

Greek Financial Titans Busy Cutting Deals Amid Ongoing Market Collapse

By Evan C. Lambrou

Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – When Wall Street woke up this past Monday morning, September 15, two more of its storied firms had fallen, as the country's biggest retail bank bought the world's biggest brokerage firm.

Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., burdened by \$60 billion in soured real-estate holdings, filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition in U.S. Bankruptcy Court after attempts to rescue the 158-year-old firm failed. And Bank of America Corporation said it is buying Merrill Lynch in a \$50 billion all-stock transaction.

The demise of the once-powerful independent Wall Street institutions sent shockwaves across the world's financial markets as the 14-month-old credit crisis continued rolling the U.S. financial system six months after the collapse of Bear Stearns.

The world's largest insurance company, American International Group, was also forced into a restructuring; a global consortium of banks, working with government officials in New York, announced a \$70 billion pool of funds to lend to troubled financial companies; American stocks were headed for a sharply lower open, and Treasury bond prices soared as the market reacted to the news.

The aim of the bank consortium was to prevent worldwide panic on stock and other financial exchanges. Ten banks – Bank of America, Barclays, Citibank, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley and UBS – each agreed to provide \$7 billion “to help enhance liquidity and mitigate the unprecedented volatility and other challenges affecting global equity and debt markets.”

The Federal Reserve also chipped in with more largesse in its emergency lending program for investment banks. The central bank announced late last Sunday, September 14, that it was broadening the

types of collateral financial institutions can use to obtain loans from the Fed.

Now that Lehman Brothers has declared bankruptcy and Bank of America is snapping up Merrill Lynch, the ranks of Wall Street survivors have shrunk in the space of six months from five to two: Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley.

With 94-year-old Merrill, and Bear Stearns before it, being acquired by giant commercial banks, analysts and investors are witnessing the triumph of the diversified, universal banking model over the Wall Street model, which focused on trading securities and advising corporate clients.

Eventually, some analysts predict, the trend will probably capture Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs as well. Even if they skirt the fate of their former peers, analysts argue, their time is past.

The demise of old Wall Street isn't just about bad bets on mortgages or the hubris of CEO's, analysts say. It's about the failure of an antiquated, risky strategy which depends on macroeconomic luck and grossly overcompensated employees for being in the right place at the right time.

In the midst of the ongoing economic collapse sit two Greek American financial titans: John Thain, Chairman & CEO of Merrill Lynch, and Jamie Dimon, Chairman & CEO of JP Morgan Chase.

Mr. Thain, an MIT graduate with a Harvard MBA, facilitated BAC's takeover of Merrill Lynch, while Mr. Dimon presided over JPM's acquisition of Bear Stearns and was busy making a bid for Washington Mutual Inc., the country's largest thrift, as this edition of the National Herald was going to press.

Through last weekend, federal officials, including Federal Reserve Bank of New York President Timothy Geithner, made it clear that they strongly encouraged a deal to sell

Continued on page 5



AP PHOTO/PETROS GIANNAKOURIS

Ancient Sculptures in a New Home

A man looks at plaster casts of ancient sculptures, placed beside some original works in the New Acropolis Museum in Athens, Greece, on Tuesday September 16, 2008. All the ancient finds from the Acropolis will be displayed in the new building, where Greece eventually hopes to host the Elgin Marbles.

2006 E-mail Asks For Katinas Removal

By Theodore Kalmoukos

Special to The National Herald

BOSTON – The assistant priest of the Holy Trinity parish in Dallas, Texas, Rev. Gregory Hohnholt, who served two years under the former presiding priest of the parish Nicholas Katinas from 2004 to 2006, sent an e-mail in the summer of 2006 to the assistant chancellor of the Archdiocese Rev. Michael Kontogorge that was obtained by The National Herald, asking why the decision to remove Fr. Katinas was being delayed.

Rev. Hohnholt, who was trans-

ferred just a year ago to the Holy Trinity parish in Nashville, Tennessee, did not respond to The National Herald's telephone calls.

The e-mail correspondence between Fr. Hohnholt and Fr. Kontogorge took place on Saturday, June 17, 2006 at 11:25 a.m.

According to documents which have come to the Herald's attention, Fr. Kontogorge had traveled to Dallas, Texas on April 6, 2006, where he met with then priest Nicholas Katinas and told him about the allegations against him for pederasty. Fr. Kontogorge also informed assistant priest Gregory

Hohnholt about the pedophilia allegations made against Katinas. Fr. Kontogorge told Fr. Hohnholt not to say anything to anyone, and assured him that Katinas will be soon leave the parish.

When weeks and months had passed and nothing was done from the Archdiocese, Fr. Hohnholt's patience was exhausted and he sent an e-mail Rev. Kontogorge in which among other things he stated, “I know you said you were waiting until Pentecost and surgery passed. Both have passed fine.”

Continued on page 3

Old Captain Nikolai: The First Greek Of Texas

By Steve Frangos

Special to The National Herald

In 1817, the first documented Greek settler in Texas stepped off the gang-plank onto Galveston Island. Known to history only as “Captain Nikolai,” this lone Greek accompanied Jean Lafitte (c. 1776-c. 1826) the renowned gentleman buccaneer from Savannah, Georgia to this coastal island aboard the Jupiter. Was Nikolai among the estimated 3,000 men that Lafitte commanded at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815? Did Nikolai ever meet Michel Dragon, the Greek merchant and gunner (as well as the maternal ancestor of the renowned Dimitry family), who fought with the local militia? For the moment all that we do know is that when Lafitte and his pirate commune arrived on Galveston, Nikolai, the Greek, stood by his side.

Lafitte settled on Galveston Island establishing yet another freehold community he named Campeche. At this time, Galveston was within the realm of Spanish rule in the New World and known, then, as Snake Island. From this lone outpost Jean Lafitte amassed considerable wealth by selling horses, furs, and smuggling stolen goods as well as slaves into the United States. Thus the Lafitte Commune became a trading company as well as a privateering camp.

Jean Lafitte's fascinating and complicated life is not our concern here. It is enough to report that, at this time, a ‘privateer’ was ‘a ship

Continued on page 7

To subscribe call: 718.784.5255
e-mail:
subscriptions@thenationalherald.com



Greek Foreign Minister Schedules Visit to New York

By Demetris Tsakas

Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – The Foreign Minister of Greece Dora Bakoyannis is scheduled to arrive in New York on September 20 to represent the Greek Government at the 63rd United Nations General Assembly, which will be attended by heads of state and government leaders from all over the world. Despite her busy schedule due to the many high-level meetings she will be attending while in New York, Mrs. Bakoyannis will devote a significant portion of her time to the Greek American Community during her current visit, as she has done during similar visits in the past.

On Thursday September 25, the Greek Foreign Minister will hold a reception in honor of the Greek American Community at the Regis Hotel, located at 2 East 55 Street, New York, NY, where she will also deliver a speech on that very evening. Representatives and officials from organizations in the

Continued on page 9



TNH ARCHIVES

Foreign Minister of Greece Dora Bakoyannis will represent the Greek Government at the 63rd U.N. General Assembly and meet with members of the Greek American community during her upcoming trip to N.Y.

Drexel's President a Maverick and Visionary

By Samantha Melamed

Main Line Magazine

It's not often that Constantine Papadakis – perhaps the most innovative Drexel University president since Anthony Drexel himself – commits a misstep. But there was the time he visited Pope John Paul II in preparation for Katherine Drexel's 2000 canonization.

“We had just taken over the [Allegheny University] medical school and so I was preoccupied, because it was a major undertaking,” Papadakis recounts, a bit cringingly. “And as I was leaving, we took a picture together, and I gave him a T-shirt. Can you imagine? The president of a university giving a T-shirt to the Pope.” He shakes his head.

Still, Papadakis is one to focus on the positive. “As we left, the Pope said, ‘God bless your university.’ So I went back to my cabinet and said, ‘Now there is no way we can go wrong.’”

And so far, it seems he hasn't.

Among the most progressive and controversial figures in higher education today, the Wayne resident has implemented bold initiatives

since his arrival in 1995 to transform the regional, business – and engineering-focused school into a comprehensive university with national appeal.

He seems to specialize in triple-digit percentage gains: growing freshmen applications, the university's endowment and research funding each more than 600 percent; boosting enrollment more than 100 percent and yearly revenues more than 300 percent. He has physically altered the university landscape, with more than 15 new and planned construction projects, in all constructing, renovating or purchasing a building a year for the past decade. He has implemented fearless moves: The 1998 takeover of MCP Hahnemann University – formerly the bankrupt [Allegheny University of Health Sciences – to add medical, public health and nursing schools to Drexel's offerings; and the 2006 launch of the first new law school in Philadelphia in 30 years, an unusual co-op-based program that was provisionally accredited this February in a record 18 months.

And now, he's hard at work on plans for what might be considered



TNH ARCHIVES

Drexel University President Constantine Papadakis has been called an innovator and maverick for his work at the institution.

Drexel West, a Sacramento, Calif., campus that could add as many as 6,000 additional students to the Drexel roster.

But Papdakis – or Taki as he's known to his many, many friends – insists he's no risk taker. He prefers the term often used to describe Drexel itself: maverick.

“Actually we never took any risks,” he insists. “It's in the eye of the beholder. I think that I have a great group of managers and administrators at Drexel, and those individuals have been able to undertake projects that others think are so far-fetched that they believe they are very risky.”

The difference is, Papadakis is not an academic-as he himself admits. He's a science-minded businessman, a pragmatist, a manager and, occasionally, a showman, whose business card is a slick envelope encasing a CD-ROM.

“My perspective is a business perspective,” he says. “I consider the university as a big corporation with a product, which is education, and with customers, the students. And I

Continued on page 4

Bringing the news
to generations of
Greek Americans

New York Life to Pay Policies Prior to 1915

Program Reaches out to
Heirs of Greek Policies
From Ottoman Empire

By Mark Frangos

Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – New York Life Insurance Company announced an outreach program to locate and compensate heirs of approximately 1,000 life insurance policies issued to Greeks in the Ottoman Empire prior to 1915. As part of the Greek Life Insurance Policy Program, New York Life will publish notices in national and international newspapers about the claims review process so that heirs can submit claims relating to these policies. The company said it will also contribute \$1 million to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, since descendants of many of those displaced from their ancestral homelands are now members of the Archdiocese. The total value of the voluntary program is \$12-15 million, including administrative and other costs.

“In the course of research associated with another historical matter regarding policies sold to Armenians who perished after 1914, the company became aware that Greek policy owners were evidently victims of the same violence in the Ottoman Empire. With the Armenian policy matter now successfully completed, involving benefits paid to heirs of 2,300 Armenian policyholders, New York Life conducted additional archival research and verified that there are Greek policies that may remain unpaid from 1915. We will offer heirs to the Greek policies the same benefits as those provided to persons claiming under the Armenian policies,” said William Werfelman, a spokesman for New York Life. “As with the Armenian policies, records confirm that the company succeeded in paying benefits in nearly half of the Greek policies. New York Life paid those benefits to heirs in the months and years immediately following the violence of 1915. However, New York Life received no claims and thus paid no benefits or cash value on 1,000 other Greek policies. Our company's value sys-

Continued on page 4

Corona Priest Resigns Citing Health Issues

By Theodore Kalmoukos

Special to The National Herald

BOSTON – Rev. Nicholas Kouvaris, the priest of the Transfiguration parish in Corona, New York, unexpectedly resigned from his position “for reasons of health.” He served the parish for three and a half years. He did not return the Herald's telephone calls for comment. Archbishop Demetrios and Assistant Chancellor Rev. Michael Kontogorge also didn't return calls. Archdiocesan Chancellor, Bishop Savas of Troas, is on four month vacation, preventing him from commenting.

Fr. Kouvaris made the announcement about his resignation on Sunday, September 14, a day before the parent publication of The National Herald, the «Εθνικός Κήρυξ» published an interview with a Greek American doctor from Akron, Ohio who reversed the story of the emergency landing of the Olympic aircraft last summer in London caused by a close friend of Fr. Kouvaris. The Herald had spoken with Fr. Kouvaris the day before, on Saturday, September 13.

As The National Herald had reported on July 25, 2008 an Olympic Airlines aircraft in flight from New York to Athens made an emergency landing at London's Heathrow Airport in England on Monday, June 23, due to an episode caused by a passenger who was traveling to Greece with Rev. Kouvaris. The priest was implicated in the incident as well.

In a telephone interview at that time with The National Herald from Greece, Fr. Kouvaris, who was visiting his parents and relatives declined that he had any personal involvement in the incident. He

Continued on page 3

Flies you back
to where it all
began: **GREECE**



OLYMPIC
AIRLINES

Greece's  warmest welcome

Comfortable, Non-Stop flights to Athens
and to 35 other destinations within Greece



OLYMPIC
AIRLINES

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR OLYMPIC AIRLINES
AT 800-223-1226 OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
www.olympicairlines.com

GOINGS ON...

■ **SEPTEMBER 20-22**
LAS VEGAS – The 5th Annual Opa Las Vegas & Greek Festival Trip will beheld on Thursday, September 18th to Monday, September 22nd, at the Monte Carlo Hotel. Group discounts available. Book your room before the room block fills up. Please use offer code “xopa08.” Rates are \$130 (Thursday and Sunday), \$205 (Friday and Saturday). Call or book online (TEL: 800-311-8999, web: https://reservations.mgmmirage.com). For more information, e-mail info@opalasvegas.org or visit the web at www.opalasvegas.org.

■ **SEPTEMBER 21**
WESTFIELD, N.J. – The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey cordially invites the community to its Annual Holy Cross Celebration at the Paramount Theater and Convention Center in Asbury Park, N.J. on Sunday, September 21, 2008 with The Orthros Service at 8:30 AM followed by the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM. His Eminence, Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey will preside over the festivities that are expected to draw Orthodox Faithful from throughout the Mid-Atlantic States. His Eminence will celebrate the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, for the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, the Blessing of the Waters and the subsequent Diving for the Cross by our Orthodox youth. A barbeque open to all is scheduled following the day's events. His Eminence, Metropolitan Evangelos will also conduct a Trisagion Service for the late Patriarch Athenagoras and place a wreath over a statue erected by the City of Asbury Park in his honor on the Boardwalk. The Holy Cross Celebration and Blessing of the Waters in Asbury Park was instituted by the then Archbishop of North and South America and later Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras in 1947, with the prayer that the world's oceans, which connect all peoples of the Earth, could also become vessels that transmit the hope and triumph of Christ's Cross. For more information, please call 908-301-0500.

■ **SEPTEMBER 23**
WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Southeast Europe Project cordially invites the community to “The Other Euro-Islam: Sufism in Turkey and the Balkans,” a forum with Stephen Schwartz, Director, Center for Islamic Pluralism and Author, at the Woodrow Wilson Center on Tuesday, September, 23, 2008, at 10 – 11:30 AM. For more information, please e-mail sep@wilsoncenter.org.

■ **SEPTEMBER 24**
WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Hellenic Institute in cooperation with Greek America Magazine cordially invites the community to a Capitol Hill Event “In Commemoration of the Smyrna Catastrophe of 1922” a presentation by Giles Milton, journalist and New York Times best-selling author, introducing his new book “Paradise Lost – Smyrna 1922.” at Rayburn House Office Building Room B-338 on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Light Refreshments Will be Served. For more information, please call 202-785-8430.

■ **SEPTEMBER 26**
FLUSHING, N.Y. – The Cyprus Federation of America and The International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus cordially invite the community to a speech by H.E. Demetris Christofias, President of the Republic of Cyprus, who will speak to the Greek American community on the latest developments on the Cyprus issue at Terrace on the Park (52-11 111th Street) on Friday, September 26 at 7:30 PM. For more information, please call Despina Axiotakis at 201-444-8237 or Sophia Cotzia at 718-545-7202.

■ **OCTOBER 3**
BETHESDA, Md. – The Hellenic Society Prometheas cordially invites the community to “Christopher Columbus: A Greek Nobleman,” a lecture by James L. Marketos, Esq., Partner, Berliner, Corcoran & Rowe, L.L.P. and Chairman, The American Hellenic Institute at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Founders Hall (7701 Bradley Boulevard) on Friday, October 3, 2008 at 7:30 PM. The traditional view is that Christopher Columbus overcame humble origins as a Genoese wool-worler and through cleverness and pluck con-

vinced King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain to finance his novel plan to reach the East by sailing west. But Columbus was curiously vague about his origins, and the evidence for Genoese beginnings is doubtful. As a result, there is lively debate about many mysteries associated with Columbus, not just his origins. Why, for instance, did a man who supposedly lived in Genoa until early adulthood have only a poor knowledge of Italian and never use it when writing to his brothers? How, in the rigid class structure of Renaissance Europe, did a humble wool-worker manage to marry into the Portuguese nobility within three years of arriving in Portugal in 1476 and then acquire royal patronage for a risky and unusual plan to find a new route to the Indies? How did a common Italian merchant acquire Columbus's extensive knowledge of history, languages, geography, navigation, seamanship, and map-making? In an illustrated lecture, Mr. Marketos will address the controversy of Columbus's origins and re-examine the long-neglected theory that Christopher Columbus was a sophisticated nobleman related to the last of the Byzantine emperors. He will explain how, if the theory is correct, it resolves many of the mysteries surrounding the discoverer of the New World. The lecture will be in English. A reception will follow. For more information, please call 301-229-9389.

■ **OCTOBER 5**
LONG ISLAND CITY, N.Y. – The Greater Astoria Historical Society cordially invites the community to “A Journey, A Dream and a Fulfillment-The Story of the Greek American Immigrant of New York,” a photo exhibit to be held at Quinn's Gallery (35 20 Broadway) on Sunday, October 5, 2008, from 3-5 PM. It is free and open to all. The exhibit includes images that depict the Greek community from the 1800's to the present. They include photos of their experiences in the trades, where they had an impact in the food industry, the flower trades, and the furs. The highlight of the exhibit is to reflect the work ethic, relationship to the family and church and their unique contribution of the Greek immigrants to the American story. The display is part of the vast collection from The Greek Museum, a museum “in the making.” A limited number of artifacts within this presentation include some tools from various trades, handicrafts, musical records, newspapers and books. For more information, please call Katherine R. Boulukos at 516-868-4092.

■ **OCTOBER 17**
ALEXANDRIA, Va. – The American Hellenic Institute cordially invites the community to the 5th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament at Greendale Golf Course (6700 Telegraph Road) on Friday, October 17. Breakfast is at 7:30 AM; Shot-Gun Start is at 8:30 AM. Christine Brennan, USA Today Sports Columnist, will be this year's celebrity golfer. Sponsorship: \$5,000 – Tournament Sponsor, Tournament named after sponsor, name on all marketing items and news releases, includes 8 golfers; \$2,500 – Tournament Co-Sponsor, Sponsor name on large signs in clubhouse foyer, includes 6 golfers; \$1,000 – Hole Sponsor, Sponsor name on large sign, only one sponsor per hole, includes 4 golfers; \$500 – Golf Cart Sponsor, Sponsor name on one golf cart, includes 2 golfers; \$250 – Registration Sponsor, Sponsor name on table, includes 1 golfer. Sponsorship includes include breakfast, Awards Ceremony, luncheon, greens fees and golf cart. Sign up individually or with a foursome. If you do not have a foursome, we'll assign you one. All levels of play are welcome! Lots of wonderful prizes Directions: Take Beltway Exit 2 to Telegraph Rd. South approximately 3.5 miles to the park entrance on the right. Dress Code: Collared shirts, no denim. For more information, call Nick Larigakis at 202-785-8430.

■ **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 3-4 weeks ahead of time, and no later than Monday of the week before the event, to english.edition@thenationalherald.com.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Vote on our website!

You have the chance to express your opinion on our website on an important question in the news. The results will be published in our printed edition next week along with the question for that week.

The question this week is: Have the recent problems on Wall Street made you worried about the future of the U.S. economy?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Maybe

The results for last week's question: Should Greeks living abroad be allowed to vote in elections in Greece?
66.67% voted "Yes"
27.78% voted "No"
5.56% voted "Maybe"

Please vote at: www.thenationalherald.com

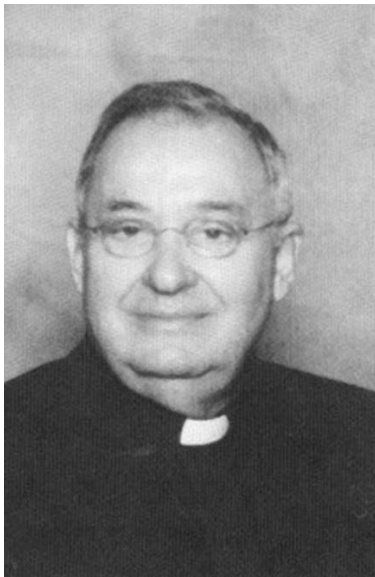
Priest's E-Mail Questioned Delay in Katinas' Removal

Continued from page 1

In another part of the e-mail, he wrote to Kontogeorge that “it is hard to see his face, to hear his perverted world view, his reluctance to hold people with sexual deviations accountable because he obviously couldn't do it himself. It is difficult to hear him dismiss homosexuality, knowing that he basically is one.”

Fr. Hohnholt even expressed concern about his own children stating in his e-mail to the Archdiocesan official that “I don't want him to look at my sons, much less talk to them. When he wants to give them food, I want to throw up. I won't let him.”

In another paragraph of his e-mail, Fr. Hohnholt wrote that “when he (Katinas) talks about the Academy and the need for an Orthodox School, I can only think how he just wants the kids around. I believe less and less in the idea of a pedophile being rehabilitated. When people go on and on, praising him, venerating his priesthood and commenting on what a good



Fr. Gregory Hohnholt (right) sent an e-mail to the Archdiocese in 2006 asking why Nicholas Katinas (left) hadn't been removed from Holy Trinity Church in Dallas, after being accused of sexual abuse.

family man and role model he is, I want to lose it.”
Fr. Hohnholt was agonizing



about the turn of the events and he was trying to find out when Katinas would be dismissed from his posi-

tion as a priest at the Holy Trinity parish.

In his e-mail he asked the assistant chancellor, “just curious what your timeline is? I notice you only speak to me in vague terms...and I'm sure there's plenty of politics involved. Again, I'm just sweating out the wait. Hope you can throw me a line.”

The jury trial of Mr. Katinas is scheduled to begin in Texas on Monday, September 22.

The Archdiocese has filed a petition to dismiss the suit based on the statute of limitations.

Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, as well as the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Bishop Savas of Troas and other Archdiocesan officials have already given their depositions. This case is about five alleged victims of sexual abuse by Katinas while serving in Dallas, Texas.

Another lawsuit was filed by an alleged victim in Chicago who claimed to be sexually molested by Katinas when he was serving at the Olympia Fields parish between the years 1969 and 1978.

Corona Priest Resigns Citing “Health Reasons”

Continued from page 1

blamed it on “a panic attack” that his friend experienced while traveling with Fr. Kouvaris to Athens.

He explained that a “family friend with whom I was traveling suffered a panic attack.”

Fr. Kouvaris also had said in July's edition that the personnel of Olympic Airlines were extremely polite. They asked me if I had anything with me to give him in order to calm him down, and I told them I did not have anything because I did not know that something of that sort would occur to the man. I asked them if they had any pill to give him in order for him to sleep.”

Fr. Kouvaris also said that “at some point in the past seven or eight years I myself suffered a similar panic attack. They had given me a small pill and I slept. In this case they did not have anything to give him to calm down.

“He drank just three quarters of a glass of whisky in order to calm down, but even that did not help. Olympic decided to land in London in order for him to receive some kind of help since we were approaching England.

“When we landed, some airport officials came and spoke to him. He seemed to be well and in one half hour we were trying to book a flight to go to Athens.”

Kouvaris said, “He was not dangerous, neither for that matter, nor for the passengers.”



Fr. Nicholas Kouvaris, priest of Transfiguration Church in Corona, resigned unexpectedly.

Asked if he cut his veins, he said, “No, the truth is while he was sitting in the chair having the table open with the tray of food on, due to the crisis he experienced he knocked on the tray table, the glass broke and he cut his finger a little.”

Greek American Dr. Harry Pappas, however, who was traveling to Athens on the same Olympic flight sitting just two seats ahead of Kouvaris and his friend, described the situation differently in an interview with The National Herald. Dr. Pappas told The Herald what he basically wrote in his report to Olympic Airlines and presented to the pilot who saw the incident himself. The pilot had come out of the cockpit five or six times to talk to Fr. Kouvaris and his friend, asking them to stop making trouble.

Dr. Pappas told the Herald that “everything that Fr. Kouvaris told you in his interview is inaccurate and untrue. There is no any truth to

that,” and he added “I do not blame you because you wrote whatever he told you in his interview. We were sitting with my wife just two seats ahead of those two, Fr. Kouvaris and his friend.”

Dr. Pappas said, “It was not a panic attack but it was a huge drunkenness. We were with my wife in Olympic's Business Class lounge in New York's airport and the two came in. In that lounge as you know there are all kinds of drinks.

“The young man was going back and forth to the drink stand and he drank a lot. Fr. Kouvaris passed a few times in front of us but he did not say anything. You couldn't tell that he was a priest because he was not wearing his collar. He was wearing black cloths.”

Dr. Pappas also said that “Fr. Kouvaris' companion had so many drinks that he got drunk. He was not referring to Kouvaris as Father or Fr. Nick but he was calling him just with by name, Nick.”

Dr. Pappas continued to say that “Fr. Kouvaris' friend made so much noise that the pilot of the airplane and the stewardesses went to him five or six times trying to silence him. He was screaming and threatening to blow up the aircraft. He broke glasses and he did not cut himself as little as Fr. Kouvaris told you, but he was cut quite seriously. The officials of the aircraft took the priest into the coach section of the plane because when they were together they were arguing and we couldn't relax. The young man was screaming ‘Nick, Nick, where are you Nick?’

“Dr. Pappas also said that “two male stewardesses with the help of two strong young passengers from the coach section put him down and tied up his hands and feet. At that point the pilot announced that we were going to make an emergency landing in London.

“We circled over London's airport just to burn fuel in order to be able to land safely. After we landed, about seven heavily armed policemen entered the aircraft and took him away. Also, the priest left the plane to accompany him. We were delayed in London for about two hours.”

Dr. Pappas also said that “what the priest said about a panic attack is nonsense. He said that he himself once suffered a panic attack and that the airline gave him a medicine, but I have to tell you that no airline Greek or other is permitted to give any type of medicine to any passenger, I am a doctor and I know what I am talking about” and he added “I feel sorry that a priest says these things. The pilot asked me and I wrote a report as to how the incident took place.”

Speaking about the airplane's personnel, Dr. Pappas said that “they did everything possible. They spoke to him, they asked him to calm down, and they took the priest to the coach section of the plane.”

Asked if he was afraid during the course of the incident, Dr. Pappas said, “Of course was we were afraid first of all not to be hit by a glass and because he was threatening to blow up the plane.”

In a telephone interview with Fr. Kouvaris on Saturday, September 13, he said, “I thank you very much for the article, you wrote whatever we said,” meaning the interview of the summer. Asked about what his fellow passenger, Dr. Pappas and his claims in the Herald that things did not occur the way he described them, specifically that his friend did not suffer a panic attack but was drunk and threatening to blow up the plane, Fr. Kouvaris said, “I do not know what he is talking about. I am telling you truthfully that what I told you was it. It is a

mistake that he was drinking, if he was drunk, would the stewardess give him a drink? I do not know what to say. These are strange things he claims.”

Asked where that young man is now, Fr. Kouvaris said, “He completed his studies and he returned back to Greece.”

Asked if his companion worked at the parish and if he helped to organize the graduation ceremonies for the school, Fr. Kouvaris said, “Of course he helped but he did not get paid even one dollar.”

Asked how he was connected to this young man, Fr. Kouvaris said, “I do not understand the question,” but when we repeated the question Fr. Kouvaris said, “It is clearly a personal issue, but I will tell you, I've known him for years from Greece.”

Asked if what Dr. Pappas claimed that his companion was calling him by just his first name, Nick, and not by Fr. Nick or Father,

Fr. Kouvaris said, “He called me Fr. Nick. He called me Father and also called me Nick.”

Regarding the fact that the plane's personnel moved him to the coach section because the two of you were arguing, Fr. Kouvaris said this was untrue.

“No, we were not arguing. These claims are wrong,” Fr. Kouvaris said. “I cannot refute anyone at this moment, but only to tell you what had happened because the people were talking to him while I was away. We did not argue. We did not scream. Why should we argue?”

Asked if they tied his friend up. He said, “I was not with him during the flight, because apparently the stewardess had to keep him alert and thus I cannot tell you that I saw him tied up.”

As far as his resignation, Fr. Kouvaris did not return The Herald's call.



Dancing by the Water

The Rythmos Dance Group of Port Jefferson, New York, Dora Gasparis, Labrini (Brina) Megaria and Yiannoula Darsinos-Tassiopoulos, dance during the 26th Sailing Regatta on Saturday, August 23, 2008, to benefit the American Cancer Society at the Mount Sinai Yacht Club. The event was sponsored by the Mount Sinai Sailing Association. The regatta is the 2nd longest running Charity Regatta in the United States. Mrs. Gasparis grew up on the greek island of Andros, Mrs. Tassiopoulos was born in Gallatin, Tennessee, but grew up on Athens. Ms. Megaris is from the Dodecanese island of Patmos.



POCKET-LESS PITA BREAD

Kontos Foods

The Leading Company in Flat Breads
Well known for the Pocket-Less Pita

Manufacturer's of Authentic Ethnic Hand Stretched Flat bread.
Kontos the first family in fillo dough and fillo products.

FILLO KATAIFI, BAKLAVA, SPANAKOPITA, TYROPITA
NUT ROLL, MELOMAKARONA
and the TRADITIONAL MEDITERRANEAN DESERTS.
Excellent quality and service.

We distribute in USA and Canada.
Special prices for communities, schools, churches
festivals and other events



Kontos Foods, Inc
Box 628, Paterson, NJ 07544
Tel.: (973) 278-2800 • Fax: (973) 278-7943
Kontos.com

Online Service Directory...
www.thenationalherald.com

New York Life Launches Program to Reach out to Heirs of Greek Policies from 1914

Continued from page 1

tem is rooted in humanity and integrity, and our willingness today to resolve these policies from 1915 shows that we still adhere to these values today.”

The voluntary program uses the same criteria used to resolve the Armenian policy matter, including a multiplier of ten times the original face amount for those who can demonstrate that they are the rightful heirs to the policy proceeds. The public notices will commence in September. Descendants of persons insured under any of the Greek Policies may submit claims for benefits for a six month period ending on February 28, 2009. Individuals who want to learn more can do so by visiting the program’s website at www.greekinsuranceclaims.com or by calling toll-free 1-800-922-2973. In Greece the toll-free number is 00 800 33 311144.

The website has a list of 1,031 Greeks who bought insurance policies prior to 1915. Other than the insured’s name, the list also gives a date of birth, the year the policy was purchased, the insured’s occupation and the town and country of residence.

In addition to providing benefits to heirs of its Greek insureds, New York Life will contribute \$1 million to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. With these funds the Archdiocese plans to establish an endowed chair for the study of Hellenism in Pontus and Asia Minor at its Holy Cross Theological Seminary in Brookline, MA. New York Life expressed gratitude to Archbishop Demetrios, the leader of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, for his personal involvement in assisting with various aspects of the voluntary program.

Archbishop Demetrios said, “The events in the Ottoman Empire and after led to the loss of countless lives and the expulsion of 1,500,000 Greeks from their ancestral homelands. New York Life is

one of those rarest of companies today, a company of responsible action that believes in setting the record right, even if it means reaching back to the beginning of the Twentieth Century. The Greek Orthodox community gratefully applauds New York Life for establishing the Greek Life Insurance Policy Program and its very generous contribution of \$1 million, which will be used to enlighten people about the long and rich history and culture of Hellenism in Pontus and Asia Minor.”

The company said it worked with attorney Vartkes Yeghiayan, one of the attorneys involved in the Armenian insurance settlement, to develop the voluntary program relating to Greek policies.

In 2004, Mr. Yeghiayan led a legal team which reached an agreement with New York Life to resolve more than 2,000 insurance policies issued to Armenians in the Turkish Ottoman Empire prior to 1915. As part of the class action settlement agreement, New York Life will pay all valid claims relating to these policies and will also contribute at least \$3 million to Armenian civic organizations. The total value of the settlement is \$20 million, including administrative costs and plaintiffs’ attorney’s fees.

Sy Sternberg, chairman and chief executive of New York Life, said at the time, “When it became clear that many of our Armenian policyholders perished in the tragic events of 1915, New York Life hired an Armenian lawyer in the region to assist the heirs of those who died, so as to promptly pay claims. Time after time, the company would waive normal claims procedures and reinstate lapsed Armenian policies in order to pay the heirs.

Records confirm that the company succeeded in paying benefits in about a third of those Armenian policies. Our willingness today to resolve policies that may remain unpaid from that era shows that

New York Life adheres to the same values of integrity and humanity that guided us then.”

New York Life Insurance Company has been headquartered in New York City since its founding in 1845. The company began selling policies in the Ottoman Empire in 1882 and withdrew from the region during World War I.

Various reference works and other sources indicate that many persons of Greek ancestry living in the Ottoman Empire at the outbreak of World War I were dis-

placed or perished between 1915 and 1923.

There are a few steps needed to complete the claim. Firstly, the claimant must review the list of persons insured under the Greek Policies and determine whether they are related to anyone on the list. A complete claim form that can be found on the website must be completed. Once a claim is submitted, the Greek Life Insurance Claim Board will review each claim and determine whether the claim includes all information necessary to

make a decision on the claim. Payment will be made on all approved claims after February 28, 2009.

Once the Claim Board has approved a claim, the decision will be final. The Greek Policies are denominated in either French Francs or British Pounds.

The policy proceeds will be converted to American dollars at the rate of 1 French Franc = \$2.17 U.S. or of 1 British Pound = \$24.96 U.S.

The website also has information in Greek.

Claim forms must be submitted

to the Greek Life Insurance Claim Board by mail or via the internet.

If by mail: Send the completed claim form to Greek Life Insurance Claim Board, c/o The Garden City Group, Inc., P.O. Box 9272, Dublin, OH 43017-4672.

If by the internet: E-mail the completed claim form to questions@greekinsuranceclaims.com. Claims postmarked or e-mailed after February 28, 2009 will not be considered by the Greek Life Insurance Claim Board, and will not be eligible for any benefits.



John Catsimatidis' Birthday Party

LEFT: New York business mogul John Catsimatidis blows out the candles with a little help from his wife Margo, left, and his children Andrea and John Jr., right, during his birthday party in the Rainbow Room last Sunday, September 7. Singer Bobby Vinton was the evening's featured entertainment. RIGHT: John Catsimatidis, chairman & chief executive officer of Red Apple Companies (left), one of the largest privately held firms in the country, with Congressman Gus Bilirakis of Florida during Catsimatidis' birthday party at the Rockefeller Center's Rainbow Room.



Drexel University President Papadakis: Maverick and Visionary

Continued from page 1

have always looked at providing the best product possible. I look at the university as a corporate entity, rather than a traditional academic institution that is limited by its history, by its tradition, by this-is-the-way-we've-always-done-it-syn-drome.”

There are many who appreciate this perspective. Since Papadakis arrived at Drexel, he's been honored with more than 50 awards – from the Congressional Medal of Ellis Island to an Italian knighthood – some for work at the university, others for his civic and philanthropic activities.

“Last year there were so many awards that it was embarrassing,” Taki admits. And this April, Papadakis accepted the William Penn Award of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce (GPCC).

GPCC President and CEO Mark Schweiker, a former governor of Pennsylvania, has worked with Papadakis for 15 years in his various public and private capacities. These days, Schweiker is what you might call a devoted Taki-ist.

“He has all the typical talents and strengths that you associate with a university president: the ability to interact with faculty; successful fundraising efforts,” Schweiker says of Papadakis. “But I think where Taki sets himself apart is his comfort with unique marketing steps to help Drexel University build its brand, lure in more students and grow the campus. When it comes to marketing, he's nothing short of ingenious.”

He cites a \$1 million scholarship fund Papadakis established for Sacramento-area students, to entice



Drexel University President Constantine “Taki” Papadakis.

them eastward and build Drexel's brand out west. “That's brilliant,” Schweiker says. “He's very successful in promoting the affairs of the region, because he understands that the success of Drexel is closely tied to that of the region. So to that end he's also a captain of industry, not just a traditional university president.”

Still, it's just that difference that has led critics to lambaste Papadakis for his constant attention to the bottom line, which often means slashing budgets for things like libraries and financial aid. Papadakis has sometimes been accused of sacrificing quality for profit margins. His salary raises, too, some eyebrows: It's listed at \$840,755 on the non-profit monitoring site Charity Navigator. That number regularly places

him among the top-10 highest-paid university presidents in the country. Drexel, on the other hand, still ranks at No. 108 on U.S. News and World Report's college rankings.

Robert Zaller a Drexel professor since 1987, has been an outspoken critic of Papadakis' corporate-style approach.

“He appears to design his policies...as opportunity strikes, with no meaningful participation from the faculty. It's not a collaborative process,” he says.

“Drexel has always had an authoritarian culture; Papadakis did not invent it. He has, however, perfected it.”

The real questions about Papadakis' many bold moves haven't been asked, according to Zaller: “Did Philadelphia need another law

school or medical school? Did Drexel need these things? Can Drexel afford them? Do they comport with the mission of the university? Or is it just expansion for expansion's sake?” he says. “I wonder where Drexel will go and whether it's seriously overextending itself.”

The counterargument, of course, is that when Papadakis arrived at Drexel back in 1995, he had the unenviable task of turning around a university widely seen to be in decline, with shrinking enrollments and a campus that had seen better days. And by the numbers alone, he's more than met that challenge.

Zaller points to Papadakis' purchase of Allegheny University as a unilateral move to assume control of an institution that had absolutely no assets, at the expense of the rest of Drexel. Schweiker sees it differently: “But for Taki, those institutions could have gone by the way-side and out of business,” Schweiker says. “Taki stepped up on behalf of Drexel and helped rescue those institutions. So I think there are an awful lot of future physicians that would say, ‘Thank god for Taki Papadakis.’”

Schweiker doesn't consider Papadakis a risk-taker – or a maverick. His preferred term: “a visionary.”

“I think Taki is able to discover and capitalize on an advantage like few university presidents have been able to do,” Schweiker says. “Some may describe him as a maverick, but if maverick is another way of calling him a successful visionary, then call him a maverick. I would call him one of the top economy-builders in this region.”

These days, Papadakis regularly sends memos to the presidents, deans and provosts of all the top universities in the country, detailing his latest successful innovations. For instance, a recent report explained the structure of his Drexel e-Learning program – now a \$40 million-a-year for-profit corporation offering online courses and degrees.

“My colleagues at Drexel say, ‘Why are we doing this? We're telling them our trade secrets,’” Papadakis shrugs. “I tell them, ‘Don't worry about it; nobody is going to bother to copy them.’”

What makes Papadakis different, perhaps, is his background, which ran a circuitous route to academia through the corporate world.

When Papadakis emigrated from Greece in 1969, he arrived in the U.S. as a graduate student in engineering, first at the University of Cincinnati and then for his doctorate at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

As a civil engineer and later an executive, he rose through the ranks at the engineering giant Bechtel, where he began as an engineer and moved into management. He graduated to vice president positions first at the engineering design from STS Consultants and later at the Honeywell subsidiary Tetra Tech, working on everything from privatizing hydroelectric power plants to managing Superfund and Federal Emergency Management Agency sites.

But in 1984, he was tapped by Colorado State University to head

its civil engineering department. Two years later – just 15 years after finishing his masters at Cincinnati's engineering school – he returned as its dean.

Throughout all that time, Taki has propelled himself forward, in no small part by making most of his waking hours, and by centering his personal and social life squarely on his career, which these days means the interests of Drexel University. His daughter, Maria, goes to Drexel of course; she's a graduating senior in the business school. And Taki's wife, Eliana, now concentrates her efforts full-time on serving as his partner and co-pilot – she considers Drexel students her concern, too. Without a doubt, the two make a formidable team.

They are philanthropists , activists and, occasionally, mischief-makers. As a case in point, they tell the story - in tag-team fashion, of course – of a painting purchased from an antique shop near the Vatican: Taki, fluent in Italian, posed as a local to get a good deal. “He negotiated in Italian,” recalls Eliana, “and sure enough, the price was very reasonable. The problem was after we finished. The shop owner asked, ‘Where should I send this?’ When I said Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he started cursing in Italian.”

They won in the end, though. The Papadakis don't lose very often.

Trickery aside, Eliana is committed to her work as Taki's fellow fundraiser and nearly full-time event planner – and there's no doubt that her role as the consummate hostess has been a factor in his success.

“I've been entertaining all my life; when Taki was a graduate student, I entertained his professors,” Eliana says. “At that time, we lived in a one-room dorm apartment. I did not know how to cook, so I went and bought a Greek cookbook. That was the beginning of my entertaining, on a very small basis.”

And of all the Papadakis' special talents, it may be their genial charm and gracious hospitality that have served them best. Taki insists, “The bottom line is, we entertain because we like people.”

And the thing is, people tend to like them back.

As proof, consider their home, an imposing, 10,000-square-foot Georgian-style manse on three acres. Previously, the Drexel president's house had been a somewhat cramped residence in Rosemont. But that, like so much else at the university, changed under Papadakis' tenure. In 1999, attorney Nick Chimicles, a friend and compatriot, and his wife Kathleen, a Drexel alumna, donated their house – a structure dubbed The Orchards, designed in 1902 by famed architect Stanford White as a summer home for the president of Main Line railroad – as the new president's residence.

These days, an important Simon Durand wedding scene borrowed from The Drexel Family Collection hangs in the living room, as it did in the living room of university founder “A.J.” Anthony Drexel. This house is the true headquarters of Pa-

padaakis' academic revolution, serving as command center and social hub.

They host more than 1,000 guests each year at the home. “We consider 22 to 24 a small dinner party. We've never actually had a real small dinner party, with just eight,” Eliana admits. “The funny thing was I learned how to cook in volumes, but I never really learned how to cook for two,” she adds. These days, there's a catering budget for events at the house, which can comfortably accommodate more than 300 guests indoors. (The Papadakis wisely hosted a fundraiser for the Tredyffrin library and footed the bill to beautify the nearby Strafford train station; in return, no one complains about the frequent overflow of visitor parking.)

They entertain alumni, donors, directors, trustees, faculty and distinguished guests, not to mention the supporters of various philan-

Since Papadakis arrived at Drexel, he's been honored with the Congressional Medal of Ellis Island and an Italian knighthood.

thropic causes both espouse; she's on the board of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Red Cross chapter, he's on the board of the Opera Company of Philadelphia, among others. They welcome groups of students each Thanksgiving: the only time they ever ran out of food was when serving dinner to Drexel's men's and women's basketball teams. (Fortunately there were Milky Way bars left over from Halloween to serve as a stopgap measure.)

And they occasionally stray toward the extravagant: They particularly recall the time world-renowned piano prodigy Lang Lang, playing for an eager crowd, “broke” their baby grand piano.

Still, if Taki's life sounds luxurious, consider the facts he doesn't advertise: He arrives at work, he admits, by 6:30 a.m., stays until 10 at night and then puts in a few more hours to prepare for the next day's meetings. He and Eliana rarely have a night free from Drexel events or his many other commitments. No one could question Papadakis' commitment to Drexel and to greater Philadelphia – not even those who question his methods.

It's been a long time coming, but even Taki seems somewhat surprised by the caliber of his success.

“I never thought in my life that I would be president of a university, but that's how careers develop,” he says. “Drexel students ask me how they can plan their career but I tell them there is no such thing; what they should do is prepare themselves to take advantage of the opportunity when it comes by. And that has happened with me too: when opportunities came by, I was ready.”

Main Line Magazine published the above in June 2008



The Program in Hellenic Studies
At Columbia University

cordially invites you to

The Kyriakos Tsakopoulos Lecture
On Aristotle and the Moderns

**"Greek Ideals and World Order
in the 20th Century"**

By
Mark Mazower, Professor of History
Columbia University

**Monday, October 6, 2008
At 6:00 p.m.**

Reception to follow.

Rotunda of Low Library
Columbia University
116th Street and Broadway
New York, NY

To reserve, please contact, 212.870.2443 or e-mail: ls239@columbia.edu

Greek Financial Titans Busy Cutting Deals Amid Ongoing Market Collapse

Continued from page 1

Merrill. They were worried the firm could be the next one to approach the brink of failure after Lehman Brothers.

The meetings, which began last Friday night, September 12, were a who's who of financial heavyweights: Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, Mr. Geithner, Securities & Exchange Commission Chairman Christopher Cox and a host of CEO's, Mr. Thain, Mr. Dimon, Morgan Stanley's John Mack and Goldman Sachs Group's Lloyd Blankfein.

In a rushed bid to ride out the storm sweeping the world of American finance, Merrill Lynch agreed to sell itself to BAC last Sunday night.

The deal came together quickly. Worked out in 48 hours of frenetic negotiating, it instantly reshaped the U.S. banking landscape, making the country's prime behemoth even bigger.

CUTTING LOSSES

With Merrill stock dropping sharply last week, Merrill Lynch President Gregory Fleming urged Mr. Thain to contact Bank of America CEO Ken Lewis to see if BAC would be interested in a sale. The two banks had held preliminary discussions in the past, so the interest was already there.

Last Saturday afternoon, September 13, Mr. Thain called Mr. Lewis, who responded favorably. BAC, which by then had also been considering a bid for Lehman, decided Merrill Lynch was the better deal and felt more comfortable with Merrill since the two had engaged in prior discussions.

Mr. Thain then went to the New York Fed. Sources say he quickly saw that a deal for Lehman was unlikely, which strengthened his resolve to pursue a deal with Bank of America.

With a deal looming, Mr. Thain canceled a previously planned trip to Asia. The two camps began a marathon series of meetings at Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz, the law firm which has long represented BAC in its deals.

Executives were relieved that Merrill Lynch had found a buyer. "Who was the magician who pulled this rabbit out of a hat," exclaimed a top executive of one bank.

Early Monday, the two firms said the directors of both companies had agreed to the deal, which is still subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals.

Mr. Lewis said he felt "no pressure" from federal government regulators, but Mr. Lewis and Mr. Thain nonetheless worked quickly.

Driven by Mr. Lewis, Bank of America has already made dozens of acquisitions large and small, including the purchase of ailing mortgage lender Countrywide Financial Corporation earlier this year. By adding Merrill Lynch, it controls the country's largest force of stockbrokers, as well as a well-regarded investment bank.

If approved by shareholders, the combination would create a bank of vast reach, involved in nearly every facet of the financial system, from credit cards and auto loans to bond and stock underwriting, merger advice and wealth management.

Mr. Thain said he began to look for an acquisition partner for Merrill Lynch after exploring the "implications of a Lehman bankruptcy." He also said the merger should provide "a lot of comfort" to financial advisers because it would add financial stability to the company.

Mr. Thain, whose mother is of Greek heritage, was born in the United Kingdom and grew up in Antioch, Illinois. He was brought to Merrill Lynch last December in an effort to salvage the troubled company.

Since the credit crisis first flared more than a year ago, Merrill has been among the most wounded. Under its previous chief executive, E. Stanley O'Neal, Merrill Lynch moved aggressively into the mortgage market and became one of the top issuers of investment vehicles linked to subprime mortgages and other



AP/BEBETO MATTHEWS
Merrill Lynch Chairman & CEO John Thain, left, and Bank of America Chairman & CEO Ken Lewis shake hands following a news conference in New York this past Monday, September 15. Thain convinced Bank of America to buy Merrill Lynch in a \$50 billion all-stock deal which pulled Merrill away from the brink.

risky forms of debt. Mr. O'Neal was forced out last fall after the tumult in the mortgage market began.

Since then, the investment bank had taken more than \$45 billion in write-downs, twice the amount of profit Merrill made in the two and a half years before the credit crisis. The charges pushed Merrill Lynch deep into the red, and forced the company to lay off 4,000 people. Merrill raised more than \$15 billion in additional capital to strengthen its financial position, but struggled to regain investors' confidence.

Employees reached last Sunday night reacted with dismay, and said they would consider leaving after BAC took over. Many said they were saddened that Merrill Lynch, which has long prided itself on its independence, would now become part of a larger commercial bank.

Many Merrill employees had hoped Mr. Thain could turn the company around. A former Goldman Sachs executive, he is known as "Mr.

interview with the Wall Street Journal this past July, Mr. Thain pointed to employee morale and said Merrill needed to move beyond its past: "We have over 60,000 people working every day. All the efforts of these people were overwhelmed by the write-downs in the mortgage-related assets," he said.

Mr. Thain has come out smelling like a rose, and his quick thinking has garnered praise and admiration.

"I think John Thain is the ultimate realist. He knows if Lehman goes under, he is not far behind. He wants to cut the best deal he can," said Nancy Bush, an analyst at NAB Research LLC who expects federal regulators to bless the deal.

Why would Bank of America want to do this? Ms. Bush said, "Ken Lewis always likes to buy the biggest thing he can. So why not this? You're master of the universe, basically."

The Merrill Lynch acquisition could give BAC strength around the world, including emerging markets

the severity of the crisis, considered by many analysts to be the country's worst since the Great Depression.

THE SURVIVORS

But the BAC-Merrill Lynch deal also shows how the credit crisis has created opportunities for financially sound buyers. At \$50 billion, Merrill is being sold at about two thirds of its value of one year ago, and at half its all-time peak value in early 2007. And amid the current financial crunch, others continue to prosper.

JP Morgan Chase was expected to make a new bid for Washington Mutual, the biggest building society in the United States, after Standard & Poor's cut its credit rating to junk. Washington Mutual, which lost half its market value in two weeks, put itself up for sale and attracted bidders.

WaMu rebuffed a takeover offer by JPM back in March which valued the company at \$4 a share. But JPM, which bought Bear Stearns for a song this past May, was said to be in "advanced talks" over buying WaMu.

Mr. Dimon was understood to be handling the deal personally, and to be in talks with WaMu chief Alan Fishman. He reportedly offered a stock-swap buyout at \$8 a share. The current share price is just above \$2, giving the company a market capitalization of \$3.4 billion.

The ailing savings & loan moved into a better position to find a reprieve or rescue from its mounting loan problems this past Wednesday, September 17, after a major investor removed a potential stumbling block to a sale or another infusion of capital.

The concession by the private equity group TPG came as government regulators tried to arrange a sale, reflecting their worries about another possible bank failure which would drain the already depleted Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

TPG could have stymied that process because of protection it got as part of a \$7 billion investment made in April. A clause in its investment agreement could have required a buyer or another major investor to pay TPG hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars - in addition to whatever money was injected into WaMu.

But TPG agreed to waive its anti-dilution clause, according to an SEC filing, potentially making it easier for WaMu to raise more money, or for nervous banking regulators to push for a sale of the Seattle-based firm.

In addition to his efforts for Washington Mutual, Mr. Dimon has also decided to shake things up in JP Morgan Chase's municipal bond swaps business.

On September 4, JPM announced it was downsizing the division with-

in its securities and underwriting arm which managed interest rate swaps for municipal borrowers, as a federal probe over the sale of derivatives and investment contracts to municipal issuers was taking place (Wall Street had pitched unregulated derivatives as a way for cities and states to save money. It turns out that some trusting municipalities lost money instead). The number of JPM offices which handle tax-exempt capital markets was cut from 19 to ten.

Mr. Dimon's grandfather was a Greek immigrant from Smyrna (present-day Izmir). Like Mr. Thain, he went to Harvard Business School.

Mr. Dimon, 52, is the former boy wonder who helped Sandy Weill build the world's biggest financial conglomerate at Citigroup; went into exile; and is now staging a spectacular second act. He is known for being outspoken and fearless. He is also known for his acumen.

In the second week of October 2006, William King, then JP Morgan's chief of securitized products, was visiting remote coffee plantations he was helping to finance in Rwanda. One evening, Mr. Dimon tracked him down to fire a red alert: "Billy, I really want you to watch out for subprime. We need to sell a lot of our positions. I've seen it before. This stuff could go up in smoke."

That call was significant for two reasons. First, it marked the beginning of a remarkable strategic shift which helped JP Morgan, virtually alone among the big diversified

debt obligations) and leveraged loans, compared with \$33 billion at Citigroup, \$26 billion at Merrill Lynch and \$9 billion at Bank of America.

In this market, Mr. Tully points out, "losing less means winning big." Before the crisis, JP Morgan was a middle-of-the-pack performer; today, it leads in nearly every category, starting with its stock. Since early 2007, its share price has dropped just 24 percent, compared to declines of 44 percent for Bank of America and 68 percent for Citigroup.

And nothing dramatizes JPM's commanding position better than the rescue of Bear Stearns. When the Fed needed a strong institution to absorb the ailing investment bank, JP Morgan was the most credible choice.

JPM paid virtually nothing for Bear Stearns - \$1.1 billion (\$10 a share) - and the \$11.5 billion in cash on Bear's books should fully offset the costs of the merger. At the same time, JP Morgan captured businesses worth as much as \$15 billion, not to mention a trophy skyscraper which would cost \$2 billion to replace (and has a mortgage of just \$670 million).

"Sure, it's hard to make a deal when your stock has dropped. But so have the stocks of the targets. We have the capital and the people to do a deal, if it makes sense," Mr. Dimon said.

In a time of financial uncertainty, one thing is certain: Mr. Dimon is a



JP Morgan Chase Chairman & CEO Jamie Dimon, right, with a friend. Dimon has helped JPM avoid the pitfalls of the market meltdown.

banks, sidestep the worst of a historic credit crisis. Second, it shed light on Mr. Dimon's management style - "a blend of Cartesian analysis and inspirational leadership which, despite some bad bets in the home mortgage market, moved JP Morgan to the front of the pack in global banking," according to Fortune Magazine's Shawn Tully.

Mr. Dimon and his team are on top today, Mr. Tully explains, because they took a daring stance at the height of the credit bubble. JPM mostly exited the business of securitizing subprime mortgages when it was still booming, while most of its main competitors - to include Merrill Lynch and Citigroup - ignored the danger signs and piled into those products in a feeding frenzy.

JP Morgan is also suffering from the credit crunch. The third quarter is already looking tough, and JPM has announced that it is taking \$1.5 billion in mortgage and leveraged-loan write-downs, as well as another \$600 million to account for the decline in the value of its Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac preferred stock.

But JP Morgan is weathering the crisis far better than its rivals. From July 2007, when the cyclone began, through the second quarter of this year, JPM took just \$5 billion in losses on high-risk CDO's (collateralized

scrappy survivor.

Through a series of unprecedented mergers and acquisitions a decade ago, he and Sanford "Sandy" Weill were able to form the largest financial services conglomerate the world had ever seen: Citigroup. Although Mr. Weill was the one who made the deals then, Mr. Dimon was the whiz kid who made the numbers work.

Mr. Dimon left Citigroup in November 1998. At the time, it was rumored that he got into an argument with Mr. Weill in 1997 over the promotion, or lack thereof, of Mr. Weill's daughter, Jessica M. Biblowicz (in his 2005 University of Chicago Graduate School of Business Fireside Chat and 2006 Kellogg School of Management interviews, Mr. Dimon stated he was fired by Mr. Weill).

In March 2000, Mr. Dimon became CEO of Bank One, then the nation's fifth largest bank. He became President of JP Morgan Chase in mid-2004, when it acquired Bank One, and was named to TIME magazine's 2006 list of the world's 100 most influential people.

The above incorporates information from reports posted by Fortune, Forbes, Bloomberg News, Market Watch, the Wall Street Journal and the Associated Press.

Tutoring: Internet/Telephone



HELEN DUMAS

Speak Greek in 2 Months

Plus other courses for children & adults

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Call: (310) 373-0808 or

E-Mail: speakgreeknow@aol.com

Website: www.speakgreeknow.com

Special Features:

- 1) Phonetic method
- 2) Personalized lesson-plans
- 3) Telephone lessons weekly
- 4) Simple, easy, quick. Phenomenal results
- 5) References available

Instructor: Helen Dumas

Authority in teaching Greek as 2nd language

- Native of Greece; UCLA credentialed Teacher
- Director of GREEK EDUCATION for W. US for 25 Years
- Nationally recognized as "The teacher of the Year in USA"
- Internationally recognized by the Greek government, and
- From the Greek Orthodox Church in America, Helen was awarded "The Medal of Saint Paul" - the highest honor

A Message to Heirs of Greeks who had Life Insurance with New York Life Insurance Company in the Ottoman Empire Prior to 1915



New York Life Insurance Company is committed to acting in the best interest of its policyholders. Various reference works and other sources indicate that many persons of Greek ancestry living in the Ottoman Empire at the outbreak of World War I were displaced or perished between 1915 and 1923. That is why we've conducted a search of our records to locate policies issued before 1915 in the Ottoman Empire insuring the lives of those of Greek ancestry.

Our search revealed that New York Life paid benefits on many of the policies issued to those of Greek ancestry. As to certain other policies, however, New York Life has no record of claims having been made, or of benefits or cash values having been paid, on these policies, referred to here as the "Greek Policies".

In order to encourage claims for benefits under the Greek Policies, New York Life has established the Greek Life Insurance Policy Program. Descendants of persons insured under the Greek Policies may submit claims for benefits. To submit a claim for consideration, the individual claiming to be a descendant of a person insured under any of the Greek Policies must submit proof to the Greek Life Insurance Claim Board.

To view the list of the Greek Policies and to obtain a claim form, please visit the website for the Greek Life Insurance Policy Program at www.greekinsuranceclaims.com. Alternatively you may contact the Greek Life Insurance Policy Program at 1-888-922-2973 for more information.

Persons seeking benefits must submit all claims by February 28, 2009. Claims received after that date will NOT be reviewed by the Claim Board.

For further information, please visit the website at www.greekinsuranceclaims.com or contact the Greek Life Insurance Policy Program at 1-888-922-2973. Phone lines will be open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time. The following toll-free number will be open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Greece: 00 800 33 311144.

1-888-922-2973
In Greece: 00 800 33 311144

www.GreekInsuranceClaims.com

Obama Repeats Support for Pan-Macedonian Association in Efforts to Solve FYROM Name Issue

By Demetris Tsakas
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – Democratic Presidential nominee Senator Barack Obama reiterated his commitment to supporting the Pan-Macedonian Association of the USA in its efforts to resolve the name row that neighboring nations Greece and FYROM are entangled in, during a campaign stop in Dover, New Hampshire.

In response to a dynamic address delivered by the Supreme President of the Pan-Macedonian Association of the USA Mrs. Nina Gatzoulis, Senator Obama replied by saying “you know my views and

that I am supportive of your issue.” The Illinois Senator and first ever African-American Presidential nominee also asked her to give him the contents of her speech.

Mrs. Gatzoulis thanked Senator Obama for his support and also gave him a copy of Dr. George Papavizas’ book “Claiming Macedonia” along with a coin, depicting Alexander the Great on one side and the Vergina sun with the Pan-Macedonian insignia on the other.

Senator Obama has been a strong supporter of all the resolutions that have been presented to Congress by the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, including the recent Senate Resolution

300, which calls on FYROM to stop the utilization of materials that violate provisions of the United Nations-brokered Interim Agreement between FYROM and Greece regarding ‘hostile activities or propaganda’ and work with the United Nations and Greece to achieve longstanding United States and United Nations policy goals of finding a mutually-acceptable official name for FYROM.

While Senator Obama was submitting this resolution to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, together with his colleagues Senators Olympia Snowe and Bob Menendez, his fellow Senator and current opponent for the U.S. Presi-

dency John McCain refused to sign.

Mrs. Gatzoulis’ speech and Senator Obama’s subsequent response were captured on video and later posted on the Internet, via YouTube. The full text of Mrs. Gatzoulis’ speech is included below.

“Senator Obama, welcome to New Hampshire and to my hometown of Dover. I am Nina Gatzoulis and I am the Supreme President of the Pan-Macedonian Association of the U.S.A. I came to this wonderful country many years ago from Macedonia, the northern province of Greece, that is my birthplace as well as the birthplace and real home of Alexander the Great. On behalf of all the members of our association - a great number of which reside in this beautiful state of New Hampshire - I wish to present to you with these small gifts as a token of our appreciation for your co-sponsorship of Senate Resolution SR-300 which calls on the FYROM, a country north of Greece that wishes to be called Macedonia, to stop its propaganda against Greece and to diligently negotiate a mutually acceptable name that would provide long and lasting peace in the Balkans.

Through the cosponsoring of this resolution, it is our hope that the United States will be sending FYROM the clear message that their attempt to rewrite history and steal the cultural heritage of an honorable people is not acceptable behavior.

The Bush administration, by recognizing this state as ‘Macedonia,’ while the name issue was being negotiated under UN, has encouraged FYROM to adopt the most obstinate intransigent stance regarding the negotiations.

They refuse to discuss any other name than the Republic of ‘Macedonia,’ even though according to the Interim Accord in 1995, they agreed that a new name must be found for their country. The Bush administration, by recognizing this state as ‘Macedonia,’ has become instrumental in the most horrific revision of history throughout the ages.”



AP PHOTO
Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., waves before speaking at the Service Nation Summit at Columbia University in New York on Thursday, September 11, 2008.

Marlboro Church Back on Track After 2001 Fire

By Theodore Kalmoukos
Special to The National Herald

BOSTON – Saints Anargyroi Greek Orthodox parish of Marlboro, Massachusetts is in a period of renewal after a catastrophic fire, which occurred in February 2001, destroyed the parish church. The fire may have destroyed the building, but it was not able to even touch the souls of the parish members, who renovated and reconstructed the church. It became one of the most beautiful churches in New England, which was extended to serve the needs of the parish faithful.

The community organized the annual Greek Festival which for the first time was a three-day festivity. It was a very successful festival and has become the best cultural and social event in the small but lively city of Marlboro. The courtyard of the Saints Anargyroi church was completely transformed into a beautiful and traditional Greek festival.

Mr. James Polychronis former president of the parish council stated that “this is the third straight year that we held the festival from the time of the fire at the church,” and then added “for years we had a festival but we became exhausted and we stopped having it for several years. Now there is a rebirth, a new spirit and enthusiasm. We are attempting to raise money to build a new community center. We hope that we will be able to break ground sometime in the fall.”

“Our parish is doing well and we are trying to expand and build a new community center with classrooms for our Greek and Sunday schools,” Doctor Thomas Simopoulos said

The president of the parish council, Dr. Nicholas Kofos, said that “our festival is doing better than we had expected and we have many parishioners that are offering their time and effort working at the festival. In comparison with other years when we held a two-day festival, we decided to have a three day one especially due to the success and the efforts of our festival chairman, Mr. John Gagas.”

Mr. Gagas said that “we continue to have about 100 volunteers cooking and preparing fresh food by order. We begin to prepare for the festival about three months early, especially now that our festival is growing bigger year after year.”

When Dr. Kofos was asked how much the parish depends financially on the proceeds from the festival, he said that “our annual festival supports us to a great extent since we have our expenses just like every community.” Then he added, “the festival supports 15%-20% of our finances and without it, we would have a great deficiency in our financial obligations.”

Mr. Gagas explained that “half of the income will go towards the expenses of the parish and the oth-



From left: John Gagas, Archimandrite Vasileos Flionis and Dr. Nicholas Kofos have done their best to rebuild Saints Anargyroi Church in Marlboro, which was destroyed by a fire in 2001.

er half will go towards the construction of the new community center. Parish council president, Dr. Kofos, said that “we hope to begin the construction of the new building this fall and have the opening at Easter.” Asked if the community has all the funds needed for the construction of the new building, Dr. Kofos said “We feel that we have enough money to begin and for the remaining we will have to ask for donations or apply for a loan.”

The priest of the community, Archimandrite Vasileos Flionis, said that “the community is doing very well and more people are attending the Divine Liturgy each Sunday.” He added that “even though we are a small community in numbers, it is amazing that many parishioners attend church services during the summer.” He also stated that “we have been receiving more and

more telephone calls each day from people inquiring about the Sunday and Greek schools.”

Dr. Kofos said that “the parish has approximately 165 families.” He also stated that “Before the fire in 2001, we were at the point that we had to expand the church, but following the fire we lost many parishioners since we needed two years of construction before we could enter the church again.” Dr. Kofos also mentioned that “unfortunately many parishioners have passed away. From last November to this day we had about 10-12 deaths here in our community. This number is very high for a parish like ours.” He also said that “the effort of the parish is centered in the youth and the new community center will help us to attract our youth. Right now we do not have appropriate place for meetings and as-

semblies.”

Fr. Vasileos Flionis said that “the liturgical life of the community has improved and is very much alive. During the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, at the Vesper Service and at the Divine Liturgy on the feast day, we had a very large congregation in attendance.” Fr. Vasileos also added that “I am accustomed here to serve Vespers Liturgies for church holidays and feast day namedays of saints during the week days since many people are working during the day, but in the evening, when the Liturgy is celebrated, it is easier for them to attend.”

Mr. Gagas said, “In the greater area of Marlboro, there is an estimated number of about 1,000 Greek Orthodox families. Some attend church services regularly, some say that they will attend, some attend at Christmas and at Easter but not frequently.” He also expressed his hopes by saying “we hope that with the construction of the new community center, we will be able to attract those families.”

In reference to the Greek school, Fr. Vasileos said that “this year we will have classes every Saturday and so far we have 15-20 students enrolled. Last year we didn’t have any classes since we could not find anyone to teach.” Dr. Kofos added “we did have Greek school classes for two years before last year.”

When Dr. Kofos was asked if there are thoughts of merging with the neighboring community of St. Nicholas of Clinton, Massachusetts he answered, “No, we haven’t thought of a merge. It wouldn’t be fair to the people of Clinton to bring this up because they could lose their identity and independence. If later on they cannot exist by themselves and if they ask to join us, we will welcome them with open arms.”

Mr. Harry Tsianatellis said, “I was born here in the community and as a small child I always assisted at the annual festival of our community” and pointed out that “we have to preserve all the Greek Orthodox customs and traditions.”

Mrs. Ermioni Kesaris, who came to this country in 1960 and settled in Marlboro, has assisted for 27 years in the organization and operation of the festival. She stated that “our community is doing better and will continue since new people have assumed its governance. We will organize events and will draw the youth.”

Mrs. Chrysanthi Simopoulos who came to the community about 42 years ago from Pentalofos, Greece said, “The parish is doing very well now. We are very happy now that we will begin the construction of the new community center. The Sunday school is ready to begin and we will have a Greek school with about 15-20 children and we do expect the numbers to rise during the upcoming years.”



Johns Hopkins’ Senior Advisor to the President, Aris Melissaratos.

Johns Hopkins Advisor Named Technology Award Winner

BALTIMORE, Md. – The Greater Baltimore Technology Council named Aris Melissaratos, Senior Advisor to the President for Enterprise Development at Johns Hopkins University, has been named the 2008 BETA (Baltimore’s Extraordinary Technology Advocate) award winner this year.

Mr. Melissaratos, a 1966 graduate of Johns Hopkins and longtime member of the Whiting School of Engineering’s National Advisory Council, currently has overall responsibility for building the university’s relationship with business and forging new connections between the research and corporate communities.

“Mr. Melissaratos has been a force for growth in the Greater Baltimore community throughout his entire career, and has continuously devoted his efforts to expanding and fostering technology in this region,” said GBTC Executive Director Steve Kozak. “He has been involved with organizations that have helped make a difference in our area, from Westinghouse Electronics to the Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development. He’s a true testament to the advocacy and promotion of economic activity in the state and beyond, and we’re fortunate to have the opportunity to honor him at TechNite.”

The BETA Award is presented at GBTC’s annual TechNite celebration to an individual whose words and actions have had an outstanding impact on the Greater Baltimore technology community.

GBTC is devoted to growing the region’s technology community. It asks technology companies what they need to grow, and provides what they need through innovative

programming; where organizations meet, learn, and do business. The organization celebrates the community’s successes, spreading the word that technology businesses thrive in the Greater Baltimore region.

Mr. Melissaratos, who earned his bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering, spent most of his career with Westinghouse Electronics in Baltimore, eventually becoming vice president of science and technology and chief technology officer at corporate headquarters in Pittsburgh. Before joining the state government in 2003 as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, he also served as vice president of Thermo Electron Corp., and founded Armel Private Equity Investments.

Mr. Melissaratos holds a master’s degree in Engineering Management from George Washington University, and did graduate work in international politics at Catholic University of America. He has also completed a program for Management Development at Harvard Business School.

Mr. Melissaratos will be presented with the BETA Award during TechNite 2008, which will be held on Thursday, October 2, at 5-9 PM, at the Baltimore Convention Center.

TechNite is the Greater Baltimore region’s premiere night for celebrating the business and technology community. The evening draws more than 1,000 attendees from tech executives and entrepreneurs to Fortune 500 businesses, university and government officials and more. Frans Johansson, the thought leader who brought us the best selling book The Medici Effect, will be the featured speaker for the evening.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

VIDEO PHOTOGRAPHER/ CINEMATOPHAGER INTERN WANTED

Have an eye for video? The National Herald is looking for college-level VIDEO PHOTOGRAPHERS for internship opportunities. Earn credit towards your degree and gain valuable experience in the world of journalism. Send current resume, cover letter, and optionally, a link to a web-based example of your work (e.g. YouTube) to: photoherald@hotmail.com

LEADING GREEK AMERICAN NEWSPAPER SEEKS

Full-time AD sales representatives for both GREEK and ENGLISH language publications. Applicants should have some sales and/or marketing experience. Fluency with computer use and knowledge of Internet a plus. Bi-lingual command of both languages preferred. This positions offers base salary, plus commissions. E-mail resume and cover letter to info@ekirikas.com FAX: (718) 472-0510 Attn. Publisher or call (718) 784-5255 ask for Veta.

JOURNALISTS WANTED

Nation’s leading Greek American newspaper, The National Herald, needs reporters and assistant editor for English weekly paper. Exceptional writing/reporting skills and bilingual fluency a must. Car a plus. Fax or e-mail clips and cover letter to 718-472-0510 or publisher@ekirikas.com.

111609/01

FUNERAL HOMES

CONSTANTINIDES FUNERAL PARLOR Co.

405 91st Street
Bay Ridge - Brooklyn, NY 11209
(718) 745-1010
Services in all localities -
Low cost shipping to Greece

ANTONPOULOS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

Konstantinos Antonopoulos -
Funeral Director
38-08 Ditmars Blvd.,
Astoria, New York 11105
(718) 728-8500
Not affiliated with any
other funeral home.

APOSTOLOPOULOS

Apostle Family -
Gregory, Nicholas, Andrew -
Funeral Directors of
RIVERDALE
FUNERAL HOME Inc.
5044 Broadway
New York, NY 10034
(212) 942-4000
Toll Free 1-888-GAPOSTLE

LITRAS FUNERAL HOME ARLINGTON BENSON DOWD, INC FUNERAL HOME

83-15 Parsons Blvd.,
Jamaica, NY 11432
(718) 858-4434 • (800) 245-4872

TO PLACE YOUR
CLASSIFIED AD, CALL:
(718) 784-5255, EXT. 106,
E-MAIL:
classifieds@thenationalherald.com

REAL ESTATE

YOUR CONNECTION TO SOUTH FLORIDA



Specializing in Country Clubs
& Waterfront Communities
From Broward to Palm Beach

Gus Trataros, Realtor
561.716.0653 / 954.433.0184
Gus@theabrahamteam.com



THE ABRAHAM TEAM
KELLER WILLIAMS
REAL ESTATE

Memorial Service Held at Ground Zero for September 11 Victims

By Stavros Marmarinos
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – An emotional Ana Pavlakos stood and prayed at the memorial service held on the afternoon of September 10 at Ground Zero, where the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas once stood under the shadow of the Twin Towers, until that fateful date seven years ago, when the Towers collapsed destroying everything in sight, following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

“I remember 9/11 and I cry,” she told The National Herald. “I cry for our dead, and I cry for our church, which was destroyed. My husband was baptized there, we were married there, and that is where our children were baptized as well.”

Archbishop Demetrios of America officiated the memorial service for the victims of the September 11 attacks. Following the solemn service, Archbishop Demetrios spoke about several Greek Americans who rushed to the scene of the disaster on 9/11 to offer their help amidst the tragedy and chaos. One of the individuals the Archbishop singled out was John Kassimatis, a New York Port Authority police detective, who was in attendance at the ceremony. Archbishop Demetrios said that Mr. Kassimatis lost a close relative who was inside the Towers when the attacks took place. The Archbishop also remembered that he himself was in Boston when the attack occurred, and there were initial fears that he was one of the passengers on board the hijacked flight that left Boston’s Logan Airport and crashed into the World Trade Center.

“We arrived on site here the next day,” the Archbishop recalled. “There was a large mountain of rubble standing before us here, under which thousands of people lay buried.” Archbishop Demetrios also recapped his speech in English for the benefit of onlookers who were passing by as the memorial service was taking place.

In a statement to TNH, the Archbishop reiterated that 9/11 marked a dark and tragic anniversary in world history. “However,” he added, “at the same time, it remains an anniversary that reminds us about many important things. First of all, it reminds us of the constant need to keep ourselves in a state of preparedness. This basic truth of the Gospel – ‘be vigilant and watchful’ – is applicable here. We always need to be on the lookout because we never know what is going to happen next. This is a lesson that we learned on September 11th. Secondly, 9/11 taught us a lesson in teamwork, having love for one another, and the importance of overcoming differences. On that day, people from all over the city got together to help each other overcome a terrible event. Thirdly, this anniversary reminds us that as a Greek Community here in the U.S., we had the special privilege of counting our own sons and daughters among the victims of this attack, and this is something that we consider to be a contribution to liberty and the dignity that accompanies freedom. Our Community offered some thirty or so victims to the holocaust that took place here. We must always keep in mind that no matter what we do, no matter



List of September 11 Victims

GREEK ORTHODOX VICTIMS:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1) JOANNA AHLADIOTIS | Rocky Point, NY |
| 2) ANASTASIOS (ERNEST) ALIKAKOS | Brooklyn, NY |
| 3) KATERINA BANTIS | Staten Island, NY |
| 4) LIEUTENANT PETER (PANAGIOTIS) BRENNAN | Sayville, NY |
| 5) ANTHONY DEMAS | New York, NY |
| 6) KONSTANTINOS (GUS) ECONOMOS | Brooklyn, NY |
| 7) PETER HANSON: Peter Hanson was accompanied by his wife Susan and daughter Christine who were also victims. | |
| 8) VASSILIOS HARAMIS | Staten Island, NY |
| 9) JOHN KATSIMATIDIS | Astoria, NY |
| 10) DANIELLE KOUSOULIS | Haddonfield, NJ |
| 11) GEORGE MERKOURIS | Levittown, NY |
| 12) PETER CONSTANTINE MOUTOS | Chatham, NJ |
| 13) JAMES NICHOLAS PAPAGEORGE | Jackson Heights, NY |
| 14) GEORGE PARIS | Lake Carmel, NY |
| 15) THEODORE PIGIS | Brooklyn, NY |
| 16) DAPHNE POULETSOS | Westwood, NJ |
| 17) TONY (ANTHONY) SAVAS | Astoria, NY |
| 18) ANDREW STERGIOPOULOS | Great Neck, NY |
| 19) MICHAEL TARROU | Clearwater, FL |
| 20) WILLIAM TSELEPIS | New Providence, NJ |
| 21) PROKOPIOS (PAUL) ZOIS | Lynbrook, NY |

NON-GREEK ORTHODOX VICTIMS (WHERE THE SURVIVING SPOUSE IS GREEK-ORTHODOX)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 22) ERIC ALLEN: | Wife: Angelica Allen, Holmdel, NJ |
| 23) FRANCISCO MANCINI | Wife: Anastasia Mancini, Astoria, NY |
| 24) ROBERT McLAUGHLIN | Wife: Elizabeth Lizas McLaughlin, Windham, NY |

GREEK-BORN VICTIM WHO IS NOT GREEK ORTHODOX

- 25) MICHAEL THEODORIDIS & wife (Rahma Salie)
Parents/Brother: Switzerland

how hard we study, no matter how well we organize certain things, in the end, if we do not have the help of God on our side then it will not be possible for us to succeed.”

Speaking about his contact with local authorities over the status of the new St. Nicholas Church set to be rebuilt somewhere near Ground Zero, Archbishop Demetrios answered that a lot of progress has been made on the issue, and cited technical difficulties with the planning and construction of other projects in the surrounding area as

cause for the delay. The Archbishop added that the adjacent Deutsche Bank building, which suffered extensive structural damage in a fire last year, needs to be demolished before architects can proceed with plans for new construction in the area. The Archbishop cited problems with the demolition of the building, and noted that this has caused further delays in the renovation work. “There was also a delay in the funding that was to be given for reconstruction work, but this matter has now been resolved



ABOVE: Archbishop Demetrios of America spoke to onlookers following the memorial service for the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, and touched on the tragic events of 9/11 and the approximately 30 Greek Americans who lost their lives in the attacks. RIGHT: Emotional onlookers stand by and watch the memorial service. The head of the Greek Mercantile Marine Office in New York Evangelos Tsantzas is seen in the middle. LEFT: Construction crews are working all throughout Ground Zero to prepare the buildings that will replace the World Trade Center and other structures destroyed by terrorists in September 11, 2001.

for good,” he remarked. Cyprus’ Consul General in New York Andreas Panagiotou commented that “although silence is the best show of respect in these situations, we came here to pay tribute to those who died on September 11, 2001, including the Greek Americans who lost their lives that day.” He added that “everything that took place in this area affected the course of the entire world,” and expressed his wish for “something like this to never take place again.”

The head of the Greek Mercantile Marine Office in New York Evangelos Tsantzas called the tragic anniversary a day of memory and tribute to the innocent victims who died on September 11, 2001. “Let us hope that nothing like this ever happens again,” he said, while adding, “let us pray to God to enlighten those who rule on earth to make the right decisions for the fate of the world. May God give rest to those who lost their lives.”

John Pitsikaris, the Parish Council President of the St. Nicholas Community in Lower Manhattan, whose church was destroyed on September 11, 2001, said that “this is a very somber day, where everyone is mourning.”

He added that the St. Nicholas parishioners “have been left without a church of their own, and are temporarily going to the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in near-by Brooklyn.”



Mr. Pitsikaris also mentioned that his board has received guarantees that the site where the new St. Nicholas Church will be built will be bigger and better than the original location. “The September 11 Memorial Monument will be built nearby. Visitors to the monument will thus be easily able to come into St. Nicholas Church and light a candle.”

Mr. Pitsikaris recalled that he used to pass by the old St. Nicholas Church, which was near his home, each morning on his way to work. “On the morning of the attacks, I had gone to Brooklyn, but the subway stopped working and I could not return to Manhattan.”

Standing among the small group of Orthodox faithful at the memorial service was Ana Pavlakos. “I remember that morning,” she said. “We live in Brooklyn, and I was on my way to my daughter’s office when I heard the news and fell into a state of shock. A few moments later, we stood by speechlessly and watched the Twin Towers collapse. It was unbelievable. We immediately asked ourselves about the fate our church, which stood right next to the two skyscrapers, but there was no way of finding out any news at that moment. Even though seven years have passed since then, I still can-

not believe that our church was destroyed. Nevertheless, we are hopeful that we will be back at the new St. Nicholas Church soon enough.”

Mrs. Pavlakos also remembered that her husband would get out of bed in the middle of the night on many occasions and run to St. Nicholas with his brother to attend to various problems that would suddenly spring up. “Our parishioners made sacrifices for the Church of St. Nicholas because they loved it so much,” she remarked.

Mrs. Pavlakos stood alongside her daughter Olga Pavlakos, a well-known lawyer from Brooklyn who serves as Parish Council Treasurer at the St. Nicholas Community. The younger Mrs. Pavlakos told TNH that everyone is waiting for the new St. Nicholas Church to be built. “We are going to come here every year on this day, as well as on our saint’s feast day [December 6th], until God grants us the joy of walking into our new church. We all live in Brooklyn, but every Sunday morning we would come here to Manhattan and attend services at St. Nicholas. My grandparents were founders of this church and were among the first people to donate money for the purchase of the site where St. Nicholas once stood. My father was also a parish council member at this church.”

Old Captain Nikolai: The First Greek of Texas

Continued from page 1

privately owned and manned but authorized by a government during wartime to attack and capture enemy vessels.’ Depending on the nationality of the author Lafitte (and his followers) was alternately a ‘criminal pirate’ or an ‘honored privateer.’ Jean Lafitte’s gallant exploits at the Battle of New Orleans is not simply a matter of historical fact but time-honored American folklore and popular culture.

When Jean Lafitte left Galveston in 1821, Nikolai was with him. The Greek is reported to have been by Lafitte’s bedside when the fabled buccaneer died of fever in a small Yucatán village in 1826.

Captain Nikolai has his own history documented for this general period and beyond. In 1881, Nikolai told his life story to historian Dr. J. O. Dyer. While exact dates are not available for the young Greek’s actions we do know that not long after his arrival he fell in love with Orta (e.g. “Daughter-with-the-Long-Hair”) a Karankawai Amerindian maiden.

According to the Handbook of Texas the Karankawai “inhabited the Gulf of Texas from Galveston Bay southwestward to Corpus Christi Bay...the bays, back bays, lagoons and bayous along the Texas Coast were the tribal hunting and harvesting grounds. The shallow waters in the bays allowed them to wade out into the deep blue pools with lances or bows and arrows, to spear fish as the older men, women and children harvested the waters for blue and stone crabs, oysters, mussels, sea turtles, shellfish, and other crustaceans.” It is along the shores of this unspoiled paradise that the young Greek found true love.

Daughter of Aba, a Karankawa

headman, Orta was a recognized beauty of commanding stature. Orta “was certainly very tall from the European viewpoint, but her Juno-like form was so well proportioned that it dimmed adverse perception. If her cheek bones were a trifle too prominent, the dimples of the rosy bronzed chin made one forget. If her eyes were somewhat oval the black pupils flashed out like diamonds in a cheap setting, and if the mouth was indeed large the pearly teeth only conveyed, the impression of a jewel case.”

We must recall that when Captain Nikolai sat down with Dr. J. O. Dyer, the Old Greek was in his eighties a truly phenomenal age for this era. Dyer, while always referred to as a ‘noted historian’ and ‘a great admirer of Jean Lafitte,’ this cultured academic speaks of Nikolai as ‘a small man, not overly good looking’ and whose “extraordinary age only had a mummifying effect.” It is to Dyer, or to the Galveston Daily News journalists who edited his unpublished manuscripts after he died, that we owe the single published account we have of Captain Nikolai’s adventurous life (January 19, 1920). For that we must be grateful.

Yet Dyer was far from an objective listener. I find it especially uncanny that Dyer’s view of the love Nikolai’s stated he and Orta shared was to be dismissed as no more than the ‘pathetic or ludicrous efforts made by the happy couple in their daily intercourse when they attempted to amalgamate the civilization of the one with the primitive state of the other.” Unintentionally, Dyer also provides us the very evidence to refute his condescending judgment.

After his marriage, Nikolai was stationed aboard the Arabelle; one of the privateer communes’ trad-



This rough sketch of Nikolai the Greek was by Lacassinier, a member of the Lafitte Commune, acquired by Dr. J.O. Dyer in 1874.

ing schooners. With Orta, always by his side, Nikolai undertook trading voyages along the coast of Texas and Alabama. It is from Dyer himself that we learn of Orta that “such was her intelligence to interpret the wants and languages of the several coastal tribes that her husband was advanced to the command of a small trade schooner, the Arabelle.” The couple quickly became not only important to the pirate commune but other settlements in the region. Captain Nikolai was noted by other members of the Lafitte Commune as being the collective’s chief trader.

The acute abilities Nikolai and

Orta shared in their negotiations between the various peoples they interacted with “in their daily intercourse” can be seen in the manner in which they were married. “The Lafitte Camp, although numbering hundreds of men, could not boast of a priest...even if Lafitte, who was a freethinker, should have tendered him personal protection. An old Frenchman known as Parbleu because he used ‘blue language’ so frequently was paradoxically chosen to officiate at ceremonials of life and death, and interlarded his orations with wit and blasphemy, a ritual acceptable to the hardened buccaneers.”

That Nikolai and Orta sought to be married in the pirate manner was more than just adherence to ritual. “Orta and Nikolai were married...on the communal books, which entitled the sailor who had dependents to a bigger percentage of prize money, or profits.”

While little is known about the culture and history of the Karankawa the account of Captain Nikolai provides us with the knowledge that this tribe of Amerindians practised a form of what is known as bride-wealth or bride price. “It was customary for the Karankawai to send gifts to their brides’ kindred; but one not belonging to the tribe could only marry into the clan by means of gifts, and joining the clan; accompanying by a kind of blood covenant, in which blood was taken from the arm of a tribesman and from that of the applicant the blood being interchanged by rubbing into the wounds of the one the blood of the other and vice versa.” Among the recalled gifts Nikolai offered for Orta was “ten pounds of sugar and some bottles of rum.” But even Dr. Dyer had to note that both Europeans and Amerindians recognized the ‘commercial’ possibilities such a union promised. Nikolai and Orta were happy over the next two years and in time the maiden ‘learned some French.’ Many adventures were in store for the young couple as well as tragedy.

Growing conflicts with the United States Navy forced Lafitte, sometime during May 1820, to leave Galveston for the Yucatán. In the turmoil Nikolai made, in hindsight a fatal decision. As the ever petty Dyer relates “Orta was soon to become a mother, so, well provided with the necessities of life, she joined a colony of Indian, negro and white women, who built a vil-

lage on a high wooded peninsula down the island opposite to Virginia Point on the mainland. All of these women expected their so-called husbands to come to them after founding new homes elsewhere, as Lafitte ordered the camp [e.g. Campeche] burned before he left.”

While with Lafitte in the Yucatán Captain Nikolai contacted yellow fever. Unaccountably it is at this critical moment in Dr. Dyer’s account on Nikolai (or the edited version of it) that the narrative brakes down. All we learn of the next two decades in this man’s life is that Nikolai ‘made and lost money.’ Then, without any further elaboration we hear that ‘in 1840 he joined a vessel of Command Moore’s fleet...and return to Galveston Island in 1842.” Once on Galveston Nikolai discovered that the Karankawa Indians were extinct, the village of privateer wives destroyed by the great storm of 1823 and “although he spent several months in search for his wife, his efforts were in vain.”

Nikolai never remarried. Over the next half century Nikolai became a familiar figure in Galveston, selling fish, oysters and hauling charcoal from the mainland. Captain Nikolai retired in 1890. “Five years later he was living on his farm near Turtle Bayou. A few days before his 100th birthday in 1900, the seemingly indestructible old seaman was lost in the disastrous Galveston storm.” We hear nothing of Nikolai’s relationship with the other Greeks who began arriving in and around Galveston since the 1880s.

Privateer and intrepid adventurer, the still mysterious Nikolai was the very first Hellene to call the coastal islands and bayous of the Texas gulf, home.

DEATHS

■ ANDROPOLIS, JOHN
NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — The Greater Niagara Newspapers reported that John E. Andropolis, 88, of Niagara Falls, NY, died on Sunday, September 14, 2008 at Mt. St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston, N.Y. Born in Buffalo, N.Y., he was the son of the late Andrew and Caroline (Kubik) Andropolis. John was a graduate of Niagara Falls High School and during World War II, he served in the United States Army with the Flying Eagles stationed in the Pacific Theater from 1942 until his honorable discharge in 1944. On October 23, 1948, he married Antonette T. (Pullano) Andropolis in Niagara Falls. Mrs. Andropolis predeceased him on July 20, 2002. John was employed as a milk carrier for the former Dairy Lea Milk, at the former Russo Chevrolet, both in Niagara Falls, and in the Maintenance Department for the City of Niagara Falls. John was an active member of the St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Niagara Falls, NY, where he enjoyed volunteering at the many church functions. He also enjoyed woodworking, electronics and painting. Mr. Andropolis is survived by a son, Randy (Betty) Andropolis of Niagara Falls, NY; three granddaughters, Alisa, Elena and Christina; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by a son, John M. Andropolis, on June 17, 2008. The funeral was held on September 17 at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Interment was at Memorial Park Cemetery in Lewiston, N.Y. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. George Antiochian Church (1073 Saunders Settlement Road, Niagara Falls, N.Y.).

■ BALLAS, GEORGE
WINSTON SALEM, N.C. — The Winston-Salem Journal reported that George T. Ballas, passed away on Tuesday, September 2, 2008, at the age of 66, in Athens, Greece. He was born August 2, 1942 in Marathia, Evrytania, Greece and is preceded in death by his parents Athanasios Ballas and Penelope Makas Ballas. George Ballas immigrated to the United States in 1955 at the age of 12. He attended Reynolds High School. In 1964 Mr. Ballas enlisted in the US Army and served in Germany where George met his wife. George is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 40 years, Loula Kanela Tsatsarounos Ballas of Pireaus, Greece, two brothers, Gus Ballas and wife, Soula Ballas of Winston-Salem; Jim Ballas and wife, Dimitra Ballas of Clemmons; a sister, Maria Nicopoulos and husband, Jimmy Nicopoulos of High Point. Nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews have loved George as they would their own fathers. His love was abundant and given freely to all young and old, alike. George Ballas was the owner of Winston-Salem's famous landmark Grecian Corner, known today as George's Grecian Corner. Since his retirement in 2002 George's nephew Angelo Ballas purchased the operation. George has always been a kind and gentle man, sharing his love with family, friends and acquaintances. George met many people but he never met a stranger. George's restaurant has been a hub over the years where family, friends and community leaders could gather and discuss politics over coffee. The tradition he put in place years ago are still going strong today. Many remember the filming of "Mr. Destiny" which was filmed at Grecian Corner and so was Mr. Ballas named thereof. George T. Ballas was an active member of The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church where he has served on the Parrish Council. Mr. Ballas was an active member of Evryrtanian Association Velouchi of America and has served as president and officiated on the board. The funeral was held on September 15 at The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Charlotte. Burial was at Forsyth Memorial Park. Funeral arrangements made by Hayworth-Miller Silas Creek Chapel. Memorials may be directed to The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, (435 Keating Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27104) or The National Kidney Foundation of NC, (5950 Fairview Rd., Suite 550, Charlotte, NC 28210-2102).

■ COSTAKIS, PATRICIA
SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — The San Francisco Chronicle reported that Patricia Costakis passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 13, 2008 after a brief fight with cancer. Born November 20, 1934, in San Francisco, CA, Patricia was 73 years old. "Pat," as she was known, attended Immaculate Conception Academy and went on to St. Joseph Nursing College where she became a registered nurse and specialized in labor and delivery. Pat was married to her husband of 43 years, Stephen A. Costakis; and had three children, Anthony S. Costakis (Carol), Michael S. Costakis and Lori M. Ferreyra (Carlos). Pat was the loving "Grammy" of Stephen F. Costakis, Rachel J. Costakis, Tristan A. Ferreyra and Isabela Patricia Ferreyra. Pat is also survived by her aunt, Sister Mary Hillary Miller O.P.; as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. Pat was preceded in death by her parents, Charles J. Collins and Genevieve T. Gamble,

as well as her only sibling Charles J. Collins III. Pat faced her last days with grace and dignity and was an inspiration to all around her. She was comforted in the thought of joining her loved ones in the after-life, especially her father who died when she was only 3 years old. The funeral was held on September 17 at the Cathedral of the Annunciation in San Francisco. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society (1650 S. Amplett Blvd, Ste 110, San Mateo, CA 94402) or the Cathedral of the Annunciation Building Fund.

■ FORD, MARY
LAURENS, S.C. — The Spartanburg Herald-Journal reported that Georgia Mary Fragulis Ford, 70, of Whelon Road, entered into eternal life on Thursday, September 11, 2008, at the McCall Hospice House in Simpsonville. Born April 3, 1938, in Huntington, WV, she was the daughter of the late Tom and Maria Sarandis Fragulis. A graduate of Marshall University in Huntington, WV, she was a high school Vocational Home Economics teacher for 17 years. Mrs. Ford was very civic minded and was elected State President of the Business and Professional Women's Organization of West Virginia. She was an active member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Spartanburg where she was a member of the Ladies Philoptochos Chapter, taught Sunday School, served on the Parish Council, and chaired the annual Greek Festival for several years. The funeral was held on September 12, 2008. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund (P.O. Box 1107, Spartanburg, SC 29304).

■ KATSARAKES, PETER
PEABODY, Mass. — The Andover Townsman reported that Peter Katsarakes, 84, born on September 21, 1923 in Salem, resided in Lexington and formerly of Peabody, peacefully passed away while surrounded by his loving family on Sunday, August 31, 2008 at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington. He was the son of the late George and Irene (Mandragouras) Katsarakes. He is survived by his loving wife Carol (Georgelas) Katsarakes of Lexington with whom he shared over 52 years of marriage, and his children who he was so very proud of, George and his wife Yiota Katsarakes of Lexington and grandchildren Kiki, Peter and Vasilii, Heidi and her husband John Marino of Andover and grandchildren Michael and Christina, and Irene and her husband John Basdaki of Aliso Viejo, Calif. and grandchildren Caroline and Spiro. He is also survived by his sisters, Georgia Katsarakes and Annie and her husband Mike Pappas, both of Peabody and Kay and her husband Nick Spaneas of Arlington, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brothers Stephen Katsarakes of Peabody, Theodore Katsarakes of Manchester, N. .and Nicholas Katsarakes of Peabody. Mr. Katsarakes served his country in World War II and survived the Battle of the Bulge and the Invasion of Normandy Beach. He became a police officer in 1949 and served the City of Peabody until he retired in 1962. He was proud to have been the first full time Greek-American to join the police force. He loved music and was an accomplished musician. He played the bouzouki, a Greek instrument and for over 50 years, entertained thousands with his music. He played with a Greek-American band called the Orientals in the 50's and then in the 60's for many years with the well known New England band called The Levendes Orchestra where they played for countless weddings, baptisms, and other occasions all over New England, and the east coast. He recorded albums with the late Sarkesian Brothers and played with the well-known violinist Freddy Elias of New York Mr. Katsarakes was a member and past president of the Saint Vasilios Men's Club, a member of the Order of AHEPA, the Masonic Lodge AF & AM Jordan Lodge, The American Legion Post 0153, and a member of the Veterans of Foreign War, Post 1011, all in Peabody. He was dearly loved and will truly be missed. The funeral was held on September 19 at St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church in Peabody. Burial was at Cedar Grove Cemetery.

■ KOFOs, MONTHÉ
MARLBOROUGH, Mass. — The Boston Globe reported that, Dr. Monthé N. A Kofos, a local optometrist and an institution in Marlborough for over 60 years, has passed away after an illness at Marlborough Hospital on Monday, September 15, 2008, surrounded by his family, which was inspired by his grace and dignity as his earthly life came to a close. He was the loving and devoted husband of Kathryn G. (Douvas) Kofos for the last 57 years. "Doc" Kofos, as he was affectionately known, was born on Jan. 18, 1921, in White River Junction, Vt., and raised in Newport, Vt., where he attended his first three years of high school. He played quarterback for the football team, guard for the basketball team and he threw the javelin for the track team. When the family moved, he attended his senior year at Lowell High School, where he

graduated in 1940. Later that year, he enrolled in the Massachusetts College of Optometry. Due to WWII, he was able to accomplish four years of college in three years so that he could enlist and serve his country in the war. By 1944, Doc Kofos was in the Navy serving in the Philippines and was honorably discharged in 1946. In 1946, he opened his first office on Main Street in Marlborough. It was then that Dr. Kofos began his longstanding professional service to the first of several generations of patients. He saw thousands of patients in his 62-year career, ranging in ages from only a few months to well over 100 years old, and he saw nearly every type of vision-related problem know to man in that time. As a member of the American Optometric Association and Massachusetts Society of Optometry, Dr. Kofos ran golf tournaments for many years for the New England Council of Optometrists and for the Foster Namias Scholarship fund of the New England College of Optometry. In 1946, Dr. Kofos became a member of the Order of AHEPA. This National Hellenic-based charitable organization, founded in 1922, served to define a large part of Doc's extracurricular life. Always a firm believer in education, in 1951 he began the Marlborough AHEPA Chapter's first Scholarship Award of \$50, to be given to a high school student. Today, the Marlborough Chapter Scholarship Fund gives away over \$17,000 annually to deserving high school and college students. Dr. Kofos was still the Scholarship Chairman 57 years later at the time of his death. In 1959, Dr. Kofos was elected president of his local AHEPA Chapter. For the past 37 years, he served as chairman of the Chapter's Golf Tournament with the proceeds from this tournament being used to help fund the AHEPA's charitable programs, including food baskets for those in need at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Equally important to Dr. Kofos in the development of future leaders was the role of athletics. In 1968, he was elected as National Athletic Director of AHEPA. In a short time, he developed a national athletic program that eventually consisted of basketball, tennis, skiing and softball on the local, district and national levels. He was responsible for running thousands of games and matches in hundreds of tournaments in his 40 years on the job. In fact, this past July, at the AHEPA National Convention in Greece, Doc was just re-elected to another one-year term, which he was approaching with the same zeal and enthusiasm as he did his first term. Always proud of the accomplishments of athletes with Hellenic heritage, in 1974 Dr. Kofos started what is believed to be the first ethnic Sports Hall of Fame in the United States. A devoted parishioner of Sts. Anargyroi Greek Orthodox Church in Marlborough, Dr. Kofos served that community in many capacities over his decades-long membership. He was also instrumental in running an annual golf tournament to raise funds for the Hellenic Camp and Retreat Center which serves the youth of the New England diocese. In 2005, recognizing his devotion and contribution to his religion, Metropolitan Methodios, the head of the New England Diocese, awarded Dr. Kofos its annual Diocese Award, which was presented to him at a special dinner in front of 1,000 in attendance. A great humanitarian, Dr. Kofos was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Supreme AHEPA Lodge in 2003 and in 2007, he was awarded the AHEPA Medal of Freedom Award, making him one of only four people to receive this award in AHEPA's 85-year history. In 1982, he was elected to the AHEPA Hellenic Athletic Hall of Fame. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, he took special pleasure in the accomplishments, personal academics and athletics of his six grandchildren. Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Dr. Nicolas Kofos, and his wife, Cyndi, of Marlborough, Matthew G. Kofos, and his wife, Tina, of Port St. Lucie, Fla., and a daughter, Kathy A. Woodhouse of Sterling; two sisters, Cleo Agahigian of Marlborough and Helen Clasby of Southborough; six grandchildren, Monthe N., Zachary J. and Leah A. Kofos, all of Marlborough, Kevin Woodhouse of Sterling, and Matthew R. and Sophia Kofos, both of Port St. Lucie; and several nephews and nieces. The funeral was held on September 19, at Sts. Anargyroi Greek Orthodox Church in Marlborough. Burial with military honors was at Evergreen Cemetery, Wilson Street. Memorial donations may be made to the Sts. Anargyroi Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund (Box 381, Marlborough, MA 01752).

■ LABANARIS, ATHENA
MANCHESTER, N.H. — The Union Leader reported that Athena V. Labanaris, 88, passed away on September 13, 2008, at Villa Crest Healthcare Facility, after a period of failing health. She was born in Manchester, Nov. 8, 1919, to Vasilios N. and Zoitsa (Kokkinos) Labanaris. She was a lifelong resident of the city. She graduated from Manchester High School Central, Class of 1938B. She worked as a French cord turner at B and C, Gutman Kesslen and Myrna Shoe Compa-

nies for more than 40 years. In her early years, she worked with her father at Labanaris Variety Store, 194 Chestnut St., Manchester. She was also a licensed cosmetologist. She was a longtime member of Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral and was a long-standing member of the Daughters of Penelope. She will be remembered as a loving and devoted daughter, sister, and aunt whose family was the center of her life. She enjoyed cooking Greek specialties, especially tiropita and kourabiethes. Family members include four nieces, Katherine M. Labanaris of Manchester, Joyce Labanaris Rose of Kennebunkport, Maine, Joanne Macenas Alaimo of Biddeford, Maine, and Bessie Labanaris Bourbeau of Maui, Hawaii; one nephew, Nicholas A. Macenas of Raleigh, N.C.; and several cousins. She also leaves her beloved grandnieces, Stephanie Rose Tranchemontagne, Aimee Rose, and Allison Alaimo; as well as her grandnephew, Anthony Alaimo. She was predeceased by her two brothers, Menelaos V. Labanaris, Nicholas V. Labanaris; and her sister, Irene Labanaris Macenas. The funeral was held on September 16 at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Manchester. Burial was at Pine Grove Cemetery. Memorial donations to Greater Manchester Hellenic Scholarship Fund (650 Hanover St., Manchester 03104).

■ LIAKOS, CHARLES
MANCHESTER, N.H. — The Union Leader reported that Charles "Ace" Liakos, 89, passed away on September 12, 2008, at Elliot Hospital, after a period of failing health. He was born in Manchester, Jan. 30, 1919, to Antonis and Kaliope (Dabou) Liakos. He was a graduate of Manchester High School Central. He earned a bachelor of science degree from St. Anselm College and a master's degree from the University of New Hampshire. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. He worked for the State of New Hampshire, Department of Employment Security, as an employment counselor. He was also a guidance counselor and director of guidance at Manchester Central High School. He was a member of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral. He served on the board of directors of the NOA club and AHEPA. He was also a member of the Manchester YMCA for 70 years. He loved the game of basketball. He played it from age 9 to age 80 and was also a referee and coach for many years. Mr. Liakos was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Eva (Millios) Liakos, in November 2005. Members of his family include two sons, Stephen Liakos of Bow, and Philip Liakos of Manchester; and several nephews. Other family members include his daughter-in-law, Maureen Liakos of Bow; and two grandchildren, Kathleen and Christa Liakos. The funeral was held on September 16 at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Manchester. Memorial gifts may be made to St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Beautification Fund, or Basketball Fund (650 Hanover St., Manchester 03104).

■ MANDANIS, IDA
CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Hickory Daily Record reported that Mrs. Ida Grevas Mandanis, 85, of Charlotte, died on Monday, September 15, 2008, at her residence surrounded by her family. She was born in Cheyenne, Wyo., on Dec. 1, 1922, a daughter of the late George and Anastasia Chirotiotis Grevas. In June of 1946, she met and married her late husband of 60 years, John A. Mandanis, who preceded her in death in 2007. The family moved to Spartanburg, S.C., and in 1949, they moved to Charlotte, where after working for many years as the manager of the Del Monico Restaurant, John opened his own restaurant, Jon's Luncheonette. Mrs. Mandanis made homemade desserts for the restaurant. A member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Mrs. Mandanis also was active in the Ladies Philoptochos and the Ladies Society of Karyae. In addition to her parents and husband, Mrs. Mandanis was preceded in death by her brother, John G. Grevas, and son-in-law, Mac Keziah. Survivors include her daughters, Kay Mandanis Keziah and Tassie Mandanis, both of Charlotte and Mary Mandanis Keziah and husband, Mike, of Hickory; grandsons, Seth and Evan Keziah; and a number of cousins, nieces and nephews. The funeral was held on September 18 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The family would like to extend a special thank you to her caregivers, Cheryl and Kathy, who looked after Mrs. Mandanis and supported the family during her illness. Memorials may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Foundation (600 East Blvd., Charlotte, N.C. 28203).

This is a service to the community. Announcements of deaths may be telephoned to the Classified Department of The National Herald at (718) 784-5255, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST or e-mailed to: classifieds@thenationalherald.com

Couple Passes Away 2 Days Apart After 55 Years of Marriage

Cape Cod Times

ACUSHNET — Olga (Arvanites) Xiarhos and George Xiarhos of Acushnet, passed into everlasting life on September 8, and September 10, 2008, respectively. Olga passed at home surrounded by her loving family after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. She was the daughter of the late Paraskevoulas (Soumbasis) and Antonios Efstratios Arvanites, from Peloponnesus Greece. George passed away two days later surrounded by his family after succumbing to failing health. He was the son of the late Efstratios and Kyriaki (Gaitanaros) Xiarhos. George and Olga were married on Sept. 28, 1952 at St. George's Greek Orthodox Church in New Bedford. Together they made a home and family and created a life full of generosity, warmth, love, and beauty that they eagerly shared with friends and family. George and Olga each had their own distinct personality and together made a team so remarkable and special that the strength and splendor they brought the world will be admired for generations.

Olga was a dedicated friend and mother to all she met. Having graduated from New Bedford High School in 1946, Olga held many positions in local workplaces ranging from a worker at Wamsutta Mills to a teacher's aide at Acushnet Public Schools as well as positions at Acushnet Process and John I. Paulding Inc. Olga was an active and respected member in her community and the Greek Orthodox Church, having served as secretary in the Ladies Philoptochos Society and as a lifelong member of the church choir. Whether for church coffee hour, a wedding cake for family or friend, or a meal at home, Olga was well known for her delicious cooking and in particular her perfection of Greek pastries. One never left her and George's home hungry or without a supply of tiganites, baklava, kourambiedes, or koulourakia. Olga was loved and admired by all who knew her and was endearingly called YiaYia by more than just her family. She was happiest and most content spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandson, as well as with special friends and neighbors. YiaYia was the matriarch of our family and always led by example. She instilled in us an enduring appreciation for the values and traditions by which she lived each day of her life. Selfless and always doing for others, all who knew her were truly blessed. Our family will preserve in our heart the woman whose presence has and whose memory will hold us together forever.

As strong and selfless as Olga was, George was sensitive and generous. George always took notice of what others did for him and made sure that one's efforts, whether large or small, did not go by unrecognized. He was well known for leaving gifts as a show of gratitude, a practice his father instilled in him. Whether for a simple haircut or for the deeply meaningful care for his ailing wife, George always made sure that you knew you were appreciated even if with just a simple bag of candy. He showed love to family and friends by ensuring that they were provided for with even the most basic of necessities. One could always rely on George and wouldn't be allowed to leave his and Olga's home in need. It pleased him to know that he had helped in some way and had some part in making your life just a bit easier.

George had a number of careers in the course of his life. Beginning with the Army Air Corps, he attained

the rank of corporal and was awarded the World War II Victory medal. During his military career he was stationed at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii and also at a base in Guam. As a federal employee he worked for 29 years at Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod and over three years at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford. Following his employment at Hanscom, George went on to work for the Massachusetts Racing Commission for a number of years. George also found time during his professional career to belong to and serve in many organizations including the Hellenic Lodge and Society, National Active Retired Federal Employees, and American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. He was also a dedicated member of the St. George Greek Orthodox in New Bedford, for which he served as both president and treasurer over many years. George was the first member in the church's history to receive the Laity Award from the Diocese of Boston in recognition for his contributions and commitment to

George and Olga each gave themselves unwaveringly to their community, their friends, and most of all to their family.

church and community. George retired after working 11 years for the New Bedford public school system as a driver in the mail department, a job he enjoyed as it allowed him to be out and about, and see and chat with many people each day. Among other things, he enjoyed discussing his favorite baseball team, the Detroit Tigers, and was a true fan, remaining loyal regardless of his performance. Renowned for his encyclopedic knowledge about films, their history, and the actors in them, George also enjoyed discussing the merits and shortfalls of the silver screen.

Together and individually George and Olga each gave themselves unwaveringly to their community, their friends, and most of all to their family.

George and Olga leave behind a large and loving family including their daughter Carolyn X. Bishop of Middleboro, son Lt. Steven G. Xiarhos and his wife Lisa of Yarmouthport, daughter Patricia A. Veronneau and her husband Mark of Acushnet. Grandchildren include Nathan W. Bishop of California, Neil J. Bishop of Florida and Nicolas H. G. Bishop of Middleboro; Alyssa L. and Steven M. Veronneau of Acushnet; Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Nicholas G. Xiarhos currently fighting for our country in Iraq, Alexander J., Ashlynn O. and Elizabeth J. Xiarhos all of Yarmouthport; and great-grandson George H. Bishop of Florida. George is survived by his sister Mildred Jorden and brother-in-law William Jorden of Dartmouth. Olga was the sister of Florence Hall of Sandwich, Constantine Arvanites, Louis Arvanites and his wife Jeannette, all of New Bedford and Peter Arvanites and his wife Jimmie of Virginia, and sister-in-law Brenda Arvanites. Olga was the sister of the late Steven Arvanites and Maria Arvanites Boucher and sister-in-law of the late Stephen Hall.

Funeral services for the couple were held on September 13 at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in New Bedford. Burial was at Pine Grove Cemetery.

Remembrances may be made to St. George Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund, 87 Ashley Blvd., New Bedford, MA 02746.

subscribe

PRINTED EDITION OF THE NATIONAL HERALD

via the post-office:

☐ 1 Month for \$9.95

☐ 3 Months for \$19.95

☐ 6 Months for \$29.95

☐ One Year for \$59.85

VIA HOME DELIVERY (NY, NJ & CT):

☐ 1 Month for \$12.95

☐ 3 Months for \$29.95

☐ 6 Months for \$43.99

☐ One Year for \$80.00

VIA HOME DELIVERY (NEW ENGLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, WASHINGTON D.C., VIRGINIA & MARYLAND)

☐ 1 Month for \$15.95

☐ 3 Months for \$37.45

☐ 6 Months for \$51.75

☐ One Year for \$99.00

ON LINE SUBSCRIPTION www.thenationalherald.com

NON SUBSCRIBERS: ☐ One Year for \$45.95

☐ 3 Months for \$18.95

SUBSCRIBERS: ☐ One Year for \$34.95 ☐ 3 Months for \$14.95

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY: STATE: ZIP:

TEL.: E-MAIL: CELL:

PLEASE SEND A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION TO:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY: STATE: ZIP:

TEL.: E-MAIL: CELL:

Please specify method of payment

I enclose a check/money order for \$ made payable to:

The National Herald, Inc., 37-10 30th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101 - 2614

or please debit my ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

CARD NUMBER:

EXPIRATION DATE: SIGNATURE:

European Union OKs Greek Plan to Privatize Olympic Airlines

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)- The European Union on Wednesday, September 17, approved Greece's plan to privatize the Greek carrier Olympic Airlines SA next year, but said the airline must pay back millions in aid that it should not have received.

EU Transport Commissioner Antonio Tajani said the Greek government's plan to sell assets of the troubled airline, including its ground handling and maintenance services, does not violate EU rules, but he told the airline it has pay back state subsidies worth 7850 million (US\$1.2 billion).

"We are asking ... Olympic airlines to return the amount they received in state aid to the state, because we consider that amount incompatible with European legislation," Tajani told reporters.

He said the European Commission would keep a close eye on how the airline is sold, making sure that happens in a free and open bidding process. He said an independent trustee would oversee the sale to ensure EU rules are not violated.

"We said the sales of assets by the old company has to take place at market prices, and that the sales have to take place in total transparency," said Tajani. "The intention is that the new company will be 100 percent privately owned and this will happen by the 31st of Dec., 2009."



AP PHOTO/THANASSIS STAVRAKIS

Olympic Airlines aircrafts are seen at the Eleftherios Venizelos airport of Athens, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008. The European Union on Wednesday, approved Greece's plan to privatize loss-making Olympic.

Tajani said the EU executive wanted to "make a break" with the past, to bring to close almost endless legal battles over aid given to Olympic over past years. He expected that new ownership would mean a much leaner and smaller airline,

but one that should be free of government handouts.

Speaking in Athens, Greek Transport Minister Costis Hatzidakis said the approved plan will allow the new company to keep the Olympic name and logo.

"The company will be privatized, but its current work force will be fully secured," Hatzidakis said. The approved plan "will finally resolve, in the best possible manner, an issue that has occupied Greek society and politics for some 30 years."

Olympic still employs 8,500 people but is expected to post losses of around 2.7 billion (US\$3.85 billion) this year.

Hatzidakis said "all routes" except for the domestic regional flights, which are allowed to be subsidized, were losing money.

"This is because Olympic Airlines has a structural problem. The only profitable routes are the ones that are legally subsidized to remote destinations (in Greece)," Hatzidakis said.

Trade unionists in Athens staged a rowdy protest outside the transport ministry against the plan.

The European Commission has long hounded Greece over loans and grants it gave to the carrier, and has filed several lawsuits at EU courts to force Athens to recoup what the commission has deemed illegal state aid.

Greece and Olympic Airlines still have an appeal pending in a lower EU court to annul earlier commission decisions against restructuring aid and subsidies given to the airline.

Olympic Airlines won a small victory last year at the EU court when it said the commission failed to prove some of the funds violated EU state aid rules. Those funds involved unpaid taxes on fuel and spare parts, as well as unpaid fees to Athens International Airport.

For years, Greece supplied subsidies to the struggling national air-

line, which in 2001 had debts totaling some 7120 million (US\$171.2 million). In 2003, the government incorporated the assets of debt-ridden Olympic Airways and two subsidiaries into the newly named Olympic Airlines.

Papandreou to Visit New York

By Yannis Sophianos
Special to The National Herald

THESSALONIKI – Main opposition PASOK leader George Papandreou spoke at the Thessaloniki International Fair last Saturday evening, and at the press conference that took place the following day, with renewed confidence thanks to the latest polls that show his party in the lead for the first time in nearly eight years.

Following his tour of Northern Greece, Mr. Papandreou will travel to New York to chair a meeting of Socialist International. He will remain in New York City from September 24 to September 30. A meeting of government heads and party leaders who sit on the executive board of Socialist International is scheduled to take place on September 26 at the United Nations.

Sources have told The National Herald that Socialist International's executive board will meet with UN officials to discuss the Millennium Development Goals adopted by UN member states, as well as international issues, including the recent events in the Caucasus region, and upcoming UN projects and initiatives.

Mr. Papandreou's aides are reportedly still uncertain as to which U.S. officials Mr. Papandreou will meet with during his trip, and are not to divulging any names, so as to err on the side of caution. Nevertheless, they assured TNH that the PASOK President would have an opportunity to meet with numerous officials from the Greek American Community while in the United States.

Mr. Papandreou will remain quite busy from now until his upcoming trip to New York, because the latest polls, combined with a series of corruption allegations involving Government officials, have raised the expectations of PASOK cadres.

According to an opinion poll carried out by Public Issue on behalf of the Greek daily newspaper Kathimerini, ND's lead over PASOK dropped to 1.5 percent, from 3.5 percent in July. Another poll, conducted by Metron Analysis for Antenna TV, actually shows PASOK ahead of ND by 2.2%. Mr. Papandreou and other PASOK officials believe that Greek voters have grown tired of the Government's policies.

Dora to Meet with Greek American Community During NY Trip

Continued from page 1

Greek American Community, along with Greek American members of Congress and elected officials of all levels have been invited to attend the event, which is open to all members of the Greek American Community.

The following evening, Friday September 26, Mrs. Bakoyannis will attend an event organized by the Cyprus Federation of America, in conjunction with the International Coordinating Committee – "Justice for Cyprus," at Terrace on the Park in Flushing, NY, where she will be on hand for Cyprus President Demetris Christofias' address to the members of the Greek and Cypriot American Community. Mrs. Bakoyannis' decision to attend this event drew praise from the organizing bodies, who noted that the Greek Foreign Minister regularly attends functions featuring the President of Cyprus.

In expressing their pleasure over this, the organizers of next Friday's event also noted that this was yet another indication and testimony to the close collaboration that exists between the Governments of Greece and Cyprus. Although Mrs.

Bakoyannis' official itinerary has not yet been finalized, some of the most important items on her agenda include her attendance at a reception that President Bush will offer, in addition to a meeting she will hold with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, her speech at the UN General Assembly, and a wide array of bilateral meetings she will have while in New York.

According to diplomatic sources, Greece's national issues, including the name row with FYROM over the use of the term Macedonia, the Cyprus issue, and the accession of new members into the European Union and NATO will be at the center of her meetings, in addition to issues such as Middle East peace talks, and the future of Ossetia, Abkhazia and other world regions that have been plagued by violence.

The same sources cite Greece, the only nation in the Balkans and southern Mediterranean basin to be a member of the EU and all the U.S.–Europe organizations, as a trustworthy partner in international discussions. In addition, they note that the initiatives advanced by Greece during its two-year term on the UN Security Council – and



Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis will travel to New York.

particularly during its two revolving presidencies of the council – have upgraded its international standing, and have resulted in

Greek positions on international issues being increasingly accepted and taken under serious consideration by their world partners.

Meanwhile, last Thursday September 11th, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed Greece's chief negotiator and representative in the UN-led talks between FYROM and Greece Ambassador Adamantios Vasilakis to his office, where the latter informed him of the Greek positions on the matter and extended him an invitation to visit Athens.

As in previous years, the Greek Foreign Minister will be in attendance at the UN General Assembly to listen to the addresses delivered by President Bush, Cyprus' President Demetris Christofias, and other leaders of EU member states.

While in New York, Mrs. Bakoyannis is expected to hold meetings with her EU counterparts and other Foreign Ministers from around the world.

Cyprus' President Demetris Christofias will be accompanied to the UN General Assembly by Government Spokesperson Stefanos Stefanou, Foreign Minister Markos Kyprianou, and other Cypriot officials, who are expected to arrive in

New York next Thursday – the same day as Mrs. Bakoyannis.

President Christofias will speak at an event open to the entire Greek American Community, which will take place at the Greek-owned Terrace on the Park, in Flushing, NY, next Friday night.

The event is sponsored by the Cyprus Federation of America, in association with the International Coordinating Committee – "Justice for Cyprus."

At the event, President Christofias will inform the Greek and Cypriot American Community about the latest developments in the Cyprus issue and the progress of the unification talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides.

This is the first time after many years that a Cypriot President will address the local Greek Community. President Christofias is also expected to meet with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and many other heads of state and government leaders, on the sidelines of the upcoming UN General Assembly.

President Christofias and his aides are scheduled to leave New York on Saturday afternoon September 27.

SPORTS

Panathinaikos Loses to Inter 2-0 in First Champions League Match

By Anthony Sorman
Goal.com

ATHENS – Panathinaikos were making their return to the Champions League following a two-year absence from Europe's biggest stage. The Greek giants, now coached by Dutchman Henk Ten Cate, were minus the services of Vangelis Mantzios, but Giorgios Karagounis returned to play against his former club in a 4-3-3 system.

Inter were without the injured Walter Samuel, Nelson Rivas, Dejan Stankovic, Luis Jimenez, and Christian Chivu, as well as the suspended Nicolas Burdissio. Ivan Cordoba made his return after seven months on the sidelines and partnered Marco Materazzi at centre back. Patrick Vieira also returned to take Sulley Muntari's place in mid-

field, while Ricardo Quaresma, Mancini and Zlatan Ibrahimovic forged a trident strikeforce. Adriano was on the bench.

FIRST HALF

Panathinaikos had the first attempt of the game on three minutes as Bryce Moon let fly from long range but it was easy for Julio Cesar.

Inter were a little disjointed at the start. Gilberto's header off a corner caused problems before it was cleared away, while Mattos fired in a 30-yard free kick well wide.

However, on 10 minutes the away side had a glorious chance to take the lead. Maicon threaded through a perfect pass for Ibrahimovic who was clean through on goal, but the Swede's finish was awful as he skewed the ball miles wide.

Moments later Ibra nodded the ball on for Quaresma, who unleashed a swerving half volley from 25 yards, but Mario Galinovic flew to his left to make a superb low fingertip save around the post. From the ensuing corner Materazzi volleyed over.

Inter started to gain a foothold, and Quaresma tried his luck with a trademark trivela from 30 yards, but this time it was straight at Galinovic.

The Croatian goalkeeper was a busy man, and he flew to his left again on 18 minutes to palm away a fine Ibrahimovic effort.

On 26 minutes, Inter finally broke the deadlock through Mancini following some majestic build-up play by Ibrahimovic. The Swede bullied Simao off the ball, beat two more men before laying the ball off to Mancini, who side-footed the

ball past Galinovic for his first goal since arriving from Roma in the summer.

Panathinaikos tried to hit back, and Moon unleashed a long shot which Julio Cesar tipped over the bar. Moon had a good chance a few minutes later, as he caught Vieira napping with a clever run around the back, but the South African overrun the ball when he would have been through on goal.

On 35 minutes the home side were forced into a change when Karagounis, who didn't look fully fit, had to be replaced by Austrian national team captain Andreas Ivanschitz.

Moon had been Panathinaikos' best player in the first half, and he tried to catch Julio Cesar out from a narrow angle, but the Brazilian was alert. Three minutes before the break Moon was desperately unlucky not to equaliser as his left footed effort from 20 yards, deflected off Materazzi and looped over a stranded Julio Cesar, only to then crash off the crossbar.

Panathinaikos were coming really strong as half time approached, and there was still time for Cleyton to hammer another shot from outside the area, which this time flew over.

SECOND HALF

Into the second half, and Panathinaikos came out with intent, with Ivanschitz testing Julio Cesar with a left-foot stinger.

On 52 minutes, the Greeks should have been level following a wonderful three man move that ended with Cleyton whipping a 15-yard shot just inches past the post.

Inter were getting deeper and deeper, and just seemed happy to play out for a 1-0 win. The nippy Salpingidis lost Cambiasso before he sliced the ball wide from outside the area. Gilberto then also tried his luck from long range, but as is usually the case with the former Arsenal man he did not have his shooting boots on.

Moon almost had a great chance just past the hour mark, but Cordoba made a crucial last gasp challenge on Moon. Vyntra then lashed over the bar, as it was all Panathinaikos.



Dimitris Salpingidis of Panathinaikos reacts, during a group B Champions League soccer match against Inter Milan at the Olympic Stadium of Athens, on Tuesday, Sept 16, 2008. Inter Milan won 2-0.

Mourinho knew he needed to make some changes, and introduced Luis Figo and Sulley Muntari for Quaresma and Vieira.

Ivanschitz curled a deflected free kick over the bar as the home side continued to do all the attacking, while Vyntra also headed over from a corner.

It took until the 73rd minute for Inter to have their first attempt of the second half as Figo did well down the left, and lifted the ball up to the far post for Mancini, who saw his sweet volley deflected over.

Inter were still living dangerously, and a slack pass by Maxwell gifted the ball to Mattos, whose low 25-yard shot was fingertipped around the post by Julio Cesar.

Both teams made their final changes on 81 minutes, as Adriano made his Champions League return for Inter in place of Mancini, with

Souza coming on for Moon for the home side.

It was an inspired substitution by Mourinho, as just a couple of minutes later Adriano latched onto Ibrahimovic's wonderful pass, and finished clinically past Galinovic to make it 2-0 and thus kill off the game.

The remaining minutes of the game were played out with little incident, as Inter and Jose Mourinho kicked off their Champions League campaign in the perfect manner.

OLYMPIAKOS

In the UEFA Cup, Olympiakos, virtually booked their place in the next round winning away against Danish team Nordsjaelland, 2-0.

The visitors left it late in the game as Kostas Mitroglou scored the first midway through the second half before Sebastian Leto added a second in injury time.



Anorthosis Gives Germans a Headache

Bremen's Hugo Almeida, right, and Anorthosis' Nikos Nikolaou fall after colliding in a fight for the ball during the UEFA Champions League Group B match between Werder Bremen and Anorthosis Famagusta, in Bremen, northern Germany, on Tuesday, September 16, 2008. The match ended in a 0-0 draw.

The National Herald

A weekly publication of the NATIONAL HERALD, INC. (ΕΘΝΙΚΟΕ ΚΗΡΥΞΕ), reporting the news and addressing the issues of paramount interest to the Greek American community of the United States of America.

Publisher-Editor Antonis H. Diamataris

Assistant to Publisher, Advertising Veta H. Diamataris Papadopoulos
Managing Editor Evan C. Lambrou
Assistant Managing Editor Mark Frangos
Production Manager Chrysoula Karametros
Webmaster Alexandros Tsoukias

The National Herald (USPS 016864) is published weekly by
The National Herald Inc. at 37-10 30th Street, LIC, NY 11101-2614
Tel: (718)784-5255, Fax: (718)472-0510,
e-mail: english.edition@thenationalherald.com

Democritou 1 and Academias Sts, Athens, 10671, Greece
Tel: 011.30.210.3614.598, Fax: 011.30.210.3643.776, e-mail: athens@ekirikas.com

Subscriptions by mail: 1 year \$59.85, 6 months \$29.95, 3 months \$19.95, 1 month \$9.95
Home delivery NY, NJ, CT: 1 year \$80.00, 6 months \$43.99, 3 months \$29.99, 1 month \$12.95
Home delivery New England States, Pennsylvania, Washington DC, Virginia and Maryland:
1 year \$99.00, 6 months \$51.75, 3 months \$37.45, 1 month \$15.95
On line subscription: Subscribers to the print edition: 1 year \$34.95, 6 months \$23.95, 3 months \$14.95; Non subscribers: 1 year \$45.95, 6 months \$29.95, 3 months \$18.95

Periodical postage paid at L.I.C., N.Y. and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster send change of address to:
THE NATIONAL HERALD, 37-10 30th Street, LIC, NY 11101-2614

Blink of an eye

We are living in historic times. In the blink of an eye, the financial landscape on Wall Street changed dramatically. Storied firms employing tens of thousands of people are disappearing overnight.

What's going on? How could this national financial tragedy happen? How could all these bright stars on Wall Street lead us to such a mess? And even more important at this time, is the situation containable?

Let's be clear about one thing: We are among those who have an abundance of belief in the American economy. We believe that, when all this is over, America will emerge stronger. At least America is dealing with its crises; takes action; and doesn't sweep dirt under the rug.

Meanwhile, until the situation stabilizes and reaches a new equilibrium, a lot of people are unfortunately going to get hurt. A lot of people will lose their jobs; a lot of families will lose their homes; and some cities, especially New York, will be hit hard, forced to cut back on services due the budget shortfalls.

A sense of fear has begun to spread across the land. People are wondering if this is the modern-day equivalent of the Great Depression for the generations born after World War II. Certainly the Post-War generations are no strangers to economic downturns, to the bursting of economic bubbles. But could it be that this one is unlike all others which have come and gone for the last 60 years?

It breaks your heart to see gigantic, famous companies with global reach and influence evaporate from one minute to the next as government officials, running like chickens with their heads cut off, rush from one crisis to next trying to decide which companies to save, guaranteeing or lending tens of billions, and which to let vanish. All the while, as the Wall Street Journal wrote in its editorial this past Tuesday, the bankruptcy of other large banks is a certainty, "including some very big ones." Time will tell.

Meanwhile, it boggles the mind how so many brilliant people working on Wall Street, with degrees from some of the best business schools in the country, making millions upon millions of dollars a year, failed to understand the unacceptable risk they were taking, which led to the eventual demise of their companies.

How could this happen? Could it be, as the New York Times wrote, that "they were in denial?" That they could not bear to see things as they were?

Lehman Brothers, for instance, might have been saved had its CEO only negotiated with more flexibility, and was more of a realist about the problems, and therefore about the value of his firm, to strike a deal with the South Korean company he was negotiating with last week.

Exactly the opposite of what the Greek American CEO of Merrill Lynch, John Thain, did last weekend, who cut his losses and managed to sell Merrill to Bank of America for \$50 billion, about 2/3's of what it was worth last year. At least he got \$50 billion for his shareholders, a lot more than he would have gotten had Merrill gone bankrupt, allowing most of his employees to keep their jobs at the same time.

Our thoughts are not with these supposedly smart, extremely well paid former CEO's, however. We can be sure that they have taken good care of themselves.

The question is, what will tens of thousands of well-paid employees do who lost their jobs in a moment's notice. It was heartbreaking to watch those people leaving their offices carrying small boxes with some of their personal items, a few papers and pictures of their loved ones.

How will they pay their mortgages, their kids' college tuition, take care of their families?

Make no mistake about it: The United States has been humbled. The rest of the world is watching the meltdown of the American financial system with amazement. Some multi-national corporations will see their customers flee to other companies. It will hurt.

Yet both Presidential candidates have so far failed to rise to the occasion, to utter a single sensible word about the country's predicament, its causes and possible solutions. Instead, they are playing politics, attacking each other, almost oblivious to the economic carnage affecting the people.

And through all this, the government and its monetary officials are playing defense, scrambling to control the damage and prevent the total collapse of the system. They are doing a good job with that, so far, but how many privately-held companies can the government bail out without completely corrupting the system? How can it be justified that, while CEO's and stockholders pocket the profit, taxpayers get to pay the bill when they drive those companies to the ground?

The government should have been alert enough to prevent the excesses which led to this tragedy. But it wasn't. Political consequences are thus inevitable.

Fundamentally, the crisis we are going through is rooted in two problems: first, not enough regulation. It's possible that analysts were so convinced by their own rhetoric; that Wall Street would somehow police itself; and that a real estate bubble could not happen. Second, and even more sad, households which were struggling to make ends meet were taken for a ride by banks which offered them loans they couldn't afford.

So more regulation is almost certain to follow, slowing things down for a number of years until they figure ways to bypass repeating similar excesses.

As NYT columnist Thomas Friedman wrote in last Wednesday's column, "In sum, the government's job is to police that fine line between necessary risk-taking, which drives an innovation economy, and crazy gambling with other people's savings in ways that threaten us all."

Let's welcome her

Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyanni is coming to New York on Saturday to participate in the United Nations 63rd annual General Assembly. She will be here for the next nine days.

She is coming at a time when Greece's national interests are being threatened by a tremendous propaganda machine driving the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which demands that the General Assembly recognize it as "Macedonia."

And she is coming at a time when the Cyprus problem is back on the table, more than four years after the Annan Plan was rejected.

Her itinerary includes attending a reception hosted by President Bush, meeting with U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, addressing the General Assembly, and holding an array of bilateral meetings.

While she is here, Dora will also devote a substantial amount of her time to the Greek American community, as she has always done in the past (see related story, page 1).

This coming Thursday, September 25, she is holding a reception in the community's honor in Manhattan, where she will also offer remarks that evening. The event is open to all members of the Greek American community.

The following evening, September 26, Dora will attend an event organized by the community's Cypriot organizations at Terrace on the Park in Flushing, where she will be on hand for Republic of Cyprus President Demetris Christofias' address to the community.

Dora has proven herself to be a successful foreign minister, one of the best in memory and has earned the respect of her counterparts throughout the world. She is always happy to do her job, and happy to spend time with us. Let's give her a warm welcome.

Orthodox Church in America Needs Administrative Unity

To the Editor:

Your August 30 editorial, "Arguing honestly and objectively," contains many statements which demand a response. But I will limit my response to your assertions that the goal of achieving an administratively united Orthodox Church of America is "silly," and that "arguing for administrative unity is misguided."

As you know, the Holy Canons unequivocally and repeatedly provide that, in each city, there shall be only one bishop, and that each bishop exercises his authority and functions only in his diocese, and at no time infringes upon the territory of another bishop. I am sure you are also fully aware of the decree of the 1872 Council of Constantinople, which declared the division of the Church along racial lines to be "contrary to the teaching of the Gospel, and the holy canons" and "completely opposed (to the) constant practice (of the) Church."

What this means, for instance, is that parishes in Russia comprised primarily of ethnic Greeks are parishes of the Orthodox Church of Russia – the same as all Orthodox parishes in Russia, regardless of parishioners' ethnicity. There is no separate Greek jurisdiction with a separate bishop for the Greeks. All Orthodox Churches in any particular area or diocese are under the bishop of that diocese. There are no separate jurisdictions or bishops for each ethnic group.

In contrast to your assertion that the "multi-jurisdictional problem in America functionally evaporates because the unity of the Church is in the Eucharist," His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh has written, "According to Orthodox Christian practice and canonical tradition, this one Eucharist, presided over by only one bishop in every city, gathers together all people of Orthodox faith, regardless of ethnicity, language, social rank, or color of skin. Finally, the unity of the Church is also administrative."

The same person who presides over the one Eucharist of the Church, the bishop, also presides over the entire life of the Church..."

The existence of 14 or more Orthodox jurisdictions in America, separated from each other on the basis of ethnicity, is contrary to the ecclesiology and Holy Canons of the Orthodox Church. The fact that we honor our forefathers who, by their sacrifices established our churches in America, and that we understand the historic reasons which resulted in multiple jurisdictions, does not mean that we should not now abide by the Holy Canons, sacred tradition and ecclesiology of the Church, all of which mandate the union of all Orthodox jurisdictions in America into one canonical Orthodox Church in America.

Judging from statements in your editorial, it would appear that you do not understand and have an unfortunate misconception of what a united Orthodox Church of America would be like.

Administrative unity does not mean that a unified Church would be a Church made up of homogeneous parishes with "no ethnic character." Rather, each parish of the Orthodox Church of America would use such language or combination of languages, and observe such cultural and ethnic customs as it may wish, and which it believes best serves its parishioners at the local level.

There is no valid reason why the Church in America can not be structured in the same manner as the Church of Greece, the Church of Russia and other traditional Orthodox Churches, in accordance with the Holy Canons and the ancient tradition of the Church without regard to the ethnicity of the faithful.

It is not the goal for the establishment of a canonical, united Orthodox Church of America which is silly or misguided, but rather your misconceptions and your erroneous understanding of the Orthodox Church as the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Evan Alevizatos Chriss
Baltimore, Maryland

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Liberals Are Threatened by a God-Fearing Woman in Palin

To the Editor,

I am appalled by the leftwing political stance your newspaper takes on the American political scene. Your September 6 and 13 editions take a very leftist attitude toward the selection of Sarah Palin as the Vice Presidential running mate of John McCain.

Your September 6 editorial blasted Palin unmercifully for being unknown; a poor example for the youth of America; inexperienced in foreign policy; for having a Christian commitment; and for revelations now coming out about her activity as governor which are nothing more than innuendo.

You have joined the rest of the socialistic media of this country which is trying to completely destroy Sarah Palin because, in reality, she has proven to be a real threat to the Democratic Party's effort to elect Senator Obama. You have completely misread her accomplishments as Governor of Alaska. You completely misread the impact of her appearance at the Republican Convention. Because of your miscalculations, the whole Democratic apparatus is in a crisis mode.

You dislike her because she is a conservative Christian who is a God-fearing woman. She is a breath of fresh air that is speaking to the hearts of all suffering Americans. We can all identify with her. She is pro-life, pro-family and pro-God, issues you liberals can not stand, and this is why you hate her with such passion.

When I was first introduced to this outstanding American mother of five, she reminded me of my own mother, an illiterate village girl from Greece. She had no education and no life's experience, but she had great Orthodox Christian values and a great deal of native intelligence. She was pro-God, pro-life and pro-family, and she had the heart of a lion, which could match up to any man in the world. Palin is cut from the same cloth. I can feel it in my gut. Like my mother, she would put many fat cats in Washington in their place.

Don't short-change her. She is a very gifted woman.

Beyond this, Ambassador Theros' op-ed in the September 13th issue is an insult to the Greek world. He says Palin is a "45-year old evangelical, class-baiting, publicly vindictive, religiously intolerant and anti-intellectual woman who shamelessly exploits her Down's Syndrome child."

The hateful, anti-God and anti-spiritual invective Mr. Theros spews in his article is beyond comprehension for a Greek Orthodox Christian. Remember, pro-abortion is pro-murder.

These issues, plus the fact that you trumpeted to the whole Greek world the anti-McCain attitude of the youth of Greece on your front page truly angers me. What does that survey of Greece's youth reveal to us? If they haven't walked a mile in American shoes, they should keep their thoughts to themselves. Are they for Obama because Greece has the highest abortion rate in Europe? Are they for Obama because he is a liberal socialist who is prepared to sell the American Dream down the tube? Are they for Obama because he promises to make the world love America again? Let's get real. May God have mercy on our souls.

Rev. Constantine J. Simones
Waterford, Connecticut

TO OUR READERS

The National Herald welcomes letters from its readers intended for publication. They should include the writer's name, address, and telephone number and be addressed to: The Editor, The National Herald, 37-10 30th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101. Letters can also be faxed to (718) 472-0510 or e-mailed to english.edition@thenationalherald.com. We reserve the right to edit letters for publication and regret that we are unable to acknowledge or return those left unpublished.

COMMENTARY

Unruly Britons, the Olympic Legacy and Greek Feasts

By Christopher Tripoulas

Special to The National Herald

Another Olympiad has come and gone, with its share of surprises, spectacles and scandals. Beijing stood at the center of the world for two weeks, although the conflict in South Ossetia took away some of the event's luster. For many of us, the latest Olympiad brought back fond memories from the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics, when Greece occupied center stage in the amphitheater of the global village.

It was indeed a pleasant surprise to see China take a page out of Greece's book and emulate a lot of the themes Greece used in 2004 in its impressive opening and closing ceremonies. It was also not much of a surprise to see that the British media are at it again. When they aren't encouraging their pale-faced populace to come to Greece and live out their holiday fantasies bare-bottomed and inebriated all the live long day, they seem to try and heal the wounded pockets and livers of their homebound revelers with a unique balsam of malevolence.

Let's face it, in the summer, the British love to trash Greece with empty beer bottles and the human by-products of overintoxication, and it the winter, they love to trash Greece in their tabloids, only to repeat the cycle again next year. After all the nay-saying false prophets were proved wrong following the successful organization of the 2004 Athens Olympics, London's print media decided to posthumously trash the Games as a "waste of money." No sooner did the curtain fall on Beijing's Games and the torch was passed on to London – in that corny red bus – than the British tabloids began warning the citizens of London about the perils of the 2004 Games and their legacy of debt, useless venues, and POT (Post Olympic Trauma).

Yes, it's true that Greece far exceeded its budget for the Olympic Games, but it's also true that these were the first post-9/11 Olympics ever organized. And while the general consensus agrees that the Greek Government has done a less than terrific job utilizing the Olympic venues, it is important to realize so many other projects that did get completed as a result of the Olympics return to Athens (new Athens Metro, new international airport, Attiki Odos highway, suburban railway, inner-city tram, etc.), not to mention the tremendous rise in tourism that has come about ever since the Games. A simple "efharisto" (thank you) would have sufficed, and maybe a small "sygnomi" (sorry) from our British beraters. After all, Greece spent all that money to make sure that foreign visitors would be safe from would-be terrorists, who might retaliate partially due to the wars that leading Western nations started.

Greece's budget is its own problem. Be sure, if the citizens didn't

get shafted from the Olympics, they would most certainly have gotten shafted from something else. Even more than necessity, the opportunity to pocket millions, is the mother of invention! This is the sad reality of a system of governance that was built by Bavarians, continuously meddled with by Brits and then Americans, and implemented in a country resided in by Greeks. But that's another issue, to be addressed at another time.

Try to remember, if you will, the closing ceremony of the Athens Olympics, which was capped off by a big feast (panegyris). I know it was kind of hard to pay attention to with Bob Costas yapping incessantly and NBC's camera crew refusing to film anything not remotely related to Michael Phelps and his seemingly infinite collection of gold medals. However, for those of you who own a copy of the ceremony on DVD or won't mind spending some time You-Tubing it, I assure you it is a worthwhile endeavor.

That particular "panegyris" symbolically captured the significance of Greek civilization– and the inability to appreciate it is precisely the reason that London's Olympics will not compare favorably to Athens' or Beijing's. It is also the same reason Greek TV crews have a field day all summer long filming Britain's sons and daughters outdo each other personifying licentiousness and intemperance all across the Greek isles.

The word "panegyris," or festival, is used for the first time by the poet Archilochos in 700 B.C., and he attributes its origin to the deities of farming. In the ancient times, the first "theater of war" existed between ranchers and farmers. Each wanted to use the limited resources of land for their own purposes, and as you can guess, animals and gardens do not mix very well. Soon afterwards, a civil war between farmers and vinegrowers broke out as well. Ironically, through, it was through these battles (which still exist today in part) that a transcendental union came about, by which the Greek concept of harmony was formed. This divine harmony went on to become the foundation of the religious, political, philosophical and aesthetic quests of Greek Civilization.

In the ancient Greek world, food and drink come from two rivaling religious centers, personified by Zeus and Dionysus. In contrast to other single-minded civilizations, Greek Civilization rested upon two pillars, and consequently it was rooted on firmer ground! Everything it produced arose from common celebrations: the feasts!

Mythology, a fountain of knowledge for those that know how to interpret it, clues us in to this reality. Despite the fact that Zeus was the patron of wheat and crops, we are told that he was raised by the goat Amalthea and protected by her skin. Athena, patron of the olive,

was protected by a goatskin as well.

However, as anyone who has ever been on a farm knows, goats are the traditional enemies of every crop. Moreover, wheat, olives and goats all represent rival factions. Where, then, do these contradicting and irrational mythological relations come from? Why would Greek mythology portray Zeus and Athena as being protected by a goat? We see the same contradiction in the case of the grapevine, and its deadly encounter with the goat. A goat that eats a grapevine destroys its fruit, but simultaneously prunes it, enabling it to shoot forth even more fruit when it blossoms again. It was this very encounter that became beneficial for all mankind, because essentially, without the pedagogical contribution of one ordinary billy-goat, neither the cultivation of grapevines would exist, nor festivals and their dances. As any native

It was a pleasant surprise to see China take a page out of Greece's book and emulate a lot themes Greece used in 2004.

of Greece will tell you, without homemade wine and wild goats, no proper feast can ever take place.

As for the illogical association between wheat, olives, the grapevine, and goats, the third century Neo-Platonist philosopher Proclus provides us with an explanation in his commentary on Plato's Timaeus, where he informs us of the original outlook on feasts. Loosely translated, Proclus writes that: "The feast is also marked by the coexistence taught by God (the transcendental union)... Through our participation in the feast, we accept a life that is common, where we become of one mind..."

With this account, the bizarre concelebration of the goat herders and the cultivators of the grapevine is explained, during which each faction participates through the offering of its own gifts. As we said before, without wine (grapevine cultivators) and mountain-goats (goat herders), a feast is inconceivable, and this holds true until today. Even the gifts offered during the greatest feast imaginable – a divine liturgy – are a product of this age-old rivalry! The fact that Protestantism – the creation of the Western mind – has in many cases done away with this critical aspect of Christian worship is cause alone to accuse the Westerners of being single-minded, and dare I say undemocratic! Look no further than the Protestant axiom of "sola scripture," and their recognition of scripture as the sole source of authority within the Church.

Through the ancient ritual of the feast, tolerance of the individual and group difference was developed. Through this uncanny mixing

of rival factions and the ironic codependence that was formed among them, the panegyris begot one of Hellenism's greatest gifts to humanity: Democracy – a life where people are of one mind, and coexist in a system of justice, liberty and happiness. The feast remains a cornerstone of Greek society until this very day, and that alone is testament to the timelessness and relevance of Greek culture.

Admittedly, it is hard to believe that all these things proceed from a simple feast, and yet, genius lies in simplicity. Of course, for the British press, who insist on continually bashing the 2004 Athens Olympics and their legacy, and all like-minded individuals, the Olympics will always be about budgets, advertising dollars, profits and name brand exploitation.

There is no room for the feast in their narrow-minded outlook on life. There is an austere rigidity that governs everything, which seems to exercise control over every aspect of their lives. Work is tyrannical, and, sadly, so is play. Perhaps that is why the youth of such a system lose control when they visit Greece. They feel pressured to consume as much alcohol as possible and maximize their investment. Food, drink, and love are all finite goods that must be hoarded and voraciously consumed, before Big Ben mercilessly signals the return to work and the oppressive precision of their daily lives.

There may be much to critique in the organization and handling of the Athens Olympics, but this can only be done after realizing the value of the Games' legacy, including the intangible factors that will not register on a stat sheet.

It's alright though. There is still some of the transcendental union left in Greek rituals with a long, mysterious past that have much to teach us. There is room in the feast for the British as well, despite their unruliness and relentless criticism. It is just a matter of them learning how to sip and not chug.

Those of us who have experienced the Olympics in our countries would caution them that the biggest danger the 2012 London Olympics face is the single-mindedness of a budget sheet. They might just even turn a profit, but if they have nothing of substance to offer the world – if they don't learn how to make the Games a feast and not just a business – that will be the biggest shame of all, and far more costly than Greece's unutilized venues.

Christopher Tripoulas is an Adjunct Professor of Speech and Interpersonal Communication at St. John's University. He holds graduate degrees concentrating in Speech, Communications and Second Language Acquisition. In addition, he specializes in translations, and several works of his has been published from Greek to English.

LETTER FROM ATHENS

It's Easy Being Green, but Athens Just Won't

A popular tourist stop in Athens for visitors from all over the world is the top of Mt. Lycabettus, a 900-foot hill in the oh-so-posh Kolonaki neighborhood, and once you've overpaid your \$8.50 for a two-minute funicular tram ride up inside the hill, you'll find yourself with a 360-degree view covering the plain of Attica and one stark indelible image: white cement. That's the first jolt you'll get that Athens is not a charming or aesthetic city, in the sense European cities are, even smaller ones like Strasbourg, France, where you're overwhelmed with a majestic sense of architectural details, but especially rivers and flowers and trees, and the one essential item Athens lacks: grass.

Athens is white, or a dirty grey because of concrete apartment houses thrown up after World War II that make big swaths of the city look like Soviet-era Bulgaria or Romania, depressing despite the puny attempts of Athenians to create their own green by bedecking tiny balconies with plants and little olive trees. It just makes it look all the worse for its futility, like a rose in a dump. Greeks don't like to hear it because you're supposed to say this is a beautiful city, when it is not, even though you have a few little sanctuaries in neighborhoods which have made it their duty to create little pockets of green.

Any time land is available, if a smaller house is torn down for example, it is rapidly replaced with another building. The old airport at Hellinikon along the sea was supposed to be turned into the biggest park in Europe, but now will be another cement city because of greed instead of green.

The old airport at Hellinikon was supposed to be turned into the biggest park in Europe, but will now be another cement city.

In Syntagma, adjacent to the Parliament, sits the National Garden, a 38-acre park that is the only green refuge of any size, apart from some land on the other side of Mt. Lycabettus.

The garden was commissioned by Queen Amalia in 1838, and once so pretty the author Henry Miller wrote in 1939 that: "It remains in my memory like no other park I have known. It is the quintessence of a park, the thing one feels sometimes in looking at a canvas or dreaming of a place one would like to be in and never finds." Today, the best you can say about this unkempt place where wild dogs roam and cats run free amongst the trees and mostly untended little plots of dirt-and-grass is that it is nondescript, a place you'd sooner leave than stay. Still, it's the only place with something resembling trees and brings to mind folk song writer Joni Mitchell's lament about a world that doesn't care about the environment that, "They took all the trees and put them in a tree museum. And they charged all the people a dollar and a half just to see 'em."

No matter how long you live in Athens, how much you fall in love with a lifestyle that celebrates taking time to stop and live instead of working yourself into the ground, how many times you find interesting, quaint buildings and neighborhoods, you always come back to the thought you miss green, especially trees and grass, and that it doesn't have to be this way.

The solutions are simple, just building little vest pocket parks wherever there are empty lots, and there's plenty of them, but there's just no political will to do so. Instead, politicians like to give speeches about how they really want to make Athens green, but it ends at that, instead of ideas such as adopting American architect William McDonough's planet-saving visions of putting grass atop buildings would create oases that would deflect heat and make the view from Mt. Lycabettus a sea of green.

That's why Athenians and visitors were treated to more gaseous emissions passing as praise when the city opened its Green Design Festival, some tin train cars filled with a few exhibits like a globe of

the world in a toilet, plastic water bottles redesigned as light bulbs, and wooden palettes to make you think the city cares about the environment. For all the good and noble intentions of its participants - and they are people with their hearts in the right place - these ideas are always overwhelmed by the underwhelming response of people who control the money. So Athens Mayor Nikitas Kaklamanis, who said he would institute recycling but has mostly sat on his hands, came to the opening ceremony and said: "We are experiencing a different type of festival. A green festival full of intelligent, new, imaginative ideas, whose goal is to raise public awareness of the fact that many of the items we throw away can be used to create amazing things, such as a stunning light fixture I saw which was made with plastic bottles." You have to do that, since the city won't recycle them.

The Athens Green Festival was designed to give people who mostly don't give a damn about a green city reasons why they should. It's hard to say how excited people were, since two days after it opened the exhibit was mostly empty, except for a few tourists like Todd Horworth, 22, of San Francisco, nearing the end of an around-the-world trip by himself. He hadn't seen much of Athens yet, he said, but said:

"There's not much green." Shortly thereafter, Zoe Schirmer, 25, of Madison, Wisconsin, a Greek-American who has lived in Athens for two years and who has a biology degree, walked by and stopped because she loves the city, but not its failure to re-invent itself as a 21st Century Green City. "It bothers me. I used to live near the National Garden and go for a run there, but now I can't where I live because I'm surrounded by cement on all sides."

She knows part of the solution too. "There are no neighborhood parks. In Madison, you'll find them everywhere," and she said there's not enough education from an early age or exposure to what green can do to make more people care. "I don't know how much day-to-day awareness there is of what an individual can do," she said. The young people running the eco-museum in Syntagma were full of idealism and among the few Athenians who do care, but they don't control the pocketbooks or make the policy decisions that would make Athens green, even though there's so much envy among politicians here you'd think that would do the trick. "There are some little squares that are green, but not enough," Schirmer said.

Marilena Xythali, 22, a journalist who came to see the exhibits, said there's no green mentality amongst residents. "At school we are not taught to do that, we are not sensitive about it," she said of the penchant of Athenians to accept living in a cement jungle, balcony-decorators aside. So the exhibitors were left to urge people to paint graffiti on trees as one way to show people there actually are trees in the city, although if they did that it would just look like all the walls covered in graffiti anyway. Another idea espoused was guerilla gardening, to make up little seed bombs in your house and walk around like Johnny Appleseed throwing them in empty lots, hoping they'll find ground underneath the rubbish and rubble. Georgia Tsakalogianni, 36, who moved to Athens from Patra three years ago, was walking through an exhibit looking a little forlorn at what it offered and why she was nearly alone.

"I think it's terrible that nobody cares. They want to build a lot of buildings and they don't care about green," she said. If the Euro, which comes out in different colors for different denominations, was green like the American dollar, they'd care plenty.

Mr. Dabilis was the New England editor for United Press International in Boston, and a staff writer and assistant metropolitan editor at the Boston Globe for 17 years before relocating to Greece. His column is published weekly in the National Herald. Readers interested in contacting him can send e-mails to andy.dabilis@gmail.com.



Special to The National Herald

Blunders on Georgia and Cyprus Damage U.S. Interests

The Georgia crisis has moved from the front pages of the daily newspapers to the inside pages and not even on a daily basis.

The Greek American community should not let the U.S. response to Russia's overreaction to Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili's provocation in sending Georgian troops into South Ossetia, one of the contested provinces, go unchallenged for at least two reasons.

First, the role and actions of the State Department regarding Georgia and Cyprus by failing to uphold the rule of law in international affairs have damaged U.S. interests and continue to damage U.S. interests.

Second, we need to continually remind the administration, particularly the State Department and the Congress: (1) of the failure of the U.S. government to prevent Turkey's invasion of Cyprus in 1974; (2) the actual U.S. encouragement of Turkey to invade Cyprus and overthrow the democratically elected government headed by President Makarios; (3) the toleration by State of the occupation by Turkey of 37% of Cyprus with 43,000 illegal armed forces and the failure to call publicly for their removal as State has called for the removal of Russian troops from Georgia; and (4) the toleration of the illegal transfer of Turks from Anatolia to Cyprus which now number 180,000 and outnumber the Turkish Cypriots by 2 to 1, and the failure to call publicly for the removal of these illegal settlers/colonists.

It appears that Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili believed he had State's support to press Russia regarding the two contested provinces of Georgia, South Ossetia and Abkhazia, where Russia had peacekeeping forces since the issue arose in the early 1990's. State authorized U.S. military aid to Georgia with U.S. arms and equipment including offense type weapons.

And why do we have 100 military advisers to Georgia's army? Keep in mind that Georgia borders Russia.

And why do we keep pushing for NATO expansion to the borders of Russia when the Cold War is over and we said, in effect, to Gorbachev, Yeltsin and Putin that

we would not do so?

I concur with the general condemnation of Russia's overreaction to Georgia's provocation in attacking South Ossetia with multiple rocket launchers and troops.

But where was the condemnation of the Georgian president Saakashvili's actions and the U.S. role in his actions? There has been some criticism of Saakashvili in the media but not nearly enough.

There has been very little criticism of U.S. actions, particularly State's actions, compared with the chorus of attacks on Russia, particularly by neo-conservatives and by the State Department, which is trying to divert attention from its role and to cover-up its role.

I believe State and Defense were aware of Saakashvili's intentions and did nothing to stop him. At our embassy in Georgia we have in addition to State Department officials, CIA personnel as well as Defense Intelligence Agency activities, all of which are proper functions. We also have in Georgia one hundred military advisers.



Special to The National Herald

There is no way in my judgment that Saakashvili could have done what he did without their knowledge and, in effect, support.

State, instead of admitting its role which amounts to a major blunder because of its impact on U.S.-Russia relations, has resorted to intemperate attacks on Russia and a cover-up of State's role and responsibility for the Georgia crisis.

State's actions are similar to what it has done regarding Cyprus for over three decades, to the clear detriment of U.S. interests in the region.

Paul J. Saunders, executive director of the Nixon Center and associate publisher of conservative magazine, The National Interest, basically concurs in these views regarding the State Department blunders in Georgia.

An article he wrote, which was posted August 12, 2008 is titled: "The United States shares the blame for the Russia-Georgia crisis: American blunders fostered the situation, and now the United States will pay a high global price."

There is a need in the interests



Ossetian women sit on the front steps of their house in Tskhinvali, regional capital of Georgia's breakaway province of South Ossetia, on Sunday, September 7, 2008, after the five-day war with Russia.

Famagusta And Morphou... Through The Mist Of History

By Nicos Rolandis

Special to The National Herald

Demetris Christofias has an onerous feat to achieve. He carries on his shoulders the sins and blunders of two generations of Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Even his own party, which has, by and large, followed the right course, has committed a number of missteps along the historical path. Now, Christofias and Mehmet Ali Talat, must carry the burden of a sinful past and lead Cyprus to the solution of her problem.

Demetris reminds me of the legendary king of ancient Corinth, Sisyphus. Sisyphus was condemned by the Gods to repeatedly roll up a hill a heavy rock, which always rolled down again when it was about to reach the top. In our case the heavy rock is made up of 250,000 settlers, a virgin birth, a rotating presidency, Turkish guarantees, illegally exploited properties, limited territorial adjustments, a disputed sovereignty, lack of will for a solution, nationalist trends, Morphou, Famagusta and many other thorny issues, most of which did not exist in the past.

Some years ago we had only 15,000 settlers who were ready to be compensated and depart. The concept of virgin birth did not exist. There was no rotating presidency either. Construction on Greek properties in the north was minimal. The territorial adjustments were better for us. Sovereignty was not in doubt.

The "patriots of leisure" however left Cyprus gasping for air, with no solution to her problem. We were aiming at the absolute. And we got nothing.

Famagusta and Morphou, the two jewels in the crown of the Cyprus problem, became part of my life. From the very beginning, just after the invasion. Since the days when the Varosha residents were packing dreams into their luggage. They now fill their suitcases with "signatures", which are also deposited deep in the archives of the United Nations.

FAMAGUSTA

1. At the beginning of September 1978 (exactly 30 years ago) Matthew Nimetz, the U.S Assistant Secretary of State arrived in Cyprus. We had a number of meetings, some of them at my residence to avoid publicity. President Kyprianou was kept informed on the progress of the talks. The Anglo-American-Canadian Plan was under preparation. Among other things, we underscored the importance of the priority of Famagusta, which was also presented in a positive way by Rauf Denktaş two months earlier. The Plan was handed over to me on the 10th November 1978, at the Harvard Club in New York. Nimetz emphasized the fact that the Plan was fully supported by President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus

Vance and also by the Governments of the United Kingdom and Canada. I had with me in New York the party representatives, Glafcos Clerides (DISY), Ezekias Papaioannou (AKEL), Alecos Michaelides (DIKO) and Vassos Lyssarides (EDEK). Acting on the instructions of the President I briefed them about the Plan at the Delegates' Lounge of the U.N. The Plan provided that the Varosha residents would return to their homes and stay there, irrespective of the outcome of the talks. Although no statements were made by the leaders, Clerides was positive, Papaioannou was rather positive but he said that we

should wait, Michaelides was positive on a personal basis and Lyssarides was negative. President Kyprianou, although I tried to convince him to the contrary, had many doubts. The Greek Government was in favour. Moscow had a negative

cial map of the United Nations placed Varosha in the Greek Cypriot area. The Gobbi map was approved by Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and later on by his successor Perez de Cuellar, who was going to use the map in August 1983, as a basis for the territorial aspect of his "Indicators" initiative. The Initiative was rejected by us. I disagreed and resigned from the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs and AKEL severed its relations with the President. Famagusta was left alone again, covered by the mist of History.

4. The Consolidated Documents of de Cuellar (1985-86) and the Set of Ideas of Boutros Ghali (1992) comprised provisions for the return of Famagusta. Both initiatives were rejected by us.

5. The Annan Plan provided in a clear-cut language, for the return of the residents of Famagusta on the 10th August 2004. The Plan was re-



U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Matthew Nimetz greeted by Nicos A. Rolandis at the Foreign Ministry in September 1978.

stance. The Plan was finally rejected at the beginning of December 1978. The residents of Varosha were left alone, holding their suitcases in the winter fog.

2. In the spring of 1981 we had an Initiative by the United Nations for the return of Famagusta and in parallel the operation of the Nicosia Airport under U.N administration (mini - package), together with the signature of a Disclaimer, which would protect our position regarding the status of the occupied part of Cyprus. Our legal adviser, professor Ian Brownlie, in a 70 - page opinion concluded that "the proposed arrangement would not amount to a recognition, express or tacit of the Turkish federated state". However the President rejected the Initiative.

3. In October 1981, the first offi-

jected by us. The residents of Famagusta themselves voted against their return!!

6. The train for the return of the Famagusta people called at our station in 1978 (twice), in 1981, in 1983, in 1985, in 1992 and in 2004. The "patriots" decided that we should not embark. And the city, the sad Lady of the Sea, is gradually fading away into the heroes and myths of history.

MORPHOU

1. In the summer of 1981 I was informed that Hugo Gobbi, the Special Representative of Waldheim was working on the first U.N map on Cyprus. I invited Gobbi many times to meet me at my office. One of the difficult issues was the area of Morphou. The initial reaction of Gobbi and his team was that

of U.S. foreign policy for a shake-up in State's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs.

Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Dan Fried, one of the harshest critics of Russia, must bear a major portion of the blame for U.S. blunders regarding Georgia and for the deterioration in U.S.-Russian relations.

He also bears responsibility for the failure to call for the removal of Turkey's 43,000 occupation troops and 180,000 illegal settlers/colonists from Cyprus while he calls for Russian troops out of Georgia.

The prime persons responsible for the unfortunate state of U.S.-Russian relations are, of course, President Bush and his Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Rice started as Bush's first National Security Adviser before he nominated her for Secretary of State. Secretary Rice's expertise at Stanford University was as a Soviet Union expert, which country does not exist today. She bears a major responsibility for the present state of U.S.-Russia relations. Both Bush and Rice will be out of office on January 20, 2009.

Any new career officials in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs should be asked specifically whether they will faithfully uphold U.S. laws and support the rule of law in international affairs.

And any political appointees to the State Department, including the Secretary of State and Deputy Secretary of State, should also be specifically asked whether they will uphold U.S. laws and enforce the rule of law in international affairs.

Congress must also utilize its oversight responsibility regarding State's blunders.

GET ACTIVE

Election day is November 4, 2008. I urge readers to get active during the next month and a half by contacting the candidates of your choice for president, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House and telling them your views on issues of concern to you.

All politics is local and you can make a difference.

Gene Rossides is President of the American Hellenic Institute and former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

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.

Crete island

Greece

thetrueexperience

3,000 Islands. 3,000 Destinations.

Seaside Escape to unspoiled, tranquil beaches and bays, gather seashells and pebbles and enjoy the best of climates. Discover the fascinating diversity of underwater life or spot endangered species while snorkeling. Unique delicacies and ouzo shots are waiting for you in small traditional tavernas by the sea or even on the sea... Greece! The true experience!

www.visitgreece.gr



MINISTRY OF TOURISM - GREEK NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION

