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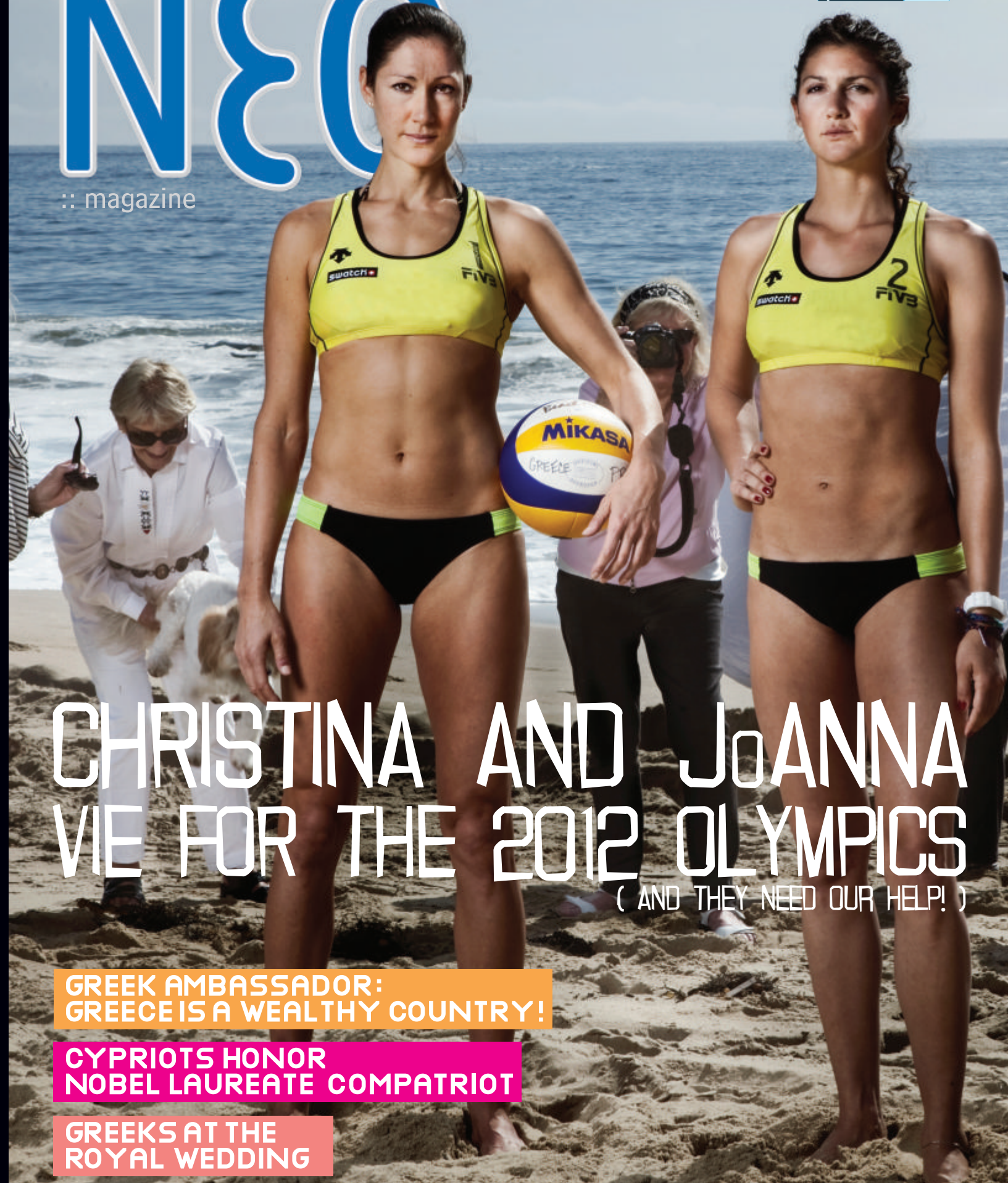
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Christina and JoAnna vie for the 2010 Olympics  
(and they need our help!)

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## To the Zorba in all our lives

We are doing a play about Anthony Quinn and revisiting his life and it strikes me that though he was Mexican/Irish, to every Greek he is at least an honorary Greek, and after Zorba he considered himself an honorary Greek, as well.

Greek, or Mexican/Irish, he shared so much with all of us.

He was born in Mexico to poverty, followed his father to the States after the revolution, lived in the slums of Los Angeles and did every job imaginable to help support the family, from boxing, to picking apricots, to dancing for hire, to playing the sax, to working in a mattress factory, to shining shoes—to drawing for Frank Lloyd Wright and preaching with Aimee Semple McPherson—the great preacher of her time.

That's before he even broke into movies!

And once he broke into movies he started dating the daughter of Cecil B. DeMille—the great producer of his time—and married her and they had five kids together.

Quinn being Quinn, though, he wanted to be Michelangelo, as well as Zorba, and he started drawing and painting and sculpting and working in every possible medium with abandon. He did a movie in Tunisia and saw the gnarled stump of a tree and he had it uprooted and shipped back to his studio in the States and he created a great, gnomic totem pole out of it that is as startling as anything found in native cultures.

His wife says that when they checked into a hotel room he would inevitably take the prints off the wall, shop locally for original art, and stock his room with original art.

He was a man mad about art and mad about creating beauty in his world. He got that from his father, Francisco, who when they lived in poverty by the garbage dump and the tracks in Los Angeles would take a brush and paint all the windows and walls with beautiful Alpine settings and a depiction of the whole Pacific Ocean on the walls.

"I learned a lot from my father," Quinn once said. "I learned how to make my life beautiful."

He did it with gusto to the end and his house is still a shrine to the titanic life force of the man—and to the immigrant spirit of the pioneers we all came from and their eternal quest to shape their world.

Mr. Quinn looked very much like a favorite uncle of mine, Thio Stelio Neamonites, who came from Greece with nothing and created a whole world of his own and a wonderful, vibrant extended family: he's everybody's uncle!

I grew up with Thio Stelio and I remember him taking us, a group of boys, for a ride to the beach in his maroon Chevy Impala station wagon with the power rear window, which he rolled down so we could all yell to the pretty girls we passed as we drove to the beach.

Thio Stelio joined in, as well, and tooted his horn and the girls looked startled and we looked embarrassed, but Thio Stelio had his arm out the window and he flashed them his Zorba smile and we took courage and smiled at them, too, though we'd never have the nerve to speak to them if the car ever stopped. But with Thio Stelio we did.

To Thio Stelio, who was our Zorba, and to Anthony Quinn, who was the Zorba for the rest of us.



### FROM THE EDITOR

*Dimitri Michalakis*

Dimitri C. Michalakis



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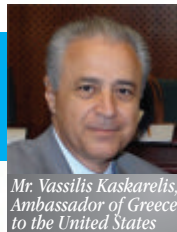
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# Greek Ambassador: "Greece is a Wealthy Country!"

By Alexander Mizan

Mr. Vassilis Kaskarelis, Ambassador of Greece to the United States

On May 4, 2011, Ambassador of Greece to the United States Vassilis Kaskarelis was honored by the Los Angeles World Affairs Council as Diplomat of the Year in an exclusive diplomatic event held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills, CA. We caught up with Ambassador Kaskarelis and talked about his career, Greece, the current economic situation and other issues of concern to Greeks in Greece as well as Greeks in the diaspora.

**How many years have you been in the Greek Foreign Service and can you give us a glimpse of your service record.**

I have been in the Foreign Service for 37 years, having served in various posts. I served in Ankara, Nicosia and West Berlin when the Berlin Wall was coming down. I also served in Brussels as Permanent Representative to NATO and the EU and another six years as Ambassador to the United Nations.

**How has the sovereign debt crisis affected your duties and responsibilities? Has it changed the way Greece is perceived and has it created a tougher environment in which you have to do your job, either internally or vis-à-vis our diplomatic partners?**

The economic crisis definitely changed the priorities of the diplomatic mission in Washington. Since March of 2010, 60% of my time has been dedicated to explaining the financial situation in Greece, clarifying what happened and at the same time trying to change the perception of American elected officials about Greece. After the IMF/EU package was put together and within a time span of two months, we held meetings with over 80 members of Congress in an effort to help them better assess the situation. Our efforts focused on helping them get a more comprehensive picture and not be swayed solely by the market rhetoric. That was in the midst of hedge funds attacking the Euro and using Greece's debt burden as a weapon to do so and while some Republican members of Congress were crying wolf that Greece represents the worst that what the USA can become.

**But the markets were not completely wrong... I mean, Greece was led to the economic crisis due to internal structural problems. Bond market speculation might have exacerbated the situation but some would argue that there are severe underlying problems in the Greek economy and that the speculators simply accelerated the inevitable outcome.**

It's true that Greece is a country that had serious mismanagement issues in the last 30 years. Past governments did not make the hard decisions that they needed to make. But since last year, we have been implementing drastic changes and we are moving towards the right directions. Public employees' salaries and pensions have been cut by up to 30% in some areas. We have also downsized the local government. With Kapodistrias, we moved from 1600 to 320 municipalities eliminating a lot of the waste and gaining efficiencies. At the same time, we continue to move towards privatization of state-owned enterprises and we are currently in the process of changing the labor laws to allow for a more employer-friendly business environment.

**Some people argue however, that all these austerity measures might backlash, either by creating political turmoil or by sinking the country into a prolonged period of stagflation and further damaging the economy, stressing the unity among EU member states even further.**

All of the above austerity measures have taken place without serious popular opposition domestically, a fact that leads me to believe that the people of Greece do understand the predicament of the country's finances and that there need to be urgent structural reforms in the

economy. Greece is a wealthy country. At the time of the €110 Billion loan in May 2010, the country had about €65 billion in uncollected tax receipts and no mechanism to collect them. This is not a production problem but a public administration problem. The measures are necessary and EU supervision is actually beneficial for Greece. It provides the necessary know-how and outside political pressure for Greece to implement the necessary changes. I acknowledge that popular opinion in other European countries might at time not be aligned with the prerogatives in Brussels and markets might be pricing increased strains among member states. However, we need to keep in mind that the leadership of the EU is committed to greater integration and that the system works slowly because you need consensus among 27 sovereign states for any crucial decision. The markets are only looking at the financial side of this. They are not looking into the political parameters, the fact that the Euro in and of itself is precious politically for all of Europe.

**What about the "brain-drain", though that is a result of a prolonged period of subpar economic growth and lack of opportunities for the youth?**

Unfortunately, we see the so-called "brain-drain" continuing and accelerating in the foreseeable future. Our latest statistics show very high youth unemployment and a 30%-40% increase in job applications from Greece to employers abroad.

**Switching gears, what do you think are the major Foreign Policy and security challenges facing Greece right now and for the future 5-10 years and how are they getting addressed?**

Greece's security challenges remain the same as before. Cyprus, the Aegean and the FYROM name issue are at its core. We do need however to expand the agenda when it comes to bilateral talks with the US Administration so that we find common ground and common solutions. When

**Greece is a wealthy country. At the time of the €110 Billion loan in May 2010, the country had about €65 billion in uncollected tax receipts and no mechanism to collect them. This is not a production problem but a public administration problem.**

Prime Minister George Papandreou and Foreign Minister Droutsas met with their counterparts in Washington, they opened up the dialogue to address issues of concern to the US and find ways that Greece can help the US. We discussed issues ranging from Afghanistan, the Middle East, Iran, to piracy off the coast of Somalia. We tried to find ways for the two countries to help each other on those fronts and stayed open-minded about US interests, not just Greek interests.

**If you look at other countries and their ethnic minorities in the US, it seems that there is better coordination between the two. Two examples are Turkey and Israel. How do you view Greece's relationship with the Greek-American community and do you think that its advocacy focus is on target? Do you see Greece interacting more closely with the Greek-American community here and trying to lead in this relationship?**

I think there is good cooperation between Greece and the Greek-American community on political agenda issues. Hand-in-hand with the local community here, we have been working on expanding the agenda and addressing the new priorities that I mentioned earlier. The community is doing a better job in coordinating efforts among the existing organizations and upgrading their role to make it more influential in the political stage. One of the top things on the agenda is to strengthen ties with

other ethnic communities. For example, last December we held the first business dinner between the American Jewish community and the Greek Community. We are hoping that we see more of this kind of interaction. However, I do believe that it's neither healthy, nor possible for the Greek government to directly interfere and tell Greek-Americans what they need to do and what they don't need to do.

**How does the Greek Government see the relationship with Turkey and what is your take on her leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan?**

It appears that after six years in a struggle with the Turkish military, Erdogan has consolidated his power and gained the upper hand. Confirmation of that is expected to be seen in the upcoming elections in June, where he is expected to win with a wide margin. Yet, Erdogan's intentions and policies are posing several questions that are left unanswered. On one hand, his attitude vis-à-vis Greece is less belligerent compared to the generals'. We see it as a positive that he

is trying to marginalize the influence of the military within Turkey. On the other hand, he is trying to claim regional power status for Turkey and emerge as the leader of the Islamic world. And with the Islamic world currently in flux, the future appears a big unknown.

**What about the Exclusive Economic Zone (Greek: AOZ)? There has been a lot of noise surrounding the issue lately, especially in light of Cyprus unilaterally claiming its own EEZ and with the Theodorakis Movement. What is Greece's official position on this matter?**

The EEZ issue is currently being addressed as part of comprehensive, unofficial negotiations between Greece and Turkey. These negotiations started in October 2009 when Prime Minister Papandreou met with Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan. I am not privy to the specific items discussed and the complete picture but I can attest that the negotiations are on the right track. With regards to some voices calling for Greece unilaterally declaring its EEZ, as Foreign Minister Dimitris Droutsas recently mentioned, Greece reserves the right to make a unilateral declaration, should the bilateral negotiations fail to produce acceptable results. Should Turkey choose to dispute any such claim, International law has provisions for dispute resolution of such issues at the International Court of Justice. But let us wait first and see if we can find an amicable solution.

**What is the Greek Government's plan with regards to immigration and assimilation policy of all the recent immigrants?**

Greece in the late 1990s was successful in assimilating a large amount of immigrants from the former Eastern European block. The most recent wave of immigrants from Central Asia and Africa is harder to deal with, especially in light of the lackluster economy. The numbers are larger at about 150,000 illegal immigrants pouring through the border each year and we find it extremely hard to assimilate them. The immigration issue however is not unique to Greece. All southern European countries, EU member-states like Malta, Italy and Cyprus are dealing with this issue. We need to find a European solution to illegal immigration and not a mosaic of national solutions. Primarily due to pressure from countries like Greece and Italy, a common EU-border patrol body, FRONTEX was established last year. It has made a significant difference in controlling illegal immigration into Greece and the EU as a whole.

# 1ST GREEK POWER SUMMIT 2011: HELPING GREECE REBUILD



Nick Lazares, Chairman & CEO of Admirals Bank

A top level two-day Summit will be held on June 14 and 15, 2011, in Athens, Greece, where the titans of business and industry from around the world, of Greek origin and not, global government officials, academia, civil society and the media who have the power to shape the global agenda can engage in round table discussions, network and hold one to one meetings to set priorities on how to improve investment opportunities and deliver growth across the region.

Steve Forbes, Chairman & CEO of Forbes Media (USA), will be joined by some of the most influential and prominent global industrialists to express ideas and deliver views on the region's economic agenda. Day

The 1st Greek Power Summit also includes a by invitation-only exclusive gala dinner with Steve Forbes. An invitation has been extended to Prime

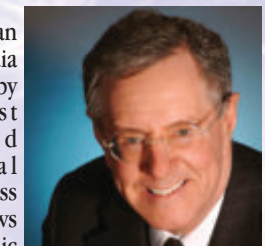
Minister G. Papandreou to attend the event and deliver a keynote speech. Nana Mouskouri (UNICEF Ambassador for Greece) and other internationally renowned Greeks from around the world will also be present.

Steve Forbes, Chairman & CEO of Forbes Media (USA), will be joined by some of the most influential and prominent global industrialists to express ideas and deliver views on the region's economic agenda.

Day One will feature an exchange of views and opinions with Greek government officials on how Greece can attract large investments.

On Day Two of the Summit, speeches will be given by Steve Forbes and several prominent international Greek businesspeople: John Calamos, CEO of Calamos Investments (USA), Nick Lazares, Chairman & CEO of Admirals Bank (USA), George Koukis, Founder and Chairman of Temenos Group (Switzerland) and Michael Pagidas, President of the Association of Chief Executive Officers (EASE).

"I expect the Greek Power Summit will be a valuable



Steve Forbes, Chairman & CEO of Forbes Media

opportunity for political, corporate and civic leaders to generate ideas that will lead Greece into its next era of prosperity and economic progress" stated John Calamos, regarding the 1st Greek Power Summit.

"I think the Greek Power Summit will be a powerful catalyst in helping Greece to overcome its current challenges and move on to a new Golden Age," Nick Lazares said and Steve Forbes stated that "this gathering couldn't be more timely."

The 1st Greek Power Summit is being organized by HoneyStone Limited, Cyprus & UK, and publishers of the Greek Rich List Magazine since 2007, and IAC (International Advantage Corporation), Greece & USA, established in 1993.

For more information on the 1st Greek Power Summit and seat reservations visit [www.greekpowersummit.com](http://www.greekpowersummit.com) or contact Ms. Christina Akouri c.akouri@civitas.gr, Tel: 0030219-9991970.

"I expect the Greek Power Summit will be a valuable



John Calamos, CEO of Calamos Investments



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Dr. Christopher A. Pissarides having just received the "Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Merit Award". From left are AHEPA Supreme President Nicholas Karacostas, Consul General of Cyprus Koula Sophianou, Master of Ceremonies Soterios Johnson, Consul General of Greece, Ambassador Agbi Balta, Elena Kyriakides, Peter Papanicolaou, CFA President & Dinner Chairman, Dennis Drousiotis, Chamber President, Cyprus Ambassador to Washington Pavlos Anastasiades, Dr. Christopher A. Pissarides, Despina Axiotakis, Executive Director, Andreas Comodromos, Chamber Chairman, Fannie Pettalides-Holliday, Kyriacos Skevas, Nikos Mouyiaris, Marios Ioannou, Vassos Vassiliou, Peter Kakoyiannis, Vice Chairman, Charis Lapas and Theana Iordanou

## Cypriot Americans honor Nobel Laureate Compatriot



Despina Axiotakis, Executive Director, Dr. Li Rachel Ngai, Dr. Pissarides and Dennis Drousiotis, Chamber President

Dr. Christopher A. Pissarides, Professor at the London School of Economics and Visiting Professor at the University of Cyprus, who was awarded the 2010 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences (along with Peter Diamond of MIT and Dale Mortensen of Northwestern) received the "Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Merit Award" at the organization's 8th Annual Awards Gala, held recently at the New York Hilton Hotel. About 250 people, including some from the same village where Dr. Pissarides was born and raised, showed up for the event which over the years has come to signify the conclusion of another cycle of annual activities, while celebrating the millennia old Cypriot entrepreneurial spirit.

After receiving the award, Dr Pissarides expressed the view that the debt situation in Greece has been dealt with successfully so far by the Greek Government. However, "restructuring will not be in Greece's interest," he pointed out. "Greece will not come out of this mess any time soon. Crucial changes are much needed to be made." In comparison, Cyprus is in a better position than Greece but given the fact that the



Dr. Pissarides (center) with Dr. Vassilis Katsikiotis and Mrs. Katsikiotis

two economies are connected if things in Greece deteriorate Cyprus will be affected too. In order for the island economy to be prepared to deal with the crisis more effectively, Dr. Pissarides asked for reforms where the labor unions, the labor market and competition are concerned.



From left, Stamatis Gbikas, representing the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce, a guest, Georgia Tauliaris, President of HABA, and Michael Wise

The President of the Cyprus-US chamber of Commerce, Mr. Dennis Drousiotis, thanked the event's organizing committee headed by Peter Papanicolaou, the Board of Directors and the Chamber members and friends for their dedication. Highlighting the presence of many young people among the attendees, Drousiotis said that "in 2011 we plan to develop a Cyprus - US internship exchange program for the benefit of Cypriot and American students to work in their field study." Regarding the Honoree, Drousiotis noted that "his continued contributions dedicated to his homeland are evident, as he is currently a visiting professor at the University of Cyprus. In honoring him tonight, we pay tribute to his outstanding achievements as an economist, educator, author and a champion of his Cyprus heritage that reflects so positively the strides and contributions of our ancestry."

The Chamber's charismatic President and founding member Dennis C. Drousiotis is the former Trade Commissioner in the United States for the Republic of Cyprus. During his tenure, he implemented export promotion programs that saw Cypriot exports to the United States increase from \$700,000 to over \$32 million.

The Chairman of the Board Andy Comodromos noted that the chance to meet a Cypriot Nobelist is a once in a life time experience.

The Ambassador of Cyprus to the US Pavlos Anastasiades declared that "Cyprus is indeed proud to have such loving children who, through their work, dedication and outstanding achievement, honor their homeland by globally raising its profile and serve as role models for the younger Cypriot generations and the Cypriot research community. And in ways you may not be able to quantify, strengthen our continuing



Chris Koutsis, Executive Vice President Marathon Bank, Peter Papanicolaou, CFA President & Dinner Chairman, Dr. Christopher Pissarides and friends

struggle to make Cyprus whole and free again."

The host of NPR's Morning Edition of WNYC Radio, Mr. Soterios Johnson, himself of Cypriot extraction, mced the event.

The Cyprus - U.S. Chamber of Commerce was incorporated in 1998. The organization's purpose is to help potential investors open doors and offer advice on foreign investment projects and introductions to Cypriot partners, exclusive briefings by private and government officials and much more.



Nikos & Carole Mouyiaris with friends



## Leadership 100 Supports Nationwide Youth Camps

The Leadership 100 Executive Committee unanimously approved a \$270,000 grant, in time to be used for the 2011 Metropolis/Direct Archdiocesan District summer youth camps. This grant is intended to "strengthen Greek Orthodox youth as they grow in their Orthodox faith and appreciation of their Hellenic heritage," according to Constantine G. Caras, Chairman of Leadership 100.

The Leadership 100 Grant Committee, chaired by John Sitalides, along with members, Maria Allwin, Drake Behrakis, Justin Bozonelis, and George Tsandikos, unanimously recommended a proposal submitted by Rev. Mark A. Leondis, Director of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries on behalf of the Office of Camping Ministries. Detailed supporting statements from each Metropolis and the Direct Archdiocesan District were studied by the Grant Committee.

All funds will be used exclusively for programming, scholarships and ministries for each camp program. The funds will be presented to the Archdiocese Department of Youth and Young Adult, which then will distribute \$30,000 to each Metropolis Hierarch for youth camps

"Camping Ministries have played an integral role in the life of the young people in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for over 50 years," said Fr. Mark. "Young people who have participated in camping programs have become clergy and hierarchs, professors and professionals, successful members of the Greek Orthodox community in the Archdiocese," he added.

The primary purpose of this grant is to sponsor young people, who may not have the financial means and opportunity, to attend a Metropolis youth camp this summer and to share experiences with other

Greek-American Orthodox youth. Funds may also be used by each Metropolis to pay for programs important to each camp.

Leadership 100 distributed \$1,031,600 in grants in 2010. In 2011, \$1,361,600 million has already been distributed, including \$1 million to Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology for scholarships. The School also received \$250,000 as final payment on a four-year \$1 million grant for Information Technology and \$50,000 for the third payment of a five-year \$250,000 grant for Vocation Ministry. The remaining \$61,600 went for a variety of smaller grants. Leadership 100 grant distributions, since its inception, total \$30.4 million.



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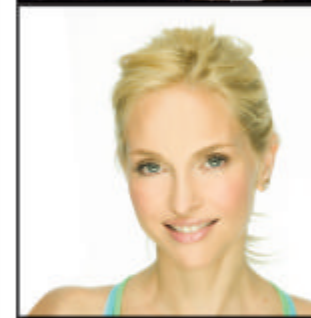
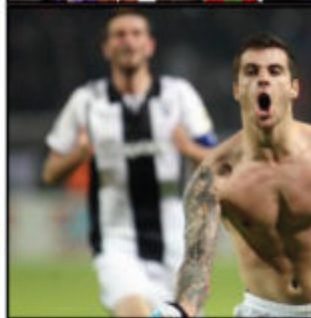
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Whitestone Ladies Philoptochos Members. From left are Helen Toth, Margie Demetriou, Irene Mihalios, Joanna Phillips, Maria Skiadas, Dafni Antonakis, Georgia Siolas, Amalia Shosbilos, Athena Demetrakopoulos, Nikki Kyriazis, Koula Moschokarfis, Christina Christopoulos and Voula Dilos.

## DANCING WITH THE STARS

By Katherine Langadakis



Irene Mihalios and Joanna Phillips, Chairladies of "Dancing with the Stars"

Dancing with the Stars was the theme of the 32nd Annual Dinner Dance at the Holy Cross Whitestone Philoptochos, held recently at the Chateau Briand. President Nikki Kyriazis opened this beautiful night with a warm welcome speech and 1st Vice President and Chairlady of the event Joanna Phillips gave thanks to all donors for their wonderful gifts and introduced The Sol Dancers.

The cause for this heart giving event was to bring awareness to breast cancer. We all know a lady in our lives that was affected by this unfortunate illness. Over 28 gifts were donated and the Fifty-Fifty raffle proceeds went to the Estee Lauder Breast Cancer Foundation, at Americana, Manhasset. The Sol Dance Center of Astoria, New York, gave a great performance presenting Spanish dances. There was also Greek music by Europa Sounds, which gave a spark and made everyone dance the night away. This was truly a very successful event. All the ladies from Holy Cross Whitestone Philoptochos gave their heart and soul for a very inspiring night.



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# VOLLEYBALLERS CHRISTINA ROUBANIS HINDS AND JOANNA PAPAGEORGIU VIE FOR 2012 OLYMPICS

By Joanna Xipa

Born of Greek fathers and part-Italian mothers but raised on US soil, Christina Roubanis Hinds and JoAnna Papageorgiou share a common passion for sport, culture, life, and are filled with the blood of champions! It's only appropriate that these Greek Americans partner up for the journey to 2012 Olympic qualification and gold in Beach Volleyball, representing Greece and the Olympian roots on Christina's side and the Spartans on JoAnna's. The two met in Greece in 2007 in answer to JoAnna's prayers to find a Greek partner with the same determination to fulfill their Olympic dreams. They have now relocated to Los Angeles, California, the birthplace of beach volleyball, to train and play among the world's best. They were honored with the title of Greek Beach Volleyball National team and solidified this spot when winning gold for Greece in the Continental Cup Olympic Qualifying tournament last September, 2010, in Rhodes, putting the Papageorgiou-Roubanis team one step closer in the 2-year process of Olympic qualification!

Having the full backing of the Greek Volleyball Federation, however, does not include financial support, due to the severe economic crisis in their paternal homeland. Thus, to the admiration of their Greek Federation, they have funded their own journey through hard work and raising funds in the US. Their recently held fundraising event was in



honor of Greek Independence Day this year, on March 25th, at the Bel Air Bay Club in the Pacific Palisades, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The night was an absolute delight in sunset cocktails, fine dining, live music, Greek folk dancing, one-of-a-kind auction items and much more! The journey to the Olympics needs much more funding, though, as the necessary tournaments require constant travel and accommodations across the globe for several months out of the year. After a delightful interview with NEO, you too will have your hearts set on realizing these girls' dreams! Time to be inspired by our Hellenic pride & joy, and step up to the plate in support of our good old American values, by getting to know our good Greek girls next-door. So let's catch the wave and shout: Go Greek Girls!

(Although presently under construction, their website is: [www.gogreekgirls.com](http://www.gogreekgirls.com). One can also email them directly at: [gogreekgirls@gmail.com](mailto:gogreekgirls@gmail.com). Your generous support will be appreciated if you kindly make your checks payable to: PR Olympic Fund, P.O. Box 1287, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254)



PHOTO: BRETT HILLYARD

**What is on the present & upcoming itinerary of tournaments worldwide?**

**JoAnna:** We are currently in Myslowice, Poland, for the FIVB World Tour Olympic qualifying season. We will compete in several locations this summer, including Canada, Thailand, Greece, Finland, the Netherlands, the US, and more. Our main focus is qualifying for the 2012 Olympics in London, and there are 3 ways of doing so. One is through the FIVB World Tour, where one can view the calendar online (<http://www.fivb.org/EN/BeachVolleyball/Competitions/WorldTour/2011/>). Two teams per country are allowed to qualify and the top 15 teams in the world make it into the Olympics. Brazil and the US have more than 2 teams in the top in the world, but only their top two will make it. The other way is through the Continental Cup Tournaments. One team per Continent will qualify for the Olympics (creating 5 more Olympic berths). We won the first phase of the Continental Cup (alongside our other Greek national team) in Rhodes in September of 2010 and have advanced to the next phase, the date of which is not yet released. The third way is in a tournament in July 2012, right before the Olympics. The top two teams in that tournament will get in to the Olympics.

**Christina:** We will be playing in as many tournaments as possible throughout the US and the World. Our schedule is highly dependent on many factors, including results, ranking, and what the Greek Federation asks of us in terms of appearances in Greece for media and Greek tournaments. We will keep people posted through our social media - Facebook, website, twitter, email.

**What personal experiences in your families shaped you into pursuing a professional volleyball career?**

**JoAnna:** I was born and raised in Rock Island, Illinois, which is one of the Quad Cities (along with Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa, and Moline, Illinois.). I grew up with my two sisters, Greek father, and part-Italian mother in a beautiful Greek community in our medium-sized town. I did not understand the impact that our Greek community had on my family and our upbringing until I got older and remember my father explaining it to me at church one day: "This is the man that helped me start my business; this is the woman that watched you kids while your mother and I worked to keep the family going; this is the man that helped me with this; this is the woman that helped me with that." I realized that this was one huge and amazing big Greek family in which everyone helps each other out and I gained so much respect and appreciation for that.

For my kickstart in collegiate volleyball (coming from my smaller town with no strong tradition in the sport), I went to a junior college for experience and an athletic boost to get me into a Division 1 college. I had an amazing coach and experience at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with the phenomenal 1997 JC Coach of the Year, Doug VanOort, where we got 5th in the nation. I then transferred for a full ride scholarship at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, where we were I was a Senior Captain, earned many academic and athletic awards, and we were Division Champs my final year there.

After my collegiate career ended, I went overseas to play professional indoor volleyball. It is amazing to me how my heart drove me to play, play, play volleyball any chance I had growing up in my small community. Because the high school level volleyball was not strong at the high schools I attended, it was very limiting in volleyball success, and I craved more. So, wherever I saw volleyball or volleyball opportunities, I jumped on them.... What kick-started it all was an example of this: I was attending the summer volleyball camps for other high schools, by special invitation of the coaches of other schools who were gently wishing to persuade me to attend their high school without recruiting me. After one of those days of camp, I was driving in my car with a fellow camp member from that school, and in passing a local bar, I saw a volleyball bouncing around in a man-made sand court fenced in behind the bar. I instantly pulled over knowing that I was meant to be playing volleyball there, and asked my passenger if she wanted to go and join them. She hesitated, but I was convincing, and we joined them.



That was the beginning of my volleyball career in coed and men's leagues in my community. And through playing in tournaments and leagues in the Mid-West, an agent found out about me and recruited me to join their European Tour with Bring It Promotions. This was a two-week tour where a selection of American players got together to play in tournaments all over Europe against professional and national teams in front of coaches. I got recruited on my first trip out there and that sparked my 6-year professional indoor volleyball career

**Christina:** The crazy thing is that I didn't grow up Greek... being Greek is a discovery I made four years ago when I moved to Greece to play volleyball. Now I am growing up Greek. It happens every time I step on the court as Christina Roubanis under the blue & white flag or whenever I am in contact with another Hellene. The strong sense of community support makes me realize the importance of being Greek and drives me to give back to Greece by representing them in the Olympics and bringing home a medal!

I grew up in Los Angeles, California, moving around between Beverly Hills and Malibu. I lived with my mother, Nandu Hinds (who is Italian and Irish), and my older brother, Alexander. I was always a very active child. With a brother 15 months older than I, I always felt I had to participate in every activity he did and be able to keep up with him so that he would let me play. I think this is where I got my competitiveness. I was a complete tomboy growing up and played every sport I could make time for. My childhood dream was always to go to the Olympics...although I thought I was going to go for gymnastics! At nine years old, they wanted to train

me for the Olympics and then they kicked me out once they saw the height of my mother... I was going to be too tall! I was crushed and set out to find my sport. At age 14, I happened to be at a friend's house on a day she was going for volleyball tryouts and I tagged along so I wouldn't be left alone. She lent me Roxy shorts and some converse shoes and this is how I was introduced to my new favorite sport. Little did I know how far I would take it, or rather how far it would take me!

I played volleyball four years at Marymount High School and led my team to a Regional and State Championship where I was awarded "Most Valuable Player". Then I joined a competitive club team, Sports Shack, to play all year round. This is when I gave up my other sports to fully focus on volleyball. I won a National Championship with the team at age 16. After my Freshman year, I transferred to Pepperdine University in Malibu, California also on a full athletic scholarship and I believe this decision was a pivotal point in my life. It took me back to the beach. Over the next 3 years, I was awarded "Best all time Dig Leader" and also broke the records at Pepperdine for Digs in a game and Digs in a season. I became a defensive force. I graduated from Pepperdine with a BA in Psychology and an introduction to beach volleyball - my new passion. I started off as a rookie going down to the beach with a couple of balls and seeing who would play with me. I had no idea what I was doing but I knew that I needed to play beach volleyball!

At this point in my life, after graduation, was the first time I was free from a full athletic commitment giving me freedom to make choices on my own. I was

offered a position to play on a professional team in Greece, Iraklis Kifissias (ironically the same one JoAnna had played for). I jumped at this opportunity! For me, it was not only a job, it was a chance for me to get to know my Greek roots, spend time with my father and family in Athens, and really discover myself. I had no idea how Greek I was until I moved to Greece. My father, Theodore Roubanis, is a well-known actor, musician, and socialite in Athens. He had two uncles that are Olympians as well; George Roubanis is the most infamous. My younger cousin, son of my loving Aunt Vanda, is one of the top swimmers in the country and will be competing in the Olympics shortly as well. This is where I come from - I finally fit in! Spending a year in Greece was the most transcendental time in my life. I learned much more about myself than I thought possible. Just spending time with my father made me understand myself better. We are both free-spirited, passionate, see life in the same adventurous way, and even laugh alike! This baffled me, how I could be so much like my father when I didn't even grow up with him. It was this journey through volleyball that allowed me to finally identify with my Greek roots and understand where my passion comes from!

JoAnna was with me throughout this journey and she can testify how intense it was, and still is. I am growing into my Greek self. I can't explain it well enough, but when people ask me if it is strange for me to play for Greece when I grew up in the United States, I reply: "How could I NOT be more proud to play for Greece - I am proud of growing up in America but it is my strong Greek blood that runs through my veins that will take me on this Olympic journey!"

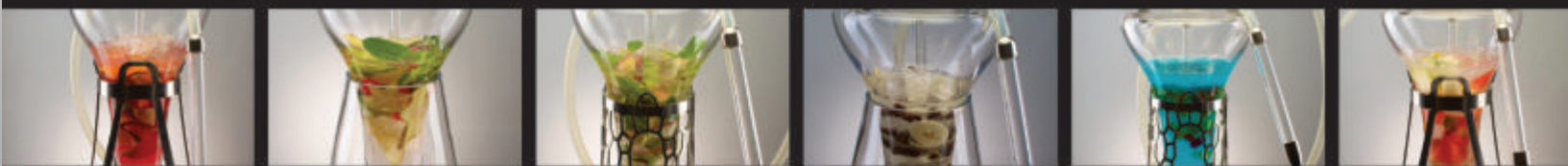
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# AMERICAN HELLENIC COUNCIL CELEBRATES WITH GRAND FETE

Recently, the American Hellenic Council of California (AHC), the focal point of political activities of Greek Americans there, hosted its 36th Annual Honors Dinner Dance at the Omni Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles. For the second consecutive year, more than 400 people were in attendance and the event was sold out.

"This year we had a top-notch cadre of honorees and based on the attendees' feedback, the evening was deemed one of the most successful and well-planned I in the history of the Council," stated Alexander Mizan, the AHC Executive Director. "On behalf of our Board of Directors, I would like to thank all the organizations, businesses and individuals that supported us again this year and have been standing by our efforts and causes in the past. We would have never been able to grow stronger without everyone's support and commitment."

With award-winning actor John Aniston as the event's MC, this time the Council recognized the accomplishments of four exceptional Honorees – Chancellor Linda Katehi, Mr. Van Vlahakis, Professor Georgios Anagnostopoulos and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL).

With several VIPs of the Greek-American community in attendance, the event acted as a great chance for the community to gather like it does every year. The

award ceremony was exceptional and the honorees engaged everyone in attendance with their unique speeches. After the meal, the night was filled with Greek music from Margarita and the Takis Kokotas Band. On occasion, singers Alexia and Ariana Savalas who were also in attendance, took the stage and sang along and the bars were serving Metaxa in what turned out to be a night of dancing and truly Greek "kefi".

The American-Hellenic Council is a non-partisan political advocacy organization with the aim to promote democracy, human rights, peace, and stability in Southern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean, focusing on Greece and Cyprus, by informing the American public and the government about on-going issues and conflicts in the area.

Since its inception, in 1974, following the Turkish invasion in Cyprus, AHC has been the focal point of political activities of Greek Americans in California. The Council has become an effective and respected political lobbying group whose sole purpose is to

lobby the U.S. Congress for the protection and promotion of Greek-American interests. During its existence, the American Hellenic Council has supported numerous Hellenic issues, has made political donations and raised significant contributions for members of Congress who support Hellenic issues.

Whenever any of the aforementioned issues come before the Senate or any Senate committee, the Council will inform all Senators and/or Senate committee members of Greek American position on these issues. After each vote, they will convey to all voting Senators the group's gratitude or disappointment regarding their votes.

Similarly, when Hellenic issues come before the House or any relevant committee, the Council will inform all 53 U.S. Representatives from California and/or House committee members. "We are proud that 60 percent of the members of the CA Congressional delegation are currently active members of the Hellenic Caucus," says Alexander

Mizan. "Every year, we hold several fundraisers and receptions for Members of Congress and candidates who support Hellenic issues. Over the years we have also made contributions to and held many fundraisers for Hellenic-American candidates who have run for political office."

The Council has successfully organized the 31 congressional districts of Southern California and is expanding its lobbying activities to the northern part of the state. We urge our members and friends to become active in the promotion and support of these committees," said Michael Galanakis, the AHC President. "Thanks to our Congressional District Committees, the community has reached out to our Representatives and Senators through meetings, written correspondence, telephone calls, and emails to communicate the importance of Hellenic issues and ask for support when these issues come for a vote as bills or resolutions before Congress."

More information on the AHC and its activities can be found at their website, americanhellenic.org

# Greek Americans in Support of Senator Snowe



Senator Olympia Snowe addressing her supporters. From left, hosts John and Margo Catsimatidis, Angela & Constantine Karidis and Telly Hoimes



Michael Jabaris, Ed Cox, Pete Peterson



Nick Andros, Christine Warnke, Mark Caligiuri



Andrea Catsimatidis with fiancé Christopher Cox



Senator Olympia Snowe with her husband John McKernan, former Governor of Maine



Senator Snowe with Kyp Bazanikas, President of Alumil (left), and NEO's Demetrios Rbompotis

"Maine is a small State, of one million people, and 80% of the money for a campaign usually comes from out of State sources," said US Senator Olympia Snowe, a Republican elected in Maine, addressing a fundraising event hosted recently by Margo and John Catsimatidis at their 5th Ave. apartment, overlooking Central Park. Since elected to the U.S. Senate, in 1995, Snowe-born Olympia Jean Bouchles in Augusta, Maine, the daughter of Georgia Goranites and George John Bouchles - is facing for the first time a primary battle against a Tea Party candidate.

Senator Snowe, the last remaining Greek American in the Senate, referred to the generous support she has always received from the Greek American community and expressed her confidence for the upcoming electoral battle. So far, she is under attack in her home state from an extremist who opposes her moderate, common sense views and the attacks will only intensify as the election draws near to November 2012.

John Catsimatidis said that "it is so important that we re-elect Senator Snowe. Her leadership in the Senate and her closeness to the Greek American Community in the United States are crucial to the continued progress our Community has made over the past years. The Greek American Community is a national political force on both sides of the aisle and

Senator Snowe is our representative in Washington. I hope to help her repeatedly during the coming campaign."

Ed Cox, Chairman of the New York State Republican Party, was there, along with Senator Snowe's husband and former Governor of Maine John McKernan, philanthropist Michael Jaharis, Pete Peterson, Co-founder of Blackstone Investment firm, Andy Manatos, Coordinator of CEH (Coordinated Effort of Hellenes), Rev. Alex Karloutsos, Telly Hoimes and Constantine Karidis among others.

For more information on Senator Snowe, her campaign and ways to help, her website is [www.olympiasnowe.com](http://www.olympiasnowe.com)

# ORAMA PICTURES LIGHTS THE CANDLES

By Claudine Kanari



Marisa Stefatos (producer), Sophia Antonini (filmmaker), Koula Sopianou (Concul General of Cyprus), Nicole Malliotakis (NY State Assembly), Stavroula Toska (filmmaker), Olympia Dukakis and Nick Eferiades (producer)



Marinos Petratos, Jimmy Stefatos and Mike Angeliades



George Drogaris with Co-Filmmaker Sophia Antonini



George Pafitis, Genevieve Stefatos and Libby Angeliades



The filmmakers and co-founders of Orama Pictures, Inc. with Olympia Dukakis, from left, Sophia Antonini, Olympia Dukakis, Stavroula Toska



Victoria Todis and Maria Micheles

Academy Award Winner Olympia Dukakis recently opened her private apartment for a very special evening. "The only people who come here are my grandchildren, today is an exception. That's how special this project is to me," she said, referring to the fundraiser party for the feature documentary, Three Candles, produced by Orama Pictures, which she is attached to narrate.

Mrs. Dukakis met filmmaker and co-founder of Orama Pictures, Stavroula Toska, a year and a half earlier and the two managed to keep in touch. In January of 2010, Toska was writing a script with her writer/producer friend, Sophia Antonini, and they took it to Olympia to discuss if she'd be interested in a part. Dukakis, who had come to know Toska very well by then, had something else in mind. She handed Toska a book of translations, Greek Women In Resistance, written by Eleni Fourtouni, to read, which she in turn passed on to Antonini. Both filmmakers were amazed by what they discovered. They knew immediately that this was something very special and needed to do everything in their power to bring it to the world...and that's when it all began.

Three Candles documents the true-life stories of the women caught in the crossfire during the Civil War in Greece. "We are very grateful that we were able to travel to Greece to meet the few women left from that period. Thank God they agreed to speak with us. They have been through so much over the years, the fear that at any given moment they can have everything taken away from them again never goes away - and that's an understatement," says Toska. Antonini adds: "They were a bit suspicious in the beginning as to what it is exactly we were doing, but once they saw how passionate and serious both of us are about our work, how amazed we are by their stories, they opened up to us and after that it kept getting better and better."



Aravella Simotas (NY State Assembly), Voula and Nick Katsoris, Dr. Marinos Petratos

Unfortunately, devastating majorities of people around the world, including Greeks, have no idea that concentrations camps ever existed in Greece. The interned women's dreams and beliefs for a liberated Greece, independence, equal rights and opportunities, education, these are some of the reasons they were tortured, broken down and humiliated.

"I have been carrying these women and their stories with me every day," says Toska who through this work was shocked to discover that her own grandmother, who raised her along with Toska's mother, was one of these women. "My mother refused to answer any of my questions until she realized I wouldn't stop asking that I have a right to know my family's past." Toska, in a sense, felt ashamed for not knowing this part of Greece's history. "People made mistakes on both sides, it was a Civil War after all, but this doesn't mean the younger generation shouldn't be made aware of what happened." Antonini wanted to know even more. "I wasn't born and raised in Greece like Stavroula, but this story spoke to me as a woman, as a human being."

They began their research right away, nothing held them back, "we were discovering new things by the minute and questions such as 'why isn't this part of history in textbooks? Why are people still afraid to discuss this openly? Where did these women find the strength and courage to persevere?' made us pursue this even more," says Antonini.

"We are very well aware this is a controversial project. Is that going to stop us? No. We have a responsibility to these women and to ourselves to complete this and share it with the masses," replies Toska. "You should see how people of all ages and backgrounds respond when they hear about the project. The theme is universal - family, fighting for what one believes in...how many people do you know in this day and age who would do that?" adds Antonini.

Anyone can see in the way the filmmakers talk about the women, that they have inspired and taught them so much, "and they are so funny! They told us what kept them alive was the support system they had for one another and their sense of humor, they'd make a joke out of everything," Toska says laughing. "And don't get me started about their energy, they put us to shame," Antonini adds putting her face in her hands, "so embarrassing."

Toska reiterates that Olympia is the cherry on top. "She's been such a force through all of this, she started it all. She's one tough lady and we love her."

Bottom line, the filmmakers are two proud gals full of excitement and big goals for Three Candles and other projects being developed by their Production Company. Three Candles will be completed for festival submission Fall 2011. For more information, visit [www.oramapictures.info](http://www.oramapictures.info).

Fractured Atlas, a non-profit Arts organization, sponsors Three Candles. To make a donation, visit the Fractured Atlas link on the company's website. Contributions are tax deductible.

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PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

by Peter Shakalis

## Investment Market Gathers Momentum as 2010 Draws to a Close



After an impressive rebound in price and activity during 2010 from the depressed 2009 levels, New York City's investment sales market took a breather as 2011 began. Just one investment sale closed in the first quarter of 2011, and three other buildings were recapitalized.

By comparison, a total of 16 investment sales and recapitalizations were completed in the fourth quarter of 2010 and 33 for the entire year. This drop in activity raises the question about whether the recovery in activity in the office investment market has come to a halt. The evidence so far does not support that conclusion. In Manhattan, owners are offering fewer buildings to the market. The demand remains intense; it is the supply of product that is missing from the market. Moreover, at the national level the pace of activity was robust during the first quarter of 2011. Partial data for the first quarter indicate that for the U.S. as a whole the dollar volume of investment sales was up by 50 percent versus the 2010 first quarter level. Investors see opportunity in the still depressed values outside New York City and a few other coastal markets. Owners in Middle America are anxious to reduce their exposure to real estate and raise cash. With investors casting a wider net, owners in New York City may respond by introducing more assets to the market at more competitive valuations. Concerns about the strength of the economic recovery, rising inflation, and the possibility of higher interest rates could lead landlords to conclude that market values may have reached a plateau for the moment.

In the first quarter of 2011, the average sales price came in at \$404/sf. This is down from the 2010 average level, but the thin volume and the special characteristics of one of the buildings brought the overall average down. Five buildings are reportedly under contract for sale and one other is likely under contract for a recapitalization. Combined with the market dynamics outlined above, these indicated sales point to a higher volume of closed transactions in the second quarter of 2011. The overall operating performance of the office market continued to improve in the first quarter of 2011. The average office asking rent in Manhattan increased from \$48.62/sf in the fourth quarter 2010 to \$50.18/sf in the first quarter 2011. The steady improvement in operating fundamentals provides support to valuations, fueling investor demand for Manhattan office buildings.

REITs were the most active buyers during the first quarter of 2011. The next most active groups were foreign and private market buyers. Institutions and private equity funds stood on the sidelines during the first quarter of 2011. Private equity funds were the most active seller in the first quarter of 2011. The next most active groups were institutions and private market sellers. REITs and foreign sellers stood on the sidelines after being the least active sellers in 2010.

The valuation cycle in Manhattan was particularly rapid over the last two years; and many buyers and sellers likely used the first quarter of 2011 as an opportunity to reassess their respective views about the market. For the rest of 2011, therefore, the evidence points to a resumption of activity.

Peter Shakalis is a Director at Colliers International NY LLC  
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# THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL OF THESSALONIKI



Award winning actress Olympia Dukakis, Dr. Panos Kanellis, Patricia Dukakis, Olympia's cousin, and philanthropist Alike Perrotis

PHOTO: BARBARA NELSON

U.S. friends and supporters of the American Farm School of Thessaloniki gathered recently to enjoy *An Evening with Olympia Dukakis* May 3rd at the Union League Club of New York to benefit the Scholarship fund of the American Farm School and Perrotis College. Ms. Dukakis' first cousin Arthur Dukakis was a longstanding and devoted Trustee of the School, and other Dukakis family members count themselves loyal supporters of the School as well. Arthur's widow, Patti, was on hand to for event as were major donors such as Mrs. Alike Perroti, the benefactress of Perrotis College, and, from Greece, President of the American Farm School and Perrotis College, Dr. Panos Kanellis and Vice President Joann Ryding.

Dr. Kanellis updated the New York audience on the background of the American Farm School and the vision of his presidency after serving in office for fifteen months.

Founded in 1904, the American Farm School serves the rural populations of Greece and southeastern Europe through educational programs that are based on a *Learn by Doing* approach and that instill in students the understanding of how to manage their behavior and ecosystems in order to live sustainably.

Today, the American Farm School is bringing agriculture and life sciences education into the 21st century with a blend of energy, new technologies, and strategic partnerships while remaining true to its 107 years of tradition. The School aims to become the premier center in southeastern Europe for contemporary education and research in agriculture, food systems, environmental studies, and other life sciences.

President Kanellis' strategic initiatives focus in part on offering advanced academic training and research opportunities to students who will go on to help solve some of the most pressing issues of food production, food safety, and the environment. This means developing future-oriented curricula; ensuring up to date science and technology infrastructure on campus, and introducing students to the excitement of research in the cutting-edge fields of agriculture and life sciences.

Another major focus is the introduction, in September 2011, of primary education, centered around environmental education and experiential learning. The reasoning is that in order to educate new generations of healthy, creative young people in Greece who will develop harmonious relationships with the earth and one another they must be reached at the very earliest years of life. A Pre-K and Kindergarten will operate starting in 2011, followed by an elementary school shortly after.



Princes Alexander and Aikaterini of Yugoslavia with Mr. George Davlas



Theodoros Aggelopoulos and Gianna Aggelopoulou - Daskalaki



The wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton, Buckingham Palace, London, Britain

PHOTO: REX FEATURES/APEIRON



King Konstantinos, former of the Hellenes (center) with Queen Anne-Marie (right), Prince Nikolaos and his wife Tatiana Blatnik with other dignitaries

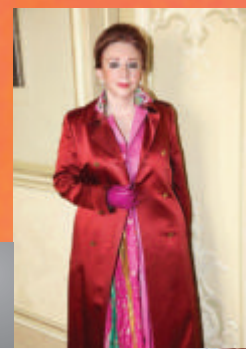


Queen Sophia of Spain with Crown Prince Felipe and Princess Leticia



Prince Pavlos with Marie Chantal

Mrs. Chrysanthi Laimou, wearing a creation by Kathy Heyndels



## THE GREEK CONNECTION AT THE ROYAL WEDDING

By Margarita Vartbolomeou

Greeks marked a numerous and very well noted presence at the wedding of the year between Prince William and Kate Middleton (let us not forget, that the groom's grandfather, Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, comes from the Greek royalty).

The Greek connection at the wedding started with Prince William's godfather, King Constantine, who was at the wedding with Queen Anna-Maria and their children Prince Pavlos, with his wife Marie Chantal, and Prince Nikolaos, with his wife Tatiana Blatnik. Queen Sophia of Spain was also there with her son Crown Prince Felipe with his wife Leticia. And Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia attended with his Greek wife, Princess Aikaterini.

The list also included Mrs. Chrystanthi Laimou, wearing a majestic creation by Kathy Heyndels, and Gianna Aggelopoulou-Daskalaki, with her husband Theodoros Aggelopoulos, to name just a few. In a light white dress, Gianna was ranked as one of the best-dressed ladies at the wedding.

King Constantine joked to the BBC before the wedding that he had written to his godson about the pending nuptials and had urged the royal pilot to concentrate on his flying and not think so much about his future bride.

"He's a hell of a nice guy, that's the important thing. I did actually mention to him in my letter to him when he got engaged - because I went through that experience myself - that it's quite dangerous to fly a helicopter when you're in love because you have to concentrate on keeping that machine in the air. I said 'Be careful, concentrate on that helicopter now and think of Catherine later on!'"

Constantine described William as "straightforward, honest, hardworking and never losing his sense of humor." He believed Miss Middleton would be "superb" in helping the Prince in his "difficult task" serving the people.

The former king also stressed that William would wait his turn to be King. He dismissed recent polls which claimed that the majority of the British public would prefer William to bypass his father, who has become the longest serving heir apparent in British history.

"It works from father to son or mother to son and that's how it goes. They have to wait their turn... That's how it should be because we are not politicians. We don't strive for that chair. The chair is there if it's needed," he said.

He added: "Don't believe in polls...polls of that type are of no consequence at all. If William and Catherine concentrate on the love that they have between themselves, tolerance between themselves and dedication to the people of this country, I think they will do a fantastic job."

Around one million people thronged the centre of London to celebrate the wedding of the Prince to his Kate and huge video screens were set up so that everyone could enjoy the pageantry and romance of the ceremony.

London provided a perfect backdrop for the occasion, and absolutely everybody agreed that Prince William in his Irish Guard uniform was handsome and that Kate's dress, by Sarah Burton, was sensational.

After a cloudy start and a sprinkling of raindrops, the weather held and the crowds made the most of a Royal Bank Holiday for this wedding of the decade.





Debi Silber- Master of Ceremonies 2011 Gala



Bottom row (L-R) Helen Tzelios - Secretary, Vivienne Tsoumas (2011 Dinner co-chair), Tito Pedrini - 2011 (Honoree), Kathy Constantopes-De Rosa (Founder & President), James Capuano - 2011 Honoree, Stacey Pappas (Vice President), Georgia Deplas, Esq. (Vice President)

Second row- Virginia Constantopes (Treasurer), Maria Tsiolas (Journal co-chair), Sofia Mantekas (Committee member), Demi Pysillos (Journal co-chair), Kalli Sanicolla (Junior Committee Coordinator), Maria Giannakopoulos

Third row- Committee members (L-R) Margaret Belmonte, Barbara Thermos & Mamie Statbatos-Fulgieri



James Capuano (2011 Honoree)



Tito Pedrini- 2011 Honoree



Irene Rallis, Nick Rallis, Marilena Katopodis (Committee member), Kathy Constantopes - De Rosa (Founder & President), Niko Katopodis



Reverend Father Dennis Strouzas, Rick Ashley M.D., Father Evan Evangelidis, Dennis Dionisiou, Jenny Dionisiou, Mick Kouzionis & Anna Kouzionis



Bottom (L-R) Irene & Arty Vasilakos. Top (L-R) Matthew & Mamie Fulgieri



DR. Jose G. Guillem (Attending Surgeon-Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) & Director of The Hereditary Colorectal Cancer Family Registry at MSKCC. & Kathy Constantopes-De Rosa (Founder & President)



Georgia Deplas, Esq., Tiffany Deplas (Junior Advocate) & Julia De Rosa



Chez-zam Interactive Dancers



May Zias (Manager-TD Bank Dilmars Astoria Branch) & Barbara Koudello

# De Rosa Foundation Raises Funds for Medical Research at Sold Out Event

When Kathy De Rosa was diagnosed a few years ago with Hyperplastic Polyposis Syndrome, which if left untreated would result in colon cancer, she was lucky enough to deal with it on time and as a result it was successfully treated. Following this life threatening adventure, Mrs. De Rosa, a Greek American from Long Island, New York, decided that she had to do something in order to raise awareness on the benefits of combating this deadly disease at the earliest stage possible and at the same time to support research that allowed her and thousands of other people to survive. In 2007 she established the De Rosa Foundation and since then, she and a group of dedicated friends have managed to raise much needed funds and awareness.

"I was humbled by the outpour of care and support from both old and new friends and supporters," Mrs De Rosa said at this year's fourth annual "Masquerade" dinner gala held recently at the famed Oheka Castle in Huntington, New York. A sold out crowd of over 350 were present to honor two colon cancer survivors, Mr. Tito Pedrini, world renowned gemologist and awareness advocate, and Mr. James Capuano, Senior Vice President at Thomson Reuters. "The foundation helps to raise much needed awareness and promotes colon cancer research in order to advance early detection and treatment so that others may be as lucky as I was," Mr. De Rosa explained. "We have already donated over \$480,000 through the annual dinner galas, which include over

100 incredible auction items and raffle gifts." These funds benefit the colon cancer research performed by Dr. Jose G. Guillem, Attending Colorectal Surgeon and Director of the Hereditary Colorectal Cancer Family Registry at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, who honored the event with his presence and thanked the participants for their support.

Tito Pedrini is renowned as a global specialist in jewelry and gemstone assessment. As a cancer survivor, Mr. Pedrini donates a portion of the company's sales to the Colorectal Cancer Research fund n. 59090/cc 5592, under the direction of Dr. Leonard Saltz at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Mr. Pedrini's enthusiasm and tenacity for life results in striking jewelry collections that reflect his "carpe diem" philosophy seen in all areas of his life.

James Capuano is a Senior Vice President at Thomson Reuters, one of the largest financial information/media companies in the world. As a cancer survivor, James and his employer, Thomson Reuters, have been enthusiastic supporters of the De Rosa Foundation for many years. He survived cancer, he believes, largely as a result of the phenomenal support he receives from family, friends and colleagues. He is eternally grateful to Drs. Jose

Guillem, David Kelsen, and Zvi Fuchs; and to all of their wonderful associates at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Debi Silber, MS, RD, WHC, best known as "The Mojo Coach", hosted the evening's program. "It was a wonderful occasion that is dedicated to raising colon cancer awareness and helping patients and families afflicted with colorectal cancer," she said. "The efforts of Kathy De Rosa and her team were nothing short of spectacular. No detail was over looked."

Ms. Silber is a Registered Dietitian with a Master's in Nutrition, a certified Personal Trainer, Whole Health Coach (a health expert trained to teach how your lifestyle creates health/wellness or illness/disease), speaker, and author of "The Lifestyle Fitness

Program: A Six Part Plan So Every Mom Can Look, Feel and Live Her Best" (recommended by Parenting Magazine and Jack Canfield, coauthor of the best selling "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series) and "A Pocket Full of Mojo: 365 Proven Strategies To Create Your Ultimate Body, Mind, Image and Lifestyle" (recommended by Brian Tracy and Marshall Goldsmith, among others). Ms. Silber has branded "The Mojo Coach" because she's personally led hundreds of clients to achieve their ultimate body, mind, image and lifestyle, inspiring them to 'get their mojo back'.

Memorial Sloan-Kettering has established a registry for families who are affected with various forms of hereditary colorectal cancer. This registry will help researchers learn more about the genetic causes of

colorectal cancer and aid in the development of new ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat cancers of the colon and rectum. Participation can be educational for families by helping them learn more about their colorectal cancer risk. For patients already diagnosed with a hereditary colorectal cancer, the registry will help to keep them abreast of new research that may affect their medical care.

More information on the De Rosa Foundation and its activities can be found at their website [www.thederosafoundation.org](http://www.thederosafoundation.org) or by calling Mrs. Kathy Constantopes De Rosa herself at (516) 365-6754. Her email address is [derosak1@optonline.net](mailto:derosak1@optonline.net)



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## AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

**GOLD COAST CHAPTER NO. 456**  
Manhasset,  
New York 11030

**Welcome**  
to the Ahepa Family  
of District 6 Gold Coast  
Chapter No. 456!

We are the largest Chapter on Long Island and in the 5 Boroughs. Our meetings are held at the Elks Lodge located at 30 Haven Avenue Port Washington, NY the last Wednesday of the month.

Our annual Christmas gala dinner dance to be held at Milleridge Inn on December, 15 2010, 7:00 PM.

**Come Join us on our 19th annual golf outing!! At the North Shore Towers Golf Club in Queens NY June 8, 2011**

Please visit our website for more info:  
<http://sites.google.com/site/ahepa456/>



**We have a new Sons of Pericles Chapter.**  
Contact George Pappas at [gepappas@gmail.com](mailto:gepappas@gmail.com) for more information.

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

Please, contact our chapter's President or Secretary if you want to join our wonderful group. We have more than 145 members to date.

Membership is open to everyone who believes in the mission of the organization



37 JOANNA XIPA

## 25 Years of Passing the Hellenic Flame in Southern California!

and a wonderful raffle. GHS also honored three deserving individuals -- its past President Zoye Marino Fidler and two exemplary board members, Harry Rather and Dr. John Gregory Panopoulos.

north of the border at the 2011 ReelHeART International Film Festival in Toronto, Canada ([www.reelheart.org](http://www.reelheart.org)) on Friday June 24th at 2pm, where they'll be surely welcomed with open arms



Greek American Honorees at the GHS's 25th Anniversary May Day Celebration: Zoe Fidler & Harry Ratner (not pictured John Gregory)

The accomplishments since the inception of GHS can be viewed online at: [www.greekheritagesociety.org](http://www.greekheritagesociety.org) - their most recent being the release of their second documentary: "The Promise of Tomorrow 1940-1960". Over the years GHS has interviewed over 300 Greek Americans in Southern California, their historical photos, private footage, and folk art treasures have been catalogued for present and future projects. GHS has even



Beverly Hills Film, TV & Media Film Festival (Oct 2010) with local Radio Celebrity Mike Sakelaridis (far left), and GHS: Shelly Papadopoulos, Anna Ganiotis, Christina Tasulis and Philip Georgious

contributed photos to the Ellis Island Museum and continues to conduct oral histories of the Greek American community, as well as ongoing screening premiers all over the country. In fact they have become so world renowned that next month they will be showing their documentary at a screening



GHS at the Rhode Island International Film Festival (August, 2010)

and win the hearts of the local Greek Community there as well (having already one the heart of this Snowbird)!

GHS will continue its mission for many years. It will soon begin pre-production on the last part of its Greek trilogy -- "The Greeks of Southern California Through the Century." Part 3 will bring the story full circle and show how second, third and even fourth generation Greek Americans continue celebrating their Greek heritage, culture and traditions in southern California.

For more information about the Greek Heritage Society of Southern California or to purchase a DVD, please contact the organization's President Shelly Papadopoulos via email: [greekheritage@hotmail.com](mailto:greekheritage@hotmail.com) or by phone: (310) 528-8214. This website is:

[www.greekheritagesociety.org](http://www.greekheritagesociety.org)



Attendees at GHS's 25th Anniversary May Day Celebration (May 1st, 2011) at St. Nicholas's Hall, Northridge, CA



The blessing of the construction site with Holy Water

### Hamptons Parish to Build New Church and Community Complex

The Greek Orthodox Church of the Hamptons, New York, marks a historic milestone as construction of the new church and community center begins, and concludes the church's seven year struggle to build a new church providing appropriate and adequate space for the growing community's faithful religious, cultural and social needs. The construction of the new church succeeds the celebration of Easter, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and signifying renewal, and new beginnings for the community at large.

The new cruciform sanctuary will be constructed in the tradition of 6th century Byzantine architecture, complete with a 60 foot high copper dome. Eventually, the church's interior will be covered with colorful panels of traditional Orthodox iconography depicting the life of Christ and many Orthodox Saints. "The church is designed to draw all of the faithful's senses and attention to prayer and toward God," according to the church's pastor, Fr. Alex Karloutsos.

The plans call for a cultural center, which will house classrooms, administrative offices, and a library as well

as a community center that will accommodate larger cultural, social and educational events.

Highlights of the new facility include:

- Liturgically designed sanctuary permitting members to worship together facing East in the longstanding Orthodox Christian tradition.
- Capacity for 250 people on the main floor of the Sanctuary.
- Dedicated classrooms for Sunday School, Greek Language & Cultural Institute, and adult education programs.
- Dedicated meeting space for the various ministries and organizations of the parish.
- Infrastructure to accommodate the church's ministries and administrative needs.
- A library with an extensive collection of texts relevant to Orthodox Christianity and Hellenism.
- Dedicated community center to accommodate the

Zoullas Memorial Lecture Series, fellowship gatherings and large assemblies of the faithful.

The construction of the church is expected to last for eighteen months. West Rak, a local general contractor, will build the complex, designed by Edmundo and Gilberto Lopez, and the work will be overseen by the church's owner's representative, School Construction Consultants.

While the fundraising effort is well under way, the church is blessed to have received generous donations and support from many within and outside the Southampton parish. Notably, Coula Johnides, has pledged 1 million dollars toward the project. Three anonymous donors have pledged a total of \$4 million dollars for the construction, while Bill and Linda Stavropoulos have pledged \$500,000 toward the realization of the parish's vision for the future.

Additionally, many members of the church and broader community have offered their products and services in-kind to contribute the success of the church's effort to expand. Revco, Guillo Construction, PJ Mechanical and Bouras Steel of New Jersey are among those who have made such commitments. The parish is reaching out to all its members, hoping that all will participate in the capital campaign. "To make it our church, we all really have to give what we can. While we do need to meet our goal, it is not the size of the gift that is most important, but the full participation of our members," commented Fr. Constantine Lazarakis.

This historical expansion will accommodate the communities growing parish, achieve a greater fidelity to the architectural and liturgical traditions of the Greek Orthodox Faith, and will allow the Greek Orthodox Church of the Hamptons to continue as a thriving and vibrant part of Long Island's East End community.



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FOS, CPS &  
kids team up for  
Homeless Midnight Run



FOS runners team



Prep team of FOS, Cathedral Parents and their kids



FOS team members Callie Lappas and Presvytera Haidee Marangos

By R. Dorothy Poli

Young children who attend the Cathedral school and their parents helped FOS volunteers on April 5 in preparing sandwiches, toiletries kits and used and new clothes for distribution to the homeless on the streets on Manhattan. An additional group of FOS volunteers for a total of 40, later joined the prep team to load the vehicles with the care packages. As is typical, the "Run" began with a caravan that left the church at approximately 9:30 pm and stopped at designated points to meet the homeless. The Run ended at around midnight after the goods were all dispersed.

An important element of the Run is the exchange between the homeless and the volunteers. The Run volunteers witness their faith and their compassion to the homeless by feeding, clothing and visiting with them. The homeless express their appreciation to the volunteers and, interestingly are quite jovial and therefore, also witness their faith which seems to be pervasive. According to Midnight Run organization, "the late-night relief efforts create a forum for trust, sharing, understanding and affection. That human exchange, rather than the exchange of goods, is the essence of the Midnight Run mission." Through Midnight Runs, volunteers come to see the homeless as brothers and sisters and convey not only compassion but respect for their dignity as well. As we depart for our heated homes, this human interaction somehow eases their trek into the subways for their heated shelter for the night.

The "runs" are coordinated through Midnight Run (www.midnightrun.org), a volunteer organization that was created by a homeless person 20 years ago. Midnight Run now coordinates over 1,000 relief missions per year from churches, synagogues, schools and other civic groups and procures and prepares food, clothing, blankets and personal care items for distribution to the homeless poor.

While FOS is meant to bring people together on its Tuesday night meetings for internal transformation, the Midnight Run is an avenue for external transformation of the world around us. The April 5 Run is the second Midnight Run that FOS has undertaken. The Cathedral as well as many Orthodox churches have followed in the exemplary model initially set by the Church of our Saviour in Rye, NY which has had an ongoing Midnight Run ministry. While the past Runs have purposefully been done during Great Lent, going forward, the Cathedral and FOS will also be establishing this ministry on an all-year round and ongoing basis. This along with the current Philoptochos program carries out one of many Cathedral missions to help feed the homeless. In addition to providing fellowship with the homeless, this is also an important community-building effort that enhances fellowship among the Cathedral parents, young professionals and young children volunteers and, most

importantly, teaches young children the essence of philanthropy.

FOS and CPS are ministries of the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity created to serve the various segments of the community. FOS (Forum on Orthodox Spirituality), geared toward young professionals, seeks to enrich people's lives by bringing attendees into a deeper understanding of Orthodox faith in the context of contemporary society and by building strong relationships and a sense of community. CPS (Cathedral Parents Society) explores parenting challenges and concerns in a Christian context with other parents, clergy, and invited speakers with the aim of preparing children for life's challenges and joys.

For more information, go to [www.thecathedralnyc.org](http://www.thecathedralnyc.org) or contact Dorothy Poli, FOS Laity Leader, at [fos.cathedral@gmail.com](mailto:fos.cathedral@gmail.com).

FOS volunteers loading up the cars



# LEFKAS ISLAND GREECE

WHERE IMAGINATION BECOMES REALITY



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.

**Visit lefkas this summer!**

FROM AN ANONYMOUS FRIEND

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# AHEPA Testimonial Dinner for Philip Vogis

AHEPA Ramapo Chapter #453 of Wyckoff, NJ, hosted recently a Testimonial Dinner for Past District Governor Phil Vogis at the Hamilton & Ward Steakhouse in Paterson, NJ.



Some 130 guests attended the event including Phil's family, friends, AHEPA members and dignitaries from far and near. The President of Ramapo Chapter #453 Jim Giokas was the Master of Ceremonies inviting to the microphone our Past Supreme Governor John Mehos to sing the Greek and US national anthems, followed by the invocation by Father James Mulketis of the St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Wyckoff, NJ, Kathy Savidis, the President of the Daughters of Penelope, Agape Chapter

#336 of Wyckoff, NJ; Past District Governor Ted Vittas; Past District Governor and member of the Supreme Board of Trustees Lee Millas; District Governor George Horiates District #5 NJ/DE; and Karen Marousis District Governor of the Daughters of Penelope. Also invited to speak were Phil's children Diana and Philip Jordan; and with some coaxing Phil's wife Connie. The honoree was finally invited to speak and offer his response to the many kind words and accolades that were mentioned on his behalf.

In addition, Supreme Vice President Dr John Grossomanides Jr, was there as were Supreme Treasurer Col. Nick Vamvakias, Supreme Member of the Board of Trustees Vassos Chrysanthou, Supreme Governor Region #3 NY/NJ/DE Andrew Zachariades, PSG Louis Arvanitis, PDG Ted Fanikos, PDG Herb Allen, PDG Steve Lioumis, PDG George Karatzia, District Lodge Officers, Chapter officers, Brothers and Sisters from District #5 NJ/DE, Past Supreme President of the Sons of Pericles Brother Dean Tselepis. Also there were members from District #6 New York along with the District Governor Jimmy Kokotas, Lt. Gov Chris Gallas, PDG Gus Drivas and Daughters of Penelope from District #6NY.

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**John Calamos**  
Chairman and  
CEO of Calamos  
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**Nick Lazares**  
Chairman and CEO  
of Admirals Bank,  
USA



**George Koukis**  
Founder and Chairman  
of Temenos Group,  
Switzerland



**Michael Pagidas**  
President of the  
Association of Chief  
Executive Officers  
(EASE), Greece



**Con Makris (TBC)**  
Chairman and CEO  
of Makris Group,  
Australia

For more info and to book your table at the event please visit:

[www.greekpowersummit.com](http://www.greekpowersummit.com)

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Please note that programme timings, schedules and speakers may change between now and June 14th 2011.

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Non-binding congressional resolutions, proclamations, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate receiving the Congressional Gold Medal all have their place, serving to educate, bring awareness, and help to provide something tangible for the grass roots community to rally around. But now it's time that we graduate. We must actively pursue legislation that can effect positive change on our issues. This will involve across the board, unequivocal support from all facets of the Greek American community in the form of proactive advocacy and stronger financial commitment.

Does anyone care?

Our effectiveness is predicated upon forming a singular, unified message supported by many voices for support of our issues in Washington. However, this message derives its life and meaning from the voices in the home districts and communities. It is a mission of shared responsibility. Without all these voices our message is just a whisper. After all, Democracy is ancient Greece's greatest legacy - Demokratia literally means of the people. And in our form of government, American citizens are constitutionally entitled to petition the government through our elected representatives for any purpose. This is why the voice of the people is of a paramount importance when trying to change policy.

But as mentioned equally as important is financial support.

Organizations like AHI rely exclusively on the Greek American community to sustain their operations and strengthen a collective message through grass roots involvement. As mentioned, there are lots of ways to get involved, but there are two that are most important - your engagement in the issues and your financial support.

Greek Americans have a solid track record with giving to mainstream causes. This is both admirable and positive because it provides goodwill in the name of the community and at the same time it supports universal causes that affect all mankind.

I understand there are a lot of non-profit organizations that are vying for Greek American dollars - higher education, human services, healthcare, the arts - everyone is asking. In the midst of a global recession that is truer than ever. At AHI, we are no exception. Our own operating budget was down almost 20% last year and 2011 has been extremely difficult.

Greek Americans can - and should - give gifts to higher education. However, remember there are Greek American organizations that help to educate thousands across the country in the form of legislators and policymakers in Washington and diplomats across the globe.

Greek Americans can - and should - give gifts to hospitals and healthcare organizations. However, please remember there are Greek American organizations that are seeking to remove an ill from Cyprus that is suppressing the prosperity and stability of an entire region, to the detriment of U.S. interests.

Greek Americans can - and should - give gifts to human service agencies. However, please remember Greek American organizations are working diligently to restore dignity and religious freedom in Turkey for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Greek Americans can - and should - give gifts to the arts, but remember, there are Greek American organizations that are working to restore antiquities and property to their rightful owners and striving to preserve a future for Hellenism and Hellenic culture in America and elsewhere.

Our ancient Greek ancestors believed in truth, beauty and the eternal values. The fundamental beliefs and principles have been passed on to us to carry the torch and move forward. America's Founding Fathers took these ideals and built the foundation upon which America was founded and has continued to flourish for over two centuries.

However, each one of us has a major responsibility to bear. We are reminded of this in Pericles' funeral oration when he said, "We alone regard a man who takes no interest in public affairs not as harmless, but as useless character." Strong words.

Are we a community useless of character? Obviously not. Therefore, we must care enough about our future so that we can build on our great legacy and defend not only our rights as Americans and threats towards America, but also against the threats of Hellenism everywhere. For if we don't, we will have to answer to those who one day will ask why? They will be our future generation of Greek Americans...our children and grandchildren!

It will take an effort from all of us to become more actively involved, understand the issues, and help support organizations whose mission it is to address these issues. For our sake, I hope that we will and that we will be successful. Frankly, failure isn't an option.

Does anyone care?

*Nick Larigakis is President of the American Hellenic Institute*



By Maria A. Pardalis

## bread & honey

A COLUMN DEVOTED TO MAKING GREEK FOOD EASY

### Greek Mother's Day Brunch

In honor of Mother's Day, I thought it would be fun to feature a Greek-style brunch recipe that you can surprise your mother and grandmothers with. Breakfast in Greece is not a big event, most often it consists of bread and preserves, a sweet or savory pastry and strong coffee. Why not unearth your inner nikokira or nikokiri skills and show your relatives how grandiose brunch can be?

This easy frittata recipe gets a savory and Hellenic spin with fresh flavors that exemplify Greece. Not only is this dish delectable, it is also exceptionally

healthy. Eggs are a terrific source of protein and are high in zeaxanthin and lutein, two anti-oxidants known to reduce age related macular degeneration.

Brunch is not brunch with out variety and a fusion of assorted mouthwatering flavors. Since the frittata is savory, you must serve something sweet! Nothing screams Greek brunch more than fruit, nuts, yogurt and honey. My Honey Glazed Figs and Toasted Walnuts over Greek Yogurt recipe is so elegant and aromatic that it will surely please even the toughest mama and yiayia!



### Greek Frittata

Prep time: 8 to 10 min.

Cook time: 30 to 35 min.

Serves: 4

#### Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons Greek extra virgin olive oil
- 3 large eggs
- 6 large egg whites
- ¾ cup plain low fat Greek yogurt
- 2 cups baby spinach leaves
- 1 cup tomatoes, thinly sliced
- 1 medium shallot, chopped
- ¾ cup feta cheese, crumbled
- ½ tsp oregano
- 1 to 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons fresh basil, chopped
- course sea salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 4 to 8 slices of crusty multigrain bread, toasted if desired

#### Preparation:

- 1 Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, egg whites, oregano, basil, salt, and pepper. Pour in yogurt and stir until well blended. Set aside.
- 2 Heat the olive oil in an ovenproof 10 or 12 inch non stick skillet. Add garlic and shallots and sauté until softened, about 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in spinach and cook until it wilts.
- 3 Add the tomatoes and sauté for 1 to 2 minutes. Gently pour the egg mixture into the skillet and cook over medium-high heat for 3 minutes or until eggs are just beginning to set at the edge.
- 4 Sprinkle feta cheese over the eggs and transfer skillet to the top rack in the oven. Bake frittata for 20 minutes or until just firm when lightly pressed. Turn on broiler for about 30 seconds or until lightly browned, watch carefully so not to burn.
- 5 Remove from oven, run a spatula around the edge to loosen the frittata, cover and let sit for 5 minutes. Invert it onto a large round plate and cut frittata into wedges. Serve warm or at room temperature with crusty multigrain bread and a light green salad.

### Honey Glazed Figs and Toasted Walnuts over Greek Yogurt



Prep Time:  
15 minutes

Cook time:  
10 minutes

#### Ingredients:

- 8 figs, dried or fresh, quartered
- ½ cup Greek thyme honey
- 1 large lemon, juiced
- ¼ cup apple cider or water
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated lemon zest
- 1 cinnamon stick
- pinch salt
- pinch ground nutmeg
- pinch ground cloves
- ¾ cup almonds, chopped and toasted
- 2 cups low fat Greek yogurt

#### Preparation:

- 1 Add first 9 ingredients into a small saucepan over medium-high heat. Bring to a boil and then lower heat to medium low and cook for 10 to 15 minutes.
- 2 Remove cinnamon stick and allow to cool slightly. Place ½ cup yogurt in 4 small bowls and top with honey glazed fig mixture. Sprinkle with toasted almonds and serve immediately.

Happy Mother's Day kai  
Kali Orexi!



This is a sophisticated yet effortless and light dessert that can be served from breakfast to dinner. Greek yogurt provides a refreshing balance to the sweet honey glazed fig topping, while the toasted almonds add the ideal crunch.

Did you know... that Greek yogurt help with digestion even for the lactose-intolerant is listed as one of the world's healthiest foods?

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PERISCOPE



## Autocephaly now (or it will be too late, later)!

I wish Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew would show the same sensitivity to the victims of priestly abuse (I'm not referring just to those who have to endure some ...unbearable Sunday sermons) as he displays to the endangered Careta-Careta giant turtle or other environmentally-related issues. You can understand his special interest in animals: he himself is the head of a ...flock; but despite the fact that humans are animals too, we still tend to believe that somehow we are ... more important!

A few months ago, the Astoria, New York, Greek community went through a scandal of unprecedented proportions to which a cover up, instead of a solution, was offered and botched. It involved two bishops in the so-called Monastery of Saint Irene Chrysovalantou, which happens to be under the direct jurisdiction of the Patriarch, and consequently his own responsibility. These two characters, Metropolitan Paisios and Bishop Vikentios, came to the US as non-canonical. Old Calendrist monks, and after they broke with the Saint Markella Old Calendrist Parish in Astoria, they set up shop on their own a few blocks away, and thanks to their hard work and the faithfuls' stupidity, their business flourished. Selling "blessed apples" to women wishing to become pregnant, offering "ultra traditional" services and passionate sermons mixed with botched theology, anti-Semitism and supra-nationalism, they managed to make themselves a force to be reckoned with. At one point they almost took to court even the then all powerful Archbishop Iakovos when he accused them of fraud in the case of a weeping icon (only Canonical icons are supposed to weep, I guess). After a while, however, they realized that money alone could not buy prominence (it was long before this economic crisis, otherwise things would have been different), so they approached then-Archbishop Spyridon and they negotiated their entry to the Canonical Orthodox Church, and they were placed directly under the Patriarch's rule, creating thus a parallel Archdiocese, consistent with Bartholomew's divide and rule policy when it comes to the American Orthodox Church (should one day people wake up and demand Autocephaly in stronger terms). Until the two "bishops" joined the official church, the Sacraments they performed were not recognized and, in fact, Bartholomew re-ordained them into the priesthood in a fast track procedure of which numerous businessmen, constantly "harassed" by damned regulations, would be envious! By a patriarchal decree that worked ...magically, the Sacraments that the two had performed during their non-canonical times were deemed valid!

A few months ago, Bishop Vikentios, Paisios' right hand for more than 30 years, went to the local press and accused him of having sexually molested his brother! After so many years, he just had found out, he claimed! Before that, a nun gave an interview accusing Paisios of having sexual relations with her daughter. On top of that, allegations had seen the light that Paisios had maintained a sexual relationship with another nun since she was 13 years old. Then a man in his 40s came out accusing the Metropolitan that he had sexually molested him when he was a child. A guest at Paisios' monastery came to me and gave a two-hours interview saying he took part in various orgies with Paisios, a nun and other women. He even gave me Paisios' phone number in Athens

and I called him there. His Eminence advised me to speak with his lawyers, saying that all this has been a plot of Vikentios to oust him so that he could take his position. Then I called the other Eminence, actually His Grace, to be more precise, Vikentios, who was also in Athens then, and he also refrained from any comment, due to a patriarchal instruction not to talk to the press while a special commission was examining the case.

By then, the Patriarch had sent to Astoria an Exarchy, a group of monks chaired by Metropolitan Niketas, to see what was going on. They invited everyone to come and tell what they knew about Paisios and Vikentios. However, talking to me on the record, Niketas admitted that unidentified people were taking pictures of those entering the Archdiocese center to testify, in an attempt to intimidate them and others from doing so. Why was not the Police informed, I asked, and he said that he was let know about it afterwards!

Anyway, the Exarchy submitted a report to the Patriarch (which didn't go public) and afterwards Bartholomew suspended the two bishops' right to perform any priest duties. In the end, he ordered them to leave the US (although Vikentios, an American citizen, I believe, is still here) and he appointed them to shepherd some remote Aegean Sea islands!

Well, this is very typical of the so-called Church Justice: not a clear declaration of innocence or guilt, everything in limbo so that nobody can be accused of anything and no one will be responsible for anything. However, as we know in real life, you can't be partly-pregnant or half-gay for that matter—either you are or you are not. So far we don't know for sure whether Paisios is guilty of the things he was accused of, while at the same time, not enough light has been shone on Vikentios and his role as Paisios' accomplice—I'm sorry, I meant to say assistant—all these years.

I'm sure the Patriarch was aware through his extensive network of informants — he knows better than to rely entirely on the Archdiocese and its nonexistent "intelligence" - that many things were wrong with his two bishops. However, business was good, money was flowing in, buildings were being maintained and expanding: why look for trouble? Like any other businessman in his stead, he could see the numbers and since they were good, there was no reason to worry.

However, being naïve that we are, we tend to believe that a Church is not like any other kind of business, or it shouldn't be a business at all. Facts on the ground show otherwise: the number one skill for any parish priest isn't his spirituality: his ability to help people guide themselves through the important existential questions. Fundraising prowess is what counts and what is religiously sought after. Even if a priest or bishop has some kind of unacceptable "weakness," we can turn a blind eye as long as money is coming in and the parish is expanding. Yes, this is a culture with deep roots in our community, because even when it comes to the church, even when it comes to the holiest, appearances count more than any underlying issues. Like the newly-rich, we want the pomp and display of riches as a collective reassurance that we've made it in this country, that we can proudly flaunt the wealth of our churches

to the Roman Catholics, Protestants, and not to lesser extent—the Jews! We can proudly declare through our church edifices that we have finally arrived! But is that what we want and what we should be after?

Anyway, going back to where I started, after all what happened, and despite the mishandling of the case on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we would have expected the Patriarch to at least send a letter of fatherly concern to his flock, saying how disturbed he is with the allegations and the possibility that people were hurt—that people's

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



lives were destroyed. And although nothing has been officially proven, he could have found some space within His vast All Holiness for the possibility that something of all that was true and in addition to the alleged victims themselves, the trust of the faithful in the congregations has been rocked by this. Bartholomew could even use an unofficial visit here as a way to show that he cares about the people and not just the property assets of the church (the number one concern when talks about lawsuits started to circulate and when legal specialists in cases of child abuse that the Archdiocese have used in the past were summoned to offer their opinion).

It's not the first time that people have realized how distant an Ecumenical Patriarch can be to his people here. Maybe it's Constantinople and the mesmerizing Bosphorus that slackens sensitivity and alertness. Whatever the reason, it seems that the need for an Autocephalus (independent) church in America is already beyond doubt. The patriarchal distance coupled with the inability of the Archdiocese (under patriarchal jurisdiction) to do almost anything, shows that Autocephaly is perhaps the only remaining, realistic way that could lead the church out of the multi-faceted impasse it has found herself in for more than a decade. And it would be better for the Patriarch himself to initiate such a transition instead of throwing names of possible new archbishops behind the scenes in order to test the waters. The Church here has matured enough and it's time for the Mother Church to let her go before events take precedence and lead to more traumatic situations. After all, every birth comes with pain...

DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS  
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For the past two years I have been working closely with a think-tank in Washington trying to design a program that would focus on the southeastern Mediterranean region. It was to be called the "Mediterranean Studies Project." Of course, reaching an agreement would have been just the start of an important process that would have included attempts to raise the necessary funds from the Greek American community to make the program a reality. However to my surprise, and I'm sure to the relief of the Greek American community which was spared my fundraising calls, I received word this week that the president of this think-tank "deep-sixed" the proposed project. He defended his position by stating his institution "should not create a designated program to deal with this set of issues." My contact added that the president "apparently felt that it is insufficiently important to U.S. foreign policy and [his institution's] mission."



By Nick Larigakis

# Does Anyone Care?

Yes, this is another setback for our community, but perhaps it is for the better. Programs such as the "Mediterranean Studies Project" require serious financial support to be effective in Washington. I found myself questioning our community's ability to raise the hundreds of thousands of dollars to launch and sustain such a program; not to mention thinking about the personal embarrassment I would have felt when I had to eventually report that I failed to raise these funds from our community.

Does anyone care?

I believe we need to start asking ourselves this question. And I don't mean specifically as it relates to this latest setback. Isn't this president correct to question if these issues are "important to U.S. foreign policy?" And why should they be? Deep down, are they really, truly, important to the majority of our community?

If you remove the handful of individuals who have been involved for more than three decades, and a few newcomers to the scene, it's the same old faces—mine included. Where is the involvement from the rest of the community? Where are all the successful Greek Americans? The young professional Greek Americans? The Greek Americans in the arts and entertainment, in sports, in commerce? What about the everyday rank-and-file Greek Americans?

Does anyone care about the issues affecting U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus?

I strongly contend that as Greek Americans we must have a vested interest to advocate and promote a strong U.S. relationship with Greece and Cyprus because this serves, first and foremost, the multifaceted national interests of the U.S. To this extent, we must be more attuned to the consequences of U.S. policy toward Greece and Cyprus because it has the potential to affect us as Americans and the national security interests of the U.S.

So why don't more Greek Americans become actively involved? My experience leads me to believe the majority of Greek Americans simply don't believe there are real threats to Greece (excluding the economy). Yes, we hear about illegal Turkish over flights in the Aegean challenging Greek sovereign territory, but has anyone of us seen a Turkish jet? Yet, how many Greek Americans are aware that Turkey has as its official policy "causis belli" against Greece? That is, if Greece were to exercise her legal right to extend her territorial waters to 12 miles that this would be "cause for war" against Greece by Turkey!

How many Greek Orthodox faithful know that our Church in the United States is under the direct jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and that this ancient Holy See continues to be subjected to harsh violations of religious freedom and human rights by the

government of Turkey? The Archons valiantly attempt to bring awareness to this issue. However, there have been times when I have been asked by fellow parishioners to identify my "Archon" lapel pin and shocked by their question on more than one occasion—"what's an Archon?"

Do we really consider FYROM a threat to Greece? Maybe it is not a blatant threat in the traditional sense with a troop build-up on its border, but Greece cannot have its neighbor develop a strategic propaganda campaign whereby FYROM attempts to usurp a Greek name and historical identity that has been associated with Greece since antiquity and not be concerned. If this irredentist policy continues to go unchallenged and unresolved, then the future remains uncertain for Greece. This is especially true if FYROM were to become a stronger nation with an ability to convince other nations to support this revisionist policy.

Does anyone care?

For many, Greece is a great summer playground and there is no denying it is. Just a short nine-hour flight from the east coast of the United States where the sun is almost always shining, the beaches are full of beautiful people, and the tavernas and clubs are filled with even more beautiful people. We take great pride that the Parthenon, which is perched high on top of the Acropolis, is a reminder of the glory that was ancient Greece. But can we be sure it will always be so? Considering Greece's turbulent history of invasion and occupation and its less than friendly neighborhood, we can't take anything for granted! I hope that people who hail from the eastern most Aegean islands such as Chios, Rhodos and Lesvos, will not have to go through Ataturk airport to get there one day!

And what of Cyprus? Many claim Cyprus fatigue. Others view the relative calm and peace on the island as an indication that everything is fine. It is not. Although today Greek Cypriots enjoy a high standard of living, and no one is dying in the streets thankfully, uneasiness still exists with 43,000 heavily armed Turkish troops present—some only a few yards away! Moreover, there is the pure injustice of the whole issue whereby the victims, the Greek Cypriots, have been repeatedly asked to make significant concessions to their aggressors on the chance of maybe finding a solution that is neither just nor viable. And let's not forget our own government's responsibility in creating this problem. By abandoning the rule of law and its principles, the United States had a role in causing the division of Cyprus. Therefore, the United States must advocate for the reunification of the Republic of Cyprus and implement policies calculated to achieve this goal. It is the Greek American community's role to ensure the United States is true to its principles and fulfills its responsibility.

More direct to the point, the projection of U.S interests in the southeastern Mediterranean depends on the region's stability. Therefore, the U.S. has an important stake in fostering good relations between two NATO allies, Greece and Turkey, and in achieving a viable settlement of the Cyprus problem. However, Turkey's continuing occupation and intransigence regarding Cyprus damages U.S. interests.

Again, does anyone care?

One would conclude from the minimal levels of advocacy or downright indifference we see from a majority of Greek Americans that the answer is a resounding "NO!" Perhaps "OXI!" is more appropriate.

Sadly, the lack of advocacy is not the only evidence of community apathy. The support to properly fund Greek American organizations, like AHL, whose sole purpose is to bring these issues to the forefront of U.S. policymakers, and to advocate for their successful resolution, is becoming practically non-existent!

Our community takes great pride in the fact that statistics indicate the Greek American community (1.5 – 2 million, half of 1% of the entire U.S. population) is ranked a close second per capita to the Jewish-American community in education and wealth.

However, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) the leading pro-Israeli lobby in Washington, DC boasts more than 100 full-time staff persons and an annual budget of more than \$20 million from Jewish Americans! We are nowhere near the Jewish American community when it comes to community support for issue advocacy.

There are those who might say we have some great friends on Capitol Hill. They point to meetings with leading administration officials and the multitude of congressional resolutions that have been introduced as proof that the community does care. Yet I ask "What change has occurred for our issues as a result?" The sponsors and co-sponsors of these non-binding congressional resolutions are the same 30 to 40 names! Congressional hearings about our issues are scarce and few of these "feel-good" resolutions ever see the House Floor let alone an up-or-down vote in committee. The last meaningful legislation to see congressional action was the arms embargo legislation against Turkey in 1975.

continued on page 32



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