, and we arrived on a very overcast Saturday morning into Ataturk Airport, gliding downward through the mists of the Sea of Marmara. Our cab traced its way around the old city walls, scenes of so much history now in various places restored, in other areas crumbling, and in yet other places the walls themselves form part of the structure of homes wealthy and modest.

Few cities are so favored by geography and topography as Constantinople, but the price for such favor is costly. First, everyone coveted the city, so it suffered innumerable sieges. Second, below the city's surface some of the world's deadliest fault lines lurk, shaking the city periodically, and thousands die. But the scene, even in autumn morning drizzle, cannot fail to impress. The old city juts out like a hitchhiker's thumb, into the Sea of Marmara, which narrows to become the famous Bosphorus, more like a river gorge than a waterway. Another small waterway, the Golden Horn, separates the "thumb" of Constantinople from the posh Beyoglu District, where we would stay.

Rounding the "thumb," to my left, we saw it. St. Sophia, a squared, orange-colored edifice which seen from afar was slightly less impressive than I thought. As we prepared to cross the Galata Bridge, another mosque appeared which, minus minarets, would pass for a double of St. Sava's Cathedral in Belgrade, clearly showing that the origins of much of Ottoman architecture are Byzantine.

Upon arriving at the Hotel and registering for my trade conference (the business purpose behind my trip), we hailed a cab to St. Sophia. The area is a dense zone of history, impossible to appreciate without a protracted stay. We walked around vast St. Sophia, utterly intimidated by the profundity of the church/mosque. It lacked the classical grace of the Parthenon, that other symbol of Hellenism, but in terms of sheer envelopment and density, it is peerless.

We returned via public transportation, losing our way several times. Cutting through the suburbs of the city and bisecting the land walls of Constantinople, the train rolled through suburbs with names recalling the Turks' own refugee experience, such as Yeni Bosna (New Bosnia), just as the Asia Minor districts of Athens, such as Nea Smyrni, recall lost homelands of Asia Minor Greeks. Turkey, like the other Balkan states, had its own refugees and dislocations as a result of Balkan conflicts. On the train we sat next to

an older Turkish man with a blond mustache and his teenage son, who in halting English welcomed us to Turkey, and told us that we, as Balkan people, were "brethren." His father welcomed us by shaking hands very formally and told us through his son that he was "honored to meet us."

I preferred to let history and topography to be our guide, and also I knew that three days simply could not even scratch the surface of this eternal city. A whole season might begin to do it justice, but for the impressionist sketch, we did our best. I also did not want the tour to be a mourning of the Turkish conquest in 1453. On this trip, I could not bring myself to visit the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate, as this living institution has been so abused by the Turkish authorities that I feared it would too much color the whole trip. We had to paint our impression quickly, on the damp plaster, like the fresco artist.

The next morning a melancholy rain obscured the view of Asia from our hotel window, I hired a cab to take us to "Asia." We drove north along the European side of the Bosphorus, past Ottoman palaces and exquisite mosques, and looped into the city to reach the northern bridge. There, in the foothills crammed with five-story flats stretching westward into Thrace, we began to appreciate the sheer vastness of the city, a sea of unsteady concrete perched uneasily across seismically-challenged foothills. The City was the largest in Europe for hundreds of years, and it is again, with well over 16 million people, four times the size of Athens, and double the size of London or Chicago, all cities we have called home at one time or another.

We jumped on the Autobahn, crossing the Fatih (Conqueror) Bridge over the Bosphorus, a placard welcomed us to Asia, as we added (at least in a technical sense) another continent to our travel list. The driver exited on the first off-ramp, and set a course down the hills to the Asian side of the Bosphorus. There we drove along the Bosphorus to Anadolu Hisar ("Castle of Anatolia/Asia"), a small fortress the Ottomans built in the 1300s as a prelude to the eventual conquest of Constantinople.

The castle sits in a lovely setting belying its sinister task, but the sniffly weather only allowed for a few photos. This mournful sheet, a collision between the steppe climate of the Black Sea and that of the balmier Mediterranean, created a drizzling melancholy, described in depth by Orhan Pamuk, the Nobel Prize winning Istanbul novelist, as huzun. Pamuk describes huzun as a type of melancholy associated with a sense of loss, and the historical weight of the city, its lost glories, and missing inhabitants, combined with this climatic tendency, certainly fosters this weighty feeling. Moving on, we reached the Ataturk Bridge, returning to Europe, to the continent where the Turks want to pin their identity and their future.

Crossing the Galata Bridge into the old City of Constantinople provided a vague feeling of similarity to crossing the Sava River into Belgrade. Minus minarets, there is something similar between Istanbul and the hilly Serbian capital crowned by its own "St. Sava" Cathedral, St. Sava. Both descend from a common culture.

Our destination was obvious. We decided to forgo a guided tour of St. Sophia and just walk our way through by ourselves. I entered with trepidation, having heard so many stories about others' experiences. My primary feeling was the vastness of the Divine, well captured within the vessel of this church. The Islamic geometric artwork and the interior emptiness also came as a bit jarring to one who had always associated St. Sophia with a church, but made more sense once we visited the nearby Blue Mosque. St. Sophia reminded me of St. Sava in Belgrade, which I visited while still in construction, when the Serbian cathedral had a bare interior. In both places one sensed the circular, spatial, embracing totality of God.

The most moving part of St. Sophia lies in the upper galleries, where careful work has brought some of the greatest mosaic icons in the world back to life, and "living" truly describes them, including one of Jesus

that looks as if He is drawing breath, ready to preach. We sat transfixed, taking pictures of the image to which no photo can do justice; you have to see it, and use the rest of your senses to take His image holistically. Other icons too, liberated from centuries of Ottoman plaster, traced the history of the Byzantine Empire, which lasted over 1000 years. In an off-color comment to my wife, I declared, "you see, the truth comes out!" I found an icon of Byzantine Emperor Alexander, who my wife said bore a striking resemblance to me.

Leaving St. Sophia, our next stop was the Blue Mosque, architecturally a clear descendent of its neighbor, built 1000 years later. Having never been to a functioning mosque, I had expected the interior to be somewhat similar to churches but what we witnessed, in stocking feet, was a vast emptiness and the geometric patterns of an oriental carpet both below our feet and along the walls and domes. Suddenly, the emptiness of St. Sophia made sense and its austerity reflected an interpretation of God which fit the nomadic origins of the Arabs and the original Turks, themselves nomads who burst out of Central Asia.

Always in my travels, I have preferred the more obscure and significant, to the packaged mass tour which has the effect of obscuring the significant. Thus, the Topkapi Museum did not have the effect it deserved, because the galleries and rooms were filled with tourists milling in a traffic control pattern. What remained from Topkapi were the beautiful kiosks and gardens, and the sweeping views of the Golden Horn, which we appreciated with a lunch in Topkapi's restaurant. Turkish cuisine did not disappoint us and at the neighboring table a woman from Salonika told us that her mother was expelled from Istanbul in the 1960s, but returned constantly; she had never gotten over leaving "The City." More huzun.

The delights of the Covered Bazaar I left to my wife, who negotiated the purchase of a fantastic leather jacket for me from a Serbian-born Turkish merchant, while I attended my various meetings, but in conversations, I spoke to many Turks, among them a Turkish-Dutch professor of history. I sensed a mild guilt about the lack of a Greek presence in the City which was, after all, built by the Greeks' Byzantine ancestors and had a very large Greek population until the deportations of the 1950s and 1960s.

The trade seminar ended with a boat tour of the Bosphorus and as we glided past the Ataturk and Fatih (Conqueror) Bridges, we saw from tens of meters away the restored Ottoman yalis (villas) of a bygone era and felt a quiet solitude in the midst of a city of millions. To complete the story of the castles, we glided past Rumeli Hisar, much larger than its Asian counterpart, commanding an excellent field of fire for any passing ship. I use "field of fire" deliberately, as the Mehmet II, the Fatih (Conqueror) of Constantinople, built this castle in 1452 to seal off Constantinople from any supplies coming from the Black Sea. The Ottomans called it Bogaz Kesen, "cutter of the channel" and the Greeks personified it as laimokopia, "cutter of the throat."

Sitting on the back deck of the tour boat, well within the sight of Rumeli Hisar's cannons, I talked to a Dutch-born Turkish professor. We were both children of the Diaspora and descended from this common region. He acknowledged the legacy of Byzantium and the loss of the Greek population as part of that painful separation brought about by nationalism on both sides. In a sense, Istanbul is still the capital of the Balkans, where Byzantium was conquered but never fully dominated. Now that the City is European Capital of Culture, the Constantinople side of Istanbul will be on full display—to those who know where to look. As Greeks, it is our responsibility to tell the full story of the Tsar's City.

By Alexander Billinis





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# “Ecumenical Hellenism” Celebrates 14 Years



UNESCO Ambassador Marianna Vardinogianni with the President of the program "Ecumenical Hellenism" Stavros Panousopoulos and TV personality Marietta Chrousala

The Ecumenical Hellenism Program is the result of a private initiative put forward by two people, businessman Stavros Panousopoulos and University Professor Athanasios Angelopoulos. The driving force behind their efforts to carry out this ambitious project has been the need to have a clear national, religious and scientific conscience and to know that as an information media they have done everything within their power to promote and serve their nation's interests in the present international juncture.

By Margarita Vartholomeou

ATHENS. - The program "Ecumenical Hellenism" celebrated its 14 years recently by presenting a special concert at Athens' prestigious Megaro Mousikis Hall. Two staple composers of modern Greek music, Mimis Plessas and Georgios Hatzinasios, participated, offering unique moments of high charged emotions. The two musicians collaborated on the stage playing both piano and singing great and beloved songs of the recent past accompanied by a team of young singers such as Spyros Klissas, Giota Nikolaou, Christos Papachristou, Dimitra Stathopoulou, George and Stavros Mylonadakis.

During the first 20 minutes of the ceremony there was a brief presentation of the program and its activities. Also, the great benefactors of the effort were honored with the organization's Golden Wreath presented to them by UNESCO Ambassador Marianna Vardinogianni. The proceeds of the event will help to promote the books of the series "Hellenic Treasures of the Universe" (translated in nine languages) into foreign academic centers, parliaments, universities and governments and for the distribution of the two books regarding the project of "Thraki".



UNESCO Ambassador Marianna Vardinogianni with NEO's Margarita Vartholomeou (right)



Mimis Plessas and Georgios Hatzinasios on stage

PHOTOS: ILIAS AMAGNOSTOPOULOS

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Photo: Maria Toulas

# For U.S. Investors, Greece Matters More Than You Might Think

By Joseph Lazzaro

It appears European leaders and the International Monetary Fund have agreed on a plan to help debt-plagued Greece. When combined with Greece's budget cuts and tax hikes, the plan makes it more likely that the Mediterranean nation's fiscal situation will stabilize, avoiding default and insolvency.

Now, many investors may ask, "Why should I care about Greece? No impact on my life." Whoa. Bad move. There would be serious economic implications if the Greek crisis were to persist.

To begin with, Europe's growth may be hurt by a lack of fiscal stabilization in Greece, which would undoubtedly hurt U.S. exports to the region. Europe, as a whole, is the U.S.'s largest trade partner -- we trade more with Europe than with Canada or Mexico. In a very real way, lost business in Europe could mean lost jobs in the United States.

## Why It's Not All Greek to Us

Second, a failure to resolve the Greek crisis would decrease investor confidence in the euro-zone to solve its own problems, in general, and in the euro currency, in specifically. Investors, particularly institutional investors, would undoubtedly continue to flee the euro into safer currency, especially the dollar. (The euro has already fallen about 7% versus the dollar this year.)

Net result: U.S. exports would become more expensive to European buyers, making them less competitive. Given that the U.S. is counting on its exports to comprise a larger portion of U.S. gross domestic product growth due to the "frugal consumer" trend at home, the substantially higher dollar is not what the U.S. wants to see right now.

Third, if unresolved, there is the small chance that the Greek chapter could lead to contagion -- another default-and-ripple-effect, not as big as Lehman Brothers, of course, but destructive nonetheless. Given that credit markets are still healing from the global financial crisis, it would be counterproductive for the major powers of the world -- not just the powers of Europe -- to allow any risk of another "Saturday night surprise."

## Credit Markets Could Be At Risk

No policy maker or business executive wants to see another, massive retreat from both government and corporate debt, accompanied by banker mistrust, fear and all the other zaniness that nearly froze credit markets during the global financial crisis's acute stage in the fall of 2008.

In sum, the U.S. economy is not insulated from Greece's problems. If Europe's GDP is hurt, U.S. GDP growth will take a hit, as well. So when someone says the U.S. should not be concerned about Greece, cite the above.

Of course, the above is not likely to stop the likes of Rush Limbaugh and Glenn Beck from offering their observations on the Greece chapter. One can see Limbaugh and Beck chiming in now. Why should the U.S. care about Greece? Let Greece go bankrupt, they might argue. They overspent, they deserve to go bankrupt. It serves them right, their thinking might go. Greece isn't adding value. What did Greece ever contribute to civilization, philosophy and democracy?

Reprinted from AOL Daily Finance

## The Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek Genocides: An Inconvenient Truth

By Lucine Kasbarian

Recent articles in the mainstream media would have us believe that governments around the world somehow question the factuality of the 1915 Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek Genocides committed by Turkey. These articles would also have us believe that the Turkish government's latest temper tantrums over these genocides are justified. Turkey, of course, just recalled its ambassadors to protest the passage of resolutions by the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee and the Swedish Parliament that acknowledged Turkish culpability for these genocides.

Despite what today's mainstream media are declaring, the evidence proving the 1915 genocides is overwhelming. And formal resolutions affirming these unpunished crimes against humanity made appearances around the world long before 2010. Regardless of what pro-Turkish apologists would have us believe, the issue has never been about whether the Turkish regime carried out genocide. Rather, it has always been about when Turkey would be punished and deliver reparations and restitution to the rightful, indigenous inhabitants.

Powerful media elites would have us believe that the mainstream media universe has been devoid of criticism for Turkey's unpunished crimes because such voices are either non-existent, marginal, irrelevant, fabricated, or some combination thereof.

What the media elites fail to tell us is that when these critical voices—from victim ethnic groups or elsewhere—come forward to submit letters, opinion pieces, or quotes, they are usually denied access.

Media elites also neglect to tell us that opinions that do not reflect the official narrative spun by Turkey—not to mention Israel and the U.S.—largely go unpublished. Authoritative voices that would discredit the mainstream media's official narrative of the genocide issue are removed from the elite's "golden rolodex"—the name given to describe the small group of establishment-approved "experts" who are most frequently quoted in news stories or asked to appear on television.

The absence of dissent in the mainstream media and in the halls of power does not mean that the victims of the genocides and their descendants are insignificant, apathetic, or deceitful. No, we are alive, awake, and infuriated.

The media are also telling us that we should sympathize with Turkey because it feels "humiliated" by accusations of genocide. Turkey uses this word to describe its anger that its national honor has somehow been injured by such accusations. Do Turkish, Israeli, and American officials know what "humiliation" means to the survivors and descendants of the Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek Genocides who experienced debasement and degradation during the genocidal ordeals, and are forced to endure denials and demeaning treatment right up to the present day?

And how did humiliation of the victims occur? By order of the Young Turk regime, unarmed civilian subjects—Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek men, women, and children—were raped in broad daylight, in front of their families and neighbors. The tortures and violations were beyond one's wildest imagination. Innocents were skinned and burned alive. Their tongues and fingernails were torn out. Horseshoes were nailed to their feet. They were stripped naked and sent on death marches into the desert. Women's breasts were cut off and their pregnant bellies bayoneted. Fetuses were thrown up into the air and impaled on swords and bayonets for sport. Men were tied to tree limbs that were bent towards one another; when the tree's limbs were released, the men's bodies were torn in half. Women were tied to horses and dragged to their deaths.

Those Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks who were not exterminated, enslaved in harems, or kidnapped and forcibly converted to Islam were driven from their indigenous lands. Those who survived the death marches spent the rest of their lives in exile, uprooted from their culture and civilization, grieving for their slaughtered families and yearning for their ancestral homeland.

Media elites are giving voice to embroidered Turkish "humiliation" and not to the real humiliation of the victims, survivors, and heirs who live with constant anguish in the face of torture, dispossession, contempt, and indifference. Media elites are defending Turkey when it is the martyrs and their heirs who deserve mercy and compassion.

In spite of Turkey's efforts to humiliate the victims at the time of the genocides—and to prolong this humiliation up to the present day with cultural theft, trivialization, and scape-goating—the dignity of the victims and their descendants has, remarkably, remained intact.

Turkey's genocidal crimes have gone unpunished. While continually profiting from the homes, farms, lands, properties, institutions, and possessions confiscated in 1915, Turkey even accuses the victims and survivors of the crimes that it itself committed. And media elites portray ongoing survivor grievances as nuisances that impede "progress."

It is the genocide deniers—the rulers and lobbies of the U.S., Turkey, Israel, and Azerbaijan—who are the ones impeding progress. Their denial, duplicity, and audacity do not mean that the genocides' victims and their heirs have been defeated. Denying the truth does not invalidate it. Fictional Turkish "reconciliation" initiatives foisted upon Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks will never take the place of genuine atonement and restitution, which are necessary for true progress to be made.

To these deniers and obstructionists we say: "Your tactics are transparent. The perpetrators, beneficiaries, and enablers of the ongoing genocide against the Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek peoples will be brought to justice. You can hide from the truth, but you can't hide the truth. We will persist, and the truth will prevail."

Lucine Kasbarian is an Armenian American writer and the article was first published in The Armenian Weekly [www.armenianweekly.com](http://www.armenianweekly.com)



by Peter Shakalis

## Landlord Operating Escalation Clauses Bear Close Examination by Prospective Tenants

One item in office leases that should always be closely examined by prospective tenants are the annual increases they are charged to cover the landlord's yearly increases in operating expenses for the building.

The various operating escalation methods that landlords utilize are not all equal. Some are substantially more costly over the term of a lease than others and in some cases, can far exceed the landlord's annual cost increases and become a profit center.

The four basic types are: porter's wage; direct operating; fixed annual increases; and consumer price index (CPI). The porter's wage escalation is an index based upon yearly increases in the hourly wage rate that landlords pay their building porters. This wage rate is based on a negotiated contract between the landlord and the porters' union, the AFL-CIO Local 32BJ, which is renegotiated every three years.

A penny-for-penny porter's wage formula will increase the tenant's rent per square foot by one cent for every one cent increase in the building porter's hourly wage. A penny and a half for penny formula will increase the tenant's rent per square foot one and one-half cents for every one cent increase in the porter's hourly wage. For example, if the wages for porters in any one year are increased by 70 cents per hour, the tenant's annual rent will increase by \$1.05 (\$0.70 x 1.5) per square foot.

The direct operating escalation is the most equitable, and least expensive from the tenant perspective. The tenant pays a portion of the total yearly increases in the operating expenses of the building. These expenses include standard maintenance and repair costs, payroll, common charges for electricity and management fees. The tenant is billed based on the percentage of space it occupies in the building.

Fixed annual increases have become more common in today's market place and are pretty straight forward and easy to compute. The base rent is increased each year at a set percentage rate, usually 2% to 3%. Landlords typically propose that these increases be compounded and cumulative yearly.

The consumer price index escalation takes the percentage increase in the CPI over and above a base year and applies it to the tenant's base rent per square foot. If the CPI increases from 5% to 6% from one year to the next, the rent per square foot will then increase by 1%.

Each escalation has advantages and disadvantages, not all of which are monetary. Governmental agencies such as United Nations Mission offices for instance often prefer fixed annual increases which can be determined in advance for each year of the lease thereby simplifying their budgetary process. However a fixed percentage escalation can increase substantially in the latter years of a lease especially in buildings where the base rent is initially high such as class 'A' properties in the Midtown North business district.

The direct operating escalation is often the least costly and can represent a substantial savings compared to other types. However tenants must be careful to accept only relevant expenses. The cost of marketing vacant space and brokers' commissions, for instance, are not a direct operating expense. Expense items such as these if included will inflate costs. The CPI escalation will vary depending on which consumer price index is used; while the hourly rate increases are greater in the porters wage formula if fringe benefits are included.

Hence it's always important to have a professional real estate advisor negotiate for a rent escalation clause that is the best suited to the tenant's needs, protects the tenant's interests and is the least costly. In today's soft real estate market landlords are more receptive to having such a discussion than they have for a long while.

Peter Shakalis is a Director at FirstService Williams Real Estate  
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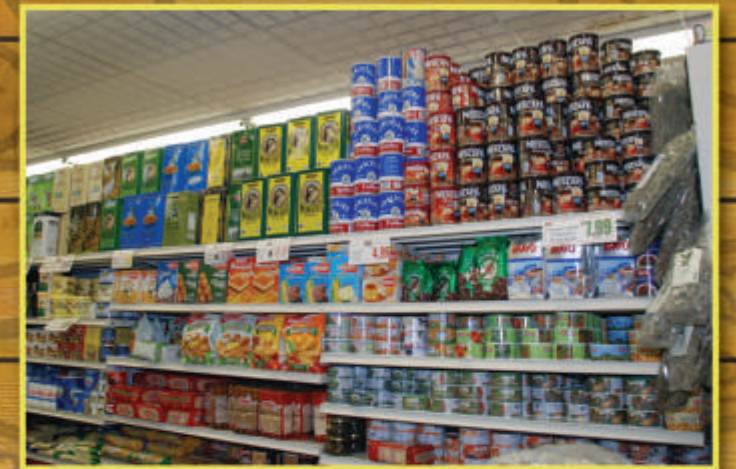
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*Pan Seared  
Lamb Chops  
with Apricot  
Pistachio  
Couscous*



*Cook time: 35 minutes  
Serves: 4*

Christos Anesti! Christ has risen! Lent is over, Easter is finally here and that means its time for lamb! Greek Easter tradition calls for roasting lamb whole on a spit over wood charcoal for 4 to 5 hours. Although this produces possibly the tastiest lamb you will ever eat, the process is very intricate and labor intensive. A succulent and healthier alternative to having lamb the traditional way, are lamb loin or rib chops. Lamb chops are not difficult to prepare or cook and can easily be found in your local grocery store.

Lamb tastes wonderful when it is simply cooked, since the meat is flavorful enough on its own. Try this Greek themed with a twist lamb and couscous recipe for Easter this year or on any other spring night. The apricot pistachio couscous is made with Israeli couscous, also called pearl, which is larger than it's common form and will absorb more flavor resulting in a creamy and rich dish. It also compliments the lamb perfectly and tastes excellent served cold, which makes for fabulous leftovers!

This easy yet impressive meal is ideal if you are hosting Easter, since it will enable you to spend more time with your guests and less time in the kitchen!

*Lamb  
Chops*



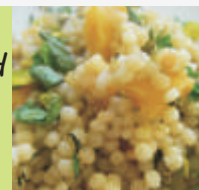
**Preparation:**

1. In a small bowl, combine 3 tablespoons olive oil, garlic and thyme to make a paste. Rub paste over both sides of the lamb chops and refrigerate covered for at least 30 minutes or up to 1 hour.
2. Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Season lamb chops with salt and pepper. Add lamb to skillet and sear for 5 minutes on each side or until desired doneness. It is important to never crowd the pan, putting too many lamb chops in at the same time will cause them to steam.
3. Transfer lamb to plate and cover loosely with foil until couscous is ready.

**Ingredients:**

- 8 lamb loin or rib chops, trimmed of any excess fat
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Sprigs of fresh thyme for garnish (optional)

*Apricot and  
Pistachio  
Couscous*



**Preparation:**

1. Heat 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil in a large sauce pan over medium-high heat. Add the shallot and sauté until translucent.
2. Add couscous and stir constantly for 3 to 5 minutes or until lightly toasted.
3. Add water and cinnamon stick. Bring mixture to a boil.
4. Reduce heat to low and add apricots. Cover and simmer for 10 to 15 minutes or until water is absorbed.
5. Remove pot from heat and let stand for 5 minutes. Uncover, remove cinnamon stick and mix in pistachios, lemon juice and season with salt and pepper.
6. Fluff couscous with a fork. Garnish with mint, lemon zest and serve with the lamb.

This mouth-watering spring meal must be paired with a full-bodied and juicy red wine such as a fruitful Bordeaux with balanced tannins. Lamb is a hearty meat and needs an equally strong wine.

**Kali Orexi!!**

*Did you know that lamb is very lean, with fewer than 175 calories per 3 ounce serving?*

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Keynote Speaker Clay Maitland



The host, Nicolas Bornozis, President of Capital Link



Panelists Nikolas Tsakos and Peter Evensen



Consul General of Greece to New York Aghi Balta with guests at the forum

PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

## Annual Shipping Forum in New York by Capital Link



Conference participants

New York based Capital Link held recently its 4th Annual Invest in International Shipping Forum at the city's Metropolitan Club. The Forum marked a record breaking attendance of over 900 participants. Capital Link is organizing on an annual basis Shipping Forums in New York, London, and Athens that bring together influential C-level executives of US and foreign listed shipping companies, analysts, commercial and investment bankers, industry participants and investors. The Shipping Forums in New York and London are primarily focused on the global investment community, attracting large numbers of institutional investors, financial planners, financial advisors, private bankers, securities analysts, retail & institutional brokers and financial press & media.

This time the forum examined the macroeconomic issues that are shaping international shipping, provided investors with a comprehensive review and outlook of the various shipping markets through a series of company presentations and panel discussions and addressed topics of critical importance for shipping today, such as access to capital for survival and growth, pure-play versus diversified fleets, vessel recycling, the value of classification to financial institutions and owners, etc.

Capital Link's President Mr. Nicolas Bornozis outlined the firm's commitment to serving as a link between investors and shipping globally and highlighted the evolution and the key role of the Capital Link Shipping Forums and Webinars in the industry. The New York Shipping Forum in particular, which is in its 4th year, has been established as a major event for the industry.

The Luncheon keynote speaker, Mr. Clay Maitland, Managing Partner, International Registries, Founding Chairman of NAMEPA (North American Marine Environment Protection Association) addressed the audience on "Forecasting the Future: Shipping and Financial Markets." In his keynote speech, Mr. Maitland stated that "we should bear in mind that while Chinese construction contracts are being 'cancelled,' there is a time when the word cancelled should not be taken literally. Many if not most of these ships will probably be built, and delivered to Chinese owners. These may then be sold on to other purchasers, and may or may not be maintained in accordance with the highest standards. We also need to ask whether these ships will be built in accordance with the standards of the International Association of Classification Societies. There is no way of knowing this at the present time. So the oversupply of tonnage can have a major impact on quality, and safety."

Capital Link is a New York-based Advisory, Investor Relations and Financial Communications firm. Over the years it has the largest provider of Investor Relations and Financial Communications services to international shipping companies listed on the US and European Exchanges. Capital Link's headquarters are in New York with a presence in London and Athens.

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AN ENDOWMENT FOR ORTHODOXY & HELLENISM

## Best Wishes for a Blessed and Joyous Pascha

From  
The Founders of Faith:  
An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism

The core mission of FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism is to promote Hellenism and an understanding of the Greek Orthodox faith through a series of high quality educational programs and cultural initiatives through an endowment for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

This Spring, the Founders of FAITH are pleased to announce the continuation and expansion of their annual scholarship programs through the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America:

1. **FAITH Scholarships for Academic Excellence** – A series of merit-based and need-based scholarships awarded to graduating high school seniors for their university studies
2. **FAITH Ionian Village Travel Scholarships** – A series of need-based scholarships awarded to young people who wish to participate in the Ionian Village Summer Camp
3. **FAITH St. John Chrysostom Festival Scholarship Awards** – A series of scholarships awarded to the top ranked festival participants
4. **FAITH sponsored US-Greece Fulbright Scholarships** – Scholarship opportunities for graduate students and/or professional scholars/lecturers to travel to Greece for research

For more information about these programs and the application process, please visit the FAITH website: [www.faihtendowment.org](http://www.faihtendowment.org)



Oratorical Festival participants with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago and Rev. Fr. Demetrios Andrews

By R. Dorothy Poli

The Archdiocese St. John Chrysostom National Oratorical Festival will be hosted, for the first time in its 27-year history, at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City on June 4-6, 2010. During the Festival weekend, the Greek Orthodox national teenage finalists and their families will participate in a program of activities that will be organized by the Cathedral National Oratorical Festival Committee, co-chaired by the Cathedral Dean, Fr. Frank, and Presvytera Haidee Marangos. The program will begin with a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the Cathedral on Friday evening. The Oratorical Festival will be held in the Cathedral on Saturday morning with an Awards Luncheon to follow in the Cathedral ballroom. A tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Byzantine and Greek Galleries is being arranged for Saturday afternoon. A Dinner Dance is planned for Saturday evening at a prominent Manhattan venue. The weekend will come to a close on Sunday with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy officiated by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America. The Festival and Awards Luncheon on Saturday morning/afternoon and the evening dinner are open to all. Tickets for the luncheon and dinner will be sold beginning in May. Proceeds from the ticket sales will be used to fund the many Oratorical Festival expenses and, any excess funds collected, will assist in providing scholarships and savings bonds to the finalists through the Oratorical Festival Scholarship Foundation.

The Festival is named after one of our most honored and beloved Church Fathers and Patriarchs, St. John Chrysostom. As a brilliant orator, he earned the title, Chrysostomos, "golden mouth," because of his dynamic and bold preaching and eloquent public speaking. With St. John Chrysostom as a model for

## Greek Orthodox Oratorical Festival to be held in New York

inspiration, Greek Orthodox teenagers, representing each Archdiocese Metropolis throughout the country, are called to participate in the Oratorical Festival by composing and presenting their oration on a selected topic, chosen from a list of topics pertaining to Orthodoxy. The Oratorical Festival provides teenagers the opportunity to learn, write and speak about their Orthodox Faith, Church and Heritage. This strengthens their understanding and appreciation of their heritage and identity as Greek Orthodox Christians and cultivates their spiritual growth and maturity. The overall program is called an Oratorical Festival rather than a contest to minimize the competitive spirit and emphasize a joyful learning experience.

The Oratorical Festival is sponsored by the Department of Religious Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and is divided into two teenage divisions: Junior (7 to 9th Grades) and Senior (10 to 12th grades). The program begins at the parish level. The top speakers in each division advance to their District level and, if selected, become one of two finalists in their division to represent their District at their Metropolis Oratorical Festival. The top speaker in each division is then selected to participate in the Archdiocese Finals, which is hosted each year on a rotational basis by any one Metropolis of the nine in the Archdiocese. All 18 finalists at the Archdiocese Finals deliver their speeches on Saturday morning of the Festival weekend. The top three place finalists in each division are awarded scholarships in the amounts of \$2,000, \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively. In addition, all other finalists receive a rank of Honorable Mention and are awarded a \$500 United States Savings Bond.

The speakers choose their topic from a list developed by the Archdiocese National Festival co-chairpersons in conjunction with the Department of Religious Education. Speakers are encouraged to research their chosen topic from a bibliography of various Orthodox theological books and resources that are provided. They are mentored by volunteers, typically prior speakers or members of their university debate clubs. Judges are also usually chosen from this pool. This year's topics include: "Present some teachings of the Orthodox Church that support environmental protection and explain how it should be practiced today"; "

What is the Christian understanding of friendship and how do social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace help or hinder true friendship?"; "Explain the meaning of the Icon of the Resurrection where Christ is portrayed as lifting up Adam and Eve"; "Talk about the significance of Psalm 23: The earth is the Lord's, and its fullness"; "Explain why human virtue is something truly heroic and divine, especially in our days and in our world."

Individuals wishing to underwrite or donate to the Oratorical Festival weekend expenses and the Oratorical Festival Scholarship Foundation may forward their donations, payable to the Holy Trinity Cathedral, to the attention of: Oratorical Festival, Holy Trinity Cathedral, 319 East 74th Street, New York, NY 10021.

As our youth are the future of Orthodoxy and Hellenism in America, it is imperative to provide for their development in becoming our future representatives. Consequently, encouraging and training them in public speaking skills is important for the many professional paths they will endeavor to pursue and for their future participation in public forums relating to Orthodoxy and Hellenism.

For more information on this year's Festival, please contact the committee Co-chairs, Fr. Frank or Presvytera Haidee Marangos at 212-288-3215 or visit <http://www.thecathedralnyc.org/>. For general information on the Festival, please visit <http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religious/sjcof>



Oratorical Festival participants, their families and hosts enjoying a boat cruise on the Mississippi River



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The Atlantica Cruise Ship



Sunday Lempesis and Father George Papadeas share a lively moment on the Ocala church fund-raising cruise. Said Father George, "I love the spirit of the cruise"

Musician Nick Trivelas, leader of the "A Night in Athens Trio," takes some time out aboard the "Opa" cruise. Trivelas and his group set everyone dancing nightly



Dr. Kyriakos (Cary) Pantazis, and his wife, Ellen, organizers of the "Opa" cruise enjoy dinner aboard the Costa Atlantica. At their left, Hope Mihalap, noted humorist who scored a hit with her stand-up comedy act, "It's Greek to Us"

## "Opa" Caribbean Cruise Raises Funds to Build New Church

By Penelope Karageorge

In February, more than 300 Greek-Americans brought their own special kefi to a seven-day Caribbean cruise aboard the Costa Atlantica, dancing, dining, meeting and greeting, while reinforcing their Hellenic heritage. This was the "Opa" cruise, now in its fourth year, originally created as a fund-raiser to build a church in Ocala, Fla., and spear-headed by Ellen Pantazis, and her husband, Dr. Cary Pantazis, a pathologist and head of the Ocala Parish Council.

In the spirit of Odysseus, Greeks danced the nights away despite an occasionally tilting dance floor from a brief storm that kept the ship from landing at the Grand Cayman Islands. Providing the spiritual impetus, the amazing Father George Papadeas, 92, led a prayer service every morning. A resident of West Daytona, Fla., Father George drives 90 miles to Ocala weekly to conduct Bible Study at the Pantazis home, and perform the liturgy on Sunday. Currently the Orthodox congregate in a Catholic chapel, but the Ocala church is expected to open later in the spring.

"The intention of the cruise was of course, to raise money for the new Ocala church," says Mrs. Pantazis. "But when we become a church in Ocala, we still want to continue with this. What we want to do is give to other missions in the USA and keep Orthodoxy spreading."

Twenty-seven states were represented on board, with "Opa" voyagers from places as far-flung as Canada and Texas. Many were repeat cruise-goers who had taken all four trips.

Says Father George: "The spirit that prevails on this cruise is something special. It makes you feel good. Enthusiasm is a Greek word which comes from entheos, meaning 'from God.' We thrive on that."

Dino Smiros of Syosset, L.I., on board with his wife Mary, commented: "It was special - kind of a big para. We really enjoyed it!" Helen King of Madison, N.J., said: "I'm ready to sign up for the next cruise. I loved the variety, the people, the Greek aspect, and the cosmopolitan feeling of the ship."

The "Opa" cruise functioned within the larger context of the Costa Atlantica, an extravaganza of twelve passenger decks, each named after movies directed by the famous Italian director, Frederico Fellini. Cararra marble, Murano-glass accents, and in-laid mosaic tile created a beautiful ship and atmosphere.

All of the events and resources of the Costa Atlantica ship were available to "Opa" travelers, from around the clock food - the chefs did Italian specialties particularly well - to a lively gaming casino, three pools and exceptional entertainment nightly. But Greek events proved the biggest lure.

Says Mrs. Pantazis, who coordinated the cruise program working with Faye Weissblum, President of Travel Group International Inc.: "We tried to provide a cultural experience. Even though we're all Greek or married to a Greek or want to be Greek, we might have forgotten some of the things in our heritage, things we're all proud of. It was a time to come together and share in a lot of our cultural heritage and beliefs. We offered a lot of choices."

Greek films shown included "So You Think You Can Dance," "The 300," and "My Life in Ruins." Lectures topics ranged from "Is Christopher Columbus a Byzantine Prince?" by Dr. Pantazis to "The Legacy of Our Greek American Heritage" by Dr. Dean Loomis.

Father George, who had been pastor of the Cathedral of St. Paul, Hempstead, N.Y., presented a moving discussion about the 50th anniversary of the cathedral's three weeping icons. He is the author of "Why Did She Cry?" and also translated and compiled the invaluable "Greek Orthodox Holy Week & Easter Services."

Entertainer Hope Mihalap, a Greek-American comedienne and inspirational speaker proved a comic boon. The award-winning humorist offered on-target insights into Greek-Americans' special foibles, "It's Greek to Us!"

Greek dancing rocked the boat nightly in the Coral Lounge with "A Night in Athens Trio" featuring Nick Trivelas, Joanna Kartsonis, and possibly the best bouzouki player outside of Athens, George Antonopoulos. For those who wanted to brush up or learn new steps, instructor Maria Johnson met every morning to give lessons.

Faye Weissblum, at the special "Opa" hospitality desk daily, graciously answered questions and assisted travelers. "Opa" cruisers received special blue and white travel bags and travel card holders that made them readily identifiable to fellow voyagers. Embarking from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., the cruise sailed to Key West, Fla., Roatan, Honduras, and Cozumel Mexico. A hundred people have already signed up for next year's cruise. "Opa" Cruise 2011 will sail from Miami in March and visit Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos Islands; Tortola, British Virgin Islands; Catalina Island, Dominican Republic, and Nassau/Paradise Island, Bahamas.

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The Cathedral Fellowship of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity announces the Spring 2010 session of Greek Language classes. The classes will meet for twelve weeks on Tuesday nights. Classes begin April 13, 2010 and will be in meet through June 28, 2010. Classes are taught by excellent teachers and will be offered at beginners and intermediate levels. In the future, the Cathedral Fellowship intends to offer classes in Greek art and Greek history.

For further details, please contact  
Ms. Jeannie Kouros by telephone at: 718-642-5633  
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*Happy Easter/Kalo Pascha  
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*May the resurrected  
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# Happy Easter Καλό Πάσχα

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## HOLY PASCHA: DEFEATING THE DRAGONS OF DEATH

By Rev. Dr. Frank Marangos

A popular story written by the author C.S. Lewis chronicles the sea journey of a crew of children who land on a mysterious island for the purpose of repairing their vessel. Rather than offer his assistance to the others, one child named Eustace sets off by himself in search of personal fortune. During his exploration, the selfish boy discovers a large cave filled with magnificent gems and costly artifacts. He quickly realizes that he has located the secret lair of a dragon. While fearful of the monster's return, the boy is unable to resist the lure of the cave's treasure and, unfortunately, falls asleep atop the jewelry.

A few hours later Eustace awakens to find the dragon sleeping beside him. Frightened, he carefully lifts his leg to escape but notices the creature imitating his every movement. Fearful that the foul-smelling serpent may rouse at any moment, the lad dashes from the cave to the valley below. It is here, while gazing at his image in the waters of a small pond, that the boy realizes the horrible truth. A dragon had not been sleeping next to him! Rather, he had been looking at his own beastly reflection in a mirror. Try as he will, however, Eustace is unable to peel away his newly formed scaly skin. Exhausted and discouraged he weeps. He has become what he fears the most... an ugly dragon!

Pascha, the liturgical celebration of our Lord's glorious Resurrection, centers on the defeat of dragons. In fact, it concerns creation's opportunity to have the scaly skin of its monstrous distortions successfully peeled away. "With his hissing," insists a hymn of the Triodion, "the hateful serpent deceived us, and stripped us of the blessings we had received." While Satan insists that humanity was and remains all too willing to replace "skin for skin," (Job 2:4), good for evil, the Feast of the Resurrection exchanges the dark ugly robe of death with the bright complexion of Christ's holiness.

Numerous prayers and hymns of the Orthodox Church describe Pascha as God's victory over a dragon-like serpent that lies, steals, and constantly seeks to disfigure all of creation. It should, therefore, come as no surprise that an important prayer of the Presanctified Liturgy requested that God grant the faithful the strength to successfully complete the course of the Great Fast by "crushing the heads" of our respective "invisible dragons" through the cultivation of selfless virtues.

Great Lent was, therefore, our opportunity to evaluate the condition of our spiritual image in the clear liturgical mirror of the Church wherein Scriptural stories are masterfully woven to teach important spiritual lessons gleaned from the lives of Old Testament personalities. Some, like the self-centered Eustace in Lewis' parable, were tragically transformed into detestable individuals. Advocating self-centered agendas, the sinful exchanged "skin for skin" and become "dragonesque." Fortunately, through fasting, almsgiving, repentance, and prayer, the faithful are portrayed as those who "put on" Christ much like the prodigal son was clothed with his father's royal robes. Individuals such as these are portrayed as the true heirs of Christ's victory over the serpent's dangerous craftiness.

Long before the development of the Pentateuch and the hymnology of Christian Orthodoxy, the fearful image of the mischievous dragon-serpent was employed in the oral legends of Greek Mythology. The ancient Greeks frequently introduced the beast as the personification of

diverse qualities of self-centeredness and evil. In fact, four specific types of dragon-serpents can be delineated, each with their respective characteristics: (a) serpentine Dracones, (b) marine Cetea, (c) fire-breathing Chimaera, and (d) the she-monster Dracaenae.

The first type of dragon, the serpentine Dracones, was understood as a beast that pilfered physical resources. Once it had them in its monstrous possession, the Dracones hoarded its stolen treasure in a secret lair. Stories such as the "Golden Apples" retrieved by Hercules, and the "Golden Fleece" obtained by Jason and his Argonauts are prime examples of Greek myths that convey the inner desire of humanity to re-obtain an elusive treasure that has somehow been stolen from it in the past.

Holy Scripture completes this partial truth of Greek Mythology by portraying Satan as the culprit that stole the physical resources and gifts that God had actually granted to humanity. While originally intended to be utilized for divine purposes the serpentine dragon deceived Adam and Eve into bartering creation for a piece of fruit, and thereby, replacing the priestly act of stewardship with the unsatisfying urge of selfishness.

The second type of dragon found in Greek Mythology is the marine-based Cetea. Regulated by Poseidon, the Olympian god of the sea, the marine-based Cetea is primarily interested in distorting Truth. A most popular myth of Homer's Odyssey describes how two serpents emerged from the sea and swallowed a priest named Laocoon and his sons who were frantically attempting to warn the citizens of Troy against dragging a wooden horse into their city. Without the guiding ruder of his truth, the Trojans were ultimately destroyed from the inside.

Society is replete with examples of contemporary Ceteas who desire to "swallow" the Truth of Christ and replace it with rudderless views and godless opinions. As a result, like the Trojans, the unsuspecting tragically drag dangerous distortions into their minds only to one day wake to spiritual occupation and death. The question posed to Jesus by Pilate on Holy and Great Friday concerning the existence of Truth is therefore, quite instructive (John 18:38). In the end, however, like Jonah surfacing from the belly of a whale, Christ as Truth emerges from the Cetea's lair of lies!

The third type of mythological dragon is the fire-breathing Chimaera. Portrayed as a frightening composite of various animal body parts, the Chimaera seeks to create disunity. This particular monster is thus fond of tormenting nations, villages, families and couples with attitudes of dissension. The dragon-slaying myth of Perseus and Andromeda best illustrate the importance of liberating those that are so enslaved through the re-establishment of harmonious relationships.

Pascha is the Great Feast of the Eucharistic community whose Agape Meal replaces the rupture of betrayal with the bond of peace and forgiveness! The Resurrection introduces an Eternal Perseus who liberates the Andromedas of history by slaying the Chimaeras of discord with love. "Let us love all that have wronged us," exhorts Saint John Chrysostom in his Paschal message, "for Forgiveness has Risen from the grave!"

The fourth and final category of the dragon found

in Greek Mythology is the she-monster Dracaenae. Unlike the Chimaera, the Dracaenae is a revolting hybrid of animal and human limbs. The ancient Greeks considered it an image of the deformity of "Self." The nine-headed hydra destroyed by Hercules exemplifies the chaos-creating vices of the Dracaenae's nature: (a) sexual promiscuity, (b) comfort, (c) avarice, (d) fear, (e) hatred, (f) power, (g) pride, (h) arrogance, and (i) cruelty.

Satan is intent on using such vices to deform the image and likeness of God in man. From the very beginning of creation, evil relentlessly pursues the embezzlement of personhood – the most valuable of birthrights. "Long ago," insists a hymn of the Lenten season, "the crafty serpent envied my honor and whispered deceit in the ear of Eve." Apart from His victory over death, Christ is therefore described as the One who "reclathes" humanity in the nobility of His "garments of light and incorruption." Described as one of Hercules' Twelve Labors, the severing of each of the hydra's heads has long been understood as a harbinger of Christ's actual liberation of humanity's spiritual personhood. As such, the Resurrection releases "prisoners" and heals "every part" of mankind's inner disfigurement.

The icon of the Holy Resurrection masterfully portrays the destruction of each of the four types of dragons described in the parables of Greek Mythology. The icon portrays the Risen Lord emerging from the cave of death while standing on the back of a shackled image of Satan. Reminiscent of God's proto-evangelical promise to Eve (Genesis 3:15) the Apolytikion of the Resurrection specifies that the Risen Lord has defeated Satan, by "trampling" upon him as upon a poisonous serpent. Through this victory over death four critical liberations are commemorated. First, the physical stewardship of creation is returned to mankind as sacrament. Second, Truth as Person is released from the belly of falsehood. Third, relationships are re-established through love and forgiveness. And finally, the Holy Resurrection eliminates the sinful skin of the dragon from humanity's body and in its place, re-establishes mankind's God-created image.

In his parable about children for adults, Lewis describes the painful yet futile attempts of Eustace to desperately remove the skin of the dragon from his youthful limbs. In the end, he must submit to a Lion named Aslan who, as an image of Christ, removes the serpentine skin with his sharp claws. "The very first tare was so deep," the boy exclaims, "that I thought that it had gone right into my heart! It hurt more than anything I had ever felt. The only thing that made it bearable was the pleasure of feeling like a boy again!" Unable to shed his dragon skin himself, Eustace submits to the fierce claws of Aslan and is reborn!

Pascha, the celebration of the holy Resurrection, commemorates the Lordship of a Lion who came to defeat the dragons of death so that we may be released from the bondage of sin! Indeed, by faithfully submitting to Jesus' loving authority we are healed, liberated, re-imaged, and restored to our comrades! We are, in a word... reborn!

Rev. Dr. Frank Marangos is the Dean of the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Saint John's University (NY). Please visit <http://www.thecathedral.goarch.org> to view the on-line sermon that inspired this article.

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The south coast of Lefkas is a jigsaw of long inlets and sheltered harbours and beaches nestling beneath the pine carpeted hills. To the east is Sivota, a favourite port of call for yachting flotillas and, in the west Vassiliki, host to the world windsurfing championships. Beyond Vassiliki is the wild, windswept peninsula that ends at Cape Lefkas. A good road runs down the east coast to provide easy access but the south-west resorts are more tricky as the roads get steadily worse as you head south.

Wilder and windier than the east, the west coast has the island's best beaches. Much tamer in the north-west, they get progressively wilder as you head south. The reward for those that tackle the narrow hairpins of the west coast road of Lefkas are staggering views from the cliffs and breathtaking beaches below that many rank as among some of the best in the Mediterranean.

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# Greek Americans come together to save a museum in Greece



From left, Michael Halikias, Congressman Anthony Weiner, Dr. George Papathanasopoulos, Iro Nikolakea, Alice Halikias and Dimitris Filios



Dr. George Tsioulis (3rd from left), President of the Hellenic Medical Society, with friends at the event



Dr. George Papathanasopoulos, Iro Nikolakea, US Senator Charles Schumer and Alice Halikias



From left, Nikos Maris, Peter Douskalis, a friend, and Chris Orfanakos



Alice Halikias, Iro Nikolakea, Dr. George Papathanasopoulos, Ted & Erica Spyropoulos



Brotherhood of Mani members. Top row, Nickos Flouskakos, Sotiria Orfanakou, Chris Orfanakos, Thanasis Mourkakos, Nichos Christakos, Dr. George Papathanasopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Takos and Giannis Flouskakos. Sitting, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Christakos and Mrs. Flouskakou



Maria Orfanakos and Ria Bageorgos



Maria Kokodj, Larisa Antypa and Joanna Kyriakou



Alexandros Malaos, Larisa Antypa, Michael Halikias, Dr. George Papathanasopoulos, Elias & Anna Neofotistos

PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

Michael Halkias, owner of the historic Grand Prospect Hall in Brooklyn, loves history and oftentimes finds himself surfing on the Internet for information on ancient Greece and new discoveries that shed more light on that remarkable phase in human history. Usually, these forays into his ancestors' times and places prove to be a fascinating experience.

However, about two months ago, when he saw online that the Diros Neolithic Studies Institute and its museum in Mani, on the southern tip of Peloponnesus, was about to close down because cuts in public funding due to the economy had resulted in non-payment of its rent, he was appalled. "I felt I had to do something immediately. To me closing down such a significant institution because there is no money to pay the rent, was simply not acceptable."

He took action on the spot and sought the phone number of Dr. George Papathanasopoulos, curator of the institute and director of the Diros excavations, in order to see what could be done. "It didn't take long for me to realize that getting some money for the immediate expenses wasn't a solution to the problem," Mr. Halkias said in an interview with NEO. "Instead of making a donation, I decided to do something bigger, so that more funds could come in and awareness would be spread."

He made more phone calls: to SAE of America Coordinator Ted Spyropoulos, to the President of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York Dimitrios Calamaras, the President of the Hellenic Medical Society Dr. George Tsioulis, the Pan Arcadian Federation President Dimitris Filios, to the Brotherhood of Mani, the Federation of Laconian Societies, and other groups and individuals, with the aim to secure donations and organize a Testimonial Dinner for the benefit of the Museum Building.

The response was forthcoming and Mr. Halkias with his wife Alice offered their palace, the Grand Prospect Hall, for the occasion and made an additional donation of \$10,000. The event was an astounding success and more than \$50,000 was raised, giving the Museum enough time to look for more donors and ways to secure its presence.

US Senator Charles Schumer and Congressman Anthony Weiner also showed

up and addressed the over-250 participants. "Greek culture is not just the center of our ways of thinking, it is our very way of being," Senator Schumer said. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and Mayor Michael Bloomberg, along with various leaders from New York City issued proclamations saluting the occasion.

SAE of USA Coordinator Ted Spyropoulos travelled all the way from Chicago to participate "in such an important fundraiser." In an interview with NEO, he said that when times are tough for Greece "we can only do what we can to help and keep criticism or hard feelings for later. Especially when our heritage is at stake, as the case is with the Diros Neolithic Studies Institute."

Christos Orphanakos, former President of the Brotherhood of Mani, coordinated the various societies and, addressing the participants, expressed his heartfelt thanks for their support.

When his turn came, thanks and his gratitude to all who made the event possible were expressed by archaeologist George Papathanasopoulos, with whom Mr. Halkias had the original conversation when he saw the Museum's SOS on the Internet. "What they have done is a great service to our heritage and to humanity in general," Dr. Papathanasopoulos said in an interview with NEO. "Of course, the struggle is not going to stop and we need more help to secure the Museum. It is my dream to be able to see it

financially sound and to be able to hire a younger director to continue the work." Archaeologist Papathanasopoulos of many-years fame with the Athens Acropolis Museum, for some time the head of the archaeological sub-aquatic explorations with the legendary Sea Explorer Jacques Yves Cousteau, has been the explorer of the largest European Prehistoric Caves located at Diros, in Mani. Presently Mr. Papathanasopoulos continues his work with the Diros Neolithic Studies Institute, while minding the future explorations at the Alepotrypa Caves, with their 8000-year-old exciting prehistoric findings of a thriving, fully civilized community; all that amongst the many other archaeological discoveries and scholarly publications related to the Aegean Proto-Hellenic Civilization, the Mycenaean Palaces of King Nestor at Pylos, and the Minoan civilizations on the island of Crete. Diros Neolithic Museum contains exclusively objects from a single geographical and cultural unit. The basic objectives of the exhibition are to facilitate communication between visitors and the exhibits, and an understanding of each object within the overall group so as to make it easy for visitors to form an idea of the life of the Neolithic community.

To contact Dr. Papathanasopoulos his email is [gpathanasopoulos@yahoo.gr](mailto:gpathanasopoulos@yahoo.gr)

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Literary Luncheon Committee



From left, Rev. Dimitrios and Presbytera Maria Antokas, Authors Stefan Fatsis, George Pelecanos and George Tenet, Robyn Andris, Author Nick Katsoris and Leon Andris

## LITERARY LUNCHEON FEATURING NOTED GREEK-AMERICAN AUTHORS



Literary Luncheon Co-Chairs - Presbytera Maria Antokas and Robyn Andris



Author George Tenet with Mike Emanuel, White House Correspondent at Fox News Channel and Literary Luncheon Master of Ceremonies

The Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, in Bethesda, Maryland, hosted recently its first literary luncheon, In Their Own Words, at the Bethesda Country Club. The luncheon featured four prominent Greek-American authors who reflected on their craft, George Tenet, George Pelecanos, Stefan Fatsis, and Nick Katsoris.

"This inaugural literary luncheon begins a tradition of exploring our rich cultural heritage as a means of sustaining our Church's good works," said Fr. Dimitrios Antokas, St. George's Presiding Priest. "Appreciating the power of these authors' words reminds us as a parish of the power and great mercy of the Eternal Word in whose name we reach out to all."

Designed as a major fundraising event for the Church, the proceeds will support the many ministries of St. George, both to its members and to those outside the parish who have a variety of needs. The parish has some 20 different ministries that serve the faith community and a variety of groups such as senior citizens, the homeless and hungry at local shelters, children, young adults, those needing financial assistance, the infirmed and shut-ins, and those who need pastoral counseling.

More info on the St. George Parish and its activities can be found at [www.stgeorge.org](http://www.stgeorge.org)

## George K. Chimples In Memoriam

George K. Chimples, a Founding Member of Leadership 100 and its Co-Chairman from the inception of the organization in 1984 to 1996, died after a long illness on Saturday, March 13, 2010. He was 91 years of age. Chimples who one can safely assert, epitomized the American dream, was a noted philanthropist, business entrepreneur, and leader in the Greek Orthodox Church, Leadership 100 and the Greek Community. He was born in Kardamyla on the island of Chios in Greece, was graduated from the gymnasium in Chios and the Merchant Marine Academy in Piraeus.

A Greek Merchant Marine officer for seven years, he joined the Royal Greek Navy in 1943, serving as an officer and participating in the Allied invasion of Normandy under General Dwight Eisenhower. After having immigrated to the United States, studying business administration and establishing himself as a successful business leader, he was among 22 guests invited to a breakfast meeting in Cleveland with President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956. He was founder and former CEO of AMAC Enterprises, Inc., a metal finishing company, mega systems, an electronics manufacturing firm, and Dean Land Company and a founding director of Commerce Exchange Bank. Elevated to Archon Megas Primikiriotes at SS. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Cleveland in 1957, Chimples was noted for his extraordinary leadership of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Finance Committee, for which he served as Chairman for many years. He was credited with the establishment of the LOGOS program and with the idea of forming the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, Inc. He was also a member of the Archdiocesan Council and of its Executive Committee where he served with distinction for many years.



George Chimples is credited with the idea of starting L100. Here with his wife Janet Chimples and the late Archbishop Iakovos at a L100 conference

A proud member and benefactor of SS. Constantine and Helen, where he served as Trustee, President, Vice President and Chairman of the Board of Education and Building Fund, he also supported the St. Basil Academy and St. Michael's Home, the United Hellenic American Congress, and Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology where he established a scholarship fund. He was also an active member of the Chios Society, a long-time member of AHEPA, founder of the Kardamylian Foundation and founding President of the United Hellenic Communities of Greater Cleveland. A resident of Lyndhurst, Ohio, he leaves his wife, Janet W., his daughters, Eugenia Hasiotis, who serves on the Executive Committee of Leadership 100, and Christine Anzo, his sons, Constantine and Thomas and eight grandchildren.

Archbishop Demetrios of America presided at the funeral at SS. Constantine and Helen. Contributions may be made in his memory to SS. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral Endowment Fund or the George K. Chimples Scholarship Fund at Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology.

## "Hail to the Cheat":

### a new political novel by Ted Venetoulis

Long time political activist and television commentator Ted Venetoulis has released a new novel, Hail to the Cheat, an amusing political satire that turns the Washington scene upside down when the First Lady kicks her unfaithful husband and President of the United States out of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

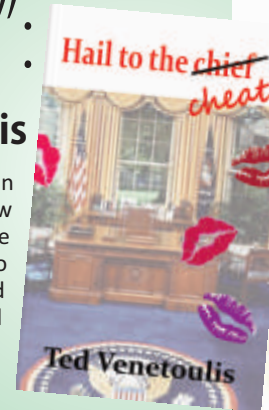
"A historic first," says Dave Barlow of Wandering Sage Publishing. "A First Lady who chooses not to stand by her husband, but to stand up for her dignity and then her country. Full of twists and turns, a White House filled with cronies, chicanery and a gang of First Ladies past. An amusing, but not far-fetched spoof of American politics with an ending unlike any in the long annals of the affairs of state."

Hail to the Cheat is available at [hailtothecheat.com](http://hailtothecheat.com), [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), and at local book stores.

Ted Venetoulis' impressive political resume includes having served on Capitol Hill as a congressional aide, in campaigns for local and national candidates including John and Robert Kennedy, and as Baltimore County

Executive, a position held by Spiro Agnew before he became vice president. He was also a Maryland gubernatorial candidate in 1978. Venetoulis previously hosted an award-winning television news magazine, Edition Eleven, and authored The House Shall Choose, which chronicles the two elections determined by the House of Representatives.

Venetoulis currently serves as Chairman and CEO of Corridor Media, Inc., a regional business and political news magazine serving the Baltimore Washington corridor. He has taught courses on politics and the media at Johns Hopkins University and Goucher College. He has been the leader of efforts to return the Baltimore Sun to local ownership and is recognized nationally for his knowledge of the various approaches to restructuring and salvaging the newspaper industry.



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diligent efforts to treat patients with hereditary colon cancer and polyposis syndromes. Regarding the event, Dr. Markowitz proclaimed: "It is a privilege to be honored this year by the De Rosa Foundation for Colon Cancer Research and Prevention. It is through the dedication and tireless efforts, spearheaded by Kathy Constantopes De Rosa that we come one step closer to finding a cure for colon cancer." He went on to say that the recent event "represents the Foundation's ongoing determination and vision, which we hope will continue until colon cancer becomes a disease of the past."

for guests. This year the foundation raised over \$150,000, which will go towards the efforts of Memorial Sloan-Kettering to prevent, cure, and, eventually, eradicate colon cancer.

For more information about the De Rosa Foundation call Kathy Constantopes De Rosa @ (516) 365-6754 or email at [derosak1@optonline.net](mailto:derosak1@optonline.net).



(L-R) Stacey Pappas, VP, Dr. Jose Guillem (Director of colorectal registry at MSKCC) Kathy De Rosa (Pres/Founder), Vivian Tsoumas (Co-Chair) and Dr. Arnold Markowitz (Honoree)



De Rosa family, Kathy, Anthony and kids: Paul & Julia

## De Rosa Foundation's Annual Gala a Great Success

By Georgia Deplas

The prevention of and education about colon cancer were goals in mind during the third annual dinner gala held by the De Rosa Foundation for Colon Cancer Research and Prevention at Ohka Castle in Huntington, New York. On March 19th, 2010, a sold-out crowd was present to honor Dr. Arnold J. Markowitz, an attending gastroenterologist with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in New York.

Dr. Markowitz is an expert on colon cancer screening and prevention and was recognized by the foundation mainly for his

Kathy Constantopes De Rosa, 42, founded this charity in 2007 following a diagnosis of hyperplastic polyposis syndrome, which would have led to the development of colon cancer if not detected and treated early. With the help of a dedicated team of physicians at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, Mrs. De Rosa was successfully cured of her condition and spared the devastation of cancer. She is now dedicated to raising the awareness and funds necessary to prevent this disease with hopes of contributing to an increase in fortunate cases such as her own. The organization has worked relentlessly over the past three years and will continue to do so for years to come at its annual galas, which include numerous incredible auction items and raffle gifts, along with food and musical entertainment

## Cyprus Federation of America holds National Convention

Peter Papanicolaou, President of the Cyprus Federation of America



PHOTO: ETA PRESS

Washington, Florida and California. The convention's forum allows chapter organizations the opportunity to express and exchange ideas such as the promotion of cultural, educational and social activities of the Cypriot American community. Included on the agenda will be reports of the activities of the CFA member organizations, report of CYCA (the Youth Division of the CFA), the core issues of the "Cyprus Problem", which include the withdrawal of the Turkish occupation forces, the restoration of freedom and the

reunification of the island. The Cyprus Federation of America networks closely with the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE), the International Coordinating Committee "Justice for Cyprus" (PSEKA), the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), the United Hellenic American Congress (UHAC), and the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York.

For more information the phone number is (201) 444-8237 and the e-mail: [cyprusfederation@aol.com](mailto:cyprusfederation@aol.com)

The Cyprus Federation of America, Inc. will hold its 38th National Convention on Saturday, April 17th, 2010 at Terrace on the Park, 5211 11th Street, Corona (Flushing), New York, from 8:30 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. Scheduled to attend and address the delegates are Cyprus Ambassador to Washington, the Honorable Andreas S. Kakouris, and other Dignitaries from Greece and Cyprus.

The Cyprus Federation was founded in 1951 in New York City and currently consists of 25 chapter members located throughout the United States including the Tri-State area, Virginia, Ohio, Chicago,



PHOTO: ETA PRESS

Maria Varianides was last year's honoree at the convention. Here's with Archbishop Demetrios, then Greek Minister of National Defense Vangelis Meimarakis, Ambassador of Cyprus Andreas Kakouris, President of PSEKA Philip Christopher and leaders of the Federation

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# AHEPA honors Louis Arvanitis



Ted Vittas, Sammy Thomas, Phil Vogis, Louis Arvanitis, Bill Harrison, George Horiates, Nick Marioles

Louis Arvanitis, Past Supreme Governor of AHEPA and Regional Director for Districts 5 and 6, was honored earlier the year with a wonderful testimonial at Graycliff in Moonachie, NJ, organized by The Alexander Hamilton Chapter 54 of which he is a long time member and currently its secretary. The night consisted of praising speeches of Mr. Arvanitis' past accomplishments in AHEPA, private quirky moments, and his generous nature towards everyone around him. According to participants who have been in many of the organization's events in New Jersey, it was the most successful testimonial AHEPA has seen. The night did not bore the 200 attendees; there was dancing by all and the Terpsihorian Dance Group as well.

Nothing could seem more perfect for Louis Arvanitis, for family and friends surrounded him the entire night with nothing to say except positive comments on how driven he is, how dedicated he is, and how delicious his food is! Although his testimonial symbolizes the greatest of all his accomplishments, everyone is sure that Louis will still come up with higher standards for the Order of AHEPA.

"I thank my AHEPA brothers and all friends that joined me and my family tonight," an exuberant Louis Arvanitis said. "It's wonderful to be all together, to renew our commitment to AHEPA and its great deeds." He also thanked Anthony Papamarkos, Graycliff's owner, for his support and his contribution to the event's success.



Phil Vogis, Dr. John Grossomanidis, James Polos (speaking), Louis Arvanitis, John Mehos, Father Anargyros Stavropoulos, Ted Constantelis

The Alexander Hamilton Chapter 54 belongs to the John G. Thevos Fifth District which covers New Jersey and Delaware and has 18 chapters.

AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association) was established July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia to battle racism and bigotry spearheaded by the KKK.

Today, it is the largest Greek heritage group in the world and a major community service organization in North America. It has more than 500 local chapters and 26 regional districts. Its central objectives are philanthropy, education, civics and the promotion of Hellenic culture and heritage. AHEPA also works to educate American policy makers and the public on foreign policy issues of concern to Greek Americans.



Louis Arvanitis with his daughter Eleni



Kostas Psarros, Chris Pollatos, Wayne Noon, Theresa Gaffney and Billy Chrissochos  
PHOTO: ALEXANDROS GIANNAKIS III

## Heavy Metal with a Greek Twist

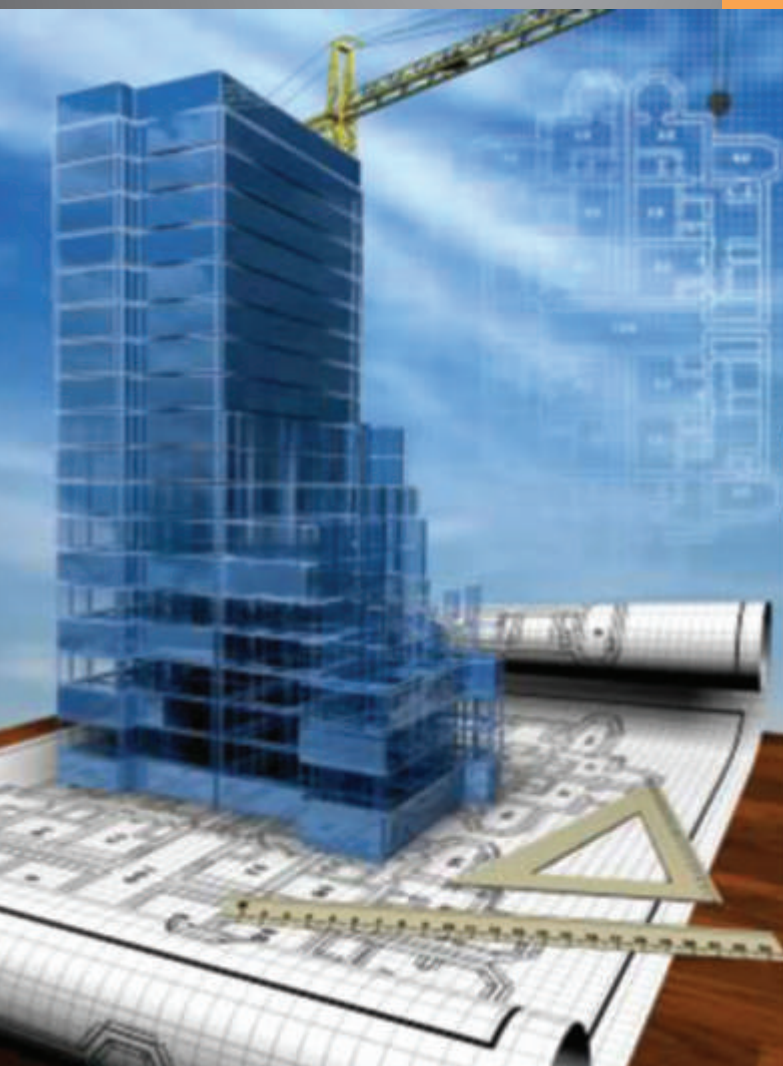
Billy Chrissochos' Greek American Heavy metal group "Phoenix Reign" played to a SOLD OUT crowd recently, at the Blender Theater @ Gramercy. New York locals Billy Chrissochos (guitar), Kostas Psarros (guitar), Chris Pollatos (bass), Wayne Noon (drums) and Theresa Gaffney (singer) opened up for the popular European symphonic, metal group Epica. Being sold out from early in the evening, the 850 capacity crowd loudly cheered as Phoenix Reign rocked out an intensely entertaining show. The set list consisted of popular

tracks from their "Destination Unknown" album as well as other powerful hits. Opening the set was "Transcendent" & "Masquerade Angel" (which is also a single and a music video), followed by the thrashing Myrsina (a song based on a Greek fairy tale). Wrapping up the set the soaring double guitar leads of "End of Our World" and the fan favorite "Run Now".

For those not indoctrinated into the world of Phoenix Reign the band is known to throw into the mix Greek history and

traditional instruments fully evidenced in their acclaimed epic music video "Constantinople 1453-On the Eve of the Fall". See it at [www.blacktuesday1453.com](http://www.blacktuesday1453.com). And you can visit the main site [www.Phoenixreign.com](http://www.Phoenixreign.com) to learn more about the band.

"Phoenix Reign" will be returning to Blender Theater Saturday, May 1st, opening for Viking, folk metal band Tyr. Buy your tickets now from their website.



38-08 43rd Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11104

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president

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# Greeks in NY & NJ for Senator Raptakis



Bob Nicolaidis, Eleftheria Ikouta, Thomas Kostopoulos, Senator Lou Raptakis, Sakis Karakitsos, Dimitrios Tzoannos, Stella Kokolis and George Coclin



Sakis Karakitsos, Senator Lou Raptakis, Thomas Kostopoulos and Dimitrios Tzoannos

State Senator Leonidas "Lou" Raptakis was recently hosted in New York and New Jersey at two fundraiser receptions organized by Greek Americans in support of his campaign for Rhode Island Secretary of State. The first event took place at Manhattan's Kellari Taverna and the second at Town & Country Hall in Bordertown, New Jersey.

Raptakis, a small-business owner from Coventry, is Rhode Island's first Greek American State Senator and the first Greek American to run for Secretary of State. He has so far served two terms in the State Assembly and seven in the State Senate. He has also supported issues of paramount importance for the Greek American community in the legislature, promoting resolutions on behalf of Cyprus and the Pontian genocide, the Hellenic identity of Macedonia and lobbying the government to include Greece on the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.

"As Secretary of State, I am going to be a watchdog for our citizens," Raptakis said. "I will push the General Assembly to follow their own rules and to follow the Open Meetings Law which local Town Councils and School Committees are required to follow. I will call them out when they don't follow the rules. And if that doesn't change their behavior, I will take them to court. And if that doesn't work, I will push to put a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot to make sure that the people making the laws of our state are required to respect the law themselves."

Rhode Island will hold primary elections on September 14, ahead of general elections on November 2.

Per Rhode Island State Law, individuals may contribute a maximum of \$1,000 per year. Business and corporate checks are prohibited. Secure online donations can also be made at: [www.raptakis2010.com](http://www.raptakis2010.com).

For more information, contact Erin Arcand at (401) 397-2720, or at [erin@raptakis2010.com](mailto:erin@raptakis2010.com)

NEO magazine has already endorsed Lou Raptakis for Rhode Island Secretary of State.



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## European Union as pigsty: SWINE v PIGS etc.

Christos Aneste—Chronia Polla!

On behalf of all of us in NEO, I want to express our sincere thanks to those of you who once more stepped up to the plate and actively supported the magazine by placing one or more ads in this special April edition. Although it was tougher in comparison with the previous four years, this time we had a record number of ad pages, which enables us to secure publishing in the "slower" months of summer. Needless to say, the struggle doesn't end here, but we have every reason to pause, take a deep breath and feel happy about this not so minor accomplishment, and to renew our commitment to offering you a constantly improving and evolving publication.

Having said that, I regret that the abundance of ads doesn't leave me much space to respond as I would like to those pundits who so pathologically and pathetically have been bashing Greece these last few months! But what can we do, all good things come with a price!

First of all, no one in his right mind can deny that Greece has many flaws: tax evasion, corruption and chronic mismanagement are rampant, while productivity (with the exception of popular music "Eurovision-style") is as low as ...her growth rate (projected -4% this year - a major recession). In the state-owned and run Hospital of Evangelismos there are four main door ...operators—and the door is automatic! At the same hospital, about 15 people are employed as elevator operators (and there aren't even many Orthodox Jews there requiring Sabbath service). Again, the elevators are automatic. The funnier thing is that since these individuals were employed to drive elevators, they refuse to do anything else, and as a result, the hospital is understaffed in other sectors! Just some small but indicative examples that help shed light on the bigger picture.

However, given all that and much more that's going on, one cannot justify the intensity and the impossible to hide hatred behind the barrage of negative statements unleashed in the northern European media—in which even government officials participated with gusto. What "poor" (with rich inhabitants) Greece has experienced in the last five months amounts to a public lynching - a favorite practice employed until not too long ago by most northern European peoples. How very indicative of their

neo-barbarian roots! In the history books, northern European tribes that formed today's nations, especially the Germans, are called neo-barbarians as differentiated from the older barbarians, such as the Phrygians, Thracians, Lydians etc. The term neo barbarian is an invention by historians in order to protect the reputation of the original barbarians who were not that barbarian after all! To clarify: it's like when we say ..."conservatives" and "neo conservatives," there is a big difference between the two.

But before you rush to accuse me of racism, let me remind you that a reputable (?) English historian, Simon Schama, speaking recently on none other than CNN, cited anthropology and meteorology in order to conclude that people who live in warmer climates have developed (in their DNA, I suppose) a natural laziness and tendency to corruption which the current Greek crisis illustrates as an equally ...natural consequence! And that was only one in hundreds of remarks by other less ...reputable commentators that reached a similar ...caliber. Besides, echoing Professor Schama's brilliant conclusion, actually as a precursor to it, for sometime now, the British press has been using the acronym PIGS when referring to Portugal, Italy, Greece and Spain, the countries whose peoples appear to suffer from this DNA anomaly! Good thing that an Irishman, Mr. A.W. Lally Herbert, a newspaper reader, coined the term SWINE to include Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, England (how can you not love the Irish?) The British should know better because one of their own, George Orwell, wrote the classic book "Animal Farm" and the pig that features prominently in it doesn't look or sound Portuguese, Italian, Spanish or Greek!

Well, I've used most of my space and didn't even pick on Germans. Maybe I'll devote another commentary entirely to them. Led by Chancellor Angela Merkel, the anti-Greek sentiment in Germany has trickled down to the average people who faithful to their DNA tendency (?) gathered behind their leader, as they did when Hitler was the boss, and started blaming Greece for everything. In polls conducted in February about 70% demanded that Greece be ...punished! The noise subsided somehow when some cooler minded economists pointed out that Greece is Germany's number one customer when it comes to military equipment (and the



Germany for long is considered Europe's milk cow. Chancellor Angela Merkel sought to prove it!

Porsche Cayenne for that matter - Greece has more than any other Eurozone country, with the exception of Germany that makes them!) Overall, Deutschland Uber Alles has gained more in comparison to the support it extended Greece when the latter entered the European Union.

Anyway, like I said earlier, I can't say a lot since space is limited, so I'll conclude with an exotic parable: after Qaddafi, the Libyan dictator (not to be confused with Cavafy, the Greek poet from Alexandria) struggled hard to support terrorists and deliver Pat Robertson-style sermons by the bucket to liberate the Muslim world from the infidels' grip, he delved deep into theology. Recently, he came up with the conclusion that Christ the Messiah, is for Jews only, while Mohammad, since he was the last Prophet (as if God couldn't change his mind and decide to send a few more in the future) is for all people! With a brilliant revelation like this one, I expect Qaddafi to condemn all those Islamist empty-headed fanatics that started burning and killing indiscriminately when a Danish newspaper published a couple of funny cartoons featuring the Prophet! If Mohammad is for everybody, then nobody has exclusivity in speaking for him or protecting his honor. The same goes for Christ and the not so few "Christian" empty-headed fanatics who don't think twice before assuming personal crusades, simply because they can't think ...even once!

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

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Maria S. Slate

# Interview with Drew32



As always, feel free to email me with any questions or suggestions for future interviews: [mapardalis@gmail.com](mailto:mapardalis@gmail.com).

Greek-Americans have been recognized for their accomplishments and immeasurable contributions to the United States in many areas ranging from politics to the arts and music. Talented artists such as the monumental Maria Callas revived classical coloratura roles and former American Idol contestant Constantine Maroulis helped put Greece on the map in the music industry and Broadway. A new dynamic wave of young Greek Americans are now adding Hip Hop to this expanding list. Meet Andrew Parks who goes by Drew32, an 18-year-old Greek-American rhythmic rapper/producer from Troy, Michigan, which is just north of Detroit.

Despite his frenetic schedule, the young rapper took some time out of his crazy day to chat with me.

**MAP: Glad to see a Greek-American making his mark in the world of hip hop! You say you are of Greek American and Cretan descent, Crete is part of Greece, why have you chosen to put an emphasis on this?**

**Drew32:** Because the Kritiki are so damn clannish! Ha-ha. Everyone on the Cretan side of my family calls themselves Cretan, not Greek. It's sort of like the Sicilians in Italy.

**MAP: Your formal last name Parks doesn't sound very Greek. How are you Greek and do you speak the language?**

**Drew32:** My grandfather changed his name from Papistas to Parks to make it easier when the family came to America. No I don't speak that much Greek, but I can understand quite a bit.

**MAP: What inspired you to pursue a career in the music industry and how old were you when you first got your start?**

**Drew32:** I really fell in love with the music making experience after being in a recording studio for the first time when I was about 9 years old. I loved listening to rap on the radio and I realized I had a talent for it when I could rap every word to Lil' Bow Wow's songs.

**MAP: You have said that you are "a rapper first and a singer second". Why rap?**

**Drew32:** Well I guess it's a Greek thing – ancient Greek poets were called "Rhapsodies" so I guess I'm trying to rap like the ancient Greeks. Ha-ha honestly though, rapping is my thing. Singing is just secondary for times when I'm trying to fill a chorus or bridge in a song.

**MAP: What about Greek music, any interest?**

**Drew32:** I like listening to it, but creating it... no. But I actually would like to collaborate with some Greek vocalists because that would be dope!

**MAP: I've read that you have a show that is broadcast from Athens, Greece. Can you tell us more about this? How did you acquire this gig?**

**Drew32:** During the summer of 2008, I traveled to Athens and performed live at a few amazing clubs. While there, I met this guy Panos from Mango Radio Urban who invited me to DJ/Host a show for his online-radio-

station that was the only urban music show in Greece. It was really cool – my show was called "Destination Detroit" and I was trying to spread Detroit hip-hop and rap music to the listeners in Greece.

**MAP: How is school going?**

**Drew32:** Class of 2010! School is great, I'm having a fun senior year. I managed to take all my hard classes junior year so I now only have about 2 classes I need to study for. I've also got about a 3.9 grade point average.

**MAP: Do your classmates treat you differently due to your fame?**

**Drew32:** Classmates don't treat me differently really because they've known me forever, so I'm just a normal kid to them. Shout-outs to Avondale High School! They've been really supportive of my career.

**MAP: Are you planning on attending a college or university?**

**Drew32:** Yeah I'm still debating on whether I want to go to Michigan State University or Oakland University. Either way I want to go into something business-related because I feel it would be a good complement to my music career.

**MAP: Tell us about some of your influences and motivators. Who would you say is your main role model?**

**Drew32:** I'm influenced by many great artists, too many to name. So much good music comes from the Detroit area, it's hard not to be influenced by guys like Eminem and Royce da 5'9" – two of my favorite rappers. My main role models however are my parents.

**MAP: What is a recording session like for you?**

**Drew32:** A recording session with Drew32 is dope! I usually get my inspiration in the late hours of the night, so that's when I'm most musically productive. I start off by making the beat on my computer with Reason and Pro Tools and then record the song myself the next day.

**MAP: That sounds like fun! Take us through a day in your life.**

**Drew32:** Wake up at 6:20, go to school, come home, dinner with the family, work on any homework, talk to friends and girls, then make music the rest of the night!

**MAP: Do you write your own lyrics or do you mostly freestyle?**

**Drew32:** I write all my own lyrics. I mostly write my songs, but when I do occasionally freestyle everything is obviously spontaneous.

**MAP: What is your most memorable performance?**

**Drew32:** The second to last night that I was in Greece in the summer of 2008 I performed live at Akrotiri Boutique in Glyfada, Athens. The club was packed with about 2,500 people – I hopped on stage at about 1 am and performed my first set. I came back on later for my second set and it lasted hours!

**MAP: How many CDs do you have out?**

**Drew32:** I've put out a bunch of material – but currently available for download I have 3 mix tapes available: "Quarter Till Infinity" and "TwitterMania", both hosted by DJ Mo Beatz. My 3rd is called "Who is Drew32?" My new mix tape was released on March 22nd and is hosted by Jersey Shore's DJ Pauly D! That's called "Take the World: Who is Drew32? Mix tape Vol. 2".

**MAP: Do you have any upcoming concerts or events? What about a website?**

**Drew32:** I'm actually going to be performing in late April with Big Sean and Mike Posner. Details TBA.

**MAP: Thank you for your time Drew32 and good luck!**

If you want to learn more about this up and coming Greek-American rapper, check out his website: [www.drew32.com](http://www.drew32.com) and blog: [www.drew32.wordpress.com](http://www.drew32.wordpress.com).



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