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Olympia Dukakis Shares Her Views & Experiences In a Revealing Interview

By Evan C. Lambrou
Special to The National Herald

VANCOUVER, B.C. – Far away from the glitter of Hollywood and the limelight of the stage, Olympia Dukakis is being recognized for her work as a teacher. New York University's noted Tisch School of the Arts announced the establishment of a scholarship fund to honor the distinguished teaching career of this multi-talented Greek American.

Every year, once the fund is completed, one fortunate student from the Tisch School's Graduate Acting Program will be granted the Olympia Dukakis Scholarship.

According to Tisch School Dean Mary Schmidt Campbell, who is also associate provost of the Arts at NYU, "For more than a decade, Olympia Dukakis served as one of the creative pioneers of the Tisch School's Graduate Acting Program."

Dr. Campbell also said she hopes this important scholarship would inspire a new generation of actors and actresses to aspire to Ms. Dukakis' commitment to excellence.

Ms. Dukakis' creativity seems to be drawn from an endless well of talent which allows her to master many careers – from directing, acting and writing (her autobiography, "Ask Me Again Tomorrow: A Life in Progress," was published in 2005) to political activism. Perhaps less known to the general public, however, is her incarnation as a teacher.

But, in fact, she has been teaching since the 1960's. Her students have gone onto receive Academy Awards, Tony's, Golden Globes and Pulitzers. For many, their Tisch School training would not have been possible without scholarship support.

Speaking to the National Herald from her New York City home, Ms. Dukakis shared her feeling about the scholarship named after her.

A born competitor, she revealed how she had to often defend herself, and how she had actually gotten into fights, because of her immigrant name. She fondly recalled her parents, Constantine and Alexandra, and all they taught her. She also spoke about the moral imperative of supporting the arts in America because people must do something of meaning and substance.

There is an old saying that all teachers aspire to become actors, but Ms. Dukakis has managed to do both very well. She graduated with a master's degree from Boston University.

"I have been teaching since the 1960's. I'm no longer a permanent member of any faculty because I got very involved in a theater that I was running at the time," she said.

She still stays involved with teaching by offering intensive courses on scene study or on specific writers like Anton Pavlovich Chekhov. She has taught at Julliard and Yale.

"I teach here in New York at various studios. I've taught at the Actor's Center, at the Michael Howard Studio, at Stella Adler, so I have quite a background. In the process, of course, I have learned a great deal about acting and about how you go about the business of learning how to act," she said.

Ms. Dukakis actually began her undergraduate studies in the sciences.

"But I knew I was in the wrong field when I was asked to write a review of a play and derived much pleasure from that. So I knew I had to find some way to make money to go back to school because we really didn't have that kind of money, and I was already on award scholarships in school. In my last two years, I majored in Physical Therapy, and for the next two years, I went out and helped polio patients in the 1950's, and saved my money and went back to graduate school," she said.

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Greek valor protects proud Parthenon from fascism

Despite being outnumbered and ill-equipped, the Greek Army managed to defeat Benito Mussolini's soldiers, something which was a major surprise even for the Allies, as well as the Italian dictator. Alexandros Alexandrakis' famous painting, above, depicts a characteristic assault against Italian positions during the 1940-41 winter (see relevant story on page 6).

Greek Government Spokesman at TNH

By Stavros Marmarinos
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – Theodoros Roussopoulos, Minister of State and Chief Spokesman for the Greek Government, paid a visit to the National Herald's offices in New York this past Wednesday morning, where he met with its publisher, Antonis Diamataris, and the newspaper's editorial staff to discuss issues concerning Greece and the Greek American community.

After being briefed on the newspaper's operations and a tour of the facilities, Mr. Roussopoulos said he was impressed and commended the National Herald for keeping up with the latest technology in its efforts to serve the readership.

In a comments concerning relations between the Greek Government and the Greek American community, Mr. Roussopoulos said Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis believes Greeks abroad not only have a sentimental attachment to their ancestral homeland, but a "living, breathing relationship" with Greece.

He stressed the need to maintain use of the Greek language outside of Greece because language is the supreme bearer of any cultural heritage. "Man lives by virtue of language. He either grows and does great things with it, or he dwindles and dies. If we do not have the ability to communicate with one another, then there is no realistic way to preserve cultural traditions and practice, which are expressed and rooted in their particular language."

The Greek Orthodox Church in America and Greek Schools and programs play a crucial role in language instruction, he added, and the Greek Government is emphasizing the fundamental need for Greeks across the globe to learn the Greek language.

Mr. Roussopoulos also acknowledged that the Greek Government, under any administration, could do more to help Greeks abroad maintain their connection to Hellenism.

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AHEPA to Hold 2008 Convention In Greece

AHEPA's 86th Annual Convention in Athens For 1st Time since 1974

WASHINGTON, D.C. – For the first time in almost four decades, the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association), the oldest and largest American-based Greek-heritage grassroots membership organization, will be holding its 86th annual Supreme Convention in Athens, Greece in the summer of 2008, AHEPA Supreme President Gus J. James announced.

The 2008 Convention dates are currently set for July 2-11. It has been 38 years since an AHEPA Supreme Convention was held in Athens (the 85th annual Supreme Convention is scheduled for Denver, Colorado in the summer of 2007).

"We are proud and excited that the AHEPA family will return to Greece in 2008 for what promises to be a historic and absolutely magical convention," Mr. James said. "It will be a tremendous boost to the spirit of Hellenism among the Hellenic American community, and frankly, something that's long overdue on our part."

According to Mr. James, who was elected to a rare second term as supreme president during the 84th annual Convention in Hollywood, Florida this past summer, the delegates of the 2006 Convention expressed a strong desire for AHEPA to hold a future convention in Greece. The recent vote of the organization's Supreme Lodge has now made it official.

The decision comes on the heels of a successful pilgrimage to Greece, Turkey and Cyprus in May 2006, and an even more triumphant revival of the Journey to Greece Program for AHEPA's youth.

AHEPA's annual conventions have been held throughout North America, including Puerto Rico, the Bahamas and Canada. The 84th Convention drew more than 2,500 people to Hollywood at the end of this past July.

The AHEPA family consists of the Daughters of Penelope, its women's' organization, and its two youth organizations, the Sons of Pericles and Maids of Athena. AHEPA's mission is to promote the ideals of Hel-

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Gus Bilirakis Talks About His Campaign And Overall GOP Chances

By Dimitri Soultogiannis
Special to the National Herald

WASHINGTON, D.C. – "This is going to be a very difficult period for Republicans," Gus Bilirakis told the National Herald in a pre-Election Day interview.

The Greek American candidate for Florida's 9th Congressional District seat, who hopes to succeed his retiring father, longtime Congressman Mike Bilirakis, said he believes the war in Iraq, as well as the recent Mark Foley scandal have altered voters' perceptions about the GOP.

"The President has placed a lot of ads and stands behind all the Republican candidates, whether they are running for Congress, the Senate or on a state or local level," Mr. Bilirakis said, adding that the outcome on November 7th might not be exactly what Republicans expect.

Mr. Bilirakis and his father enjoy a personal relationship with President Bush and the first family. President Bush and Vice President Cheney each flew down to Florida in an effort to support Mr. Bilirakis' campaign. "I'm very grateful to both of them; they have helped me a lot," he said, adding that, while he doesn't necessarily agree with the President or the Vice President on all issues, they respect his position. "I believe the President has made it clear that the Republican Party wants, or better yet – needs – to hold onto this seat, and I'm honored to be pursuing it," he said.

Mr. Bilirakis also said the President has kept America safe during the post-9/11 era. "The war in Iraq overshadows that, however, by bringing the President's approval

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Onassis Foundation President Looks to the Future

By Stavros Marmarinos
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – The Onassis Foundation's subsidiary in New York is doing significant work, and has gained the respect of the entire Greek Community and many American universities, "and through his broad-based knowledge and diplomatic skill, the executive director of the New York office, Ambassador Loukas Tsilas, has played a significant role in bringing this about," Antonis Papademetriou, President of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation told the National Herald.

Mr. Papademetriou also pointed out that the Foundation's Center for Arts & Letters, currently under construction in Greece, should prove to be very useful to Greeks of the Diaspora, and that one of the Foundation's primary objectives is to help "export Greek culture."

Mr. Papademetriou was in New York to attend, "Hellas: Poetry and Music, C.P. Cavafy, George Seferis,

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TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Antonis Papademetriou, President of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation: "Our new Center for Arts & Letters will prove to be very beneficial to the Greeks of the Diaspora."

Staffer Brags About Trysts With C. Crist

By Evan C. Lambrou
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – In a story this past Thursday morning, October 26, Bob Norman of the Broward-Palm Beach New Times reports that a 21-year-old Republican staffer has bragged to witnesses about entering into homosexual relations with Florida Attorney General Charlie Crist, the GOP's candidate for governor of Florida.

"A young rising star in the Republican Party has boasted to witnesses of his sexual relationship with Charlie Crist, the frontrunner in the Florida governor's race, who has repeatedly denied that he is gay. The GOP staffer, 21-year-old Jason Wetherington, told friends at separate social functions in August that he had sex with Crist, according to two credible and independent sources who heard Wetherington make the claim firsthand," the report states.

Mr. Norman reports that Mr. Crist has denied any homosexual trysts, and said he is not gay: "I asked him about Wetherington's claim to sources that he'd had sex with Crist. 'That's ridiculous,' he said. 'Completely false.' Then I asked him if he'd ever in his life had sex with a man. 'Never,' he said."

Mr. Norman reports that Mr. Wetherington contacted the New Times to finger Mr. Crist, but that when he paid Mr. Wetherington a visit to pursue the lead, Mr. Wetherington denied having had sex with Mr. Crist.

"While there is no proof that what Wetherington has said is true, it's clear that he said it. I first learned about his claims after receiving an anonymous e-mail on October 6. The e-mail was linked to a 2003 story of mine reporting that

Continued on page 2

Austrian Pol Reunites with Greek Dad

By Costas Kantouris
Associated Press

THESSALONIKI (AP) – It could be the typical photo opportunity: a foreign dignitary being warmly greeted by an elderly man at a northern Greek airport.

For Vienna local Member of Parliament, Volkmar Harwanegg, it was the end of a lifetime's search for his unknown Greek father and family – lost in the aftermath of World War II.

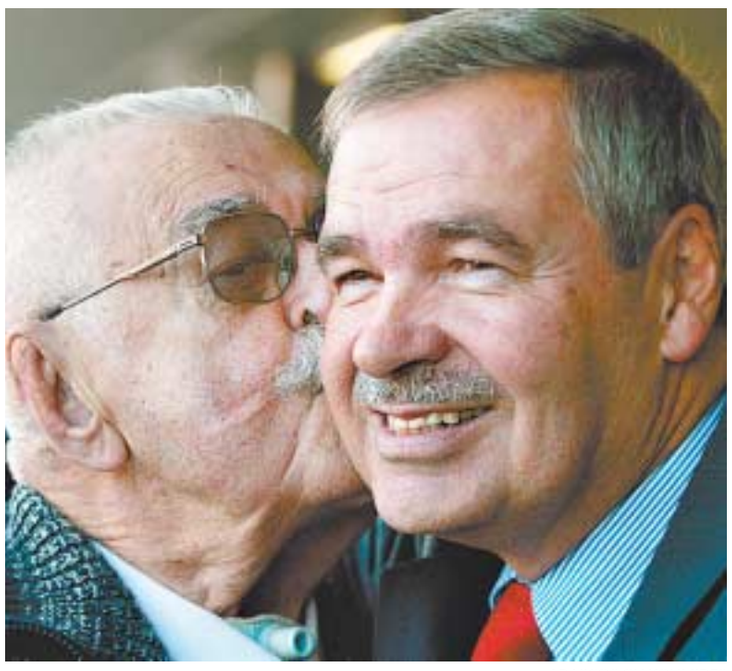
For decades, Harwanegg's questions about his natural father met with stubborn refusal from his Austrian mother, Elisabeth.

Only after her death in 1995 did the first clues emerge. And this year, the trail finally led to a village in northern Greece and George Pitenis, a former forced laborer of the Nazis.

"I am overwhelmed to see my father again," said Harwanegg, 62. "I have been visiting Greece for many years, and it was as if I knew there was something here for me."

He was speaking to reporters at the airport of Thessaloniki, the northern port city where Pitenis, 87,

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AP/NICOS GIAKOUMIDES

George Pitenis, left, kisses his son Volkmar Harvaneng, a 62-year-old Austrian parliamentarian, after his arrival at the airport in Thessaloniki last week. Harvaneng was reunited with his 87-year-old Greek father for the first time after more than a decade of searching.

Runoffs Show Greeks Happy With ND Party

By John F.L. Ross
Associated Press

ATHENS (AP) – A second and final round of municipal elections in Greece last weekend confirmed stable support for the governing conservative party, official results showed Monday, as the socialist main opposition party failed to make any significant gains.

A little more than 9.8 million Greeks were eligible to vote in the elections, choosing 1,034 mayors and village chairmen and 54 regional prefectures (administrative regions with little real power).

Runoffs were held last Sunday, October 22, in towns, cities and prefectures where candidates did not win at least 42 percent of the first-round vote two weekends ago.

According to the results, the conservative New Democracy Party

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Roussopoulos Discusses Issues with National Herald

Continued from page 1

"We all understand the fact that the resources of each country are limited; especially ours, due to the financial situation we inherited, so one has to try to put the puzzle together one piece at a time."

In response to questions concerning the protracted teachers strike in Greece, which has kept students home for the last six weeks, Mr. Roussopoulos pointed out that the politically-biased media in Greece has projected a distorted view of the problem; cited that only 10-12 percent of the teachers are actually involved; noted that the strikers' demands for 50 percent salary increases are both illogical and unrealistic; and said he is confident that Mr. Karamanlis' government will soon help settle the problem, especially since many of the striking teachers are now being pressured by parents who want their kids back in school.

In response to questions concerning the status of Olympic Airlines, Mr. Roussopoulos said that Prime Minister's recently expressed position on the future of the Hellenic Republic's national air carrier still stands:

"We are talking about a big problem, and I am not referring to it as a problem incidentally. Olympic is a major issue, as you know. When a government-run company costs Greek taxpayers so much money annually, no government can turn its head away the situation. We also have a responsibility to the European Union, and a responsibility to ourselves. We have not made any pledges to third parties. When we test our economy, so to speak, we are not doing it for the benefit of other parties in Brussels, or some committee, or even the European Commission. We are doing it because we agreed to enter into the European framework, which has certain requirements that we accepted to meet years ago. We must fulfill our obligations to the European Union, of course, but above all, we must be mindful of the Greek taxpayers, who can not continue to subsidize a company which, ultimately, must be run by the private sector."



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Theodoros Roussopoulos (left), Minister of State and Chief Spokesman for the Greek Government, interacts with TNH Publisher Antonis Diamataris (right) and the newspaper's editorial staff during his visit to the Herald's new offices this past Wednesday morning, October 25.

In response to questions concerning the government's assessment of local elections held in Greece the past two Sundays, Mr. Roussopoulos reiterated the Prime Minister's view that voters have a different set of criteria for municipal elections than they do for national elections.

Mr. Roussopoulos also said he believes that voters elect mayors, governors and community executives based on individual merit, adding that Greek voters are more sophisticated now; clearly understand how great competition is on a global level; and desire the reforms which Mr. Karamanlis' government is continuously pushing through new legislation.

"The people of Greece know that if this government does not proceed with these reforms, a great opportunity will be lost," he said.

Staffer Says he Had Sex with Crist, then Denies it

Continued from page 1

now-disgraced (former) Congressman Mark Foley was gay. 'Why don't you do the same story for another hugely visible Florida politician running for office? Call if you want a starting point.' Immediately I knew the e-mailer was referring to Crist. For years, it has been rumored that Crist… is gay… Wetherington confirmed he was gay. I told him what I had learned about the dinner party, which he admitted to attending. But he denied that he had ever had sex with Crist," the report states.

Mr. Norman also reports that Mr. Wetherington identified another man, a convicted felon, as Mr. Crist's partner.

"Wetherington, who recently worked as a field director for U.S. Senate candidate Katherine Harris and currently works for State Representative Ellyn Bodganoff's reelection campaign, also named a man whom he said is Crist's longterm partner, a convicted thief named Bruce Carlton Jordan who also recently worked for Harris in her longshot Senate bid. Jordan made headlines recently when the Miami Herald learned that the felon was working as Harris' travel aide. The newspaper noted that Jordan, 42, was reported to be close friends with Charlie Crist, whom he convinced to attend an annual Florida Funeral Directors Association meeting in 2003," the report states.

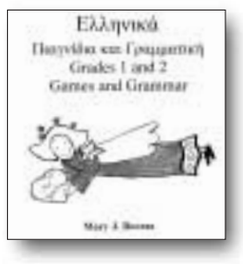
Mr. Crist has said he does not even know who Mr. Jordan is, but Mr. Norman reports that Mr. Jordan's father told him that Mr. Jordan and Mr. Crist are friends, although Mr. Jordan's father could not confirm a sexual relationship.

"When the (Miami) Herald questioned Crist about Jordan this past August, the frontrunner in the governor's race told the newspaper that he doesn't remember the man: 'I don't know who Bruce Jordan is,' he said at the time. 'It doesn't mean I haven't met him. But I don't know who you are speaking about.' I asked Crist during a phone interview on Monday morning if he had ever had sex with Jordan. 'No,' he said. 'I don't recall the name,' " Mr. Norman writes in the New Times, adding that he is unconvinced.

"That Crist doesn't remember Jordan seemed incredible to me. Not only did the Attorney General make a special appearance at the funeral directors' conference… but his father told me that Crist and his son are friends: When asked if his son and Crist had a sexual relationship, the father simply said, 'Not as far as I know.' I recounted some of those facts with Crist: 'I'm not saying I haven't met him. I probably have,' he said. "I just can't picture him, that's all,' " the report states, noting that Mr. Crist has been moderate on gay rights issues and supports civil unions.



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GOINGS ON...

■ **OCTOBER 30**

BURBANK, Ill. Alexi Giannoulias, candidate for state treasurer of Illinois, and his campaign are cordially inviting the community to join Alexi at Papa T's Pizza & Pub in Burbank (7130 W. 79th Street) on Monday, October 30 at 7-9 PM. $25 contribution at the door via cash, check, or credit card. For more information, call 708-299-6060 or email invdan@comcast.net.

WILMINGTON, Del. The Saint Elpida Organization is requesting volunteers for its monthly meal to the needy on the Monday, October 30 from 10:30 AM to 1 PM at the Emmanuel Dining Room on 2 and Jackson Streets in Wilmington. Rain or shine, Saint Elpida serves meals to the needy on the 30 of each month heat or ice and snow, St. Elpida has been serving a meal to hundreds of needy people on behalf of Holy Trinity Church in Wilmington. Participation and help is needed and welcomed. For more information, call George Righos at 302-798-2549 or e-mail rigos@comcast.net to offer your assistance.

■ **OCTOBER 31**

WASHINGTON, D.C. The American Hellenic Institute cordially invites the community to attend the Farewell Luncheon for Euripides Evriviades, Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.S., at the Capital Hilton Hotel (16th & K Streets, N.W.) in Washington on Tuesday, October 31. Reception at 12 PM. Lunch at 12:30 PM. $50 per person. Reservations required. RSVP by Friday, October 27, appreciated. For more information, call 202-785-8430 or e-mail info@ahiworld.org.

CHICAGO, Ill. Alexi Giannoulias, candidate for state treasurer of Illinois, and his campaign are cordially inviting the community to join Alexi at DeLux (669 N. Milwaukee Avenue) on Tuesday, October 31 at 5:30-7:30 PM. Contributions $50 Individual, $150 Friend, $250 Sponsor. Hors d'oeuvres & drinks included. For more information, call 312-421-1222, e-mail alexiforillinois@yahoo.com, or visit the web at www.alexiforillinois.com.

■ **NOVEMBER 1**

ANN ARBOR, Mich. The C.P. Cavafy Modern Greek Professorship at the University of Michigan and the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation present "The New Face of Greece: Immigrants in Athens since the 1900's," a lecture by Dr. Thomas Maloutas, professor of Urban Social Geography at the University of Thessaly and director of the Institute of Urban & Rural Sociology at the National Center for Social Research in Greece. Since the early 1990's Greece has transformed from a country of emigration to a country of immigration. The arrival of new immigrants from all over the world, but mainly from Eastern Europe and the Balkans, is the most important and characteristic social transformation in the last decades. Dr. Maloutas will focus on the position immigrants have come to occupy in the Athenian labor market. The lecture will be held at the University's Classical Studies Library (2175 Angell Hall, 435 S. State Street, TEL: 734-936-6099) on Wednesday, November 1, at 4 PM.

■ **NOVEMBER 3-5**

NEW YORK CITY. Saint John the Baptist Church in Manhattan (143 E. 17th Street, between Third Avenue and Irving Place) will be holding its annual festival on Saturday, November 4, from 10 AM to 6 PM. The festival will feature Greek music, food and pastries. For more information, contact the church at 212-473-0648 or Stephanie Hatzakos at 212-732-9000, or visit the web at www.stjohn.ny.goarch.org.

ASTORIA. Volunteers are needed to assist with a 10-hour telethon broadcast on NGTV (Time Warner Digital Cable Channel 509) and ANTENNA North America on Sunday, November 5, from 2 PM to midnight at NGTV studios in Astoria, Queens to raise much-needed funds for televised services at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Manhattan each Sunday and on high holy days. The Divine Liturgy is broadcast live from Holy Trinity Cathedral every Sunday morning from 10 AM to noon each Sunday throughout the Tri-State area, requiring $120,000 annually to sustain. Volunteers are needed to work at the studios of NGTV that day, especially to answer calls coming into the phone bank, but also to help with numerous other tasks. For more information on how to help, call the Cathedral Office during normal business hours (212-288-3215) or Andrea Pappas at 917-691-4161; or visit the web at www.thecathedral.goarch.org; or e-mail cathedralfellow@hotmail.com.

WASHINGTON, D.C. The American Hellenic Institute invites to attend a Noon Forum on the 66th Anniversary of OXI Day. Topic: "Reflections on the Significance of October 28, 1940," presented by Dr. S. Victor Papacosma, professor of History and Director, of the Lemnitzer Center for NATO & European Union Studies at Kent State University. Where and When: Hellenic House in Washington (1220 16th Street NW) at 12-1 PM. Light Refreshments will be served. RSVP to AHI by Wednesday, November 1. TEL: 202-785-8430. e-mail: info@ahiworld.org.

HUNTERDON COUNTY, N.J. Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey is scheduled to make a historic archpastoral visit to the new Saints Nicholas, Constantine & Helen Church in Hunterdon County on Saturday-Sunday, November 4-5. The new parish community's reception for His Eminence will begin at 6:30 PM on Saturday at Razberry's in Flemington, New Jersey with a "Grecian Wine and Dine" event to support the Parish Building Fund. All members of the Greek Orthodox community are invited (space is limited; please call Doniki Ibrahim at 908-534-8675 to make reservations). On Sunday, the Metropolitan will preside during the Divine Liturgy service, to be held at the Parish's temporary house of worship, the Allerton United Methodist Church in Annandale, New Jersey (Orthros at 7:45 AM, Divine Liturgy at 9 AM). For more information, visit the web at www.go-church.org.

BROOKLINE, Mass. The Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology and Religion is inviting the community to attend "Session I: Creating a Framework for Healthy Sexuality," which is part of the three-year "Program on Sex, Intimacy, and Love." This conference will be held on Friday-Saturday, November 3-4, at Maliotis Cultural Center on the Hellenic College-Holy Cross campus in Brookline, and will be hosted by HC/HC. Sessions will include presentations and panel discussions on gender issues, homosexuality, and marriage & sexuality. Those interested in attending the conference are encouraged to contact the OCAMPR office at 617-850-1255. For more information, visit the web at www.ocampr.org.

BETHESDA, Md. The Federation of Sterea Hellas (Mainland Greece) USA & Canada is holding its 61st annual convention the weekend of November 3-5 (Friday-Sunday) at the Pooks Hill Marriott in Bethesda. Delegates will arrive on Friday from across North America to rekindle friendships, and to meet and greet new members, at the Friday evening welcome reception. On Saturday and Sunday, the Convention will review past year's performance, attend to new business, elect new officers, and deliberate issues and resolutions for preserving and defending Hellenic identity and heritage. All Roumeliotes and friends are welcome to attend Saturday evening's Grand Ball at the hotel. For more information, contact George Reganis at the Federation's national headquarters in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan (TEL: 248-855-1735).

■ **NOVEMBER 9-11**

NEW YORK CITY. The Hellenic American Bankers Association cordially invites the community to attend a cocktail reception in honor of His Excellency Andreas D. Mavroyiannis, Cypriot Ambassador to the United Nations, at the Cyprus House in Manhattan (13 E. 40th Street) on Thursday, November 9, at 6:30-8 PM. TOPIC: "Cyprus, an Emerging Player in a Volatile Region." This is HABA's annual charitable event. All proceeds to benefit the Cyprus Children's Fund. Minimum donation $25. Those unable to attend can make checks payable to the Cyprus Children's Fund (c/o Kyriaki Christodoulou, 13 E. 40th Street, New York, NY 10016). For more information, contact HABA at 212-421-1057 or administrator@haba.org

EAST NORTHPORT, N.Y. The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Saint Paraskevi's Church in Greenlawn will be celebrating 50 Years of Philanthropy on Thursday, November 9, at Larkfield Manor in East Northport (507 Larkfield Road) at 7 PM. Tickets are $55. The evening will consist of Greek music, dinner and dancing, featuring the Magges. For reservations, contact Elaine Heretakis at 631-543-5122 or Georgia Constantine at 631-543-5187.

BERGENFIELD, N.J. St. Anthony's Antiochian Orthodox Church is holding its 29th annual International Festival from Thursday to Saturday, November 9-11, in Bergenfield (385 Ivy Lane). A variety of quality merchandise will be offered at discounted prices, and an array of mouthwatering multi-ethnic entrees and desserts will be sold to eat in or take out. There will be musical entertainment each evening. My Big Fat Greek Wedding Band will delight the crowd on Saturday night. St. Anthony's is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. For more information, call 201-568 8840.

■ **NOTE TO OUR READERS**

This calendar of events section is a complimentary service to the Greek American community. All parishes, organizations and institutions are encouraged to e-mail their information on any Greek-related event 3-4 weeks ahead of time to english.edition@thenationalherald.com.

Cyprus Federation Honors Longtime Congressman and Accomplished Doctor

By Demetris Tsakas
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – The Cyprus Federation of America held its annual gala at Flushing's Terrace On The Park last Saturday evening, October 21, honoring longtime Congressman Michael Bilirakis of Florida and renowned breast cancer specialist Dr. Maria Theodoulou-Haber.

Rep. Bilirakis, who is retiring after his 12th two-year term expires at the end of this year, received the CFA's Justice for Cyprus Award, and Dr. Theodoulou, a leading physician at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and a professor of Medicine at Weill Medical College of Cornell University in New York, received the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award.

The gala raised funds to benefit breast cancer research programs already underway, or soon set to begin, in Greece and Cyprus. The proceeds from the event, along with donations from Greek Americans and large pharmaceutical firms collaborating with the Federation, have been set aside expressly for this purpose.

Out-going Cypriot Ambassador to the United States Euripides Evriviades, Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Alexandros Mallias, Ambassadors of Greece and Cyprus to the United Nations Adamantios Vasilakis and Andreas Mavrogiannis, and Greek and Cypriot Consuls General Catherine Boura and Martha Mavrommati attended the event present. Bishop Savas of Troas, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, represented His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and conveyed the Archbishop's greetings, while many other representatives from institutions and organizations throughout the Greek American community were also present.

In his opening remarks, CFA President Panicos (Peter) Papanicolaou cited the organization's 55-year history and its continuous struggle for liberty and justice in Cyprus, and highlighted the accomplishments of the evening's honorees.

Philip Christopher, President of PSEKA (International Coordinating Committee – Justice for Cyprus), praised Rep. Michael Bilirakis for his consistent efforts in pushing for a just and viable resolution of the Cyprus problem over the years, and Dr. Theodoulou for her sensitivity to human suffering and dedicated research for the discovery of a cure to breast cancer.

Mr. Evriviades conveyed Republic of Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos' congratulatory greeting, and hailed the Greek American community for steadfastly supporting efforts to reach a lasting and peaceful settlement to the Cyprus problem, and noted that new opportunities and possibilities have presented themselves since Cyprus' accession to the European Union in 2004.

Dr. Larry Norton, who introduced Dr. Theodoulou, spoke about her contributions to oncological research, as well her philanthropy and deep compassion which she gives to her many patients and their families in her clinical practice.

During her acceptance speech, Dr. Theodoulou proudly referred to her Cypriot heritage and gratefully thanked her parents, her husband, Alex Haber, and also her eighth-grade classmates from the Greek American Institute in the Bronx, who had come to share the evening with her. She also spoke about current progress in breast cancer research, and said she believes "breast cancer will be overcome by the next generation."

Dr. Theodoulou maintains strong ties to the medical communities in Greece and Cyprus. Her professional interests are diverse and revolve around the use of targeted therapies, and extend to understanding the psychosocial profiles of patients and their families.

Greek American business mogul John Catsimatidis introduced Rep. Bilirakis, highlighting the Congressman's heartfelt struggles for a free Cyprus over the years, as well as his efforts to protect and advance Hellenic interests with the U.S. Government.

Mr. Catsimatidis also referred to the current electoral campaign of the Congressman's son Gus, who is seeking to succeed the Congressman, who is retiring after completing his 12th term this year, calling on Greek Americans to support not only Mr. Bilirakis' campaign, but the efforts of all Greek Americans seeking seats at all levels of government.

CBS News MarketWatch News Anchor Alexis Christoforous, who is also a professor of Broadcasting at New York University, served as mistress of ceremonies, pointing out that, for the first time, ten Greek Americans are seeking election as Congressional or gubernatorial candidates.

Clearly touched by the award conferred upon him, Rep. Bilirakis recalled his experience when he first crossed the Green Line dividing free Cyprus from the occupied territory, along with other members of Congress and Greek Americans, to venerate the Church of Saint Andrew the Apostle. He also called upon the Greek American community to continue its efforts so that Cyprus can regain the freedom stolen by the invading Turks in 1974.



PHOTOS: TNH/COSTAS BEJ

(L-R) Cyprus Consul General in New York Martha Mavrommati, Bishop Savas of Troas, PSEKA President Phil Christopher, Peter Papanicolaou, Helen Theodoulou, Dr. Maria Theodoulou-Haber of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and Dr. Larry Norton at the Cyprus Federation of America's annual gala at Flushing's Terrace On The Park last week.



(L-R) Cyprus Federation of America President Peter Papanicolaou, Dr. Maria Theodoulou-Haber, Ambassador of Cyprus to the United States Euripides Evriviades, longtime Congressman Mike Bilirakis of Florida and his wife Evelyn, and Greek American business mogul John Catsimatidis during the Federation's annual awards gala last week.

The Congressman also spoke about the Greek lobby in Washington, calling it one of the nation's most active, and noted that the community's best lobbyists are Greek Americans who have excelled in various sectors of society and who are also active in politics.

Afterwards, he spoke of the candidacies of Greek Americans running for public office and stated that he would make his last speech on the night of November 7th, at his son's victory party.

Rep. Bilirakis has co-sponsored more than 42 bills in the House of Representatives regarding a solution to the Cyprus problem, and has taken the lead on several pieces of legislation which have become law. He is also the Republican Co-Chair of the House Hellenic Caucus, which currently has 142 House Members dedicated to supporting Hellenic issues.

Speaking to the National Herald, the Congressman stated that "although I'm not of Cypriot heritage, as a Greek American, I feel especially proud of this award. When you are honored by people with whom you share the same heritage, it makes it all the more special."

Dr. Theodoulou's mother, Eleni, told the Herald she shared her daughter's happiness over the award. "I'm so very proud of my daughter, and I pray to God every day to give her the strength and endurance she needs to continue to help people and save lives."

Dr. Theodoulou-Haber said, "The annual Cyprus Federation Awards Gala has always been a wonderful event. Tonight's ceremony was an outpouring of love for Congressman Bilirakis, for myself, and particularly for people who are fighting their own personal battle with breast cancer. I feel very moved, and would like to congratulate each and every person who participated in this effort because they help strengthen our belief that we will soon win the war against breast cancer."

When asked for his impressions of the evening, Mr. Papanicolaou said, "Tonight was a huge success. We are pleased with the number of people who turned out and honored us with their presence, as well as with the entire program. Our honorees are worthy recipients of the awards. Dr. Theodoulou, through her excellent work in the area of cancer treatment and research, and Congressman Bilirakis, who is retiring from office after 24 years of dedicated service to the American people, and the Greeks and Cypriots of America. They have made us all very proud."

PROUD OF OXI DAY

The mission of the **ALEXANDER S. ONASSIS PUBLIC BENEFIT FOUNDATION (USA)** is to disseminate Hellenic civilization throughout the United States and Canada. By cooperating with universities, colleges and art institutions in the United States, Canada and Greece, the Onassis Foundation (USA) promotes bilateral cultural relations.

ONASSIS CULTURAL CENTER

In carrying out the mission of the Onassis Foundation (USA), the Onassis Cultural Center, opened in Fall 2000, presents cultural and artistic activities concerning ancient, Byzantine and modern Hellenic civilization. Invited participants may be Greeks and non-Greeks inspired by Hellenism. Activities include art exhibitions, theatrical and dance performances, musical events, lectures and poetry readings and film screenings. Following their presentation at the Onassis Cultural Center, these activities may tour other cultural and art institutions in the United States and Canada.

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The Onassis Foundation (USA) finances a University Seminars Program intended to increase awareness and interest in Greek civilization. Within the framework of the Program, eminent visiting professors and scholars, from both the United States and abroad, give seminars and lectures on subjects related to Hellenic civilization at university campuses throughout the United States and Canada.

Since the inception of the program five years ago, over 80 senior visiting scholars have been hosted by more than 200 universities and cultural institutions. More than 50,000 people have attended the lectures and seminars.

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Gus Bilirakis Discusses his Campaign & GOP's Chances

Continued from page 1

ratings down," he said.

When asked about his campaign's progress with less than two weeks to go, Mr. Bilirakis said, "Things look good. The fundraising is going very well. We started in January of 2005, and by November 7th, we expect to have raised 2.5 million dollars."

For Mr. Bilirakis, the most important aspect of the campaign is the relationship any elected official has with his or her constituency.

"Politics is all about relationships. You need to make yourself available to people, and voters need to feel comfortable every time they want to approach you and talk to you," he said. "I think I succeeded in doing that with my constituents (as a state legislator). I worked hard in State Legislature."

As for the Greek American community and its supportiveness, Mr. Bilirakis said, "Greek Americans have been a tremendous support throughout this campaign. The community in Florida and elsewhere is very well aware of the fact that I care deeply about Hellenic issues like the Macedonian name issue, Greek-Turkish relations and the Cyprus problem."



Republican Congressional Candidate Gus Bilirakis.

He also stressed the need to have more Greek Americans and phil-Hellenes in the House of Representatives. "Now that my dad is going to retires there are no Greek Americans left in the house," he said.

Mr. Bilirakis noted that his father, who has occupied the 9th District seat for the past 24 years, was very successful in serving at the United States Congress simply because he kept in touch with his constituents at all times. "The key to dad's success was also the fact that he was home (in Florida) almost every weekend," Bilirakis said.

Over many decades, Mr. Bilirakis has himself amassed quite an extensive political resume.

For nearly eight years, he has been a member of the Florida House of Representatives, building an impressive record of accomplishments. He has sponsored several bills which passed into law, including legislation which improved the quality of life for his constituents and improved education for their children. He fought for legislation which recognized the sacrifices made by veterans, as well as laws which have led to safer transportation and much-needed government reform.

Mr. Bilirakis began his own political career decades ago, working on his father's campaign and interning for the Reagan White House. He served as a Congressional staff member, and is currently serving his fourth term in the Florida House of Representatives.

The retirement of Rep. Bilirakis after his 12 two-year term expires this year will leave a void in the political arena concerning issues important to the people of the Tampa Bay area, Mr. Bilirakis said about his father.

The Congressman's public service is marked with patriotism, integrity and a strong work ethic. As Rep. Bilirakis' son, Gus has been immersed in that milieu of vital public-service attributes, and says his experience in the Florida Legislature has equipped him with the necessary skills to help make government work for the people.

While serving as chairman of various committees in the Legislature (e.g., Crime Prevention, Public Safety Appropriations and Economic Development Trade & Banking Committees), he said, he has endeavored to protect valuable community-based programs throughout the state.

In addition to his political success at the state level, Mr. Bilirakis also has a thriving law practice, where he practices estate planning to help senior citizens prepare for a more secure future.

In his efforts to play an integral role in the communities he represents, Mr. Bilirakis has, on several occasions, been praised by different community organizations for his leadership, and has been named Legislator of the Year. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Watson Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired and the Tarpon Springs Elementary School Business Partner Board. He is a member of the local Elks, Moose and Masonic Lodges, as well as the Egypt Temple Shrine and the Order of AHEPA.

Mr. Bilirakis is strongly devoted to his family. He has been married to Eva Lialios for 14 years. They have four sons. The love and support of his close-knit family has helped his family enjoy considerable successes in public life, he said.

Synod Selects Father Kantzavelos for Episcopal Rank

By Theodore Kalmoukos
Special to The National Herald

BOSTON – After convening for its regular fall meeting on October 19 at Archdiocesan Headquarters in New York, the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America selected Archimandrite Demetris Kantzavelos auxiliary bishop to Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago. The Very Rev. Kantzavelos presently serves as the chancellor for the Metropolis of Chicago.

During the Eparchial Synod's selection process, which used the triprosopon (three-person ballot), Father Kantzavelos received seven votes, while Archimandrites Gabriel Karambis of Houston, Texas and John Heropoulos of Hartford, Connecticut each received three.

The Synod's selection of Father Kantzavelos is considered a recommendation, because the Holy & Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate does the actual election, but it has been the Patriarchate's long-standing practice to select the candidate with the majority of the votes during the triprosopon stage of the process. The Patriarchal Synod is expected to proceed with the official election sometime between Monday, October 30, and Wednesday, November 1.

Father Kantzavelos received seven out of eight votes. All of the Metropolitans were present except Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit who was reportedly ill. The Eparchial Synod was presided over by Archbishop Demetrios of America. The following hierarchs were also present: Metropolitans Iakovos, Maximos of Pittsburgh, Methodios of Boston, Isaiah of Denver, Alexios of Atlanta, Evangelos of New Jersey and Gerasimos of San Francisco.

The Archbishop had made several attempts in the past to discourage the election of Father Kantzavelos to the episcopate, raising unsubstantiated concerns expressed by a handful of lay people and one priest which, at the same time, were considered even by the majority of the Church in America's hierarchs to be a character-assassinating attempt to discredit Father Kantzavelos.

PRIVATE EYES

Two private eyes were hired to investigate Father Kantzavelos, in fact. The investigators asked funeral directors and even the former doorman of the building where Father Kantzavelos resides about the archimandrite's activities. The National Herald has also learned that Archdiocesan Chancellor Bishop Savas of Troas had sent his assistant Rev. Michael Kontogeorge to Chicago to find information about Father Kantzavelos, as part of the investigation which supposedly should be done prior to someone's elevation to the episcopate.

The Archbishop attempted to postpone Father Kantzavelos selection one more time, but he was unsuccessful. He asked the new chief secretary of the Synod, Archimandrite Sebastian Skordallos, read a lengthy report authored by Archdiocese General Counsel Emmanuel Demos which contained rumors about and allegations against Father Kantzavelos, although Mr. Demos' report made it clear that there was no evidence.



The Very. Rev. Dem. Kantzavelos.

The Demos report records a conversation between Father Kontogeorge and Father Kantzavelos, according to which Father Kantzavelos warned that, if the Archbishop continued to put forth allegations against him, he would sue him in the civil courts. When Father Skordallos finished reading the report, the Archbishop asked the members of the Synod what should be done next, hoping that the Synod would agree to postpone the process, but the opposite happened. The Metropolitans expressed disappointment with the way the Archbishop handled the situation, and they told him that the selection process should move forward as planned, and to let the members of the Synod vote with their conscience. Father Kantzavelos was overwhelmingly selected.

At the same meeting Archbishop Demetrios announced the appointment of Dr. Anton (Tony) Vrame, Director of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute (Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley), to be director of the Archdiocese Religious Education Department.

Metropolitan Methodios refused to be appointed as member of the Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology Board of Trustee's Executive Committee. Metropolitans Maximos of Pittsburgh and Gerasimos of San Francisco accepted appointment to the same.

The Synod is also recommending that the Patriarchate defrock at least four priests for ethical and canonical reasons. One of them, although married, reportedly had engaged in homosexual activity; another is a former chancellor of a Metropolis; a third one left his wife and underaged children, and entered into a relationship with another woman; and a fourth is an Archimandrite who has been accused of homosexual activity, and is reportedly in the final stages of a serious sexually transmitted disease.

The Holy Synod also dealt with the issue of a permanent deaconate and its theological training, as well as the recent gathering of SCCOBA (Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in America) in Chicago.

Newark Church to Merge with Parish in Orange, N.J.

By Jeff Diamant
The Star-Ledger

HUNTERDON, N.J. – In its best days, Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Newark, the first Greek Orthodox Church in New Jersey, helped hold an urban immigrant community together.

It burst at the seams each Easter; drew married couples on weekends with "Mr. and Mrs. Club" events; and hosted raucous Greek festivals with trays of luscious moussaka.

But now an era is ending for New Jersey's Greek Americans. Like countless other places of worship built for immigrant communities which later scattered, the 106-year-old church is moving to the suburbs, in a merger with Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Orange.

"Unfortunately, it's necessary," said Gus Theodos, president of St. Nicholas, citing declining membership and rising costs. "I feel sad. This is the largest city in New Jersey, and we'll have no official Greek presence when we move."

NEW $12 MILLION CHURCH

A new $12 million church, to be called Saints Nicholas, Constantine and Helen, is expected to open in Roseland either late next year or in 2008. The two churches being merged will stay open until then, or until they are sold.

The end for the Newark church has been a longtime coming. There once were 500 families there, but numbers never recovered after declines in the 1960's, members say. Now, only 20-30 people come to Sunday services.

"It's been sad to see," said Angelique Lambros, a longtime member of Saint Nicholas Church who wrote a book called "Remembering Newark's Greeks: An American Odyssey."

"We were a family. And it's so sad now to go to the church because you know that it's not going to be there much longer as it is."

Feelings are similar at Saints Constantine & Helen, founded in 1916: "You've got people who grew up in this church," said Rev. Peter Souritzidis, the parish priest there. "This is their family, where they've always been coming. This is the community they know."

The new church, on Laurel Avenue near the Crestmont Country Club, will have classrooms and a gymnasium. It's expected to have about 700 members, almost all of whom already live in suburbs. "The majority of us did not, and do not, want to leave Newark," said Jim Dalianis of Nutley, 74, a longtime member of Saint Nicholas. But parishioners had moved on into different suburban areas, he said, "and didn't want to take the drive down."



Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, center left, and visiting Bishop Damaskinos of Diavleia in Greece during a recent gathering to celebrate the merging of two parish community's in New Jersey, Saint Nicholas Church in Newark and Ss Constantine & Helen Church in Orange.

St. Nicholas still has 288 members on its rolls, Theodos said, but most of them are members only via their checkbooks, their contributions helping the church stay open as long as it has.

Part of the reason Greek Orthodox suburbanites need not drive to Newark to attend church is that, through the years, former Saint Nicholas regulars have started new ones elsewhere.

Back in 1924, disaffected members formed Saint Demetrios Church in Newark, which later moved to Union. Churches in Westfield and Randolph also list former Saint Nicholas congregants among their founding members, Theodos said.

There are more than a dozen Greek Orthodox churches in New Jersey for the state's approximately 62,000 residents of Greek descent.

A couple of weeks ago, Theodos gushed as he gave a visitor a tour of the domed Byzantine-style sanctuary of Saint Nicholas.

"My favorite part is when you just walk in… and you see those icons," he said, pointing to screens of Jesus Christ, Mary, John the Baptist and Saint Nicholas near the front of the sanctuary. "You just get a feeling of awe."

Older members speak with reverence of the church's two former pastors, who led the church for most of the 20th Century: Rev. George Spyridakis (1918-54), and Rev. James Aloupis (1954-2001). Aloupis' funeral this past February was one of the last events to pack the church.

Most people interviewed said they are excited about the new church. Lambros, the historian, was an exception.

"It had to happen. I can understand that it had to happen," she said. "But I can't say that I'm excited. I really wish that, in one way or another, they could have saved Saint Nicholas Church, either as a landmark building – making it a religious museum, or that type of thing."

The Star Ledger published the above on October 20.

HELLENISM & EDUCATION

A Celebration of Hellenic Heritage Commemorating OXI Day, October 28, 1940

Organized by the "Advisory Council on Hellenic Education" of the Hellenic Link, Inc., with cooperation of Greek Orthodox Communities, Members of the AHEPA and of other Hellenic Civic Organizations of Long Island.

"UNTIL NOW WE WOULD SAY THAT THE GREEKS FIGHT LIKE HEROES. FROM NOW ON WE WILL SAY THAT HEROES FIGHT LIKE GREEKS." - Winston Churchill

Yes, The Greeks Were Heroes! The Epic Fight of Hellas, 1940-1941

Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Christos P. Ioannides Director, Center for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies, Queens College, CUNY**

Saturday, October 28th, 8:00 p.m. sharp
Reception will follow.

the Holy Resurrection Church Community Hall,
Brookville, New York (Intersection of Northern Blvd & Route 107, near the campus of C.W. Post)

This Event coincides with the effort to establish a Center for the perpetuation of the Hellenic Cultural Heritage and Language in Long Island, sponsored by the Advisory Council on Hellenic Education, the Greek Communities and the AHEPA affiliate Chapters of the area. Members of the Advisory Council, who are on the Faculties of Long Island Colleges and Universities will be available to answer questions on Hellenic Education.

FOR INFORMATION and directions, Call: 516-671-5200

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In Celebration of OXI DAY, 28 October 1940

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Antonis Papademetriou Discusses the Future of Hellenism

Continued from page 1

Odysseas Elytis," a concert performed earlier this week by the National Symphony Orchestra of the Greek Public Television Network, ERT, at United Nations headquarters in New York, courtesy of Onassis Foundation, and also at the Lincoln Center.

"This will be the first time that we'll be able to bring Greek music to an international forum," Mr. Papademetriou said, stressing the fact that the concert will promote worldwide dimensions which are characteristic of Greek music.

He also said that the Foundation's new board of directors has typically participated in all the procedures and initiatives undertaken for the past several years, and that board members are continuing the Foundation's work in a similar fashion.

Meanwhile, several new matters have come to the forefront, such as the establishment of the new Center for Arts & Letters being built in Greece, the completion of which is expected within two and a half years. It is scheduled to begin operating by mid-2009.

Mr. Papademetriou noted that the current administration "places greater emphasis on a handful of significant projects," adding that, "in comparison with the past, the Foundation now gives out substantially fewer donations, but has set far higher goals."

Asked about the new Center, he said that it will endeavor to make a major impact on the advancement of Hellenic culture abroad.

"First of all, the Center is geared to all Greeks, not only to those living in Greece. I speak using Isocrates' definition of Greeks: A Person is not Greek by birth, but through participation in Hellenic Education, or Paidia. What we want is to have a tool that will enable the propagation of Greek culture in all its dimensions. I also believe that the Greeks living abroad feel a need to give something back to their mother country," he said, stressing that the Foundation's goal is to "export Greek culture outside the narrow geographical boundaries of Greece, and transcend the barrier of Greek language."

In response to a question about the contribution of the Foundation's subsidiary in New York, with respect to the promotion of Greek culture to date, Mr. Papademetriou said he thinks its work is very important.

"We are very pleased to have undertaken this process, and I can tell you that the idea of establishing a subsidiary in the United States came from us, the new generation," he said. "We saw that we had no base here, so we decided to build one. Our daughter organization has gained the respect among both Greeks and Americans, including a number of American universities. We've managed to invite visiting professors from the United States to Greece, and vice-versa. We have also expanded to Canada and South America, all through our base in New York. Furthermore, we've managed to institute annual exhibitions. For instance, Mr. Matthew Nimitz, a high-ranking State Department official who happens to be deeply tied to Greek culture, came to the opening of our exhibition last year. Many VIP's were also in attendance at the premiere of Aeschylus' Persians, performed by the Shakespeare Theater in Washington, D.C. This demonstrates that important figures throughout society come to the events organized by the Onassis Foundation and take a little bit of Greek Paidia and culture with them when they leave. We consider this to be an important achievement and contribution."

Regarding the Foundation's plans to organize a worldwide conference to discuss Greek literature and culture, Mr. Papademetriou stated that this would be the first event held at the new Center.

"It will be a conference of Hellenic Studies faculty; in other words, those persons who dedicated their lives to the study of Greece and things Greek. The main topic will focus on the ecumenical and humanistic dimensions of Hellenism," he said.

Mr. Papademetriou also cited the upcoming exhibition, "Athens-Sparta: From the 8th to the 5th Centuries BC," which will be on display from December 6 to May 12 at the Onassis Cultural Center in Manhattan: "It is an exhibition designed to provoke interest, questions and discussions touching many different aspects of Greek history and culture," he said.

When asked about the Foundation's support for the ERT National Symphony Orchestra concert, he said, "The United Nations is celebrating its 61st anniversary (October 22), and Greece recently held the presidency of the U.N. Security Council. Thus, we were given an opportunity to bring Greek music to an international forum for the first time, and there is no forum more international than the U.N. We want to bring Greek music to the U.N. in its appropriate form, as it deserves."

The concert program includes poetry from Constantine P. Cavafy, and Nobelists George Seferis and Odysseas Elytis, put to music by renowned contemporary Greek composers Mikis Theodorakis, Manos Hatzidakis, Spyros Samaras, Demetris Lagios and Demetris Papademetriou.

"Americans have heard of syrtaki and 'Never on a Sunday,' and they may form the conclusion that this is the extent of Greek music," Mr. Papademetriou noted.

"I'm not denying that it is a very important part of Greek. However, these are not the only things that Greek music has to offer. After all, Greek music's roots are in antiquity. Remnants of classical Greek music of the ancient world still exist even today, having passed through Byzantine and folk music, and the musical tradition of Asia Minor and Constantinople. Contemporary composers like Hatzidakis, Theodorakis, Papademetriou, Lagios and Samaras have successfully tapped in to these links, and we have a grand opportunity to listen to their pieces. This is the music we want to promote, remaining faithful to it by the way we've chosen to present it," he said.

"Many people might say that we're betraying our past by choosing a classical symphony and a renowned foreign tenor to perform the pieces. Nevertheless, we feel our decision adds to the global dimensions of Greek music. We're seeking to strip it of its folkloric and Balkan elements, stressing its Hellenic substance and asserting its universal properties. It's not only the music, but the poetry, as well. Seferis, Elytis and Cavafy are the most internationally acclaimed, yet at the same time most Greek, of all our modern poets. Of course, there existed, exist and will continue to exist many other Greek composers who are very talented, along with many other Greek poets of formidable talent, whose lyrics and poems have been arranged into music, but the briefness of this particular performance –90 minutes to be exact – did not allow us to include everyone. We had to focus on what was expected to be included in those 90 minutes."

Responding to a question about the Foundation's goals for its subsidiary in New York, Mr. Papademetriou confirmed that the New York office's mission is expanding.

"Yes, they have expanded. When we first began, our expectations were careful and guarded, as is most often the case whenever someone begins a new project," he said.

The Onassis Cultural Center is fortunate that its New York office is manned by a worthy staff headed by Ambassador Lucas Tsilas, Amalia Kosmetatos, Maria Seretis and all the dedicated personnel who work to meet the foundation's goals.

"Ambassador Tsilas has been a tremendous asset," Mr. Papademetriou said, "with his wide-ranging know-how and his diplomatic ability, which is also needed."

Mr. Papademetriou also spoke very highly of this year's International Onassis Awards recipients, including the Harvard University Hellenic Studies Center and Professor Demetrios Nanopoulos.

During his interview with the Herald, Mr. Papademetriou said he wanted to wait "until the right time" to present his vision for the future of the Onassis Foundation, but re-emphasized the immediate goal of building the Center for Arts & Letters and ensuring its successful operation.

When asked about the Onassis Foundation and its relations with the late Aristotle Onassis' granddaughter, Athina, he said there has been no recent contact with her.

"We are very saddened by this. She is Onassis' grandchild, his sole surviving heir. We would have liked for her to participate in our events in such a capacity. In fact, we invited her to the awards ceremony in Athens, and to the current exhibition on display at the Benaki Museum, which has become a fabulous success. Apparently, however, she was unable to attend due to other engagements," he said.

At the conclusion of the interview, Mr. Papademetriou summed up his message to the Greek American community as follows: "Keep Hellenism and the Greek language high among your priorities."



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Onassis Foundation president Antonis Papademetriou during an interview with the National Herald's Stavros Marmarinos earlier this week.

AHEPA to Hold 86th Annual Convention in Greece

Continued from page 1

lenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility and family and individual excellence.

In other AHEPA business, Mr. James met with several United States and European Union officials this month to brief them on AHEPA's agenda for the current administrative year.

"It was an opportunity for us to advance our mission and promote the programs and initiatives of our members. We spoke candidly and exchanged ideas for future cooperation that will benefit the Hellenic American community," he said.

On October 10, Mr. James represented AHEPA at a formal dinner hosted by U.S. Ambassador to Greece Alexandros Mallias in honor of Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns, past U.S. Ambassador to NATO and a former American ambassador to Greece.

Mr. James introduced the AHEPA family to the European Commission's senior representative in Washington, Angelo Pangratis, a former E.U. Ambassador to Argentina.

"Areas of mutual interest provide the basis for a burgeoning relationship with the minister," Mr. James said.

Mr. James met with J. Baxter Hunt, deputy director at the State Department's Office of Southern European Affairs, and Ilan Goodman, the State Department's Greek Desk officer, to discuss his trip to Greece this November, the 2008 Supreme Convention in Athens and issues concerning U.S.-Greece relations.

He also met with former U.S. Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana as part of a "working lunch" with AHEPA's government relations team, Axela Government Relations LLC. The former senator expressed his appreciation for AHEPA's Housing Program for senior citizens, and cited it as a great accomplishment worthy of praise, admiration and ongoing federal government support.

Finally, Mr. James also visited the Offices of Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland), Congressman Eric Cantor (R-Virginia) and the Department of Homeland Security as part of an ongoing, long-range campaign to heighten AHEPA's visibility in the nation's capital.



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From Friday the 3rd to Sunday the 5th of November 2006

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Schedule of Events

Friday, November 3rd

6:30-9:30 a.m. Welcoming of delegates followed by reception

Saturday, November 4th

9:00-9:30 a.m. Commencement of the Convention under the coordination of the Supreme President **Mr. GEORGE REGANIS**

9:30-10:30 a.m. Credentials and Announcement of Participants by the President of the Organizing Committee **Mr. TED SAKKOS**

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Election of the Convention Presidency Assignment of officers and presentations by the executive committee

1:45-5:00 p.m. Submission of proposals by the delegates. Presentations and discussion

6:30 p.m. **Grand Ball with Dinner** **POOKS HILL MARRIOTT**

All Roumeliotes and friends are welcome

Sunday, November 5th

9:00-10:30 a.m. Continuation of proceedings Discussion and resolutions regarding convention proposals

10:30 a.m.-12 Noon Election of new officers

12 Noon-1:00 p.m. Presentation and swearing in of the New Supreme Administration

Closing of the 61st Convention Proceedings

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October 28, 1940: History Behind the Story Expands Significance of the Tale

By Dr. D.G. Kousoulas
Special to The National Herald

Every year, we celebrate the 28th of October 1940, the day Fascist Italy attacked Greece. We commemorate, with justifiable pride, the heroic defense of Greek soldiers against superior enemy forces. Greeks all over the world celebrate the Greek forces' unexpected, almost miraculous victories, and rightly so.

But we seldom speak or write about the events which prepared the way and made those victories possible. By leaving out that part of the story, we offer a truncated tale which makes it hard to understand and explain how the miracle came about.

Let's go back to the year 1935. The political instability which followed the 1922 military disaster in Asia Minor, and the uprooting of more than a million Greek people from their ancestral homes, continued to plague the country. Military coups, brief dictatorships, inconclusive elections and deep division between republicans and royalists in the body politic sapped the vitality of the Greek nation.

In March 1935, a major military revolt by pro-Republican officers inflamed passions anew. The revolt eventually collapsed, but the Greek army was left in disarray. Hundreds of officers with republican leanings were cashiered, and almost a thousand were brought to trial.

Few openly advocated the return of vassilevomeni demokratia (constitutional monarchy) before the 1935 revolt. Now, even a former leader in the republican camp like George Kondylis shifted in favor of bringing former King George back to the throne.

Since 1924, when Greece became a Republic, and he was forced to leave the country, the King lived in London. His ties to the British Royal Family were strong. As the British political leadership pondered the future of peace in Europe after Adolph Hitler's rise to power in Nazi Germany, strategic planners in the British Government viewed the political situation in Greece with great apprehension. The British considered Greece an extremely valuable, but vulnerable, country for the defense of their sea communications in the Mediterranean. The presence of Benito Mussolini in Italy, and his ambitious expansionist policies, made Greece an even more critical factor.

THE BRITISH INFLUENCE

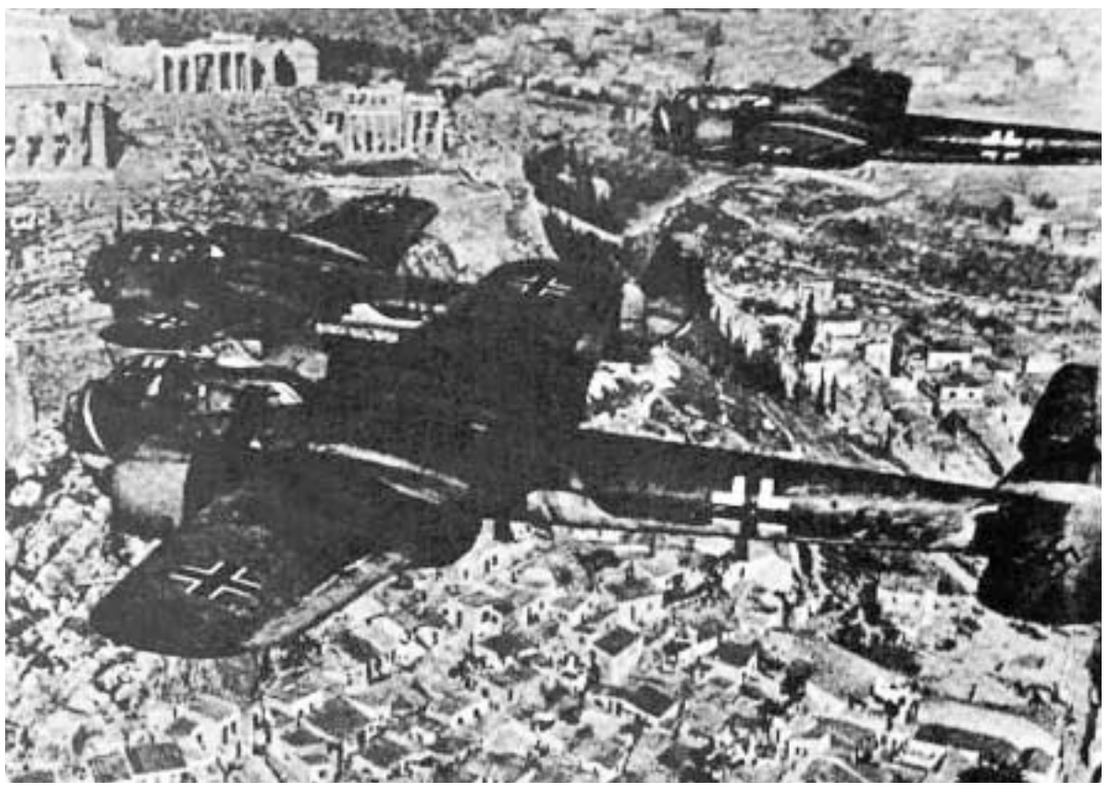
In the light of these disturbing realities, British strategists saw the former Greek King as a potential factor of stability and reliability. Eleftherios Venizelos, the legendary statesman and leader who had been so close to Great Britain before and during the First World War, was now an exile in Paris after being implication in the March 1935 revolt. Already in poor health, he died the following year, and was already out of the picture. Hoping to promote stability and reliability in Greece, the British encouraged a shift away from the republican form of government. They found fertile ground.

Already, the failure of the 1935 revolt and the endemic political instability had disheartened many citizens, while the removal of many pro-republican officers from the army ranks had strengthened the pro-royalist officers. In the parliamentary election of 9 June 1935, the major pro-republican party (the Liberal party) refused to participate, and called on its followers to boycott the voting. It turned out to be a mistake because 1,026,196 cast their ballots in 1935, compared to 1,141,330 in the election of 1933.

The big surprise was the success of the Communist party. Its candidates received nearly 100,000 votes, an unprecedented feat under a plurality electoral system. On July 10, the newly elected Legislature (Vouli) passed a resolution setting a referendum for November asking the voters to decide between republic and monarchy. Even before the referendum was held, the Kondylis government imposed martial law, while Kondylis appointed himself regent to serve until the return of the King. In the referendum of November 1935, 1,491,992 voted for the restoration of the vassilevomeni demokratia, compared to only 32,454 for the Republic. The lopsided outcome of the voting robbed it from any pretense at honesty.

Three days later, King George called for national reconciliation and an end to the long years of dissension, promising to be "the King of all Hellenes." From Paris, Venizelos advised his followers to accept the change. What was not known at the time was that, in October, British emissaries had visited him and spoke in favor of reconciliation with the King.

In a genuine effort to stay above partisan divisions, King George replaced Kondylis as prime minister with Constantine Demertzis, a neutral and respected professor, pending the outcome of the new election set for 26 January 1936. In the election, the pro-royalist parties elected 143 deputies, the Venizelist (pro-republican) parties 141, in the 300-member Legislature. Fifteen seats went to the pro-Communist Popular Front and one to an independent who supported the Popular Front. Neither of the two major camps could form a government except with the support of the Popular Front deputies, or by breaking ranks and having one or two pro-royalist parties join one or two pro-republican parties to gain a parliamentary majority and form a government.





ABOVE: Ju 88's, German Luftwaffe bombers, commonly known as "Junkers," flying over Athens during World War II in response to Italy's humiliating defeat at the hands of Greece. RIGHT: Axis leaders Benito Mussolini of Italy (the "Sawdust Caesar"), left, and Adolph Hitler of Germany.

The Communist party, which until then was a rather marginal participant in the political process, had now emerged as a potential kingmaker. With no government being formed by the political parties, the caretaker Demertzis government stayed in office.

In March, Gen. Papagos, who was minister of military affairs (stratiotikon), told the prime minister that "the army will not remain indifferent in the event of collaboration between the bourgeois (astika) parties and the Communists." The King saw this as yet another military attempt to meddle in politics. He asked Papagos to resign and appointed John (Ioannis) Metaxas as the new minister of military affairs.

VENIZELOS APPROVES

To the utter surprise of almost everyone, Venizelos sent a letter from Paris to a friend, in which he wrote, "It is not necessary for me to tell you how overjoyed I am at the king's decision to at last put down the interminable interventions of the military, and appoint Metaxas to the ministry of military affairs."

This was almost shocking. Venizelos and Metaxas had been bitter adversaries during the First World War, when Venizelos wanted to bring Greece into the war on the side of the Allies and Metaxas advocated neutrality which, in effect, favored the Central Powers (Germany). The puzzling Venizelos endorsement of Metaxas, after years of rivalry, can be understood only in the light of the British views at the time, views Venizelos was familiar with.

Stability in Greece was an overarching factor as the clouds of war were gathering in the horizon. That very same week, Hitler's armies had moved into the Rhineland, and hostilities with France appeared possible.

A month later, on April 13, Prime Minister Demertzis died of an apparent heart attack. The King asked Metaxas to become prime minister until the parties agreed to form a coalition cabinet. But Metaxas was no ordinary caretaker like Demertzis. He was a political figure, the leader of a party represented in the Vouli. More importantly, he had a strong, dynamic personality.

With Metaxas at the helm, the leaders of the main political parties felt they should make one more effort to form a government, but when the leader of the Popular Front disclosed that they had signed an agreement of cooperation with Themistocles Sofoulis, the leader of the major Venizelist party (the Liberals), negotiations collapsed. Metaxas was asked to stay on as prime minister. In the meantime, Venizelos' death in Paris had removed an important, stabilizing factor from the political equation:

The Communist leadership felt that the partisan impasse opened broad opportunities for intervention and manipulation of the political system. Already in Spain, the forces of the Left were fighting against the Fascist forces of General Franco. Why not also mobilize the forces opposing the monarchy in Greece? Thousands of pro-republican officers were still out of the Army, resentful and disheartened. Taking advantage of its influence in the trade union, the Communist party began to instigate strikes and demonstrations almost daily.

Two weeks after assuming the premiership, Metaxas appeared in front of the Legislature on April 25. He described the domestic instability and the international situation, and asked for a vote of confidence. The country needed a political government sanctioned by the 300-member Legislature, he said, at least until the political parties formed a government.

When the votes were tallied, the Metaxas government received 241 votes out of a total of 257 votes cast. At the same time, Sofoulis introduced a bill making the proportional voting system permanent. With the existing fragmentation of the political forces, this electoral system condemned the country to permanent instability. Many deputies voted against the bill, but in the end, it passed with the support of the Popular Front deputies.

The above is the first of two parts. Dr. Kousoulas is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Howard University in Washington, DC. He is the author of several books, notably "The Life and Times of Constantine the Great (1999), and numerous scholarly articles.

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Olympia Dukakis, a True Olympian in her Own Right, Shares her Experiences

Continued from page 1

The value of education was not lost on her. Her father, Constantine, instilled in her the importance of education at an early age. Some of her earliest memories consisted of accompanying her father to the living rooms of fellow Greek immigrants.

"I can't even begin to tell you how much time my father spent throughout his life trying to create scholarships for Greek Americans through the Demosthenes Club in Boston. That was their mission," she recounts in her Oscar-winning voice.

"I can remember going with my father. He would visit different families, and when he had heard that someone had an 'exypno paidaki' (intelligent child), he would go and try to convince them to send them to school, especially if they had girls," she said.

"This was back in the 1940's. I remember going with him and sitting with him in their living rooms, where he would talk to the man of the house and try to convince him to send his daughter to college. He firmly believed that education was the way," she added.

Financial security was, and remains, a vital theme among all immigrants in America, Ms. Dukakis said, so studying the arts was not encouraged as strongly as studying the sciences or pursuing other professions.



Olympia Dukakis as Vassa, right, and Louis Zorich as Mikhail on the stage during the American Conservatory Theater's recent production of Constance Congdon's "A Mother" in 2004. Mikhail listens to Vassa as she explains a plot to save the family business from her incompetent sons.

GO FOR IT

"Many Greeks at that time feared sending their children to study the arts because they worried whether their children would have security, and whether they could make a living. But for my father, it was always about where he thought a person's happiness and future lay. When I told him I wanted to be an actress, he said, 'If that makes you happy; if you think that's what you would like, go for it.' He trusted my judgment. I think he was concerned about me, but it was 'i mira sou' (your fate). He didn't think that it was his place to interfere with fate," she said.

Her fate to attain excellence in her field did not come easy.

No one handed Ms. Dukakis her success – she fought for it. As a matter of fact, growing up in Lowell, Massachusetts and facing discrimination head-on taught her how to be a fighter.

With a relatively long sigh, she recalled a darker period in her life. Slowing the pace of her voice, as if walking back in time to the streets of her childhood, the poised actress said much of what happened with the adults also happened to young people.

"What was going on with the adults was happening with kids, too. Initially, when the Greeks first came to Lowell, they went to work in the (cotton) mills. The other immigrants who were already working there got angry – possibly because they thought that the Greeks were taking away their jobs; possibly they thought the Greeks were taking less money – each new group comes in and works for less money. It was very difficult. Often, Greek women, when they went to work, went in groups surrounded by men, because rocks were thrown at them, they were called awful names," she said.

"I remember as early as six or seven years old fighting on the streets about my name. God knows we fought about silly things. I remember the first physical fight I got into. I was about eight. And I remember a fight that got worse. I got myself a jack knife, and I carried it around. Fortunately, I never used it, but I brandished it though," she added.

Ms. Dukakis described the harsh spirit of those times, which she stressed continues today.

"I'm not going to be the first or the last 11-year-old girl who had to carry a knife in this country. Those are my experiences. At one point, I was tied to a tree and had my socks stuffed down my throat, so it wasn't just name-calling. It was rock-throwing inside of snowballs; it was physically fighting in the streets; it was all of that kind of stuff; and it's still going on," she said.

Her parents were no strangers to the meaning of struggle either," she pointed out.

"My mother was from Mani (a region in the southeastern Peloponnese known for the toughness of its people). That helped me in the streets. My father was from Asia Minor (present-day Turkey). He was an Anatolian Greek, and he had fled from the Turks. They left everything behind and went to Mytilene (a.k.a., Lesbos), where my father graduated from high school. Then they came to Massachusetts, where my father joined his three older brothers. My father was the youngest. He and his sister and his parents were the last to leave Greece," she said.

Her Greek ancestry has never been put aside. An avid reader, Ms. Dukakis admits to having a passion for Greek history, and said she thoroughly enjoys reading Greek poetry.

"I do classical Greek plays, and I find them incredibly nourishing," she said.

Speaking about her career to an auditorium full of Greek American women a few years ago, her keynote speech addressed three phases in her life: competitive spirit, self-confrontations and one's career.

"The first phase was about proving not only was I as good as 'regular' Americans; I was better. I could show them that I was better. I could do everything they could do, and better. To that end, I was very involved in sports. For me, sports were the way I got through. I was especially good in sports in which I had a weapon or instrument in my hand. I was New England's fencing champion for three years. I was on the Massachusetts rifle team. I was captain of the women's tennis team in high school. It took me a while to become a team player, though – an ensemble player in the theater, for example. It took me a while to understand that my greatest pleasure would come from playing with people, not against them," she said.

Phase two was considerably more introspective, she noted.

"There was a time when I stopped wanting to act. It was no longer meaningful to me. Then I realized I felt that way because I had lost my sense of play. Being competitive can be a wonderful thing, but when it becomes only about winning – when you lose that element of playfulness – that's detrimental to your development. We see the fallout of that effect in sports all the time. When it's about statistics and money, it does something to the players, and it does something to the observers. It's a different experience. But playing connects us to that vital spirit of youth that carries us through life," she said.

SURVIVE AND PREVAIL

The third aspect of her life she summed up in the following manner: "It finally became clear to me that my work was about my life. Working is not a means to an end."

Ms. Dukakis added that she had to be convinced that she would "survive and prevail" in her field, and that her Hellenic heritage was reasserted in her psyche as a result of her experiences.

"It's not that the thing about being Greek American went away. As a matter of fact, it got very strongly reinstated. They asked me to change my name. I couldn't get auditions because they didn't want an ethnic. 'Does she speak English? Does she speak it with an accent?' That kind of thing still exists today," she said.

"But how could I give up my name? Do you know how many times I had to fight over my name? How was I going to walk away from my name? It might have been wiser to do so, but deep down, I just couldn't do it," she added.



Olympia Dukakis

Ms. Dukakis' father had unfortunately passed away prior to 1988, when she won the Oscar as best supporting actress for her role as Rose Castorini, an Italian mother in Norman Jewison's highly acclaimed comedy, Moonstruck."

But her mother, Alexandra, lived to see her daughter become famous, although he protective maternal instincts kicked in about the dangers which often come along with fame.

Mrs. Dukakis' reaction to her daughter's success "was to get very frightened," Ms. Dukakis said. "She turned to my brother and said, 'You have to make sure that Olympia doesn't get a big head.' He said, 'what do you mean?' And she said, 'Oh no, no, no. She's got to be careful.' It's almost as if she were afraid that the gods were watching, and that they would become jealous of something. I wasn't supposed to have too much. I shouldn't display it. I shouldn't boast about it – that kind of thing,"

But Ms. Dukakis certainly seemed fearless on that victorious evening when she marched onto the stage while the whole world watched her claim the coveted statuette.

"As I was leaving the stage, I picked it up. It felt like a baton, the kind you pass in a relay race. I had done a lot of track in high school. Anyway, I picked it up, and I felt like I was passing it onto Michael, and I said, 'Okay Michael. Let's go,' " she said, referring to her cousin, former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis and 1988 Democratic Presidential Nominee.

Ms. Dukakis laughed whole-heartedly when she discussed what it felt like to win the Oscar, and what was going through her mind at the time: She was thinking of her cousin: " 'I got us this far. You take the next lap. You take us home, Mike,' " she said. You know, that all happened in one generation. I am just one generation removed from the mountains of Mani and Mytilene," she said with pure astonishment.

Ms. Dukakis said that she and her famous cousin agreed that, if their fathers were alive, they would have cried: "They were men who cried very easily. They got very impassioned about politics; very emotional, but they also could cry when it came to things relating to their children and their families. That's just what they were like."

The values of hard work and putting family first were also passed on in the Dukakis family.

Olympia confides that her priorities have not changed with time and success: "Family is the most important thing for me." She also underscored the importance of giving back to society and doing good deeds.

As her father believed education was the way, so does she. In many ways Ms. Dukakis is continuing the work her father started by raising funds to help grant an outstanding student the possibility of studying what she herself is so passionate about: acting.

"It's in our DNA," she said, referring to Greeks in general. "It's up to us to preserve and pass the Arts onto the next generation."

The path is not always easy, and that's why scholarship funds are so important, she said, adding that NYU had received a very generous first gift of $10,000 to apply towards the fund. Apparently, someone else got the message that investing in someone's dreams stands to benefit society as a whole.

The Tisch School of the Arts invites all who support the new scholarship fund to celebrate the values and principles of Olympia Dukakis. Interested individuals may contact Frederick E.A. Bush, Director of Development at NYU Tisch School of the Arts (TEL: 212-998-6954, or e-mail: fbush@NYU.edu).



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ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ

George H. Pappas, World War II Bomber Pilot, Dies at 88

By Jacques Kelly
The Baltimore Sun

George Harry Pappas, retired president of a business which supplied food to hotels, restaurants and department stores and decorated World War II pilot, died of coronary complications on Sunday, October 8, at the Blakehurst retirement community in Towson, Maryland. He was 88.

Born in Baltimore and raised on Liberty Heights Avenue, Mr. Pappas was a 1936 graduate of McDonough School, where he played varsity football, rode horses and wrestled.

He was a childhood friend of Spiro T. Agnew; was a guest at his 1969 inauguration as vice president; and dined at his residence.

Mr. Pappas attended the University of Maryland, where he was a member of Kappa Alpha Fraternity. In his junior year, he left and became a pilot in the Army's Air Corps. He flew B-24 Liberator bombers on 31 missions over Germany, Austria, Italy, Poland and Romania, where he attacked the Ploesti oil fields which were a fuel source of the Axis Powers.

A sergeant, he led the 454th Bomber Group and twice served as a wing leader. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Presidential Group Medal. He attended annual reunions of his group until last year.

"On our first date, he took me up for a plane ride, and we flew over my mother's house in Forest Park," said his wife of 59 years, the former Louise "Fi" Nicholson. "He owned a plane with two other fellows, but after we married, he gave up the plane. My mother wasn't too keen on his flying."

After the War, he joined a sister and two brothers to manage and expand his family's WB&A Restaurants, a chain of railroad and bus station lunchrooms in Washington, Annapolis, Glen Burnie and Baltimore – the latter now the site of the downtown Holiday Inn. The restaurants were located in the depots of an old electric interurban railroad whose route the light rail line partially follows.

He was president of Atlas Supply Company, an institutional food services business on South Central Avenue, where he retired in 1982, and a partner in the family-owned H.G. Pappas and Sons commercial real estate firm. The food supply business is now a luxury condominium known as Canal Street Malt House.

Services were held on Tuesday, October 10, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore, where he was a lifelong member, and which he had served as president.

In addition to his wife, survivors include a son, Harry G. Pappas of Towson; two daughters, Amalia Lucas of Towson and Stephanie McDonald of Orlando, Florida; a brother, Harry P. Pappas of Baltimore; and five grandchildren.

The Baltimore Sun published the above on October 13.

Stanley A. Ambridge, Bakery and Deli Owner, Dies at 92

By Jacques Kelly
The Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE, Md. – Stanley A. "Steve" Ambridge, who owned bakery and delicatessen in Dundalk, and later collected state income taxes, died of cancer on Saturday, October 7, at the Gilchrist Center for Hospice Care. The Cockeysville resident was 92.

He was born Stelios Arambiges in Filbert, West Virginia, two months after his parents emigrated from Greece – having fled Turkey in the turbulent and bloody years preceding the Greco-Turkish War.

As a young man, he lived in Steubenville, Ohio and worked in a liquor store alongside Dino Paul Crocetti, who did singing imitations of Bing Crosby at local social events where the young Mr. Arambiges was master of ceremonies.

The friends both soon changed their names – Crocetti to Dean Martin, while Arambiges became Stanley Ambridge.

"My dad told me that he was living a wild life on the streets of Steubenville, which was known as Little Chicago, when his father took him aside and told him he was bringing discredit to his family and his Greek community by cursing and misbehaving," said a son, real estate developer and former Baltimore City Councilman Anthony J. Ambridge. "He told me he has not used the Lord's name in vain since that day in 1928, nor broken any law."

Mr. Ambridge met actor Orson Welles, who encouraged him to move to New York City to try radio work. Both he and Mr. Martin moved to Manhattan in the mid-1930's, but Mr. Ambridge soon returned home and enrolled at Ohio State University in Columbus.

At Ohio State, he met Constantina "Connie" Chirigos and dropped out of college to follow her to Baltimore after her family moved here. They married in 1942.

Mr. Ambridge took a job at Bethlehem Steel's Key Highway Shipyard and during World War II worked on a crew that tested the operation of Liberty ships and other vessels.

After the war, he opened a basement grocery store at St. Paul and 33rd streets, and later had stores in O'Donnell Heights and Northeast Baltimore. In 1952, he opened the Ambridge Bakery & Delicatessen at Merritt Boulevard and Wise Avenue in Dundalk.

Mr. Ambridge was a past president of the Dundalk Rotary Club.

Believing that public education was a cornerstone of society and watching the southeast Baltimore industrial base begin to shrivel, "he petitioned the General Assembly to put a community college there," his son said. Mr. Ambridge served for 12 years on a citizens' advisory council for what is now the Community College of Baltimore County's Dundalk campus. He retired in 1974, but grew restless and found a job in the state comptroller's office. He collected taxes from people who lived outside Maryland, but drew an income here. Among his payees were members of the former Baltimore Colts football team. Mr. Ambridge presented a tax bill to quarterback Bert Jones – and got his payment – his son said. He retired from the state job in 1985.

Services were held on Wednesday, October 11 at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore, where he was a member.In addition to his wife and son, survivors include two other sons, K. Gary Ambridge of Bel Air and Stanley Ambridge of Towson; twin daughters Maria Giordana of Cockeysville and Angela Isett of Lutherville; a brother, the Rev. Ernest Arambiges of Towson; a sister, Aphrodite Lambrow of White Marsh; 14 grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

The Baltimore Sun published the above on October 11.

DEATHS

■ ARSONIADIS, LEFTERE G.
The Chicago Tribune reported that Eleftherios "Leftere" G. Arsoniadis, 78, of Sleepy Hollow, Illinois passed away on Friday, September 22, at Provena St. Joseph Hospital. He was born on January 15, 1928 in Kavala, Greece to the late George and Kyriaki Arsoniadis. He was predeceased by his brother, the late Theofilos (Kitsa) Arsoniadis. He is survived by his most cherished wife, Anatoli (nee Karas), whom he married on July 31, 1950 in Kavala; his children, George (Irene) and Harry Arsoniadis of Elgin, Illinois; his grandchildren, Elliot and Juliana Arsoniadis; his brothers Demetrios (Martha) and Theopistos (Susan) Arsoniadis, both of Greece; and many nieces and nephews. He was a friend to all who knew him. The funeral was held on Monday, September 25, at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in Elgin, with Rev, Andrew Karamitos officiating.

■ BENIS, ALICE
The Hartford Courant reported that Alice (nee Klinakis) Benis, 87, of East Longmeadow, Massachusetts passed away on Wednesday, September 20, at Wingate Nursing Home. Alice was born in Chicopee, Massachusetts on November 11, 1918 to the late Antonio and Mary (nee Zulakis) Klinakis. She was educated in the Springfield, Massachusetts school system, and a member of St. Luke's Greek Orthodox Church in East Longmeadow. She was a member of the Cretan Ladies Society and the Ladies Philoptohos Society. She was employed by Milton Bradley for 17 years, retiring in 1984. Alice also spent 20 years living in Palm Springs, Florida during the winter months, and in East Longmeadow during the summer. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her beloved husband, the late Victor Benis, in 1995; two sisters, Helen Ribis and Sophie Geronimos; and two brothers, Peter and Christopher Klinakis. She is survived by three devoted children, Mary (Victor) Galiatsos of East Longmeadow, with whom she lived, Paul (Susan) Benis of Enfield, Massachusetts and William (Margie) Benis of East Longmeadow; seven cherished grandchildren, Joseph, Jeffrey and Paul Benis, Maryanne Deschaine, Kristina Galiatsos-Dwyer, Vikki Piacentini and Nathan Benis; 13 great grandchildren. two loving sisters, Georgia Regan of Palm Springs, Florida and Ann Woods of Long Island; and three brothers, Stanley Klinakis of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Paul Klinakis of Springfield and William "Billy" Klinakis of Covina, California. The funeral was held on Monday, September 25, at Saint Luke's Church.

■ CHRISTY, KATHERINE
The Tampa Tribune reported that Katherine Christy, 84, of New Port Richey, Florida passed away on Tuesday, September 19, at Community Hospital in New Port Richey. She was born in Varna, Bulgaria and moved to Florida from Rochester 14 years ago. She was a homemaker, and a member of the Greek Orthodox Church. She was also a member of the Daughters of Penelope in Rochester. Katherine is survived by her son, Dorey Christy of Crystal River, Florida; two daughters, Carol Niedzielski of Watkins, Minnesota and Stacey Christy of Hendersonville, North Carolina; one sister, Rose Paltarokas of Hamilton, Ontario; and her granddaughter, Danielle Christy of Paltaka, Florida. A memorial service was held.

■ CHRONES, GEORGE Z.
The Chicago Tribune reported on September 19 that the Hon. George Z. Chrones, a retired associate judge with the Cook County, Illinois Circuit Court and a United States Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, passed away. He was the beloved husband of the late Constance D. (nee Geocaris) Chrones; loving father of Jeffery G. (Helena) Chrones; proud grandfather of Constance, Jeffrey Jr. and Christina Chrones; dear brother of Dr. James Z. Chrones; brother in-law of Anastasia (the late Constantine) Pitt, Carole (Theodore) Argyris, Becky (the late Dino) D'Angelo, the Hon. James A. (Naomi) Geocaris, Sandra (the late James) Sneider, the late Robert (the late Vy) Geocaris and Angelo (Irene) Geocaris; cousin of Christ (Angela) Karafotias, George (Vickie), Paul, George (Bonnie), Peter and Paul (Gina) Demos, and the late George (Georgia) Karafotias; and the fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. The funeral was held on Thursday, September 21, at Saint Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago. Memorial tributes to Saint Andrew Church would be appreciated (5649 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60660).

■ JARVIS, VIRGINIA C.
The Winston-Salem Journal reported that Virginia Chrysson Jarvis, 91, died on Sunday, September 17, at Salemtowne Hospital in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Virginia was one of six children. She was born on December 25, 1914 to George and Maria Chrysson in Hagerstown, Maryland. The Chryssons moved to Winston-Salem to become the first Greek family in town. She graduated from R.J. Reynolds High School and married her loving husband, Spencer Jarvis, in 1935. Virginia was a faithful and active member of Ardmore Moravian Church for more than 50 years. She served her church, her community, the schools and the Democratic Party in many capacities, and was a volunteer at Salemtowne for 28 years. Her love of God, husband and family, and her friends will be remembered by all those whose lives she touched. She was predeceased by her husband (1980); her parents; her brothers, Nick and Gus Chrysson; and her sisters, Ethel Papanicolas and Annalee Tsourounis. She is survived by her children, Carolyn (Steve) Phelps, Ginger (Gary) Hauser and Jim (Jane) Jarvis; seven grandchildren, Craig and Mark Phelps, Christy (Lee) Phelps-Nunn, Jennifer (Danny) Hauser-Meyers, Megan Hauser, and Meredith and Spencer Jarvis; her great grandchildren, Alex and Chloe Phelps, Jamie, Matt and Adam Nunn, and Graham Meyers; her sister, Pauline Thomas of Midland, Texas; and many nieces and nephews. "Our love and heartfelt thanks go out to our extended family, the staff of Salemtowne who cared for her with love and compassion over the last three years. Se Agapo." Funeral services were conducted on Thursday, September 21, at the Salem Funeral Home, with the Rev. Kevin Frack officiating. Memorial donations may be made to Ardmore Moravian Church (2013 W. Academy Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103) or Salemtowne Hospital (1000 Salemtowne Way, Winston-Salem, NC 27106).

■ KALEAS, JERRY
The Kitchener-Waterloo Record reported that Argyrios "Jerry" Kaleas, 90, passed away at the Freeport Health Centre of Grand River Hospital in Kitchener, Ontario on Saturday, September 16. Jerry was born in Sklithron of Florina, Greece on March 16, 1916. He immigrated to Canada and settled in Toronto for many years. He was employed at Wellesley Hospital until his retirement, at which time he moved to Kitchener to be closer to his family. He was predeceased by his parents, John and Magdelena Kaleas; his brothers, Kostas and Evangelos (Eleni); sister, Evdoxia; son in-law Jimmy Ioannidis; and his niece, Gloria. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Angela; his children, Maria Ioannidis and John Kaleas; his grandchildren, Nick (Elli), Pat, Gary and Brent; and his great grandchildren, James and Krysta. He will be sorely missed by his sister in-law Anna Kaleas and many relatives and friends. "Special thanks to Paramed and the nurses from St. Mary's Hospital and Freeport Health Centre for their excellent care of Jerry." The funeral was held on Wednesday, September 20, at Saints Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Kitchener, with Rev. Constantine Chatzis officiating. Online condolences can be sent to the family through www.schreitersandrockfuneralhome.com. Memorial donations may be made to Grand River Hospital (Freeport Health Centre, P.O. Box 9056, 3570 King Street, East Kitchener, Ont. N2P 2G5) or Sts. Peter & Paul Church (527 Bridgeport Road East, Kitchener, Ont. N2K 1N6).

■ KARATZIA, RUTH
The Asbury Park Press reported that Ruth Karatzia, 86, of Morganville, New Jersey died on Wednesday, September 20, at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, New Jersey due to injuries sustained in a motor-vehicle accident. Mrs. Karatzia was a parishioner at Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church in Holmdel, New Jersey where she was a member of the Ladies Philoptochos Society. She had received a Merit Award from Archbishop Makarios, the president of Cyprus, for her dedication and work on behalf of The Cyprus Children Refugees. She was born in Cyprus; came to the United States in 1949; and lived in the Bronx before moving to Morganville 27 years ago. She was predeceased by her husband, Antonios, in 1974; and by her two brothers. She is survived by two sons, Harry Karatzia of Sea Bright, New Jersey and George Karatzia of Marlboro, New Jersey; a daughter, Nellie Lucas of Tinton Falls, New Jersey; three sisters; eight grandchildren; and six great grandchildren. The funeral was held on Saturday, September 23, at Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church in Holmdel. Memorial donations in Ruth's name may be made to Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church (P.O. Box 367, Holmdel, NJ 07733).

■ KARCASINAS, STEPHANOS
The Worcester Telegram & Gazette reported that Stephanos Karcasinas, 80, of Worcester, Massachusetts fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, September 17, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Stephanos was born in Vangalati of northern Epiros and fled communism to Greece at the age of 17. He never saw his parents again. He came to Worcester in 1956 and retired as a baker from the Table Talk Pie Company in 1982. He was a longstanding member of Saint Spyridon's Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Worcester. He was a humble and compassionate husband, father and grandfather, and will be sorely missed by those who knew him and loved him. His devoted and loving wife of 39 years, Kalimorfi (nee Dovras) Karcasinas, predeceased him on March 19, 2002. His parents, Stergios and Alexandra, died in southern Albania. He was also predeceased by three sisters. He is survived by his two loving daughters, Alexandra (Takis) Vorres and Elena (Fred) Economou, all of Worcester; his four beautiful grandsons: Anthony, Stephen and Nicholas Vorres, and Paul Economou; his precious granddaughter, Lilly Economou; and his beloved sister Vasiliki in Greece. The funeral was held on Wednesday, September 20, at Saint Spyridon's Cathedral. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Saint Spyridon's Cathedral (102 Russell Street, Worcester, MA 01609).

■ KOURAKOS, WILLIAM
The Portland Press Herald reported that William Kourakos, 77, of Cape Elizabeth, Maine died on Sunday, September 17. The funeral was held on Thursday, September 21, at Holy Trinity Greek Church in Portland. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Cape Elizabeth.

■ KRALIS, EUGENIA
The Chicago Tribune reported on September 20 that Eugenia Kralis (nee Dionyspoulos) passed away. Eugenia taught at Saint Charalambos and Saints Peter & Paul Church Schools in Niles and Glenview, Illinois. She was the beloved wife of the late Michael Kralis; loving mother of Georgia (the late Chris) Sampras and Constantine (Francesca) Kralis; devoted daughter of the late George and Georgia Dionespoulos; proud grandmother of Constandina and Eugenia Sampras, Michael and Mary Kralis; fond aunt of Nikki (Bill) Pappas, Joanne (Nick) Anton, Diane and George Dionespoulos. The funeral was held on Friday, September 22, at Saints Taxiarhai & Charalambos Church in Niles. Arrangements were by the Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home in Chicago (John G. Adinamis, funeral director, TEL: 773-736-3833).

■ LANIDES, ARHONDOULA C.
The Worcester Telegram & Gazette reported that Arhondoula C. Lanides (nee Vozoris), 94, of Worcester, Massachusetts died on Thursday, September 21, at her home. Mrs. Lanides was born in Northern Epiros, Greece to Constantinos and Martha (nee Chipis) Vozoris and lived here many years. She was a longtime member of Saint Spyridon's Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Worcester, the Pan-Epirotic Federation and the Philoptochos Society. Her husband of 48 years, William T. Lanides, died in 1973. A brother, Spiros Vozoris, and two sisters, Persephone Chanis and Eleni Huta, also predeceased her. She leaves behind two sons, Spiros of Albany and John of Garden City; a daughter, Helen Ganias of Worcester; a brother, Anastasios Vozoris of Athens, Greece; seven grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. The funeral was on Saturday, September 23, at Saint Spyridon's Cathedral. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Saint Spyridon's Cathedral (102 Russell Street, Worcester, MA 01609).

■ LEMPESIS-SUHR, ANGIE
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that Angie Lempesis-Suhr of Marietta, Georgia died on Saturday, September 16. Her funeral was held on Wednesday, September 20, at the Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Mission in Columbus, Georgia.

■ MOUSTAKIS, CHRISTOPHER G.
The Republican reported on September 19 that Christopher G. Moustakis, 82, passed away recently at his home in Hadley, Massachusetts where he had been a resident for more than 40 years. Mr. Moustakis was born on February 25, 1924 in Cambridge Massachusetts to & George C. and Mary (nee Bitsakis) Moustakis. Honorably discharged from the US Army Air Corp, he was a veteran of World War II with the 88th Glider Infantry (13th Division), stationed in France and present during the liberation of Paris. An expert rifleman and gunner, he was awarded medals for good conduct, the victory medal and campaign ribbons for the American and European African Middle Eastern Theaters. After the War, he attended the University of Massachusetts with one of the first classes funded by the GI Bill, graduating in 1950 and marrying that same year. He attended graduate school at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, then joined the U.S. Forest Service as a conservationist. He returned to University of Massachusetts in the 1970's, obtaining a master's degree in Landscape Architecture & Resource Planning. He retired from federal government service in 1985 as State Resource Conservationist for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He continued to volunteer his services as a resource conservationist to advance the cause of judicious use and preservation of the country's valuable natural resources. Active in civic associations, he was a Mason and an active member Saint Luke's Greek Orthodox Church in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts as well as AHEPA and the Pan-Cretan Association. His wife of 52 years, Agnes (nee Stephanou) Moustakis, passed away three years ago. He is survived by his daughters, Joanne and Christine; son in-law, Ronald; two grandchildren, Brittany and Alexander; and his brother in-law and sister-in-law Stephen and Rita Stephanou. The funeral was held on Thursday, September 21, at Saint Luke's Church, with Father Michael Sitaras officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Saint Luke's Church (P.O. Box 381, East Longmeadow, MA 01028-0381).

■ PALLANTIOS, JAMES
The Star-Ledger reported that James Pallantios, 78, of Cedar Grove, New Jersey died on Sunday, September 17. Mr. Pallantios was the loving brother of Peter, and the beloved uncle of Christine and Nicholas. His funeral was held on Thursday, September 21, at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Newark. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield, New Jersey. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to the Saint Nicholas Church Building Fund (555 Martin Luther King Blvd., Newark, NJ 07102) are preferred.

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American Tourism in Greece Increases More Than 400 Percent from Last Year

By Demetris Tsakas
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – The Greek National Tourism Organization reported that North American tourism in Greece jumped more than 400 percent in 2005 with respect to the previous year which, in turn, had enjoyed an 81 percent increase in North American tourists with respect to 2004.

HTO President Demetrios Lambadarios attended an event held recently by Conde Nast Traveler magazine to accept the Readers Choice Awards first prize, awarded to the island of Mykonos as the most popular island destination for American and Canadian tourists. He expressed satisfaction not only because Greece was being awarded for the third year in a row, but also because Corfu, Crete and Rhodes have been listed among Americans' top ten vacation spots in the world.

"It is very important (to receive this award), because it shows consistency, and that people visiting Greece are satisfied," he said.

"It is the third time that we are being awarded. But it is especially important this year that, besides Mykonos, which received first prize as the best island vacation spot, we had three more islands – Kerkyra (Corfu), Rhodes and Crete – among the top ten. This shows that people are starting to visit many more destinations in Greece, and that they are satisfied with those destinations," Mr. Lambadarios told the National Herald.

"Although the season hasn't officially ended yet, it is much better than last year's, and I expect that we'll achieve a double-digit increase, and that the number of tourists will surpass 15 million," he added.

ASTOUNDING INCREASE

The rise in visitors from North America, which is up more than 400 percent from last year, is "astounding," he said. "We're referring to travelers who visit solely for pleasure. It's a never-before-seen number, and we're hopeful that this upward trend will continue next year, as well. At least, that's what the initial statistics indicate."

Mr. Lambadarios also cited that the increase in travelers coming to Greece will give new airlines an opportunity to create nonstop flights to Greece, and said that there are "already two or three such opportunities presenting themselves for the summer of 2007, and they will continue for the duration of the winter."

With respect to a marketing plan for next season, the GNTO chief said there is a strategy in place targeting U.S. tourists.

"The United States is one of our basic markets. There is a new ad campaign in progress, which will be launched at the London Expo at the beginning of November. It will be released globally, and we believe that it will hit home. In regards to the United States, we're looking at new types of campaigns so that we can direct our message to more specific target groups. Of course, we'll begin on the East and West Coasts, and if we see that the outcomes are gradually positive, we'll expand to the other markets."

Mr. Lambadarios also said GNTO plans to increase its collaboration with, and support of, Greek American tourism offices and travel agencies:

"Since we've decided to plug into the United States market as much as we can, there has to be more collaboration. We're open to proposals, and ready to tackle problems together. Since we're at the center of things, we'll provide our campaign with the strength necessary so that travel agents can market Greece more easily," he said, stressing that the Greek American community can play an important role.

"The Greek American community is an extremely significant factor for us. We would like to see the presence of Greek Americans in Greece become even more dynamic, not only as tourists, but also as investors. The possibilities and opportunities are increased compared to the past. Bureaucratic red tape has been reduced, so I have the feeling that there are greater opportunities and possibilities out there."

Patriarch Urges Rebel Monks to Return to the Fold

Bartholomew Visits Mount Athos while in Greece

By Costas Kantouris
Associated Press

KARYES (AP) – Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople urged some 100 rebel monks of a monastery at the ancient all-male monastic community of Mount Athos to "return to the fold" last Sunday, October 22.

The Patriarch, who began a three-day visit to Mount Athos last Saturday, called on the rebel monks of the 1,000-year-old Esphigmenou monastery to end their illegal 17-month occupation of a building in Karyes – the medieval monastic community's administrative center.

The rebel monks do not acknowledge the authority of Bartholomew – the spiritual leader of the world's 250 million Orthodox Christians – because of what they call his "heretical" efforts to bridge an ancient gap between the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Vatican.

On October 19, Bartholomew said that Pope Benedict XVI's anticipated visit to Turkey at the end next month will be a welcome opportunity to help improve relations between Christian churches.

The Patriarchate has declared the Esphigmenou monks schismatic, and ordered them out of the walled monastery – backed by the other 19 monastic communities on Mount Athos and an eviction order from Greece's highest administrative court in May 2005.

The dispute between the rebel monks and the Patriarchate has persisted for three decades. The rebels broke from the main body of the Orthodox Church, arguing that it does not adhere rigidly enough to Orthodox faith and practice.

But the Esphigmenou monks refused to leave the monastery and responded by occupying the offices of Esphigmenou monastery in Karyes and prepared for a long siege.

"Our misguided brothers must return to the fold to receive salvation," Bartholomew said while attending a ceremony at Karyes to mark the construction of a new building to replace the one occupied by the rebels.

Esphigmenou Abbot Chrysostomos, appointed last year to replace the rebel abbot Methodios, insisted that the occupation "will not deter us." "I call on them not to make their situation worse. This is a new beginning," he said.

But Methodios appeared defiant. He told the Associated Press that "the actions of the Patriarch are illegal," and that the rebels will continue their occupation.

Esphigmenou is one of 20 monasteries on the autonomous Mount Athos peninsula – also known as Holy Mountain – a popular pilgrimage center some 600 kilometers (370 miles) northeast of Athens.

Earlier this month, six rebel monks and three former members of their monastery were given two-year suspended sentences for their part in a clash last November, when rival monks tried to evict the Esphigmenou rebels. A Thessaloniki court convicted all nine of breaching the peace and illegal occupation.



AP/NICOS GIAKOUMIDES

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew blesses the crowd at the 1,000-year-old Esphigmenou monastery in Karyes on Mount Athos last Sunday, October 22, during a ceremony to mark the construction of a new building to house Esphigmenou's new offices and replace those illegally occupied by rebel monks.

Greece's Ports Could Help Increase Tourism Big-Time

By John F.L. Ross
Associated Press

ATHENS, (AP) – Greece is missing out on a sharp upswing in the Mediterranean cruise market because of projectionist shipping practices, tourism industry leaders warned last week.

Yiannis Evangelou, president of the Greek association of travel agencies, said Greece is losing up to 5 million tourists a year and hundreds of millions of euros through failure to lure cruise ship companies to establish a base in Greek ports.

After a slump caused by the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the cruise industry is now attracting an estimated 11 million clients worldwide.

About 3.2 million of these are in Europe. The Mediterranean, with its wide mix of cultures and ancient sights, could soon rival the Caribbean as the world's favorite cruise destination, Evangelou said.

He identified continuing restrictions on overseas companies and difficulties in maintaining services to about 240 mainland and island ports as key problems.

The European Union liberalized the coastal shipping market in 1992, but allowed Greece and other countries a long phase-in period.

But by preventing non-E.U. flagged ships from being based here, Greece is losing a great deal of cruise-related business a year, Evangelou said.

Thirty years ago, "Athens, not Miami, was the heart of the business," industry analyst Tony Peisley said. Now the latter is a home base for the world's biggest operators like Royal Caribbean and Carnival.

And in the Mediterranean, Greece is losing out to Italy, Spain, Turkey and others which have abandoned protectionism. As a result, Palma in Spain has seen more than a fourfold increase in cruise business over the past decade, while Barcelona – like Athens, a former Olympic host city – saw a 920 percent increase in cruise passenger numbers during 1989-2005 to more than 1.2 million annually.

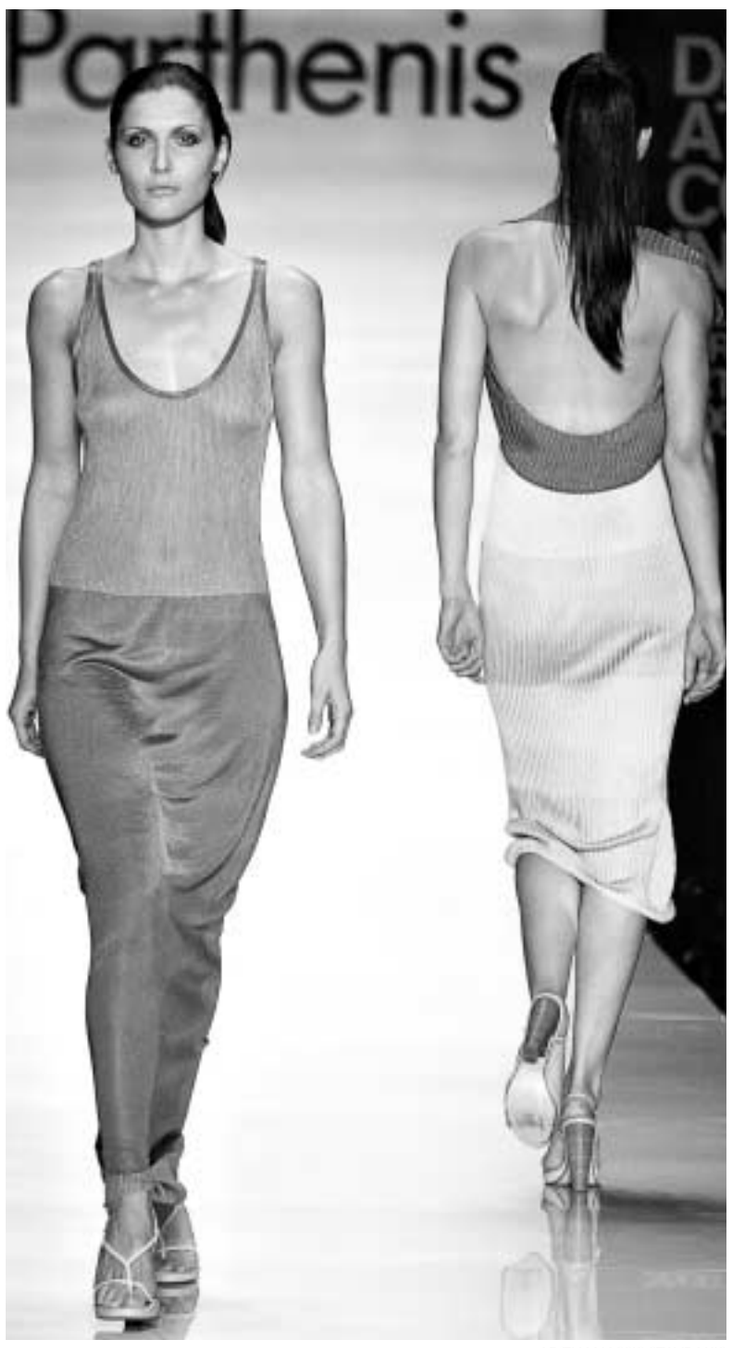
Greece, a maritime superpower, produces just 14,000 cruise clients annually, even though hundreds of thousands of cruise passengers pass through Greek ports in transit each year. Ports near Athens, like Piraeus and Lavrion, "are ideally situated to become home ports for cruising in the Mediterranean. Why then do we not grab the opportunity," said Gerasimos Fokas, head of Greece's hoteliers' association.

Tourism is a vital industry for Greece, and the country has experienced bumper years following infrastructure improvements made for the 2004 Olympics and security threats in rival markets.

Among other recommended improvements are increasing services for passengers in transit, modernized port areas and more cruise-specific services.

Should Greece open Piraeus for roundtrip voyages, "it could well become the busiest turn-around point in the region," said Larry Pimentel of Sea Dream cruises at a Piraeus forum on October 3.

Greece, with around 11 million inhabitants, expects 14 million tourists this year, and Tourism Minister Fanni Pali-Petralia recently declared that the Greek Government is aiming for 19 million in 2007. "A huge economic game is going on right outside our door," Evangelou concluded. "How will we play it?"



AP/THANASSIS STAVRAKIS

Greek Fashion Week attracts thousands to Zappeion

Models present outfits by Greek designer Parthenis during Greek Fashion Week at Zappeion Hall in Athens last Friday, October 20. Fashion Week, takes place twice a year, once in the Spring and again in the Fall. For the fourth time since 2005, members of the Hellenic Fashion Designers Association showed their Spring/Summer 2007 collections at Zappeion. Thousands of visitors attended the event, a four-day extravaganza which brought together both local and international talent under the auspices of the City of Athens, the Greek Economic Development Ministry and ELKEDE (Technology and Design Center). The show, which ended this past Monday, October 23, featured designers like Daphne Valente, Kathy Heyndels, Erotokritos, La Stampa and Vergina Shoes, among others.

Austrian Pol Reunited with His Long-Lost Greek Father

Continued from page 1

now lives.

The retired former waiter was one of tens of thousands of Greeks forcibly transported to Austria and Germany by Nazi occupation forces between 1941 and 1944. Selected as a slave laborer in 1941 as punishment for his leftwing politics, Pitenis worked as an auto mechanic in Vienna. It was there where he had an affair with Harwanegg's mother.

Harwanegg was born in 1944. But after the Nazis were defeated, Pitenis was repatriated 11 months later to his native Kozani in northern Greece, and the couple never met again.

Harwanegg's mother remarried after the war and had another child. Pitenis remained single.

Pitenis, who can only speak with difficulty after undergoing a tracheotomy, was overcome with emotion at the airport meeting – their first after a brief meeting in the village of Samarina near Kozani this past August.

"I was so nervous I hadn't eaten since yesterday," Pitenis said.

His sister, Fani Lazaridou, was also present at the airport. "We are beside ourselves with joy over all this. It has completely changed our life," she said. "We are very emotional."

The couple corresponded for a few years, but Pitenis' last letter, dated 1957, never got a response. It was Elizabeth's unsent answer, found in her affairs after her death, which gave Harwanegg a name to match with his father.

Appeals for help to Interpol and Greek and Austrian embassies failed to locate Pitenis. But in August, while on holiday on the northwestern resort island of Corfu, the Vienna parliamentary deputy got a call from his secretary – with an address.

Father and son met in a Samarina coffee shop, communicating with the help of the village cabbie, who spoke some German. Now, Harwanegg, accompanied by his wife, will try to fill in the past six decades.

"I will try to find out as much as I can about his life during the three days we will pass together," he said last Friday, October 20.



AP/NICOS GIAKOUMIDES

George Pitenis, right, escorts his son, Austrian parliamentarian Volkmar Harvaneng, at the airport in Thessaloniki last Friday, October 20. Harvaneng has been reunited with his 87-year-old Greek father, a prisoner of war in Vienna during World War II, after over a decade of searching.

Runoffs Produce Few Surprises, as ND Retains its Edge

Continued from page 1

took 30 of Greece's 54 prefectures – the same number the conservatives won in 2002 – against 22 prefectures won by the socialist main opposition, PASOK – the same number the socialists won in 2002. Another two prefectures were carried by candidates backed jointly by PASOK and the Coalition of the Left (Synaspismos).

The conservatives consolidated their almost two-decade hold on the mayoral post in Athens, however, with former Health Minister Nikitas Kaklamanis winning comfortably against former PASOK General-Secretariat Costas Skandalides during the first round on October 15. Kaklamanis succeeded current Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyanni, the popular former mayor of Athens who stepped down from her mayoral post to serve on the Karamanlis cabinet.

The conservatives also held onto Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest city, as Vasilis Papageorgopoulos was re-elected mayor of Thessaloniki – the first person to do so for the third time running since 1896.

Papageorgopoulos was re-elected in the runoff with 52.62 percent over PASOK Parliament Deputy Chryssa Arapoglou, who received 47.38 percent.

New Democracy also scored a surprise win in the city of Chania on the island of Crete, normally a Socialist stronghold.

Socialist candidates fared well in the western port city of Patras and Athens' port city of Piraeus, where former Greek basketball star Panagiotis Fasoulas' was elected in the first round.

Fasoulas ousted a two-term conservative mayor while Andreas Fouras, a former PASOK minister, defeated former Patras Mayor Evangelos Floratos.

The municipal elections were perceived by some as a test of midterm strength for Greece's political parties ahead of parliamentary elections in 2008. They were also seen as a test for PASOK Chairman (and former Foreign Minister)

Last Sunday's election confirmed the majority of Greeks support the government's efforts to reform the economy

George Papandreou, whose approval ratings have consistently lagged behind those of conservative Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis.

The current Greek Government was shaken earlier this year by a protracted teachers strike and allegations of corruption among some officials.

But Karamanlis said last Sunday's election results confirmed that the majority of Greeks supported his government's efforts to reform the country's inflexible economy and speed up a program to sell state-owned companies.

The Government faces re-election in early 2008, but said there is no need to seek early national elections.

The election campaign was marred late last Friday, October 20, when Alexander Lykouresis, a conservative candidate for mayor of Ilion near Athens, was attacked by two hooded men with iron bars, Hellenic Police said. He was not seriously injured.

AP Correspondent Paris Ayiomamitis contributed to the above, which also incorporates information from reports posted by the Athens News Agency.

The National Herald

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Into the Adriatic

In the early hours of October 28, 1940, the Ambassador of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini to Greece woke up the Prime Minister Ioannis (John) Metaxas to deliver him an urgent personal message from Il Duce: Italy demands the use of Greek territory for its fascist forces, or else.

Metaxas did not hesitate for a moment, nor did he elaborate in his response. In fact, his answer consisted of just one word: OXI. No, he replied. Period. And that one word made all the difference for the Greek people.

OXI will always stand for bravery, national pride, determination and love for freedom. Mussolini must have thought Metaxas was crazy. How, he must have thought, could poor little Greece stand up to his "powerful" military?

And so a few days later, he ordered an attack against Greece, believing that it would be a cakewalk through Greek territory and the rugged Hellenic terrain.

To his surprise – and to that of many others – poorly equipped Greek armed forces fought with such astonishing bravery which, had not Hitler come to the rescue of his Axis partner, the Greeks would have thrown Mussolini's army into the Adriatic Sea.

The world stood in awe at the courage of the Greeks.

The American press ran many stories extolling the bravery, sacrifices and victories of the Greeks. Especially telling were the cartoons portraying a weakened but brave Tsolia (Evzone) beating a boisterous but timid Italian.

It was in this climate of euphoria and general admiration that, for the first time in a long time, the Greek American community felt a surge of pride for their brothers and sisters in Greece. It was because of Metaxas' OXI that the Greek American community rediscovered its roots and came closer to the land of its forbears.

OXI Day is proudly celebrated today at all our parochial schools, keeping our young people informed about one of the most important events in Modern Greek history.

Every election is important

On November 7th, voting citizens across the country will go to the polls to elect one third of the U.S. Senate and all 435 members of the House of Representatives, along with many governors, state and local officials.

Every election is important and this upcoming one is of particular importance as the country is in the middle of fighting a war in Iraq.

In addition there are a number of other issues of great concern to the country: The healthcare system is in great need of reform (46 million Americans are uninsured); the education system needs considerable improvement; the high of increasing oil prices is making life difficult for many Americans, while it keeps America dependent on oil-producing countries; the number of poor people keeps growing; and rate of taxation is so high, it is actually a disincentive for many people to work.

There are a number of other issues which are, or should be, of particular concern to our community: legal immigration to this country, and the issues affecting Greece and Cyprus.

On the immigration issue, it is our view that, as immigrants or children and grandchildren of immigrants ourselves, we should be not only tolerant, but also supportive of immigrants trying to secure a better way of life for themselves and their children in this country. We should treat them as we would have wished our predecessors to be treated when they first came to this country.

We also need to be mindful of the fact that it is close to impossible for any Greek of Greece to immigrate to the United States, given the limited number of people allowed to enter the country from Greece.

In general, issues affecting Greece where the influence of the U.S. Government officially considers Turkey's aggressive policy in the Aegean as a threat to peace, Turkey's oppression of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and ongoing occupation of Cyprus remain sore spots.

Of considerable significance to Greece also is the issue of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which the Bush Administration recognized as the "Republic of Macedonia" just two days after the 2004 election.

It is therefore important that we should vote, and vote wherever possible for our Greek American candidates – and this year, there are quite a few – and also vote wherever possible for Phil-Hellenes.

There is still time to find out who they are. Contacting AHEPA (202-232-6300) or AHI (202-785-8430).

Back to Greece... finally

AHEPA's decision to hold its annual convention in Athens this year, even if long overdue, is a decision in the right direction, and constitutes more proof that the organization is making an effort to remain relevant and re-establish its ties with the motherland.

The last time AHEPA held its convention in Athens was back in the early 1970's, when the Greek military Junta was still in power. It was an unfortunate decision, and one which has haunted AHEPA ever since.

It is in that light that we view this as a major decision, and one likely to finally put to rest an issue which has tarnished AHEPA's image for so long. At the same time, it's also a great opportunity to reconnect with its roots; to further develop its Hellenic identity; and to cultivate closer ties with the land where it all began: Greece.

Beginning of the end

The writing on the wall is as clear as it can get given the sensitivity of the issue. America is getting ready to depart from Iraq, one way or another. And perhaps it should – but in an orderly and timely fashion.

That we are moving in that direction can be deduced not only by the change in the wording President Bush is using. Whether we call it a timetable or a pass on our responsibility to the Iraqis, it amounts to the same thing. America is getting ready for an exit.

It's a sad story. America probably did the right thing in toppling Saddam Hussein. And it won the war with the speed and ease befitting of a great power. Yet it is losing the peace because, basically, it did not plan for it due to wrong choices made by some senior cabinet officials.

To a large extent, the President seems to be a victim of either not being given the right information, or relying too much on the Secretary of Defense and Vice President to run the war, both of whom, as it turns out, made a mess of it, especially Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who Bush should fire right after Election Day. There can not be a new policy implemented with Rumsfeld in place, and there can not be a better informed president with Rumsfeld filtering information to the President.

But in order to extricate ourselves from Iraq, we first need to send in new soldiers to help those already there to stabilize the country and give the Iraqis a chance to step up and take responsibility for their own security.

If we should withdraw in a clear retreat, not only will Iraq fall into chaos, it will also dilute America's already diminished leadership in the world even further.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations to The National Herald for its Brand-New Look

To The Editor:

I want to congratulate you on your 9th anniversary and the National Herald's new look, and wish you every success.

I have being a reader since your first edition, and I can testify to the continuous improvement of the newspaper, improvement not only in appearance – as important as that is – but also in the editing, writing and the depth of coverage.

Even though I disagree with you on a number of issues, I fully recognize the responsible way in which you carry out your responsibilities, as well as the role the newspaper plays, and its crucial role in keeping our community informed.

I dread to think what would happen if the National Herald did not exist. Keep up the good work.

John Katsivelos
New York, New York

The Administration at HC/HC Needs to Tone Down Arrogance

To the Editor:

In the face of it, towing a car away from a small college, and even if that car belongs to a senior teaching staff member, should not be such a big deal as Mr. Kalmoukos' story makes it seem in your October 21 edition

But when that college is Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and when the administrator ordering the towing away of a professor's car is James Karloutsos, then it becomes a serious issue, and I commend you for having the courage to run it.

Above anything else, the story sheds light on the arrogance of an administrator with connections in high places, and the tension afflicting the relations of those entrusted with working hand-in-hand to turn this institution, so vital to our community's future, around.

Would any real business tolerate this kind of a mistrust, if not open hostility, between its management and staff? Can any organization flourish, or even survive, given the mismanagement under which the teachers and students of the Holy Cross have toiled for so many years? I think not.

Is it not time, at long last, for professional managers to take over the fate of this important school?

George Kontopolitis
Chicago, Illinois

COMMENTARY

Why Can't the Greek Orthodox Support Even One School?

By Dr. Candace Hetzner
Special to The National Herald

National Herald Correspondent Theodore Kalmoukos should receive an award, a kind of anti-Pulitzer, for his in-depth account (nearly 36 column inches in the October 21 edition) of the towing of a car belonging to a professor at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology who had failed to comply with campus parking regulations.

It's time for the National Herald, which otherwise provides valuable news coverage, to work with the entire Greek Orthodox community to promote its school.

As a convert to Greek Orthodoxy, I ask myself almost daily why Roman Catholics can support 238 institutions of higher learning, and the Greek Orthodox can not support even one? Catholics swell with pride about places like Notre Dame, Georgetown, Boston College and Holy Cross (Worcester, Massachusetts). Jewish people do likewise with Brandeis and Yeshiva.

Where is the Greek Orthodox Georgetown or Brandeis?

The Greek Orthodox arguably have the richest and deepest intellectual inheritance in the world. First, Hellenism provided an understanding of such things as logic, ethics, science, mathematics and aesthetics. Then Saint Paul introduced a new understanding of truth, Christian truth, embracing both this world and the world to come. Greek civilization has been uniquely historically privileged to have been situated at the geographical, linguistic and conceptual center of Hellenism and Christianity, at the nexus of the commingling of ancient nous (eye of the mind) and sophia (wisdom) with Christian Logos. The Greek Orthodox in America are indeed the progeny of this sacred intellectual and spiritual tradition, but sadly not its progenitors.

The American Greek Orthodox community bears a responsibility to pass on its rich heritage to future generations for the welfare of its children and the health of the Church. I suspect that most who read this would agree that the world has become an increasingly difficult place for us to negotiate, let alone for our children. We are surrounded by the increasing presence of evil, whether devastation of our world through war, terrorism, environmental degradation, pedophilia, pornography, governmental corruption or corporate misconduct.

We need to provide a safe harbor for the education of our college-age students, a place where it is possible to find congruence between reason and faith – congruence rooted in the Greek Orthodox tradition. Greek Orthodox parents should not have to choose between secular institutions or religious institutions of other faiths.

HC/HC is capable of providing an excellent education and a safe harbor. But it has been steadily hobbled by Mr. Kalmoukos' reporting and the internecine squabbling of our clergy and hierarchy. We need for our metropolitans, bishops and priests to act as responsible shepherds in helping to provide Greek Orthodox students with a high quality college of which we can all be proud.

Last year, it was my privilege to work with the faculty of Hellenic College to revise the core curriculum to provide a solid liberal arts education in the context of Hellenism and Christian Orthodoxy. I got to know the faculty and experienced their dedication and fine minds. As a result of that work, students can now, for example, take a core requirement in Environmental Science which honors the perspective of the Church in this area, as well as the recent efforts of Ecumenical Patriarchs Demetrios and Bartholomew. Students can also fulfill a core art requirement through a course examining the interconnections among Byzantine art, architecture and music. In addition, they can also study such things as economics, political science, philosophy, history, literature and foreign languages.

Students can then proceed from the core to specialized study in the liberal arts, or in professional programs. For example, Hellenic College now offers a new management and leadership program which makes certain that future business leaders acquire all the most up-to-date knowledge about business, but also acquire a moral and spiritual compass to guide them in their work, communities, families and parishes.

Hellenic College enables students to be the recipients of their great tradition without majoring in classics or religion, though both are available in the curriculum. No matter their major, however, Hellenic College graduates will not leave the college without knowing something about how they, and the history of the modern world, have been shaped by Hellenism and Christian Orthodoxy. Moreover, they will appreciate this inheritance as something living and breathing which can inform the contemporary world. Herein lies the health and wellbeing of our children and the future of the Church.

A final word with respect to those students who come to Hellenic College on paths to the priesthood would seem appropriate. These pre-seminarians desperately need a quality liberal arts education.

They need to know science and psychology and philosophy, and how to write and how to speak – and even how to amortize a mortgage. In short, they need to be educated for the parishes of the 21st Century. Hellenic College is now providing such an education.

Hence, students can come to Hellenic College to prepare for a variety of career paths, and can do so in Boston with its many educational and cultural amenities, as well as sports events and recreational opportunities. Moreover, HC/HC has an extremely attractive campus with the Maliotis Cultural Center, state-of-the-art athletic facilities and a beautiful Byzantine chapel.

How can we support Hellenic College?

- Quit listening to misinformation and idle talk.
- Ask the National Herald to help lead this effort.
- Visit the campus and decide for yourself.
- Invite the faculty to your parishes and tap their extraordinary abilities.
- Beseech our Church hierarchy and clergy to help build a first-rate Orthodox institution of higher learning.
- Be generous stewards so that the school can purchase the labs, hire the faulty, and provide the necessary information technology and library resources necessary for being a renowned institution of higher learning.
- Send your children there if it makes sense for your child.
- Pray – prayers of thanksgiving for being the recipients of this magnificent heritage and prayers of supplication for support in working to share this magnificent heritage with others.

Dr. Hetzner is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Boston College Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

The Islamist Tendencies of Mr. Erdogan's Turkey

By Michael Rubin
The Wall Street Journal

Five years into the war on terror, inept U.S. diplomacy risks undercutting a key democracy (and ally) which President Bush once called a model for the Muslim world.

The future of Turkey as a secular, Western-oriented state is at risk. Just as in Gaza and Lebanon, the threat comes from parties using the rhetoric of democracy to advance distinctly undemocratic agendas. Turkey has overcome past challenges from terrorism and radical Islam; its system has always persevered. But now, as Turkish politicians and officials work to defend the Turkish constitution, U.S. diplomats interfere to dismiss Turkish concerns and downplay the Islamist threat.

A crisis has simmered for months, but earlier this month, Ankara erupted. On October 1, President Ahmet Necdet Sezer warned the Turkish Parliament, "The fundamentalist threat has not changed its goal to change the basic characteristics of the state." The next day, as Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited the Oval Office, Gen. Yasar Buyukanit, chief of Turkey's armed forces, warned cadets of growing Islamic fundamentalism, and promised "every measure will be taken against it." Usually, such warnings are enough to keep those transgressing on the constitutional separation of mosque and state in check.

Enter U.S. Ambassador Ross Wilson. At an October 4 press conference, he said, "There is nothing that worries me with regards to Turkey's continuation as a strong, secure, stable and secular democracy." He dismissed opposition concern about the Islamism of Mr. Erdogan's ruling Justice & Development Party, known in Turkish as the AKP, as "political cacophony." His remarks were consistent with those of his State Department superiors.

Last autumn, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Daniel Fried said, "The development of the AKP into a democratic party… has mirrored and supported the development of Turkish political society as a whole in a liberal and democratic direction." He described AKP as "a kind of Muslim version of a Christian Democratic Party."

Why are so many Turks angry at Washington's dismissal of their concerns?

While democrats fight for change within a system, Islamists seek to alter the system itself.

This has been the case with the AKP. Over the party's four-year tenure, Mr. Erdogan has spoken of democracy, tolerance and liberalism, but waged a slow and steady assault on the system. He endorsed the dream of Turkey's secular elite to enter the European Union, for example, but only to embrace reforms diluting the checks and balances of military constitutional enforcement. After the European Court of Human Rights upheld a ban on headscarves in public schools, he changed course: "It is wrong that those who have no connection to this field (of religion) make such a decision… without consulting Islamic scholars," he declared. Then, in May 2006, his chief negotiator for E.U. accession talks ordered the removal, from a negotiating paper, of reference to Turkey's educational system as secular.

The assault on the secular education system has been subtle but effective. Traditionally, students had three choices: enroll at religious academies (so-called Imam Hatips) and enter the clergy; learn a trade at vocational schools; or matriculate to secular high schools, attend university and pursue a career.

Mr. Erdogan changed the system: By equating Imam Hatip degrees with high school diplomas, he enabled Islamist students to enter university and qualify for government jobs without ever mastering Western fundamentals. He also sought to bypass checks and balances. After the Higher Education Board composed of university rectors rejected his demands to make universities more welcoming of political Islam, the AKP-dominated Turkish Parliament proposed to establish 15 new universities. While Mr. Erdogan told diplomats his goal was to promote education, Turkish academics say the move would enable him to handpick rectors and swamp the board with political henchmen.

Such tactics have become commonplace. At Mr. Erdogan's insistence, and over the objections of many secularists, the AKP passed legislation to lower the mandatory retirement age of technocrats. This could mean replacement of nearly 4,000 out of 9,000 judges.

Turks are suspicious that the AKP seeks to curtail judicial independence. In May 2005, AKP Parliamentary Speaker Bulent Arinc warned that the AKP might abolish the constitutional court if its judges continued to hamper its legislation. Mr. Erdogan's refusal to implement Supreme Court decisions levied against his government underscore his contempt for rule of law. Last May, in the heat of the AKP's anti-judiciary rhetoric, an Islamist lawyer protesting the headscarf ban shouted "Allahu Akbar," opened fire in the Supreme Court and murdered a judge. Thousands attended his funeral, chanting pro-secular slogans. Mr. Erdogan was absent from the ceremony.

There have been other subtle changes. Mr. Erdogan has replaced nearly every member of the banking regulatory board with officials from the Islamic banking sector. Accusations of Saudi capital subsidizing AKP are rampant.

According to Turkish Central Bank statistics, in the first six months of this year, the net error – money entering the Turkish economy for which regulators can not account – has increased almost eightfold compared to 2002, the year AKP came to power.

According to the opposition parliamentary bloc, debt amassed under Mr. Erdogan's administration is equal to total debt accrued in Turkey between 1970 and 2000. In June, Erkan Mumcu, a former AKP minister who now heads the center-right Motherland Party, accused the AKP of interfering in Central Bank operations. Accordingly, President Bush's Oval Office statement, based on State Department talking points – congratulating "the prime minister and his government for the economic reforms that have enabled the Turkish economy to be strong" – may have hampered transparency, if not reform.

In the past year, the AKP anti-secular agenda has grown bolder. AKP-run municipalities now ban alcohol. Turkish Airlines recently surveyed employees about their attitudes toward the Koran. On July 11, Mr. Erdogan publicly vouched for the sincerity of Yasin al-Qadi, a Saudi financier identified by both the U.N. and the U.S. Treasury as an al Qaeda financier.

When Mr. Erdogan began his political career, he did not hide his agenda. In September 1994, while mayor of Istanbul, he promised, "We will turn all our schools into Imam Hatips." Two months later, he said, "Thank God Almighty, I am a servant of the Shariah." In May 1996, he called for a ban on alcohol. In the months before his dismissal from the mayoralty, his cynicism was clear. "Democracy is like a streetcar," he quipped. "You ride it until you arrive at your destination, and then you step off."

Diplomacy should not just accentuate the positive and ignore the negative.

When a country faces an Islamist challenge, PC platitudes do far more harm than good. At the very least, U.S. diplomats should never intercede to preserve the status quo at the expense of liberalism. Nor should they even appear to endorse a political party as an established democracy enters an election season.

It is not good relations with Ankara which should be the U.S. goal, but rather the triumph of the democratic and liberal ideas for which Turkey traditionally stands.

The Wall Street Journal published the above on October 19. Mr. Rubin is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

Come Next Tuesday, Before Voting, Ask a Few Questions



by AMB. PATRICK N. THEROS

Special to The National Herald

If you are among the 60 percent or so of readers who will not vote next Tuesday, I recommend you not waste your otherwise valuable time reading this editorial. Only about 40 percent of Americans are expected to vote in what may be one of the most important elections in recent history, and as few as 21 percent of the electorate could decide the future of our country.

But apathy is also a democratic choice.

As Will Rogers said about Prohibition, "There is nothing in the Constitution of the United States that prevents the American people from making damned fools of themselves."

As a longtime resident of the District of Columbia, I can not vote for any member of Congress. I hope you do not envy me this "freedom" from exercising my rights as an American citizen. I have no illusions that any significant number of Members of Congress care much about the well-being of the City which I call home, and which Americans laughingly refer to as the nation's Capital. For the rest of you, please take your citizenship seriously. When you come out of the booth, you will have participated in what may well be the most important single election in your grandchildren's lives.

CHECKLIST

For that minority which will vote, I would like to present a checklist. There are no simple recommendations or endorsements. You, dear readers, must choose in 33 senatorial and 435 congressional races, as well as thousands of state, county, municipal and local contests.

I would be presumptuous to recommend for whom you should vote. There are good people on both sides of the political aisle in Congress. There are some who should not be re-elected no matter what.

Among the Senators currently seeking reelection, for example, Republican Senator Olympia J. Snowe of Maine, a Greek American, has demonstrated wisdom and ethical clarity on financial and social matters which few can match. In Pennsylvania, Democratic Congressman John Murtha has proven that he is both a patriot and a man of great character who can admit to making a mistake in public.

For the other 466 congressional races, I suggest a series of questions you should have asked your favorite candidate before you go into the voting booth and punch out a chad, mark a paper ballot, pull a lever or touch a screen.

Please ask your preferred candidate for Congress or the Senate if he/she gave you lower taxes so that you can enjoy yourself today and leave it to your children and grandchildren to support a crushing burden of taxes, inflation, or both, in the next few decades.

More transcendentally, you should ask if the candidate believes that control of every branch of government should be vested in one political party, and that Congress should be a rubber stamp for the White House, or whether he or she exercised the responsibility you gave him or her the last time you voted. Given that almost every candidate is a Republican or Democrat, you probably will not get an unbiased answer to that question.

BARTERING SOULS FOR ELECTORAL ADVANTAGE

If you intend to vote for the incumbent, please ask if he or she has voted for his or her party's line, or for some particularly repulsive legislation because he or she feared voting against it would allow his enemies to smear him as "cut and run" or "weak on terrorism," and then gone and thrown up. Maybe you should ask if your favored candidate has bartered his or her soul for electoral advantage.

Ask your candidates if they support the terminally stupid proposal to build 870 miles of border fencing and vehicle barriers which will cost $3.3 billion because they believe that race-baiting and paranoia gets votes. If they did, ask them if they are aware that Border Patrol professionals regard this project as a joke.

You might ask those members of the Senate up for reelection who believed in 2002 that Saddam Hussein had nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and voted to authorize the invasion of Iraq if they would have done the same knowing what they know now.

The following is also very important question for your preferred candidate: Ask if the candidate believes Vice President Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Undersecretary Paul Wolfowitz should be required to explain to Congress and the American people why they treated American professional soldiers with such contempt and disdain, and why they publicly humiliated then U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Eric K. Shinseki (1999-2003), the first Asian American four-star general in U.S. history, for telling the truth.

You might also ask your preferred candidate if ensuring his party's victory at the polls justifies 2,800 American dead, 20,000 young permanently crippled Americans and perhaps several hundred thousand dead Iraqis, not to mention $300 billion spent, in a badly mismanaged war which was started by the lie that Saddam had something to do with 9/11.

All of our candidates have told us that securing America's energy independence is a key element in their platform. You should ask if your candidate has told you the truth; that is, without higher gasoline taxes, we will never cure ourselves of the gasoline habit.

Ask your candidate if he believes America has become more prosperous during the last five years because that one quarter of the population who own enough shares to live off a rising stock market are richer. While you are doing that, ask if stockowners should take priority over the three quarters who actually work at jobs. You might also ask the same candidate if he or she believes that making companies richer by exporting American jobs justifies causing American workers to lose their jobs.

Ask your candidate if he is aware that the median income of American families has declined in the last five years, and that jobless rates have only now reached the levels of the previous administration (you might also ask him if working at Wal-Mart or McDonald's is as good as working in a steel mill or an automobile factory).

Finally, as most of our readers are Greek Orthodox Christians, you might ask your candidate if he believes that forcing you to obey "Christian values," as defined by Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and Pope Benedict XVI, take precedence over your own religious beliefs.

And as an Orthodox Christian, ask your candidate if he truly believes that the Vice President of the United States should have publicly campaigned for the right to officially and formally torture people.

As an American, you should ask if your candidate believes that the "Great Writ" of Habeas Corpus, which has been an integral part of Anglo-Saxon Law since 1215, should be abolished so that one Party can pose as the "Great Protector."

Finally, please ask your candidate what he thinks about a political agenda which preaches fear as its principal campaign theme.

And above all, please vote.

The Hon. Ambassador Theros served in the U.S. Foreign Service for 36 years, mostly in the Middle East, and was American Ambassador to Qatar from 1995 to 1998. He also directed the State Department's Counter-Terrorism Office and holds numerous U.S. Government decorations.

GUEST EDITORIALS

The National Herald welcomes manuscripts representing a variety of views for publication in its View Points page. They should include the writer's name, address, and telephone number and be addressed to the View Points Editor, The National Herald, 37-10 30th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101. They can also be faxed to (718) 472-0510 or, preferably, e-mailed to english.edition@thenationalherald.com. Due to considerations of space we enforce a strict 1,400-word upper limit. We reserve the right to edit for repetitiveness, diction and syntax. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge or return manuscripts, published or unpublished.

A Democrat or Republican Congress: Does it Make a Difference? Look at the Candidates' Records on Issues



by EUGENE T. ROSSIDES

Special to The National Herald

This coming November 7 is Election Day for all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and one third of the U.S. Senate – 33 members.

Because of a number of factors, most political analysts have written that the Democrat Party has a chance to recapture control of both Houses of the United States Congress. A number of analysts have predicted that the Democrats will pick up 15 or more seats in the House and thereby achieve a majority. In the Senate, the Democrats need to gain 6 seats – a more difficult challenge, actually, than achieving a majority in the House.

The factors of major concern for the voters include the war in Iraq and several scandals affecting primarily Republican members of the House, but also one House Democrat and the Democratic Minority Leader of the Senate.

The purpose of this article is to analyze and discuss – from the point of view of U.S. foreign policy regarding U.S. relations with Greece, Cyprus and Turkey – whether it makes a difference if Republicans of Democrats control either or both the House and Senate.

What if the Democrats win control of either or both the House and Senate? The major impact will be that the Democrats would fill the leadership posts and the chairmanships of all committees and control the legislative agenda.

HOUSE OF REPS

Let's look first at the House of Representatives. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-California) is the current Minority Leader and would presumably be elected House Speaker to replace the Republican J. Dennis Hastert of Illinois. I say "presumably" because one article mentioned the possibility that current Minority Whip and number-two Democratic Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-Maryland), a moderate Democrat, might run for the Speaker's position.

Rep. Pelosi is generally favorable on our issues and is close to the Greek American community in San Francisco and Sacramento. The new chairman of the key House International Relations Committee, however, would be Congressman Tom Lantos (D-California), and the Ranking Member would probably be Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Florida), who is the leading candidate for Committee Chair if the Republicans retain control of the House.

Rep. Ros-Lehtinen has been a strong and vocal advocate of our positions on Cyprus, the Aegean and FYROM. Rep. Lantos is a strong supporter of Israel, but he has not been known to support the Greek American community's views on U.S. relations with Greece, Cyprus and Turkey.

The key House International Relations Subcommittee on Europe & Emerging Threats would be headed by Congressman Robert Wexler (D-Florida), an arch pro-Turkish member of Congress who is co-head of the Turkish caucus, and has introduced pro-Turkish legislation. The Ranking member would be Elton Gallegly (R-California).

The important House Appropriations Committee would be headed by Rep. David Obey (D-Wisconsin), and the Ranking Member would be Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-California).

The key House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing & Related Programs would be chaired by Rep. Nita Lowey (D-New York), and the Ranking Member would probably be Rep. John Sweeney (R-New York) or Rep. Joseph Knollenberg (R-Michigan), as the present Republican Chairman is not running for re-election. Rep. Lowey has been a supporter of our issues, and she has been active with the Greek American community.

THE SENATE

If the Democrats win a majority in the Senate, Senator Harry Reid (D-Nevada), the present Senate Minority Leader, would become the Majority Leader and Senator Richard Durbin (D-Illinois) would become the Majority Whip.

Senator Joseph Biden (D-Delaware) would once again become Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the present Chair, Senator Richard Lugar (R-Indiana) would become Ranking Member. Senator Biden, has, in the past, been a supporter of our issues due to the efforts of the Delaware Greek American community.

The Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs would probably be headed by Senator Christopher Dodd (D-Connecticut) with Senator George Allen (R-Virginia), the present Chairman, becoming Ranking Member if he wins re-election in November. Senator Dodd is favorably inclined towards our issues. Senator Allen has spoken out favorably on our issues, and has responded affirmatively in a letter to the American Hellenic Institutes' 2006 Election Questionnaire.

The Senate Appropriations Committee would be headed by Robert Byrd (D-West Virginia), and the Ranking Member would be Thad Cochran (R-Mississippi).

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations & Related Programs would be headed by Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont). The Ranking Member is open at this time because Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky), the present Chair, is the leading candidate to lead the Senate Republicans.

KEY QUESTIONS

Key questions for the Democrat leadership, if they win control of either or both the House and Senate are…

1. Will they support our positions regarding Cyprus, the Aegean, FYROM, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Halki Patriarchal School of Theology, and Albania set forth in the 2006 Greek American Policy Statements?
2. Will they support our legislative proposals on Cyprus, the Aegean, FYROM and the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Halki?
3. Will they call for hearings on our legislative proposals?
4. Will they call for a critical review of U.S. policy toward Turkey?
5. Will they press the Bush Administration on these issues?

I can not stress the overriding importance of grassroots activity with the leadership of the House and Senate, the key Committees and Subcommittees, and the Executive Branch enough.

If the Democrats take either or both the House and Senate, there will not be a change in the Bush Administration's policy on Greece, Cyprus and Turkey unless the Greek American community acts vigorously in every state and congressional district.

Obviously the elected Greek American representatives in the House, and Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine) in the Senate, must play leading roles.

Senator Snowe is up for re-election this year, and is expected to win a third term. Hopefully, the four Greek Americans running for seats in the House – Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-Nevada); Gus Bilirakis (R-Florida); John Sarbanes (D-MD) and Zack Space (D-Ohio) will also win. They all have good chances to win.

The role of elected Greek Americans, in the interests of the U.S., is at least threefold: to speak out on the issues of concern to our community on a regular basis; to be in constant contact with the Executive Branch, the White House, the National Security Council, and the State and Defense Departments; and, most importantly, to press the Democratic and Republican leaderships in the House and Senate, and on the relevant committees, to take action on our issues.

Mr. Rossides is President & Founder of the American Hellenic Institute and a former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury.



TNH/COSTAS BEJ

Historic Concert at the United Nations

Greek Government Spokesman and Minister of State Theodoros Roussopoulos, left, speaks with out-going U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan during a reception after "Greece: Poetry in Music" at the United Nations General Assembly Hall in New York this past Wednesday, October 25. The ERT National Symphony Orchestra performed a historic Greek Music concert at the U.N.

Spanakopita Tales: Restoring Vanishing Traditions

By Dr. Charles Moskos

Special to The National Herald

Oh, no! For a while I thought spanakopita (spinach pie) would be outlawed in the United States. In mid-September, public health officials decreed that fresh, as well as bagged, spinach must be taken off grocery shelves. This, as we all know, was because E. coli contamination of spinach sickened several hundred people, and even resulted in some deaths. Fortunately, the ban has now been lifted. Spinach is again legal.

My addiction to spanakopita began as a child, and continues to this day. Both sides of the family come from Northern Epiros. I was always told that Epirotes made the best pita – not only spinach but cheese, apple and all others. My maternal grandmother rolled her own phylo dough, as did most Greek women of her generation. My mother, who came to this country as a child, did likewise. Subsequent to my mother's early passing, my father made the family spanakopita the same way. More remarkable, Ilca, my German-born wife, rolls her own phylo when making spanakopita. She acquired this talent from my father, who lived with us in his senior years.

Our younger son, Peter, enjoys cooking and also rolls his own phylo when preparing spanakopita at his home in Astoria. A summer ago, we were on the island of Lesbos (Mytiline), where Peter prepared spanakopita for our family consumption in one of the local restaurants (where we were friends with the owner). After taking the spanakopita out of the oven, we had only a few small bites of the spanakopita, as it was very hot. Several hours later, we all went to the restaurant expecting to eat the spanakopita as our main course. To our surprise, we found that the kitchen help had eaten all of it. They raved over the hand-rolled phylo – evidence that such is becoming a rarity in contemporary Greece.

In my periodic New York visits, I frequently eat at Greek restaurants (as I do elsewhere). One time, I departed with a leftover portion of spanakopita. As I was crossing the street on the way back to my hotel, a homeless woman was begging and chattering belligerently on the sidewalk. I offered her the bagged spanakopita, and she asked, "What's in it?" Baked spinach and cheese, I told her. Her demeanor abruptly changed, and she replied, "That sounds very healthy, thank you sir."

Another time in New York, I was again bringing leftover spanakopita to my hotel, this time by taxi. The cabbie (an African from the Ivory Coast) and I entered into a conversation. Somehow, I mentioned the spanakopita in my possession. The driver immediately switched into flawless Greek. He had worked on a Greek ship for some years. He was very appreciative when I handed him the spanakopita as I left the cab.

In 1995, I was invited to Capitol Hill for a memorial reception for Les Aspin, the longtime Congressman and later Secretary of Defense. Congressman Sonny Montgomery, with whom I worked on the G.I. Bill, was present. Prominent on the table of appetizers was spanakopita. I pointed to the spanakopita, and asked Montgomery if he knew what it was. "Why, that's spanakopita. When I was growing up in Mississippi, our Greek neighbors made that regularly, and always gave us some. I love it."

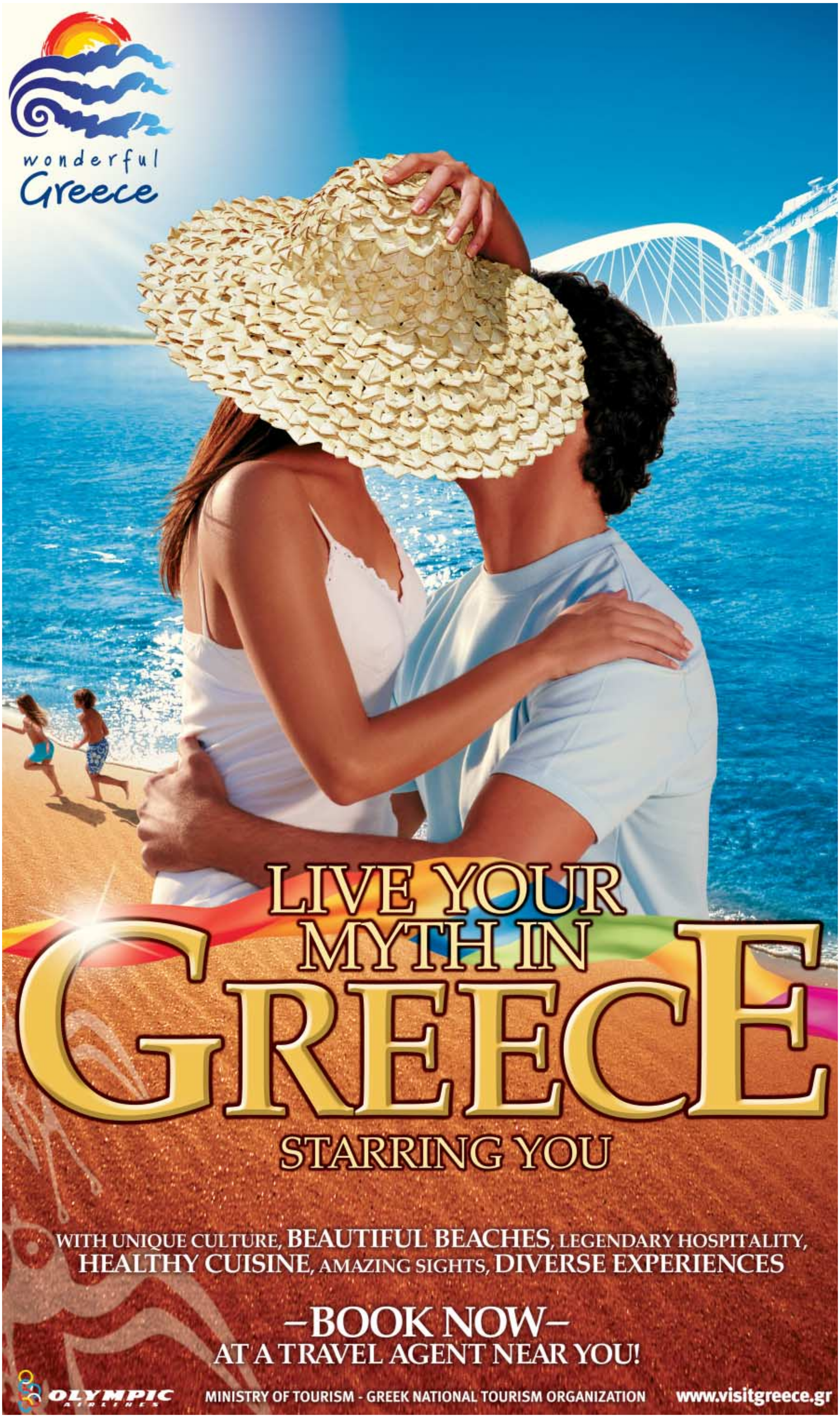
I have taught a Northwestern University for many years. One day, a student from Singapore approached me. Knowing I was Greek American, she asked where it would be possible to buy some spanakopita. She said it was her favorite food. Somewhat surprised, I asked if spanakopita was popular in Singapore. No, she replied. But once on a ski trip in Canada, her tour group had a meal at a Greek restaurant, and that is where she became hooked on spanakopita. She had not had any since then. Some days later, I brought her a portion of my wife's spanakopita. No student of mine has ever been so grateful.

Let me mention a different kind of spanakopita tale. The Moskos family moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico in the 1940's. In the late 1940's, my grandparents paid us a visit from Chicago. It was decided that, coming so far, they should also see Mexico. My mother drove the family to Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas. The whole trip took about three days in the high summer heat. My grandmother had prepared spanakopita and placed it in the trunk of the car. For some reason, it was never taken out. After spending a day in Juarez, we were ready to cross back to the United States. The American customs official asked us to open our trunk. We did so. A terrible and powerful odor of the rotting spanakopita overwhelmed him. He immediately shouted "close the trunk," and waved us through the border. One wonders, could illegal drugs be smuggled into the country this way?

Spanakopita is no longer our Greek secret. That is the good news. It is increasingly common at receptions, and is now even sold in some of the new organic food grocery stores. I have even seen menus with spinach-feta (Popeye) pizza.

But the not so good news is that hand-rolled phylo is virtually extinct, here and, more telling, in Greece itself. Just think, in my own memory, four generations of the Moskos family have rolled their own phylo. Judging from the way something like spanakopita with hand-rolled phylo can affect human interactions, maybe it's time to start a campaign to restore an art which seems to be lost in the old country.

Dr. Moskos is professor of Sociology at Northwestern University. He and his son, Peter, are currently working on the third edition of "Greek Americans: Struggle and Success."


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