

John Catsimatidis: Living The American Dream Through Hard Work

Eleni Kostopoulos

Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – For some, the “American dream” is an impractical, unattainable concept. But John Catsimatidis, founder and president of a holding company for the Grstedes supermarket chain, Red Apple Group, traveled a long but ascending road to manifest that seemingly far-fetched dream into a vivid reality.

This year, Forbes listed 60-year old Catsimatidis as the 215th richest American (making him the second richest Greek American) with a net worth of \$2.1 billion, and with added aspirations to enter the political arena, there’s no stopping this philanthropic overachiever.

“Money never changed the person that I am inside,” said Catsimatidis, who has donated large sums of money to the G&P Foundation for Cancer Research and is deeply involved in organizations like the Juvenile Diabetes’, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s research foundations.

More recently, he announced a prospective bid for a NYC mayoral candidacy next to other potential candidates like Representative Anthony D. Weiner (D-Brooklyn, Queens), but with Mayor Bloomberg’s success in overturning the term-limits law, political plans are still in the works.

“Mayor Michael Bloomberg did an amazing job at rebuilding city appeal after the tragic September 11 attacks. He has done an excellent job as mayor and if I were to

succeed him as mayor, I would continue many of his policies and plans,” he said, adding that one of his main goals would be to establish a World Fair by 2014, similar to the one that took place five decades ago. “But if I am unable to run for mayor, we are looking at the possibility of other political positions. We’ll see what happens while we’re still exploring our options.”

Like Bloomberg, Catsimatidis is a Democrat-turned-Republican who said his decision to change the political party he was affiliated with was based on his idea that the Democratic Party would have never supported a businessman candidate.

“Michael Bloomberg was also a Democrat and became a registered Republican because the Democratic Party in New York City is too far to the left. There is no way the party would support a moderate businessman like me for nomination. For the same reasons, Michael Bloomberg changed his party. But whether I’m a Democrat or a Republican, I am still the same person and I’ll continue to hold the same beliefs.”

Catsimatidis always held an interest in politics but became more involved after meeting George H.W. Bush when Catsimatidis aided in funding the construction of a chapel at Camp David. He later raised campaign funds for Bill Clinton’s presidential reelection, for Hillary Clinton’s run for the Senate in 2000 and for her more recent presidential campaign.

“In my life, I have accomplished a lot but more importantly, I have created a wonderful family,” he said, referring to his wife Margot who he married in 1988 and his two children Andrea and John. “But that is not enough — there’s always more to do. We have to fight to try for something even better and that’s why I want to become as involved as I possibly can.”

For the 2008 presidential elections, Catsimatidis said he was dissatisfied with the victory of Barack Obama over Hillary Clinton for the Democratic ticket.

“I chose to support John McCain because he is a good American,” he said, adding that the road to economic recovery is going to be a tough one for President-elect Obama.

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Olympic Tower is the “Hub of Hellenism”



The 51-story Olympic Tower, situated in the heart of Manhattan, is home to organizations like the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, Leadership 100 and the Greek National Tourism Organization.

The 51-Story Building Is Home to Important Hellenic Organizations

By Eleni Kostopoulos

Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – The 51-story, 189-meter tall Olympic Tower, situated in the heart of Manhattan, is the first building in New York City to mesh offices, luxurious apartments and shops in the same space. This gleaming glass skyscraper is home to countless upscale shops like A/X Armani Exchange and Versace but more importantly, it is considered to be by many the “hub of Hellenism” in the U.S.

Built in 1976 as a joint venture between Arlen Realty and Development and Aristotle Onassis, one of the most prominent shipping magnates of the 20th century, with his company Victory Development, the Olympic Tower has consistently promoted Greek culture, education, history and art and this year it has much to celebrate: 2008 marks the 10th anniversary of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation in the U.S.

The place that was once home to Olympic Airlines, now houses offices of prominent organizations like Leadership 100 and the Greek National Tourism Organization and since 1998, the Greek American effort has been encouraged more than ever — a vision that Mr. Onassis would have held to high esteem.

Located between 51st and 52nd streets on 5th Avenue, the Olympic Tower encompasses 225 apartments and 23,000 square meters used for offices. Originally owned by Christina Onassis, daughter of Aristotle Onassis, its ownership was handed over to the Onassis Foundation after her death in the 1980s.

Within the last decade of the 20th Century, the foundation established the Onassis Cultural Center, furthering Onassis’ original vision by organizing events, exhibits, lectures and programs that promote Hellenic culture and provide its maintenance for generations to come. More than 30 years after its construction, the Olympic Tower suffices as the torch that keeps the Hellenic flame lit in New York City, but also as a landmark that gives Americans the opportunity to learn about Greek culture and what the ideals of Hellenism stand for.

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Greek Studies At Michigan a Great Success

By Mark Frangos

Special to The National Herald

On November 9, 2008 the Foundation for Modern Greek Studies held a festive dinner at the Mediterraneo Restaurant in Ann Arbor, Michigan, celebrating the 10 years of its productive collaboration with the Modern Greek Program at the University of Michigan.

The event was attended by a capacity gathering (100 people) including 13 students of the Program and their parents. Informative presentations were given by Professor Artemis Leontis, on behalf of the Program, and George Reganis, on behalf of the Foundation. It was an extraordinary evening with exceptional Greek food, wine and music, the latter provided by pianist PanTELIS Polychronides and soprano Mariangela Chatzistamatou, two young musicians from Greece who presented an evening-long program of classic songs.

Modern Greek began at the University of Michigan in the Department of Classical Studies of the College of Literature, Science, and Arts in September 1990.

In the beginning there was a 2-year language sequence, Professor Traianos Gagos’s labor of love when he was still an untutored lecturer. Today there is an endowed Professorship in Modern Greek, named after world famous poet C. P. Cavafy, an interdisciplinary program offering courses for undergraduate and

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A Grateful Nephew Remembers his Beloved Aunt

By Evan C. Lambrou

Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – “... a Greek Garrison had been established at Chania. I watched one evening as Aunt Elisabeth did battle with two Greek soldiers... The two soldiers were drunk. They pulled out swords and began to hack at each other, missing with most thrusts and luckily parrying the others... Elisabeth charged outside and placed herself between them shouting, ‘You’re supposed to be fighting the enemy, not killing each other.’ She dressed them down as efficiently, succinctly and forcefully as any sergeant-major could. They put their tails between their legs and went away wiser, and alive (pgs. 45-46).”

The above is just one of a Greek American’s many vivid recollections of the remarkable woman who raised him as a boy on the island of Crete in the 1930’s and 1940’s.

Dr. John Psarouthakis, an immensely successful scientist and entrepreneur, wrote a book about his grandaunt, Elisabeth Paleologou, his maternal grandmother’s

sister. The original version of “Elisabeth’s Gift (To Doro tis Elisavet)” was first published in Greek in 2000. The English translation was published earlier this year. In it, a grateful nephew pays tribute to his beloved aunt, who took care of him after his parents died and played a major role in his upbringing.

“Elisabeth’s Gift” chronicles the story of an orphan raised by a loving and caring woman who recognized his talent and helped him develop the qualities of discipline and character which turned virtue into accomplishment. Even though

she couldn’t read or write, readers will find Aunt Elisabeth to be a very wise woman whose guidance and influence created the foundations which helped Dr. Psarouthakis overcome and surmount many of life’s obstacles.

Dr. Psarouthakis, 76, is the founder of BizVida.com, an Internet research service portal. He is also the founder of JP Industries, a global manufacturing and distribution corporation listed in the New York Stock Exchange, and which

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The Decline of Greek American Entertainment

By William M. Mentsas

Special to The National Herald

There was an era, not too many decades ago, when the Greek entertainment scene in America was at its peak. A trip down memory lane seems in order when dealing with an era that has left a lingering sense of nostalgia among many a Greek in the US.

The early years of Greeks in America were most difficult from a standpoint of survival so it is not entirely surprising that the true Hellenic spirit of “Kefi” and “Glendi” was extremely slow in taking flight. An occasional picnic or an impromptu gathering was considered to be something out of the ordinary as money was scarce and the burgeoning Greek American community was in its infancy. It would take some years before more ambitious plans would come into view.

Those early years socials often consisted of entertainment by small brands of amateur musicians whose collective knowledge of their instruments remained rudimentary at best. A guitar, klarino (Clarinet) and a tambourine, perhaps an accordion thrown it would provide the necessary and quintessential “live” music for weddings, dances, christenings, or parties. Long before the constraints of time schedules, catering

halls, musicians unions, these shindigs would often last into the wee hours of the morning. The majority of the music performed would mostly include the demotic dance songs combined with regional favorites – the standard “kalamantiana,” “tsamika,” “syrtta,” “soustes” and the like. Sporadically, a long forgotten song would be featured and sing-a-longs were not too uncommon. To a beleaguered people looking for an outlet that would help them forget their problems, those very few occasions were definitely a tonic. Eventually, each Greek Stores stocked old 78 records many of which were Greek imports but soon American-based Greek recordings firms such as “Liberty,” “Nina,” “Fiesta” to name the most prominent began to surface.

Soon, Greek American communities, churches, and organizations expanded considerably and budgets increased leading to a heightened level of social functions where “live” entertainment was to be part and parcel of the various festivities.

Professional orchestras flourished performing for all sorts of events. The rise of the regional clubs and societies representing the various regions of Greek as well as the Greeks of Asia Minor, Pontus, and

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Greek American singers that reigned in the early 20th century like Sophia Manos have become a rare breed in the United States.

Faith Fund Donates \$750K In Grants

By Theodore Kalmoukos

Special to The National Herald

BOSTON – The Endowment Fund “Faith: for Orthodoxy and Hellenism,” of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America announced at the recent annual Board Meeting of the Founding Members of the Fund that it will donate grants of \$750,000 towards educational and cultural programs.

Archbishop Demetrios of America in a written statement said, “on behalf of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, I extend the profound appreciation of the Church for the exemplary work and generosity of the Founding Members of Faith. They are truly ‘Champions of Faith’ as their support has enabled and strengthened the promotion of the mission and ministries of the Church and has built bridges of new opportunities in Hellenic Paideia and Culture and in the promotion of Orthodoxy.”

According to an official news release issued by the Organization, at the request of Archbishop Demetrios, “Faith” has funded a number of programs in 2008, including the following:

FAITH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

These merit-based scholarships are designated for educational purposes and underscore the commitment to excellence in education throughout our Archdiocese. In 2008, Faith expanded the funding allocations for the scholarship program to also include Greek Orthodox valedictorians and/or salutatorians of public, private, and parochial schools.

FAITH ORATORICAL FESTIVAL AWARDS

In 2008, with an allocation of funds from Faith, the Archdiocese provided college scholarship awards to the top three speakers of

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The Journey

The Greek American Dream

The DVD is now available for U.S. audiences through our website
www.thejourneygreekamericandream.org

A documentary film by Maria Iliou
 Historical consultant: Alexander Kitroeff



A PROTEUS production

2008, Awarded the Special Jury Remi Award at the Houston 41st International Film Festival
 2007, Selected by the American Film Institute in Washington, DC for the European Showcase

The film and the Archive Preservation Project were made possible with generous support from
 THE JAHARIS FAMILY, THE LUCY FOUNDATION,
 THE STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION, THE ALEXANDER S. ONASSIS PUBLIC BENEFIT FOUNDATION,
 THE JAMES AND THEODORE PEDAS FAMILY, THE J. F. COSTOPOULOS FOUNDATION,
 THE JOHN AND MARGO CATSIMATIDIS FOUNDATION,
 THE NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE, THE HELLENIC PARLIAMENT TV CHANNEL

Faith Endowment Fund Donates \$750K in Grants

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each of the Junior and Senior Divisions as well as the honorable mention candidates.

FAITH COMMUNICATION GRANT

Faith has funded a “Communication Infrastructure Analysis” of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America by an independent outside public relations firm.

NEW GREEK LANGUAGE TEXTBOOKS

Faith will continue to support a new program which started in 2007 to produce a series of new books for an effective comprehensive teaching of the Greek language and culture. Authored and edited by a select group of leading specialists in relevant fields under the direction of professor George Babiniotis, the Archdiocese expects to have the first books of the new series available for usage in our schools in the course of the next year.

FAITH TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP FOR IONIAN VILLAGE

A series of merit-based and need-based “Faith Scholarships” for young people to attend Ionian Village.

FAITH TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

The Archdiocese is going through the largest series of technology upgrades in its history in order to prepare for the next generation of software and systems.

Faith was the vision of Mr. Michael Jaharis, in 2004, who became one of the Original Founding Members of Faith. The idea was that each member donates \$1 million to the Endowment.

“I strongly feel we are at a time and place when such an Endowment is crucial and more importantly, its success, as one can see, is possible, evident, and tangible,” Mr. Jaharis stated. “We have the strong support and encouragement of His Eminence Demetrios, who is



Michael Jaharis, left, with his wife Mary and Archbishop of America Demetrios, is one of the founding member of the Faith Endowment.

an inspirational spiritual leader and also a brilliant scholar and true advocate for the promotion of educational and cultural programs which will promote Hellenism and Orthodoxy. On behalf of all the Founders, we are especially honored to be able to support the young people of our community by funding programs such as the Archdiocese scholarships and travel fellowship programs to Ionian Village.”

The primary focus of Faith is to fund and encourage the development of new educational and cultural initiatives and opportunities through the Archdiocese for the community and future generations. Originally founded in 2004 by a group of ten prominent Greek

American leaders and philanthropists representing a diversity of professional fields and philanthropic values, the Endowment has grown to include 26 members, each of whom have pledged a minimum of \$1 million to support this mission. Mr. Peter Kikis, one of the Original (ten) Founding Members and current President of Faith, stated, “I am pleased that our Founders’ Circle consists of a selection of successful and dedicated Greek Americans who are proud of their Hellenic heritage and Orthodox faith and are extremely committed to promoting the Endowment’s mission. They have been very generous not only through their pledges but also through their time, ideas and active participa-

tion. We are truly committed to supporting programs which will pass our Hellenic heritage and an understanding of our Orthodox faith along to future generations.”

In 2007, Faith allocated \$500,000 to support Archdiocese cultural and educational ministries. The generous philanthropic support and commitment of the endowment’s twenty-six Founders have enabled Faith to have a monumental year. The Founders are: Ms. Maria Allwin, Hon. George Argyros, Mr. George D. Behrakis, Mr. Nicholas J. Bouras, Mr. John P. Calamos, Mr. John Catsimatidis, Mr. George Coumantaros, Mr. Peter Georgiopoulos, Mrs. Elaine Jaharis, Mr. Michael Jaharis, Dr. Steven Jaharis, Mr. Peter T. Kikis, Mr. George M. Marcus, Mr. Dennis Mehiel, Mr. C. Dean Metropoulos, Mr. James Moshovitis, Mr. John Pappajohn, Mr. Panicos Papanicolaou, Mr. John A. Payiavlas, Mr. & Mrs. George Sakellaris, Mr. Alexander J. Spanos, Mr. Dean Spanos, Mr. Michael Spanos Mr. Angelo K. Tsakopoulos, Ms. Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis, and Mr. Kyriakos Tsakopoulos. The first fifty donors will be honored and listed as “Founders.”

The core mission of Faith: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism is to promote Hellenism and an understanding of the Greek Orthodox faith through a series of high quality educational programs and cultural initiatives through an endowment of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Faith works to support the Archdiocese in creating the ministries and educational programs that promote an understanding of Hellenic culture, the Orthodox faith and the relationship of the two to each other and to America’s multicultural landscape through innovative programs and opportunities that will incorporate new technologies, multimedia resources, and that partner with educational and cultural institutions.

GOINGS ON...

■ DECEMBER 6

WOODHAVEN, N.Y. – The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation cordially invites the community to its Holiday Extravaganza at the Forest Park Headquarters Oak Ridge (One Forest Park) on Saturday, December 6, 2008, from 11 AM – 2 PM. Enjoy a festive day with arts and crafts, a visit with Santa, and a live holiday show. Bring your cameras! \$2.00 per person. Tickets available at the door only. For more information, please call 718-235-4100.

■ DECEMBER 7 - 25

ATHENS – Come spend Christmas on the Athenian Riviera! For the second year in a row, the Attica Coastline welcomes The Flisvos Marina Christmas Wonderland, a must-visit Christmas destination for young and old who live along the Athenian coastline, and not only. Debuting in 2007, The Flisvos Marina Christmas Wonderland, just off Poseidon Avenue in Paleo Faliro, gives residents of all Attica municipalities a unique choice to experience the Christmas holidays in style, and, by the sea. Making their Christmas comeback is the marina’s 300-square meter “Frozen Lake,” the southern coastline’s largest ice skating rink and 12-meter high Christmas tree. Children take the spotlight at The Flisvos Marina Christmas Wonderland with a roster of special Christmas activities including a holiday baking workshop for kids hosted by the popular TV show Nistiko Arkoudi, Karagiozis and his Elves shadow theatre, marionettes, magic shows and more. New for 2008 is “The House of Santa,” “The Magic Tent,” “Mrs. Claus Story Hour,” and more. Kicking off the holiday event festivities is the fun-filled “Official Tree-Lighting Ceremony.” Scheduled to take place on Sunday, December 7 from 5pm to 7pm, the event plans to launch the Christmas season by offering a holiday program complete with entertainers and a confetti fireworks display. True to its waterside character, the merry marina welcomes the first seafaring Santa Claus who is scheduled to arrive via sailboat. For more information, please contact Athina Vorillas at athina@bluemetromediacom.

■ DECEMBER 8

NEW YORK – The American Hellenic Institute Business Network and The New York Chapter of the American Hellenic Institute cordially invite the community to its annual Christmas Party at the Lafayette Grill & Bar (54 Franklin Street) on Monday, December 8, 2008 from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. Admission is \$30 and includes Buffet, wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee and dessert. Tax and gratuity included. For more information, please e-mail csirigos100@aol.com

■ DECEMBER 9

NEW YORK – The Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation cordially invites the community to a breakfast reception and preview of the exhibition “Worshipping Women Ritual and Reality in Classical Athens,” the Onassis Cultural Center (645 Fifth Avenue entrances on 51st and 52nd Streets) on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, from 10 AM to 12 PM. Remarks begin promptly at 10:15 AM. Speakers to include The Honorable Michalis Liapis, Minister of Culture of Greece Dr. Nikolaos Kaltsas, Director, National Archaeological Museum, Athens, and co-curator of the exhibition Dr. Alan Shapiro, W.H. Collins Vickers Professor of Archaeology at Johns Hopkins University and co-curator of the exhibition. On view from December 10, 2008, through May 9, 2009, Worshipping Women: Ritual and Reality in Classical Athens brings together 155 extraordinary archaeological objects—including artistic masterpieces from major collections throughout the world—in order to cast new light on the lives of women in ancient Athens. Transforming the galleries of the Onassis Cultural Center into evocations of ancient Greek sanctuaries filled with rare and exquisite objects, the exhibition re-examines preconceptions about the exclusion of women from public life in ancient Athens, showing how women’s participation in cults and festivals contributed not only to personal fulfillment in Classical Greece but also to civic identity. Worshipping Women is the first major exhibition in the tenth anniversary season of the Onassis Foundation (USA) and the Onassis Cultural Center. R.S.V.P. to

Kate Blackwell, Ruder Finn Arts & Communications Counselors at 212-593-6379.

■ DECEMBER 17

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Hellenic Institute cordially invites the community to its annual Christmas Party at the Institute (1220 16th Street, NW) on Wednesday, December 17, 2008, from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. R.S.V.P. by December 15, 2008. For more information, please call 202-785-8430.

■ DECEMBER 19

NEW YORK – The Hellenic University Club of New York (HUC) cordially invites the community to its Christmas Reunion Party at the Town House (3 West 51st Street) on Friday, December 19, 2008. Guests will enjoy a beautiful holiday setting of delightful decorations, music and delicious food that includes a choice of beef, chicken and seafood buffets, 3 hours of open bar with wine, beer and soft drinks topped off with coffee and dessert. Event host Paul Sapounakis calls it ‘an event you won’t want to miss! Come and celebrate the holidays with all your old friends and make new ones! Married or single (did you meet your mate at HUC?), you will be welcome. It will be a gala evening filled with food, drink, surprises, and music.” The festive evening will feature Petros Hadjopoulos at the piano performing a variety of Greek and holiday songs. Guests are strongly encouraged to make reservations in advance at \$75. Tickets are \$85 at the door. You may send checks to HUC, PO Box 1169, GCS New York, NY 10163. For information call George at 914-381-5192 or Paul at 718-884-9224

■ JANUARY 16 - 19

MONTREAL, Que. – Del Sol and Portokalada.com cordially invite the community to “Living It Up,” an amazing 21 & over event for MLK weekend from January 16-19, 2009. “We are flying in DJs from NY and Chicago with special guest DJ John Grammatist!” Save some of your energy for daylight hours, because skiing, snowboarding and tubing will all be available at the heavenly resort of Mt. Tremblant. If you just want to chill during the day, Montreal is the place to be. Montreal offers some of the most beautiful scenic views and architecture, amazing cafes and restaurants, casinos, and don’t forget shopping and the spa. So are you ready for 4 Days and 3 Nights of Living It Up? The “Living It Up” package includes: 3 nights accommodations in Deluxe or Concierge level rooms, open bar welcome party Friday night at exclusive downtown nightclub, exclusive VIP parties Saturday & Sunday nights, free VIP admission to over 7 nightclubs, complimentary shuttles to parties each night, complimentary shuttles to the beautiful “Mt. Tremblant” on Saturday and Sunday, complimentary Shuttle to Tubing & Snowmobiling, let’s make a deal Casino package wit \$20pp Casino Chips, complimentary double music CD, breakfast & hors d’oeuvres daily with concierge rooms. Package Price: Quad Price \$300 per person, Triple Price \$325 per person, Double Price \$375 per person. Conveniently located in the heart of downtown Montreal, this hotel boasts a spacious, elegant lobby, large well-appointed guestrooms with private balconies and a variety of full service amenities. The hotel is the ideal location for pleasure and only steps to Montreal’s finest shopping, restaurants, nightclubs and attractions. You can book a Deluxe or Concierge Room. With 94 runs serviced by 13 state-of-the-art lifts, the mountain dominates a stunningly beautiful countryside. Those who live for the great outdoors and love to breathe clean air have the perfect playground. A paradise where ski and snowboard enthusiasts are both spoiled silly: ramps, rails and jumps as well as an Olympic caliber pipe. Taste the freedom, dare the mountain, live Tremblant to the fullest! For more information, go to www.montrealx.com.

■ 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.

Huffington Post Raises \$25 million

By Matthew Flamm

Craigslistnewyorkbusiness.com

Arianna Huffington’s namesake Website, fresh from election season traffic gains, plans to expand into investigative journalism and local news. The Huffington Post, which emerged from the two-year long presidential campaign a media winner, has scored \$25 million in new financing, the left-leaning online news and opinion Web site announced Monday.

The company will use the money from Palo Alto, Calif.-based venture capital firm Oak Investment Partners to launch an investigative journalism unit and to roll out local versions of the site as part of its long range bid to become a general interest newspaper on the Web. It will also be looking to make “select and focused acquisitions,” the company said in a statement.

The three-year-old site, which is headquartered in New York, has seen a surge in traffic in the last year that put it ahead of its rival and original model The Drudge Report and made Huff Post one of the fastest growing news sites.

In October it had more than 8.1 million unique visitors, compared to just 1.5 million in the same month in 2007, according to Nielsen Online.

The new financing “will allow us to accelerate our growth, with more verticals, more video, more citizen journalism initiatives, more



Arianna Huffington

cities for our local editions and a fund for investigative journalism,” co-founder Arianna Huffington said, in a statement.

Before the election, Ms. Huffington talked about continuing the site’s expansion, noting that 50% of traffic was drawn to the Huff Post for its lifestyle and entertainment coverage, not the politics and opinion sections.

“That’s a very significant part of our growth, and that’s definitely the direction we’re going,” she said.

The company, which is privately held, does not discuss profitability. Chief Revenue Officer James Smith recently said that advertising revenue in the third quarter had tripled over the same period in the prior year, which would not be unusual for a startup.

Internet advertising has slowed its growth recently, though it has not suffered in the same way that print and local television advertising has.

The Huff Post has an advantage over traditional newspapers in having just 46 employees. In addition, it does not pay its many bloggers.

Analysts are cautiously optimistic about the site’s chances for financial success.

“The journalism business has been groping for a business model that is sustainable,” said Colby Atwood, president of Borrell Associates, a media consulting firm. “[The Huffington Post] might represent a direction that can work.”

Manhattan Attorney and Law Firm Indicted for Stealing \$735K

MANHATTAN (AP) — A Manhattan attorney and a law firm have been indicted for stealing a \$735,000 deposit in a real estate transaction as well as a separate felony complaint for the lawyer’s failure to pay withholding taxes and filing his own false tax returns.

James John Armenakis, 65, of Roosevelt Island and his law firm of Armenakis & Armenakis, PC, were indicted on charges of grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property.

In a separate investigation, the defendant was charged in a felony complaint with grand larceny and multiple counts of filing false instruments.

The investigation leading to the indictment revealed that Armenakis and the firm represented the seller of a condominium located at 285 Lafayette St., Manhattan. The purchase price of the condominium was \$7.35 million.

Upon the signing of the contract of sale in October 2007, the purchaser gave Armenakis a 10 percent deposit of \$735,000 to be later deducted from sale price of the apartment at the closing. Pursuant to the contract of sale, Armenakis deposited the \$735,000 into his attorney escrow account.

On May 2, the day of the closing, Armenakis did not appear, nor ap-

ply the \$735,000 to the sale price of the apartment and has failed to return the funds to purchaser, district attorney Robert Morgenthau said. The investigation disclosed that Armenakis had allegedly spent the money on personal items.

Morgenthau said the investigation leading to the felony complaint revealed that during the period of February 2002 through October 2008, Armenakis failed to remit approximately \$98,000 to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. This money was withheld from his employees’ salaries, and held in trust by the defendant as a fiduciary.

In addition, during that same time period, the defendant filed 2002, amended 2003, and 2004 through 2007 New York personal income tax returns claiming the entire gross payroll, including the taxes withheld but never paid over to State Tax Department as a business expense, and thereby under-reported his taxable income and tax liability in all six years, according to Morgenthau.

Morgenthau said tax scoffers increase the load on an already overburdened taxpaying public and will not be tolerated. The theft of payroll taxes is a huge national problem in the tens of billions of dollars on the federal, state and local levels.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

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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 you ever been to the Olympic Tower in New York?

☐ Yes
☐ No

The results for last week’s question: Did the financial crisis affect your celebration of Thanksgiving?

18% voted "Yes"
82% voted "No"
0% voted "Other"

Please vote at: www.thenationalherald.com

John Catsimatidis: Living the American Dream

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ma to travel. “I believe it’s going to be at least another year for our economy to start recovering. I haven’t seen such comparable circumstances to the depression in 1929 and the early 1930s.” In terms of the \$700 billion bail-out plan he said: “Personally, I was against it, but I can understand that there wasn’t really another option because we were at the edge of the cliff.” He also noted that the \$700 billion loaned must be paid back and should only be used to remedy the current problems.

“In terms of Red Apple’s standing, gas has gone from \$147 per gallon down to \$55 per gallon,” he said. “We may have lost a lot of money in oil. In the long run though, this will help Americans because they will be able to afford the lower prices of gas.”

He believes that neither \$147 per gallon nor \$55 per gallon is the ideal cost of gas, but the cost will eventually fall into the proper range which is between \$70 and \$100. Catsimatidis also said he believes housing prices will also dip, but not any lower than they were in 2003.

He said that his successes in the supermarket division have not dwindled since the economy’s recent ups and downs.

“When there’s a recession, supermarkets tend to do better,” he said, adding that people are more likely to spend less on take-out as they attempt to be more savvy with money they spend on food.

“In real estate, there are always going to be opportunities,” he said. “But there are two buses on the road of real estate: one is driven by fear and the other is driven by greed. At this time, fear is the driver. People are too scared to spend today because tomorrow, there needs might change.

“We are affiliated with one company that owed \$300 million and was forced into steep debt. It’s a good company and we offered them \$100 million and I’m scared that they’re going to say ‘yes.’ There are always opportunities.”

And with the opportunities that Catsimatidis realized and seized in 1989, he established the Hellenic Times Newspaper, a publication that features local, national and international news for the Greek American community. From then until now, he’s awarded more than 500 students more than \$1 million with the Hellenic Times Scholarship Foundation. Additionally, under Archbishop Spyridon, he became president of the Archdiocesan Council of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Catsimatidis has served on the Board of Directors of New York’s Police Athletic Leagues (PAL), since the 1980s and as the Vice chairman of the Ellis Island Awards Foundation of the Na-

tional Ethnic Coalition Organization (NECO). He is the co-founder of the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation, the first foundation in the country established on behalf of a public school. And for the last several years, Catsimatidis has been appointed the chairman of the Greek Independence Day Parade in New York.

“I wish I had more time available to do more [for the Greek American community],” he said. “I am Greek American. I’ve done what I can do and I’ll continue to do all that I can do for the community.”

He also noted that although he is unsure whether he will be asked again to chair the Greek American Parade next year, he will certainly contribute to its organization.

To ensure the recognition of the importance of Greek Independence, Catsimatidis discussed a proposal that he mentioned to Archbishop Demetrios.

“Greek American political leaders need to come together on March 25 every year, no matter what day of the week it falls on, and meet with the President of the United States as well as members of congress, just as the Italians and other cultures do for their celebra-



ABOVE: The founder and president of Red Apple Group, John Catsimatidis, points to photos hanging on the walls of his office which depict his work in business, philanthropy and politics. BOTTOM LEFT: John Catsimatidis marching in the Greek Independence Day Parade with Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D - N.Y.). BOTTOM RIGHT: John Catsimatidis, his wife Margo and his children Andrea and John Jr. with Bill Clinton.



tions. We need to organize something that we will not only be proud of, but something that will give us the opportunity to express our needs as a community. Altogether in unison, we need to discuss the organization of the parade.”

Catsimatidis was born in 1948 on the island of Nisyros and emigrated to America when he was six months old with his parents.

“My mother was a very brilliant woman, she was born in Constantinople,” he explained. “Her grandfather was part of the Ecumenical

Patriarchy in Constantinople. At that time, she was planning on marrying a young man from Athens, but he wound up leaving her and marrying another woman. But she was determined to find someone else and get married, mostly because she wanted to open the idea of marriage to her younger, unmarried siblings. So, she decided to marry my father.”

He also noted that currently, Montreal writer Justine Frangoulis, who authored a biography of Archbishop Spyridon titled “The



Lonely Path of Integrity,” is in the process of finishing writing the biography of his mother, Despina Emmanouilidis.

Catsimatidis said perseverance and genuine good-heartedness are qualities both he and his mother admired in his father.

“My father, Andreas Catsimatidis, worked his whole life to feed his family. When the war ended, he returned to Nisyros and married my mother, who found him to be a very honorable and hard-working man.”

A year after their marriage, Catsimatidis was born and six months later, with hopes of creating a better life for their family, they moved to America and settled on 135th Street in Harlem, NY.

“My father worked seven days a week and 20 hours a day so he could take care of us and whatever money he had saved was for me to attend college at NYU. My last year there, I spent a lot of time working at the supermarket and I had come to the point where I couldn’t go to school anymore. I was 8 credits shy

York, Pennsylvania and Ohio and a firm that leases corporate jets. His passion for flying planes was a long-standing one, and before he turned 30, he obtained his pilot’s license then bought his own plane, a Cessna 206. When his daughter Andrea was born, however, he completely abandoned flying, he said.

“I don’t want my children to ever have to suffer a tragedy like what happened to Alexander Onassis,” he said. “In 1983, we bought Capitol Air Express, which was the 11th largest airline in the U.S.,” which in a short time went bankrupt. Today, he notes, airlines are one of the worst investments an individual can make: “How do you make \$100 million by investing in airlines? You start with \$1 billion.”

In the mid-80s, he branched out into the oil industry and purchased United Refining, an independent refiner and marketer of petroleum products in parts of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio (that now produces more than 70,000 barrels of oil per day) and rescued it from bankruptcy with \$110 million in financing managed by J.P. Morgan & Co.

“We get our oil from Canada with our own line and that’s why we advertise our oil as 100 percent American.”

With the primaries less than a year away, Catsimatidis’ political future is one that will be scrutinized by the public eye. His climb to the top and his extensive résumé as a self-made billionaire is an impressive one, but whether it is enough to get him a position in politics, will be determined in the months to come.



LEFT: Seven Eleven Supermarket was the first supermarket John Catsimatidis purchased more than four decades ago. ABOVE: John Catsimatidis with his father, the late-Andreas Catsimatidis.

Phanariotes Project

The Hellenic Studies Program at California State University, Sacramento, is participating in an international research project on the Phanariotes.

Dr. Erato Paris, of the International Center for Hellenic Research, University of Marseilles, France, has received financial support of Hellenic ministries and private foundations to write an academic study and make a documentary about the Phanariotes using the research amassed to date.

If you might be a descendant of the Phanariotes or know of someone who is a descendant please visit www.PhanariotesProject.com or contact Dr. Katerina Lagos at (916) 278-7103 if you are willing to offer information for the academic study. We hope that the completion of this project will shed light on this influential community.

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Olympic Tower Considered the “Hub of Hellenism” in the U.S.

Continued from page 1

ALEXANDER S. ONASSIS PUBLIC BENEFIT FOUNDATION (USA)

In 1998, the president of the Parent Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, Stelio Papadimitriou, signed the founding act of the affiliated organization of the same name in the U.S., launching the active development efforts of public benefit projects abroad. Ten years later, the promotion of humanistic ideals of Hellenic civilization is stronger than it has ever been.

“I’ve been a diplomat for 35 years now and it took me the last eight years working at the Onassis Foundation to sincerely realize the vast wisdom the Greek culture has offered to world,” said Executive Director of the Onassis Foundation Ambassador Lucas Tsilas. “In these last eight years, I’ve seen how the Olympic Towers and the Onassis Foundation helped promote Onassis’ purpose. It is a building that presents itself as a hub of Greek civilization, as well as the civilization that is lived by the Greek American community.” He also noted that while the foundation was established in 1999, plans and proposals weren’t drawn out until the following year and in 2000, when Mr. Tsilas became active in the foundation, these plans and proposals were launched.

“We chose the Olympic Tower primarily because it has strong ties to the great Aristotle Onassis,” he said. “Today, 21 of the 51 floors in the building are owned by the Onassis Foundation and the remaining 30 are apartments occupied by Greek American and non-Greek American tenants. Adjacent to the Olympic Tower, there is another building which the Onassis Foundation also owns,” said Mr. Tsilas. “As you may already know, 40 percent of the profits are used for community matters. It was with this very purpose that the foundation was established.”

The portion of the building that is used most frequently used for the promotion of Hellenism, is the Atrium of the Olympic Tower.

“The Atrium just shines in the daylight and the Onassis Cultural Foundation is a space with a 300 person capacity used for various educational and academic functions,” said Mr. Tsilas. “The Atrium of the Olympic Tower is used in many ways for the promotion of Greek civilization especially to host events, often Greek-American rooted. New York City College, for instance, used the space to offer seminars for thousands of students.”

Earlier this month, Mr. Tsilas noted, the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), which holds lectures all over the U.S., hosted a lecture at the Olympic Tower by Brendan Foley of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (McCann/Taggart Lecture) titled “Ancient shipwrecks in the deep Mediterranean Sea.”

“The Atrium has been visited by political figures such as Konstantinos Mitsotakis, the Ecumenical Patriarch, ministers like John Papanтониου, Theodore Pagalos, Dimitris Sioufas, and Apostolos Kaklamanis and many other prominent individuals. Thousands of leaders, politicians and other notable people have walked through our doors,” he said. He also added that Mayor Michael Bloomberg last year decided to use the Atrium to celebrate Greek Independence Day.

“It was frequent visitor Kate D. Levin, commissioner of Cultural Affairs in NYC, who not only praised the Onassis Foundation for their multi-faceted projects, but who characterized it with the term ‘the hub of civilization’, adding that it presents many significant contributions to the cultural and educational spirit of this city,” said Mr. Tsilas.

“It is true that this building provides one method to honor the vision Onassis entrusted within the institution. All the profits we make are not used aimlessly, but rather for the progression of Greek culture and to give back to the Greek American community. It’s a building that serves as the pub of Hellenistic culture, in addition to the civilization of the Greek American community.”



GREEK NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION

The Greek National Tourism Organization (GNTO), a public entity supervised by the Greek Ministry of Tourism, is one of Olympic Tower’s original tenants. The organization moved from the building’s 5th floor to the 9th floor in 2001 and has

traveled the same, progressive road as the Onassis Foundation.

George Tampakis, head of he GNTO, said the Olympic Tower’s location in the heart of Manhattan, across from St. Patrick’s Cathedral is ideal for the organization’s success, but also for bringing the essence of Greece to the U.S.

“The Olympic Tower promotes our Hellenistic culture, our history and our modern society,” Tampakis said. “Onassis has had some of his greatest successes here and his efforts are still being implemented to this day. The Onassis Foundation’s support of Greek civilization, their academic functions and their edu-

cational programs are some of the best I’ve seen. The quality of these programs not only appeals to our Greek American community, but to the American community as well.” Tampakis also noted that the Atrium has showcased replicas of pieces of the Parthenon captivated in Britain’s museum and has held



PHOTOS: TNH ARCHIVES

various exhibits that educates the American community on the wrongful ownership of such pieces.

“The new board of the Onassis Foundation chooses to sponsor programs that are able to see far into the future and that will ensure that Greek culture lives for generations to come” said Tampakis. “It consists of people who truly honor the foundation and always put forward their best efforts to accomplish their wide goals.”

Chrysanthos Petsilas, who is serving his second term at GNTO, said he is very content with the building that has housed their organization since 1998.

“The Olympic Tower is one of the most admirable and notable buildings in New York City,” he said. “It’s been documented that the rent for apartments here is the third most expensive in the entire city, following Rockefeller Center and Trump Towers, respectively. It’s location in mid-town Manhattan is excellent for both native New Yorkers to visit, and for the thousands of tourists who want to experience the wonders of New York.

“Our office was established at the same time that the Onassis Foundation came here and in 2001, we moved to a smaller space on the 9th floor. At the time, our office was voted as the most beautiful office of tourism in the world. But our move hasn’t hindered our progress—instead we’ve continued setting and accomplishing new goals. We have decided to renew our lease for the third time, ensuring our stay here at Olympic Tower until 2014.”

He added, the Hellenic Museums Shop, the Atrium Café and other offices located within the Olympic Tower are all beneficial in urging Greek Americans to visit their homeland, and this in effect aids the objectives of GNTO.

“It makes me so proud to know that visitors that walk through the Olympic Tower’s doors are able to feel a little piece of Greece in New York,” Petsilas said. “The blue and white flags that wave outside this building are a tribute to that feeling of pride we all feel.”

LEADERSHIP 100

Leadership 100, renamed The Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, was founded in 1984 by Archbishop Iakovos as an endowment of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and in 1998, it emerged as a non-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to supporting programs that advance Greek Orthodoxy by awarding millions of dollars in grants and gifts to the ministries of the Archdiocese. As one of the newest inhabitants of the Olympic Towers, Leadership 100 opened their new offices in 2005 under the leadership of Archbishop Demetrios.

Former long time secretary of Archbishop Iakovos and current Executive Director of Leadership 100 Paulette Poulos said the organization owes homage to the Olympic Towers for providing not only an ideal location for the opportunity to prosper, but for the ability to maintain its benevolence despite current hardships in the economy.

“We love being at Olympic Towers,” Poulos said. “We feel like we’re at home here. It’s family. We have a wonderful relationship with Mr. Tsilas with whom we often talk about projects with and support exhibits. The location is very ideal because businessmen in New York walk by and just decide to come in and pay a visit. Three members, literally off the street, recently walked in and joined the organization. We love it here and are very proud of the building.” She added, although the Olympic Tower may be separate from the church physically, it is still very much a part of the church.

Poulos said, “Leadership 100 Chairman Stephen Yeonas and the executive board work diligently to ensure that every year we are able to contribute more monetarily. Unfortunately, our investments decreased this year from \$66 million to \$52 million, but we won’t let setbacks prevent us from continuing to contribute to the Archdiocese. We will continue to contribute every way we can.”

Leadership 100 awards grants from scholarship funds to those



LEFT: Located between 51st and 52nd streets on 5th Avenue, the Olympic Tower is the “Hub of Hellenism” in the U.S. MIDDLE: The Atrium Café, which functions in the atrium of the Olympic Tower, serves not only

residents of the Olympic Tower, but neighboring businesses, organizations and visitors. RIGHT: The Hellenic Museums Shop offers a bountiful amount of Hellenic goods to all visitors.

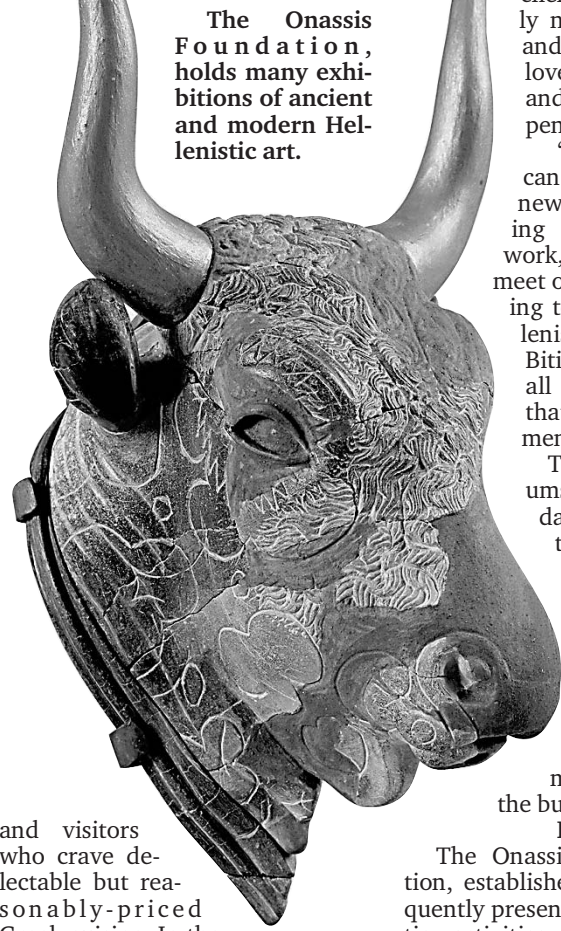
studying for the priesthood. It also funds building an information infrastructure and Internet ministries for the Archdiocese, promoting Home Mission and providing assistance to emergencies such as September 11, natural disasters and medical needs.

“We not only have greater space here, but we feel even more importantly, that we are located in the hub of the Hellenic American community. Look at the building, look at the space, look at all the events that are hosted in the Atrium. Everything speaks of Greece and brings us even higher—it gives us more reason to be so proud of our culture.”

Archbishop Demetrios once said of the location: “It is one fine day today because with the sentiment of the new offices here Leadership 100 has stood through one great location in the heart of Manhattan.”

Father Dimitrios Antokas, Executive Director of Leadership 100, said upon completion of the move to the Olympic Towers in 2005: “While the Archdiocese has been our home, Leadership 100 will bring an Orthodox presence into a Hellenic environment, reflecting its purpose to serve Orthodoxy and Hellenism in America.”

ATRIUM CAFÉ
The Atrium Café, which functions in the atrium of the Olympic Tower, serves not only residents of the Olympic Tower, but neighboring businesses, organizations that choose to reserve the space for parties



The Onassis Foundation, holds many exhibitions of ancient and modern Hellenistic art.

and visitors who crave delectable but reasonably-priced Greek cuisine. In the last three years, numerous events, both social and political in nature, have been held at the café because of its convenient location in New York City and its fine reputation among patrons, most of whom are not Greek American.

“The food we serve at Atrium Café is like the Greek food we eat at home,” said Aspa Bitis, the café’s manager. “All the food is fresh and we always use the best ingredients in our meals. We refuse to utilize a freezer and we only use fresh vegetables that are delivered daily by local distributors.”

The café, which operates on Monday through Saturday 11-7 pm, also offers catering services for offices in the building and the surrounding neighborhood.

“We also have cocktail parties for a capacity of about 250 people and sitting parties for up to 60 people,” Bitis said.

“There’s no real secret to our success. We always make sure our customers are satisfied and get the good, Greek food they want in a pleasant, Greek atmosphere. We also serve beer and wine to accompany the food, most of which is from Greece and some of which is from California and we are in the process of obtaining a license for hard liquor.” She added, more appetizers will be added to the menu and the hours of operation would increase upon receiving this license.

Among the most frequent customers, Bitis said, are tourists, neighborhood residents and build-

ing workers. “Although we don’t have a standard catering menu like other major venues may have, our menu is very flexible and we can tweak it to satisfy the desires of our customers.”

As an ultra-authentic touch, the main chef, a Greek American woman, specializes in home-style Greek cooking.

HELLENIC MUSEUMS SHOP
The Onassis Foundation established the Hellenic Museums Shop in the Atrium of the Olympic Tower to offer a bountiful amount of Hellenic goods to all visitors. As the only shop of its kind in New York City, it offers unique replicas of masterpieces including figurines, frescoes, sculptures and ceramics as well as a rare selection of items inspired by Greek art and culture such as intricate jewelry, books, CDs and exhibition catalogues.

“Our customers from all over the U.S. can order any piece from our Web site (hellenicmuseumsshop.com) and can even request a particular item that we can search for and order,” manager Aspa Bitis said. “Gifts are always packaged in the finest form and are shipped to all parts of the U.S.”

The high quality of these artifacts is approved by the mastercraftsmen of the Greek museums.

“Our price range varies busy is very reasonable for the quality of the items,” she said, noting certain gifts are available in bulk for purpose of corporate giving.

Bitas also said that clientele, which is mostly non-Greek, is varied and includes collectors, lovers of Greek culture and those who just happen to pass by the shop.

“We try as best we can to accommodate new artists who are trying to advance their work, as long as they meet our standard of sticking to the theme of Hellenistic culture,” said Bitis. “We are open to all ideas and proposals that fit this requirement.”

The Hellenic Museums Shop operates six days a week, Monday through Saturday, from 10 am to 6 pm. For inquiries, contact the shop via email at info@hellenicmuseumsshop.com or at (212) 759-9271.

“The museum is my favorite place in the building,” Bitas said.

EVENTS

The Onassis Cultural Foundation, established in fall 2000, frequently presents cultural and artistic activities regarding ancient, Byzantine and modern Hellenistic civilization. In the most recent months, the Foundation featured numerous such events, including a classical concert that paid tribute to composer George Tsontakis in “A Musical Evening: The New Inspired by the Classical”, a panel discussion about Greek Mathematicians titled, “The Story of Constantin Caratheodory (Berlin 1873–1950 Munich)” and the poetry of Yiannis Ritsos with the Music of Mikis Theodorakis.

The next upcoming event will transform the galleries of the Onassis Cultural Center into evocations of ancient Greek sanctuaries, entrenched with artistic masterpieces from collections from all over the world in the major exhibition “Worshipping Women: Ritual and Reality in Classical Athens.” The highly anticipated event, which will take place from December 10, 2008, through May 9, 2009, will bring together 155 rare archaeological objects to re-examine preconceptions about the exclusion of women from public life in ancient Athens.

Other past and future events include lectures on diverse subjects by scholars and professors, theatrical performances, film screenings, concerts and multimedia programs, international conferences, poetry readings and contemporary art exhibitions.

For more information on events, call 212-486-4448, visit onassisusa.org or email info@onassisusa.org.

Onassis Foundation’s NYC Office Celebrates 10th Year

By Stavros Marmarinos
Special to The National Herald

The President of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation Anthony S. Papademetriou sat down with The National Herald for an interview and spoke about the ten-year anniversary of the establishment of the Onassis Foundation’s subsidiary office in New York, which is currently being celebrated. Mr. Papademetriou said that the Onassis Foundation’s office in New York has fully met its parent foundation’s expectations in promoting Hellenic culture to the people of the United States as an inextricable part of their own personal lives, and talked about the valuable experience the Onassis Foundation gained, which will prove useful in its future activities. Mr. Papademetriou also thanked the Greek American Community for the valuable support it has shown all throughout the past decade. TNH’s interview with Mr. Papademetriou follows below:

TNH: In the past ten years since the Onassis Foundation first opened its New York office, have its accomplishments met the Foundation’s original expectations?

A.S.P.: When the Onassis Foundation began operating in New York ten years ago and expanded its activities to the United States, we had set out many lofty goals of promoting the timeless and ecumenical context of Hellenic culture. We put together important exhibitions to help us achieve this goal, coupled of course with a large number of educational and informational events and programs. I would humbly like to add that these exhibitions, along with our educational and informational activities, met our program goals, which were justifiably high due to the significance of the issue we are promoting – Hellenic culture. Our programs and events have managed to attract attention, draw crowds, and receive very favorable reviews from nearly 300,000 visitors, 70,000 participants at our university seminars and educational events, and tens of thousands of people who attended our other related events. The exhibitions and other presentations we put together met our underlying desire and intent to promote Hellenism and the values of the classical world.

TNH: In your opinion, what is the greatest contribution the Onassis Foundation’s U.S. subsidiary has made towards non-Greeks, as well as to the Greek American Community and the Greek nation?

A.S.P.: I want to emphasize the fact that we try to speak to Americans who are not of Greek origin about the classical values, the classical heritage, and the Hellenic culture, as if these are an inseparable part of their own lives. As we know, this cultural legacy is part of a worldwide heritage, and is included in the American way of life. From this standpoint, we found a great response, and I view the contribution of the Onassis Foundation to be an important one, because through its exhibitions, as well as



PHOTOS: TNH ARCHIVES

The President of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation Anthony S. Papademetriou, left, spoke to TNH about the ten-year anniversary of the establishment of the Foundation’s office in New York.



Mr. Papademetriou, right, with Ambassador Loukas Tsilas, left, Executive Director and John Ioannides, board member of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation.

its educational and informational events, we offered Americans who are not of Greek origin a chance – and what I would like to think are the means – to better familiarize themselves, increase their knowledge and form a better appreciation of this legacy, which I reiterate, is also a part of life here in the United States.

In regards to the Greek American Community and the Greek nation, I would like to say that besides the contribution mentioned above, we offered Greek Americans yet an-

other opportunity to come closer to our common roots and appreciate our great legacy.

TNH: During the past decade, can you talk about any experiences that would prove useful to the future operation of the Onassis Foundation?

A.S.P.: I would say that undoubtedly, throughout the ten years that we have been offering such multifaceted services to promote Hellenic culture, our Foundation has gained vast experience. This experience has served as proof that our mission is a worthy one, and that the promotion of Hellenic culture is well received. During our operation over the past decade, our Foundation has also managed to repeatedly utilize the remarkable talents of individuals whom we have sponsored through our scholarships. Artists and academic researchers who received scholarships from our Foundation have gone on to play leading roles in our presentations. As a result, based on the experience we have gained, we are surely better off and better able to continue our activities in the future. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind readers that a very important educational institution – the Onassis House of Letters and Fine Arts – will soon be operational in Athens, Greece. Our experience in the United States will surely be invaluable in setting up this latest project. This same experience will also prove valuable as we continue and expand our activities all around the world.

TNH: How much did the Greek American Community – especially the Greeks of New York – support the Onassis Foundation’s efforts

during these past ten years? Is there something you would like to ask of the Greek American Community?

A.S.P.: Greek Americans living in New York, and all across North and South America, understood, evaluated, approved, and unanimously supported the work being done by our Foundation. They have always praised us and had positive things to say about our efforts.

I would like to thank Greek Americans for their ongoing support. We promise them that our efforts and contribution will continue along the same lines, and we will remain faithful to our mission, maintaining the same intensity, generosity and diligence that we show today. I am certain that the Greeks of the Diaspora will continue to support our efforts, praise our work and enjoy what the Onassis Foundation has to offer.

TNH: What benefits does the Onassis Foundation’s financial independence offer when it comes to fulfilling your mission?

A.S.P.: Aristotle Onassis left nearly half of his vast estate to the Foundation so that he could ensure its independence and give it an opportunity to pursue the realization of its goals through initiatives whose sole purpose is to promote our heritage and all the great values that proceed from it. Of course, the hand-picked associates to whom the late Mr. Onassis entrusted his Foundation helped increase the value of this estate and further secured the Foundation’s autonomy and independence, which its founder intended for it to have right from the start.

TNH: How important to academic research are the publications and seminars that take place within the framework of the exhibitions offered by the Onassis Foundation?

A.S.P.: All the publications of the Onassis Foundation are housed in the libraries of universities all throughout the United States, and the entire world. It is not I who am saying this. The international press and scholarly periodicals have testified to this. Our publications are not limited to fine arts. They include high-quality academic literature, with noteworthy academic treatises, which frequently feature original research. The catalogue of our publications is an academic contribution that has already come to be appreciated and utilized by university professionals all over the world, including, of course, the United States. But there is more to us than just our catalogues. We have gone ahead with many other large-scale publications. After every international seminar that follows our exhibitions, the conclusions that are arrived at are released in a separate publication. In my opinion, our exhibitions and other related events, together with the important publications we have circulated, have truly contributed to research and raised academic awareness, and our efforts are deeply valued by universities and research centers all over the world.



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Foundation for Greek Studies Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Continued from page 1

graduate students, and regular events for students, faculty, and the broader community.

“Cavafy was one of the five most eminent Greeks of the 20th century,” Prof. Lambropoulos said. “So we are honoring a very great writer who devoted his life to the contemporary Greek language. Also, he was a diaspora figure. He was someone who spent almost his entire life outside of the metropolitan center. In that regard he is a wonderful example of what we are witnessing today, the Greek American fourth and fifth generation which is going to thrive in this country and promote its sense

tween the community and the university,” Prof. Lambropoulos. “It was an continues to be a grass-roots movement, so it is Greek Americans inspiring each another and doing something not just for themselves, but for the greater community.”

When the Foundation met its first fundraising goal, the University upgraded the position to an endowed Professorship as it broadened its commitment to modern Greek. The endowment of the professorship meant that the University committed itself to offering modern Greek for as long as the University survives. In the Spring of 1999, it hired Professors Vassilis Lambropoulos, Leontis, and Konstantina (Kostalena)

Michelaki to teach undergraduate and graduate courses and develop a vital program as well as a minor and major concentration in Modern Greek. Despina Margomenou joined the teaching staff in 2001.

The Foundation was incorporated in 1997 with the mission of promoting the study of modern Greek language and culture by supporting educational institutions, as well as related efforts. It was and remains a grassroots effort of many dedicated Greeks and Philhellenes in the greater metropolitan Detroit area, as well as supporters throughout the country.

“It has emerged and continues to operate with a wonderful collabora-

tion with the local community of Greeks,” Prof. Lambropoulos said. “Therefore we have a synergy between the campus and the larger community.”

“What makes this so significant,” said Mr. Reganis. “Is that while other fully endowed chairs are either financed by the Greek government or one individual, this was a grass-roots campaign in Michigan. It was something that people felt the need for. It was large and small donations. Some people gave \$50 and \$100 to make this work.”

The Foundation has played a central role in the development of Modern Greek at the University of Michigan by making possible the C.P. Cavafy Chair, a wide range of cultural events each year, scholarships and general student support.

“It’s more than a Chair,” Mr. Reganis said. “It’s also like a mini-cultural center. Besides the lectures, there are also numerous events such as film screenings, dances and concerts.”

The Modern Greek Program at Michigan has achieved remarkable success in attracting students. Most notable has been its range of diverse courses that appeal to ever increasing numbers of undergraduates of all ethnic backgrounds. Starting with a couple of dozen of students in the 1990s, enrollments specifically in Modern Greek courses reached 400 this year.

Some of the classes taught at the University include “An Introduction on Modern Greek Culture,” “Athens Through the Centuries” and “Greek American Culture.”

In addition, Professors Lambropoulos and Leontis stress that each semester approximately one in ten undergraduates at Michigan take a Greek course. This popularity of Greek learning is particularly important since, according to recent rankings in the London Times, Michigan is the top public University in America.

The synergy between the Foundation and Michigan has been exceptional. First, the University matched the Foundation’s funds, creating the endowed C. P. Cavafy Chair in Modern Greek, the cornerstone of the Program. Next, the University responded to growing enrollments by creating two additional, full-time teaching positions. Overall, Michigan is extremely pleased with its collaboration with the Foundation and the commitment of Greeks and Philhellenes to contemporary Hellenism.



ABOVE: From left, George Keros, John Kaounas, Professor Vassilis Lambropoulos, George Reganis, Associate Professor Artemis Leontis, Sam Roumanis and Gus Kaounas. BELOW: Music by pianist Pantelis Polychronides and soprano Mariangela Chatzistamatou entertained the audience at the event.



of Hellenism and Greek identity.” The University turned to the Greek community for support in creating the Cavafy Chair. The community responded enthusiastically. The Foundation for Modern Greek Studies, a dynamic, progressive, grass-roots Greek American organization established in Michigan, undertook to raise \$750,000, to be given to the University in three installments. “We have a great synergy be-

The Decline of Greek American Entertainment

Continued from page 1

Egypt offered plenty of opportunities for bands to be kept very busy and were very much in demand. Among the most prominent of aggregations were George Stratis, Papes & Michelle, Peter Karas, Perry Voultsos, Teddy James, George Miras, Gus Valli, George Kent, and several others.

Greek Night Clubs came into being and singing “stars” direct from the homeland were among the first to gain a strong following. Nikos Gounaris and Sophia Vembo were among the first of the popular imported “stars” to make it big in the US. Vembo’s appearances were sporadic but well received though Gounaris also noted for his vast girth and legendary wit was to remain a major perennial among Greek-American audiences till his death in 1965.

By the 1950s, the list of entertainers had grown considerably and the plethora of singers came to appeal to the various audience factions. The Night Clubs specializing in “rebetika” songs appealing to working class fans featured Rina Dalia and Jimmy Apostolou while Eva Styl was very effective in bridging the gap between demotic, rebetika, and the lighter fare as her repertoire encompassed all the elements of Greek music.

Soon there were American-born Greek singers such as Joanna Makris, Sophia Manos, and Leni Barteri who favored a more diversified repertoire by including songs of many nations. Both women also sought a glamorous appearance, elegantly dressed to the nines, and added touches of smart supper club flash to their presentation. Old Hollywood wardrobe with costly gowns and stiletto heels shoes were the order of the day.

Milton Stamos stayed close to the Greek Demotic idiom and he became a fixture at many a dance. Eventually entertainers began to combine singing with some dance steps. Louiza and Zozo Sapountzaki were among two that used this approach.

These individuals were in demand at dances and nightclubs that burst upon the scene during this era. The Athenian Corner, Athena East, Molfetas’ Greek Room, Britannia, Skorpis, Zappeion Pavilion, Mykonos, Dionysos, and other similar spots attracted a steady clientele throughout the New York City area though other US cities such as Chicago and Boston established a Greek nightlife around this time encompassing various segments of Greek-Americans as well as recent Greek immigrants.

During this time Greek Dance Extravaganzas were in vogue at the Manhattan Center that were transformed into gala events with several



Popular Greek American singers like Laoura, top left, Joanna Makris, bottom left, and Tony Maroudas, Thomas Lagoumis and Nikos Gounaris (top right, from left) left their mark in popular culture, but Greek American entertainers have become a rare breed as talent is brought directly from Greece and homegrown singers disappear.

acts in addition to the dancing when budgets became plentiful and the cost of living relatively low. It became commonplace to see comedians, flamenco dancers, belly dancers, circus clowns, choruses, jugglers, and novelty acts along with the singers. Oftentimes, there would be 2 bands and an embarrassment of riches.

The 1960s brought yet another contingent of singers. Tony Maroudas, who was influenced by Goumaris, also specialized in popular sentimental ballads and novelty tunes though his American sojourn proved all too brief. Marina Greta, Laoura, the aforementioned Louiza, Marion Siva, etc. emphasized a sultry style of performing making them very popular among the men in the audience while performing the most popular songs of the day and keeping current with the latest tunes from the homeland.

In time, there were to be singing groups such as the Trio Bel Canto, Duo Acropole, and Trio Moreno stressing an ensemble approach. The Bel Cantos proved more enduring with several decades of performing

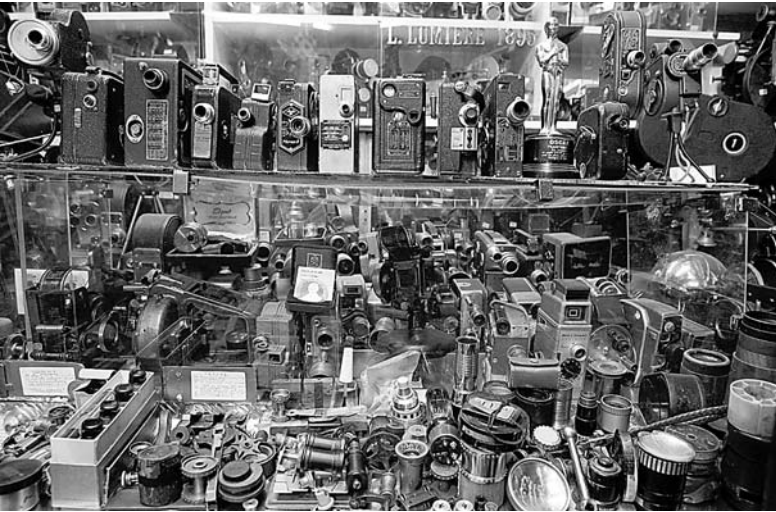
albeit with changes of personnel. The Morenos spanned only a few short years with only Yianni Kalaitzis of “Kyria Yioryina” fame remaining the sole survivor of that group.

With a few notable exceptions, most of these acts had a relatively short shelf life. Many of these names disappeared as quickly as they rose in popularity.

Assimilation, rising costs, and waning interest ultimately brought about the closing of the nightclubs. The few remaining spots began to import their talent directly from Greece and the homegrown singers vanished from the scene. The dances dispensed with the singers altogether either featuring a belly dancer or merely emphasizing the accent on the dancing. Soon the orchestras disbanded and the increase of the DJ led to fewer events.

With the lapse of time, most of the major names became past history and that overworked question – “whatever happened to?” was increasingly being asked.

Perhaps someday those happy times will return with a fresh burst of creativity and talent.



AP PHOTO/THANASSIS STAVRAKIS

ABOVE: Cameras and lenses are on display at collector Dimitris Pistiolas’ museum in central Athens. Pistiolas owns the world’s largest private collection of movie cameras - 937 vintage models and projectors. BELOW: Camera collector Dimitris Pistiolas checks a camera at his museum in central Athens.



Record Movie Camera Collection Kept in Athens Basement

ATHENS, Greece (AP)- This month, the movie camera collection of retired postman Dimitris Pistiolas made it into the Guinness World Records - for the eighth time.

Pistiolas owns the world’s largest private collection of movie cameras - 937 vintage models and projectors. They are neatly arranged, dusted and labeled in his tiny basement, where they cover every inch of wall.

Pistiolas, now 78, started buying cameras at age 15 and never stopped. The basement museum is padlocked and visits are by invitation only.

“When I get a new camera, I feel like a little kid, like I’ve been given a Christmas present,” he says. “The first thing I do is to restore it before I put it into the collection.”

Ronald Grant, a director at the Cinema Museum in London, says it takes time and money to hunt such cameras down at fairs and auction rooms.

“There’s a lot of investment there in time, and knowledge, and of course memory. Once you have a few hundred, then you have to remember, ‘Have I got this one?’” Grant says. “You can’t just buy these in a shop.”

Karamanlis, Obama hold telephone conversation

ATHENS, Greece (ANA-MPA)- Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis held a telephone conversation with U.S. President-elect Barack Obama on Wednesday night, congratulating him on his election, wishing him success in tackling the challenges that he will be facing in the years to come and stressing that he is looking forward to meeting him in the near future.

Karamanlis reassured Obama that Greece will provide full support for the fulfillment of the great hopes that his election has created.

He further said that the greatest challenge today is the economic crisis whose handling constitutes a top priority for all, since the international economy is being faced with great and multidimensional adjustments.

Karamanlis also told Obama that his election took place during a crucial juncture in which Europe, the United States and other partners must jointly tackle the challenges. The prime minister went on to say that the Greek American

community has contributed and is continuing to contribute to American society.

Karamanlis assured Obama that he appreciates in particular the clear and steadfast positions that he has taken on issues of Greek interest and pointed out that he is looking forward to close cooperation with the aim of finding solutions for all these issues, as well as the deepening of Greek-U.S. relations in all sectors.

On his part, Obama thanked the prime minister for his wishes and underlined the great appreciation that he feels for the role of the Greek American society which, as he said, he knows well, having good friends in its ranks.

Obama also noted that he has special appreciation for Greece’s role in Europe and the wider region, expressing the wish that he will have the opportunity in the near future of visiting the country about which he knows a great deal but without, however, having visited it so far.

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John Psarouthakis: Aunt Elisabeth Gave me Strength and Courage

Continued from page 1

was included in the 1988 Fortune 500 listing before merging with the T&N PLC of England in late 1990. He then founded JPE Inc., an auto components manufacturing and distribution company, in 1992 (JPE was sold to a private industrial group in early 1999).

Dr. Psarouthakis was born in 1932. He lost his parents to tuberculosis when he was very young age. His father Michalis died when he was only two years old. His mother Stamatis died a year later. Their story, part of which is recounted below, is amazing in its own right.

After Dr. Psarouthakis' parents died, Aunt Elisabeth, who had no biological children of her own, took young John and his older brother George in, and became their adoptive mother.

"Aunt Elisabeth was a dynamo... the best word from my experience to communicate her personality. Electricity and magnetism, kinetic energy and stored voltage – all radiated from her expressive eyes... Each action was purposeful, yet natural. She spoke with clarity and wasted no oxygen on unnecessary words... She could not read or write, but her wisdom was apparent to anyone who knew her (pg. 32)."

"Aunt Elisabeth was born and raised in a well-to-do suburb of Smyrna. Back in those days, women of her generation did not go to school. Even though she was extremely bright and had a wealth of wisdom, she was not educated. She could not read or write. But she had a commanding presence. You could see she was intelligent and well informed from her eyes. She absorbed things like a sponge. Today, we call her ability to relate to people 'networking.' She certainly had a very interesting and lively network in town. But in 1922, the Greeks were expelled from western Asia Minor, so she and her sisters and my mother were forced to flee on a French ship with a stop at Mitilini on its way to Thessaloniki," Dr. Psarouthakis told the National Herald.

"My father was with the Greek military and went to Smyrna with the Greek army, where he met my mother. They fell in love. He asked my (maternal) grandfather for her hand in marriage, and after they agreed, my father continued advancing east with the Greek army. Then you had the Greek army's unrelenting retreat, and to save himself, he literally swam to Mitilini. He heard there was a French ship in the harbor that was full of people from Menemeni, the suburb in Smyrna where my mother's family was from. So they found each other again, after almost losing each other. They boarded another ship, and went to Crete instead of Thessaloniki. They went to my father's village, Kalamitsi, where they got married. After my brother George was born, they moved to Chania, where my father worked at a bank, and where I was born seven years later," he said.

"After my parents died, Aunt Elisabeth influenced me a great deal simply by watching her. She was not the type to tell you what to do. That wasn't her way. She was more about doing things herself and showing by example. She would always take me with her wherever she went. She would take me shopping, and to the



burgh.

He began his career as an engineer for Boston Edison and later held several senior technical and management positions at various companies, to include Thermo Electron Corporation, which was founded by another immensely successful Greek American, Dr. George Hatsopoulos.

Dr. Psarouthakis then started his own firm, JP Industries, in 1979, and his entrepreneurial success catapulted from there.

JPI capitalized on the application of modern management, manufacturing and distribution techniques for existing product lines. Through internal growth and acquisitions, JPI achieved NYSE listing as a multi-industry company in the United States, Great Britain, Italy, Denmark and Japan. Within ten years, it became a company with annual sales of \$600 million.

But attaining that level of success was no easy task. It required a lot of hard work and considerable courage to face many challenges along the way. Courage, Dr. Psarouthakis said, he got from the woman who raised him, the woman who was brave enough to step in between those two drunken, sword-wielding soldiers and convince them to stop fighting each other and save their strength for the Nazis instead.

"Aunt Elisabeth had a lot of courage. She never talked about the past, certainly not in regretful terms. She was always interested in today and tomorrow. She understood the past, but she didn't want to waste time dwelling on emotions of the past. And that had a great deal of influence on me because life in Greece was not easy between the mid-1930's and the end of the 1940's. In the 30's, there was a dictatorship; in the 40's we had the Italians, the Germans and the communists," he said.

"Aunt Elisabeth had a strong presence. She wouldn't impose herself, but you knew she Elisabeth was there – whether it was a discussion; whether there was a problem to be solved; or whether it was two soldiers drawing swords in the street trying to kill each other and stepping in between them and telling them off, and getting them to reconcile and leave. I began to notice those things when I was in my early teens. She was cautious in terms of me relating to others on the one hand – very protective – but on the other hand, she also realized I needed to grow up and understand society. So she encouraged me to join boy scouts, and to try out for sports. She gave me a sense of confidence without telling me to do those things. If something appealed to me, I was simply encouraged to try it," he said.

"All that had a great deal of influence on me, and still does today. I began to feel that level of encouragement from her as a teenager, and more so in Boston. When I first came to the United States, I couldn't speak English. I had no financial resources. I had to find a job and begin to study in parallel. That's not the easiest thing for a youngster coming out of Chania to do, never having been anywhere before," he added.

How and why Dr. Psarouthakis ended up coming to America is a story in itself. When he finished high school, he wanted to be an engineer, but he couldn't afford it, so he joined the Hellenic Naval Academy, where he could specialize in something. "I loved the sea," he said.

His mother's sister, Esther, married a Greek American from Boston. She sent young John a packet with an application to MIT. He then went to his high school physics teacher, who didn't know anything about MIT, "but he figured, 'since it's in Boston, it must be good.'" So Dr. Psarouthakis applied.

"Back then, there was no English test requirement. I just filled out the application and sent it in. And in the late spring of 1951, I got a letter informing me that my application was accepted. And I said, 'now what?' I was getting ready to join the Naval Academy, and I didn't know anything about America except from the movies. I wasn't exactly jumping for joy," he said.

"But Aunt Elisabeth encouraged

me. She told me it was an opportunity to get a good education, so I made the decision to come, and I'm happy that I did. It was difficult at first, but it was her strength that helped me get through the difficult times of learning to speak English, working, and a few months later starting my studies," he said.

"I think I'm still the first and only MIT graduate from Crete who entered MIT directly from high school. Other Cretan students entered MIT, but they came through other universities," he added.

After completing his studies at MIT, Dr. Psarouthakis joined Dr. Hatsopoulos at Thermo Electron for four years (1958-62). He became good friends with the Hatsopoulos family. Dr. Hatsopoulos' brother, John, baptized Dr. Psarouthakis' oldest son.

Dr. Psarouthakis then relocated to Baltimore to work for Martin Marietta, a company which was developing nuclear energy systems for space vehicles. He was MM's senior scientist and research & development manager for energy conversion in space vehicles from 1962 to 1966.

He then joined Allis Chalmers, another space vehicle-related R&D firm, where he served as director of its technology center in Milwaukee for four years (1966-70). While he was in Milwaukee, Chalmers sent him to Carnegie-Mellon University, where he earned what was then known as a "mini MBA" from a very rigorous ten-week program.

"We worked from seven o'clock in the morning to almost midnight every day, including weekends," he said.

Dr. Psarouthakis then went onto become corporate vice president for international operations, planning and technology at Masco Corporation in Taylor, Michigan from 1970 to 1978.

"My jobs influenced where I was and what I did. Since I had no other means to pay for school, I had to work to put myself through school, so I worked at Thermo Electron with George. Before that, I worked at the Ritz Carlton as a busboy for two years. It was the only job I could get without knowing any English. But I learned a lot at the Ritz Carlton. I learned how to speak English, and I learned about people," he said.

"Then I got an offer from Martin Marietta that I couldn't refuse. They doubled my salary; they paid my expenses to work on my doctorate at my convenience; so I moved to Baltimore and headed up a department in charge of R&D for space-related energy systems. I also registered with the University of Maryland and earned my Ph.D in 28 months," he added.

Over the years, as he conducted his business affairs in various countries, Dr. Psarouthakis learned to speak German and Italian, and acquired a working knowledge of French and Swedish.

"Through all that, I also learned how many other countries operate – about their societies and the way they do business," he said.

Dr. Psarouthakis is the recipient of honorary doctorates from Eastern Michigan University and Cleary College. He was a member at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business in Ann Arbor for almost ten years, and was also a senior lecturer (schedule permitting) at MIT. The Ross School has named a chair the "John Psarouthakis Professorship in Manufacturing Management."

Dr. Psarouthakis has endowed several scholarships which require institutions to look for qualified students of Greek origin. The scholarships are at MIT (John Psarouthakis & Elisabeth Paleologou Scholar Award); Carnegie Mellon (Esther Zacharias Scholar Award); and Hellenic College/Holy Cross (Pari Paleologou Scholar Award – Pari was Aunt Elisabeth's sister; she was very Church-oriented and also played a pivotal role in raising Dr. Psarouthakis).

Dr. Psarouthakis has also been involved with government issues. He has advised several governors and served as chairman of the Michigan Strategic Fund in the late 1980's, when the Fund began to have an im-

pact on the State's eventual economic development during the 1990's and early 2000's.

He was appointed a member of the Governor's Venture Capitalist Task Force, and served as R&D advisor

more you see an opposition whose sole purpose is to replace the government, and not to constructively participate in creating viable legislation and programs for the country. So it's very hard to implement any-

CEO's who need advice on how to run their companies better.

"I'm an executive management coach. I coach primarily CEO's on business model development for strategic thinking. I do it through a series of 3- to 4-hour discussions. I read about the company; I take into consideration what the CEO wants to achieve; and I provide a plan for how many sessions we need, and how we're going to operate, and how much it will cost. I enjoy that approach because when I leave that session, I'm done. The CEO needs to do things, not me. I'm not the one running the company, he or she is. So whatever comes out of that session is for them to follow through," he said.

Dr. Psarouthakis has written six books, including "Elisabeth's Gift," and is currently working on his seventh book, "How to Acquire the Right Business," which is coming out in January.

One book he wrote, "Balancing in the Balkans (St. Martin's Press, 1999)," was a joint effort with Raymond Tanter, a professor of Middle East Studies and international relations expert at the University of Michigan.

"We were on an academic panel back when the Bosnia conflict was still going on. There were five of us discussing what was causing this strife. Ray had the view that we should come in with overwhelming military force to stop the killing. My view was that, even if that's necessary, it's not enough. You may be able to force the killing to stop, but how are you going to address the issues that caused the strife and ethnic cleansing in the first place? We need economic development in place, whereby people become interdependent economically. When people become economically interdependent, they stop killing each other. It's not in your interest to kill someone you depend on for a living. We kept arguing about it, and someone suggested that we write a book about it, so that's what we did," Dr. Psarouthakis said, adding that he managed to persuade Dr. Tanter that perhaps both activities are necessary to solve the problem.

Dr. Psarouthakis has lived in Ann Arbor for the last 36 years. "It's the longest I lived anywhere. I lived in Crete for 19 years, and in Boston for 11 years," he said.

He has two sons from his first marriage, Michael and Peter, both of whom live in Ann Arbor. His first wife, Inga, passed away 15 years ago. She was of Swedish origin. He has since remarried. His second wife, Antigoni Kefalogiannis, is of Greek heritage. She has two daughters from a previous marriage (her first husband also died).

In light of his entrepreneurial success, insight and expertise, Dr. Psarouthakis was asked to render his opinion on the current economic crisis. He compared it to a hot-air balloon which needed to deflate.

"What caused this was a variety of instruments that were based primarily on debt, rather than equity. We had a financial system that would leverage \$1 in equity to approximately \$40 of debt, so it could not be supported, and worse, it was escalating. The system had to retrench itself. Some call it a meltdown; others refer to it as a crash. But whatever you want to call it, it had to come back to reality. The key players – not only individuals, but also government, institutions and corporations – realized that this high leveraging had created an abstract level of value which had no substance to it – commonly referred to as a lot of hot air. That air had to go away, and it's going to take time to adjust to the new context," he said.



sor to the Speaker of the State House of Representatives. Several governors have recognized his contributions to their state's economy, to include Bill Clinton and Michael Dukakis when they were still governors of Arkansas and Massachusetts, respectively.

Dr. Psarouthakis has also received numerous awards; among them, the MIT Corporate Leadership Award, the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Harvard Business School Alumni Club of Detroit, the Distinguished Young Scientist Award from the Maryland Academy of Science, the 1988 and 1995 INC Magazine Entrepreneur of the Year Award-Michigan, and the 1990

thing. The problem is not a thin or comfortable majority. The problem is a lack of constructive and cooperative mentality," he said.

"Are the proposals I made back then are still valid? Yes, they are. Some details may need to change because 15 years have passed, but the essential aspects still apply. The need to privatize and the importance of education for economic development are still there. Greece doesn't have universities for educational purposes. They have them primarily for political posturing. I'm not saying they don't teach anything. But as institutions, the Greek higher education system does not serve the purpose that it should,



The young John Psarouthakis tests a thermo-ionic energy converter for space applications at MIT. Psarouthakis is a top-notch engineer.

AHEPA Achievement Award.

His accomplishments in America notwithstanding, Dr. Psarouthakis has never forgotten his roots. Over the years, he has provided scholarships to outstanding students at the Technology University of Crete in Chania, and at the Kritiki Estia in Athens, where Dr. Psarouthakis and his family are helping with the construction of a new dormitory.

And when Constantine Mitsotakis was elected prime minister of Greece, he tapped Dr. Psarouthakis for advice.

"When Mr. Mitsotakis first went to Washington as prime minister, I went to meet him for his first state-side visit, and also in New York where Archbishop Iakovos held a reception in his honor. We talked, and he asked me to advise him on economic policy for Greece," he said.

"I advised him pro bono for almost the entire time he was prime minister. Between June 1990 and December 1992, I shuttled back and forth between Ann Arbor and Athens as a personal advisor to the Prime Minister for his privatization policy and economic development and technology. I went there practically every month," he said.

"Though Mr. Mitsotakis' economic policies were a must for Greece, he did not have the time he needed to implement them, unfortunately," he added.

Dr. Psarouthakis said his economic policy proposals for Greece have yet to be implemented, but are still applicable, even though 15 years have passed. The political climate in Greece is not conducive to cooperative and constructive policy formulation, he explained, because opposition parties tend to be oppositional just for the sake of opposing the governing party.

"Unfortunately, the parliamentary system in Greece is not constructive. The Scandinavians have parliamentary systems, too, and those function pretty well, but the further south you go in Europe, the

which is to educate young people and train them in fields of relevance to their society and the economy of that society – and to be constructive, not just to have ideological views," he added.

Dr. Psarouthakis now spends his time writing books and coaching



Cover of John Psarouthakis' book about his beloved Aunt Elisabeth.

homes of families she used to help. There was one lady who had a lot of books, so my aunt used to take me there for that reason – to expose me to books because I didn't have any books to read. She took me shopping to expose me to the market. FORTUNE magazine published an article a few years ago that said I buy companies the way Aunt Elisabeth used to buy watermelons (chuckles). She would never buy a watermelon unless she looked inside it. And I'm the same way. I won't buy a company if an owner won't let me look at it in detail," he added.

Dr. Psarouthakis graduated from high school in Chania, and moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1951 to study at MIT, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering. He subsequently earned his doctorate in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering at the University of Maryland, and attended the Executive Management Program at the Carnegie Mellon University Graduate School of Industrial Administration in Pitts-

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Karl's update
Deborah

■ BOKIDES, MARY

BOISE, Idaho – The Idaho Statesman reported that Mary G. Bokides, 79 , of Weiser passed away on Thursday, November 27, 2008 in Colorado. Mary was born April 6, 1929 in Baker City, Ore. She was married to Theodore N. Bokides and was the daughter of George and Haetho Speropulos. Mary had two younger brothers, Nick and Chris Speropulos; all of whom preceded her in death. Mary was raised in Weiser, Idaho and returned there to raise her own family. She spent much of her childhood at the Speropulos ranch near Cuprum, Idaho. When she was 10 years old, her family moved back to Greece for a year returning to the United States just as World War II broke out. This experience shaped her sophisticated world view and approach to life. Mary met Ted Bokides at the Greek Orthodox Church in Denver, Colo. while attending Colorado Women's College where she was studying English and Journalism. They were married in 1949 and lived first in California before settling in Weiser. Mary was a born leader and would take charge of any project; big or small. She attracted donations from throughout the tri-state area to expand the Intermountain Cultural Center and Museum. She and her family were founding members of the Greek Orthodox Church in Boise and she served Philoptikos, a Greek women's organization, in many capacities including President. She was an Eastern Star, Girl Scout leader, PTA President for many years, a Red Cross and March of Dimes Volunteer and President of the Women's Golf association. Mary was vibrant, intelligent, hard-working, caring and elegant. She had a love of life that was obvious to all who met her. Her voracious appetite for knowledge spanned from world politics to business to family and friends. She was a natural strategist and thinker. Her devotion to her family and friends was evident in everything she did. She was always thinking of ways to make the world, or even a small piece of it, better. Her quick wit and indomitable spirit made her the life of any gathering; and she loved gatherings, both big and small. She got energy from being around people and gave out even more. Mary also loved to debate. To her, nothing showed she cared quite as much as a freshly baked Spanikopita and a debate just as hot. More than anything, she was a devoted parent, grandparent, daughter and wife. Her children recall that she expected a great deal - yet gave them the freedom to make their own decisions. She was an active golfer, and wicked pinochle, bridge and poker player. She was financially adept and spent much of her time following and investing in the stock market. Mary is survived by three children; Nicholas T. Bokides of Weiser, Idaho, Heitho Bokides Reuter of Lebanon, Oregon, and Dessa Bokides of Denver, Colo.; and twelve grandchildren T. Nicholas, Chris, Dessa, Eric and Seve Bokides; Theodore, John and George Reuter; David, Mitchell, Greg and Charlie Fay; daughter-in-law Kathy Bokides; son-in-law, William Fay; as well as many nieces and nephews. Her son-in-law Thomas Reuter, preceded her in death. The funeral was held on December 3. Memorial donations to the Mary G. Bokides Memorial Fund at the Weiser Memorial Hospital, 645 E. Fifth, Weiser ID 83672 or St. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 2618 West Bannock, Boise, ID 83706.

■ DAVIS, TULA

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. – The San Bernardino Sun reported that Tula Davis, 83, of Highland, went home to be with the Lord on November 25, 2008, with her family by her side. Born July 24, 1925, in Birmingham, Alabama, to Greek immigrant parents, Condilo and Gerasimos Mahalas, she attended Ensley High School and graduated in 1943. Shortly after graduation she became an executive secretary in Birmingham for a large corporation. In 1945 she met and married the love of her life, Chris Davis, remaining by his side with love and devotion for the last 63 years. In 1955 she and her family moved to Southern California, where they resided in both Rialto and Highland. Tula and her family became members of the Saint Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church and attended services weekly. Tula was instrumental in establishing the "Hellenic Comedy Group" in the early 1960's, which performed comedy skits and shows for the local community for the benefit of the church. A devoted and loving mother, Tula was voted "Mother of the Year" by the Saint Irene's Philoptochos Society, a charitable church organization on Mothers Day 2003. In the 1980s Tula helped operate the Chris Davis Supper Club in Rialto, where she greeted all who came through the door with her caring nature and warm smile, until her retirement in 1990. Also during this time Tula attended specialized training and volunteered her kind and caring nature to help others as a mediator for the Superior Court in the Dispute Resolution Department in San Bernardino. Throughout her life, Tula believed and lived a life which was deep rooted in faith and commitment in Christ our Lord. For 30 years Tula served as a leader, friend and mentor to hundreds of Christ's followers with Christian Bible Study at

the Emanuel Baptist Church in Highland and the Bible Study Fellowship at the Unit ed Methodist Church in Yucaipa. She also served as a Sunday School Teacher at St. Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church. During her life she touched others with her deep faith of Christ, love of family, strong family values and strong Greek traditions. Tula was preceded in death by her parents, Condilo and Gerasimos Mahalas, and her brothers, Michael Panos, George Panos and James Panos. She is survived by her husband, Chris Davis; and her sons, Dr. Nicholas Davis (KiKi) and Lt. Jerry Davis (Jami); daughter , Kimberly Davis; 7 grandchildren, Christopher Davis (Kasey), Kia Wronka (Chad), Tara Davis, Joshua Davis, Suzanna Ascensio, Lauren Cervantez and Madison Perez; and sister, Mary Ross (George) of Atlanta; and brother, Spiro Mahalas (Sandy) of Florida. The funeral was held on December 4 at Saint Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church in San Bernardino. Memorial donations to the Saint Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund.

■ DIMITROULAKOS, PETROS

TINTON FALLS, N.J. – The Asbury Park Press reported that Petros Dimitroulakos, 17, of Tinton Falls, passed away on Thursday, November 27 in Colts Neck as a result of injuries sustained from an automobile accident. He was born in Long Branch and resided in Eatontown before moving to Tinton Falls four years ago. Petros spent many hours helping his father at his Americana Diner Restaurant in Shrewsbury, with dreams of some day taking over the family business. He was a junior at Red Bank Catholic High School and played for the Casey's Varsity Football team, wearing No. 24. As a sports enthusiast, you could find Petros skate boarding, surfing, snow boarding and riding his dirt bike. He often looked forward to taking trips to Greece with his family. Petros could light up a room with his beautiful eyes and priceless smile. As a young man, he touched many lives, young and old, and brought happiness to everyone who knew him. Petros was predeceased by his paternal grandfather, Petros D. Dimitroulakos and his cousin, Alivia Renee Dorazio. Surviving are his father, Dimitrios "Jimmy" Dimitroulakos of Tinton Falls; his mother, Renee Santiago of Neptune; his brother and sister, Nicholas and Brianna Santiago, both of Neptune; his paternal grandmother, Maria Dimitroulakos of Tinton Falls; and his maternal grandparents, William and Elaine Mauro of Long Branch. Also surviving are many aunts and uncles, Paula and George Louzacos, and their son Photi, his little brother, Manny and Panagiota Dimitroulakos and their children, Petros, Maria, Alex, and Metaxia, John and Vera Dimitroulakos and their children, Petros, and Maria, Kostantinos Dimitroulakos and Stacey Herring and their daughter Maria. Petros also leaves behind Kiki Tzinakos, Louis Tenai and many other dear relatives and close friends. He will be truly missed by all who knew him. The funeral was held on December 3 at Kisimis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church in Holmdel. Memorial donations to The Red Bank Catholic High School Scholarship Fund.

■ GIANATOS, PAT

CHARLESTON, S.C. – The Charleston Post & Courier reported that Pat Gianatos passed away on Wednesday, November 26, 2008, Paraskevi Pat Giannaki Gianatos, widow of Nick Gianatos. Residence, Charleston, SC. Pat (Paraskevi) was born August 15, 1926 in Rizovouni Epirus, Greece, the daughter of George Giannaki and Efstratoula Hippopoulos Giannaki. Pat came to the United States after World War II later bringing her two sisters and mother to live with her. They all sought the American dream and were proud to achieve it. She became a naturalized citizen and enjoyed being a Greek-American. Pat became a widow at an early age and her pride and joy were her two sons and her church. She was a very active member of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity when her health was good. She retired as a sales clerk. She is survived by her devoted and loving sons: George Zafirris and John Gianatos and his wife Mary, all of Charleston, SC; two sisters: Kiki Zeceopoulos of James Island, SC and Alexandra Spetseris of Greece along with a special and loved former daughter-in-law Connie Zafirris; two grandchildren: Jonathan Gianatos and Nick Zafirris both of Charleston, SC; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. The family would like to thank St. Francis ER, Roper ER and Roper Hospital and especially Hospice Center of Charleston for the exceptional love and care shown to Pat and her family. The funeral was held on November 29 at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity in Charleston. Memorial donations to Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity (30 Race Street, Charleston, SC 29403).

■ KIRIAKIDES, ALEX

GREENVILLE, S.C. — The State reported that Alex Sunday Kiriakides, Jr., 94, husband of Catherine Doumlele Kiriakides, passed away on Thursday, November 27, 2008, at his residence. "Mr. Alex," as he was known, was born in Asia Minor in

1914, the son of the late Alexander and Marica Haji-Oglou Kiriakides. He arrived at Ellis Island in 1921 at the age of seven. He graduated from Greenville High School in 1933 and attended the Citadel for 2 years. One of the first in the vending business, he bought his first cigarette machine in the 1930's, experienced the depression era which made a lasting impact on his work ethic and served in the U.S. Army during World War II where he trained new recruits as a second lieutenant. Older Greenvillians knew him as "Jocko." He was a member of Green Valley Country Club where he "schooled" the younger generations in the game of Gin Rummy. In his early years, he was instrumental with other young Greenvillians in building YMCA Camp Greenville. In the 1970's he served on the SC State Ports Authority Board. Mr. Kiriakides was the owner of Atlas Food Systems and Service Inc. Over the years, Atlas Vending employed as many as four hundred people. He was still working up to one month of his passing. He was a member of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral. He was a loving father, a businessman, an entrepreneur, and inventor, and had always expressed a deep patriotic love for America. Surviving, in addition to his wife, are two daughters, Mary Ann Kiriakides and Cathy Cannon and husband Henry; two sons, Alex Kiriakides III and wife Suzanne and Michael W. Kiriakides and wife Debbie; two sisters, Louise Kiriakides and Libby Sfiris; a brother, John Kiriakides; and seven grandchildren, all of Greenville. The funeral was held on Saturday, November 29, 2008 at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Burial was at Woodlawn Memorial Park. Memorial donations to St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, (406 N. Academy Street, Greenville, SC 29601).

■ NEOS, FOTENE

MANCHESTER, N.H. – It was reported that Potene T. (Pennie) Neos (89) of Manchester, NH passed away on Friday, November 28, 2008 at Elliot Hospital of natural causes. She was born in Manchester, NH on November 19, 1919 to Alexander and Paraskevi (Exarhouli) Triantafellow, the third of nine children. After earning a BA degree from Notre Dame College in 1960, she taught math at Nashua High School, retiring in 1981. She received a M.Ed. degree from Rivier College, studied mathematics at UNH in Durham, NH as a NASA Scholarship recipient and in 1982 taught math at New Hampshire College for the spring semester. She loved teaching and tutored algebra and geometry during her career and after retirement. As a cancer volunteer she offered encouragement to patients and was a dedicated volunteer at the Veterans Administration Nursing Home until a severe injury prevented further volunteer service. As a member of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral and the Anagnensis (Ladies Auxiliary), she taught Sunday School and sang in the choir. She was also a member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and attended Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church. Mrs. Neos was a retired member of the National Education Association, the New Hampshire Education Association, and a Past President of the Nashua Teachers' Association as well as a member of AARP and the Poetry Society of New Hampshire. Prior to pursuing her career in teaching, her other occupations included: saleslady, wool spinner, fancy stitcher of shoes, lingerie and coats and an office worker, as well as a toolmaker at the Springfield Armory for the M1 Garand rifle. Mrs. Neos loved to cook and bake and had a weekly Greek pastry business during the early 80's. As a voracious reader she loved to solve puzzles, enjoyed traveling and meeting people of other cultures. She circumnavigated the world in the northern hemisphere as well as Australia and New Zealand. Mrs. Neos authored and published two books of true events, two books of poetry and has a number of poems ready for a third book of poetry. She was in the process of writing the story of her parents' lives as well as her own life story. Many of her poems have been published in 'Poems of the World', a quarterly publication of selected works of poets from around the world. She was the National Contest Chairperson for the Poetry Society of New Hampshire and a publishing contributor of Poems of the World. She was predeceased by: her husband, George; daughter, Joanna Neos O'Brien; grandson, Michael O'Brien; sister, Julie Coronis; and three brothers; Harry, Theodamos and William Triantafellow. She is survived by: son Charles Neos, Saugus, MA, daughter Paris DePerro, San Diego, CA, daughter Martha Sleder and son-in-law Al Sleder, Jr., San Jose, CA, son-in-law Arthur O'Brien, E. Hartford, CT, daughter-in-law Patricia Neos, Los Angeles, CA, one granddaughter, six grandsons, eleven great-grandsons and four great-granddaughters. In addition she has three sisters: Pauline Chaloge, Angelina Koyiades and Dorothea Theodore, all living in the greater Manchester, NH area and one brother, Ted Fellows of CA. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, grandnieces, grandnephews, great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews, two Godsons, two Goddaughters, extended

family members and countless friends. The funeral will take place on Monday, December 8th, at the St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral located at 650 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH, at 11 am followed by entombment in the Pine Grove Cemetery Mausoleum next to her beloved husband George. Memorial donations to either St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 1160 Bridge Street, Manchester, NH or to the elevator fund at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 650 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH.

■ PAPPAS, ANTONIA

STROUDSBURG, Penn. – The Pocono Record reported that Antonia C. Pappas, 78, of Stroudsburg, passed away on Friday morning, November 28, at Golden Living Center in East Stroudsburg. She was the widow of Constantine Pappas, who died February 14, 1999. Born on October 18, 1930, in Crete, Greece, she was a daughter of the late Frangios and Evlambia (Faradakis) Rokakis and lived in Monroe County for the past three years, moving from Florida. Prior to retirement, she worked in the fur industry in New York City. She was a member of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Stroudsburg. Surviving are a daughter, Kalli Valadakis of Staten Island, N.Y.; two sons, George Pappas of Ventura, Calif., and Cris Pappas of Reno, Nev.; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; a sister, Chrysoula Bakalexis of Stroudsburg; two brothers, Elias Rokakis and John Rokakis, both of Greece; her kind and generous niece and nephew, Irene Kallinteris and her husband, Gus, and Steve Bakalexis and his wife, Joanna; and numerous kind and caring great-nieces and great-nephews. She was preceded in death by a son, Michael Pappas, on August 3, 2005. The funeral was held at December 1 at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Stroudsburg. Burial was at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox section of Stroudsburg Cemetery. Memorial donations to VNA Hospice of Monroe County (502 Independence Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301).

■ SCOMBUL, ANGELINA

NORWALK, Conn. – The Hour reported that Angelina D. Scombul of Norwalk, CT, passed away peacefully at her home in Marvin Beach surrounded by love on Saturday morning, November 29, after a long period of debilitation. She was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on May 31, 1924, daughter of Cleopatra Karanisis Dumas and Charles George Dumas. She was a devout Greek Orthodox Christian and member of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Norwalk. Angelina was predeceased by her husband Peter George Scombulis. Angelina was employed at the Shore and Country Club for more than 20 years as the assistant manager and the director of wedding and special events planning. In her later years, she was an office assistant at the St. George Greek Orthodox Church as well as the president of St. George Properties. In addition, Angelina was the creator of Pete's Texas Chili, a chili sauce of such renown Heinz offered to purchase the recipe, when she was the co-proprietor of Peter's Luncheonette, a fixture in South Norwalk from 1955-1972, which was also known as Little City Hall. Until her medical condition deteriorated, Angelina was an active justice of the peace and she was an active volunteer of the Norwalk Chapter of the American Red Cross. Her family is especially proud of Angelina's involvement in the seminal years of the Greek Orthodox community in Norwalk where she was a founding member of the Daughters of Penelope, as well as the Philoptochos Society, a philanthropic organization in the Greek Orthodox Church. Angelina was a devoted Red Sox fan, who remained faithful during disappointing seasons only to be rewarded with the witnessing of two world championships in her lifetime. As she loved watching the Red Sox, she loved listening to opera, big band jazz as well as traditional and modern music of Greece. Also, Angelina loved to watch the many birds that would congregate in the trees outside of her window. In her last days, her attention was held particularly rapt by the appearance of a red-headed woodpecker. Angelina is survived by her children, Maria P. Mola of Norwalk and George B. Scombulis of South Norwalk. She is also survived by three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. The funeral was held on December 4 at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Norwalk. Memorial donations in Angelina's memory can may be made to St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 238 West Rocks Rd., Norwalk 06851.

■ TZAVELLAS, ELEFTHERIOS

NEW ORLEANS, La. – The Times-Picayune reported that Eleftherios Christ "Teddy" Tzavellas passed

away on Thursday, November 27, 2008, in his home in Metairie, Louisiana. He was 88 years old. Teddy was born on February 10, 1920, in Kounoupitsa, Methana, Greece. In April 1940, he immigrated to the United States and arrived in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He joined the U.S. Army in June 1942 in a program designed to give U.S. citizenship to immigrants. Following his training, he was sent to the Army Air Corps base in New Orleans, where he met and later married the former Mary Kleamenakis. In 1944, the Army sent him to Naples, Italy, as an MP where he remained through the end of World War II. While stationed there, he attended, supported, and assisted in the local Greek Orthodox Church. In December 1945, he returned to the Bumper Air Base in New Orleans and was honorably discharged from his military service. In April 1946, Teddy and Mary began their 49-year marriage. He became active civically and in the Greek Orthodox community. His contributions included serving with the Honorary Consul of Greece, William G. Helis, Jr., in the 1950s and 1960s. During that time, he and Mary were honored guests of King Paul and Queen Frederica of Greece on their historic visit to New Orleans. Teddy is remembered for tireless dedication to his church community. He was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and served in many capacities for over 50 years, including several terms as President. He served as the Church's chanter for over twelve years and helped oversee construction of the Cathedral twice - on Dourgenois Street and in its present location on Robert E. Lee. As a result of his devotion, the Clergy-Laity Congress in Boston elected him to the Archdiocesan Mixed Council from 1962 - 1964. Teddy was also a lifetime member of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), an international Greek-American service, philanthropic, and advocacy organization. He was elected with honor and distinction to local, district and national level positions including the National Supreme Board of Trustees. His civic involvement included public election to the Louisiana State Democratic Committee. In 1946, Teddy opened "Teddy's Restaurant," located on LaSalle Street. The restaurant became a fixture in the New Orleans medical community. He operated "Teddy's" for 30 years and is remembered by many who were both customers and friends. After a brief retirement, he joined the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and served as a Deputy for over 25 years, through 2005, with his friend Sheriff Harry Lee. Preceding him in death was his beloved wife Mary, who passed away in 1995. Teddy's surviving family includes daughter Katherine Papadopoulos and husband Chris; son Theodore Tzavellas and wife Penny; daughter Christina Tzavellas; grandsons Paul Kogos and wife Jennifer, Perry Papadopoulos, and Alex Tzavellas; granddaughters Christina Kogos and Elisabeth Papadopoulos; and great-granddaughter Caroline Kogos. He also is survived by brothers George, Stamatis, and Petros and their families; by nephew George Tzavellas, his wife Fotini and their sons Paul and Bobby; and by many relatives in Greece and Mexico. The funeral was held December 1 at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in New Orleans. Memorial donations to the Holy Trinity Cathedral, (1200 Robert E. Lee Boulevard) New Orleans, LA 70122. A portion of each contribution will be donated to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary in Massachusetts for scholarships to students pursuing clerical and laity ministries and studies.



Greek American Teen Dies in Thanksgiving Night Car Crash

By Demetris Tsakos

Special to The National Herald

COLTS NECK — Police are still investigating the circumstances surrounding a single car crash that killed Peter Demetroulakos, 17, and sent three others to the hospital late Thanksgiving night.

The 17-year-old Greek American boy from Tinton Falls died at the scene after the 2002 Honda Accord in which he was a backseat passenger left the roadway on Cross Road and smashed into a tree before nearly splitting in half and crashing into a fence, police said.

A 16-year-old Tinton Falls boy was critically injured in the crash and was taken to Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune by medical evacuation helicopter, Detective Sgt. Joseph Whitehead said. He remains in critical condition, according to police. He also was a backseat passenger, police said.

The tragic accident left parents Demetrios Demetroulakos and Renee Santiago grieving the death of their son Peter. They are joined in mourning by their other relatives here and in the Greek town of Mavrovouni, located in the Peloponnesean prefecture of Laconia.

The driver of the car, Matthew Gross, 18, of Tinton Falls and a front seat passenger, Justin Breaud, 18, of Eatontown, also were taken to Jersey Shore University Medical Center, where they were treated for their injuries and later released, Whitehead said.

Police would not say if speed or alcohol were factors in the crash, citing the ongoing investigation.

"Right now, we're continuing our investigation," Whitehead said. "That investigation is being conducted by our detective bureau and Sgt. Rich Maxwell and Patrolman Ron Breuer of the traffic unit."

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 3, at the Church of the Dormition in Holmdale, New Jersey.

At the request of the Demetroulakos family, friends and relatives wishing to make a donation in Peter's memory are asked to send their contribution to "The Red Bank Catholic High School Scholarship Fund," in lieu of flowers.

"Peter was our family's pride and joy. He was our angel, and the example for his younger cousins to follow," the deceased's cousin Elli Demetroulakos told The National Herald.

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HIDDEN GREECE

Hidden Greece presents pictures of the country that tourists don't see, the main streets but also the back streets and balconies and the way of life of people outside the normal spotlight: workers, the homeless, ordinary citizens and some more celebrated, and the places they live and work and define modern Greece, as well as its legacy.



Just Bags

We're told this isn't a good place to be at night, but if you're looking for a cheap bag during the day you can find places like this right off Omonia Square at the far end of Sofokleous Street.

Greece Contemplates Upgrading Its Military

By Anthony L. Velocci, Jr.
Aviation Week

At the height of the Cold War, Greece was an important ally of the U.S. in helping to check the Soviet Union's potential to threaten the eastern Mediterranean. Since then, the nation has remained a vital player in the region's security. Along the way, that evolution has done little to suppress Greece's appetite for modern weapon systems, and today its shopping list may be valued at up to \$12 billion over the next 10 years. Less clear is the source of those new armaments and how Athens might go about procuring them. The Greek government makes no excuses for maintaining relationships with all equipment sources, including Russia. What troubles some U.S. defense contractors is not that they have competition, but that the rules don't always seem fair and balanced for all players - a situation that has been exacerbated by a procurement process whose clarity, while improving, still leaves much to be desired, they claim. Evangelos V. Vasilakos, who oversees the purchase of all military equipment, bristles at any suggestions that U.S. military contractors have failed to capture their fair share of Greece's defense business. All you have to do is look at the platforms Greece has bought in the last decade, especially aircraft, and see that most of them came from U.S. factories, he points out. Lockheed Martin historically has been the principal supplier of fighters to the Greek air force. Vasilakos acknowledges that some weapons were acquired in an "unorthodox manner," but he says Greece has done more than any other country

within the European Union to increase the openness of its procurement process. For example, in February, Greece adopted a legislative framework that previously did not exist for buying armaments, he points out. But Vasilakos also is quick to add that Greece will do whatever is in the country's best interests, including using government-to-government purchase agreements. All the same, U.S. Army Col. Steve G. Boukedes acknowledges that Greece has been attempting to be more open in how it buys military equipment. He is chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation-Greece and is the principal interface between U.S. defense contractors and the Greek military. "There seems to be less wheeling and dealing," he asserts. Greece's defense spending amounted to about 2.4% of the country's gross national product in 2006, the last year for which there are complete figures, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies' "Military Balance" assessment. That figure compares with about 1.7% for all European countries that belong to NATO. There are a variety of reasons why Greece wants to maintain a robust program of defense modernization. In the Balkans, Greece helps to stabilize a region that has a history of turmoil, notes F. Stephen Larrabee, a European security specialist at the Rand Corp. "You can't dismiss the potential for outside powers to use age-old minority issues as a pretext for territorial claims." Greece also participates in the global war on terrorism, as well as peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Moreover, the country is the "framework" na-

tion in the EU Battle Group Helbroc - which includes Bulgaria, Romania and Cyprus - and that, too, requires Greece to maintain a modern military. Still, Larrabee questions why Greece thinks it needs such a relatively large defense budget, given the thaw between Athens and Ankara in recent years. The fact remains that Greece and Turkey have a very long history of troubled relations, with Turkey spending about as much as Greece on defense. Whatever the lingering differences between the two countries, "territorial dispute" is a mischaracterization, according to Deputy Defense Minister Constantine Tasoulas. "A dispute is when I have some rights and you have some rights, and we go to court to see whose rights are heavier," he says. "If somebody claims that your house is his, this is not a dispute - this is an illegal claim." As recently as the late 1990s, the two countries routinely engaged in a game of brinkmanship, especially in the air. "Greece's neighborhood is not what one would describe as tranquil," Vasilakos says. Deputy Defense Minister Ioannis Plakiotakis adds that the area isn't as volatile as it has been in the recent past, but it "remains fluid and therefore fragile." Nevertheless, Turkey, more than anything else, is what drives Athens's desire to sustain a robust program of weapons modernization, according to civilian and government officials. Tasoulas acknowledges that relations with Turkey have been improving, and the Greek government wants to keep that process moving forward, including supporting Turkey's adhesion to the European Union.

Dora Provides Greece's Perspective on Cyprus Issue

In a recent interview with the Cypriot newspaper Fileleftheros, Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyanni offered a multi-dimensional overview of the Greek Government's perspective on the Cyprus issue, examining the problem within the context of the European Union, United Nations and the OSCE (Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe). The full text of the interview follows: **Journalist:** The ongoing process on the Cyprus issue is facing serious problems due to the Turkish side's stance. Do you think that there is a possibility of redressing the situation so that the process can move forward? **Ms. Bakoyannis:** A new effort has begun in Cyprus; an important and hopeful effort for the definitive solution of the Cyprus issue. But this is just the beginning. It is important that the new negotiation process has begun on the agreed-upon basis of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, with a single sovereignty, a single citizenship, and a single international personality. The resolution of the Cyprus issue presupposes mutual trust. The Cypriots can and must find a "Cypriot solution". We must let them do that, without arbitration, however long they might need. Anything else will simply not do. The Republic of Cyprus has shown a responsible and constructive stance. In contrast, the signs from the other side are not encouraging. And no one can ignore the fact that Turkey has special interests in wanting to shape Turkish Cypriot positions. So difficulties exist. But we should not let these difficulties curb our determination; curb the joint will of Athens and Nicosia to change today's unacceptable situation of the island's occupation and to achieve the reunification of the island.

Journalist: EU-Turkey accession negotiations offer important leverage to Athens and Nicosia. It has been argued that advantage has not been taken of this leverage, and thus Turkey is emboldened, still pursuing its maximalist policy on the Cyprus issue. Do you agree with that view? **Ms. Bakoyannis:** The positions of Greece and Cyprus on Turkey's accession course are based on principles, on European prerequisites, and not on opportunistic calculations. Reforms required under accession negotiations are indeed a difficult endeavour. But this offers no alibi for delays, retractions, or blank cheques. All the countries that have become members of the European Union have made the necessary efforts, have carried out the necessary reforms in order to become part of the European family. There are no exceptions on that, there are no special cases. As you know, 2009 is expected to be an important year for progress on Turkey's accession course. **Journalist:** The idea of a special partnership with Turkey instead of full accession is resurfacing within the EU. What is Greece's approach to such an eventuality? **Ms. Bakoyannis:** I mentioned earlier that the support offered by Greece and Cyprus to Turkey's accession course is sincere and it is based on principles. The position "full compliance-full accession" is not a slogan. It is a political choice in favour of change. Change within Turkey, change in the triangle Greece-Turkey-Cyprus, change in

EU-Turkey relations. It is a strategic choice for stability and peace. We never said that this endeavour would be easy. But difficulties should not lead us to concessions. The easy solution would be to derail to a special partnership - as it has become known - between the EU and Turkey. Some of our partners within the EU are in favour of such a relationship. We are looking into all eventualities and we are preparing our tactics. But we insist on the strategic goal that has been set by the leaders of the 27 member states who decided in favor of Turkey's EU accession when all the conditions and criteria provided for in the process are met. **Journalist:** Do you think that there is a link between Ankara's activities in the region of Kastelorizo and south of Pafos; **Ms. Bakoyannis:** Turkey's recent activities in Greece's and Cyprus' maritime zones are damaging bilateral relations and efforts for a constructive climate in the ongoing negotiating process on the Cyprus issue. They are cause for serious concern. And obviously the timing is not insignificant. We were given the opportunity to discuss the matter with the Cypriot leadership

there have also been claims that Athens supported Turkey. **Ms. Bakoyannis:** Mr. Venizelos, I do not accept any insinuations, even when they are ridiculous, as in this case. Let's make this clear. Let's be serious. Turkey's election to a two-year term as a non-permanent member of the Security Council is a reality. Let us not underestimate it or undermine it. First of all, a country's election to this UN body brings responsibilities with it. Responsibilities vis-a-vis the international community and the other Security Council members. Responsibilities regarding respect for international law and UN decisions. Responsibilities for a moderate stance and keeping the balance on international issues. Turkey's Security Council membership will be judged at the very end. And I must say that those who will judge it - i.e., the 191 other UN member states - are not lenient. **Journalist:** Greece is taking over the OSCE Chairmanship. What will be its priorities? **Ms. Bakoyannis:** Precisely, yes. Greece is taking over the Chairmanship of the largest regional organization on security at a very crucial juncture. Amidst the most serious



Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyanni

within the framework of President Christofias' visit. We will continue to monitor Ankara's moves carefully and take all the necessary action. Turkey is one of the few countries that have not signed the Convention on the Law of Sea. And its disputing actions only go to show Turkey's "solitude". These activities cannot call into question the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus over its maritime resources, nor do they constitute a precedent on the issue of the continental shelf. They are unilateral, arbitrary actions that do not bolster security and stability in the region. **Journalist:** Various things have been said or reported in the press about the coordination between Greece and Cyprus. What is the reality? **Ms. Bakoyannis:** The relations between Greece and Cyprus are fraternal relations. We have an ongoing cooperation. A united front. There are no clouds and no shadows. It is superfluous to keep reiterating something which is obvious. **Journalist:** There have been reports about Greece's role with regard to Turkey's election as a non-permanent member in the Security Council. There have been reports that Greece had committed itself not to obstruct the election, but

global financial crisis and following the events in the Caucasus, our country is called upon to coordinate the OSCE's role, an Organization participated in by the Cold War's former adversaries. The crisis in August altered established perceptions about security in Europe. Now, important players such as the French and Russian Presidents are arguing in favour of building a new European security structure that will take into account Eurasia's geopolitical map, the European Union's enlargement, NATO's transformation and Russia's strategic role. So an open and substantial dialogue is needed. The idea of an OSCE Summit some time in 2009 is gaining ground. Greece is prepared to organize this summit if it is given a clear mandate by the Organization's participating states. It is willing to work systematically, and in a transparent manner, in order to ensure broad consensus among participating states, so that we will be able to build strong foundations for future stability and security. **Source: Interview of FM Ms. D. Bakoyannis in the Cypriot newspaper "O Fileleftheros, with journalist Kostas Venizelos (30 November 2008)**

Cypriot Killed in Mumbai told of Terror Hours Before He Died

LONDON (AFP) — A British-Cypriot businessman has been named as one of 125 people killed in the Mumbai attacks, hours after he gave an interview describing how he was trapped in a hotel with gunmen outside. The British Foreign Office announced on Thursday that one Briton was among the dead, and Cypriot foreign ministry officials later confirmed reports that the man was 73-year-old Andreas Liveras, a yacht tycoon who emigrated to London in 1963. The Cyprus News Agency reported his brother Theophanis as

saying that Liveras had been abducted with a large group of other diners and "assassinated in cold blood during the terrorist attacks." As news filtered out from Mumbai after the attacks, Liveras gave a telephone interview to the BBC from the Taj Mahal hotel, one of two luxury hotels targeted by gunmen in a series of coordinated attacks across the city. He had heard it was the best restaurant in Mumbai, but told the British broadcaster: "As soon as we sat at the table we heard the machine gun fire outside in the corridors, everywhere.

"We hid ourselves under the table and then they switched all the lights off. But the machine gun kept going, and they took us into the kitchen, and from there into a basement, to come up into a salon." He estimated there were "more than 1,000 people" in the room, a mixture of residents, tourists and locals. "We're not hiding, we are locked in here -- nobody tells us anything, the doors are locked and we are inside," Liveras said. "We have got hotel staff here at this moment who are helping us a lot, providing water and sandwich-

es. But nobody is eating really, people are frightened." He said that as he was speaking, "it's very quiet. The last bomb exploded about 45 minutes ago and it shook the hotel up. Nobody comes in this room and nobody goes out, and we don't really know." "All we know is the bombs are next door and the hotel is shaking every time a bomb goes off," he said. The interviewer put to him that he must be terrified, to which Liveras replied: "Everybody is... we are just looking at each other, and every time

you hear something everybody jumps. Everybody is just living on their nerves." Liveras ran a chartered yacht company in Monaco where he advertised "the world's most impressive private yachts to the charter community." In his online biography, he described how he worked as a deliveryman for a bakery when he first arrived in London, before buying the shop and turning it into a major wholesaler. He sold it and moved into the yachting business. Liveras was ranked 265 in the Sunday Times newspaper's list of

the richest people in Britain. Britain's High Commissioner to India Sir Richard Stagg earlier told the BBC that seven Britons had been injured in the attacks. Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced Britain was sending specialist police officers to India to help investigators probing the attacks, and would do "whatever is necessary" to protect its citizens from the "horrific incident." "We're sending police emergency teams that are well versed in dealing with terrorism," he said, adding that he was "shocked and outraged" by the attacks.

Former Cyprus President Papadopoulos has lung cancer



Former President of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos.

By Famagusta Gazette It has been announced that the former President of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos has lung cancer. He has been in hospital for the past few weeks and will remain in the Intensive Care Unit of Nicosia General Hospital. Theodoros Kyprianou, the head of Nicosia General Hospital's intensive care unit said that cancer was detected on Papadopoulos' lungs after examinations by specialists. "Mr Papadopoulos is aware of the diagnosis and is treating the whole problem of his health with courage and serenity," said Mr Kyprianou. As president between 2003-08, Papadopoulos ushered the island into the European Union after rallying Greek Cypriots to reject a U.N.-brokered reunification plan.

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A brutal reminder

The terrorist attack in Mumbai disturbed the relatively calm waters of the Thanksgiving holiday, and once again brought the brutal reality of the terrorist threat back to our forgetful minds.

This barbaric attack shocked the world, not only because of the indiscriminate cold-blooded massacre of innocent people who just happened to be in their way, but also because the targets were not mighty symbols of capitalism and military power, as if that could ever be an excuse, – as was the case with New York, the Pentagon and London – but hotels, railroads and a synagogue in the commercial hub of India, a country which, even though it is making great progress, still has hundreds of millions of poverty-stricken people.

It also shocked up the world because Indian authorities were unable to prevent the attack – even though it they had advance warning from American intelligence – or to stop the terrorists once they began. And so this tragedy was allowed to go on for 60 hours drawing the eyes of the world upon it through live television.

And so the question that almost subconsciously came to everybody's mind is, who and what will the next target be? What country and what places are safe in the wake of this most recent attack?

Relations between India and Pakistan are historically tense. The two countries have gone to war three times over the disputed area of Kashmir, so the fact that the terrorists are increasingly linked to a Pakistani militant group is once again bringing Indo-Pakistani relations to a boiling point.

Both countries possess nuclear weapons, and a war could very well lead to using these terrible weapons against each other, causing major damage not only to them, but also to the whole Subcontinent, if not beyond.

It is primarily for this reason that the alarm has sounded in a number of capitals which are trying to prevent that from happening.

There is a very bitter taste in the mouths of many after the barbaric attack by ten extremists who slaughtered 173 people and injured hundreds more, and there is a sinking feeling about the vacuum in international authority.

Which country is in now a position to impose some kind of order on this Earth? How is it possible that small teams of people can be so desperate that they become so fanatic as to take these kinds of actions? Why are they so filled with hatred and rage? And why do they believe that can alter the course of history, that they can impose their political will upon entire nations?

In the end, it seems that this area of Asia – India, Pakistan and Afghanistan – might very well be the most dangerous part of the world. Can anyone put some kind of order there before they go over the edge?

New cabinet watch

Most of President-Elect Barack Obama's selections for the top positions in his cabinet, the people who will help him govern the country, are truly impressive – evidenced, of the high degree of self-confidence he possesses. He started by giving priority to the dire financial situation we are in, as he should have, by assembling his economic team, and then he proceeded to assemble his foreign relations and national security team.

His selections are made up of people who are pragmatic realists; successful individuals, not ideologues, apparently capable of coming up with solutions to the problems the country faces.

Indicative of the positive reception these appointments received is the fact that the day the name of the new Treasury Secretary, Timothy Geithner, was leaked, the stock market jumped by 400 points.

The decision to keep Bush appointee Robert Gates in the Defense Department was wise and uniquely American, given the facts that he has proven to be a good Secretary of Defense and the country is fighting two wars, one of which Mr. Obama says he will try to bring to a conclusion in the not-too-distant future.

But no selection was received with greater interest and speculation than that of Hillary Clinton, his sometimes-bitter rival for the Democratic Party's Presidential nomination, for Secretary of State.

Most political observers find Hillary's appointment a brilliant tactical move. Not only will the country get a smart, strong personality who is very well known around the world, but Mr. Obama also disarms her as a potential political rival in 2012.

There are also those who argue her selection is risky; that she and her husband carry a lot of baggage; that, sooner or later, the Clintons will create problems for Mr. Obama; and that he will not be able to fire her should that become a necessary eventuality.

The decision nonetheless seems to be taken out right out of Doris Kearns' book, "Team of Rivals," referring to the genius of Abraham Lincoln in appointing some of his main political rivals to the most important cabinet posts to provide the country with the best people, gaining his opponents' respect and even their admiration over time.

As far as the national interests of Greece are concerned, the selection of Hillary Clinton should be viewed as a positive development. She knows our issues well enough, and also counts a number of Greek Americans across the country among her friends and supporters.

What we have not seen so far, however, is the appointment of a Greek American to a major post. Let's hope that will come eventually also.

Political stability

Our brothers and sisters in Greece have not yet felt nor fully realized the economic tsunami roaming around the world these days. Still, it is inevitable that it will also reach their shores in the near future.

Meanwhile, they spend their time being consumed by an alleged land exchange scandal between an Athonite monastery and the Greek Government which, they say, favored the monastery. The opposition and its supporters in the Greek media are completely fixated on it. The damage to the image of the church in general, is such , that many people have stopped going to Church and supporting religious institutions.

We are, of course, all for transparency and the necessity to investigate these allegations of possible corruption and severely punishing those who are proven guilty of betraying the public trust.

But even some pro-opposition newspapers have begun to express the view that the fixation on this issue has dragged out for far too long.

Seasoned observers in Athens express the view that the actual target of these attacks is Prime Minister Karamanlis, who the opposition and its supporters are trying to weaken for politically motivated and other reasons. And to some extent, according to public opinion polls, they are succeeding.

Mr. Karamanlis' government is based on a razor-thin majority of 151, just one Member of Parliament more than it needs to stay in power. Most observers believe that no MP would dare topple the Government. That's probably true.

There could not be a worst time for Greece to face both a financial and political crises, however. And given the fact that there a relatively short period of time has elapsed since the last elections, such an eventuality should be avoided at all costs.

There is another substantive reason: Costas Karamanlis is by far the best political leader Greece has at this time.

Let's Praise Community Volunteers This Holiday Season

To The Editor,

Bravo to all volunteers, especially Mr. Manolis and his family, who dedicated their time and energy to help those in need on Thanksgiving, especially during this time of financial crisis. Last week, reading about shoppers in Long Island who trampled over and killed a Walmart worker really caused me to take a look at the road humanity is spiraling down. Co-workers that attempted to help the man were also trampled and several people, including a pregnant woman, were taken to the hospital for injuries suffered. How utterly horrific can a person be to place the value of superficial items over a man's life?

With the holidays approaching, I hope there are more Greek Americans out there are willing to devote anything they possibly can – whether it be in monetary form, time, or even a shoulder to lean on – to those suffering during the season. It's far too easy to let the madness of Christmas shopping overwhelm what matters most this time of year.

I want to encourage my fellow Greek Americans to look beyond the sale sign, to pay attention to the travesty that surrounds us and to lend a helping hand to those who need it.

I am confident that there are more people out there like Mr. and Mrs. Manolis, who have been cooking and delivering meals to the needy for the last 15 years. All hope is not lost for a more charitable future.

John Tolakis
Baltimore, Md.

The Philoptochos is in Good Hands with Aphrodite Skeadas

To The Editor:

I'd like to congratulate His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America for making such a wonderful appointment for the helm of the National Philoptochos Organization of our Archdiocese, Mrs. Aphrodite Skeadas.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate The National Herald for the exceptional interview with the new Philoptochos president, well-deserved publicity for a dynamic Greek American young woman of our new generation. It seems to me that Mrs. Skeadas will bring a breath of fresh air and a new profile into the Philoptochos Society as did

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

her predecessor Georgia Skeadas who happened to be her sister-in-law, if I am not mistaken.

I am also mindful of the huge progress and achievements of the former president Mrs. Eve Condakos who served with dignity and respect for quite a few years.

I think that the new generation of women of our Church and Community should become more actively involved in the holy work of philanthropy of the Philoptochos Organization of our Church, so that the torch of succession and responsibility is passed down to younger people with new ideas and goals, keeping always in mind that the Philoptochos is the loving and caring face of our Church.

If I may suggest that we should try to be of assistance primarily to our own people in need and believe there are quite a few in our Greek American Community in cities and towns of our great nation, which is going through some very difficult economic times.

The new Philoptochos president, Aphrodite Skeadas can take the organization to substantial heights by trying to increase the membership as she had stated in her interview and provide leadership with confidence and results.

As the holiest feast of Christmas

approaches, the Philoptochos should set the example of giving to the needy in our community starting with those who have lost their jobs.

Anna Archontides
California

Losing Any Hellenic Studies Center is a Blow to Hellenism

To The Editor:

Thank you for bringing attention to the unnerving idea that if we don't do all we can to preserve our Hellenic culture in our universities, it will begin to dissipate before our eyes. The Hellenic Studies program that was banished from Latrobe University in Australia should be a wake up call to all generations of Greek American students and educators in the U.S. What about our universities here? What is being done to ensure that our programs are strong enough to withstand the test of time?

When I attended a fairly decent-sized university in New York several years ago, Greek was not offered as a language, there were no Hellenic student organizations and not a single course was offered relating solely to Greek studies despite the

fair amount of students who were of Greek decent. Ironically, every science course, theater course or philosophy course (among many other fields of study) I took, incorporated Greek culture, language and history. The importance of our heritage is ever-present in all fields of academic studies. So why aren't we encouraging our schools to offer Greek as a language? Why aren't we demanding the expansion of programs that already exist and fighting to keep the ones that are on the brink of elimination? And why aren't we pushing our kids to participate more in Hellenic programs and to launch organizations in their colleges if they don't already exist?

Maybe it's time to reclaim ownership of the phrase "Greek Life" so that instead of seeing our alphabet posted on frat sweaters, we can see it in our classrooms.

George Mikas
Boston, Mass.

TO OUR READERS

The National Herald welcomes letters from its readers intended for publication.



LETTER FROM ATHENS

Will Obama now let Greece Twist in the Wind?

It wasn't just Greeks and Greek Americans cheering wildly when Barack Obama became the President-elect of the United States, but Americans in Greece, many of whom gathered at the Hilton Hotel in Athens for what was essentially a Democratic caucus preaching to the choir about the foregone conclusion he would win, which didn't stop them from exulting about not just the first half-African-American President, but the belief he would reverse the usual American policy of benign neglect toward Greece. But can he, despite promises he was on the side of Greeks, unlike George Bush, who could care less about Greece and probably couldn't find it on a map, if he even knew what that was.

"He made it," said Alexandra Bougadis, a 23-year-old student who was among hundreds in the sold-out event attended by US ambassador Daniel Speckhard, which lasted until the early morning hours because no one wanted to leave this party. "There needs to be a change and he is the one to do it," she said. "The whole world is backing him." Bill Kyrtsitis, executive vice president of the Hellenic chapter of Democrats Abroad, said a record-breaking 20 percent of the more than 107,000 Americans living in Greece turned out to vote. "More than 75 percent of all the voters in Greece are Obama supporters - it was the biggest voter turnout in years and the victory will hopefully bring about peace and economic stability across the world," said Kyrtsitis. "Even though he is an elected US president, Obama will ultimately have a domino affect throughout the world," he said, anointing the new President-elect a saviour, as the word "Messiah" was seriously being kicked around as well, a bit prematurely.

While the beatification of St. Barack Obama is apparently complete, he will now find it hard to live up to his words to support Greece, and especially Cyprus against the 34-year-old ongoing invasion by Turkey, even though Cyprus' Communist President Dimitrios Christofias is ready to ratify the occupation and share power with a Turkish President, a notion which would make all those Greek Cypriots killed by Turkish troops during the 1974 onslaught turn over in their graves, if we could just find out where those are, and the 1,619 missing Greek Cypriots wait

in disbelief, if we knew where they were, although a good starting point might be Turkey's prisons. That many Turkish Cypriots were killed and disappeared only complicates Obama's task because the Greek resentment and mistrust runs deep, except in Christofias' mind, because he's buddy-buddy with his Turkish Cypriot counterpart, Mehmet Ali Talat. Because they are politicians first and nationalists second, they are cooking up a scheme to swap power and trade, regardless of what residents on either side of the divided island think.

Greek Cypriots whose homes were seized on the northern part of the island which Turks still occupy can forget about ever getting them back because Turkey's offer is to return only unoccupied properties or those "not in areas of military significance," which means none. And since Cyprus is in the European Union and Turkey is not, but wants to be even though it blocks its ports to Cypriot vessels, what is Obama going to do? And what will he say after being sworn in and convening any discussion about Cyprus and Greece only to be told: "Ah, Mr. President, Greece has 11 million people and a trade surplus with us of \$769 million. Turkey has 71 million people and we export \$4.5 billion there and it will be close to the top 10 economies of the world in the next 15 years. Turkey is the prime geographical point for us to be close to the Caucasus and Caspian and Black Sea regions and we need Turkey more than Greece."

He will say this: "Goodbye, Greece." The U.S. has only slight financial interests in Greece in the fields of defence, medicine, construction, food processing, packaging and franchising, and looking toward more in energy, while thousands of US-made products are sold in Greece. The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce has more than 1,000 members, although the US accounts for less than seven percent of Greek imports. But direct foreign investment is difficult because of the labyrinthine bureaucracy, while Turkey is rolling out the red carpet for American companies and seizing American tourists

from Greece. And Turkey is the future for trade, especially when it becomes the biggest member of the European Union. **POLITICAL MATH** This is all about political expediency and math, and Greece can't match Turkey in either, so Obama's little pre-election promises will be forgotten in the flush of taking office and meeting reality. The closest Greece

will get to Obama is the Greek columns he used to decorate his acceptance speech as the Democratic nominee in Denver, and Greece had better not count on Obama breaking the mold of thinking in Washington, which always sides with Turkey. Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis hailed Obama's election the day after the triumph was sealed in a walkover against Republican challenger John McCain, and used the opportunity to refer to Obama's stance backing Greece in its 17-year-long dispute with the Former Yu-

The closest Greece will get to Obama is the Greek columns used during his Democratic nominee acceptance speech in Denver.

goslavia Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), a country which had Bush's backing. "I appreciate the clear and firm positions that you have adopted on issues of Greek concern," Karamanlis said. "We will be looking forward to working closely with your administration in solving these issues and in developing and enhancing our relations in all fields during your term in office." That's the kind of boilerplate language politicians always use, but it means nothing because getting FYROM into NATO is more important to the US than pacifying Greece. The US already refers to FYROM as Macedonia, and that's not going to change, no matter what hybrid name is finally forced on Greece.

U.S. Congressman John P. Sarbanes of Maryland said Obama's win was the most important political change for Greece-US relations

since former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis was the Democratic nominee in 1988. That, of course, was 20 years ago, and Greece has been an afterthought in American policy since. Obama won't change that, his noble intentions notwithstanding, even if the new president can get Turkey, as he has promised, to respect the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, end its seizure of Greek Orthodox property and re-open the Halki School of Theology, none of which it will do. Vice-President-Elect Joe Biden has characterized Turkey's presence in Cyprus as occupation, but he's not the president.

Brady Kiesling, a former senior US diplomat in Athens who resigned several years ago in protest over the war in Iraq, said, "The Obama administration must implement a massive shift of taxpayer resources away from military-based 'security' and toward economic and environmental security. On the foreign policy front, this means negotiating a sustainable international economic system that includes environmental costs in the pricing of goods and services." Yvette Jarvis, an African-American woman who became the first in both categories to win a seat on the Athens City Council six years ago, headed the Obama in Greece campaign and echoed what those who know Obama believe: that he is the genuine article, a man who believes what he says and will try to do the right thing, even if he finds he can't, and that includes his leanings toward Greece, so this isn't the usual question of political duplicity.

"I felt as though he spoke to me! His honesty, his humility, complacency, strength, patience, family values, incredible intelligence and oratory skills are all qualities of a formidable leader," she said. He'll need them to give Greece the place it deserves in US foreign policy, but what he'll really need is a Greek export that Americans identify with the country: worry beads.

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 andydabilis@gmail.com.

The Economy: Change Must Be More than a Slogan

In 1776, the year of the American Declaration of Independence, another document of lasting significance saw the light of day. It was the book of Adam Smith, "An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations." Long titles were fashionable in those days. In the years to come, people started to use just the title "The Wealth of Nations," when they were referring to the book of Adam Smith. Whether by the long or the short title, the book soon became the bible of the free enterprise system.

Smith favored a market economy where the individual was free to produce, sell, and consume and where the pursuit of profit would be a proper and acceptable motive. Smith spoke of an "invisible hand" that would regulate such an economic process, rewarding those who acted prudently by making the correct choices, and punishing those who ignored the effects of supply and demand.

Why refer now to a book that was written more than two hundred years ago? Because in the last two months we saw Smith's "invisible hand" punishing many financial (and manufacturing) giants for making wrong decisions over a period of time.

In Smith's model of a market economy, a key element was the motive of those participating in the economic process. In his day, practically

all private enterprises were managed by their owners. The motive of the owner/manager was profit. Today, the majority of small enterprises are still managed by their owners. An owner has a strong incentive to make the right choices because his profit, his income, his livelihood depend on managing his enterprise well.

Medium, large, and especially multinational giants are not managed by their owners – the owners being nowadays shareholders with little say on the day-to-day operations or even on the crucial strategic decisions. Such decisions are controlled by hired managers whose motives differ radically from those of the owner/manager. Any restaurant or boutique store owner knows the difference. The hired managers – especially those of the large corporations – are paid fabulous salaries and other lucrative forms of compensation (such as stock options) regardless of the success or failure of the company. And when they leave the company (even after a poor job), they have already contracted the receipt of a so-called golden parachute, an obscenely large sum of severance pay. Under those conditions, they have no incentive, while in charge, to pursue the success of the enterprise. Their personal benefits do not depend on the profitability of the company. If some of them do a good job, they do so, not for economic reasons but for emotional reasons, the satisfaction of a

decent and capable person derived from the successful outcome of a demanding effort.

Fortunately, it is not uncommon to have a good manager who wants to succeed for the pride of success. Unfortunately, to have such a manager, is still a matter of chance. There are no built-in mechanisms to assure proper management for the enterprises. When managers make mistakes, Smith's "invisible hand" comes into play, but not exactly the way Smith envisioned. The unwise, the dishonest or the incompetent are not personally punished for their wrong ways. It is the company – the owners/stockholders and the employees – who pay the penalty.

A glaring example of this process is the plight of the three automobile manufacturing giants in the United States. They expect government assistance to avoid bankruptcy. If, however, they fail, it will not be their managers that will suffer for their bad decisions. Even in better economic times, companies have paid the price for poor management but their plight received less publicity. Changing the incentives should be one of the ways to shield the economic system against future meltdowns.



by DR. D.G. KOUSOULAS
Special to The National Herald

In the financial sector, the "invisible hand" is equally merciless when managers make bad choices.

Financial institutions such as banks are indispensable for the smooth functioning of a free market economy. Without "money" available for borrowing, a free market economy would not go very far – it would be constrained by the limited assets of each economic participant, be it a manufacturing company, a building company, a person planning to open or expand a restaurant, a potential buyer of a house or a car, or a farmer who needs to buy fertilizer.

"Money" is a rather strange commodity – a piece of paper that people "trust" that has an ascribed value. Because of that ascribed value, people are willing to accept that piece of paper for payment for their products or as payment for their labor. The key word is "trust." If that "trust" is questioned, the whole financial edifice is in real trouble.

It is not surprising that banks are usually well regulated. Since the time of Adam Smith, the motive of the banker is – or it is expected to be – very clear. Lend money carefully, with proper safeguards and with

valid assurances that the loan will be repaid under agreed conditions and at an agreed rate of interest.

In the past several years in the United States, this rather simple and straightforward process was violated. Bank officials – loan officers – were rewarded with fees and bonuses for giving loans even to borrowers who offered no reliable assurances that the loans would be repaid as agreed. The incentive of those bank officials was to generate fees and bonuses for themselves regardless of the risks assumed by the bank. This was a flagrant distortion of the banking process.

In other cases, borrowers were lured to accept home loans at a low interest rate which rate, however, was termed adjustable, meaning that it would be increased in the future at the discretion of the bank.

Investment banks – not subject to the regulations applying to commercial banks – went even further, developing new, sophisticated instruments such as the so called "derivatives" or the "credit default swaps," designed to "spread the risk" while undermining the relationship between lender and borrower. Those managing those "instruments" had a strong incentive to "sell" them. They received hefty fees and bonuses without risk to themselves since they were handling "other people's money. Their incentive was personal enrichment. In the end, the "invisible hand" en-

tered the picture with a vengeance. Financial giants like Lehman Brothers collapsed within a day.

Because overall confidence in the system was weakened, those holding shares of companies rushed to sell them before others did the same – in this way bringing stock prices down, reducing substantially the retirement accounts of millions of people. Fear, greed and folly combined to undermine stability and trust.

Barack Obama promised change. A vital change will have to be in the area of incentives, the economic incentives of those who manage the manufacturing or the financial entities. Especially, in the case of the manufacturing sector, this change will have to include the incentives of the leaders of labor unions who often try to force an increase in employee benefits which far exceeds what a company can afford.

All in all, freedom of action must be tempered by responsibility. Capitalism will overcome the current crisis, no doubt. But it will be best if it emerges as responsible capitalism in the age of globalization. A tall order for the president-elect.

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

I'm Not An Economist, But...

I took a couple of economics courses in college, know how to balance my checkbook, and read The Economist magazine fairly regularly, but I am certainly not an economist. Nonetheless, there are a whole bunch of purported economic gurus talking about what's wrong with the economy, but they really don't make more sense than anyone else.

Long before November 4, it became apparent that Barack Obama was going to win the presidential election; anyone who examined the circumstances objectively realized that John McCain didn't have a prayer to pull off a victory. As the losing party has always done historically (whether it was the Democrats, Republicans, Federalists, or Whigs), it mustered a last-ditch effort to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. This time around, it was the Republicans who faced impending doom, and their issue was to scare undecided voters by claiming that Obama was a...gasp...."socialist!" I found that to be incredibly ironic in the face of a massive government bailout of a plethora of private companies, and

pondered the obvious question: even before Obama has taken office, have we not immersed ourselves in the most aggressive display of socialism since the New Deal?

It is amazing to witness the CEOs of the "big three" American automobile manufacturers, Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors, flying to Washington in their private jets to ask the government for money. Before we even try to make sense of how in the world that would be equitable, considering the government will not bail out every other business owner in America whose company is facing hard times, I'm still stuck on how a government bailout will entice the consumer who rejected the Crossfire, Explorer, and Suburban a few months ago to suddenly trade in his or her Honda, Toyota, or Mercedes-Benz in favor of an American automobile simply because Uncle Sam donated a few billion dollars to the unappealing vehicle's inept manufacturers. And how is it fair that the couple who live within their means in Corona will not be bailed out when fewer people purchase groceries

from their corner store while the government subsidizes the adjustable rate mortgage of the Hamptons vacation chateau that their spendthrift neighbors own? Most importantly, what authority does Congress have to do any of this, considering that the Constitution limits its powers to raising an army, collecting the mail, and a few other specific tasks?

Legend has it that if you walk to a busy Manhattan streetcorner, such as the intersection of Broadway and 42nd Street, and look up into the sky, others walking along will look up as well, and before you know it, an entire crowd will be staring straight up and will have no idea why they are doing so. That reminds me of this whole economy talk – a lot of vague statements that no one quite understands but everyone is sure to repeat. Granted, a lot of people are suffering



by CONSTANTINOS E. SCAROS
Special to The National Herald

right now, and that is genuinely sad. But a lot of other people are gunshy about buying Christmas gifts because of all the hoopla about a "bad economy." It is truly unfortunate that those who have not felt the economic sting are going to add to the consumer lethargy because of sky-falling alarms overhyped by Washington, Wall Street, and the media.

Headlines in last week's newspapers warned that prices fell so sharply in October, and that might be bad for the economy. And here I thought people worried about inflation, not deflation. Silly me. All I know is that gas has been a lot cheaper lately, the dollar has made a dramatic comeback against the Euro, and fewer illegal aliens are crossing the border into the United States to look for work. So, how exactly is any of that so bad?

There is talk that all of our 401K

plans will lose so much of their value. Well, doesn't that affect everyone? If I am making \$100,000 per year and all of a sudden I'm down to \$20,000 per year, it won't really matter as long as I can buy a brand new car for \$800 and a steak dinner for 60 cents.

Sure, unemployment is on the rise, but that is due more to perception than reality: it is because employers have bought into the idea that we have a bad economy, and so they are trying to cut costs by downsizing. Consumers, in turn, are not helping matters any by being afraid to buy anything. Everyone is joining in that crowd staring up at nothing on Manhattan's busiest streetcorner. Supposedly, the economy was hurt because of the housing industry, because homeowners felt the squeeze when their mortgage rates adjusted upward, but haven't interest rates come down as of late? These are not the 1930s, and people are not taking their money out of banks and socking it into their mattresses; they are taking money out of the stock market and stashing it into banks. And when that happens, banks have money and

they don't have to go out of business.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, our nation's 32nd president, famously said that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. Unfortunately, fear is in abundant supply these days: whether it is because the media loves to perpetuate drama, because savvy Wall Street tycoons want the rest of us to be afraid, so that stocks will drop and they can buy them on clearance, because the newly-elected politicians want to overemphasize how they inherited such a big mess, or maybe because no one really quite knows what's really going on.

Like I said, I'm not an economist. And I am sure that there are plenty of economists who would disagree with my explanations and dismiss them as naïve and oversimplified. And they might be right. Then again, to this point, the experts have been nothing but wrong.

Constantinos E. Scaros is a published author and expert in American presidential history, with a background in Ancient Greek history.



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