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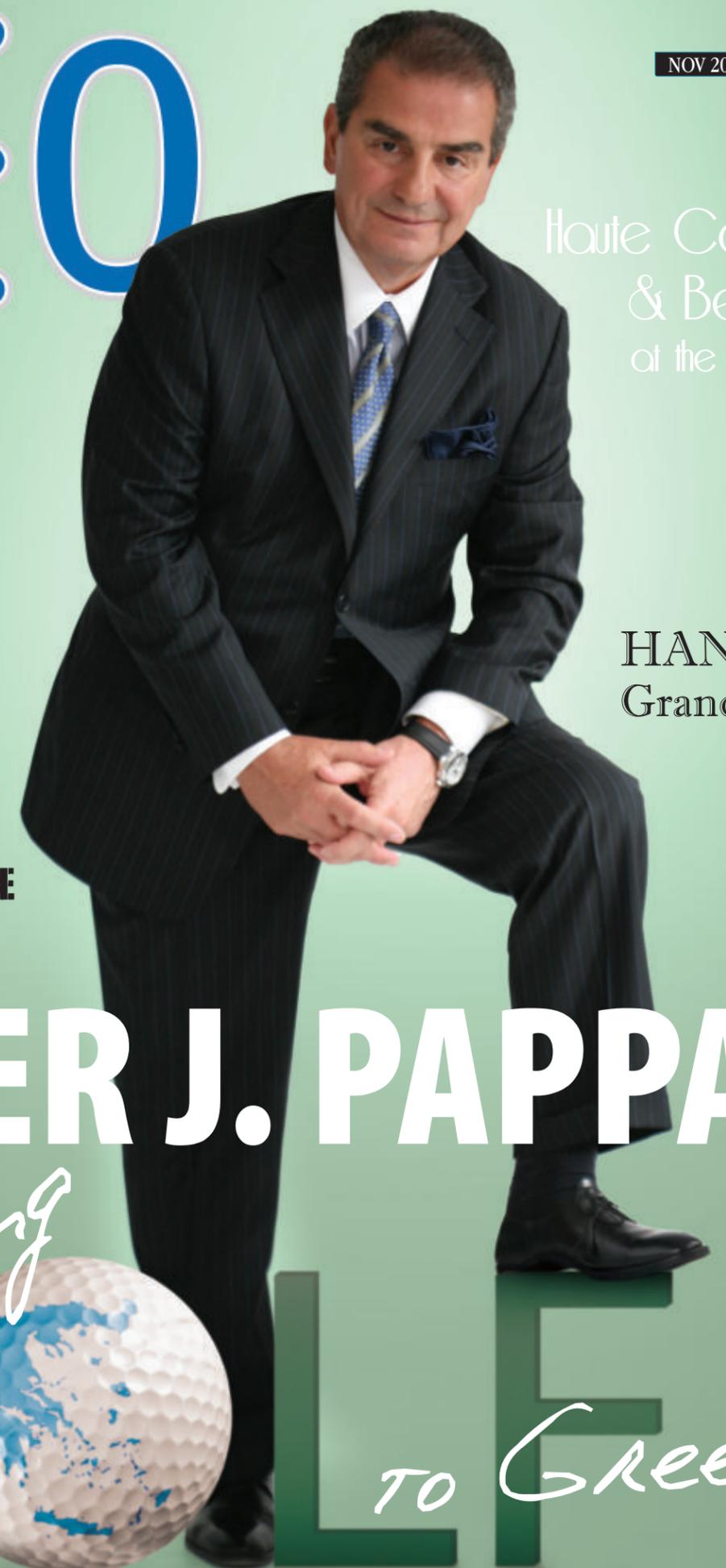
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OXI Day
Foundation
in Washington

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You can go home again



FROM THE EDITOR

I was in Greece this summer after many years and it's hard to believe it's the same country that is now in the news roiling with unrest over the European bailout and wracked with strikes by unions and ordinary citizens seeing their savings and their pensions shredded by the new austerity measures. And now Greece is living with the uncertainty of a referendum that if voted down shortly, might abort any more of the European bailouts it needs to keep functioning as a country.

When we traveled to Greece this past August we saw some government troops stationed in the street near Syntagma, and we saw the random graffiti of social protest around there and on the walls of the swank apartments on the walk to the Acropolis ("BurnThe Rich"). But the cabs the week we were there were plentiful, the trains ran and the Metro stations were magnificent (a showpiece that would make any other country jealous), the planes flew (relatively on time), the ferries ran and were nothing like the old buckets I used to take in my younger years—their salons have captain's chairs and views from sun-splashed picture windows—and the streets were buzzing with cars and tourists and shoppers, and aside from the proverbial flea-bitten dogs of the street treated like the sacred cows of India, thoroughfares were clean and many of the shops were new and thriving.

Yes, the conversations in homes and cafes were all about the economic crisis. People talked about their pensions hovering in the air and their benefits tanking. People talked about the unrest in the street and the fate of the young people coming out of universities and finding no jobs and seething with frustration. "The whole spectrum of people are living with uncertainty," said a friend, a former high school principal now living on a pension that he admits has been cut from under him and he fears will be cut further. "I can survive, somehow," he says, "I have to cut and cut to the bone, if I have to. But I lived my life and I had my career. What future do these poor kids have? I had them in school and I know how much they looked forward to their careers. Some of them, especially the new immigrants, came from homes where they were the first to go to high school. Now you take that away from them. And what do you say to the old people who rely on their pension? Suddenly, after all these years of service it doesn't exist anymore? Where do they go from here?"

We talked about this, while we sat in the café, and he flipped his worry beads, and other men sat around and flipped their worry beads, and sipped their coffee, or their lemonades, and the woman met them after their shopping with all their bags, and the teenagers were chatting on cell phones and getting ready to rendezvous at the many clubs that night, while all around us the shops and restaurants were buzzing with life.

Life in Greece does go on, as it always has, and always will. Greeks have a passion for living and no crisis seems to faze them for too long. They have a passion for finding crises in their lives, and rising up to the challenge, and our hopes are that they will survive this challenge and show the sinew and survival skills that have made Greeks and Greece, a small population at best, a small country at best, one of the most enduring and significant in human history.

Dimitri C. Michalakis



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Washington OXI Day Foundation holds 1st Annual Celebration

Many know that Greece created Democracy, but few know that she also saved it!

Modern history's most consequential, yet forgotten, David vs. Goliath story -- Greece's role in the defeat of Adolph Hitler and preservation of freedom and democracy -- took a major step into public consciousness this past October in the nation's capital. The Washington Oxi Day Foundation's first annual celebration, October 27-28, 2011, taught hundreds of high-level national and international policy makers and opinion leaders this relatively recent epic page in Greece's history. It did so through the words of Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt and through the vocal advocacy of current day national and international leaders, such as: Joe Biden, Vice President of the United States, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee, Nancy Pelosi, former Speaker of the House and current House Minority Leader, Chris Matthews, leading television personality and Republican Presidential nominee Carl Gershman, President, National Endowment for Democracy.

Dozens of Washington policy makers and opinion leaders participated in Foundation events that included a National WWII Memorial ceremony, Four Seasons Hotel

black tie dinner, American University lecture and Tomb of the Unknowns wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery.

Hundreds more opinion leaders learned the Oxi Day story as they nominated people for the cash prizes that accompanied the Foundation's Awards. Jewish community leaders learned of the unique courage of Greek Orthodox hierarchs during the Holocaust through their nominations for the Metropolitan Chrysostomos Award.

Early in the morning of October 28, 1940, the Italian ambassador to Athens visited Greek Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas, requesting that Greece allow free passage of Italian forces through her territory. Without hesitation or further consultation, Metaxas responded "no" (oxi, in Greek) on the spot, opening another glorious page in the history of Greece and the free world. It took only four days for the outnumbered and ill equipped Greek forces to repel the massive Italian attack and to start an epic chain of victories -- THE FIRST AGAINST THE AXIS ARMIES DURING WWII -- that culminated with the liberation of a big swath of Greek-inhabited territory within Albania. Seeing his ally facing total defeat, Hitler decided to invade Greece as well, with the help of Bulgaria. While, it took less than two weeks for mighty France to fall, the Axis powers spent more than six months to succumb Greece, disrupting Hitler's war timetable, since he was forced into the debilitating Russian winter where he met defeat. Leaders like Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin, America's Sumner Welles and even Adolph Hitler's Chief of Staff, Field

Marshall Wilhelm Keitel, credit Greece with bringing about Hitler's defeat. Keitel said: "The Greeks delayed by two or more vital months the German attack against Russia; if we did not have this long delay, the outcome of the war would have been different."

In 1940, Greece's Defeat of the Seemingly Undefeatable Axis Forces Inspired the World.

President Franklin Roosevelt said "When the entire world had lost all hope, the Greek people dared to question the invincibility of the German monster raising against it the proud spirit of freedom."

The first recipient of the annual Oxi Day Award was Tunisian activist Jamel Bettaieb, who received this recognition on behalf of the people in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia, the birthplace of the historic Arab Spring, which led to the overthrow of Tunisian dictator Zine Ben Ali and began a wave of revolutions that swept through the Arab world. He was recently invited to the Oval Office to meet with President Barack Obama and was honored with the Democracy Award by the National Endowment for Democracy. Bettaieb was nominated for the Oxi Day Award by the National Democratic Institute and the National Endowment for Democracy.

The first recipient of the annual Oxi Day Battle of Crete Award, honoring a woman for courageous action for freedom and democracy, in memory of the role women played against the Axis Forces in the Battle of Crete in World War II, was Burmese pro-democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. Despite being under house arrest for 15 of the past 21 years, Suu

Kyi has remained a symbol of hope, defiance and moral strength for the 55 million people of Burma and is recognized as one of the world's most renowned freedom fighters. She has received numerous honors for her work including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 and the Congressional Gold Medal -- the highest civilian award in the United States -- by a unanimous vote, in 2008. Because of political constraints, Suu Kyi was not allowed to leave her country and therefore she wasn't able to accept the award in person.

The Oxi Day Battle of Crete Award is inspired by the women of Crete, Greece, who showed tremendous courage in joining the fight against the invading Axis forces during WWII. In reprisal for their bravery in battle, in hiding and caring for wounded fighters, in smuggling arms and messages when they knew that discovery meant certain death, nearly 1,000 Cretan women were killed and an additional 500 women were deported to Germany for taking part in the defense of their island.

Panagiotis M. Sakellaris, a Greek WWII veteran, received the Oxi Day Greatest Generation Award on behalf of all Greek soldiers who served courageously during World War II.

Former Senate Majority Leader and nominee for President of the United States, Bob Dole, received the Oxi Day Greatest Generation Award, honoring an American veteran on behalf of all American WWII soldiers.

Sakellaris, who is 97-years-old, joined the Greek military at the age of 21. Following the Axis invasion of Greece in October 1940, Sakellaris was called to active duty and deployed to the Albanian front where he played a key role in the successful counter offensive against the invading forces.

The first recipient of the annual Metropolitan Chrysostomos Award -- recognizing action to stop anti-Semitism or discrimination -- was received by Ms. Photini Tomai, director of the Greek Foreign Ministry's

Diplomatic and Historical Archives. Tomai has devoted much of her professional life to researching, documenting and publicizing the fate of Greece's Jewish population during World War II and has published several volumes of work on the subject.

This award is named after Metropolitan Chrysostomos, the Greek Orthodox Church leader on the island of Zakynthos during the German occupation of Greece, who is credited with saving hundreds of Jewish lives. German forces, preparing to deport Jewish citizens of Zakynthos to camps in Poland, ordered Metropolitan Chrysostomos to prepare a list of all of the Jewish people on the island. The Metropolitan told the Mayor of Zakynthos to burn the list of Jewish names and implored the German commander to not deport these citizens, as they were Greek citizens and had done no harm. When the Germans would not listen and ordered him to produce the list, Chrysostomos took a piece of paper, wrote his own name on it and handed it over, saying "here is the list of Jews you required." In addition, he told the Jewish residents on the island to leave their homes and go into hiding in the mountains, promising them that Christian islanders would provide them with food and shelter. Those that followed his instructions were saved.

In 1978 Chrysostomos was awarded the title of "Righteous Among the Nations" by Israel's Yad Vashem organization for risking his life to save the lives of Jewish people during the Holocaust. According to Yad Vashem, upon receiving this award, "Metropolitan Chrysostomos declared that he was following the example of Archbishop Damaskinos of Greece, who on 23 March 1943, after the first trains left Thessaloniki for Auschwitz, published an outspoken condemnation of the deportation of Greece's Jews. Damaskinos was known to have said: "I have taken up my cross. I spoke to the Lord, and made up my mind to save as many Jewish souls as possible."

Only the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece,

Damaskinos, among ALL top religious leaders in occupied countries publicly challenged in writing the occupying Nazis' Holocaust plans, according to the Raoul Wallenberg Foundation. The Archbishop showed great courage in his response to the threat of death by Nazi firing squad. He told the Nazis that Greek clerics are not shot, but hanged, and he requested that they respect the custom. Time Magazine featured him on its cover.

The Washington based OXI Foundation efforts featured Greek Orthodox Archbishop of America, Demetrios, and Foreign Minister of Greece Stavros Lambrinidis as well as Greek Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis and Cyprus Ambassador Pavlos Anastasiades. History's highest ranking Greek-American officials also participated in these events, including: the first US Director of National Intelligence and former Undersecretary of State, John Negroponte; former Senator Paul Sarbanes; former US Ambassador to Belgium Tom Korologos; former USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios; former Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Assistant Secretary of State, Barbara Spyridon Pope; Vice-Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Congressman Gus Bilirakis; Congressman John Sarbanes; and Republican National Committee Chairman Rince Hercules Priebus.

Washington Oxi Day Foundation President and founder Andy Manatos and Executive Director Mike Manatos welcomed the involvement in these activities of the national leaders of: the Order of St. Andrew, Leadership 100, AHEPA, AHI, SAE, the Pancretan, Pan-Macedonian, Pancyprian, Cyprus, Pan-Epirotic and Pan-Icarian Associations and Federations of America, PSEKA, American Hellenic Council of California, National Hellenic Society, Next Generation Initiative, Hellenic-American National Council, and Hellenic American Women's Council, among others.

For more information about the event and the Washington Oxi Day Foundation, visit www.OxiDayFoundation.org.

by Peter Shakalis



TIME, the Tenant's Best Friend When Leases Come Due...

Tenants should view their lease expiration as an opportunity to restructure their present office facility to address new priorities and changes to their business. One very important consideration, however, is to begin to focus on the lease expiration well in advance, and allow sufficient time for the many aspects and details of the renewal or relocation process to unfold, especially time for unexpected issues that can arise at the last minute.

The first step of course is to hire a competent broker to assist in the process. This costs the tenant absolutely nothing and avails the tenant of the information they will need to evaluate space alternatives and make intelligent decisions.

The process of renewal or relocation varies according to the amount of space the tenant requires. Large users should begin the process several years in advance while smaller users may need as little as six months.

When insurmountable issues arise at the end of a negotiation which causes the deal to fall through, tenants that have not anticipated this possibility must again begin the process of inspecting new locations and buildings, do preliminary architectural plans, prepare financial analyses, and submit and negotiate proposals.

A problem arises when the time spent looking for a new deal brings the tenant closer to its lease expiration date and the chance that it will be a 'hold-over' tenant in its space. "Hold-over" tenants can be subject to stiff penalties and damages from landlords if they cannot vacate their space when their lease expires.

Landlords negotiating with a tenant coming into their building know that if the prospective tenant has a lease coming due shortly and no back-up alternative, it has ceded much of its leverage in the negotiation. The tenant in this situation is in the position of either capitulating to the landlord's negotiating position or facing the prospect of becoming a hold-over. Leverage on the landlord's part in this situation translates into less flexibility in many areas of the negotiation such as price, landlord work contribution, and lease clauses, all of which can have an important impact on the tenant.

A back-up alternative therefore makes it easier for the tenant to reconsider its original choice and move onto a better opportunity if it chooses. It also lets the prospective landlord know that the tenant is not captive to the landlord's deal as it nears its expiration date.

A tenant is a valuable commodity to a landlord in good times or bad times. Tenants are revenue streams for owners while vacancies cost landlords money. Nevertheless a tenant must dispassionately put themselves "in play" to level the playing field when negotiating with owners. Without alternatives tenants are at a disadvantage. Deals are aborted with great frequency and for a variety of reasons, without a back-up plan the tenant may give up a precious advantage – TIME.

*Peter Shakalis is a Director at Colliers International NY LLC
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HANAC's Executive Director John P. Kaiteris addressing the event



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Tina Kiamos with Hercules Hanjts

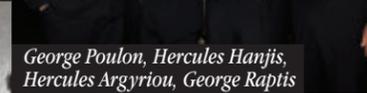
Chris Giftos, Haeda and George Mibaltses



Basile



Evangeline Douris, Chairman of HANAC, at her welcoming speech



George Poulon, Hercules Hanjts, Hercules Argyriou, George Raptis



L to R: Sbarla Castallanos, NYC Councilman Peter F. Vallone, Jr., Margo Catsimatidis

HANAC Board Member Nikitas Drakotos and Steve Valiotis of Alma Realty



Hercules Hanjts, Alex Afxentiou, Evette Poulon, Eileen Afxentiou with friends



Tina Kiamos, John Catsimatidis, Sbarla Castallanos, Margo Catsimatidis, Peter A. Vlachos



John Kaiteris, Raisa, Tanya and John Kaiteris



HANAC Board of Directors, Penny Laspalakis, Alexander G. Anagnos, Evangeline Douris, NYC Controller John Liu, John P. Kaiteris, Consul General Agbi Balta, Catherine Saketos, Chris Pappas and Nikitas Drakotos



Daphne Konstantinides, Despina Konstantinides and guests



Pauline Valenti, Christina Serna

HANAC Honors Its Own at 39th Annual Gala

"I have been blessed with a Board of Directors, who through the good times and difficult ones, never wavered in their support. Their commitment to the mission of the organization helped make our achievements possible," Evangeline Douris, Chairman of HANAC (Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee), declared in her welcoming speech at the agency's 39th Annual Gala which was dedicated to agency's Board of Directors.

The event was held this past October at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, in Manhattan, the venue of choice for this annual celebration that has come to mirror in growth and success the organization's progress.

"HANAC was George Douris' dearest and most lasting achievement. Everything we are began from his initial and ongoing inspiration," Mrs. Douris continued, visibly moved. "George Douris (her late husband) would be very pleased with the tender loving care given to his creation by its present leadership. I know he would be very proud of our accomplishments."

HANAC's Executive Director John P. Kaiteris, was honored with the "Man of the Year" Award, the

agency's highest distinction, presented to people who have stood out with their leadership skills and philanthropy in various fields of endeavor. Mr. Kaiteris joined a very prominent group of people who have received HANAC's Man of the Year Award, an only fitting case, because he had the opportunity to witness first hand the birth and development of this tradition, having been the organization's Executive Director/CEO since 1973! His daughter Tanya introduced him at the podium, praising his skills not only as an exemplary professional but as an affectionate father with great sense of humor.

Mr. Kaiteris has a Masters Degree in Social Work from Columbia University and was a Doctoral Candidate in Urban Policy Studies from New York University. He has an extensive background in government service and community relations having worked in the New York City Human Resources Administration and in the Mayor's Office. He has also been active on community and civic boards. He was a former president of the New York City Council of Senior Centers and Services and the Queens Inter-Agency Council on Aging and a former Chairman of the Queensboro Council for Social Welfare.

"In 1972 HANAC opened its doors and a year later John Kaiteris came on board as Executive Director. Since then his exemplary leadership and untiring efforts have transformed HANAC into a most respected social service agency. Tonight we are delighted to honor him as "Man of the Year," said Evangeline Douris.

At the 39th Annual Gala, HANAC's Board of Directors was presented with the "Spirit of Compassion and Philanthropy" Award. Board Members, besides Chairman Evangeline Douris, include Alexander G. Anagnos, President, Peter A. Vlachos, Vice-President, Arthur Cheliotis, Secretary, Penny Laspalakis, Treasurer, Nikitas Drakotos, Mario Mavricos, Chris Pappas, Steve P. Plangetis

and Catherine Saketos.

Peter A. Vlachos responded on behalf of the Board of Directors expressing his heartfelt thanks and his thoughts on the organization's remarkable progress in almost four decades.

Evangeline Douris extended her gratitude and sincere thanks to all "loyal benefactors for their unwavering

support over the years, as well as to Margo and John Catsimatidis, our Honorary Chairs, for always being there for us." She also expressed "a very special thanks to all the committees. It was an extraordinary team effort of directors, staff, our wonderful seniors from George T. Douris Tower and Archbishop Iakovos Residence. They all participated, making calls for the journal and stuffing envelopes. And of course, Tina Kiamos, always available to direct and give us answers to our questions."

Greek American comedian Basile took over after the presentations filling the Mandarin Grand Ballroom (which "never is big enough for the HANAC gala," as Mrs. Douris once remarked) with laughter, going through an array of stories and incidents while growing up Greek in America! Engaging Greeks and non Greeks alike in the audience, true to his word "as an equal opportunity comedian," Basile concluded his jokes to a standing ovation.

HANAC is a nonprofit service organization founded in Astoria, New York in 1972 by George T. Douris in response to the needs of the growing immigrant community of New York City. The mission of the agency is to develop and administer the operation of service programs for the betterment of the community and to provide these services to any and all who are needy without discrimination as to race, creed, national origin or other defining characteristic.

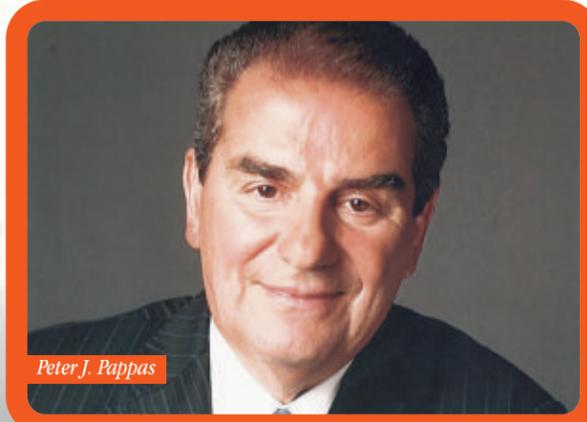
HANAC's initial concern with the needs of the new immigrants, the elderly, the youth and their families, has shaped the direction and growth of its services to this day.

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

"I have been involved with HANAC since its genesis and it is very close to my heart. I know first hand how it has helped thousands of people throughout the city," Evangeline Douris concluded.



by Dimitri C. Michalakis

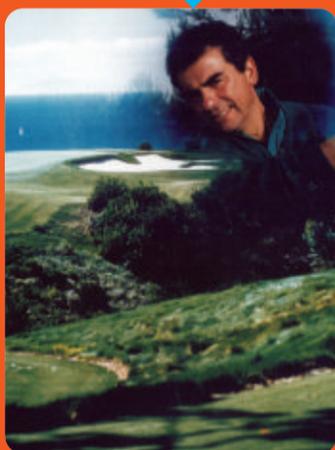


Peter J. Pappas

Which country has legendary vistas of sun, sea and sky and beautiful weather most of the year?

Greece, of course, and yet Greece has never been a go-to destination for aficionados of a fair weather sport like golf.

Until now—if Peter J. Pappas has his way. An avid golfer (he and his pal Telly Savalas played legendary matches) the New York-born Pappas, who learned his game on the driving ranges and links of the Big Apple. He later played with presidents and Hollywood royalty and has been petitioning the Greek government to make golf one of their priorities to attract new visitors and new sources of income.



“At the present time Greece is selling four or five months of sun, sand and loukoumades,” says Pappas, the founder of P.J. Mechanical in New York, a leading Heating, Ventilating & Air Conditioning (HVAC) contractor. “I’m trying to impress on them that golf in many countries surrounding Greece, such as Bulgaria and Croatia, aside from Italy, Spain and France, are becoming fast growing golf destinations. They’re promoting that because they realize that in the off season, it brings in more travelers. More travelers require more services: ground transportation, restaurants, clothing to buy, hotels to stay in, etc. It keeps the economy humming and that’s my whole purpose for Greece: to impress on them that we can establish a whole new industry for the country that will create jobs and revenue, which is desperately needed.”

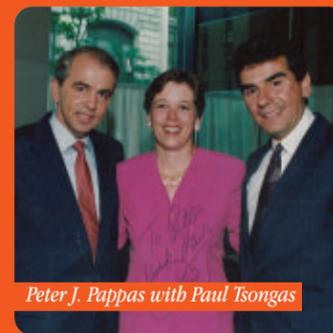
The first step is to cut the notorious red tape that makes every business venture in Greece an odyssey, and Pappas says he has been given assurances at the highest level.

“I spoke with the Prime Minister and I spoke with the Minister of Tourism and his Deputies and they assured me that this will be put on a fast track basis with only 8-12 months needed for approvals,” he says. “This will change the whole business climate, so investors don’t look at Greece and say I’m not going to invest there because I might have to sit on my land for who knows how long before I can put a shovel to the ground. That’s been one of the obstacles all along.”

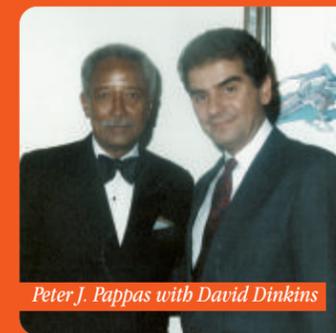
There is a new website about Greece as a golf destination, which Mr. Pappas’ group has initiated: <http://www.greeceisgolfing.com>, and a Facebook page and an existing magazine devoted to the Greek golfing scene (Golf



Peter J. Pappas and Mr. Pataki



Peter J. Pappas with Paul Tsongas



Peter J. Pappas with David Dinkins



Peter J. Pappas with Mr. Pataki, Sr. and former Ambassador Michael Sotirbos



Peter J. Pappas with President George Bush and former Governor George E. Pataki



Peter J. Pappas with Art Agnos (former Mayor of San Francisco)

& Leisure in Greece), which offers tantalizing glimpses of golf courses that exist now in Greece and more.

“Today, for example,” says Pappas, “Greece has several golf courses.” There is the venerable Glyfada Golf Course, with a pine-studded course and a view of the Saronic Gulf, and the course is open year round. There is the Corfu Golf Club on Corfu, the Porto Carras Golf & Country Club in Halkidiki, and the Afandou Golf Course on Rhodes, which is next to the Golf View Hotel and overlooks a course designed by David Haradine. There is the Crete Golf Club at Chersonissos, which has hosted the Aegean Airlines Pro-Am and the Porta Alunda Par 3 Course at Alunda. Lastly, one cannot overlook the spectacular Costa Navarino resort in Messinia, which is already one of Greece’s premier golfing destinations. The resort now features two golf courses: Navarino Dunes and Navarino Bay, with separate clubhouses and attached 5-star hotels, as well as residential real estate on seafont property with access to the golf courses. The Dunes Course was designed by former US Masters Champion and Ryder Cup Captain, Bernhard Langer and the Bay Course by American architect Robert Trent Jones with a par 71 course that offers some challenging greens.

There is a Hellenic Golf Federation with hundreds of members, in addition to the P.G.A. office at the Glyfada Golf Club. Mr. Pappas says “the PGA Hall of Fame, which I visited, is very anxious to include Greece as part of its membership. We have the Faldo (Series Junior Golf Championship) at the Glyfada course for anyone up to the age of 18, which just finished its second series. Greece is a member of the PGA’s of Europe and was given the highest rating for its Aegean pro-am played at the Costa Navarino. The course was magnificent, but other than that, the “filotimo” of the Greeks, our traditional service and kindness, has put us on the top of their list.”

So with Greece being such a natural for the sport, why hasn’t the game taken root there long ago?

“Number one, Greeks don’t understand golf,” Pappas tries to explain. “They think it is for the elite. The Glyfada course, as I understand, was built by the Army Corps of Engineers only because of the U.S. base located there. Once the Army pulled out, they left the golf course behind, I think, to the city of Glyfada. There is a Board in operation and some of that income is divided between the city and the golf course. However, it hasn’t been promoted well. Friends of mine who built the Costa Navarino site were golf enthusiasts and they realized by traveling around to different parts of the world, playing golf, that golf made sense for Greece as well. You don’t have to limit yourself to just 4-5 months of tourist season. You can play golf year round and bring in tourist revenue throughout the year in a climate such as Greece.” KPMG stated that Greece has over 300 playable golf days.

Pappas himself started playing golf as a kid in New York; paying a few bucks to drive a few balls at a driving range and it created a lifelong passion. He’s hoping that Greek kids can also be introduced to the sport early and grow with the game. They will be the future for golf in Greece.

“What I try to impress on developers and the ministries,” he says, “is to provide some land and space in schools, gymnasiums, and auditoriums, where we can bring professionals to teach the game. By the way, we have Greek professionals who can teach young children, middle aged people and seniors to learn how to hold and swing a golf club. It brings them to a point where they can go out to the field and hit some balls on a driving range. Then you learn to get better, to get attached to the sport and as the years go on in your life, it will become a hobby.”

As an industry in Greece, he says driving ranges alone can make serious money. “Today we have a place like Chelsea Piers (in New York City), where you can get a bucket of balls, maybe 80 balls for \$20, and you can hit those 80 balls in about fifteen minutes. Chelsea Piers has three decks, maybe fifteen across, and you can see how it produces money. Not only does it produce money, it offers recreation for people who might go there to practice their game or to play for laughs.”

Golf has been providing him with both since his younger days when he parred in the low 11s, and like most golfers, it has since become a passionate hobby. “There are people that paint, there are people that write, there are people that race cars. I’ve been playing a long time, but for the last fifteen years, I’ve been seriously competing in tournaments as an amateur, not as an A level, of course, but as a B level. My handicap fluctuates at an average of 16.”

Competition, he says, is healthy for the game and when he played with Telly Savalas, it was nothing but competition. “He was an avid golfer and we played from sunrise to sunset,” he remembers. “We’d play golf all day long; eat, drink and play more golf. It was very competitive. There was always a wager, because that makes you more focused, I believe. There are many social golfers who just go out and hit the ball, and then there are others who need to compete, like Greeks. I think it makes the difference. It keeps you enjoying the game.”

He played with George Bush Senior in Kennebunkport, ME. in a tournament and he is heartened that President Obama plays golf, though the diehard Republican, Pappas, is not won over. “No, unfortunately,” he says of the president. “I’m on the other side of the spectrum.”



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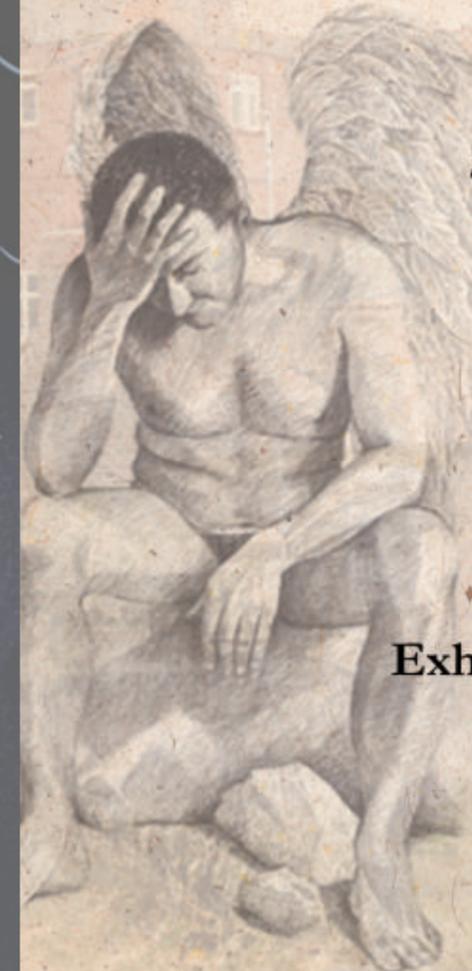
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Raptakis to Run for new State Senate Seat in Rhode Island



Former Rhode Island State Senator Leonidas "Lou" Raptakis, who served in the Rhode Island general assembly for sixteen years, announced that he will run for State Senate in 2012. Raptakis served in the Rhode Island senate until last year, when he left to run his first statewide race for Secretary of State. He will be running to represent a new State Senate district, as the State of Rhode Island will be redrawing the district lines as a result of the current national census.

"I am excited about the opportunity to return to the State Senate and continue my work on behalf of the people of Rhode Island while also working with my many friends in the Greek community on a range of important issues," said Raptakis. "Over the years, I have been committed to public service and I look forward to be back in the arena of the State Senate and fighting for common sense solutions to the challenges facing Rhode Island."

Those interested in supporting his campaign can contact his campaign office at (401)397-2720 or at senraptakis@hotmail.com or lou.raptakis@gmail.com. "Over the years, I have been proud to be a strong voice for my constituents while also working to bring attention to issues that matter to the Greek community," said Raptakis. "I intend to build on that record of accomplishment by returning to the state senate as a leader who knows how to get things done."

GERMANY SHOULD PAY ITS LONG OVERDUE OBLIGATIONS TO GREECE

by Dr. Costas Tzanos*



The French economist and consultant to the French government Jacques Delpla stated on July 2, 2011, that Germany owes to Greece 575 billion Euros from Second World War obligations (Les Echos, Saturday, July 2, 2011). On September 18, 2011, the German newspaper Die Welt admitted that Germany owes to Greece many billions of Euros at least from obligations arising from a forcibly obtained loan from Greece during World War II.

Please go to <http://www.greece.org/blogs/wwii/> and sign the petition of the Forum of Hellenic Professors and PhDs requesting the German government to honor its long-overdue obligations to Greece by repaying the forcibly obtained occupation loan, and by paying the World War II war reparations awarded to Greece by international agreements.



In the summer of 1940, Mussolini, perceiving the presence of German soldiers in the oilfields of Romania (an ally of Germany) as a sign of a dangerous expansion of German influence in the Balkans, decided to invade Greece. In October 1940, Greece was dragged into the Second World War by the invasion of its territory by Mussolini. To save Mussolini from a humiliating defeat, Hitler invaded Greece in April 1941.

Greece was looted and devastated by Nazi Germany as no other country under Nazi occupation. The Nazi minister of Economics, Walter Funk, said Greece suffered the tribulations of war like no other country in Europe.

Upon their arrival, the Germans started to live off the country. They appropriated whatever they needed for their stay in Greece, and shipped back to Germany whatever they could lay their hands on: foodstuff, industrial products, industrial equipment and stocks, furniture, heirlooms from valuable collections, paintings, archaeological treasures, watches, jewelry, and from some houses even the metal knobs from the doors. The entire output of Greek mines of pyrites, iron ore, chrome, nickel, magnesite, manganese, bauxite, and gold was obtained for Germany. James Schafer, an American oil executive working in Greece, summed it up: "The Germans are looting for all they are worth, both openly and by forcing the Greeks to sell for worthless paper marks, issued locally" (Mazower p.24). Mussolini complained to his Minister of Foreign Affairs Count Ciano: "The Germans have taken from the Greeks even their shoelaces" (Ciano p.387).

The massive looting of the country, the hyperinflation generated by the uncontrolled printing of German Occupation Marks by German local commanders, and the consequent economic collapse of the country, precipitated a devastating famine. In

addition to providing food for the 200,000 to 400,000 Axis occupation troops stationed in Greece, the country was forced to provide the Axis forces involved in military operations in North Africa. Greek fruits, vegetables, livestock, cigarettes, water, and even refrigerators were shipped from the Greek port of Piraeus to Libyan ports (Iliadakis p. 75). The International Red Cross and other sources have estimated that between 1941 and 1943 at least 300,000 Greeks died from starvation (Blytas p. 344, Doxiadis p.37, Mazower p.23).

Nazi Germany and Italy imposed on Greece exorbitant sums as occupation expenses to cover not only their occupation costs but also to support the German war efforts in North Africa. As a percentage of GNP, these sums were multiples of the occupation costs borne by France (which were only one fifth of those extracted from Greece), Holland, Belgium, or Norway. Ghigi, the Italian plenipotentiary in Greece, said in 1942, "Greece is completely squeezed dry" (Mazower p. 67). In an act of utter audacity, the occupation authorities forced the Tsolakoglou government to pay indemnities to German, Italian and Albanian nationals residing in occupied Greece for damages, presumably suffered during military operations, which were never defined. The Italian and Albanian citizens alone received sums equivalent to 783,080 dollars and 64,626 dollars respectively! (Iliadakis p. 96). Greece, which was destroyed by the Axis, was forced to pay citizens of its enemies for presumed but unproven damages.

In addition to the occupation expenses, Nazi Germany obtained forcibly from Greece a loan (occupation loan) of \$ 3.5 billion. Hitler himself had recognized the legal (intergovernmental) character of this loan and had given orders to start the process of

its repayment. After the end of the war, at the Paris meeting of 1946 Greece was awarded \$ 7.1 billion, out of \$ 14.0 billion requested, for war reparations.

Italy repaid to Greece its share of the occupation loan, and both Italy and Bulgaria paid war reparations to Greece. Germany paid war reparations to Poland in 1956, and under pressure from the USA and the UK (to placate Tito and keep him from joining the Soviet block) paid war reparations to Yugoslavia in 1971. Greece demanded from Germany payment of the occupation loan in 1945, 1946, 1947, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1974, 1987, and in 1995 (after the unification of Germany). Before the unification of Germany, using the London Agreement of February 27, 1953, West Germany avoided to pay its obligations arising from the occupation loan and war reparations to Greece on the argument that no "final peace treaty" had been signed. In 1964, German chancellor Erhard pledged repayment of the loan after the reunification of Germany, which occurred in 1990. As the German magazine "Der Spiegel" wrote on July 23, 1990, with the Two (West and East Germany) Plus Four (USA, former Soviet Union, United Kingdom, and France) Agreement that paved the way for the German unification, the nightmare of demands for war reparations by all those damaged by Nazi Germany, which could be raised by signing a "peace treaty", disappears. This statement by Der Spiegel has no legal basis whatsoever, but it is an acknowledgement of the devices Germany is using to refuse a settlement with Greece (see also guardian.co.uk, June 21, 2011). The same magazine, on June 21, 2011, quotes the economic historian Dr. Albrecht Ritschl, who warns Germany to take a more chaste

Most of the atrocities committed by the Nazis in Greece stemmed directly from two executive orders issued at the highest levels of the Third Reich. According to the torching directive, issued by Hitler himself, if there was a suspicion that a residence was used by the resistance, that building was a legitimate target to be burned down with its inhabitants. The second order, signed by Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, specified that for every Nazi killed, a minimum of 100 hostages would be executed, and for every wounded one, 50 would die (Payne 458ff, Goldhagen pp 189-190 and pp 367-369, Blytas pp 418-419).

The first mass executions took place in Crete even before the island fell to the Germans. In 1945, under the auspices of the United Nations, a committee headed by Nikos Kazantzakis enumerated the destruction of more than 106 Cretan villages and the massacre of their inhabitants (see video on Kontomari massacre). During the occupation, the Germans murdered the population of 89 Greek villages and towns (see the massacre at Distomo), while over 1,700 villages were totally or partially burned to the ground and many of

these antiquities were returned to Greece in 1950, the majority of the stolen museum pieces have never been traced.

In Crete and elsewhere, local German commanders ordered the excavation and looting of many archeological sites. These excavations were carried out by German archeologists, while Greek archeologists, curators and museum inspectors were forbidden to interfere, usually under threats which could not be ignored.

We request the German government to honor its long-overdue obligations to Greece by repaying the forcibly obtained occupation loan, and by paying war reparations proportional to the material damages, atrocities and plundering committed by the Nazi war machinery.

**Costas Tzanos PhD, Nuclear Technology, wrote this on behalf of the Forum of Hellenic Professors and PhDs.*

approach in the euro crisis of 2008-2011, as it could face renewed and justified demands for WWII reparations.

Indicative of the current value of the German obligations to Greece are the following: using as interest rate the average interest rate of U.S. Treasury Bonds since 1944, which is about 6%, it is estimated that the current value of the occupation loan is \$163.8 billion and that of the war reparations is \$332 billion.

Nazi Germany did not just take "even their shoelaces" from the Greeks. During WWII Greece lost 13% of its population as a direct result of the war (Doxiadis p 38, Iliadakis p 137). During the Battle for Greece almost 200,000 enlisted Greek men were killed, and more than a 100,000 were wounded or frostbitten, while about 4,000 civilians were killed in air raids. But these numbers pale by comparison to the loss of human life experienced during the occupation. According to conservative estimates, the deaths resulting directly from the war before the war ended adds up to about 578,000 (Sbarounis p. 384). These deaths were the result of the persistent famine, caused by the looting and economic policies of the Axis, and of the atrocities committed either as reprisals, as a response to the resistance, or as means to terrorize the Greek population. The above number does not include the deaths which occurred after the end of the war from diseases such as TB (400,000 cases) and malaria, from persistent malnutrition, wounds and exposure, all of them a direct result of war conditions. Thus, in WWII Greece lost as many lives, mostly of unarmed men women and children, as the USA and the UK together.

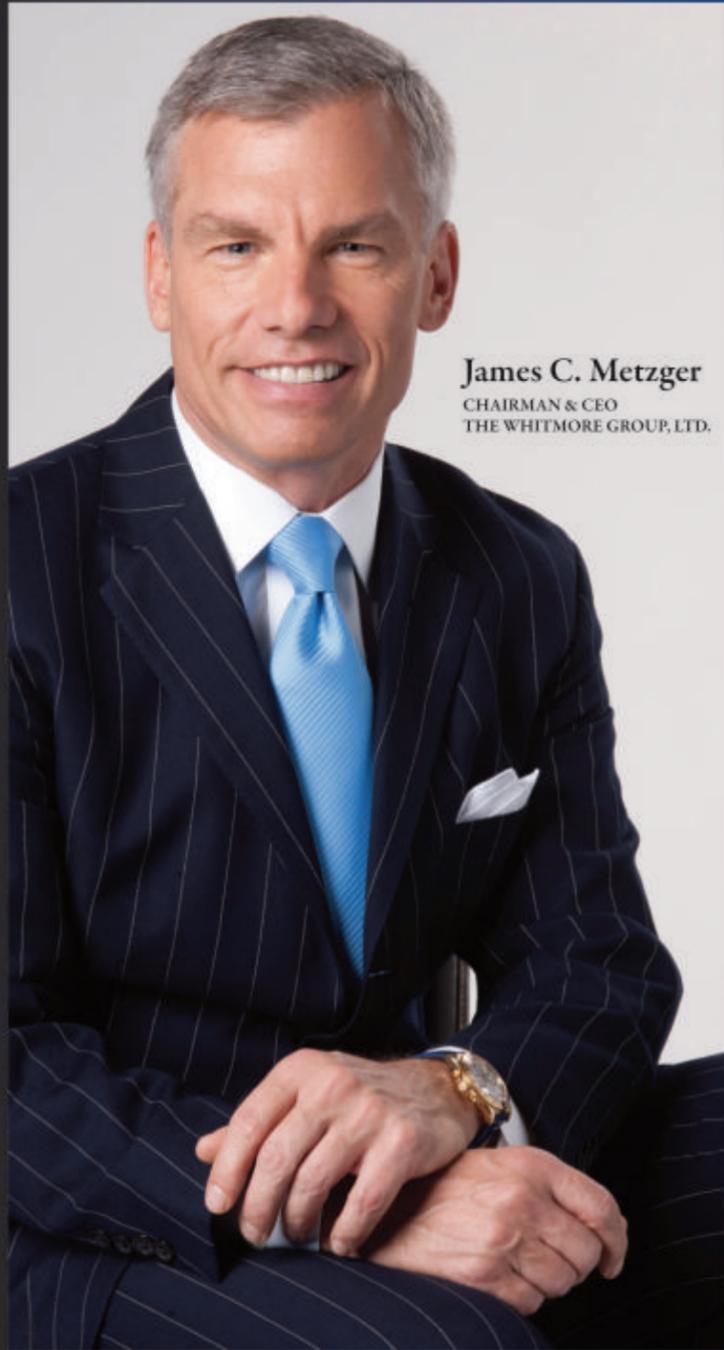
GREAT GREEKS OF RUSSIA EXHIBIT IN ST. PETERSBURG



The book and illustration exhibition entitled "Sts. Cyril and Methodius: the Greek Contribution to Russian Culture" part of a series entitled "Great Greeks of Russia" has opened in the New Building of the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg.

Among the exhibit displays are 19th-20th century publications from the library's collection, which tell about the life of the famous ascetics, and the history of the introduction of Slavic written language, reports.

The exposition will be supplemented by the Calligraphy School created at the St. Petersburg State A. L. Shtiglitz Academy of Industrial Design. The works of calligraphers, using various techniques, are dedicated to the expression of the Slavonic alphabet. Included in the exhibit are calligraphic sketches, manuscript books, and objects of decorative and applied arts.



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37 JOANNA XIPA

Celebrating 50 Years of St. Sophia Camp in California

PHOTOS: KETH A. MILLER



Nicole French, Dean Spilos, Maureen O'Connell, Jeanne & Ted Lambros, Andy & Don Lambros, Denida Boyd (Presbetera) & Fr. Allan Boyd



Alana Lambros, Alexandra & Christian Irwin, Alana & Andre Ulloa



Lily Reeves, Daniel Kirages, Miriam Braveman, Chris Markos



Fr. John Bakas, Jack Stumpus



Winners of Golf Tournament



Jim Zaferis, Dan Lubian, Zafiris Tsimabidis, Ernie Zaferis



David Matty, Falanai Ala, Peter Koulos, Andrew Eliopoulos



Joanna Xipa of NEO with Lee Inrabam, Sponsor of \$10K Hole in One



Stephanie Caiopoulos, Jack Stumpus



Jack Stumpus, Georgia Vasila, Tula Kolatzis, Betty Stumpus

Mention St. Sophia Camp & Retreat Center to many Greek Orthodox Baby Boomers today, and you'll notice two things happening: instantly their eyes fill with loving memories of warm summer days with laughter, swimming, hiking, singing around the campfire, religious education, and friendships that would last a lifetime. Secondly, they simultaneously think of sharing these gifts and memories with their own children and grandchildren.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of St. Sophia Camp, which was started in the mid 1950's, by Fr. Homer Demopoulos and a dedicated group of parish volunteers to perpetuate our faith and traditions for our Orthodox youth. They started off as two-week summer camping "vacations" in Malibu, Idylwild and on Catalina Island off the coast of Southern California, until the purchase of a 68 acre permanent campsite nestled in the foothills of the San

Bernardino National Forest. Despite the tragic mudslide on Christmas Day 2003 which closed the physical camp facility permanently, camp still continues to this day at a nearby rented facility in the forest above the closed campsite... where it allows the hustle and bustle of daily life to slip away as many feel as if they've landed in yiayia and pappou's Greek village!

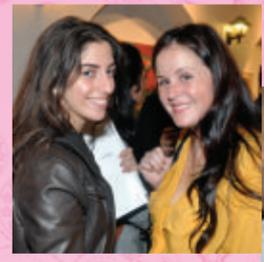
With a committee consisting of members from many Southern California Greek Orthodox parishes, it meets year-round to ensure children ages 7 - 17 receive an exciting fun filled and educational experience at summer camp by providing programs that will bond our youth, confirm our religious roots and create life long friendships. While expanding their minds studying Orthodox education, expressing their creativity in arts and crafts, and even testing their acting talents during skit night

presentations. Sports include basketball, volleyball, ping-pong, softball and swimming as well as weekly summer Olympic games. Campers as of late find exploring nature's beauty while hiking the various paths and trails enjoyable, not to mention gathering at days end and singing around the campfire.

During this year's 49th Annual St. Sophia Camp Golf Tournament & Awards Banquet, held this past October at the Montebello Country Club outside of Los Angeles, CA., one of the camp's long time committee members of over 35 years, Ted Lambros, was honored for his support, dedication and years of contributions to the beloved camp. Thanks to the new Golf Tournament Chairman, Jack Stumpus, Camp Chairman Melonie O'Regan, and of course to the Dean of St. Sophia Cathedral, Fr. John Bakas, the tournament was a wonderful success! "Kai Tou Hronou!"

A night of fashion and beauty, featuring some of America's most talented Greek designers Elene Cassis, Angelo Lambrou, Tina Livanos and ... guest star Lia Kastanidi from Athens, was organized recently by the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce Fashion Committee at the Cyprus House, a cultural venue in the heart of Manhattan within the confines of the Consulate General of the Republic of Cyprus in New York. The meet-the-artists reception, immediately following their shows at New York City Mercedes Benz Fashion Week, was held under the auspices of Consul General of Cyprus in New York Koula Sophianou who was also instrumental in launching the Chamber of Commerce committee.

2000, where the window displays cause a sensation on the block. A big fashion lover, Tina Livanos is an attorney who while helping her friend Be Inthavong of the handbag line "BeandD", a favorite amongst Hollywood stars and fashion editors, gained an understanding of the business and decided to start her own line, Livanou, which debuted at Bloomigdales and is now being sold at high end



Despina Diamanti, Artemis Konstantinidou and Vivian Adamakos

PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

Haute Couture & Beauté at the Cyprus House



Angelo Lambrou, Elene Cassis, Consul General Koula Sophianou, Tina Livanos and ... guest star Lia Kastanidi from Athens



Angelo Lambrou and Nikos Mouyiaris (2nd from right) with friends



Katerina Duarte, Eleni Tsokanou, Hara Vamvouri



Tasso Pardalis of the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce Fashion Committee with Consul General Koula Sophianou



Consul General of Greece Agbe Balta, Elene Cassis and the hostess Koula Sophianou

Elene Cassis features classic and timeless designs that embody the essence of modern elegance, inspire self-confidence and celebrate the graceful curves of the female form. No other line embodies the petite simplicity on the runway or boutique racks as Elene Cassis designs. Since starting her own signature collection (in 2009) which has already caught the attention of top retailer Neiman Marcus, along with over 30 other noted specialty stores nationwide - she has become a favorite of young celebrities, most recently dressing Taylor Swift for an UK editorial in Bliss Magazine.

boutiques globally. She is now focusing on more luxury level by using exotic skin like snake, ostrich and alligator and producing more limited quantity but higher quality for the upscale market.

Lia Kastanidi is the founder and creative force behind the chic fashion label Enoe Me. While she was born and raised in Patra, Greece, she has lived abroad for a number of years in pursuit of gaining knowledge and experience in the fashion business. She spent nine years in London, five of which were dedicated towards Fashion Studies Undergraduate degree from London College of Fashion, and the rest were focused on gaining fashion experience working at Liza Bruce. Lia then moved to New York, where she focused her post-graduate studies in styling, visual merchandising, and branding at FIT. In 2007, she returned to Greece and created the Enoe Me brand.



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The George "Best" Costacos Cultural and Cancer Research Foundation awarded its first George "Best" Costacos Humanitarian Spirit Award to HRH Crown Princess Katherine of Serbia for her extensive humanitarian activities at a concert and cocktail reception held recently in New York. HRH is the patron of Lifeline Humanitarian Organization which operates in the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom, Greece and Serbia. Crown Princess Katherine was born in Athens, Greece, to Robert and

Association. Guests were enthralled by the performances of John Himmel, Lynn Manuell, Seth Weinstein and the soprano Jadranka Jovanovic. The well-known artist Russell Bush presented Her Royal Highness with an original work of art designed specifically for her. The Humanitarian Spirit Award was designed by the world-renown sculptor Nikos Floros. The award is a modern structure of aluminum and plexiglass, using a technique originated by Mr. Floros. Among other works, Mr. Floros has utilized this

enough money to help people," she pointed out.

The George "Best" Costacos Cultural and Cancer Research Foundation will support the innovative research of the laboratory of David C. Lyden, M.D., Ph.D., a leading authority on cancer metastasis and brain tumors.

Dr. Lyden is co-senior author of "Cancer Metastasis: Biological Basis and Therapeutics" by Cambridge University Press, the first ever book on metastatic

The George "Best" Costacos Foundation Honors HRH Crown Princess Katherine

Anna Batis. She was educated in Athens and Lausanne, Switzerland, and studied business at the University of Denver, Colorado, and the University of Dallas, Texas. She received an honorary doctorate from the University of Sheffield, England, in 2007. Princess Katherine speaks English, Greek, French, Spanish and Serbian.



Dr. David C. Lyden presenting George "Best" Costacos Humanitarian Spirit Award to HRH Crown Princess Katherine of Serbia

An international crowd of dignitaries, scientific, academic and cultural fields turned out for the award presentation which was preceded by a concert featuring an international

roster of talented young performers. Among those attending were His Excellency Feodor Starcevic - Ambassador of Serbia to UN, Ambassador Aghi Balta, Consul General of Greece, Ms. Koula Sophianou, Consul General of Cyprus, Ms. Mirjana Zivkovic, Consul General of Serbia, Ambassador and Mrs. Andrew Jacovides, President of the board of Lifeline Humanitarian Organization NY, Mr. David Hrych, well-known architect Mr. Kostantine Kondyllis, Dr. and Mrs. Steven Stylianos, Dr. Chrysanthé Routzounis, Dr. David Lyden, Stavros Niarchos Chair at Weill Cornell Medical Center and attending pediatric neurooncologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Dr. Demetrios Skokos of Rockefeller University and Regeneron, and Dr. Christos Koutentis as well as Mr. Ijaz Malik.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Mr. David Lotz, Director of Communications for the Actors Equity



HRH Crown Prince Alexander, HRH Crown Princess Katherine with members of the Board of the George Best Costacos Cultural and Cancer Research Foundation, along with all the artists and the MC of the evening.



HRH Crown Princess Katherine receives an original work of art by Russell Bush

and humanitarian spirit, the organization's mission and how HRH Princess Katherine's passion and commitment to her work were an inspiration to her and the other members of the board. "There could not be a more deserving individual to receive the first George 'Best' Costacos Humanitarian Spirit Award than Her Royal Highness." Ms. Ziongas said.

The Humanitarian Spirit Award was presented to Her Royal Highness by Dr. David Lyden, Stavros Niarchos Chair at Weill Cornell Medical Center and Attending Pediatric Neurooncologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. In her acceptance Princess Katherine spoke about the inspiration she drew from her parents who always provided a strong example with their own humanitarian activities. She thanked the members of the board of the George "Best" Costacos Cultural and Cancer Research Foundation and the President and Vice President, Nikos Floros and Dora Ziongas respectively, for this honor. Her Royal Highness spoke about her commitment and work to help bring peace and compassion to a world that sorely needs both "There always seems to be money for war but never

technique in his famous sculptural costumes inspired by Maria Callas.

In her opening remarks, Dora Ziongas, Vice President and co-founder of Foundation spoke about George Costacos' work

research and clinical care of the metastatic patient, published April 2011. His team of researchers was the first to identify specific bone marrow precursor cells that induce the formation of new blood vessels that feed brain tumors. With this ground breaking discovery, Dr. Lyden's lab is now trying to develop monoclonal antibodies to receptors on these bone marrow cells. This novel therapy will target and stop the cancer cells from growing and spreading. This exciting research can ultimately lead to a cure.



HRH Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia HRH Crown Princess Katherine of Serbia, Vice President and co-founder of the George "Best" Costacos Cultural and Cancer Research Foundation, Ms. Dora Ziongas

Association, George "Best" Costacos who died in November 2008 of glioblastoma, a malignant brain tumor with a particularly poor prognosis. The Foundation's mission is to support research to understand the etiology of cancer, to support improvement in the management of brain tumors, and to promote, foster, and advance the professional pursuits of young artists.

George Costacos was born in Athens, Greece, in 1964 and died at the age of 44 in Hanover, Germany. George Costacos' love of life and humanitarian spirit were an inspiration to all who met him.

The Eagle Has Two Faces: A Greek American's Love Affair with the Balkans

by Demetrios Rhompotis



Greek American author Alexander Billinis

The Double Headed Eagle, the symbol of the Late Byzantine Empire, speaks eloquently to the worldview of the Byzantines, whose Empire looked both to the East and to the West, but never was—or is—really part of either. At its apogee, the Byzantine Empire was the highest civilization in Europe—the Center. This Double Headed Eagle is cherished by the Balkan Orthodox successors to Byzantium, and versions of it grace

the national flags of Serbia, Montenegro, and even Albania.

Alexander Billinis' book "The Eagle has Two Faces", published recently and available at amazon.com and virtually all other online retailers, offers history, architecture, personal experiences, and numerous anecdotes to expound on key central themes. First, that the Balkan Orthodox nations form a common culture and virtual commonwealth, while still maintaining ethnic, geographical, and linguistic diversity. Second, the common experience of Ottoman rule, while preserving Byzantine culture and insulating the Orthodox Catholic Church from Roman Catholic encroachment, did so by cutting off Byzantine Europe from economic, political, cultural, and civic development in progress in Western Europe. Finally, throughout, there is a sense that history, rather than linear, runs in a circular form, and that history once again encroaches on the lands of the Double Headed Eagle.

What makes this book exceptionally familiar to the Greek American community is the fact that Alexander Billinis is himself a Greek-American who has a lifelong interest in Byzantine history and its relevance to today's world. His point of view is greatly influenced by being part of the Diaspora, which makes him both an insider and outsider to the Balkan region where Byzantium's successors experience a rather complicated and frustrating existence. He has lived and worked in Bulgaria, Greece, and Serbia, and has traveled extensively to other countries that have had influence on the Balkans, including Turkey, Italy, Austria, and Hungary. His interest in this area's culture and history is balanced by the calculating analyses of an international banker, his career for more than a dozen years. A graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Mr. Billinis majored in East European Studies just as the Communist bloc was in the process of dissolution, at a time when history and culture once again emerged over ideology. He followed his studies with a semester at Budapest University of Economic Sciences and an internship in Sofia, Bulgaria. He also earned advanced degrees in international business and law.

Working for various global banks took him and his family from Utah, to Chicago, to Athens, and to London. He has written for various Diaspora Greek and Serbian publications in the US, Canada, Greece, and Australia, including NEO magazine where he contributes every month an essay in a series titled Hellenism Without Borders. He currently lives in Sombor, 'Serbia's most architecturally beautiful city,' as he likes to point out, with his Serbian-American wife and their two young children. "The Eagle has Two Faces" is his first book.

You are an American living in Serbia. Is that possible after what happened in the '90s?

It is easy enough. Most people here see me as a Greek and the ties between Greeks and Serbs are very warm. While most Serbs feel the bombing and the amputation of Kosovo from Serbia was a gross injustice orchestrated in

part from America, the Serbs do not overly personalize their feelings towards individual Americans. I would say that the Anti-Americanism I have seen in Serbia is similar to that in Greece, but by no means worse. Further, the province I live in, Vojvodina, has over two dozen nationalities in the region, Serbs, Hungarians, Romanians, Slovaks, Carpatho-Russians, Croats, Gypsies, and others, including Greeks, and most of these people have centuries-long ties to the region. Tolerance is the norm, rather than the exception.

After the disastrous decade of the '90s, Serbia and the Balkans in general, came to symbolize in the West almost everything that's bad and negative (built perhaps on an already existing stereotype that goes back to the Ottoman times). Would you say that your book is also an unconscious attempt to challenge that image?

To some degree. The Byzantine civilization shared by Greeks, Serbs, Bulgarians, and Romanians was the most advanced civilization of the Middle Ages, and it was set upon by both the West and the Ottomans. My point is that 500 years of Ottoman rule arrested our development and is a direct cause to the political and economic problems we see today in the Balkan countries, including of course Greece. My further point is that the Orthodox Balkan people all have a common culture and the differences are less important than the similarities.

To go to your direct question, I think that there are elements of the Balkan stereotype that have basis in fact. There is severe, debilitating corruption in all Balkan countries, which directly relates to Greece's financial meltdown. I seek, with a meze of travels in the region, to offer a more complete view of the Balkans. My view is of course influenced by my Greek-American identity, and of course, that of my Serbian-American wife.

There is no extensive bibliography on the Southeastern European Hellenic Diaspora. Certainly your book is filling an ozone hole size of a void. But why do you think that is the case? Greeks were too traumatized to remember what we lost relatively recently?

Diaspora is a key part of this book, but it is not so much Greeks living in, say, Bulgaria or Serbia, but rather the need for all Balkan peoples to quit their countries for the West and a better life. The political, economic, and cultural baggage of Ottoman rule, and the continuation of what were essentially Ottoman norms of governance after the expulsion of the Ottomans, encouraged (and continues to encourage) the most ambitious and civic-minded Balkan people to leave the region. I do not dwell particularly on the once substantial Greek mercantile communities in Bulgaria, Serbia, and Romania, although often enough people from old Belgrade families will talk about their Greek origins. Most of these communities either repatriated to Greece, or, more often, assimilated into their Byzantine surroundings.

What is the structure of the book, I mean, did you have a certain pattern in mind?

A great question. Organization was never my strong suit, I suppose that is typical of a Greek! It is a bit of stream of consciousness book, my travels are not linearly linked, but rather geographic or episodic. I cover both the core successor states of Byzantium and the periphery. As I live in an area where Orthodoxy fades into Western Christianity, I discuss the Roman Catholic-Orthodox relationship a fair amount, both in terms of the Serbs and Romanians in the former Austria-Hungary, but also the enclaves of Greeks and Arvanites in Italy. The two areas that I do not cover that might have been valuable, are Albania and Bosnia, but a travelogue on such a dense and culturally profound area as the Balkans can never really be complete.

If I judge from your series Hellenism without Borders in NEO magazine, you combine history and prose in a way that makes the text readable to every "commoner" while at the same time you maintain the scientific integrity when it comes to events and other historical data. Is the book done the same way?

Thank you, it is always good to hear that. I would say that the reader who enjoys my column would likely enjoy the book a great deal. I delve into places in greater depth, and with greater sharpness. One critic called my book "the author's love affair with the Balkans." I hope and I believe that love has not made me blind, because while there is much to love in this part of the world, there is also much that simply needs to change, if the region is to have any chance in the 21st century.

What do your Balkan, non-Greek, friends think about the book?

As I live in Serbia and along with my Greek and American publications, I write for several Serbian and Serbian Diaspora publications, I can speak for Serbian reactions, and they generally have felt that the book is accurate. I have a soft spot for the Serbs and it comes out in my writing, but I make no excuses for the corruption and the civic deficit in Serbia or in Greece, and I think that any Balkan who holds a very rose-colored, nostalgic view of their country or region will find my conclusions jarring. If I wrote this book from far away, in Salt Lake City, Chicago or Washington D.C., all places where I have lived, for example, I might be more overcome with emotion than I am now, living the often challenging realities of life in the Balkans.

Besides the joy of writing and sharing experiences, what's the purpose of this book, in other words, what do you expect from it in the best-case scenario.

What does every author expect, a best seller of course! As I said in an earlier response, this book was like my therapy. Being a Greek is a very full experience, and the whole Balkans is a cauldron of both joyful and often profoundly disappointing experiences. I dedicated this book to my late father, John, and to his grandson, my son, also, of course, John. It is to honor them first and foremost, but I also think that my experience and insights might interest a wide variety of people.

Where can people find it?

Well, I am a new author but I have to say that in the world of online retailing it is easy to get my book. Amazon.com and virtually any other online retailer have my book on offer. I cannot imagine how hard it must have been to market one's book in the past, particularly as a first time author. I have a global audience, I write for publications in Europe, North America, and Australia, and my book can be purchased anywhere. Do also visit my website and blog www.alexanderbillinis.com

Any other book in the offing or it's too early?

Yes, there is. I am a few chapters into another travel-historical book about Vojvodina province and its Austro-Byzantine culture with its two-dozen nationalities. When we eventually return to the US I want to write about America. It is always a challenge to write about your home country.



PAVLIDIS GEORGIOS
MEMBER OF THE GREEK SOCIETY OF PHOTOREPORTERS
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Andy Manatos, Archbishop Demetrios, former Senator Paul Sarbanes, the honoree, Senator Ben Cardin, President Demetris Christophias, Peter Papanicolaou, President of Cyprus Federation, and Foreign Minister Erato Markoullis.



President of Cyprus Demetris Christophias with his wife Elsie.

Cyprus Federation Honors Senator Cardin

The Cyprus Federation of America held its Annual Testimonial Dinner to honor, in the words of its President Peter Papanicolaou, "an outstanding individual and express our appreciation for his commitment and dedication to the Cyprus cause," Maryland's United States Senator Ben Cardin, with the "Justice for Cyprus Award," the organization's highest distinction. Former Maryland Senator Paul Sarbanes introduced the honoree and spoke highly on his work in the US Senate.



Senator Ben Cardin receives the "Justice for Cyprus Award" from President Demetris Christophias.

Since coming to Congress in 1987, Senator Cardin has been an exemplary leader and outspoken advocate of the just and noble cause for the liberation and reunification of Cyprus and the restoration of the human rights of the Cypriot people. Furthermore, he has been an unwavering supporter of all Hellenic issues and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Under Senator Cardin's chairmanship, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the U.S. Helsinki Commission), the United States Congress' principal human rights watchdog, undertook an investigation of the destruction by the Turkish occupation forces of the religious and cultural heritage in the occupied northern part of Cyprus and issued a report to the U.S. Congress.

Archbishop Demetrios of America also attended and saluted the event as did President Demetris Christophias of the Republic of Cyprus, Foreign Minister Erato Markoullis, Congresswoman Ileana-Ros-Lehtinen, Congressman Mike Grimm, State Senator Michael Gianaris, State Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis and AHEPA Supreme President John Grossomanides. George Tsunis was the event's chairman with Andy Manatos MCing.



George Tsunis, Event Chairman, State Senator Michael Giannaris, U.S. Congressman Michael Grimm, Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis and Peter Papanicolaou, President of Cyprus Federation

The Cyprus Federation of America was founded in 1951 in New York City and currently consists of 25 chapter members located throughout the United States including the Tri-State area, Virginia, Ohio, Chicago, Washington, Florida and California. The organization networks closely with the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE), the International Coordinating Committee "Justice for Cyprus" (PSEKA), the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), the United Hellenic American Congress (UHAC), and the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York.



Consul General of Greece Agbi Balta and Consul General of Cyprus Koula Sopianou.

Admiral Stavridis Receives Athenagoras Award

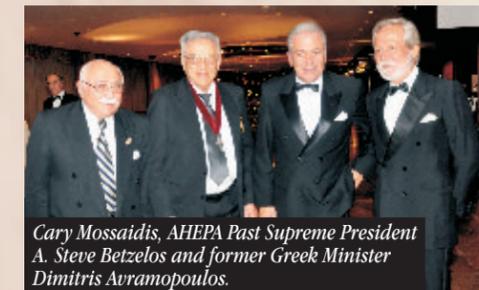
Archbishop Demetrios of America together with Archons' National Commander, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, presented the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to Admiral James G. Stavridis, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, who accepted on behalf of the heroic members of the United States Armed Forces.



Archbishop Demetrios presenting the Athenagoras Award to Admiral James Stavridis, with George Stephanopoulos and Archon's National Commander Anthony Limberakis.

Admiral Stavridis is the highest-ranking Greek American in the history of the United States military. The Award was presented during the annual Human Rights Banquet held at the New York Hilton on October 15, 2011, with over 400 Archons and guests in attendance. As in the past 12 years, National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Booras again generously served as Banquet Underwriter.

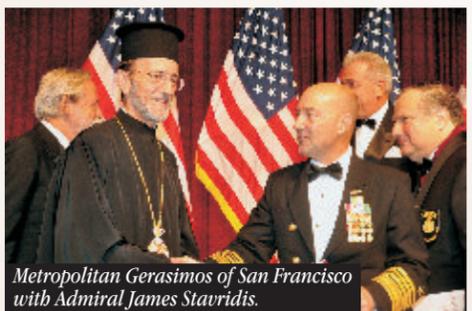
Asia Minor in the early 20th Century and conveyed his pride for his Hellenic heritage (Stavridis has published a book titled "Destroyer Captain," in which he's saying that "in the early 1920's, my grandfather, a short, stocky Greek schoolteacher named Dimitrios Stavridis, was expelled from Turkey as part of 'ethnic cleansing' directed against Greeks living in the remains of the Ottoman Empire.



Cary Mossaidis, AHEPA Past Supreme President A. Steve Betzelos and former Greek Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos.



From left, Stephanie Gianakis, Lauren Karanikolas, Annette Romas, Cassandra Romas and Presvytera Victoria Delvizi.



Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco with Admiral James Stavridis.



Paulette Poulos, Executive Director, and Gus Karas, Chairman of Leadership 100.



From left, C. Dean Metropoulos and Fanis Economides.



From right, Valerie Mitchell, Angelica Spanos and a friend.



George Stamboulis, President of Pangregorian (left), with newly elected Archon John Sakellaris, Chairman of the Board.

Established in 1986, the Athenagoras Human Rights Award is given in honor of Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, who served as Archbishop of the Americas for 18 years before being elected Ecumenical Patriarch in 1948. He was universally acknowledged as a visionary leader and worked for peace among churches and people throughout his life.

He barely escaped with his life in a small boat crossing the Aegean Sea to Athens and thence to Ellis Island. His brother was not so lucky and was killed by the Turks as part of the violence directed at the Greek minority." Since resuming his duties as NATO Europe Commander Admiral Stavridis has toned down the Turkish persecutions against his family, saying that his ancestors "left" Turkey).

Previous recipients of this prestigious Award have included President Jimmy Carter, President George H.W. Bush, President Mikhail Gorbachev, Elie Wiesel, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mother Teresa, Archbishop Demetrios of America, Archbishop Iakovos and last year's recipient Theodore Cardinal McCarrick.

Stavridis also emphasized the humanitarian role of the Armed Forces and highlighted that "it is the duty of the strong to protect those who are weak," adding that "might does not make right" and explaining that "we live in an imperfect world in which human rights sadly are not the norm."

In accepting the Award, Admiral Stavridis spoke about his family and the values that were instilled in him and particularly about his grandfather who left

The Banquet Program commenced with a welcome from National Secretary John Halecky, Jr. and greetings were offered by Hon. Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook, Ambassador at Large for International

Religious Freedom. ABC Chief Political Correspondent and Co-Ancor of Good Morning America, Archon George Stephanopoulos, served as Master of Ceremonies and Fox News Chief Congressional Correspondent, Archon Mike Emmanuel, offered the introduction of the dais guests. Chaplains John Kalantzis and Matthews J. Streett assisted, respectively, in the invocation and benediction.

Once again, Archon Theodore D. Demetriou superbly coordinated the Archon weekend activities as banquet chairman, assisted by Archon Konstantine L. Vellios, who donated the beautiful patriotic floral arrangements.

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

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The Greek Woman in the Maritime Industry



Marigo Lemou-Patitsa with her sons Philemon and Leon at the inauguration of MT "Aspasia Lemos".

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At the inauguration ceremony of the Aframax Tanker "Aspasia Lemos" in S.Korea. Marigo Laimou-Patitsa with the godmother of the ship Marietta Chrousala-Patitsa.

by Marigo Lemou-Patitsa

Whenever a woman deals with an issue—using her strength, clarity, moral vision, perseverance and loyalty—she will always achieve her goals. In a direct or indirect way, she will give the best of herself and inspire her husband and children. The maritime industry was and still is one of the most significant industries and it plays a vital role in the financial and social sphere: in enhancing and broadening the life of our country and especially in enhancing the welfare of Greece, which is at the crossroads of Western civilization and culture.

Nowadays, many women act much as Bouboulina and Manto Mavrogenous did and assert themselves by their speech, self-sacrifice, presence, and the success of their family, their island and their country. Support does not necessarily mean fighting in the forefront, but fighting nevertheless and working extremely hard without getting the recognition—working often more efficiently—to support and inspire others as a mother, sister, spouse, without wanting something back, without wanting more for themselves, without looking back on the years gone by and saying “enough—I’ve done enough.”

My opinion is that the greatest contributor to the maritime sector was and is the woman who stays at home: the wife and mother of the mariner, who tries to raise her children on her own without help, who takes care of the house, who will live out her youth all alone, who will defend her home and will uphold

the pride of her house. Many distinguished people—businessmen, professors, the well-educated—came from single-parent families where they were brought up only by their mothers because the husbands were away at sea. The men sent the money home, but it was the women who were the driving force in the family and who sometimes invested in a fleet of ships themselves.

“Δει δη χρημάτων και άνευ τούτων, ουδέν των δεόντων γινέσθαι”, the ancient Greeks used to say. But you cannot eat money, and wealth by itself does not always make an individual significant. It needs to be used in the right way. And the person who usually does this is the mother, the wife, the woman who is the caretaker of life, who lives at home and takes care of the family and provides for the essentials of life: the children and their nurturing through sickness and health, of their proper education, and sometimes by sacrificing her own life to be with her husband on his ship.

Only by sacrifice can life go on and the goals of life be achieved.

Only by ceaseless sacrifice did a small group of mariners become the Union of Hellenic Shipowners: men who loved the sea, who worked on it and devoted their lives to it. Men who achieved their goals because of the women at home who supported them and contributed to their ambition. It required strength, loyalty, vision and above all, faith in God and in themselves! How many churches of Agios Nikolaos do we count in our beautiful islands

overlooking the sea! The woman is the one who kept the faith vital and the candles in the churches lit. She is the one who prayed for the sea to calm and for her husband to return home safe. She is the one who dressed her children and her house to welcome back her husband from the sea, the breadwinner who fought every day for the bare essentials of life.

The woman, the female muse, the female inspiration, the fighter in the everyday of life, and in the Hellenic Maritime sector, the loyal, devoted, responsible woman behind the our mariners, will always be a dynamic presence, either at home, or in the forefront as secretary, as wife, as mother, as partner, as a simple woman, simple but always dynamic.

Even in these hard times which we are facing, she stands with an encouraging smile to support her mariner and always remember that, “The sea may get sick, but it never dies.”

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PERISCOPE

...continued from page 37



Since resuming his duties as NATO Europe Commander Admiral Stavridis has toned down the Turkish persecutions against his family, saying that his ancestors “left” Turkey, providing no further explanation. He said the same thing at the Archon’s dinner and I frankly can’t understand what his angle is: does he negate the fact that his family was chased away by criminal elements of the Turkish army, did he lie when he wrote that in his book? Has he been threatened by the Turks of by their supporters in the Department of Defense and he had to change the narrative?

James (Demetrios) Stavridis needs to put his act together, because he has us all, Greek-Americans, Americans and Turks, confused! A proud US Navy Admiral cannot be viewed as recanting his story for the sake of an appointment, however important that is!

Guess who’s lobbying for Ergogan now: The Patriarch!

It’s interesting that the Order of the Archons, whose main work so far has been devoted to defending the Ecumenical Patriarchate against the abuses of the Turkish regime, didn’t react to Stavridis’ assertion that his family “left” Turkey, although everyone, including himself, knows this isn’t true.

But there is a pattern lately regarding the Archon’s stance vis a vis Turkey, which should call everybody’s attention, especially the members of

the Order. Last year, they honored Mr. Egemen Bagis, the Turkish Secretary in charge of the European Union, with a medal for religious freedom and human rights, if I recall correctly, at a conference organized in Belgium by the Archons on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. A few days before being honored, Mr. Bagis who for years was president of the Federation of Turkish American Societies in New York and that could explain some of his connections with the Patriarch’s people here, had said that Cyprus, an independent country, member of both the European Union and the Eurozone, doesn’t even exist as a nation!

This past September, when Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited New York for the UN General Assembly, the Archons organized a meeting for him with some very influential Greek Americans. Take into consideration that besides a few obsessed pro Turkey State & Defense Department characters, none else wants to see Erdogan in the US, given his anti-Israeli overtures. For certain power circles here, he’s considered worse than Ahmadinejad!

It should not come as a surprise then that Erdogan and his cohorts have turned to the ...Greeks for help in order to ease the isolation and to help crack the impasse. They sense that Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew could summon at their disposal the vast pool of connections within the Greek American community. And it’s not just the Archons, there is much more ...

Now, none can seriously claim that the Patriarch is working for the Turks or even worse that he’s a spy and the rest of the crap that surface here and there (not without reason, never the less). But knowing the totalitarian nature of every Turkish regime, it’s only natural that the Turks force Bartholomew to

help the “motherland”. In fact, each time he travels here they use his presence as a reminder of how tolerant their society is and not a few times the Patriarch himself has advocated in Europe for Turkey (there is nothing wrong with that so long that it doesn’t harm the interests of Greece, Cyprus and last but not least human rights and religious freedom in Turkey proper).

As the pressure on Turkey will mount due to Ergogan’s policies, the pressure on the Patriarch to use his well positioned American flock will increase. What makes the case more complicated is the fact that Bartholomew too is eager to help Erdogan, because truth to be said, he has taken some brave steps in making the life much easier for the Patriarchate and Christians in general. It’s also a good opportunity for Bartholomew to prove his “patriotic” credentials, always in doubt in Turkey. However, it’s ironic now that Erdogan has managed to corner himself, the Greeks should to come to his rescue!

What we have seen so far is just the beginning. As I stressed in last month’s Periscope, it is imperative that the Greek Orthodox Catholic Church in the Americas become independent. It will first and foremost help the Patriarch if his ability to lobby for Turkey becomes obsolete. The pressure on him will be lifted and he could spend more time putting his Patriarchate in order. As the world is threatened with imminent doom both physically and metaphysically, the Patriarch, a champion for ecology himself, has a lot of rescuing to do before he bothers with Erdogan’s (political) salvation!

*A Gabriel García Márquez novel

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bottom row (seated) - Victoria Markakis, Stavroula Ploumes, Andreas Markakis; top row (standing) - George Markakis, Elias Ploumes, Carmen (Markakis) St. George, Dimitrios Papas



Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri, Esq., President of the Hellenic Lawyers Association, Marc Francis, Esq., Carmen (Markakis) St. George, Judicial Candidate

East Meadow, New York. A fundraiser was held on August 4, 2011 at the Carlton on Eisenhower Park to support the election of Carmen St. George for Nassau County District Court Judge. St. George spoke before a room filled with her supporters, prominent attorneys, and community leaders about her life long dream of becoming a jurist.

St. George, whose maiden name is family, including father, Andreas, mother, Victoria Markakis, and sister Maria Markakis, paid tribute to her Greek roots and indicated that she was proud to be a part of the Hellenic Lawyers Association. Born in the United States, St. George is fluent in Greek and attended elementary school in Athens. Her father, Andreas E. Markakis, a native of Crete, was a shipowner. Growing up in Southold, Long Island, St. George was a member of the Church of Transfiguration of Christ in Mattituck, N.Y. Now that she resides in Nassau County she and her family, husband Norman, daughters, Alexandra (2 years) and Isabella (2 months) are members of the Cathedral of St. Paul in Hempstead, N.Y.

During the event St. George also acknowledged the support of her Democratic, Working Families and colleagues, committee members, and Independence parties.

Heritage Greece Program Meets High Expectations of Participants



A study released by DERE- The American College of Greece, confirms that the National Hellenic Society's (NHS) Heritage Greece program provides student participants with a unique and meaningful development experience while strengthening their feelings toward their Greek heritage, announced NHS Executive Director Timothy Maniatis.

Heritage Greece is a specially designed intensive two-week immersion program offered by the NHS in collaboration with DERE- The American College of Greece that provides fully-funded educational, first-time visits to Greece for students.

In addition, the study indicates that the students' high expectations of the program were met and that Heritage Greece's holistic approach (the blend of educational, cultural and social activities) was effective in helping the students connect with the history and culture of Greece. The findings also suggest that exposure to Greek language was highly regarded and fully appreciated by the students.

"We value the feedback we received from our student participants and commend the efforts of everyone who helps to make Heritage Greece a success," Executive Director Maniatis said. "The high marks are a testament to the high level of professionalism offered by our partner, the American College of Greece. We look forward to working with this data and using it to build an even stronger program for next year and the years to come."

Heritage Greece is the only Greek American program that conducts a pre- and exit survey of its participants to measure the program's effectiveness and impact on the students' appreciation and understanding of their heritage and modern Greece. The pre-survey included 22 questions grouped into five categories. The post-survey included 67 questions grouped into seven categories.

In 2011, 20 Greek American students participated and their experience was complimented by ten students from DERE- The American College of Greece.

More information on Hellenic Society and the program can be found at www.hellenicsociety.org.

Photo exhibition by three Greek photographers.

December 5, 2011 (opening night and reception)
January 5, 2012

Photographers:

Alexandros Giannakis - Images of Dance
Anastasios Mentis - Images from Astoria
George Vdokakis - Images from Greece

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NEO
GRAPHIX^{US}



Panagiotis Andreou

by Markos Papadatos

GRAMMY-nominated Musician & Bass Player

Grammy-nominated Greek-American musician, Panagiotis Andreou opens up about his musical career, proud moments, and discusses his ethnic background. He has been performing professionally as a bass player and vocalist, since the age of sixteen. He has studied and played music since the young age of six.

Particularly impressive about Mr. Andreou's talent is that he holds ten years of experience in baroque flute (alto and bass), six years of classical piano, and two years of classical clarinet.

"I went to the Musical High School of Athens," he remarks. "You are accepted there through an audition process and it's a state school, where there is no tuition. There, I studied many different instruments and took musical courses in the genres of world, classical, as well as traditional Greek music such as Byzantine and folklore. I also studied bouzouki and 'floyera,' which is a form of traditional flute, and vocal performance. I was also in the Byzantine choir and I explored a plethora of world instruments such as the kena and the pan-pipe harmonica."

Growing up in Greece, Mr. Andreou came to the United States with a scholarship to study at the Berklee School of Music. He completed his Master's degree at SUNY-Purchase with a partial scholarship. "I came here with the 'old world' concept of studying music. Although Berklee offered music business and music technology majors, I did the traditional 'performance' major and I missed out on learning about the reality of the music business world."

On his musical influences, Mr. Andreou shares that they "range from an array of world, pop, rock, and classical music. Although, all of them have an impact on what I do. Afro-Cuban music (especially 'timba,' a contemporary style of Cuban salsa), Balkan music, and Southern Indian music have also shaped my style the most. In addition, Greek music is something that I have

in my blood. It's my identity and has helped me shape my musical style with the confidence that I have."

Mr. Andreou has been performing professionally for the last seventeen years. "I have performed all over the world at such venues as the Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall, The Blue Note and Iridium, to name a few," he reveals.

Regarding his Greek heritage, Mr. Andreou notes: "I was born in Athens in the municipality of Kallithea. My father is from the municipality of Western Mani, which is known as 'Messiniaki Mani.' My mother was born in Piraeus but her father is from Corfu, and her mother is from Syros with Asia Minor roots. I grew up feeling like a 'Maniati' since I spent a big part of my childhood there, therefore I totally identify with Mani and I'm extremely proud of it."

He continues, "I was lucky to be born in a place where I could see the Akropolis from my balcony, to write and speak a language that has a consistent history of four thousand years, and finally be in a part of the world that is both geographically and socio-politically rich and historically significant."

With regard to the hardest aspect of his profession, he notes the "entrepreneurship and the business aspect of it... It's interesting to find your musical voice and to continue searching for it for that matter. It's so hard to be a businessman at the same time, and as you probably know, nobody is going to do it for you. You have to do it yourself because you are a musician and usually if you choose the non-commercial path, even if you want somebody to do it for you, you're probably not going to be able to afford it."

Mr. Andreou is blessed to have had many proud moments in his career. He garnered a Grammy award nomination in 2009 as a founding member of the acclaimed salsa band Gonzalo Grau and La Clave Secreta with the album "Frutero Moderno." "The whole

recording cost around \$2,000 and it competes with gigantic productions and artists of Sony Music." Furthermore, last year he won the "Best Latin Jazz Bassist of the Year" award from the prestigious Latin Jazz Corner.

"I have to say that my proudest accomplishment is the camaraderie and brotherhood that I have experienced along the way. I have brothers for life from all around the world, with whom I share deep musical and personal experiences with," he reveals.

Although Mr. Andreou loves many songs and enjoys playing different styles of music, one of his favorite songs to play live is the Stelios Kazantzidis classic "Yirizo ap' ti nicta," which translates into "Return from the Night."

His dream collaboration would be to someday accompany Eleni Vitali, and from the non-Greek artists someone like Bobby McFerrin.

For Greek-American hopefuls who wish to pursue music, Mr. Andreou remarks "you can never stop practicing and becoming better, but there has to be a good balance between that and the entrepreneurial aspect of it. Finally, believe in your friends and 'brothers' as hard as it might seem, it's the only way to fool the system, because it's something that the system doesn't calculate. It's a characteristic of our culture to bond and honor our friendships! 'Filia' is such a heavy word!"

Presently, Mr. Andreou is involved in numerous projects including "Now vs. Now," "New York Gypsy All Stars," "Gonzalo Grau and La Clave Secreta," as well as "Breeding Ground," a by-product of "Now vs. Now"; moreover, he sings and plays for his Greek Band called Syn...Phonia. "I intend to keep evolving with these projects, while trying to create my own project which is on the horizon!"



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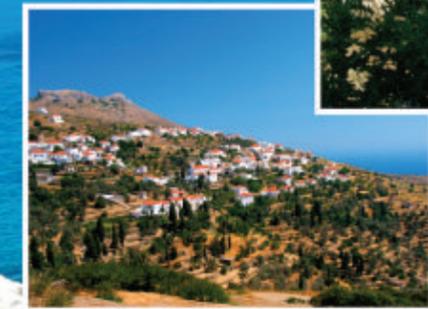
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"The fall of the Patriarch"*

On the 28th of October 1940, Greece once more saved the world, putting up resistance against the Italian Fascist forces and the German Nazi war machine. Here's what Hitler's Chief of Staff, General Wilhelm Keitel, had to say at the Nuremberg trial after the end of the WWII: "The Greeks delayed by two or more vital months the German attack against Russia; if we did not have this long delay, the outcome of the war would have been different." It took Italy and Germany a total of six months to subdue "little" Greece, while mighty France, Europe's superpower then, had fallen in about a ...week!

Nowadays, once more, Greeks are at the forefront of the struggle against the obscure forces of financial speculation that have gained - at our expense - the power to ruin states and group of states in the name of greed. It is only fitting that people who cherish freedom, democracy and the basic right to vote in, question and vote out the assholes that govern our lives, stand on the side of the Greeks while they are doing the work for all of us!

It is not just about debt, default, Euro and all the other nonsense we hear galore these days: things, as usually, are much more complicated than that. The main struggle going on right now is between people, all of us, and supranational centers of financial manipulation that hold our governments by the balls (do they have any?), rendering democracy obsolete and making a mockery of citizens' power.

We are not talking about conspiracy theories here, but organized groups that bet on countries' default, while supposedly helping them to recover from the mess they themselves pushed them in. Obama couldn't deal with them (he, and Bush before him, gave them money by the bucket, but they don't lend to people, because they say it's irresponsible under the circumstances!). Zapatero even ordered his country's secret service to spot and kick their ass when they started attacking Spain last year.

In the case of Greece, the political caste that collectively brought the country to ruins finally decided to bring an ...outsider to clean its shit. However, their(?) choice, Professor Loukas Papademos, isn't as outsider as they want us to believe he is. From 1994 to 2002 he was Governor of the Bank of Greece and he helped manipulate, along with Goldman Sachs, the country's books in order to enter the Eurozone. From 2002 to 2010 he worked as Vice President of the European Central Bank. Can a man from the banks defend the people's interest if that means that he has to wage war against the web of greed that for so long employed him? It remains to be seen.

One (that can think, that is) cannot fail to notice the similarities with ... Turkey's case. In 2001, when the country's economy was in tatters, President Ahmet Necdet Sezer appointed the World Bank Vice President, Kemal Dervis, State Minister for the Economy. Dervis worked with the International Monetary Fund and the rest of the supranational "benevolent" usurers to steer Turkish economy to calmer waters, leading to today's boom which current Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatens to undo as spectacularly as he worked to create it. However, the Turks did not unquestionably succumb to the IMF and the World Bank demands and prescriptions, but they fought hard to tailor them to their size and their people's ability to bear them.

The opposite Papandreou has done the last two years in office, because either was unable to lead or because his role there was to destabilize the Eurozone, something that he did remarkably well, cashing on the irresponsible behavior of Germany's and France's leadership that failed to deal comprehensively with the minor - in comparison to bigger players like Spain or Italy - Greek problem, before it became a systemic threat for the entire Eurozone. Instead they chose - because they didn't or couldn't confront the supranational web of greed - to "punish" the Greeks for their supposedly illicit behavior ...

An admiral, a chanteuse and ...Kazantzakis!

Admiral Stavridis became the second public figure after Greek popular singer Angela Demetriou, known for her intellectual prowess, in calling Kazantzakis a poet! He spoke thus at the Archons annual gala this past October, where he was honored with the Athenagoras Award! Let me set the record straight: Kazantzakis wasn't a poet - although he did write a few poems - but an exceptionally gifted writer who managed to gain international readership.

It seems Admiral Stavridis has a tendency to be ... creative, even playful, when it comes to historical facts and that doesn't exclude even his family's story. A few years ago, he published a book titled "Destroyer Captain," in which he wrote that "in the early 1920's, my grandfather, a short, stocky Greek schoolteacher named Dimitriou Stavridis, was expelled from Turkey as part of 'ethnic cleansing'



Look at the way the two rascals, Sarkozy of France and Berlusconi of Italy, are staring at the poor girl on her knees to pick up some papers! Had it not been for the photographers present, they would have probably fallen on her like ravens ...only to help her get up, of course, same way they are ...helping Greece to stand on her feet! Obama in the meantime, is in his own world, as usually. If a girl on her knees, right in front of him, doesn't get his attention, then what would????

directed against Greeks living in the remains of the Ottoman Empire. He barely escaped with his life in a small boat crossing the Aegean Sea to Athens and thence to Ellis Island. His brother was not so lucky and was killed by the Turks as part of the violence directed at the Greek minority."

...continue to page 29



US Admiral James Stavridis



Greek Super Star Angela Demetriou

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Fall Story

On Beauty from Torrence

A makeup look for the Fall season is Jewel Tones. Jewel toned eye shadow is one of the hottest beauty trends this season that will make heads turn. Most would think that it's best suited for the evening however, it can be worn during the day if applied with a light hand. This illuminated look opens the eyes and brightens up the face. Perfect for dark or neutral clothes and also to add that pop where you need it!

Another makeup look that is popular defined brows! Strong, defined brows are the key to attention-grabbing eyes. A good way to make your brows stand out is to fill them in with powder or a kit by Chanel. The Le Sourcil De Chanel Perfect Brows kit comes in three shades which is sure to be a perfect match.

Don't think I left out the lips!! What's hot this fall is wine red lips! Burgundy is all the rage when it comes to painting the lips. If you don't think you can pull off eye shadow techniques, keep it simple, yet smashing, with an eye catching lip. Mac's House Wine Lustre Lipstick will give you the right shade that looks effortless! Isn't that what beauty is about-looking effortless?

Ting
Dress - Blank Silk



Valerie (Beauty)
Earrings - Crux
Blouse - Thomas Pink
Satin Shorts - Sretsis
Sheer Tights - Falke
Suede Boots - Nina Shoes

Valerie
Jacket - Blank Silk
Earring - Crux



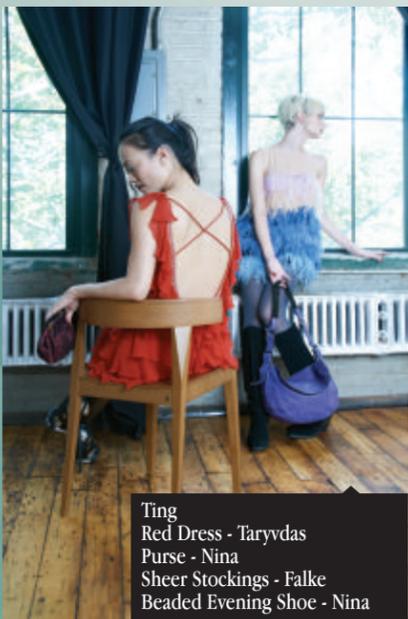
On Fashion from Renessta:

This editorial is "Trend On" for the fall showcasing what hit the runways for AW11.

The runway doesn't always seamlessly translate to the "real way" but this fall, courtesy of our favorite retailers we are going from the catwalk to the sidewalk.

This season women are returning to more lady like looks, prints and jewel tone colors for both daytime and evening looks. From Ann Taylor to Zara and your favorite shopping destinations our new fall obsessions are priced with you and me in mind. No need to break the bank with the holidays right around the corner. your local mall is guaranteed to have some pieces to awaken your inner supermodel and put a smile on your co-workers face.

Update your wardrobe with pieces that reflect these trends and your personal style!



Ting
Red Dress - Taryvdas
Purse - Nina
Sheer Stockings - Falke
Beaded Evening Shoe - Nina

Valerie
Cocktail Hat - V by Selima
Bathing Suit - Norma Kamali
Fur Shrug - Kim + Sue



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A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of a fountain pen resting on a document. The pen is dark with a silver-colored nib and is positioned diagonally across the frame. The document has faint, illegible text and a grid pattern. The lighting is soft, creating a professional and focused atmosphere.

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