

1972



2011

EVANGELINE DOURIS
CHAIRMAN

REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY
AT

HANAC'S 39TH ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

HONORING



JOHN P. KAITERIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO
"MAN OF THE YEAR"

AND



HANAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"SPIRIT OF COMPASSION AND PHILANTHROPY AWARD"

ALEXANDER G. ANAGNOS ~ ARTHUR N. CHELIOTES ~ NIKITAS DRAKOTOS
PENELOPE LASPALAKIS ~ MARIUS MAVRICOS ~ CHRIS PAPPAS
STAVROS P. PLANGETIS ~ CATHERINE SAKETOS ~ PETER A. VLACHOS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2011
MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED FROM THE WEBSITE: WWW.HANAC.ORG
FOR INFORMATION CALL (718) 396-5001 OR EMAIL: TKIAMOS@HANAC.ORG

NEO

magazine

SEP 2011 \$3.95

CouponTrade:

The New Internet
Success Story

Frigoglass:

Refreshing News
from Greece

Divided Cyprus:

A Nation in Despair

DR.
GERASIMOS
PETRATOS
AND HITEKS

Business Lending

★★★★★★★★

- Commercial Real Estate
- Business Loans
- Business Lines of Credit

A helping hand for your business

As a business owner, you should be able to spend your time running your business – not worrying about your banking. Visit our bank and experience banking at the speed of your business.



800.721.9516
www.mnbny.com



Banking at the speed of business

Member FDIC



MY OTHER CAR IS A SUBARU



SUBARU

**STAR SUBARU IS A STAND ALONE SUBARU DEALER
SERVICING MANHATTAN TO THE HAMPTONS**



star
SUBARU

We sell Subarus and Only Subarus

718-819-0100 • www.starsubaru.com

206-26 Northern Blvd., Bayside, NY

FID # 7071878

EVERY SUBARU COMES WITH THE ADDED SAFETY OF ALL WHEEL DRIVE STANDARD!

Greek Islands

MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE



COME IN,
YOUR FRIENDS
ARE ALREADY
HERE!

GREEK ISLANDS
RESTAURANT
253-17 NORTHERN BLVD
LITTLE NECK, NY 11362
PHONE: 718 279 5922
FAX: 718 279 4329
WWW.GEORGESGREEKISLANDS.COM



Dr. Gerasimos Petratos and HITEKS: harvesting medical data in the digital age

14 COVER STORY



28 Hellenic Lawyers' Annual Judiciary Night



10 GABBY Awards at historic Ellis Island, NY



12 International Business Leaders offer Views on the Greek Crisis



13 Mario Frangoulis at the 2012 L100 Conference



18 Metropoulos receives Executive of the Year Award from HABA



20 FAITH expands support of Birthright Hellas scholarship programs



21 Dina Titus Announces Candidacy for Congress



23 "Contextual": A New CD of Petros Klampanis



24 Frigoglass: A Refreshing Success for Greece



26 Star-studded Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund Gala Turns 20



38 Divided Cyprus: A Nation in Despair



08 CouponTrade: The new Internet Success Story



30 Hellenic Professional Women Host Networking Dinner

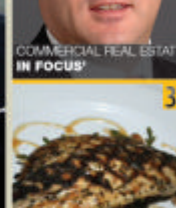


30 hellenicare Coordinates Humanitarian Outreach in Republic of Georgia



31 Blessing of New Church

SEPTEMBER
N&O



HEART RHYTHM CONSULTANTS · NY

George Carayannopoulos, MD

Board Certified Cardiac Electrophysiologist
Chief Executive Officer

48 Route 25A
Suite #103 Smithtown, NY 11787
Phone: (631) 862-3737
Fax: (631) 862-3738



16 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS GROWTH



TEN LTD
TSAKOS ENERGY NAVIGATION LTD

THE OLDEST PUBLIC
THE YOUNGEST FLEET

www.tenn.gr



art in design: www.artindesign.gr +30 210 66 95 940



Fleet Manager:
Tsakos Shipping & Trading S.A.

TNP
LISTED
NYSE

FOUNDED IN 2005 BY

Demetrios Rhompotis
Dimitri Michalakakis
Kyprianos Bazenikas

Publishing
Committee Chairman

Demetrios Rhompotis
(718) 554-0308
dondemetrio@neomagazine.com

Director of Operations
Kyprianos Bazenikas
info@neomagazine.com

Marketing & Advertising
Director
Tommy Harmantzis
(347) 613-4163
th@radioneo.us

ATHENS - GREECE
Public Relations &
Marketing Director
Margarita Vartholomeou
margavarth2010@hotmail.com

NEO Magazine
is published monthly by
Neocorp Media Inc.
P.O. Box 560105
College Point, NY 11356
Phone: (718) 554-0308
e-Fax: (718) 878-4448
info@neomagazine.com

A history of then and now

This summer I'm reading of the trials and tribulations of Greece in *Modern Greece* by D. George Kousoulas, the most concise and clear-eyed portrait of the runaway rollercoaster that is modern Greek history.



FROM THE EDITOR

In the Gilbert and Sullivan parade of heroes and goats the heroes of the revolution are succeeded by the lackeys for all denomination, including the monarchy (an absurdity in the country so small barely emerging from the fiefdom of the Ottomans), with the occasional man of sense and rigor emerging on the scene, a Trikoupis, a Venizelos, a Metaxas—who inevitably lose power or die just when the country needs them most.

It's a melancholy tale of a small, impoverished country trying to live up to a glorious legacy it can hardly support—and undergoing upheavals not once every generation but once every election cycle and still endure without vanishing into the sinkhole of history.

And yet Greece has endured, and Greeks have more than endured: there is practically no corner of the globe that Greeks have not populated and where they have prospered. That's the bittersweet legacy of modern Greece: that her most celebrated sons and daughters have flourished abroad, though Greece itself, for such a small country, has had its share of notoriety and luminaries.

I am visiting Greece this summer after a very long absence. I'm taking my family and showing my two daughters where I came from, as Greeks have done throughout the ages, and I'm sure nothing of the places where I lived will be the same.

The farm where I grew up with my grandparents on the island of Chios has long fallen into ruin. It was sold to our neighbors and the house where I lived might have been bulldozed by now. The green door with the lion's head knocker and the black key deposited over the ledge and everybody knew about (talk about security), my grandmother's *yiasemi* by the shutters of her bedroom (which scented our nights), her *taratsa* lined with the square olive oil cans which she used to plant her flowers, the well on the *taratsa* where we drew the water to wash down the flagstones every afternoon and water the flowers every evening, the room where I slept with the bone-hard bed and the oak cabinet with the two cannon shells my father had brought back from the war and my grandmother used to hold decorative sprigs of wheat, her kitchen with the inevitable fly strip hanging from the ceiling and the stone sink with the brick of lard soap that never lathered and the windowsill where the cats perched to beg for pickings and once stole my grandfather's *bifteкия* right off the table—they may be nothing but a memory now.

And if they're still standing will anything else be the same? Will crumbling walls and dusty rooms, will derelict stables and empty *apothikes* seething with dust, bring back the life I once knew, without the people I knew that gave it color and life?

The old cliché may be eternally true—you *can't go home again*—but the other old cliché might also apply—*home is where the heart is*—and if your heart remembers those days they will live on a little longer, at least in your memories.

Dimitri Michalakakis

Dimitri C. Michalakakis

COVER PHOTO BY: DIMITRA GKOUMA



PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN NEW YORK

Editor in Chief:
Dimitri C. Michalakakis
info@neomagazine.com

Lifestyle Editor
Maria A. Pardalis
mapardalis@gmail.com

Long Island/Hamptons
Bobby Gemelas
(631) 335-1891
bobby@neomagazine.com

Western Region Desk
- Los Angeles
Joanna Xipa
(760) 805-1691
joanna@neomagazine.com

Alexander Mizan
director@americanhellenic.org

- San Jose Office
Andrea Photopoulos
a.photopoulos@neomagazine.com

Baltimore Desk
Georgia Vavas
gvavas@comcast.net

Photo/Fashion
New York: ETA Press
fpapagermanos@yahoo.com

Los Angeles: Nick Dimitrokalas
(951) 764-5737
photobynikos@hotmail.com

Graphic Design
NEOgraphix
Adrian Salescu

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

Check our website
www.neomagazine.com



CALAMOS®

Global Investment Management

Calamos Investments is a global investment management firm serving the needs of institutional and individual investors for three decades. Our worldwide clients have entrusted us with nearly \$37 billion in assets under management.

At the core of our investment philosophy, we believe the key to consistent, long-term success and building wealth is achieving the optimal balance between enhancing investment returns and managing risk.

John Calamos, Sr. provides his views on the current investing environment in our quarterly economic outlook report. To receive a copy or get more information please contact Yanni Sianis at **+1 630 245 8789, ysianis@calamos.com** or visit us at **Calamos.com**.



Assets under management data is as of July 31, 2011.

Calamos Advisors, LLC, 2020 Calamos Court, Naperville, IL 60563-2787, 800.582.6959, www.calamos.com, caminfo@calamos.com
© 2011 Calamos Holdings LLC. All Rights Reserved. Calamos® and Calamos Investments® are registered trademarks of Calamos Holdings LLC.

10040 08110 AD

RADIO NEO

NEW YORK
LOS ANGELES
CHICAGO

24/7 LIVE BROADCAST

Tel: (718) 362-5757 www.radioneo.us

NEO Graphix (718) 554-0308

COUPONTRADE

The new Internet Success Story



George Bousis (right) and Brad Wasz

by Margarita Vartholomeou

CouponTrade, a new, fast growing company, is the brainchild of George D. Bousis, who partnered with Brad Wasz in what seems to be a new Internet success story. CouponTrade launched this past April and already employs 16 people and has over 12,000 unique visitors from over 65 countries. Could this become the Internet's newest phenomenon? The son of well-known businessman Dimitris Bousis and philanthropist Eleni Bousis, George, only 24 years old, has great plans for CouponTrade. "Essentially if you are at the Target store, and you come to our site, you can purchase a discounted gift card, have it uploaded to your phone via email or PDF and use it at the store by having the cashier scan your phone," he says during an interview with NEO.

George Bousis was born in Chicago and attended St. John's Northwestern Military Academy for high school and graduated from DePaul University. He worked for his father's company until he went full time with CouponTrade about a year ago.

What is CouponTrade?

We have created an online marketplace that focuses consumer to consumer technology for the sale and purchasing of gift cards and daily deals. We are working with online deal vouchers from companies such as Groupon, LivingSocial, GiltCity and Buy With Me, to gift cards from major retailers such as Walmart, Target, Home Depot, Costco, Amazon and more.

What are your objectives?

Our objective is to create a one stop shop for our buyers and sellers to land on one website and fulfill

all of their coupon needs. Our users can sell daily deals and gift cards they have not or will not use, or buy other users deals/gift cards at discounted prices. We also have a new online promo-code section where users will enjoy perks such as free shipping on products, discounts, off retail values and more.

How did you come up with the idea of CouponTrade?

I came up with the idea for CouponTrade in a few different ways. I was working at my father's grocery chain called Cermak Fresh Market, where I was attempting to digitalize our cut our coupons to better organize them and provide our customers with a simpler and easy to use solution to 'couponing.' By digitalizing the coupons we could earn affiliate fees from the companies and monitor not only our returns, but shopping trends from our customers and brand loyalty. I also got the idea of a marketplace while Coke was running a co-branded promotion with Ritz Crackers. Coca-cola was offering (for only participating stores, which we were not at the time) their customers a free Ritz Cracker Box with the purchase of a 24 pack. Customers were deeply angered that we were not honoring this promotion and were yelling at me.

This idea came to me as I thought if this was really a scam or if it was intended to help shoppers. I went home and thought of the daily deal and gift card space as a similar trend and found that roughly 30% of daily deal vouchers and 20% of gift cards go unused every year. In a business north of \$100 billion dollars annually, \$20 billion dollars of losses was too big of a number for me to pass by. I wrote up a business plan, did some name searching, consulted my ideas with my current partner and we were onto development shortly after. We received \$2

million dollars in private funding and have since been in business for 7 weeks where we have done over \$36,000 in business, had over 1,500 transactions processed, have witnessed over 12,000 unique visitors from over 65 countries and 2800 cities world wide. We have been completely overwhelmed with orders and have continued our recruiting process. We currently have 16 employees at our River North Office in downtown Chicago where (4) are programmers (2) are designers (2) are marketing/affiliate managers (2) social media experts (2) customer service representatives (2) writers and my partner and I.



Launching CouponTrade. From left to right, Brad Wasz, George Bousis, Angie Taoromina, Xiping Wang, Angelo Loumis and Jason Fitzgerald

Where do you see CouponTrade going, let us say a year from now?

In our plans for the future, understanding the evolution of technology, we are focusing much of our attention towards mobile and location based technologies. Using this data we will be able to find deals in your exact location relevant to your interests and shopping trends. We will be monitoring your interests by social graphing our users' social media accounts and associating deals with their exact needs. We will also be revolutionizing the gift card industry by embedding gift card serial codes as bar codes and QR readers where our users can purchase a gift card and use it on the fly. Essentially if you are at the Target store, and you come to our site, you can purchase a discounted gift card, have it uploaded to your phone via email or PDF and use it at the store by having the cashier scan your phone. We will also be digitalizing traditional cut off coupons found in sales papers and streaming them to our users' phones when they check into a retailer. Nonetheless, if you are shopping at Whole Foods, we will send your any available coupons to your phone where you can use them instantly. Such examples are \$1 off coupon for milk, Buy 1 Cereal get 1 free, etc.

Who are the mentors in your life?

I would say that my biggest mentors are my parents Eleni and Dimitri Bousis. My mother for believing in me, supporting me, visiting me all the time at work and being my right hand; and my father for being the man he is as a model father from his accomplishments, his business and himself as an amazing dad.

όλα τα αστέρια μαζί
για ένα ακόμα πιο συναρπαστικό πρωτάθλημα
ζωντανά και αποκλειστικά μόνο από το DISH Network



Greek Elite Pack

\$24.99/mo



America's Top 120

\$29.99/mo

For first 12 months. (Requires 24-month Agreement)



SAP= Free Spanish audio feed. 1=Requires purchase of additional dish antenna. 2= Available at no cost to all DISH Network customers. Additional fees may apply for existing DISH Network customers to upgrade their dish antenna.



τηλεφωνήστε τώρα 1.888.389.2594

Ανατίθεται συνδρομή στο International Basic package των \$10 ανά μήνα ή στο America's Top package

Η προσφορά του Digital Home Advantage σπάει 24 μήνες δωρεάν και αποκλειστική μεταβολή προγράμματος. Αν η υπηρεσία ακυρωθεί πριν από τη λήξη της δωρεάν μεταβολής θα υπάρξει χρέωση \$17.50 ανά μήνα μέχρι το τέλος της δωρεάν μεταβολής. Η προσφορά προγράμματος (συνδρομή) στο Αμερικανικό κανάλι ισχύει κατά τους πρώτους 12 μήνες. Όλες οι υπηρεσίες είναι εξαιρετικές και θα πρέπει να εγκαταστήσετε στο DISH Network μετά την ολοκλήρωση της δωρεάν μεταβολής. Θα υπάρξει ανάλυση χρεώσεων για τις δωρεάν μεταβολές που δεν έχουν ολοκληρωθεί. Ίσως τα όρια των 8 δωρεάν μεταβολών μηνιαία ανά κανάλι. Προκαταβλέψτε και μηνιαίες χρεώσεις μέχρι να ολοκληρωθεί η δωρεάν μεταβολή. Τα προγράμματα HD απαιτούν δωρεάν μεταβολή με κανάλια HD. Όλες οι τιμές και τα πακέτα προγράμματος μπορεί να αλλάξουν χωρίς προειδοποίηση. Για πληροφορίες και ρυθμίσεις πηγαίνετε στο DISH Network και κλείστε συνδρομή στο προγράμμά σας μόνο και η προσφορά υποκρίνεται στους όρους του Promotional and Residential Customer Agreement. Επιστρέφεται η προσαρμογή μόνον με αποδείξεις. Η προσφορά κληρονομείται 3/31/12. ©2011, DISH Network L.L.C. All rights reserved.

GABBY AWARDS AT HISTORIC ELLIS ISLAND, NY



"Fresh-off-the-boat immigrants" mixing with the crowd



Gov. Mike Dukakis with US Senate candidate in NY Byron Georgiou



Celebrity Chef Cat Cora with AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis



AHC Members attending the Gabby Awards



Consul General of Cyprus Koula Sofianou at the reception



Glykeria

By Alexander Mizan

This year, the Gabby Awards ceremony took place at Ellis Island, New York. The event, organized by the Greek America Foundation and hosted by Gregory Pappas was an outstanding success. Awards recognizing Greek Americans were presented in several categories including Science, Arts, Politics, Education and Philanthropy.

The black-tie event was exceptionally orchestrated and produced. With the Manhattan skyline as backdrop, the awards ceremony took place inside the Immigration Hall of Ellis Island. It was a galvanizing experience to be celebrating the success of first, second and third generation Greek-Americans inside the building where hundreds of immigrants from all walks of life got their start in the New World: a true testament to the American Dream and how this country offers the opportunity to go from rags to riches within the span of a generation or less, provided one works hard.

Among the passengers on the Ellis Island ferry, we had the pleasure of encountering several "original immigrants" from back in the day, a wonderful addition to a well-directed experience. Dressed in traditional early 20th century clothing, one approached us worried about whether he would be let in the country, another woman worried if the

husband-to-be will come meet her upon arrival.

After the cocktail reception, the Awards Ceremony started. Among other honorees, the recipient of the Award in Politics was US Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME). The award was presented by award-winning actor and Los Angeles resident John Aniston.

Academy Award-winning actress and 2009 Gabby Award-winner Olympia Dukakis presented the 2011 "Lifetime Achievement" award to her cousin, Michael Dukakis, former Governor of Massachusetts and U.S. Presidential Candidate. Gov. Dukakis, certainly moved, spoke of his ancestry and how responsible public service is what made and hopes will continue to make this country exceptional.

Dr. Linda Katehi, the Chancellor of the University of California, Davis, was the honoree of the Gabby Award in Academics. She was presented with the Award by Mr. David Horner, President of the American College of Greece. AHEPA Supreme President Mr. Nick Karakostas was the recipient of the Gabby award for "Promotion of Hellenism" while Fox Films Entertainment co-CEO Mr. Jim Gianopulos, won the award for Business and Entrepreneurship.

After the Awards Ceremony, Mr. George Logothetis, the Chairman and CEO of the Libra Group, announced a new internship program in partnership with the Greek America Foundation. In a truly moving, yet humble speech, he spoke of the need for Greeks all over the world to support one another. Focusing on the difficult times that Greece is going through currently, he encouraged everyone to do something to help and started by taking action and not just stopping at words.

The ceremony ended with a performance by famous Greek singer Glykeria and her orchestra.

Subsequently, we took the boat ride back to Manhattan for a reception with food designed by Greek-American Iron Chef and Santa Barbara resident Cat Cora. We had the pleasure of enjoying the delicious food while feeling the cool breeze of the Hudson in an exceptionally humidity-free night in New York City.

The wonderful evening ended with traditional live Greek music and dancing that in typical Greek fashion did not end until the small hours of the next day...



M/T "Aspasia Lemos",
Coated Aframax (LR2), 105,187 DWT,
Built in 2009 in Hyundai Heavy Industries, S. Korea.

ATLAS CARRIES THE WORLD



ATLAS MARITIME LTD. 1 Palea Leoforos Posidonos & 3 Moraitini str.,
Paleo Faliro, 175 61, Athens, Greece
Tel: +30 210 946 5000, Fax: +30 210 946 5099, e-mail: office@atlasmaritime.eu
www.atlasmaritime.eu

International Business Leaders offer Views on the Greek Crisis



Steve Forbes, President and CEO of Forbes Media and publisher of Forbes Magazine, with NEO's Margarita Vartholomeou



Nick Lazares, Chairman of Admirals Bank in Boston, NEO's Margarita Vartholomeou, and John Calamos of Calamos Investments in Chicago



George Koukis, CEO of Temenos group in Switzerland, Christos Georgakopoulos, CEO of European Reliance, NEO's Margarita Vartholomeou, and John Calamos of Calamos Investments

Steve Forbes, President and CEO of Forbes Media and publisher of Forbes Magazine, headed the group of international business leaders for the 1st Greek Power Summit which took place in Athens this past June. Despite the adverse and difficult times, prominent business people of the Greek Diaspora such as Elena Ambrosiadou, John Calamos, Nick Lazares, George Koukis, Con Makris, Andreas Pittas, Panos Georghiadis, Nicholas Gouletas and Nikos Gitsis were in attendance. They were joined by Stephen Cucchiaro, Windhaven Investment Management (U.S.), Stephen Kinnoch, Director, Head of Europe and Central Asia, World Economic Forum (Switzerland) and Krzysztof Walenczak, Under-Secretary of State and Finance Minister (Poland).

In a closed Round Table Discussion these international financiers and entrepreneurs exchanged views and shared experiences with prominent Greek representatives from key sectors of the Greek economy including tourism, construction, banking, commerce, industry, shipping, energy and technology and explored potential ways of cooperation.

Significant guideposts for the future of the Greek economy were discussed by Dr. Haralambos Ziogas (MFS Shipping Management), Mihalios Madianos (Global Finance), Aris Kefaloyiannis (Gaia) and Mihalios Pagidas (EASE), George Vernicos (Vernicos Yachts) and Aris Karytinios (National Bank of Greece), Professor Vassilis Makios (Corallia) and Christos Tsangos (Junior Achievement Greece). More than 50 renowned business people from Greece and abroad contributed their views to the discussion which was moderated by journalist Pavlos Tsimas.

"Scrap your tax system and put in place a new and simpler one," said Steve Forbes in his keynote speech at the Gala dinner of the 1st Greek Power Summit, while he stressed the "need for a holistic economic policy where growth measures will play a decisive part so that Greece can become the Hong Kong or New Zealand of the Balkans."

"It is very easy to criticize," said Elena Ambrosiadou, President and CEO IKOS Group, in a discussion panel on the 2nd day of the Greek Power Summit. "Growth and progress is a process that needs to start

in each and everyone of us," and she called for "the reform of the public sector, for the creation of a tax efficient modern company structure abolishing the archaic forms of companies which keep Greece small minded and corruptible, for the restructure of the IT plan of the public sector to make it more efficient and to allow it to reduce its workforce, for a regulatory framework for the services sector to allow it to grow with credibility and quality."

Discussing "Capital goes where it is treated best," John Calamos, President of Calamos Investments (USA), insisted that the measures being taken are not enough for development and growth. "Culture needs to change, Greece needs a New Deal," said Mr. Calamos.

"Dignity and solvency are Greece's two basic problems that keep investors away," stated Stephen Cucchiaro, CIO of Windward Investment (USA), and he gave an idea on how to finance business plans: "Many US based companies have cash in Europe which they want to use. Find these companies and take advantage of them."

Krzysztof Walenczak, Secretary of State and Finance Ministry offered his experience in privatizations in Poland, while Mihalios Pagidas, President of the Association of Chief Executive Officers, discussed the views of the Greek business community on the current situation. The panel discussions were moderated by INSEAD Emeritus Professor Spyros Makridakis.

The 1st Greek Power Summit was organized by Honeystone Limited, since 2007 publishers of the Greek Rich List Magazine, and International Advantage Corporation (IAC) which was established in 1993.

Savvas Pavlou of Honeystone (Cyprus) and publisher of the Greek Rich List said: "We were overwhelmed by the response from successful Greeks from around the world. They came from the USA, the UK, Australia, Cyprus, Switzerland, Canada and the Philippines to name a few. The Greek Power Summit will be an annual event aiming to attract industry leaders globally to share their knowledge and ideas in hope to make Greece great once again."

Georgette Alithinos, of IAC stated: "We are very happy that in spite of the difficulties, we attracted so many important professionals from around the globe in a two day gathering to share knowledge and experience that will be invaluable for the creation of a new Greek economy and the entrepreneurship needed to make it a reality."

The Greek Power Summit was sponsored by Elena Ambrosiadou –IKOS Group, John Calamos-Calamos Investments, Nicholas Lazares-Admirals Bank, Alki David-Film On, and Panos Georghiadis –Southern Bulk Carriers.

MARIO FRANGOULIS AT THE 2012 L100 CONFERENCE

Internationally acclaimed Sony Classical recording artist and Greek tenor Mario Frangoulis will highlight the Leadership 100 21st Annual Conference, February 9-12, 2012 at The Ritz-Carlton, Palm Beach in Manalapan, Florida.

Frangoulis, who is often referred to as one of Greece's "national treasures", is a dedicated Hellenic who thinks of himself as an ambassador for Greece all over the world. He sings in Italian, Spanish, English, French and Greek, enabling him to truly connect with global audiences. He has had the honor of performing with some of the world's greatest artists, including Placido Domingo, Lara Fabian, Sarah Brightman, Justin Hayward, and Natalie Merchant in addition to collaborating with Greece's most famous composers, Mikis Theodorakis and Yannis Markopoulos, and world-acclaimed singers, George Dalaras, Alkistis Protopsalti, and Glykeria, to name a few.

Born in what is now the Republic of Zimbabwe to Greek parents, Frangoulis was raised in Athens, Greece. At the age of 17, he attended London's prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama to study acting and singing. While at Guildhall, he was discovered by Sir Cameron Mackintosh, who is referred to by The New York Times as "the most successful, influential and powerful producer of our time." Upon his graduation, he was hired to play the character Marius in *Les Misérables* in London's West End. Soon thereafter, he was invited by Sir Andrew

Lloyd Webber to play the role of Raoul in *Phantom of the Opera* to great critical acclaim.

During this time, Frangoulis discovered the operatic side of his voice. Anything but a conventional opera singer, he won the role of Tony in *West Side Story* at Milan's La Scala for the New Millennium and appeared in films such as *De Lovely* with Kevin Kline, on television, and even in epic presentations of ancient Greek plays such as *The Birds*, *Prometheus*, and *The Bacchae*.

A true humanitarian, Frangoulis is recognized all over the world for his charity work, supporting events and. In 2008, he was invited by Nobel Peace Laureate Betty Williams to be a *Global Ambassador for Peace* for her organization, The World Centers of Compassion for Children International, and as a result, was invited by the Dalai Lama to sing at his 2009 Peace Summit in Vancouver, Canada. Simultaneously, he became an *Ambassador* for the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans in support of their goal to provide college scholarships for high-risk, high-potential youth throughout the United States.

EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS



scan with your smart phone

COUPONTRADE.COM

AN ONLINE MARKETPLACE TO BUY & SELL UNUSED GIFT CARDS & DAILY DEALS

SHOW ME THE \$\$\$

BUY & SELL GIFT CARDS!

BUY & SELL DAILY DEALS!



Dr. Gerasimos Petratos and HITEKS: harvesting medical data in the digital age

by Dimitri C. Michalakos

Imagine the number of cancer researchers and drug companies and medical institutions clamoring for case studies of patients to help them develop better medicines and treatments while doctors around the world see thousands of patients every day and produce hundreds of thousands of notes which they routinely stash away in file cabinets and personal computers rarely to be seen by others.



PHOTO: ANITA KAN

"Doctors dictate these notes for legal and clinical purposes as a summary of what they did for the patient, or what the patient's experience was in the hospital or while undergoing certain procedures, but from a research perspective this data has not been leveraged: it's been stored away in doctors' computers or the file server of a large health care system," says Dr. Gerasimos Petratos, at 37 already a former global head of Healthcare Data Analytics at the Roche Group and now a founder of Hiteks, a firm that mines and refines the avalanche of clinical data produced every day on the spectrum of medical conditions and makes it readily available to researchers and medical institutions.

"The focus of our business," he says, "is to apply sophisticated tools to search and find relevant medical information from all the digital information being collected now. Enough of it has already become digital and life sciences companies—specifically pharmaceutical, medical device, and biotech—are trying to get a better understanding of that data to help inform and develop new products: innovative products that will meet the needs in the markets."

Working with these companies, Hiteks uses language technology to "take the unstructured information and automatically structure it into a base they can report from and they can use to meet governmental reporting requirements. And at the same time we're taking their legacy data, which amounts to hundreds of millions of records, and we're organizing that into a clinical research database."

As Petratos describes it, Hiteks puts information through a multi-step process. "We first strip any identifiable information from the notes and records; then we organize it by disease areas. All the diabetic diagnosis is put together and restructured so when we want to go down to an individual patient, even though we don't know who that patient is, we can get a good understanding of what medication they are on, how long they were diagnosed for, what medications they were given. Imagine trying to get that information manually when it's time-sensitive? An average institution sees 25,000 patients a year and it's very difficult for them to comb through every note they have on file. We use software and software technology that allows us to provide a complete and accurate record and pull out meaningful data."

Hiteks, while new, already has contracts with some of the biggest institutions in the field, including Roche, which was among the first to join up. "My work over there was directly a steppingstone to what I'm doing now," says Petratos. "We have Roche as a customer because we know their business pretty well. We can help accelerate the identification of patients that meet the criteria of their research studies and we are also decreasing the barrier for those institutions so they can feel comfortable referring patients to these studies without having necessarily the people or the facilities to run these studies as part of their organization."

Seeing the larger picture is not only the goal of Hiteks, but the personal vision of Petratos, who majored in biology at Cornell and got a medical degree from Howard, but saw his mission to diagnose whole populations rather than individual patients.

"I realized I personally wasn't suited to seeing tens or hundreds of patients a day," he says. "I wanted to be involved in more population-based treatment and in generating new knowledge for the medical field. So for me at the time the best option was to join a drug company that was doing the work and developing drugs and treatment for a large number of people and that allowed me to get to know the industry and the approaches, both the scientific and the analytic and business processes."

At Roche, he was the wunderkind who in a few years rose in the ranks from designing ways to assess the effectiveness of medicines for oncology and neurological patients, to directing the sweep of clinical data needed to discover, approve, and promote a new drug, to managing a team supporting the development of Phase 2-4 drugs.

But he was eager for more.

"There's a saying that if a pharmaceutical company were only made up of marketing people everybody would be in jail; and if it was only composed of science people then they would go out of business, so there's really a delicate balance that's needed," he says. "I learned a lot while I was there, but after being with the industry for eight years, I was able to make out what was efficient and what was inefficient and what were better way to do things."

So he started Hiteks with a business partner, Lalit Bakhi, who he worked with at Roche.

"He was involved in the professional services area and did a lot of recruitment and staffing of people that we ended up using in one way or another, so we had a good relationship and I was always interested in his approach to business," he says of his partner. "I knew if I was going to do anything in health care I needed to partner with somebody who had access to a group of investors as well as the tech thinking that allowed us to create a capability fairly quickly in the market and then grow it from there in such a way that we knew we could compete."

Of course, his company is not the only one aiming to provide clinical data in a high tech way. "It's been tried at larger institutions that have good clinical databases, but it's still early on. The idea we had is let's get on this now, because it's going to be in such high demand in a couple of years and having us well established now will assist us in the near future."

The company is based in the medical center at Columbia University, not far from the Washington Heights neighborhood where Petratos was born, before his family moved to Queens and then Port Washington, Long Island. (His dad Vasilis immigrated from Cephalonia, his mother Katerina's family is both from Cephalonia and Sparta, his sister Theodora is an ophthalmologist, and he often works now with his brother Nikos, a lawyer.)

After college he worked at a Native American non-profit "both applying my knowledge from the university to specific groups and also getting involved with health care issues. I knew I was going to be applying for medical school and I knew the non-profit was working with HIV as a disease within the American Indian population and its different nations. One of the big capabilities that we worked on is to allow a more efficient way of identifying HIV patients that could be enrolled in clinical trials of HIV drugs which at the time in the late '90s was a huge need."

He's also a member of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York and the Global Hellenic Medical Network.

He hopes the success of his business will drive the science and the success of the science will drive the business.

"I'm trying to achieve that combination," he says. "I'm trying to make it work for my new business because I think you do need that combination of things to be successful and I don't think you can do one and not the other."

American Women in Greece

by Margarita Vartolomeou

PHOTOS: PAMADAKIS PRESS



US Ambassador Daniel Bennelt Smith with wife Diane and the George and Eleni Palivos couple



Alex Brouxard, General Manager of Coca Cola Greece, with his wife Peggy

A fabulous evening was organized recently in Athens, by the union of American Women in Greece (AWOG), in order to raise funds and awareness for children with DOWN's Syndrom in Greece. The event took place at the Balux Prive. Many dignitaries attended, among them, H.E. Daniel Bennelt Smith, the American Ambassador in Greece, with his wife Diane Smith who is the Honorary President of AWOG. Mrs Annita Nathanail contributed to the whole effort in her own, unique way. Gold Plus sponsor was the EMPORIKI BANK and Gold Sponsor was COCA COLA. Eleni Palivos, a very talented and active lady, is the President of AWOG.



Leonidas Zonnios, General Director of Emporiki Bank with Katerina Aperi



Dalini Adam, Dimitrios Talaganis and Sevi Adam



Annita Nathanail, Eleni Palivos, President of AWOG, and Gabriela Petzetaki

PAVLIDIS GEORGIOS
MEMBER OF THE GREEK SOCIETY OF PHOTOREPORTERS
pavlidis.g@gmail.com

Blinds Shades Glass & More

"A Few Shades Better"

BUY SAVE* PLUS

4 Duette® Architella® Honeycomb Shades	\$100	\$25 OFF each additional unit
2 Silhouette® Window Shadings	\$100	\$50 OFF each additional unit
1 Luminette® Privacy Sheers or Modern Draperies	\$100	\$100 OFF each additional unit

Free in home consultation

Frameless Shower Enclosures • Specialty Glass • Mirror Designs • Windows & Doors • Custom Drapery • Motorized Sunshades • Wood Blinds & Shutters • Window Treatments

Visit our showroom: 35-05, 31st Avenue, LIC, NY 11106 Tel: (877) 9DECOR9, (718) 956-8006 www.afewshadesbetter.com

Ask about the federal tax credit opportunity on select Duette® Architella® Honeycomb Shades



THE HELLENIC LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

invites you to
Save the Date
for their 23rd Annual Dinner Dance Gala
honoring

New York State Senator Dean G. Skelos
Majority Leader

and
Attorney of the Year
Nick Katsoris, Esq.
General Counsel, Red Apple Group, Inc.
President, Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund

Friday, November 18, 2011
The Pierre, New York, NY

For more information or to place an ad in our journal, please visit our website www.hlany.org



C. Dean Metropoulos (left) about to accept the Award from John Catsimatidis and Georgia Mouzakis Tavlarios



Dennis Drousiotis, Spiros Voutsinas, John Catsimatidis, John Antzoulis, a guest and Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis



Paulette Poulos, State Senator Dean Skelos, C. Dean Metropoulos, the Honoree, Georgia Mouzakis Tavlarios, HABA President, Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis and Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas



Left to Right: Peter Kakoyiannis, Demetri Papacostas, Antony Contomichalos, James Hansel, Consul General of Greece Agbi Balta, Costas Kellas, Georgia Mouzakis Tavlarios, C. Dean Metropoulos, John Catsimatidis, Manny Caravanos, Fanny Trataros, Harry Prassakos, Lucretia Edreos and Consul General of Cyprus Koula Sofianou



Emmanuel Caravanos, Georgia Mouzakis Tavlarios, Tom Boehlke, Dean Metropoulos and guests



C. Dean Metropoulos (center) with Michael Jabaris and Paulette Poulos, Director Leadership 100

Metropoulos receives Executive of the Year Award from HABA

The Hellenic American Bankers Association honored C. Dean Metropoulos as its 2011 Executive of the Year, during its 29th annual gala held recently at the Union League Club of New York City. Mr. Metropoulos is the chairman and C.E.O. of C. Dean Metropoulos & Company ("CDM"), a boutique acquisition and management firm with offices in New York and Greenwich, Connecticut.

The Hellenic American Bankers Association (HABA.) was established in 1982 to promote the professional and educational interests of Greek-Americans in the

banking and finance industries. Since its inception HABA has strived to serve the interests of Greek-American financial professionals through the sponsoring of lectures, seminars, cocktail receptions and other events featuring many distinguished speakers.

John Metaxas served as Master of Ceremonies at the gala, and he introduced HABA President Georgia Mouzakis Tavlarios, who in turn welcomed the guests, among them Aghi Balta, Greece's Consul General in New York, Koula Sophianou, Consul

General of Cyprus, State Senator and the Majority Leader at the New York State Senate Dean Skelos, as well as State Assemblywomen Aravela Simotas and Nicole Malliotakis.

Mark Rockefeller introduced Dean Metropoulos and praised his business abilities and his values as a human being. Metropoulos thanked HABA for the distinction and he also spoke with affection of his wife Marianna and his sons Evan and Deran. He then referred to the economic crisis in Greece (he is in the group of Greek American businessmen from whom

Prime Minister Papandreou sought advice upon resuming his duties) and the situation here at home, which requires greater responsibility and commitment.

C. Dean Metropoulos & Company has participated in more than 72 acquisitions involving over \$12 billion in invested capital over the past 25 years and has earned some of the most attractive returns on Wall Street. Mr. Metropoulos sits on the boards of a number of companies both in the United States and in Europe and he also invests in high quality real estate properties and boutique luxury hotels.

Georgia Mouzakis Tavlarios thanked all those who contributed to the event's success, as well to those who stood with her and HABA during the past season's cycle of activities.

GREECE'S MASTER PLAN



Nikos Tsafos

Within thirty days, Greece went from near collapse to major victory: first a squabble in the ruling party almost triggered elections then a cabinet reshuffle not only shored up a parliamentary majority but also allowed the government to pass a far-reaching reform package. In turn, these promises helped secure a second round of foreign aid, including pledges from the private sector to roll over Greek debt. Where does Greece stand now and what comes next?

In early June, Greece faced a simple fact: the premise of its first bailout package, worth €110 billion, was no longer tenable. According to that deal, Greece would sell bonds in early 2012 to finance its budget deficit and roll over debt. But market sentiment made that impossible. What is more, Greek banks needed support, and the country's 2011 budget already needed extra funds to balance.

With no ability to tap markets for funds, the Greek government had two choices: default or get more official aid. Obviously the government opted for the latter, but securing aid was not easy. There was a sense in Europe that the original program was off track, that the government was too timid in passing reforms, and that revisions to the country's debt projections meant a greater effort was needed to restore solvency.

To respond to these problems, Greece proposed a medium strategy - a set of measures to drop its budget deficit from 10.5% of GDP in 2010 to 1% of GDP in 2015. At its core, this is a spending plan: the goal is to keep revenues at a relative flat share of GDP after 2011 (~43%) while cutting spending from 50% to 44% of GDP. Greece's fiscal problem is that by 2015, one in four euros spent by the government will go to pay interest on debt. Other expenditures need to fall to offset this growing debt burden.

The other aspect of the plan is an ambitious privatization program to raise €50 billion by 2015. To its critics, this is a sell-out. But the point of departure is that the Greek state holds assets of €500 to €600 billion. Given liabilities of €340 billion (end 2010), a sale could help with solvency. Admittedly, the task is enormous, having to sell so much in so little time and amidst a tough climate. But Greece's target is in line with the upper end of what other countries have done with their privatizations, albeit in better times. Greece faces a big but not an impossible task.

So where goes Greece stand now? The pledge of further European support - if it passes - would insulate Greece from the need to borrow until at least 2014, perhaps longer. Yet at that time, Greece's debt over GDP ratio would be 160%, which is hardly reassuring. Even so, Greece's chances would hinge on some positive growth momentum plus a reduction in the risk-aversion of markets. When everyone thinks the Eurozone is about to collapse, it's hard for Greece to catch a break. Better overall conditions would make life much easier.

Whether the plan works depends on political will and the public's readiness to accept changes. Is there political will? Yes and no. On one hand, the prime minister is sincere about what is needed to restore sustainability and avoid default. But his agenda has been hampered by his ministers, many of whom oppose. A cabinet reshuffle just before this crucial parliamentary vote was meant to buy internal cohesion - so far, it has. But in the end, the prime minister needs to dismantle the system of clientelism and patronage that his father created and upon which his party's legitimacy is founded. That he can do so is far from clear.

What about the public? Opposition to the reform agenda comes from three corners: those who stand to lose their privileges, those who outright repudiate the political class, and those who think reform is not coming soon enough. So far, the government has alienated all three corners, and the images one sees in Athens capture only part of the public's frustration.

There are some signs that the public will support big change - if the government knew how to galvanize its energy. The government is sticking to a "we must not default" scare tactic. It is thus missing an opportunity to recast the country's political ambitions and to create a narrative for the Greek people to buy into. This plan depends on the ability to paint a broader picture and argue convincingly that the reform agenda is not about paying back bankers in Paris and Frankfurt but about making Greece a better place to live. And so far that case has not been made.



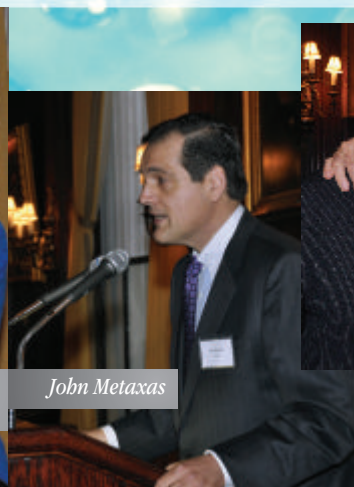
Michael Parker, James Orphanides, Virginia Parker and Basil Karatzas



The Atlantic Bank group: Vince Balzano, Joanna Georgiades, Jerry Tetenes, Denice Syrigos, Nineta Dafnos and Sofia Stroumbakis



President of HABA Georgia Mouzakis Tavlarios addressing the event



John Metaxas



Vasillis Katsikiotis and Demetri Papacostas



Mark Rockefeller

Onassis Center vibrates to unique sound

by Penelope Karageorge

The Onassis Center exploded this month to the sweet saxophone and singing of Dimitri Vassilakis. A jazz artist who's a scholar, teacher, but first and foremost a performer, Vassilakis managed to trump the roar of a huge crowd of gregarious Greeks indulging mezethes and wine. He brought the crowd down to a simmer to tune into his and his group's renditions of music from the Beatles, Chet Baker, and Nina Simone.

A tall, slender man with a shaved head, and a long, bony, and arresting face, Vassilakis vibrates with the music – his long hands twitching, his face moving in reaction to his other players. He alternates between playing the saxophone and singing in a lightly accented, smoky voice. His rendition of songs including Nature Boy and Time After Time comprise their own classics, and can be found on the recording Across the Universe. On this CD, Vassilakis brings Greek soul to songs including Fool on the Hill and God Bless the Child.

Born in 1961, Vassilakis first earned a degree in Chemical Engineering at Athens University before surrendering to his great love, music, and ultimately, jazz. He moved to London in '86 to study at the Royal Academy -- "I was very fortunate to have a scholarship from the Onassis Foundation" -- then did post-graduate studies in jazz for a Master's Degree. "It was brand new, and the level was amazing at the Royal Academy." Vassilakis went on to earn a Ph.D. in music.

He returned to Greece to teach, compose and perform. Says the multi-talented Vassilakis: "Playing is still my favorite thing – singing and playing the saxophone."

According to the musician, jazz was "underdeveloped in Greece" when he first started performing there. "But as we started to produce and play – myself, fellow musicians and then my students – we developed a jazz scene in Greece that's still evolving." This summer, Vassilakis will bring his talent to the Greek islands, performing in venues on Mykonos and other popular spots. In the fall, he'll go to Chicago where his brother, Pantelis, is the Chair of Acoustics at Columbia College. Vasselakis will give a concert, perform with a classical orchestra, and make a recording. He'll then move on to New York and Boston. And if you haven't seen or heard him, we suggest you watch your jazz calendars. Or catch the CD Across the Universe, dedicated to his wife, Elena, and son, Nestor.

Vassilakis has another intriguing gig. The super-luxurious Bentley car company commissioned him to make a CD To Bentley, and provides him with a car and driver for transportation to major festivals.

FAITH expands support of Birthright Hellas scholarship programs

This summer, FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism will continue to underwrite a series of financial aid scholarships to students traveling to Ionian Village to experience Greece through its Birthright Hellas program. FAITH announced that it has awarded financial aid scholarships to 54 young people to participate in Ionian Village.

Located in Greece, Ionian Village offers its participants a unique experience that is unavailable elsewhere. Based in the beautiful seafront property of Bartholomeio Greece, a daily program of arts and crafts, Greek Music and Dance, athletics, aquatics, and chapel educates the participants about their Hellenic legacy and is complemented by excursions to Ancient Olympia, Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Delphi, Aegina, Kalavrita, and Athens. At the end of the program, the staff and campers return to their homes with strengthened faith and with a greater appreciation for the Church and for Greek culture and heritage.

"The generous support of FAITH makes it possible to offer financial assistance to 54 young people to attend Ionian Village this summer who otherwise would not have been able to afford to do so because their families face unfortunate financial difficulties. Given the economic slowdown of the last few years, we saw a sharp increase in applications and the generosity of the Founders of FAITH will make it possible for young people to connect to their Hellenic roots and experience Greece. This means that 1/6 of the young people attending Ionian Village will be FAITH scholarship recipients and we are extremely grateful for this," said Fr. Jason Roll, Director of Ionian Village.

Ms. Maria Allwin who is a FAITH Founder and chaired the Scholarship Committee adds: "We (the Founders of Faith) are proud to support young

people wishing to participate in Ionian Village, which is a truly transformative experience – the intellectual and spiritual growth along with the friendships that take place as these young people connect to their Hellenic roots at Ionian Village are extraordinary. For over forty years, Ionian Village has been and still is the premiere program for the young Greek Americans to understand their Hellenic heritage and identity."

Since its inception, grants from Faith funded many merit-based scholarships to high school students graduating from public, parochial and private high schools across the country for academic excellence. The program which originally limited to valedictorians and salutatorians has expanded to also include students who display extraordinary academic achievement and display an acute need for financial support for their university studies. In past years, several graduating seniors received Faith Scholarships for Academic Excellence through the Archdiocese toward their college tuition.

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

For more information about these programs visit the FAITH website: www.faithendowment.org.

Maria Allwin, a FAITH Founder,
chaired the Scholarship Committee



Welcome Back Party!

Thursday,
September 22, 2011
7:00 – 11:00 pm

Thalassa Restaurant
Gallery Loft Room
179 Franklin Street in TriBeCa
Discounted Parking available

Cocktail Hour

Brief Presentation on the Fall Series Topic

*followed by a dance party
with music by*

DJ International Sounds

**Greek & International Dance
and Lounge Music
Savory Appetizers
Cash Bar
No RSVP required**

Entrance Gratis
*Donations of any amount to support
the FOS Ministry will be appreciated*

**FORUM on ORTHODOX
SPIRITUALITY**
Holy Trinity Cathedral
212-288-3215

www.thecathedralnyc.org

Dina Titus Announces Candidacy for Congress



Dina Titus recently announced that she is running for a seat in the United States House of Representatives. Titus has represented the people of Southern Nevada for more than 20 years as a member of the Nevada State Senate and in the 111th Congress.

Sworn in to Congress in 2009 on her grandfather's Greek Bible, Dina is anxious to return to Congress and to the Hellenic Caucus. During her previous time in Congress, Dina stood in strong support of efforts to protect the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to reunify Cyprus, and to maintain the Greek sanctity of the name and symbols of Macedonia. She has sought the wise counsel of members of the Greek community on these important issues.

In June of 2009, Dina was chosen by President Obama to represent the United States at the opening of the magnificent new Acropolis Museum in Athens, where she also met with Greek leaders to discuss the important relationship between the United States and Greece. She developed strong ties with the embassies of Greece and Cyprus which have resulted in increased cooperation among Athens, Nicosia, and Washington. Dina was a leader in the efforts to pass resolutions in the House recognizing Greek Independence Day and honoring the 80th anniversary of the Daughters of Penelope. She was also helpful in bringing Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to "the hill" during his 2009 visit to Washington.

Dina was honored to receive the Pericles Award for public service from the American Hellenic Council in Los Angeles in 2010. She was also a PSEKA Honoree at the 26th annual Cyprus and Hellenic Leadership Conference in Washington in 2010.

"I have been proud to serve Nevada and stand up for working families who have fallen behind during these tough economic times," Titus said. "It is clear that Southern Nevadans are still hurting and need someone who will do what's right for them. They need real solutions and honest leadership. That's why I am joining the fight for a brighter future for Nevada and our country. There is too much at stake not to do so."

Titus is running in order to build on her past efforts to help Southern Nevadans, which include assisting hundreds of homeowners avoid foreclosure, investing in Nevada's abundant renewable energy to create jobs, and protecting Medicare and Social Security for our seniors. Titus also seeks to provide another strong voice in the halls of Congress on behalf of Greek Americans and Greece.

For All your printing needs

magazines

journals

books

posters

invitations

dinner programs

special editions

flyers

newspapers



Satisfaction Guaranteed - High Quality - Low Prices

Tel: (718) 554-0308

e-Fax: (718) 878-4448

info@neomagazine.com

NEO
GRAPHIX

"CONTEXTUAL": A NEW CD OF PETROS KLAMPANIS

Heritages combine to form on unique interpretation and understanding of the humanistic nature and take on music. Petros Klampanis' new release of "Contextual" on Inner Circle Music is a refreshing departure from the standards of jazz and is one that certainly pushes the envelope of the tradition of bass playing and jazz arranging/composing. Throughout this 10-track compilation of the different contexts in which the bass can be played, Petros offers us 5 originals of his own. Perhaps most stunning is his composition dedicated to the Blue Cave in Zakynthos of which Petros is a native. In this tune it is made undeniable the knowledge Petros holds for the traditions of jazz, composition, and music overall.

A stand out and stunning arrangement featured on this CD is the traditional Greek song "Thalassaki". In this song Klampanis beautifully blends Greek and jazz styles in a haunting and romantic arrangement. The string quartet harmony over Klampanis' combination of melody tapping and percussive slaps on the double bass evokes an essence of mystery and class.

The premise of which "Contextual" was recorded truly keeps the listeners ears changing and eagerly engaged through the progression of each track. It was recorded over a several year time span throughout Klampanis' contextual life in Amsterdam, Greece, and New York... all three of which cities' cultures and influences can be heard in reflections of the music posed on this album. This album is a statement of the current jazz era and a reflection of the development of a stellar musician. The musicianship and personality heard on this recording is one that will keep listeners smiling and musicians gawking.

Petros Klampanis can be found performing all over New York City and regularly on Sunday evenings at 7:30 at the Pomme Café on Broadway in Astoria. He will also be presenting his CD in Greece on Saturday July 23d, 10:00PM at the Kalamata Jazz Festival. For more information on Petros Klampanis and to purchase his CD please visit www.petrosklampanis.com.

Peter Douskalis is the host of RadioNEO's weekly program "JazzCity" on Sunday's from 6:30-8:00 PM. He is a nationally and internationally acclaimed jazz guitarist and music educator.

by Peter Douskalis*



COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE: IN FOCUS*

by Peter Shakalis



Building Sale Prices in Manhattan Rebound While Activity Rises...

Transactional volume in Manhattan has bounced back from a two year hiatus. For the first half of 2011 \$5.7 billion of office product has traded in nineteen transactions, over a 30% increase over the total volume seen in five transactions during the first half of 2010. At the peak of the market in 2007 approximately \$30.3 billion traded in 68 transactions in Manhattan. Numerous properties are being offered for sale indicating a strong total transactional volume for all of 2011. These figures include freehold transactions and recapitalizations where partial ownership interests exchange hands.

Prices for all types of properties have rebounded. In the second quarter, the average price of a Manhattan office property was \$544/sf, up from \$457/sf in the second quarter of 2011. The market bottomed out in 2009 when the average price was \$333/sf.

The average Class A sales price for the first half of 2011 was \$615/sf. This is almost double the \$325 psf Class A average in the first half of 2010, although that number was skewed by a large Class A sale Downtown. When comparing just Midtown Class A sales the average in the first half of 2011 was \$643/sf, a 41% increase over the \$474/sf Class A average in the first half of 2010.

The average Class B sales price for the first half of 2011 was \$364/sf. This is an 11% decrease from the \$411/sf Class B average in the first half of 2010. When Downtown buildings are excluded, the average for the first half of 2011 rises to \$453/sf a 10% increase over the average in the first half of 2010, when no Downtown buildings traded.

A multitude of investors have been active in the market including SL Green, the largest owner in Manhattan, which has acted as both a buyer and a seller this year. Fosterlane Management, the sovereign Kuwaiti investment authority, acquired the largest single asset, 750 Seventh Avenue, from Hines Interests in a \$485 million trade. The largest recapitalization involved 1633 Broadway where Paramount, a firm with German origins, acquired an interest held by investment banks Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch.

Investment sales activity has been largely fueled by the expectation that the rental market has bottomed and that rents will continue to increase. For the first half of 2011, approximately 15 million square feet has been leased in Manhattan. Rents have increased from \$50.18 in the first quarter of 2011 to \$51.59/sf in the second quarter of 2011. In addition, debt capital is available at interest rates which have remained at or near historic lows. These factors have kept capitalization rates down, which has resulted in per square foot pricing that is only 30% below the levels seen during the market peak in 2007.

Capitalization rates for core Manhattan office buildings are 5.0% to 5.5%, nearly as low as they were in the market peak in 2007. The difference today is that recent sales have had a substantially higher equity component, comprising approximately 30% to 40% of the purchase price. In the heady days of high leverage, equity capital was only 10% to 20% of the purchase price.

There has not been a flood of distress in New York City office buildings. While a handful of physically and financially distressed assets sold over the past two years, the majority of owners and lenders have been rewarded by restructuring debt and holding on to the properties when possible while waiting for the market to recover.

The Manhattan real estate market is cyclical, with peaks and valleys in both rents and values. Employment and the subsequent demand for office space drive the market; there is little new construction to flood the market with new inventory. Assuming that employment continues to rise modestly, the Manhattan real estate market should continue to appreciate in the near term.

(James Murphy, Managing Director of investment Sales at Colliers International contributed to this article. james.murphy@colliers.com)

Peter Shakalis is a Director at Colliers International NY LLC
peter.shakalis@colliers.com

Frigoglass:

A Refreshing Success for Greece

The financial news of recent months paints a difficult picture for Greece and Greek businesses. Profitability and growth seem like an elusive oasis in these turbulent times, which makes the success of one Greek company as refreshing as a drink of cold water during an Athenian heat wave.

When most people across the globe look for refreshment, they often reach for brands like Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Heineken and Nestle to deliver refreshing treats, but how happy would these consumers be with a fizzy glass of warm soda? That's why these companies often count on Athens-based Frigoglass, the leading player in the global beverage cooler market, to keep the goods ice cold.

By looking ahead to anticipate the needs for clients and consumers, Frigoglass is showing its strength by posting significant growth, investing in innovation and development, and expanding global operations, even amid these financially turbulent times.

While the jury is still out on whether sustainability can drive sales, research indicates that brand loyalty increases when there's an environmentally friendly aspect of the product involved. For this reason, companies large and small are looking to realize the benefits of going green, and integrating that into their marketing messages.

According to an American Marketing Association study, more than half of corporate marketers believe that their organizations will increase their involvement in environmental sustainability, and 43% say their companies will increase marketing of these programs. Since 2007, companies have scrambled to gain consumer favor resulting in dramatic increases in sustainable, environmentally friendly or eco-friendly new products. Global giants, including Pepsi, Coca-Cola and FedEx, are publicly proclaiming their commitment to sustainability to consumers and shareholders alike, and while most start with implementing internal efficiency standards, they also rely on partners to help sustainability efforts reach the everyday shopper.

As key clients seek partners that enable them to achieve their own sustainability targets, Frigoglass' success has been highly driven by the company's commitment to providing superior solutions in beverage refrigeration proven to drive cold drink sales, while also promoting sustainable development in its operations. In this context, Frigoglass has been investing heavily in the

next generation of refrigeration technologies promoting a sustainable business model designed to reduce the impact of greenhouse emissions and energy consumption.

Frigoglass recently launched the world's first complete range of eco-friendlier Ice-Cold Merchandisers: Frigoglass Ecocool. The Ecocool environmentally friendlier line supports beverage companies towards their sustainability goals and more specifically reducing their carbon footprint emissions. The Ecocool line uses natural substances such as Hydrocarbons (HCs) and Carbon Dioxide (CO2) that minimize the impact refrigerants have on the environment. More specifically, while conventional refrigerants have an average global warming potential (GWP) of 1,300 over a period of 100 years, HC and CO2 have a GWP of less than 3. Additionally, all Ecocool units have energy management systems that reduce the power consumption by up to 50% versus conventional models. In addition by lowering electricity bills at the outlets, beverage companies can offer retailers cooling solutions to promote their products at a significantly lower cost base.

The investment in sustainable solutions is paying off for Frigoglass. The company announced strong first quarter 2011 financial results posting a 44.6% sales growth.

In addition to sustainability, Frigoglass is also expanding globally and diversifying its client and revenue base.

"The strong momentum that built during the course of last year has continued into the first quarter of 2011, with sales growth led by Europe. Western Europe posted a strong performance in the quarter, confirming its improving trajectory, whilst other regions sustained their demand levels," explained Petros Diamantides, Managing Director. "We are pleased with the continued progress in our long term strategy, and while we are conscious of near term cost pressures, we remain confident in our ability to create further value for our



shareholders through our strong global presence and relationships with the world's leading beverage companies."

As the name suggests, Frigoglass is also diversified to complement the beverage refrigeration business through the company's glass operations. Frigoglass' Glass operations, located in Nigeria, represent one of Africa's largest glass bottle producers. Showcasing its commitment to expand its glass operations, the company recently announced the acquisition of 80% of the shareholding in the Dubai-based glass bottle and jar manufacturer Jebel Ali Container Glass Factory Fze (JAG), located in the Jebel Ali Free Zone

"Indeed, the acquisition of Jebel Ali evidenced the increasing strategic importance of glass to our Company as well as leaving us ideally positioned in the region for exports to Europe, Africa and Asia," noted Mr. Diamantides. "This highlights our strategy of actively pursuing growth opportunities around the world."

Frigoglass is the most geographically diverse company in the ICM (beverage refrigeration) field, with operations spanning over 19 countries, across five continents, including production hubs in Romania, Russia, Greece, Turkey, India, China, Indonesia, South Africa, Nigeria and the USA. The company's customer base consists of major market players such as the Coca-Cola Company Bottlers, Pepsi, brewers (such as Heineken, SABMiller, Carlsberg, ABInbev, Efes), dairy companies (Nestle, Danone) and many others. The company's stock is 44% owned by BOVAL S.A. and trades in the Athens Stock exchange.

COFFEE TALK IN BELOIANNISZ



Five minutes off a spanking new autobahn, funded, like those in Greece, by the European Union, I arrive in Beloianisz, a Hungarian village about fifty kilometers southwest of Budapest. As the name hints, this is no typical Hungarian village, but rather one inhabited primarily by Greeks.

After the Greek Civil War ended, over one hundred thousand people left Greece, voluntarily or otherwise, for the then Communist countries. About seven thousand arrived in Hungary, settling primarily in Budapest. Additionally, the Hungarian government decided to build a village for some of the new arrivals.

On a stretch of agricultural land a few kilometers from the mighty Danube River, construction began in 1950. The workers were primarily Greeks, and the village was touted as a model Communist village and so had full electrification and running water, amenities rare in Hungary at the time. They named the village Beloianisz (Mpeloyiánnhç) after a Greek Communist leader executed in 1952.

Driving into Beloianisz today, the first thing one sees is the town plaque in Greek and Hungarian, followed immediately by a small, new Greek Orthodox Church. The town resembles a beautified military base, with a grid pattern of streets, whose names are in Greek and Hungarian. There is a central square, with a cultural center, a well-stocked library and a memorial to Nikos Beloianis. A one-story town hall also flanks the square, where I met Zisis Vlahopoulos, a former mayor.

A sturdy man in his late sixties, Vlahopoulos has the ruddy complexion one often finds in Macedonia (northern Greece). Friendly and direct, we began, as Greeks often do, with a chat about our origins. I told him about my Greek-American background, my education and career, and, because it was relevant, that my late father served in the Greek Navy during the Civil War. I emphasized that my interest was cultural and historical, not political. Over coffee in the mayoral conference room, he began.

He talked about living in caves in Greece's Grammos Mountains, during the Civil War, and then trekking over the mountains to Albania, where his father, who could speak Albanian, served as a guide. In Albania the children were taken by bus into Yugoslavia, and then by train to Hungary. In Budapest, six-year-old Zisis lived in a communal center, until he became sick and was transported to a hillside sanatorium. He was well cared for by the Hungarian staff, and,

away from other Greeks, he quickly picked up the language. When his mother found him there, it had been nearly two years' separation. I thought of my own son, who is seven, going through such an ordeal, and tears came to my eyes.

When describing life in the village, Zisis said that it was "without stress, but hard work." They had their jobs, but they also had a tight knit community with many cultural and athletic activities. "Necessity united us," he offered. In 1954, there was only one Hungarian family, the rest were Greeks, primarily from Western Macedonia, the Pindos Mountains, and Thrace. Many were (and are) Slav-speaking Greeks, but Zisis emphasized that there were no cleavages between villagers on the basis of this, and those Slavs that did feel as a separate ethnicity went to Yugoslavia or Bulgaria and that the remaining Slavs felt that they were Greeks. As mayor he resisted "outside" attempts to stir up trouble between villagers on this issue.

Though the villagers lived in Hungary, they remained stubbornly Greek, with Greek as the primary language in school and on the streets, as Zisis said, "even the Hungarians had to learn Greek, just to function." Like so many immigrants and exiles, they would say, "next year, in Greece." Some did trickle back to Greece in the late 1950s and early 1960s, but this stopped flat when the Junta seized power in Greece. Only in the early 1980s did things really open up with Greece. The exiles' Greek citizenship, revoked in the late 1940s, was restored, and the Greeks in Hungary had the option of returning to Greece, taking Hungarian nationality, or remaining as Greek citizens with Hungarian residence. Until that time, they were stateless. Many did return to Greece, or others moved to Budapest, particularly as Greeks took advantage of excellent educational opportunities. Zisis, married to a Hungarian, described relations with the Hungarians as excellent.

I thought back to the church I saw at the town's entrance, obviously much newer than the village itself. In our own American Diaspora communities, the Church was the heart of the community and one of the first things built. Tentatively, I began, "most of our communities in America established churches immediately, how did things happen here?" Zisis smiled slightly, saying, "you are not the first person to ask this question." Religion never ceased in the community, as five priests arrived with the original settlers to the town. While religion was not banned,

it was certainly not encouraged, as with any Communist country. Beloianisz, as a city founded by and for Communist refugees, was not going to be building any churches in the Communist Era.

Accordingly, St. Constantine Church was built in the early 1990s as Hungary rapidly shed its former Communist skin. Greeks, including adults, became baptized in increasing numbers. The Greek Orthodox Exarchate of Austria and Central Europe approached the town to build a church. Zisis, as mayor, sold a plot to the Church for a nominal price and the church began to be built, with donations from abroad, until a Cretan benefactor provided the final sum. The Church celebrates weekly and also services Greeks in Budapest.

What struck me the most about our conversation was that in spite of our different experiences, we were quite similar, as Diaspora Greeks. More similar to each other, perhaps, than to our compatriots "back home." He agreed, saying that we in the Diaspora are "more European [more Western]" than



the Greeks in Greece. As I met other Greeks in Budapest, including officials at the Greek Minority Center, the impression remained. Zisis said it beautifully, "I am proud to be born in Greece, and I am thankful that I was raised in Hungary."

As I left, I presented him with a bottle of Serbian rakija, and thanking him, I said, "Mr. Zisi, you have done the journey of Odysseus..." Interrupting me, and with just a hint of moisture in his eyes, he said, "without an Ithaca."

Alexander Billinis has spent a decade in international banking in the US and Europe, most recently in London. He is particularly interested in Greece's economic and cultural position in the Balkans. He has worked with companies invested in the Balkans, and is writing a travel-historical book about the post-Byzantine states of modern Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania.



John Catsimatidis with Spiro Milonas, recipient of the Humanitarian Leadership Award



Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney with Congressman Gus Bilirakis



Antboula Katsimatidis with Margo Catsimatidis on the Red Carpet



Olympia Dukakis with Gilles Marini, recipient of the Humanitarian Artistic Achievement award



The Consuls General of Cyprus and Greece, Koula Sofianou and Agbi Balta, respectively



Joanna Kourkoumelis (middle) with her friends



Kalomira performing

Star-studded Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund Gala Turns 20

original and to stay true to themselves; that way, happiness can be attained in their lives.

In this year's HTSF GALA, John Catsimatidis, the Chairman and CEO of the Red Apple Group, presented Spiros Milonas, the founder and CEO of the Ionian Group, with the prestigious "Humanitarian Leadership Award," for his 45 years of dedicated service in the global shipping community. Following the presentation of his award, Mr. Milonas garnered a standing ovation from the audience.

The HTSF presented its 2011 "Artistic Achievement Humanitarian Award" to Gilles Marini, a multi-talented actor who starred in the ABC drama series "Brothers and Sisters," opposite Sally Field, and was the runner-up winner of Season 8 of "Dancing with the Stars." An avid soccer player, he is a member of his neighborhood soccer team, as well as the Hollywood United Soccer Team.

Marini devotes his time and support to the Maximum Hope Foundation, a nonprofit organization, in an

effort to help raise funds for families with children that have life-limiting illnesses; in addition to his acting, philanthropic and athletic endeavors, Gilles is a loving husband to Carole Marini, and a father to his two children, Georges and Juliana.

Marini received his coveted Humanitarian award from Academy-Award winning actress Olympia Dukakis. In his acceptance speech, Marini noted that his father had taught him that "when you do something from the heart, you should not expect to get anything in return." Ever-humble, Gilles went on to thank John [Catsimatidis], his wife Margo, and Nick Katsoris for their countless hours of hard work devoted to making this event a reality. Lastly, Marini stressed the importance of education in one's life.

"Only with education you can get knowledge and wisdom, otherwise it will be difficult to get respect from others," he remarked.

"The Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund GALA was truly a remarkable event, and a night that will be forever engraved in my memory," remarked Kosta Demopoulos, who was the 2011 HTSF recipient of a

\$20,000 scholarship. "Not only was it an honor to be selected as a scholarship recipient, but to be given one of such magnitude was truly breathtaking. Each of the 1,400 people there were extremely friendly, and made the whole night even more enjoyable," he added.

Nicole Bonanni, who was present at the morning workshops and the HTSF GALA, stated: "I had a great time! Being in a room filled with my inspirations was a dream come true. Hearing the success stories of such TV anchors as Ernie Anastos, Nick Gregory and Alexis Christoforous helped motivate me, and encouraged me to stay positive and true to my very Greek self."

For more information on the Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund (HTSF) their official website id www.htsf.org.



L to R: John Aniston, Thanos Petrelis, Frank Dicopoulos, Nick Gregory, Spiro Milonas, Mrs. Antonia Kotovos-Milona, Ernie Anastos, Gus Constantine, Olympia Dukakis, Gilles Marini, Margo Catsimatidis, Nick Katsoris, Alexis Christophorou, John Catsimatidis and Kalomira

by Markos Papadatos

The Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund (HTSF) Dinner Dance GALA took place recently at the luxurious Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City, with an impressive turnout. This marked the 20th anniversary of the event. The HTSF was founded by Nick Katsoris; moreover, John Catsimatidis and his wife, Margo, the co-publishers of the Hellenic Times newspaper, embraced Katsoris' idea and they have been running it together ever since.

An acclaimed author of the Loukoumi children's book series, Katsoris served in the capacity of Dinner Dance Chairperson. In this year's ceremony, 42 outstanding Greek-American students were the recipients of the Hellenic Times scholarship. Its 2011 honored guests were Ernie Anastos, John Aniston, Alexis Christoforous, Michael Constantine, Frank Dicopoulos and Nick Gregory; moreover, the GALA featured vocal performances by international

recording sensation Kalomira, Fame Story alum Thanos Petrelis, Harold Melvin's Bluenotes, and Kathy Sledge, the lead singer of Sister Sledge.

Earlier in the morning, the HTSF offered six thought-provoking workshops in the fields of health and medicine, business, dramatic and recording arts, law and real estate, law and politics, as well as journalism. These captivating workshops were well-received by the audience and featured many prominent members and dignitaries of the Greek-American community.

The Journalism Workshop consisted of Emmy-award winner Ernie Anastos (Fox 5 News anchor), Alexis Christoforous (CBS News anchor), as well as meteorologist Nick Gregory, in which they opened up about their experiences in the field over the years, and offered advice for aspiring journalists.

In the Dramatic and Recording Arts workshop, its five featured panelists, Mr. John Aniston (Days of Our Lives actor), Mr. Michael Constantine (star of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"), Mr. Frank Dicopoulos ("Guiding Light" actor), singing sensation Kalomira, and Kathy Sledge, concurred that for success to be obtained in this field, it is essential for aspiring singers and actors to take advantage of any opportunities that presents themselves, as well as to have a passion in what they are doing, and to be



Some of the recipients of the 2011 HTSF Scholarships



On the main table: Gilles Marini, Margo Catsimatidis and Thanos Petrelis



Thanos Petrelis performing

Judges with the Officers and Board Members of HLA at the Annual Judiciary Night



PHOTO: TOLIOS PHOTOGRAPHY

Hellenic Lawyers' Annual Judiciary Night

The Hellenic Lawyers Association (HLA) hosted recently their Annual Judiciary Night cocktail reception, a spirited celebration of New York's federal and state jurists, at the Atrium Café at the Onassis Center in New York City. The celebration was sponsored by Alma Bank whose Chairman of the Board Kirk Karabelas and General Counsel Sophia E. Valiotis (both HLA members) were in attendance.

In addition to the many jurists and prominent attorneys from the New York Metropolitan area, the Consul General of Cyprus, Koula Sophianou, and Consul of Greece, Evangelos Kyriakopoulos, attended and spoke at the event. Consul General Sophianou praised the Hellenic Lawyers for "remembering their roots and where they came from."

In recognizing the Judges honored at the event, President Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri, Senior Attorney of Shaub, Ahmuty, Citrin & Spratt, LLP, quoted Aristotle, who said "all virtue is summed up in dealing justly." President Stathatos-Fulgieri welcomed the judges and thanked them for their contributions to

the judiciary. She stated that, "the members of the judiciary whom we recognize and honor this evening represent competence, well-respected character and personal virtue. They exceed the public and legal community's high standards on a daily basis and we are pleased to honor and support these judges for their commitment to the legal system, promotion of justice and dedication to the law."

The cocktail party presented HLA members and guests with the opportunity to enjoy Greek food and wine in the company of New York federal and state trial, appellate and administrative law judges.

The Hellenic Lawyers Association is a premier organization of legal professionals of Greek descent. The organization promotes professional excellence, cultural awareness, community service and civic involvement. In addition to hosting lectures, continued legal education seminars and networking opportunities, the Hellenic Lawyers Association provides scholarships to deserving law students.

More information is available at www.hlany.org.

APOLLO ORCHESTRAS

FOR ALL YOUR PARTY AFFAIRS CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL GREEK MUSIC. JAZZ AND MIDDLE EASTERN LIGHTS, DJ'S, PLASMA SCREENS.



FEATURING
LEFTERIS BOURNIAS

(917) 4952672
TSIFTETELI@AOL.COM
WWW.APOLLOORCHESTRAS.COM

For your photos of the events
please contact ETA PRESS - Fotis Papagermanos

fpapagermanos@yahoo.com
Tel. (718) 772-3233

Special packages for Weddings, Baptisms
and all your Photographic needs.



PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

Elena showing an embroidery from Phyti

The 50-minute original documentary by Greek-Cypriot filmmaker Paschalis Papapetrou which highlighted and revived the most important aspects of the art of weaving in Cyprus was the result of seven years of recording on the Mediterranean island. Starting from the processing of raw materials and continuing with the actual weaving, the documentary provided an in-depth understanding how the traditional hand-woven products of Cyprus evolved. The film also refers to the customs and traditions relating to weaving in Cyprus, while it showcases and introduces some of the most significant and last weaving ladies of Cyprus.

The audience was truly moved as they watched the last remaining weaving ladies of Cyprus talking about their craft which will be lost after they are gone. It was even more compelling to watch the hard work that is required before weaving actually starts on the loom and how much sincere love and dedication goes into the preparation of the threads and thereafter to the actual weaving. This art which is threatened by extinction has survived over the centuries from mother to daughter or from grandmother to granddaughter. However, due to modernization over

the years, the traditional everyday life, chores and priorities of Cypriot women have also changed. The new generations are no longer interested in the art which requires true dedication and hard work and thus the art will be lost with the last weaving ladies of the island when they are gone.

Guests were welcomed by the President of CYPRECO and Executive Producer of the program, Ms. Elena Maroulleti, who after the screening of the documentary unveiled an exhibit of traditional hand-woven handicrafts from various areas of the island. What was exceptional about the exhibition was the fact that it featured embroideries, handicrafts and other hand-woven materials which were shown in the film such as the renowned embroideries of "Phyti", of the Karpass peninsula and materials such as the "alatzia" which were used to make the traditional dresses for women and vests for men in rural Cyprus. The exhibition is part of CYPRECO's private collection acquired over the years from traditional weavers on the island of Cyprus, while Ms. Maroulleti also included some exhibits which are family heirlooms. Very moved, she explained that, after the July 20, 1974 Turkish invasion of

The Centuries-Long Art of Weaving in Cyprus

CYPRECO of America, Inc., presented recently a new successful production dedicated to the folklore of Cyprus at the Stathakion Cultural Center in New York. Under the title, "Weaving Ladies of Cyprus", the program featured the screening of a documentary named after the event and an exhibition of traditional embroideries and handicrafts. The audience was comprised by Greek and Greek-Cypriot Americans and Americans of all ages who were truly fascinated with the program which was part of CYPRECO's folk arts series, "Cyprus Its History and Culture Through The Ages".



PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

Cyprus, her late mother, Lucy Maroulleti, in risk of her life, returned to Famagusta few days after the city was taken over by Turkish troops with a sole mission of saving these and other precious family heirlooms.

Continuing its cultural mission, CYPRECO of America, Inc., has lined up a new series of cultural and folk arts programs for Cyprus and Greece. On July 20, 2011 at 7pm at the Stathakion Cultural Center, 22-51 29th Street in Astoria, NY, on the occasion of the 37th tragic anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, the organization will be presenting a special cultural program on Cyprus, entitled "July 20, 1974-We Never Forget". The event will feature a screening of the original mini-documentary, "Pellapais" by Elena Maroulleti, a concert with songs that lament the Turkish invasion and continued occupation of Cyprus and poetry recital by Polys Kyriacou, poet/lyricist featuring his poems on Cyprus. To RSVP for the above programs, please call 718-545-1151 or email to cypreco@earthlink.net, and for more information please visit, www.cyprecoofamerica.com.



SAVE THIS DATE!
Hellenic American Women's Council
18th Annual Conference

LIFE ON PURPOSE
MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT

Aristeon Award Honoree
(Posthumous)

Stacey Sava

Saturday, October 29, 2011
The Roosevelt Hotel
45th Street at Madison Avenue, New York City

For more information, please contact:
Eva M. Poneris, Esq. 201-944-6432, Aliki Halkias 718-788-0777
or Elena Chambous 973-451-9500

Hellenic Professional Women Host Networking Dinner

As part of its ongoing speaker series, Hellenic Professional Women, Inc. (HPW), a membership-based non-profit organization, recently hosted a networking dinner where over 50 women attended to meet and hear guest speaker Elle Sakellis, founder of Otrera. The event, also attended by the Consul General of the Republic of Cyprus Koula Sophianou, was held at Opia Restaurant in New York.

“We are thrilled to host such networking opportunities for women of all ages, which can certainly help further their careers and goals in life. In turn, we are truly inspired by the caliber of our Greek-American women who overcome daily challenges to realize their dreams,” said Maria Frantzis, founder and president of HPW.



HPW members and friends gather at the networking dinner at Opia Restaurant. Pictured from left are: HPW Board Members Alexis Repole and Maria Hatgidimitriou, Consul General of the Republic of Cyprus Koula Sofianou, Metaxia Xerakias, Ronnie Kratsios, HPW President Maria Frantzis, Guest Speaker Elle Sakellis, Demetra Maberis and Thea Fournaris.

Guest speaker and entrepreneur Elle Sakellis shared her insights and expertise on the challenges of starting and growing your own business. After graduating from Columbia University and spending 10 years working in finance, she shared her story of her major shock after 9/11 and the loss of many of her friends who worked with her. As a result, she left New York and spent four months in Greece trying to recover. She began making jewelry as a creative and emotional outlet. When she returned to New York, she launched Otrera in 2004, which quickly grew into a very successful private label jewelry company. Inspired to expand her collections, she designed the now iconic Evil Eye Scarf, referred to as the “#1 Celebrity Must Have” and continues to design prints around good luck charms from around the world. Some of her clients include Victoria’s Secret, Boston Proper, Spiegel catalog.

Hellenic Professional Women Inc. is a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to provide networking, educational, business and career opportunities, and mentorship programs to its members. HPW programs include regular meetings with guest speakers in all areas of expertise, professional development workshops, and career and job readiness programs. For more information about HPW, membership, and other events, visit www.hellenicprofessionalwomen.org

hellenicare Coordinates Humanitarian Outreach in Republic of Georgia



administrator of the regional council heard about our medical mobile unit he asked us if we would visit the village. We thought it would be a perfect opportunity for our fellow Department of State (DOS) grantees to join us and sponsor a humanitarian outreach program.”

The small village of Dzegvi, Georgia is located in the historic old capital of the Republic of Georgia called Mtskheta, which dates back to the year 1000 B.C. and is home to the sixth century monastery of Jvari and an 11th century Orthodox Cathedral. Prior to the 19th Century, the Kings and Queens of Georgia were buried in Mtskheta. Dzegvi is one of several small villages perched along the banks of where the



Aragvi and Kura rivers converge. The village is part of the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region which has a population of approximately 20,000 people.

hellenicare’s medical mobile unit (MMU) consisting of a general physician, pediatrician and cardiologist, examined residents at St. George Rehabilitation Center and the Catharsis Nursing Home as well as local residents. As **hellenicare’s** MMU is equipped with a mini laboratory, portable ultrasound and EKG unit, diagnostic tests were also able to be performed in addition to physician examinations. Joining **hellenicare** was the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) who provided the children of the Rehabilitation Center with school kits, Counterpart International who distributed winter boots as well as LDS-Charities who supplemented medicines and medical supplies donated by **hellenicare**. The outreach was also televised on the three major news stations in Tbilisi as well as local news media in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region.

“This outreach effort is just one of the many ways **hellenicare** actualizes its mission to restore health and hope,” says Cynthia A. Yannias, Program Director. “Our cooperative working relationship with other DOS grantees and humanitarian organizations strengthens our efforts to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and the elderly. We thank our fellow NGOs for making this outreach possible.”

For more information about the organization the website is www.hellenicare.org and the telephone number 312-775-9000.



by Marilena Katopodis

Blessing of New Church

The Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church in Port Washington, NY celebrated its new home with a Blessing of the Water (“Hagiasmos”) Service this past June. The crosses on the domes of the new sanctuary were blessed by Father Dennis Strouzas, Protopresbyter, and Father Evan Evangelidis, with some help from the Port Washington Fire Department as both priests were lifted in a cherry picker and guided close to the crosses. Construction of the church interior continues, and all were invited to peer into the sanctuary and witness the tremendous progress of our new home. The Blessing of the Crosses was followed by the 2nd Annual Community Barbeque, hosted by the Archangel Michael Parish Council. Our community enjoyed an afternoon of good food, fellowship and camaraderie in the surroundings of our new home. Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church is located at 100 Fairway Drive, Port Washington, NY 11050.

Ioannina Tikkim Appeal

During the winter of 2009/2010, due to moisture that entered the Aron in the synagogue in Ioannina, Greece, the Torah scrolls and Tikkim (metal and wood cases within which the Torahs are kept) sustained damage. The Torahs have been repaired. The Sisterhood of Janina was a major contributor enabling the Torah repairs. The Jewish Community of Ioannina informed us at Kehila Kedosha Janina, here in New York, that the Tikkim will be repaired by experts in Athens and the cost for each of the Tikkim is \$5,000 for a total of \$25,000 for the 5 damaged Tikkim.

At the July 28th Board of Directors meeting of Kehila Kedosha Janina, the Board voted to **match up to \$5,000 in donations** for this important project. We at Kehila Kedosha Janina have never forgotten our close attachment to our sister

community in Greece. In 1927, when we opened our doors, the Jewish Community of Ioannina sent over a Torah Scroll in a silver tik for the dedication of the synagogue on Broome Street. After WWII, with the losses in the Jewish community of Ioannina and the need to demolish the second synagogue outside the Kastro walls that had been desecrated by the Germans, the remnants of the Jewish Community of Ioannina sent us, at Kehila Kedosha Janina, two Torah Scrolls encased in traditional Romaniote tikkim. They did not weigh the cost of this contribution, nor will we weigh the cost of repairing the Tikkim in Ioannina. We will do everything possible to ensure that the small, but still functional, Jewish Community in Ioannina has the means to repair these priceless Tikkim. Help us to assure its success.

Please send your donations to Kehila Kedosha Janina (280 Broome Street, NY, NY 10002). The check should be made out to KKJP&C Fund – Ioannina Tikkim.



From left to right- backrow: Greek-American Folklore Society, City Lore Director Bob Holman, Penelope Karageorge, Sevasti Boutos. Middle row: two young members of Folklore Society, Greek Cypriot Poet Sylvia Mouzourou, Dean Kostos and City Lore Director Steve Zeitlin. Front Row: The Greek Folk Ensemble.



From left to right: Pictured are two of the directors of City Lore- Bob Holman & Catherine Fletcher, Poets Dean Kostos & Penelope Karageorge, Hellenic Federation Cultural Committee Secretary Billy Chrissocbos, and poets Sevasti Boutos and Sylvia Mouzourou.

Poetry under the Stars in Astoria

Recently, Astoria's vibrant Greek-American community honored its poetic heritage with a special visit by the POEMobile; It was to celebrate the 100th anniversary year of the birth of Greece's Nobel Laureate, Odysseas Elytis.

The event titled "SING IN ME, O MUSE!" Was sponsored by the Bowery Arts + Science, City Lore, and the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York. Billy Chrissocchos, George and Terry Delis and Athanasios Aronis of the Federation's Cultural Committee, helped make the event, that took place at the open space, by the federation's main entrance, a truly one of a kind experience.

The night featured poetry performances in Greek and English by Dean Kostos, Penelope Karageorge, Nicholas Samaras, and Sylvia Mouzourou; music by the Greek Folk Ensemble; dance by the Greek-American Folklore Society and projections of the poems of Sappho, Cavafy, Ritsos, Elytis and other local poets.

For more info on City Lore and its events please visit <http://www.citylore.org>.

For the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater NY visit www.Hellenicsocieties.org.



Crowd

Mavromihalis, Pardalis & Nohavicka Attorneys at Law

Commercial Litigation, Real Estate,
Criminal, Construction, Personal Injury,
Wills, Bankruptcy

34-03 Broadway
Astoria, NY
Tel: 718.777.0400



By Maria A. Pardalis

Persephone

Persephone, a cozy and modish restaurant located just steps away from Bloomingdales on the Upper East Side, offers the pleasures of high Greek cuisine with a locavore spin. This rustic and friendly eatery is a breath of fresh air in an era of pyrotechnic nouveau and over excessive Greek cooking. You won't find anything resembling feta soufflé at Persephone, instead you will be served home style dishes made from locally sourced products and fish caught from Long Island waters and the Eastern seaboard.

The proprietors of Persephone are a dynamic husband and wife duo, Steve Tzolis and Nicola Kotsoni, who also own Il Cantinori, Periyali and Bar Six. They take great pride in their award winning wine list, which certainly separates Persephone from many other Grecian restaurants. It's composed of a



James Mallios and Manos Koutsoukos

colorful array of robust wines made strictly from Greek grapes and produced only by small artisanal and organic wine makers in Greece.

If the thought of selecting wine from such an extensive list is intimidating, fear not! Greek wines are extremely food friendly and you won't have to make the decision alone. Persephone's pleasant staff will help you with your food and wine pairings. I particularly adore their vibrant white wines that pair beautifully with one of my beloved menu items, Mediterranean Sea Bass. Persephone's chef kindly shared his famed recipe for this popular fish dish, that is naturally prepared using strictly local products, even the sea beans come from nearby Long Island waters!

Lavraki Zakynthos

Mediterranean Sea Bass over sautéed
tomatoes and sea beans



Serves: 1

Ingredients:

- 6-8 oz. striped bass (Lavraki)
- 1 cup yellow wax beans
- 1/2 cup sea beans
- 1 small Spanish onion, thinly sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh oregano
- 1/2 cup canned plum tomatoes
- 2 plums tomatoes, chopped
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Preparation:

- 1 Sautee garlic in olive oil until it is a light gold color, add onion and sweat for 3 minutes. Add tomatoes and oregano. Simmer for 5 minutes.
- 2 Add oregano and wax beans and cook until the wax beans are slightly crunchy. Next add the sea beans and cook for about 1 minute. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Remove from heat, set aside and start on the bass.
- 3 Salt and pepper the bass skin. Place flesh down on a medium to high flame on the grill. Cook for about 3 minutes on each side. Finish with good quality olive oil and sea salt.

Gently place sea bass over sautéed tomatoes and beans. Serve immediately and enjoy!

For those of you that aren't krasi lovers,
Persephone makes a mean Greek inspired Mojito, try it at home!

Mediterranean Mojito

- 1.5 oz. Skinos Mastic Liquor
- 2 lemon wedges
- 6 basil leaves
- 1/4 oz. simple syrup
- soda water

Muddle the basil, lemon and simple sugar.
Add crushed ice, top with soda, stir.
Garnish with lemon edge and basil.



For more information on Persephone or to make reservations
call: 212 339 8363 or visit their website: www.persephoneny.com



Kali Orexi!



North Shore Farms

www.northshorefarms.com

(1) Glen Cove
Phone: 516-609-0303
190 Glen Cove Avenue,
Glen Cove NY 11542

(2) Port Washington
Phone: 516-767-9050
770 Port Washington Blvd
Port Washington NY 11050

(3) Great Neck
Phone: 516-482-6287
90 Horace Harding Blvd,
Great Neck, NY 11020

Now a 4th Location for your convenience!

(4) Mineola
330 East Jericho Turnpike
Mineola, NY 11501

Catering for all occasions

From the finest imported and domestic products to the freshest Long Island produce

ALL GREEK PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

ANDROS, GREECE

THE ISLAND OF THE WATERS AND THE DREAMS!



An uncommon poem, its rhyme enhanced by the saltiness of the sea!
A wierd, full of contradictions island, with a considerable number of
magnificent beaches, many landscape variations, delightful gastronomic
experiences, and unique human characters!

Andros is an island with many cultural layers, inhabited by people with
cultivated taste, wealth of heart and emotions!

The municipal authorities of Andros and its inhabitants respect the island's
history and natural wealth and they contribute wholeheartedly in
preserving and enriching that legacy.

PERI X SCOPE

Let's play back to ...black!

It's hard to believe that September has come again and reluctantly I'm looking forward to another cycle of badly replayed community events, hoping for promising surprises where I could least expect them (like in some Greek owned Irish pubs that have the guts to defy the anti-smoking ban). I know, I'm supposed to start on a positive note, offer a few words of encouragement, even some good news fished here and there in the long and dull summer months; but not this time, ladies and gentlemen, because this ritual reminds me of my early school years, when angry and fearful we would come back to face our usually sex- and sleep- deprived teachers who were anxiously waiting to torment us for another nine months! It was each September that we had to write a composition describing how was our summer and we had to strive to come up with the kind of crap that would meet their expectations, like how many "serious" books we red, how many concerts of "serious" music we attended etc. Now, I grew up in a village, where the only and closest thing to a concert was the local saint's festivities, lasting usually 2-3 days, when the gypsies would come in with their deafening clarinets – thanks to the old and broken amplifiers – their shining electric guitars and, of course, the dark-skinned singers in their hot red dresses! As for books, we would devour any translated American or Italian comics that other children who were coming from the capital or overseas to spend summer (and be tormented beyond reparation) with us would bring.

That was our summer "cultural" life! Very interesting, fascinating indeed, despite the lack of many things that our modern "civilization" tends to be identified with, but our teachers would find all that unacceptable, barbaric, too village-scented and they'd respond with ferocity if any of us dared to write the truth. So, from an early age, we had to invent bullshit and offer it as reality, an art that we have come to master to a remarkable degree and we don't need to go far for proof of that. Many, if not all, community undertakings, especially here, in the diaspora, have systematically rendered any relevance with what's going on in the real world obsolete. Moreover, having completely twisted reality, we still aim high, but downwards. Anyway, I didn't mean to offer sociology cues here. All I'm trying to say is that because I didn't take vacation I'm kind of bitter and sour, so my message to the many community organization crooks this year is one and simple: Be careful, I'm loose and I will bite at first chance, without further warning!

So, I didn't travel this summer, sparing an 11 day trip to Mother Russia, but it was for business mainly. Well at least that's what it was supposed to be about; although I ended up spending most of my time at various St. Petersburg cafes, smoking cigars and having tea, pretending to be local. A beautiful experience never the less, as I had the chance to live the famous white nights, while the city's center was flooded with thousands of university graduates dressed in impeccable white as well! They would drink



Muammar Gaddafi then and now.
One can clearly see the damage absolute power does even to those who hold it!



Yorgos Magas doesn't make sense here, but his similar taste in fashion with Gaddafi's is hard to ignore. Unlike Gaddafi, however, he's a good guy and a real, not a con showman!

and sing, dance, go on boats through the canals, cheering loudly, making the city - immensely beautiful as it is - look like a huge swan lake!

After that, I went for a couple of days to Moscow, which in terms of traffic, noise and dirt reminded me of Athens (sparing the demonstrations and the illegal African and Middle Eastern immigrants who have hijacked the city's center). I visited the famous Red Square which looked kind of small in real life and had a cemetery feeling around it, as a big number of criminals (communist bosses) are buried there, on the side of the ugly and vomit inducing Lenin Mausoleum. Russia and Turkey are the only countries in the world, as far as I know, where the state still venerates mummies both of which happen to be killers of millions of people (Lenin and Atatürk in this case). Thank God, this notorious similarity ends here.

So, that was my little escape this summer, beautiful, interesting, but not enough (still better than nothing though). I'm looking forward to my next trip there, as I am part of a huge scheme aimed to bring Russians in the American-Greek affairs, for better or for worse! It's a major plan which involves governments, secret services, former communists turned capitalists, former communists turned tinkering ... theologians, mediocre photographers downgraded to ... "archons", men, women, gays (including but not restricted to bishops), lesbians, Lesbians (coming from the island of Lesbos, that is) pilots, tailors, singers, gypsies, black & white magic, astrology, Gaddafi, Castro, Gorbachev and his pizza commercials, and a few other characters whom I'm embargoed to reveal. Stay tuned folks as the best has yet to come!!!!

DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS
dondemetrio@neomagazine.com

Germany owes Greece a debt

By Albrecht Ritschl*

Germany's ducking of the war reparations issue makes its attitude to the current Greek debt crisis somewhat hypocritical.

The Germans are not amused these days. Look everywhere from tabloids to the blogosphere, and it seems that the public mood has reached boiling point. Loth to shoulder another national debt increase and finance another bailout, the Germans have started questioning everything from the wisdom of supporting Greece to the common euro currency, or indeed the merits of the European integration project altogether. This might be strange for a country that is nudging ever closer to full employment, and which is about to recapture its position as the world's leading exporter of manufactured goods from the Chinese. But the Germans say they've had enough: no more underwriting of European integration, no more paying for this and that, and certainly no more bailing out the Greeks.

What is truly strange, however, is the brevity of Germany's collective memory. For during much of the 20th century, the situation was radically different:

after the first world war and again after the second world war, Germany was the world's largest debtor, and in both cases owed its economic recovery to large-scale debt relief.

Germany's interwar debt crisis started almost exactly 80 years ago, in the last days of June 1931. What had triggered it was Germany's aggressive borrowing in the late 1920s to pay reparations out of credit. A credit bubble resulted, and when it burst in 1931, it brought down reparations, the gold standard and, not least, Weimar democracy.

Having footed the resulting massive bill, after the second world war the Americans imposed the London debt agreement of 1953 on their allies, an exercise in debt forgiveness to Germany on the most generous terms. West Germany's economic miracle, the stability of the deutschmark and the favourable state of its public finances were all owed to this massive haircut. But it put Germany's creditors at a disadvantage, leaving it to them to cope with the financial aftermath of the German occupation.

Indeed, the London debt agreement deferred settlement of the reparations question – including the repayment of war debts and contributions imposed by Germany during the war – to a conference to be held after unification. This conference never took place: since 1990, the Germans have steadfastly refused to reopen this can of worms. Such compensation as has been paid, mostly to forced workers, was channelled through NGOs to avoid creating precedents. Only one country has challenged this openly and tried to obtain compensation in court: Greece.

It may or may not have been wise to put the issue of reparations and other unsettled claims on Germany to rest after 1990. Back then, the Germans argued that any plausible bill would exceed the country's resources, and that continued financial co-operation in Europe instead would be infinitely more preferable. They may have had a point. But now is the time for Germany to deliver on the promise, act wisely and keep the bull away from the china shop.

Albrecht Ritschl is professor of economic history at the London School of Economics. This article was first published at The Guardian, 21, June 2011.

DIVIDED CYPRUS 2011: A NATION IN DESPAIR



By Constantinos Sofocleous

Despite the growing disapproval ratings of president Dimitris Christofias at home, he is probably still going to represent Cyprus in the September 2011 annual United Nations general assembly. For many Cypriots and particularly Greek Cypriots, the massive explosion in the Mari naval base on July 11th, 2011, illuminated the deceptive and catastrophic thinking of the Christofias administration. Furthermore it raised questions not just for the motives and aims of this government but for its inability to take basic decisions about public safety. The political ideology and antiquated cold war mentality of President Christofias and his ruling communist party (AKEL) were known to many who deal and read about Cyprus politics. This ideology led the Cypriot government to maintain and store a confiscated load of 98 containers of explosives for over 2 years despite several warnings from the United States Department of State and the European Union (EU) about the danger associated with the containers.

It appears that Mr. Christofias was so eager to please the shipping country of Iran and the receiving dictator Assad of Syria that he foresaw any other interest of his own country, including the safety of his own people. His administration continued with storage of the confiscated explosives in the most sensitive location in the entire island, next to the major electrical production station of the country and in the open air under the hot Eastern Mediterranean sun. Despite the obvious political mistakes, president Christofias continues to deny any responsibility and offered no apology to the victims. He has also chosen to ignore the growing and ongoing demands from all political parties (but his own) and a large part of the public asking for his immediate resignation. The massive explosion was not simply an accident. It was the result of criminal neglect and purposeful inertia of President Christofias and his cabinet.

The catastrophic events came at a point that public support towards the president's approach to the Cyprus issue was declining. His prior unilateral offers to the Turkish Cypriots, such as the rotating presidency, the acceptance of 50,000 illegal Anatolian Turkish settlers and an electoral system that will not respect the majority were the main points that pushed his last partner, the Democratic Party (ΔΗΚΟ) out of the coalition government. Unlike all prior presidents that were very careful to declare at all times that despite negotiations with the Turkish Cypriot community leader, the key party responsible for the Cyprus problem was Turkey and its military presence and occupation of 37% of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Christofias asked that he negotiate with the Turkish Cypriot leader without any interference. He has repeatedly declared that he will solve the Cyprus problem and that this can be done with direct negotiations with the Turkish Cypriot leader alone. Similarly to the storage of the 98 containers next to the electricity station of the country, his approach to the Cyprus problem was considered by most Cypriots equally moronic, since it does not take into account the concerns, fears and wishes of the people that elected him. More importantly, his approach ignores the basic principles of the Cyprus problem and does not bring to light the real threat for the indigenous population. Mr. Christofias' approach to the Cyprus problem fails to recognize the unique and pivotal role of Turkey.

Since 1956, Turkey (with the aid of the United Kingdom) has been working steadily on the erosion of the Greek Cypriot majority on the island (a British colony until the 1960 independence) in an effort to gain the absolute strategic control over Cyprus. Step by step this goal is

coming closer and closer to reality, aided by the weak negotiation positions of all Greek Cypriot leaders since the 1974 Turkish invasion and occupation and the declining strategic influence of Greece in the region. In no prior Cypriot presidency however, has Turkey been so close to achieve its ultimate goal of eradicating the Republic of Cyprus.

On the aftermath of the explosion of July 11th, the prime minister of Turkey Mr. Erdogan visited the Turkish occupied territory of the Republic of Cyprus, an EU member territory where the European Law (Acquit Communauté) has been placed on hold due to the illegal Turkish military occupation. Mr. Erdogan praised the role of the Turkish military on Cyprus and reiterated the long term goals of Turkey. He went as far as to ensure that the ethnic cleansing of Greeks from the North of Cyprus is "fait accompli" and no one should have any hope for getting back to their land in exchange of any and all political concessions that Mr. Christofias has offered to date. He advised the Turkish Cypriots to give birth to more children to make their part along with the illegal Turkish immigrants in order to change the demographic population in Cyprus. He even went ahead and claimed that the Republic of Cyprus does not exist and that Turkey will halt negotiations during the 2012 Cyprus presidency of the European Union (EU). These statements are in direct opposition to several Security Council resolutions clarifying that the only legal state on Cyprus is the Republic of Cyprus; calling for the immediate withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus; and imposing an embargo in the so called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" created in the part of the Republic of Cyprus occupied by the Turkish military and recognized only by Turkey. The same Turkish Premier statements are also contrary to the statements signed by Turkey upon becoming a candidate country for EU membership.

Under these circumstances any decent negotiator representing the Greek Cypriots would have left the process and would have taken all measures to expose the ongoing ethnic cleansing policy and mentality of Turkey and its occupying forces on the ground. Cyprus as a member of the EU should also immediately ask for freezing not only the negotiation process but all and any EU funding towards Turkish projects within the accession process. Instead Mr. Christofias attributed the statements of the Turkish Premier to an "emotional outburst" and engaged in an intense negotiation with the Turkish Cypriot leader, continuing to offer alibis to the Turkish policy of Ethnic Cleansing and illegal occupation of Cyprus, in violation of international and EU laws. The Greek Cypriots have previously rejected a UN "Anan" plan for a partnership state with the Turkish Cypriots because they felt insecure in a future state where Turkey would maintain the status of "guarantor" with unilateral rights for military intervention in Cyprus.

These and other concerns have only increased with the current process and the Christofias' approach to the Cyprus problem. Under the current circumstances any Cypriot citizen and in particular any Greek Cypriot has no hope for a better future or a fair solution to the Cyprus problem. Instead a growing number of Greek Cypriots now feel that the danger is not only from Turkey but within, with those that were supposed to protect and promote the Greek Cypriot cause. Taking all factors into account, the only hope that may remain for the very existence of any Greek on the island is not unification under Turkish supervision and with no democratic norms. It is already evident that the safety of the Greeks on the island cannot be guaranteed in a common state where Turkey is a guarantor. How can 700,000 Greek Cypriots feel safe next to an aggressive neighbor with over 60 million and the second largest army in NATO?

The approach that Mr. Christofias and his government have taken is certainly not a safe one. Instead the only hope is the alliance of Cypriot interests with those of the EU and other, stronger NATO members. It is for this reason that the recent events have exposed the vacuum rhetoric of the Christofias government and have left the people of Cyprus in shock. The realization that Turkey and its goals are facilitated by the Christofias government is now widespread in the public opinion and is expressed in daily massive demonstrations asking for the resignation of the President and his cabinet. The clock is ticking and the very existence of the Greek Cypriots on the island is in danger. The continuing negotiation process seems to hold nothing positive for the Greek Cypriots. They stand to lose their sovereignty in exchange for a partnership state with the Turkish Cypriots where Turkey will maintain and legitimize its strategic control over the island. It is very questionable if some of the Greek Cypriot refugees or their children will be allowed to return to their ancestral birthplaces currently under Turkish occupation and even if some do return, their need for security, democracy and prosperity seems impossible in the proposed plans. Many Greek Cypriots seem to believe that is safer to live separately in their own state without any interference with the Turks and in particular Turkey.

When one looks the details of the previously rejected Anan plan and the current proposals it is clear that the proposed Federal State in Cyprus stands on principles far away from the European and democratic norms. There are numerous deviations from any other Federal State with a large number of provisions contrary to the European Laws and the UN Declaration of Human Rights. These include but are not limited to violations of the right of free movement, installation, ownership of property and maintaining the cultural, ethnic or religious identities.

As a matter of fact there are many more barriers between the proposed 2 federal states than any 2 member states in the EU. As such, it is not a wonder that many Greek Cypriots now secretly hope for 2 completely independent sovereign states in Cyprus in exchange for a significant part of their occupied land. This of course might satisfy the native Turkish Cypriot population as well and could allow for a slow, peaceful and natural integration of the 2 separate states under the umbrella of the EU.

Cyprus politics are not simple however and such a plan would fail to accomplish the strategic goals of Turkey and the United Kingdom both looking to maintain and increase their grip on the island. The Greek Cypriots have voiced their disapproval about President Christofias' policy and negotiation tactics. After the departure of the Democratic Party from his coalition government, Mr. Christofias, now stands in isolation, with only the support of his own Communist Party that at most represents one third of the electorate. As such, Mr. Christofias is no longer legitimate in continuing to represent the Greek Cypriots in any negotiation process and in particular the UN led negotiations for the Cyprus problem. If he indeed believes that he has the Cypriot people behind his proposals he needs to prove this through a referendum seeking approval of his stance in the Cyprus problem. Should he fail to do this, the people of Cyprus will never accept his proposals and their backlash will be catastrophic for him and his party and possibly for the entire nation.

Constantinos Sofocleous, MD, PhD., is a Cypriot American refugee from the Turkish occupied part of Cyprus. He is an associate professor and practicing physician in New York City.



Richmond Pharmacy & Surgicals Inc.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΙΟ

Serving the community for over 60 years!

★ FREE Blood Glucose Monitoring System Latest Model

★ FREE Pickup & Delivery in Brooklyn & Staten Island

George P. Drogaris M.S., R.Ph.
1796 Clove Road
Staten Island, NY 10304
Corner of Clove Road & Richmond Road
Tel: (718) 447-1206
Fax: (718) 981-3638



EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTORS

of OLIVIA Pure Olive Oil & Hair Care Products



EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTORS

of Adamantina House Traditional Greek Organic Pasta Products and Baked Goods

