

Scholar and Theologian Offers his Perspective

Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos Talks About the Church

By Theodore Kalmoukos
Special to The National Herald

BOSTON – The name Demetrios Constantelos has been synonymous for more than half a century with academia, knowledge, wisdom, virtue, seriousness, authorship, but above all Hellenism and Orthodoxy.

Fr. Constantelos is the par excellence scholar of both Hellenism and Orthodoxy. He is known worldwide and his works have become points of reference by scholars of theology, history, and Hellenism throughout the world. He was for more than 40 years, a distinguished professor of the history of Theology and Byzantine Empire at the Stockton State College of New Jersey and today he is a distinguished researcher.

Fr. Constantelos is the expert of the history of the life of the Greek Orthodox Church of America and in recent years, has been authoring and editing the late Archbishop Iakovos memoirs and his archives.

Asked as to where the new year finds the Greek Orthodox Church of America he said, “I do not see the Church taking steps ahead. I am not satisfied with the photographs and the appearances that I see often. I ask myself many times if Orthodoxy has anything substantial to offer to the contemporary world and I say this because we have some converts but to what degree we have an internal mission? When they have in a parish 2,000 people and on Sundays you only see 50 or 60 attending church, what can you say? Christ was chased away from the Church many years ago. The people have been influenced by the materialistic life.”

He believes that “the establishment on the Metropolitanates has weakened the Church and also the Office of the Archbishop. Not only that, but there is no brotherly feeling or cooperation between the hierarchs. When a Metropolitan goes to a parish to Liturgize people do not go to church.”

Fr. Constantelos is also outspoken about the path of Hellenic Paideia and education.

“I was expecting more things,” he said. “Hellenic Paideia has a lot to offer, but we did not pay attention to it although we have the abilities. There is hope, but initiatives are needed. Many activities that are

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Greeks in Opera: From Athens to DC

By James Karas
Special to The National Herald

Where can you find Lysistrata, Hercules, Semele, Orpheus and a host of other characters from Greek mythology? You can reach for your Bulfinch or you can go to the opera. In any season you can see and hear gods, goddesses, heroes and scoundrels parade across the stage. You can see Lysistrata raise “I have a headache tonight, dear” into a national sex strike in Mark Adamo’s *Lysistrata*, watch Orpheus lose his patience on his way out of hell or Zeus lust after Semele. And that’s just a small sampling of the hundreds of operas based on Greek myths that have been composed in the last four centuries.

Toronto’s baroque opera company Opera Atelier which staged *Orfeo* a couple of seasons ago claimed that it is the “first opera”. In fact it was preceded by Jacopo Peri’s *Dafne* which was composed ten years earlier, in 1597. *Dafne* was based on the myth of Apollo’s attempted seduction of the nymph. She was saved by

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U.S. Delegation Visits Greece

Greece’s Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyanni, center, with Senator Richard Durbin, left, and Greek American Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias during the U.S. politicians’ visit to Athens on Wednesday, February 18. They also met with Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis and opposition leader George Papandreou. Giannoulias appeared optimistic over the future of Greece and Cyprus, which, as he said, are of great importance to President Obama. See related story on page 9.

Irene Papas Honored at Film Festival

By Dan Georgakas
Special to The National Herald

Irene Papas will receive the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the highly prestigious International Theatre Festival of the Venice Biennale on February 20. Director Maurizio Scaparro announced the award by citing Papas “for being one of Europe’s most famous artists, an actor who over her 50-year career has played important female roles in theater and film (many in classical tragedy), becoming, in the eyes of the world, the spokeswoman and symbol of Mediterranean culture, the very incarnation of the power of Greek tragedy.”

This heady praise is well deserved. Papas is one of the few international film actors who have

starred in popular and critical hits produced in a number of languages.

Papas was born on September 3, 1926 in Chiliomodon, which is just outside of Corinth. Her given name was Irene Lelekou, but she was briefly married to Alkis Papas (1943-1947) and has used Papas as her professional name ever since. She began her career as a singer and dancer in the musical variety shows common in the Athens of the 1950s. Papas, however, was a graduate of the Royal Drama School of Athens and soon drifted into Greek cinema where she would star in a dozen films. Her first film, “Lost Angels” (1948), featured her as a taverna singer involved with the Greek underworld. Her roles in other Greek-language films include playing the Byzantine Empress

Theodora and Bouboulina, the legendary naval hero of the Greek War of Independence.

Her film work in Greece caught the attention of MGM executives in Hollywood. They chose for the female lead in “Tribute To a Bad Man” (1956), a western starring James Cagney which was set in Colorado.. In a unique moment in American film history, Papas, who plays a Greek immigrant, sings to Cagney in Greek! Two years later, Papas played a Greek partisan who fought alongside Gregory Peck and Anthony Quinn in “The Guns of Navarone,” one of the most popular films of that year.

Papas would have biggest American hit portraying as a Cretan widow in “Zorba the Greek” (1968). Al-

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From left, Michael and Mary Jaharis, Archbishop Demetrios of America and Rev. Stanley Harakas at the sixth annual lecture series of Orthodoxy in America at Fordham University on Tuesday, February 17. The topic discussed was, “The Future of Orthodox Christianity in America: A Normative Approach.”

Limani: Greek Gem That Knows Its Way Around Fish

By Joanne Starkey
The New York Times

LIMANI is not only the best Greek restaurant I have sampled on the Island; it is the best seafood restaurant, too. Fish is the story at this gorgeous Roslyn spot, whose name translates to seaport.

The restaurant, which opened in December, is reminiscent of Estiatorio Milos in Manhattan — with reason. Reno Christou, owner of Limani, worked at Estiatorio Milos for 16 years, beginning at age 15 as a busboy at the flagship restaurant in Montreal and transferring to the Manhattan sibling when it opened in 1997. He eventually became the general manager there. The chef at Limani, Peter Spyropoulos, was the

opening chef of Estiatorio Milos in Manhattan.

The building, previously a Saturn dealership, is imposing with its white limestone exterior and walls of windows. The interior is elegant, with a white marble bar, gold-colored mica chandeliers, an open kitchen and a dazzling display of fresh fish on ice.

All this splendor comes at a price. Appetizers run as high as \$24 and fish entrees range from around \$24 to \$38 a pound; a typical dinner with wine will run about \$100 a person, including tax and tip. Those who decide to splurge — for a special occasion, perhaps — are in for a memorable meal.

Waiters are among the best I have encountered. Our server con-

ducted us on a tour of the fish display. He helpfully guided us toward our selections, telling us that one fish (most are around two pounds) would easily serve two people.

The restaurant has a generous attitude. When we ordered the excellent paper-thin rounds of fried zucchini and eggplant, our waiter brought a complimentary order of tzatziki, saying that the amount of the yogurt dip served with the vegetables usually was not enough for most people. Another night, our order of five Greek spreads (all fine but not remarkably different from those at less expensive Greek spots) arrived with a gratis plate of dolma, or stuffed grape leaves. (I am positive I wasn’t recognized; the table we were given was nothing spe-

Central Bank Governor: Slow Growth, Global Woes Hit Greek Economy

ATHENS, Greece (Reuters) - Greece’s economy will be hit by the global crisis and grow by only 0.5 percent this year after 3.1 percent in 2008, the central bank said on Monday, and urged a mix of fiscal tightening and reforms to weather the storm.

High budget deficits and a ballooning debt left the government little room for fiscal stimulus as the pillars of the economy - tourism and shipping - take a hit from the international financial storm, it said in its policy report. Still, a combination of fiscal discipline and “extensive, daring” public sector reforms could contain public debt - now almost the size of the 250 billion euro economy - and allow some government spending on infrastructure to boost activity.

“There is an urgent need to apply long-term policy measures that will cure chronic internal imbalances and structural weaknesses that feed and expand external debt,” said central bank governor and ECB governing council member George Provopoulos.

The bank said inflation would slow to 1.8 percent in 2009, from 4.2 percent last year. GDP growth will slow significantly but remain positive, better than the euro zone average.

“The Bank of Greece sees the an-

nual GDP growth rate, which last year slowed to 3 percent, coming to 0.5 percent in 2009,” the report said.

The central bank’s projection is above the European Commission’s 0.2 percent forecast but below the Greek government’s 1.1 percent growth estimate.

FISCAL DISCIPLINE

Provopoulos said Greece should stick to plans to reduce the budget deficit below 3 percent of GDP, the EU limit, this year and aim for a balanced budget by 2012. “This reduction is possible if part of the huge tax evasion is captured and, mainly, with the drastic cut in waste and increase of effectiveness in state spending,” he said. Analysts said it would be hard to bring the deficit below the EU limit before 2010.

“Those in charge of fiscal policy are aiming for a deficit close to 3 percent in 2010. For this year this will be too difficult,” said economist Nikos Magginas at National Bank. “The governor’s proposed measures are necessary ... but they are difficult to implement.”

Provopoulos said fiscal discipline is key to containing the debt amid worsening borrowing conditions. “Borrowing conditions for

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Hundreds Pack Church for Moushoutas Funeral

Hundreds of mourners gather at the funeral of Cyprus’ former permanent representative to the U.N., Ambassador Constantine Moushoutas, at St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Hempstead, N.Y. on Friday, February 13, 2009. Ambassador Moushoutas lost his bout with cancer on February 11. Fr. Robert Stephanopoulos presided over the funeral.

Future of Orthodoxy Topic of Lecture Series

By Eleni Kostopoulos
Special to The National Herald

To secure Orthodox Christianity in America, we must not attempt to predict the future, but we must continue to talk about it using a normative approach. This idea was presented by Rev. Stanley Harakas, Th.D., Archbishop Iakovos Professor of Orthodox Theology Emeritus at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, at the sixth annual lecture series of Orthodoxy in America at Fordham University, the Jesuit University of New York, on Tuesday, February 17.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, esteemed clergy from all parts of the U.S., members of the Orthodox Christian Studies program at Fordham, the Jaharis Family Foundation, (which recently sponsored the Archbishop Demetrios Chair in Orthodox Theology and Culture at Fordham), students and other guests, gathered for “The Future of Orthodoxy

Christianity in America: A Normative Approach.”

Rev. Harakas cited several noteworthy polls that indicate the current status of Orthodox Christianity in the U.S.

“Reporting primarily on the faith communities today is a study by the Hartford Institute for Religious Research, in which Eleni Makris focused on the results regarding Orthodox jurisdictions in America, in a recently published work under the headline, ‘Parish Worship and Participants’. She reported that both attendance and frequency representative of the Holy Communion were comparatively high, but the rate of church growth was troubled, with the majority of Orthodox Parishes making very few, if any, calls to reach out to potential members.”

Another survey establishing conflicting results of hope and worry was conducted by Alexei D.

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Lecture Discusses Future of Orthodoxy

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Krindatch at the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute titled, "The Orthodox Church Today".

"He affirms that 90 percent Orthodox Christians in the U.S. are American-born. Twenty-nine percent think of themselves as conservative, 40 percent as traditional, and 41 percent as moderate to liberal. 10 percent of the respondents would not conceive themselves as being anything but Orthodox Christian, and three-fourths of them would encourage their sons to become priests."

Rev. Harakas also noted several commentators of past, present and future conditions of the Orthodox Church, who analyzed the dangerously growing trend of secularism.

"Those who have lived in America [in the last half century], have seen Christianity and more particularly mainline Protestantism and Roman Catholicism slowly erode from the spiritual foundation of the American ethos to what appears to be an increase in marginalization of Christianity in the public sphere," said Rev. Harakas. "It's not complete of course, but its dominant position has suffered in the face of a resurgent and all-pervasive secularism. The secularist ideal pervades the intellectual climate while religious and specifically Christian beliefs and values give a measure of their service but in substance, they are deliberately undermined. This secularism has deep roots in Western European culture."

Rev. Harakas questioned how these secularist ideals affect the future of religion in the U.S. and more specifically, the future of Orthodox Christianity.

"To be sure, Europe and America are far from being the same on the issue of secularism and religion, but it would appear that we are not far behind the European situation, if we are to take seriously the rhetoric of the just-incited presidential campaign, in which we heard repeated calls for America to 'become more European.' The next decade should see religion generally in America become significantly more and more threatened by European-style secularism with radical intervention by events."

Rev. Harakas further analyzed the meaning of "American" in relation to religion and to securing Orthodox Christianity.

"My view at its core, being American simply means the acceptance of fundamental principles of freedom and community as declared in our constitution," he said. "We must believe that we are free



D.PANAGOS PHOTO

Archbishop Demetrios of America, center, with attendees and lecturers at the sixth annual lecture series of Orthodoxy in America at Fordham University on Tuesday, February 17. Also pictured are Metropolitan Evangelos of N.J., Rev. Stanley Harakas and Michael and Mary Jaharis.

to be Orthodox Christians and we will be good Americans if we affirm our identity as Orthodox Christians. While the ideology that others have the same right, neither secularism, nor capitalism, nor socialism, nor any other 'ism' is an authentic component of what it means to be American. Freedom of belief, freedom of worship, speech and political exercise are the only things that are authentically and irreducibly American. This means that in order for Orthodox Christianity to thrive in America, we must be more and more ourselves. People give content to the American idea, not the other way around and that means as the European secularist theory invades the U.S., it should not be perceived as the essence of America. It is one of many variant ideologies seeking expression in American life, but as a Church and as Christians, we must not succumb to it, though we need to engage with it. We must engage it, with truth and the spiritual way of life that is Orthodox Christianity with internal consistency and integrity."

He additionally presented examples from the past that would help Orthodox Christians move toward their desired future in the U.S. by comparing the Church in America with the Church in 4th Century Alexandria, Egypt, which he said are quite comparable to

each other. Saint Athanasius who exemplified the importance of the training of our children and immersing them in the Orthodox experience, who willingly accepted repeated exiles and who had unrestrained resistance to opposing forces—Rev. Harakas said, stands out as a model for the Orthodox Church to prepare for the future of the Church here in the U.S.

"In the face of such diversity, Athanasius functioned as the voice of Orthodoxy, the focus of which was on core beliefs regarding the Trinitarian reality of God, for the Orthodox Church in this nation, the example of Athanasius requires us to keep the faith, before us, unaltered and unadulterated," he said.

He further stressed the importance of building bridges between churches and of dialogue among these churches, while carefully joining together with like-minded efforts.

"It is in my view that the institutional ecumenism of the past, censors our relations with the world consul of churches abroad, and the national consul of churches of Christ in this country, have not been particularly helpful or fruitful for the interest of Orthodox Christianity on the levels of the faith."

In conclusion, Rev. Harakas said to remember and act in the words of Ephesians: "For we are not contending against flesh and blood,

but against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual armies of wickedness in the heavenly places." He added, "Athanasius is a useful model for Orthodox Christians as we anticipate our future in this country. At least four things arise from this presentation. One: In all likelihood, the secularization of Europe will continue to spread on the fabric of American life. Two: Being American is not defined other than by the principles of freedom. Three: The mission of Orthodox Christianity in America is to be as fully and completely Orthodox as we can be—informing our children, youth and adults with authentic Orthodox faith, worship and ethos. Four: We have a message that we must present as an alternative to the morally and spiritually down spiraling contemporary American lifestyle." He also quoted Father Michael Oleksa, who wrote, "Our task is to love America. You cannot save what you do not love."

The Orthodoxy in America Lecture Series is designed to strengthen the ties that bind the Fordham and Orthodox Christian communities and address the history, theology, spirituality and worship of the Orthodox tradition as it relates to contemporary American culture. Additional information about the series can be viewed at www.fordham.edu/orthodoxy.

GOINGS ON...

■ FEBRUARY 23

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Center on the United States and Europe (CUSE) at Brookings cordially invites the community to an address by Dora Bakoyannis, Greek foreign minister and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) chairperson-in-office, on "Collective Security in the 21st Century: Building New Bridges," at the Brookings Institution (1775 Massachusetts Ave.) on February 23 from 3:30 – 5 P.M. Greece took over the OSCE chairmanship at the start of 2009, stating its commitment to work as an honest broker for participating states and uphold the OSCE's role as a principal apparatus for ensuring peace, security and human rights in Europe and Central Asia. In her opening speech on January 15, Minister Bakoyannis outlined the priorities for the Greek chairmanship: continued discussions on the future of European security; peaceful resolution of protracted conflicts in the region; and promotion and implementation of OSCE counter-terrorism and border-security commitments, in addition to enhanced engagement with Afghanistan. In her remarks, Minister Bakoyannis will offer thoughts on these priorities and will also to address transatlantic relations and issues related to the Middle East and southeastern Europe. Brookings President Strobe Talbott will provide introductory remarks. After the program, Minister Bakoyannis will take audience questions in a session moderated by Visiting Fellow Steven Pifer. To RSVP, please call 202-797-6105.

■ FEBRUARY 26

NEW YORK — The Officers, Directors and Members of the Hellenic American Bankers Association, Inc. are pleased to announce that Charles Anastasiou, Wachovia Securities, Constantine Soras, Verizon, and Demetri Papacostas, Bloomberg, will speak at an Economic Outlook Panel Discussion on the U.S. Economy on Thursday, February 26, 2009, from 6:00pm - 8:30 PM at First American Title (633 Third Ave., 16th Floor, between 40th & 41st Streets. Wine and Meze Reception. Admission: This event is free for members in good standing (2009). Membership renewals may be paid at the event or online. Friends of HABA are always welcome to attend. The non-member admission is \$40.

ASTORIA, N.Y. — Philip Christopher, Nikos Mouyiaris and Peter Papanicolaou cordially invite the community to a fundraising reception for the Hon. Albio Sires (13th CD, NJ) at the Pancyprian Sports Lounge (23-15 31st Street) on Thursday, February 26, at 7:30 PM. Minimum Donation is \$200. Please make your checks payable to: "SIRES FOR CONGRESS." Cocktails and appetizers will be served. Albio Sires, 55, is serving his fourth term in the state Assembly as a representative from the 33rd Legislative District in Hudson County. He was the first Hispanic Assembly Speaker in New Jersey history and the first Cuban-American to preside over a legislative house in any of the 50 states, having served from 2002–2006. In May of 2008 he received the Barbed wire award at the 24th Annual Cyprus and Hellenic Issues Conference for his efforts towards justice for Cyprus. In 2007 he led a Congressional delegation to Cyprus and Greece as a freshman Congressman. The Congressman serves on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and is a member of the following Subcommittees: Western Hemisphere (Vice Chair); Asia, Pacific, and the Global Environment; and Europe. These Subcommittees have jurisdiction in these particular regions to conduct foreign relations with the U.S.; draft legislation with respect to disaster relief and foreign loans; administer foreign military sales and security pacts; oversee human rights practices and environmental policies; and supervise United Nations and foreign assistance activities. Mr. Sires was born in 1951 in the Cuban town of Bejucal, where he grew up in the waning years of pre-Communist Cuba. His family fled Cuba in January 1962 with the help of relatives in America. They eventually settled in West New York. Mr. Sires' wife, Adrienne, is a retired school administrator. He has a stepdaughter, Tara Kole, who served a U.S. Supreme Court clerkship with Justice Antonin Scalia after graduation from Harvard Law School. She now works for a private law firm in Los Angeles. Corporate checks cannot be accepted and donations are not tax deductible under federal law. If you cannot attend, please mail your donation to:

PSEKA, 23-15 31st Street, Astoria, NY 11105. Please RSVP by Monday February 23 at psekausa@aol.com or cypriusfederation@aol.com

■ FEBRUARY 27

WESTFIELD, N.J. — A screening of THE JOURNEY: The Greek American Dream, a documentary, will be held on February 27, at 7:30 pm, in the Bouras Center of Holy Trinity Greek orthodox Church, 250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield. Free and open to the public, refreshments will be served. The fascinating history of the Greek immigration to America from 1890 to 1980 came about when filmmaker, Maria Illiou discovered a wealth of previously unseen archival photographic and film footage from 50 public and private collections. For further information, contact Barbara Manos at 908-233-9520.

TOMS RIVER, N.J. — The St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church Ladies Philoptochos Society will be holding a traditional Chinese Auction at the St. Barbara Community Center (2200 Church Road, Toms River) on Friday, February 27. Doors open at 6:30 P.M. (First drawing will be at 7:30 P.M.) Beautiful and valuable gifts of all kinds will be available to "bid" on. Cost: \$5.00 entrance fee (Includes Greek Pastries, Coffee and one page of bid tickets). Dinner Items available a la carte. You may purchase your tickets in advance by calling the Church Office. Large groups may reserve whole tables when purchasing their advance tickets (ten advance purchased tickets will reserve a whole table). All the proceeds from this event will assist the Philoptochos Society in their support of important local and national philanthropies. Your participation could result in you winning one or more wonderful gifts; but more importantly, you will be help to support these special ladies who give so much to so many. Note: You must be at least 18 years-old to participate. Please call the church office at 732-255-5525, the Philoptochos Society at 732-929-3239 or the web at www.stbarbaranj.org for more information.

■ FEBRUARY 28

CHICAGO, Ill. — The Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center cordially invites the community to its annual "Apokreas for Kids" celebration, at the museum (801 W Adams St.) on Saturday, February 28, from 1:00 - 4:00 PM. Children will make crafts associated with Greek "Mardi Gras" traditions including mask making, kite making and much more. Special activities will include a magic show by Linda Eck of Eckcellent Entertainment. Apokreas is a traditional celebration which can be traced back to ancient times. Scholars and researchers speculate that it grew from ancient religious practices associated with Dionysus, the Greek god of wine and feast. Today, it is a celebration with religious significance (meaning "goodbye to meat") as it is observed during the three weeks preceding the Great and Holy Lent. This event is recommended for children ages four and up and the cost is \$5 per child. For more information or to make your reservation, please contact Vivian Haritos at 312-655-1234 ext. 21 or at vharitos@hellenicmuseum.org.

■ APRIL 2-6

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — The Hellenic News of America and the 18th Hermes Expo International cordially invite the community to The 18th Hermes Expo from April 2-6, 2009. Starting from New York and going to Philadelphia, The Expo will take place on the weekend of April 4-5, 2009 with a 120 Booth Exhibits at the Tropicana on the Atlantic City Boardwalk, New Jersey. April 2, 2009 - A Greek Food and Wine Tasting Mixer, Reception Press Conference and B2B meetings based on profiles at the Queens Art Museum in cooperation with the Queens Chamber of Commerce. April 3, 2009 - At the Governors Mansion Mixer, Drexel University Seminar on Tourism and New Technology. Reception and B2B meetings based on profiles. April 4 - 5, 2009 - The Tropicana Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ Exhibition Conference - A major happening for Greek Americans, Americans interested in Greece and South Eastern Europe and other Ethnic Markets. Symposium Brunch on Saturday 10AM-1 PM, Grand opening at 1 PM, 120 Booths meetings B2B, Dinner Awards Entertainment and a Sunday Brunch Networking. April 6, 2009 - A Grand Reception Mixer at the Honorable Aris Melissaratos Estate, Baltimore, MD. For more information, please visit Info@HermesExpo.com.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Vote on our website!

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

The question this week is: Are you happy with Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Sure

The results for last week's question: Who has done more damage to the Greek American community?
32% voted "Bernard Madoff"
21% voted "Nicholas Cosmo"
46% voted "Steven Rondos"

Please vote at: www.thenationalherald.com

32 House Members Send Greek Issues Letter to Obama

By Evan C. Lambrou

Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK — Thirty-two members of the United States House of Representatives, to include several members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and all seven Greek American members, signed a bipartisan letter to President Obama concerning Greece and Cyprus within the overall context of American foreign policy on Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.

The text of the letter, which was sent to the President on February 3, just two weeks after he was inaugurated, is four pages in length (excluding the signatures), and reminds both President Obama and Vice President Biden about their earlier expressions of support for Greece and the reunification of Cyprus.

"On May 17, 2006 – in a speech to the 23rd Annual Cyprus, Hellenic & Orthodox Issues Conference in Washington, DC – you reaffirmed your strong support for a just resolution to the Cyprus problem, and expressed equal appreciation for our ally Greece... For more than three decades, Vice President Biden has

been unwavering in his support for ending the Turkish military's occupation of Cyprus," the letter states.

The letter also reminds the new President that he and Vice President Biden were among 73 senators who signed a letter to President Bush in the fall of 2006, when Mr. Obama and Mr. Biden were still members of the U.S. Senate, concerning the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

"On November 29, 2006 you and Vice President Biden joined 73 Senators in sending a letter to President Bush demanding support for the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We appreciate your long-term support for Orthodox Christianity, and for your concern expressed in the letter, that 'policies of the Turkish Government pose a grave threat to the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.' We commend you and Vice President Biden for calling on Turkey to restore the full rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, including its property rights, and to reopen the Halki Theological Seminary," the letter states.

The letter applauds Mr. Obama for cosponsoring legislation calling

on the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to "cease dissemination of materials that violate provisions of the United Nations-brokered Interim Agreement between FYROM and Greece regarding hostile activities or propaganda" about the dispute between the two countries concerning FYROM's insistence on being recognized as "Macedonia."

The signatories point out that the Bush Administration's decision to recognize FYROM as the "Republic of Macedonia" in November 2004 induced "severe erosion" on Greece-FYROM relations, and "strained" U.S.-Greece relations in the process.

The letter also emphasizes the need to convince Turkey to drop its aggressive posturing in the Aegean, and exhorts the President to make sure Greece is included in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.

"At this time, tensions between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean Sea are impeding ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at improving relations between our two allies... We urge you to press Turkey to abandon its displays of force in favor of the diplomatic process," the letter states.

"It is significant that Greece is one of the original 15 member states of the European Union, and the only Schengen country, not included in the Visa Waiver Program... We believe Greece's inclusion is long overdue, and we urge you to work with Greek officials to ensure that the process for its entry into the VWP moves as expeditiously as possible," the letter adds.

The letter was initiated by Congressman John Sarbanes (D-Maryland), who responded to Greek American concerns about the prospective appointment of Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, a pro-Turkish member of the Council on Foreign Relations, to the National Security Council.

Although the letter does not cite Ms. Sherwood-Randall directly, Rep. Sarbanes crafted a general letter about Hellenic issues, and reached out to members of the House Hellenic Caucus, a body of more than 130 House members who consistently support Hellenic issues.

Eight members of the Hellenic Caucus who signed the letter are also members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee: Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-Florida), Shelley Berkley (D-Nevada), Joseph Crowley (D-New York), Barbara Lee (D-California), Donald Payne (D-New Jersey), Diane Watson (D-California), Albio Sires (D-New Jersey) and Brad Sherman (D-California).

"The letter was meant to address

issues that are important to all Americans. Although of particular concern to Greek Americans, the issues of religious freedom, human rights, democracy, the rule of law, justice and America's moral standing in the world garner universal support throughout our country and the world at-large," Congressman Sarbanes told the National Herald.

"With the changing of the guard at the White House, it was a good time to send this letter to President Obama. The letter captures the efforts of many people, and I want to salute the many who have remained engaged on these issues. My colleagues and I would be very happy if one of the outcomes of this letter is to encourage greater participation in the political process," he added.

Congressman Bilirakis, the Republican co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus, praised Rep. Sarbanes' effort, and told the Herald the letter would serve as a "friendly reminder" to the Obama Administration that members of the Caucus are concerned about developments in U.S. foreign policy pertaining to Hellenic issues.

"I thought it was a good move on John's part to get this letter out. It reflects the concerns of the Hellenic Caucus and its agenda as we embark on the 111th Congress. We have a particular interest in working on religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a resolution for FYROM's name and a fair reunification solution for Cyprus. We plan to keep an eye on those issues, and I look forward to working with the new Administration in the hopes of enhancing trans-Atlantic relations," he said.

IMPORTANT ALLY

In a statement to the Herald, Congressman Payne said he thought it was important to send an early signal to the Obama Administration about Hellenic issues: "Because Greece is an important friend and ally of the United States, I felt it was important that members of Congress reach out to the new Administration to emphasize our strong commitment to strengthen the bonds between our two nations. I believe President Obama and Vice President Biden are strongly determined to renew America's positive leadership worldwide, and I am hopeful that we will reach resolution on many issues, particularly a just resolution to the occupation and division of Cyprus," he said.

For the complete text and additional Congressional comments, visit the web at www.thenationalherald.com.



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Fr. Demetrios Constantelos: The wise teacher of Orthodoxy and Hellenism

Continued from page 1

organized in the Greek American community are wasted money. We could have established programs for Greek Letters in the biggest universities of America.”

Asked to explain the indifferent position of Archbishop Demetrios on the Hellenic Paideia issue, he said, “He should have given it priority from the beginning.”

He does not think that other hierarchs have shown enough interest in Hellenic Paideia either, he said, “I do not see any movement from them. When I hear some of them talking only in English with a heavy accent what can I say?”

He is also disappointed about the fact that Boston only has one Greek American Day School.

“It surprises me, but it pains me deeply when there are big cities with large Greek populations without a day school,” he said. “We should reprioritize our principles.”

As far as the status of Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology, Fr. Constantelos said, “We have a lot of converts, but how many of them are really converts in their research for authentic Christianity, and how many of them become Orthodox because they have personal problems? I have experience on this issue. There was someone here who had approached me many times. We spoke, I told him that he should learn Greek. He got up and he went to St. Vladimir’s Russian School of Theology and he became Orthodox. He was ordained and after a little while he called me and he asked me to help him be admitted into our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. I asked him why, and he said, ‘You pay well.’”

“A professor called me from Florida and told me that a certain priest does not allow the school’s students to recite their March 25 (Greek Independence Day) poems because, he said they are pagan. A priest who graduated from Holy Cross Theological School told my brother ‘I hate those Greeks, I hate them.’”

Asked how he feels as a priest, as a man and as a human being that has been misled so may times concerning his appointment to the presidency of the Holy Cross School of Theology, Fr. Constantelos said, “My stance in life is if they need me, I would offer myself. If they do not, I wouldn’t be sorry. One time, the former president of the school Mr. Lelon, had visited Philadelphia and asked me to meet with him. He offered me the job of vice president of academic affairs because as he had said, the two Deans Fr. Harakas and Fr. Vaporis weren’t working well together. Lelon asked me to accept the offer to help the School. He requested my biographical data which I sent to him and promised me he would announce my appointment shortly after Christmas. I waited until February and I called him. He began praising me by saying that I am the most prominent graduate of the school. I interrupted him immediately and I told him that I understand. I did that because I knew that everything else he said were lies.”

Fr. Constantelos also said, “Iakovos had called me three times about the School. I remember once he invited me to speak to the Board of Trustees and the Archdiocesan Council at the World of Astoria and I said things in a very straightforward manner. Iakovos had called me a third time and everything was ready for the announcement of my appointment to the presidency of the school. Presbyteria and I were even looking for a home in Boston. At the end of the meeting, Iakovos said they want to declare the position available, but he is determined to announce my appointment, but he did not. Instead, he appointed Metropolitan Silas and I doubted he knew anything about academic programs. When Silas saw me he said to me, ‘It is not my fault. I did not say anything.’ Iakovos had told me there are some at the School of Theology who did not want me because I emphasize Hellenism. I was told the same thing by Professor Demetris Zaharopoulos.”

Asked about the more recent time he was fooled in regards to the school under current Archbishop Demetrios, Fr. Constantelos said, “It was my mistake. I should not have gone in at all for an interview. When we finished, Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos said to me, ‘this wash best interview we ever had.’ I believed him because they called for a second interview, and they told me the second one was not so successful because they immediately appointed Fr. Triantafyllou.”

Asked if he knew that Fr. Triantafyllou is Fr. Stylianopoulos’ koumparo, Fr. Constantelos said, “I knew that and you understand I was disappointed.”

Asked who is going to be the next Archbishop after Demetrios, Fr. Constantelos said, “From what I see up to now I do not think there is anyone from here, but also I do not see someone from abroad. Let us pray to God that they do not send somebody like Spyridon.”

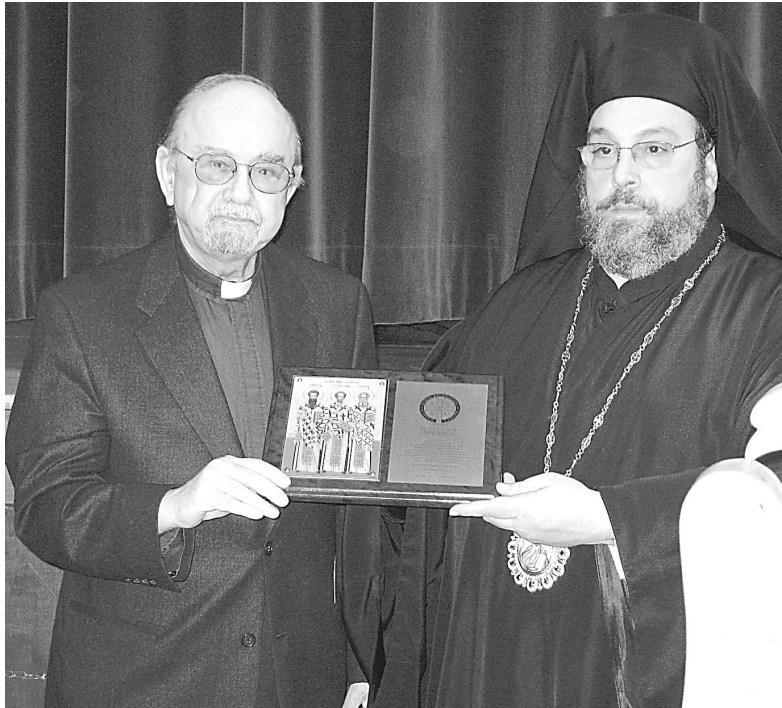
Reading and searching through



sociation, the Orthodox Theological Society of America, the Anglican-Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox-Roman Catholic, and Eastern Orthodox and Evangelical Lutheran Theological Consultations, and other organizations in the United States, and other countries in Spain, England, France, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Italy, Russia, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Israel, South Korea, Australia and of course, Greece.

Between 1955 and 1996, Rev. Constantelos served either as regular or visiting priest at several communities in New England, New Jersey, and Maryland.

He has been a visiting lecturer in many communities of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Ohio, Michigan, California, Kansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Florida,



South Carolina, Wisconsin, Indiana. Fr. Constantelos is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Ecumenical Studies at Temple University, and a member of the New Revised Standard Version Bible Committee of the National Council of Churches in the United States. He has also received several academic, community and book awards from 1959 to 2002.

He is married to Stella Croussouloudis of New York City and is the father of four children: Christine, a graduate in Plant Science of Rutgers University; John, a graduate in Political Science and International Relations of Tufts University, Johns Hopkins University, and Duke University; Eleni, a literature graduate of Colgate University; and Maria, an educator, graduate of Bergen College, who also attended Ramapo College and Marymount College. He also has six grandchildren.

Fr. Constantelos is a prolific writer, with published books and articles on Hellenism, philosophy, history and theology. His many titles include:

Christian Faith And Cultural Heritage: Essays from a Greek Orthodox Perspective

Renewing the Church: The Significance of the Council in Trullo Paideia: Addresses to Young People

The Complete Works of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, e of North and South America 1959-1996.

The Torchbearer: Encyclicals Spiritual and Ecclesiastical Subjects, Administration, Education, Culture

Understanding the Greek Orthodox Church: Its Faith, History and Life

Christian Hellenism, Volume Three: Essays and Studies in Continuity and Change

The Greeks, Their Heritage, and Its Value Today

Poverty, Society and Philanthropy in the Late Mediaeval Greek World

Byzantine Philanthropy and Social Welfare

Religious-Philosophical Issues and Interreligious Dialogues in the Orthodox Church Since World War II

Orthodox Theology and Diakonia: Trends and Prospects Essays in Honor of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos.

Archbishop Iakovos’ archives Fr. Constantelos has insight about who the real Iakovos was in terms of leadership, ethos and education.

“His writings have made me reconsider my views about Iakovos, because I thought that he was only for himself. If I judge him from my connection with him the last 10 years of his life, I saw him at his final years as very humble, thoughtful, and prayerful. Before that I had a different opinion. I remember the dismissal of Fr. George Florofsky from the Theological School because of a minor disagreement on the issue of kneeling during the consecration of the Holy Gifts. Iakovos stood up and he was saying ‘I am the Archbishop that is my responsibility.’ At that point I stood up and I said to him that ‘we are also responsible for the Church not only you. You are not the Church, we are too,’ and Iakovos did not say a word.”

Fr. Constantelos believes that “the Ecumenical Patriarchate should remain in Constantinople.”

Asked for his opinion about the clergy scandals such as Katinas, Fr. Constantelos said, “I read The National Herald’s articles and I want to tell you that it is not Katinas only, but there are some others who are in the ins an outs. Archimandrite Karambis, who you have been reporting about lately is another one. Let me tell you that when I was teaching at the Seminary, I personally had requested to dismiss him because of his academic inability and his character.”

Fr. Constantelos also discussed his position on homosexuality

“I personal do not approve, not only because the Holy Bible says so, but also because it is inconceivable for me,” he said. “No family can be established between two male homosexuals or lesbians.”

Would you have difficulty sup-

porting the return of the tradition of married Bishops, he said, “I have written on the issue in my book ‘Marriage, Sexuality and Celibacy,’ because in the tradition and history of our Church we even had Patriarchs who were married and I do not stop at the fourth century. We have so many Bishops that are married, especially in Greece.”

Fr. Constantelos also said, “Another thing that bothers me is when I see all that lavishness in the high priesthood knowing that there is so much poverty in the world, all those big golden crosses and the helmets, etc. That is not a tradition for me. Those things appeared much later. We should return back to the simplicity of the early Church and the Byzantine era.”

When asked what his worst fear is, he said, “I am not fearful of anything because I believe that someone else is the governor. The presence of God in me, around me, in the world takes away the fear.”

Fr. Demetrios Constantelos is a world-renowned scholar on Eastern Orthodox, Byzantium, modern Greek history, and Hellenistic philosophy. Currently he is a Distinguished Research Scholar in Residence and the Charles Cooper Townsend Sr. Distinguished Professor of History and Religious Studies, Emeritus, at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Pomona, New Jersey.

He was born in Spilia, Messenia, Greece. He became a citizen in 1958, and resides in Linwood, NJ with his wife and presbyteria, Stella.

Following his graduation from the Gymnasium of Kyparissia, Greece, he was offered a scholarship to study at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, Massachusetts. Upon his graduation from the Theological School in 1951 he attended the

University of Michigan. In 1954 he married Stella Croussouloudis of New York and Chios, and returned to Greece where he enrolled and attended courses at the School of Theology, University of Athens (1954-1955).

Upon his return to the United States in May 1955, he was ordained in July, 1955 and assigned to St. Demetrios Church in Perth Amboy, NJ. During his diakonia at St. Demetrios (1955-1964) he pursued post-graduate studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, (1957-1959), receiving a Th. M. in New Testament studies and Rutgers University (1959-1964), receiving an M.A. in 1963 and Ph.D. in 1965 in the history of Byzantine Civilization. He has received several scholarships, fellowships and honors including the Lane Cooper Fellowship and

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Fr. Demetrios Constantelos in his office at home surrounded by his many books. Fr. Constantelos delivers a lecture during one of his classes at Stockton College. Fr. Constantelos with then-newly elected Patriarch Athenagoras and professor and students at Holy Cross. Fr. Constantelos with his Presbyteria Stella. Fr. Constantelos at a younger age checking the then-newly published book on the Apocrypha. Fr. Constantelos, his wife Stella and their children Christina, John, Eleni and Maria. Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey honors Fr. Constantelos for his contribution to the Hellenic Paideia and Language.

University Fellowship at Rutgers University, a Junior Fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks of Harvard University, several grants, an honorary doctorate in theology by Hellenic College/Holy Cross and several distinctions from academic, professional and social organizations.

Since 1962, he has taught at Rutgers University, Hellenic College, Boston College, New York University and has lectured at several universities and colleges in the United States and before many professional, religious, academic and civic organizations.

He has read papers at International Congresses of Byzantine Studies, Conference on Medieval Studies, the Catholic Historical Association, American Historical Association, Society for Church History, the American Academy of Religion, the Modern Greek Studies As-

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Hellenic American Academy set to open Middle School

By Theodore Kalmoukos
Special to The National Herald

BOSTON.- The Hellenic American Academy of the Holy Trinity parish in Lowell, Massachusetts is starting a Middle School as well, thanks to a generous grant of \$280,000 from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Starting, hopefully, the next academic year, 2009-2010, but most definitely in September 2010, the school will be advanced to a middle school by adding a 7th grade and 8th grade. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation has become the source of help and strength of more than

six Greek American day schools and has donated huge amounts of funds to numerous other academic and cultural institutions that promote the Hellenic Paideia, history, culture and civilization.

“We are most grateful to the Niarchos Foundation for its love and generosity to our school,” Parish council president Steve Themelis said. “We were able to match the money by raising another \$200,000 and also put together a strategic plan for the necessary renovations.”

PTA president Mrs. Voula Danas expressing the feelings of the par-

ents, said, “We are excited to see the 7th and 8th grades. This has been talked about for a long time. It will be nice because the kids will transition from here to high school. The parents are looking forward to this and they are going to support it.”

“This dream is realized through the generosity of the Niarchos Foundation. Ted Leonsis, the founder of AOL, donated \$162,500 and the other \$60,000 came from parishioners,” Mr. Themelis said. “Construction will start late spring, early summer, and we are on our way.”

The school is preparing the academic program for the Middle School. The school’s principal Mr. Douglas Anderson explained that “we need to accommodate algebra, and mathematics. We need to have our students prepared in advance language. Our Greek program will become strengthened and we are applying to the state to provide credits to the students for the Greek language when they go to High School. The future of this school is immeasurable.”

He also said, “The school is not only alive, but it is thriving from the stand point of the education the children are getting and the enthusiasm, the warmth and the love of the faculty towards them. It has been a real partnership this year. This is my second year and I am able to see how much faculty puts into their everyday job, you can’t measure it.”

The school this year has 136 pupils including pre-school ages 3 and 4 up to the sixth grade, ages up to 12.

Asked if there is an increase or decrease in the numbers of students, Mr. Anderson said, “Last year there were 146 students at this time.” Commenting on the de-



The students of the Hellenic American Academy during Greek Independence Day celebrations in front of Lowell city hall.

creased numbers he said, “It is because of a number of things, primarily economics.”

According to the parish council president of the Holy Trinity, Mr. Steve Themelis, “Two-thirds of the population of the student body comes from the Holy Trinity community and the rest from other parishes and the area at large.”

Speaking about the uniqueness of the school, Mrs. Danas, a graduate of the school with two children currently attending said, “We have a great group of teachers. The Greek teachers make the younger children who do not know the language proud to be Greek. We have parents who bring their children from as far away as Arlington, Massachusetts everyday. The mother is a graduate of this school.”

Asked why Mrs. Danas brings

her children to this school, she said, “It’s because I believe in the school. I love the school and I believe this school produces great people. I think my kids will leave here with a better understanding of the Greek language and the history. They also have religion here which makes it quite unique.”

When asked if it was not for the teaching of the Greek language, culture and history would she bring her children here, Mrs. Danas said, “The Greek is the big part for many families, especially for mine. This is what I gather from the parents also.”

Principal Anderson praised the children by saying, “They have proper manners, a sense of community through their church, the family and the school.”

Mr. Themelis added that “we

have a 103 year history and it has been supported by the families who come here and the church We are the only school in New England and the oldest in the United States of America.”

He said “the tuition per year is \$2,850 from kindergarten through sixth grade, pre-K has its own rates, \$150 dollars per week, and so we are still reaching up to higher levels where we want to be in terms of how to lower the deficit to the church.”

According to Mr. Themelis, “For 2008 the church contributed more than \$120,000 toward the operation of the school. We are trying to make it financially independent so the church will not have to contribute.”

Mrs. Danas said that “I would say that after looking into all other schools, this school is a bargain for what the students get.”

Principle Anderson said that “I am not saying this because I work for the Greek community, but I see the value of the Greek language in a daily basis in their math, in sciences.”

Asked how much the school’s annual allocation to the Archdiocese is and if he thinks it is fair to request from the Archdiocese to give the school a break from the annual allocation, Mr. Themelis said, “We contribute \$43,000 annually and that changes every year. Certainly we can use that money for the school and I hope the Archdiocese will reconsider that and look at the finances and give the money to the school.”

Speaking about the teachers Mr. Anderson said, “They are not well paid in comparison to what I have seen in presentence with the public, even in comparison with the Catholic parochial schools, they are not compensated well enough.”

Steve Vallos succeeds in professional football

By George H. Denney

The presence of a professional athlete is tough to ignore, especially when he’s a large NFL lineman.

This player, at 6’ 3” and 315 pounds, smiled and settled quietly in the restaurant booth. Steve Vallos appeared a reluctant and humble candidate for this interview nearly one year ago.

At the time, as Vallos was preparing to begin training for the 2008 NFL season, he was still fighting for a playing spot on the Seattle Seahawks offensive line.

At the end of the 2008 NFL season Vallos was first-string center, having started the final five games with a young offensive line that had replaced five players sidelined with injuries.

On the gridiron Vallos is more than just tough and aggressive. He shoves big defensive linemen backward and sometimes puts them on the ground. It’s called a knock-down block, and Vallos chalked up a record 92 of them as a senior at Wake Forest University. Vallos’ skills once were featured during one televised game in a clip described as “in the trenches.”

Front-line trenches in football are areas where the big guys do their work in a job less heralded than those positions at the ends or in the backfield. Fans tend to follow the football, and don’t often notice big-beef battles underway between tackles. But this is where Steve Vallos and his contemporaries earn their living – in the trenches.

A native of Boardman, Vallos gained much of his skill as an award-winning wrestler at Boardman High School. In his senior year he finished second in the state tournament. He had a record number of career pins.

“You can be as big as a house, but if you can’t move, it’s not good,” Vallos said. “For interior linemen, it’s all about leverage and often, it’s a one-on-one battle.”

Vallos, 24, enjoyed a banner year at Wake Forest before becoming a late-round draft pick in 2007. Wake Forest had the ACC title with 11 wins – a school record – including one over Florida State in Tallahassee. Deacons Coach Jim Grobe was named national coach of the year.

Vallos, who served as a team captain in the FedEx Orange Bowl, was named ACC’s Player of the Year and received All-American honors. He was drafted by the Seattle Seahawks in a late round.

His parents, Bill and Susan Vallos, went to every Wake Forest game except one, driving seven hours to home games and taking flights to games away. Family support was important in the transition to the pros, he added.

The first year in Seattle was tough. Vallos stayed in a motel, didn’t have a car and ate food cooked at a nearby grocery store. He didn’t make the final cut, but was picked up for the Seahawks’ practice squad a week later. Each day beginning at 7 a.m. Vallos and his teammates endured a training regimen of weightlifting, meetings, drills and more meetings as the season developed.

“I think a lot of people understand I work hard,” he said, noting most don’t know how difficult it can

be to earn a spot in the NFL.

If an individual is determined and works hard to improve, he finds at each level there is another opportunity, Vallos said. “Someone saw something in me that I could play center,” he said. “I was drafted at guard but they knew I could play center.”

“I can play both guard and center now, and that works to my advantage,” he said.

Vallos will return to Seattle this spring for a new year under the direction of a new coach, Jim Mora. Coach Holmgren has retired. A season of training and strict daily regimen will begin anew.

“There is a 7 a.m. breakfast, a meeting, weight lifting, practice and lunch. Then we practice, have dinner and there are more meetings,” he said. “Then you get up and do the same thing the next day.” “It’s mentally hard. The hardest thing is doing it mentally,” Vallos noted.

Newer players not only train to improve personal abilities, but learn how to do their job well with their teammates, he said. “Our general manager said we were the best practice squad he had ever seen” Vallos added.

“Some of these (veterans) don’t even need to be coached. You learn what your role is and what the guy next to you is doing,” he explained. “It’s knowing what you’re doing and how that’s contributing to the whole.” Vallos said the coach stressed “You have to be able to do the best you can. If you do all that you can and then get cut, then you can’t dwell on being cut.”

When Vallos became starting center, the Seahawks coach commented about the achievements of players like him, players who don’t give up and continued to fight for a starting position. He moved from fourth position on the depth chart to starting center.

Vallos earned a degree in communications at Wake Forest, where he developed an interest in sports media relations. He said it’s “never too early” to talk about a career after the NFL because “nothing’s guaranteed. When it’s over, I’d like to say I played at the highest level and I could hold my own,” he said.

For now, Vallos is looking forward to a new 2009 season at Seattle.

Besides his parents and Aunt Deanna Vallos of Boardman, Steve Vallos has two brothers, Jim of Virginia Beach, Va., and Zak, a student at the University of Cincinnati.

He has been a member since birth of St. John The Forerunner Greek Orthodox Church in Boardman where he regularly attends Divine Liturgy when not in Seattle. He is also a member of AHEPA, a Greek-American heritage organization.

His grandfather, the late James Vallos, owned and operated the Palace Grill for many years in downtown Youngstown, Ohio.

George H. Denney was a news reporter in the Youngstown-Warren, Ohio metropolitan area for about 20 years. He is a lifetime member of St. John Greek The Forerunner Greek Orthodox Church, and is also a member of the Pancretan Association of America and AHEPA.

Apo Torosyan spreads an abiding message of hope

By Kay Mouradian

Armenian Reporter

BURBANK, CALIF. - On January 25, Apo Torosyan’s documentary “The Morgenthau Story” was screened at the Western Diocese in Burbank. The extensively researched film, which premiered in Athens last year, tells the story of Ambassador Henry Morgenthau.

While serving as U.S. Ambassador in Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1913-16, Morgenthau issued thousands of documents chronicling the Armenian Genocide, and worked tirelessly to assist Armenian and Greek victims of ethnic cleansing.

Torosyan, who lives in Boston, is a passionate advocate of human rights and conflict resolution. He was born the son of an Armenian father and a Greek mother (both genocide survivors) in Istanbul in 1942, and moved to the United States in 1968.

A multimedia artist, filmmaker, and lecturer, Torosyan has several documentary movies to his credit, and his artworks, some of which are in permanent collections such as the Florida Holocaust Museum, have been exhibited throughout the world.

While a number of Torosyan’s films (“Witnesses”, “Voices”, and “Discovering My Father’s Village: Edincik”) explore the plight of Armenian and Greek survivors of genocide, two of his short movies - “The Gates” and “Water” - are poetic meditations on art and nature.

I caught up with Torosyan at the Armenian Reporter office in Burbank.

Kay Mouradian: Why did you decide to become a filmmaker?

Apo Torosyan: It started in 2003,



Apo Torosyan

when the Forum on Tolerance at the North Shore Community College [Boston] asked me to make a presentation on the Armenian Genocide. I was honored and traveled to Turkey to make a documentary exploring my roots. The result was the film “Discovering My Father’s Village: Edincik”, which I completed in October 2003 and presented it for the first time at the Forum on Tolerance, in November of the same year.

KM: How did the idea of making a film on Ambassador Morgenthau come about?

AT: A Greek professor from Athens, Nikolaos Ouzounoglu, saw “Discovering My Father’s Village: Edincik” in Yerevan. His parents

were refugees transferred from Turkey after the burning of Smyrna in 1922.

Ouzounoglu emailed me and asked if I would do a film on Morgenthau [with support from a number of Greek organizations]. Once we agreed on the length of the documentary [about one hour], it took more than a year to tape the interviews and produce the film.

KM: How did you manage to get the Morgenthau descendants to agree to the interviews?

AT: It wasn’t easy. It started with Pam Steiner, a great granddaughter of Henry Morgenthau Sr. She wasn’t anxious to meet me, but finally agreed to after Marc Mamigonian of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) in Belmont, MA informed her of my credentials. She asked me to submit 40 questions, which meant I needed to read and research more about Ambassador Morgenthau. Interestingly, this also forced her to start studying about her great grandfather.

Next I needed to find a way to connect to Robert Morgenthau, the District Attorney of New York and grandson of Ambassador Morgenthau.

The Armenian grapevine led me to an Armenian New York Deputy District Attorney, who, after reading my proposal, arranged for me a meeting with Robert Morgenthau in New York City.

After that successful interview and knowing that Robert’s 90-year-old brother, Henry Morgenthau III, was not in good health, I asked Dr. Steiner about the possibility of interviewing him as well. Dr. Steiner arranged the meeting, and, after this final interview, the hard job of creating a story board, extensive re-

search, and editing began.

Currently there is a possibility of distributing the film in Europe, with Greek financing. The Greeks also funded this film because of their remembrance and appreciation of Ambassador Morgenthau, who helped organize and fund the relocation of 1.6 million refugees from Turkey to Greece in 1923.

The most exciting and gratifying part was when I went to Athens for the premiere of “The Morgenthau Story” in September 2008. After it was screened and I gave a speech, people came up to me speaking in five different languages: Greek, Armenian, Turkish, French, and English.

I’ve never had a challenge like that in my life. The film was also shown in Nikaia, a town just outside of Athens, whose population comprises Armenians and Greeks alike. While there, I was taken to a school that was built and funded by Ambassador Morgenthau. It is still functioning today. And in Athens there is a street named after Morgenthau.

KM: What’s next on your agenda?

AT: The International Association of Genocide Scholars will be showing two of my films, “Voices” [2007] and “The Morgenthau Story” [2008], at its conference in June in Arlington, Virginia.

KM: What do you hope to accomplish through screenings of your documentaries?

AT: My goal is to reach students to talk about human rights and genocide. My view of history is that we keep making the same mistakes over and over. My own solution is one of hope, not hate. We need that message because we are living in a repetitious and vicious circle.



TOP LEFT: Inauguration ceremonies of the “Morgenthau Day Nursery” at the Byron refugee settlement in Athens, August 20, 1924. The American Ambassador is standing right behind the little girl in the middle. **TOP RIGHT:** Children play in a circle during the Byron settlement inauguration ceremonies. Morgenthau watches in the background wearing a hat and bowtie. **BOTTOM LEFT:** U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau is pictured in the middle, greeting Greek crowds next to the Mayor of Piraeus (left) during a visit to Greece after the destruction. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Amb. Morgenthau is pictured next to a Greek shoemaker in front of the latter’s shop in Athens.

Iason Athanasiadis: Capturing the World through a Lens

By Eleni Kostopoulos
Special to The National Herald

Iason Athanasiadis, an Athens-born, Istanbul-based international journalist and photographer, is an Aristotle Onassis Foundation scholar who has lectured on Iran at Berkeley, Dartmouth, Harvard, MIT, Stanford, Yale and other universities. Athanasiadis, who has covered issues regarding the Middle East, Central Asia and the southeast Mediterranean since 1999, has a couple concurrent exhibitions covered in the last issue of TNH.

TNH: What originally sparked your interest in Middle Eastern studies and what are some of the goals you have with all the work you do based on your studies?

IA: When I was a child, my mother used to lull me to sleep with fairytales from the 1001 Nights that she would break off at the most tantalizing cliffhanger moment. But I ended up studying Arabic and becoming interested in the Middle East by total chance. My father, who is an academic, was living in Aleppo and researching a book project. He invited me to join him for the Easter holidays in 1996 and showed me post-civil war Lebanon. Beirut's shattered town centre shocked me lastingly, not least because I had been watching coverage from that war-torn city throughout my childhood in Athens, on my grandmother's black and white telly on Saturday afternoons, right before the Smurfs came on!

Two weeks after I left Beirut, Is-

rael invaded during the Grapes of Wrath campaign of 1996. The same places I'd just been in were now the backdrops for pieces-to-camera performed by journalists covering the fighting. I had always wanted to be a journalist and that – combined with the familiarity of Lebanon's Mediterranean culture when compared to Greece - pushed me into choosing to study Arabic at university. Ironically, exactly ten years later in the summer of 2006 I was back in Lebanon to cover the 2006 War between Israel and Hezbollah.

TNH: What is your work all about?

IA: My work is about direct, nuanced coverage of the world's most complicated and controversial region. Work that is neither simplistic nor amnesiac. I have no misconceptions that there are straight-out good and bad guys. I think we saw the dangers inherent in such a binary world-view over the past eight years.

Ultimately, I seek to bring out the humanity of demonized human landscapes. Human beings are only capable of inflicting pain on their opposite number when they have rejected their humanity. A standard prelude to war is when regimes demonize each other. It is this dynamic that must be reversed.

TNH: Your images of Iran are somewhat surprising and unique, to say the least. What message did you want to get across with these photos and the photos you've taken from other places throughout the world that you have posted on your site (iason.ws)?



Iason Athanasiadis, an Athens-born, Istanbul-based international journalist and photographer has traveled through warzones and has an interest in Middle East studies. His photography is currently on exhibit at both Harvard University and the Craft and Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) in Los Angeles.

IA: Yes, their selection is an effort to counter-balance the coverage of Iran as a medieval, theocratic Islamic Republic and reveal the natural and human beauties of a country that we often forget is the size of western Europe and contains 70 million people and multiple religions, ethnicities and landscapes.

The images are not meant to negate the media narrative but to enhance it with texture and shades of meaning. They posit the idea that it's not the only reality to be encountered in Iran but just one of many shards of everyday life there. At the same time, I selected the images with the express purpose of trying to offer some anthropologi-



cal background to how Iranians relate to the world and what psychological currents underline their actions and statements.

TNH: Why should the world pay attention to Iran?

IA: Modernity is bulldozing through Iran at a tremendous and irretrievable pace. At this very moment, Iran's natural environment is being ripped apart by bureaucrats who believe that cement is progress, New York or Dubai-style glass and steel skyscrapers can co-exist harmoniously with the desert. Traditional architectural systems are shunted aside in favor of a top-down, imported-from-abroad approach that is vastly inferior to the organic architectural forms devel-

oped over millennia to harmonize buildings with the environment.

Iran's experience of modernization is as violent (but on a far larger scale) as what happened to Greece in the 60s and 70s as cement cities spread and hundreds of thousands poured into them from the countryside. Iran is at the phase that the Greece that we now mourn as irreparably gone and vanished once was.

TNH: What languages do you speak and how did you learn them?

IA: I speak Arabic and Persian fluently, and am now working on learning Turkish. To strive towards being an objective journalist in the region (and my commitment to the Middle East is lifelong) I should

speak at least its main transnational languages, which happen to be Arabic, Persian and Turkish.

Some half a billion people speak one or more of these languages (not to mention other key languages such as (Hebrew, Kurdish and Pashtu) so being able to communicate in them is quite crucial, especially in the super-globalised age we live in.

TNH: How does your Greek heritage play a role in your work?

IA: I'm a Greek from Athens, born and raised. I travelled to London aged 15 and didn't return for a decade, after university and some years of work in London, Cairo, Damascus, Doha and Paris. After spending the 2004 Olympics working for BBC World in Athens, I left Greece again and went to Iran this time. After three years there I was offered a Nieman fellowship at Harvard, following which I moved to Istanbul, where my mother's side of the family is rooted.

TNH: What are some projects you have lined up?

IA: I've semi-adopted the belief that images speak for a thousand words. Sometimes, reading a learned treatise on something does not have the immediacy and visceral sensibility of seeing a slice of the subject's reality, up close and personal. Since I'm in the business of writing thousands of words, sometimes on a weekly basis, I decided to lean more towards working more on my photography and producing two picture books that focus on the War Against Terror as seen through the societies affected by it and on Islamic mysticism.



New bride Vicki Georgiou holds Fortunoff gift cards totaling approximately \$1,500 that the store won't honor.

Bankrupt Store Won't Honor Queens Bride's Gift Certificates

By Stephanie Gaskell
New York Daily News

A Queens bride has been jilted by Fortunoff.

The bankrupt retailer abruptly stopped honoring gift certificates from its customers, including newlywed Vicki Georgiou, who has no way to cash in her wedding gifts.

"It's just very sad," Georgiou, 27, told the Daily News Tuesday.

"I'm trying to start my life with my new husband. It's not like we're the Trumps. Every dollar counts and now it's all in the toilet."

Georgiou received about \$3,000 worth of Fortunoff gift certificates at her recent wedding and spent roughly half of the total Monday.

When she returned to the Westbury, L.I., flagship yesterday to spend the approximately \$1,500 remaining, it was a different story.

"They said something about a court order but they wouldn't really explain it to me," she said.

Fortunoff, which first opened in Brooklyn in 1922, filed for bankruptcy protection two weeks ago and just laid off 300 workers.

The company is awaiting bids from potential buyers - due Monday - to keep its doors from closing.

A Fortunoff employee told The News the company had "no comment" on the plight of Georgiou and other customers and the company no longer has a public relations representative.

"What bothers me the most is that there is no 'going out of business' sign on the store," Georgiou said, "So unless you know someone who works for Fortunoff, you never would have been aware of what's going on."

A longtime customer who even has a Fortunoff credit card, Georgiou said she never received any notice that gift cards were no longer being honored.

"I'm a valued customer," she said. "I just don't understand."

Another customer said the Fortunoff at Woodbridge Center in New Jersey also was turning away gift cards. Her parents couldn't use a \$60 voucher she got them for Christmas.

"Two or three managers came over and said, 'As of today, we're not honoring gift cards,'" said the woman, who gave her name as Collette.

"They should have posted something," she said. "They just said too bad and that's it."

Antiochian Orthodox parish of Lowell embraces Greek Orthodox Members

By Theodore Kalmoukos
Special to The National Herald

BOSTON – In a central location of the city of Lowell, Massachusetts, on 44 Bowers Street is the St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church. In the beginning of the 20th century until the early 1970s it used to be the Greek and Arabic territory of the city of Lowell. Just 200 feet away is the impressive Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church which has been decorated totally by mosaic icons.

Quite a few Greek Orthodox families have found refuge, especially in recent months and years, at St. George despite the fact that in the city of Lowell there are four Greek Orthodox parishes. There are basically two reasons for this, the first is because of intermarriages between members of the Antiochian and the Greek Orthodox parishes and the second is due to an unbecoming pastoral and administrative behavior and mentality from some which chases away the faithful.

"Everyone is welcome here especially the Greeks," V. Rev. Leonard Faris told The National Herald. Fr. Faris has been pastoring at St. George since August 2001.

He said that "we have quite a few Greeks in the parish. During the celebration of the Divine Liturgy we use not only Arabic and English, but we also use Greek. I have wonderful relationships with our sister Greek Orthodox parishes here in Lowell."

Speaking about the composition of the parish he said, "We have people who are in business, teachers, lawyers and doctors. We have many professionals but we also have laborers. We have many immigrants from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Palestine who own businesses."

Asked if Greek families would be accepted at his parish, he said, "I welcome everybody, the doors are open. I love the Greek people and the Greek language, so I incorporate Greek into the Divine Liturgy and some of the traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church."

Asked if there are conflicts because of that, he said, "They all intermingle beautifully. Thank God we have a wonderful community of faith where everyone works together. We work for the glory of God."

Fr. Faris, who is a second generation Lebanese American, has never visited Lebanon, but knows Arabic and Greek fluently.

"I have been to Greece many times, but I have never been to Lebanon," he said. "Both times I wanted to go a war broke out and they cancelled the visa. I have been five times to Greece. I love Greece."

Fr. Faris, a learned and compassionate person, was a high ranking official of the IRS for fifteen years. At some point he received the Divine Calling from God to become His priest.

"I wouldn't have been a priest if it was not for the encouragement and the example of Fr. Philip Gialoplos," he said. "God bless his memory from the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox parish. Fr. Philip encouraged me to go to Holy Cross Theological School."

Asked what priesthood means to him, he said, "Priesthood is an awesome responsibility. None of us are worthy to become priests. It is a calling which came from Christ. It means to follow Christ and I take my priesthood very seriously. When I wake up in the morning, I spend a couple of hours praying and asking



TOP: The St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Lowell, Massachusetts. LEFT: Fr. Leonard Faris has been at St. George since 2001 and has welcomed many Greek American families into his church.

speaking Armenian. I use to attend the Armenian church and I know the Armenian Divine Liturgy by heart, because the Armenian priest in Lawrence where I grew up was a good friend of our family's."

Asked what message he passes on to the Greek Americans of second and third generations, he said, "They should never lose their heritage or their language because when you know another language it is like being another person. In Europe, they speak not one language, not two, in many countries they speak two and three languages, only in America do we speak only one language."

How does he reply to those who say we are in America so he should

heritage and never to forget who we really are."

Asked what nationality he is more connected to, he said, "I am all of them together and do you want to know something, I also

that the Holy Spirit gives me the strength, the guidance and the wisdom to follow Christ and His example; to be humble like Christ to guide my congregation the way Christ will guide them; to give them the strength and the faith that He would give them."

Asked how he treats his parishioners, he said, "I treat them with extreme love and humility. My parishioners are my spiritual children and like a father I love all of them with all my heart. I have served two other communities, but the parish here in Lowell is a family and I love them as if they are my own children and I treat them as my own children."

When asked if it is important to keep the cultural aspect of our faith or should we Americanize everything, he said, "Absolutely not. We need to keep our culture and our traditions. First of all, I am an American but of Lebanese descent and I am proud to be who I am and I want my parishioners to be proud of who they are. I want their children to be proud Americans but also to be proud to be Lebanese American or Greek American. They love the traditions. When I tell them on a certain feast day, we do this particular service, because this is part of our culture and our tradition, they love it. We need to cultivate this and it has nothing to do with taking away from the American culture. America is a melting pot and when you bring the cultures from other countries in America it really enhances our culture here. I think we need to continue to do this. We need to be proud of our



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Irene Papas Honored at Venice Film Festival

Continued from page 1

though of the village men, young and old, lust for her, she refuses all advances until the appearance of Basil (Alan Bates), an Englishman of Greek heritage. Anthony Quinn achieved worldwide fame for his role as Zorba, but Papas drew the greater critical praise for her portrait of a proud Greek woman caught in desperate circumstances. “Zorba” was nominated for seven Oscars and won three.

Before her popular success in “Zorba,” Papas had achieved art-house acclaim for playing the lead in “Electra” (1962). The film was directed by Michael Cacoyannis with music by Mikis Theodorakis. Papas presents Electra in a naturalist style that renders her a real-life woman rather than a symbolic character from classical drama. Her vengeful Electra lures Clytemnestra (Aleka Katseli) to a village cottage where she assists her brother, a reluctant Orestes (Yannis Fertsis), in killing their murderous mother. “Electra” was an international sensation, winning awards at Cannes, Berlin, and Brussels and an Oscar nomination in Hollywood.

“Electra” was the beginning of a lifelong artistic collaboration with Michael Cacoyannis. The Cyprus-born Cacoyannis was determined to make new translations of the Greek tragedians that would make their work accessible to contemporary audiences. Papas would be his perennial choice for the female lead. In addition to their film work, Cacoyannis would direct Papas in theatrical performances of classic in London and New York. Her American stage work included “Iphigenia in Aulis” (1967), “Medea” (1973), and “The Bacchae” (1980).

Although her theater performances offered her considerable artistic satisfaction, Papas achieved greater popular success with Greek tragedies presented on film. In “The Trojan Women (1974),” Papas plays a haughty Helen of Troy. Her time on screen is limited but she offers a Helen who is as treacherous as she is beautiful, a schemer who is indifferent to the calamity she has brought to Troy. With exquisite body language and tone of voice,



Papas totally dominates every scene in which she appears. That says a lot about her talent as the other performers were Katherine Hepburn, Vanessa Redgrave, and Genevieve Bujold.



“Iphigenia” (1979) opens at the encampment of a thousand ships summoned by Agamemnon (Kostas Kazakos) to mount an assault on Troy. Troubled by negative omens. Agamemnon consults an oracle who assures him of victory if he will appease the gods by sacrificing his daughter’s life. Agamemnon promptly summons Clytemnestra (Irene Papas) to join him under the pretext that their daughter is to be married to Achilles. The dramatic center of the film occurs when Clytemnestra learns the truth about her daughter’s fate and tries to persuade her husband to defy the gods. Equally powerful is her



ABOVE LEFT: Irene Papas with Gian Maria Volonté, *A ciascuno il suo* (1968)
ABOVE: Irene Papas as Jocasta Constantine with James Cagney in the *Film Tribute to a Bad Man* (1956)
FAR LEFT: A recent photo of Irene Papas in Athens, Greece.
LEFT: Poster for “The Guns of Navarone”.

tender interactions with Iphigenia who is played by 13-year-old Tatiana Papamoschou.

“Iphigenia” received rave notices throughout the world. Numerous critics echoed the sentiments of a review written for the “San Francisco Chronicle” by Judy Stone, “Michael Cacoyannis has taken another of his country’s treasures and turned it into a masterpiece of the art of the cinema. ‘Iphigenia’ is a film that restores the true dimensions of the word epic.”

Just as Papas preferred to express her views on sexism through her art rather than through political activism, she also preferred to make her political statements on film. Her opposition to the Greek junta was asserted by her role in “Z” (1969). The Z of the film is Gregory Lambrakis, a leftist member of the Greek parliament who was murdered in Thessaloniki by right-wing thugs who had the protection of highly-placed police officials. Papas plays the wife of Lambrakis. Just as in “Zorba” and “Trojan Women,” although her time on screen is relatively brief, her presence is essential to the film’s success.

As in her other film, Papas’ success in “Z” is due to her understanding that in cinema, body pos-

ture, facial expressions, and restrained gestures often express meaning more effectively than words and melodramatic physical movement. “Z,” which was directed by Greek-born Costa Gavras and featured music of Mikis Theodorakis that had been smuggled out of Greece, became an international hit that exposed the true nature of the Greek dictatorship and Costa Gavras as one of the world’s foremost directors

In the year preceding “Z,” Papas appeared in “A Dream of Kings,” a film version of the novel of the same name by Harry Mark Petrakis. Papas is again paired with Anthony Quinn who plays Leonidas Matsoukas, the male lead. The film is marred by over-acting by Anthony Quinn and the miscasting of Inger Stevens as a Greek. Papas, however, is perfect as the wife of Matsoukas, a woman who is angered by her husband’s numerous flaws but is instrumental in fulfilling his wish to take their dying son to Greece.

The range of subsequent Papas films is amazing. Earning critical acclaim were films such as the Italian “Eboli” (1979) and the Spanish “Erendira” (1984). She also acted in numerous English-languages films aimed at popular audiences.

She was a mafia wife in “Brotherhood” (1968), Catherine of Aragon in “Ann of the Thousand Days” (1969), and a murder suspect in “Bloodlines” (1979). Papas also worked in television until the late 1990s and more than fifty years after her film debut in Greece, she played an aging mother in “Captain Correlli’s Mandoli” (2001).

The multi-talented Papas revived her singing career in 1970 by appearing on the album “666” which featured a Greek rock band. The track of the album was considered lewd by the executives at Polydor Records who did not release it until 1972. Some religious figures and government authorities immediately denounced it as immoral. In 1979, Papas released “Odes,” an album performed and partly composed by Vangelis Papathanassiou. The words for the album were written by Arianna Stassinopoulos, the future Arianna Huffington. In 1986 Papas again collaborated with Papathanassiou on an album titled “Rhapsodies.”

Papas is frequently said to be a difficult person to interview. When I first spoke with her in 1980, I found that very much like her on-screen personality, she was intense and independent of mind. She wanted to know why I didn’t speak better Greek and questioned me about Greek America. In short, the interviewer got interviewed before Papas felt it worthwhile to spend time talking about her art. Journalists who only wanted the usual backstage chit-chat about Hollywood and Broadway were dismissed as quickly as possible.

That fierce independence has sometimes alienated the Greek press. Papas, however, refuses to adjust her views to fit the current critical tide. She bluntly expresses her displeasure that many contemporary Greek filmmakers totally dismiss the achievements of the post-war Greek studio system.. Although honored by dozens of awards throughout the world, Papas likes to describe herself as a “struggling actress.” When asked how she felt about never having won an Oscar, her response was classic Papas, “I never won an Oscar...and the Oscars never won Irene Papas.”

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ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ The National Herald
Από το 1915 για τον Ελληνισμό Bringing the news to generations of Greek Americans

Greeks in Opera: From Athens to Washington

Continued from page 1

Zeus who turned her into a laurel. *Dafne* has been lost but his *Euridice* (1600) has survived. Other operas based on Greek myths followed one another in quick succession and in 1607 Claudio Monteverdi entered the field with his Orfeo. It turned out to be the best of the crop and it is still performed.

The origins of opera are fairly clear. A number of Florentine poets, musicians and scholars had a series of meetings at the house of Count Giovanni Bardi in the late 16th century and formed a group known as the Florentine Camerata. They wanted to do something revolutionary; they wanted to revive the simplicity and beauty of Ancient Greek drama. They wanted to find a method to marry words and music in a perfect union (as they were in ancient Athens, they thought) where words would be sung naturally and the melody will intensify the intonation of the voice.

For the next two centuries, Greek mythology dominated the operatic imagination and most of the early operas were based on Greek subjects. The story of Orpheus was one of the most popular and more than 80 operas are based on the myth. The demigod falls in love with *Euridice* only to lose her when she is bitten by a serpent. He travels to the underworld where he needs to convince Charon to let him cross the Styx, and Pluto, the god of Hades, to let him have his love back. What composer could resist the challenge to write music so beautiful, that it will charm guardians of hell? The operas based on the Orpheus story range from Gluck’s *Orfeo ed Euridice* to Offenbach’s burlesque *Orpheus in the Underworld*. In the 20th century interest in Orpheus continued unabated with operas by Respighi (1935), Carl Orff (1940), and as far afield as Japan with Akutagawa’s *Orpheus in Hiroshima* (1970) and a Canadian entry with Gabriel Charpentier’s *Orpheus* (1972).



Mark Adamo

Iphigenia, Agamemnon’s daughter attracted almost as many composers by her fate. She was sacrificed by her father at Aulis in order to appease the gods and get favourable winds for the Greek fleet to sail off to Troy. She was saved by a goddess at the last moment and ended up in Taurus. Euripides’ two plays *Iphigenia in Aulis* and *Iphigenia at Taurus* are the sources for operas as well, from J.J. Löwe’s *Iphigenia* (1661) to Gluck’s two renderings in *Iphigénie en Aulide* (1774) and *Iphigénie en Tauride* (1779). Almost all of the operas about her were composed in the 18th century with only a handful in the 19th century. Twentieth century composers lost interest in Iphigenia and there are only a few operas about her by largely unknown composers.

The heart-wrenching story of Ariadne has inspired about seventy operas. She was the daughter of King Minos who fell in love with Theseus and helped him kill the Minotaur. He abandoned her on Naxos in one of the grosser examples of male treachery. Major composers such as Monteverdi (L’Arianna, 1608) Georg Frideric Handel (Arianna, 1734), Jules Massenet (Ariane, 1906) and



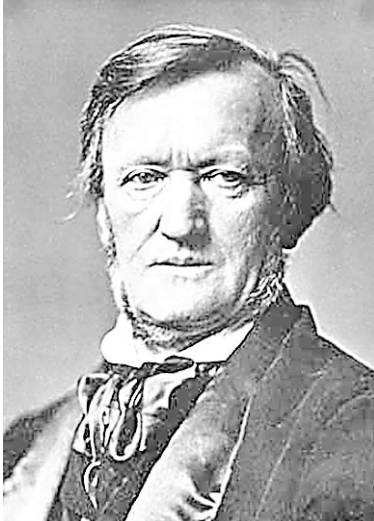
Carl Orff

Richard Strauss (Ariadne Auf Naxos, 1912) have told her story.

On the other hand Sophocles’s great *Antigone*, the essence of sisterly fidelity and female strength has interested only a few composers and only in the 20th century. Menelaos Pallantios composed his *Antigone* during World War II and Carl Orff in 1949.

No one seemed to give a hoot about Helen of Troy and only Offenbach has bothered her for a comic work, *La Belle Hélène* and Strauss in *Die Agyptische Helena*. *Electra*, Agamemnon’s other daughter who helped her brother Orestes kill their mother proved equally unappealing until Strauss’s 1909 ground-breaking and controversial masterpiece *Electra*. Orestes on the other hand merited a couple of dozen works including one by Handel.

The dark story of Oedipus has attracted only a handful of composers and the most notable operas based on the myth have been composed in the last century such as Leoncavallo’s *Edipo Re* (1920), Carl Orff’s *Oedipus der Tyrann* (1959) and Roy Travis’ *The Passion of Oedipus* (1968). The greatest setting of the Oedipus myth was by Igor Stravinsky in his opera-



Richard Wagner

oratorio *Oedipus Rex* (1927). Stravinsky in fact went through a “Greek period” when he composed a number of works based on Greek mythology including *Oedipus*.

The apotheosis of Greek mythology and drama was achieved in Richard Wagner’s massive *Ring of the Nibelungs*. For Friedrich Nietzsche, Wagner was Aeschylus come to life again. On the face of it the *Ring* cycle is based on Norse and Germanic myths but for Wagner the end product is deeply rooted in Homer and Aeschylus. His second wife Cosima noted in her diaries that Wagner used to compose in the morning and read Aeschylus and Sophocles in the afternoon. According to M. Owen Lee, a classicist and avid Wagnerian, “Greece was a major influence on Wagner at pivotal points in his development”. The curse that runs through the *Ring* is the same as the curse that dominates the *Oresteia*. The theft of the gold from the Rhine by Alberich does not appear in the original legend. The curse and the theft are direct borrowings from Greek mythology by way of Aeschylus. In short, if you want to experience Aeschylus, go see Wagner.

And there is no end in sight to the use of the endless imaginative wealth and variety of plots and themes that Greek mythology can provide. Adamo’s *Lysistrata* is a good example of the comic and musical possibilities of Aristophanes in the 21st century. The New York Times called the opera “a fantastical riff on the ancient Greek play” and the Baltimore Sun found that, in addition to the comedy, “the opera’s satiric/ironic side gives it greater weight. There is enough sexual innuendo and anti-war sentiment to have warranted a look by the Justice Department.”

Now, there is Greek drama reaching from the plains of Attica to the shores of the Potomac.

James Karas is a lawyer and writer in Toronto. He reviews opera for The Greek Press. Mr. Karas can be reached at jameskaras@rogers.com



ALL HISTORY

Demetrius Peter George: Forgotten Hero of the Battle of Hampton Roads

By Steve Frangos
Special to The National Herald

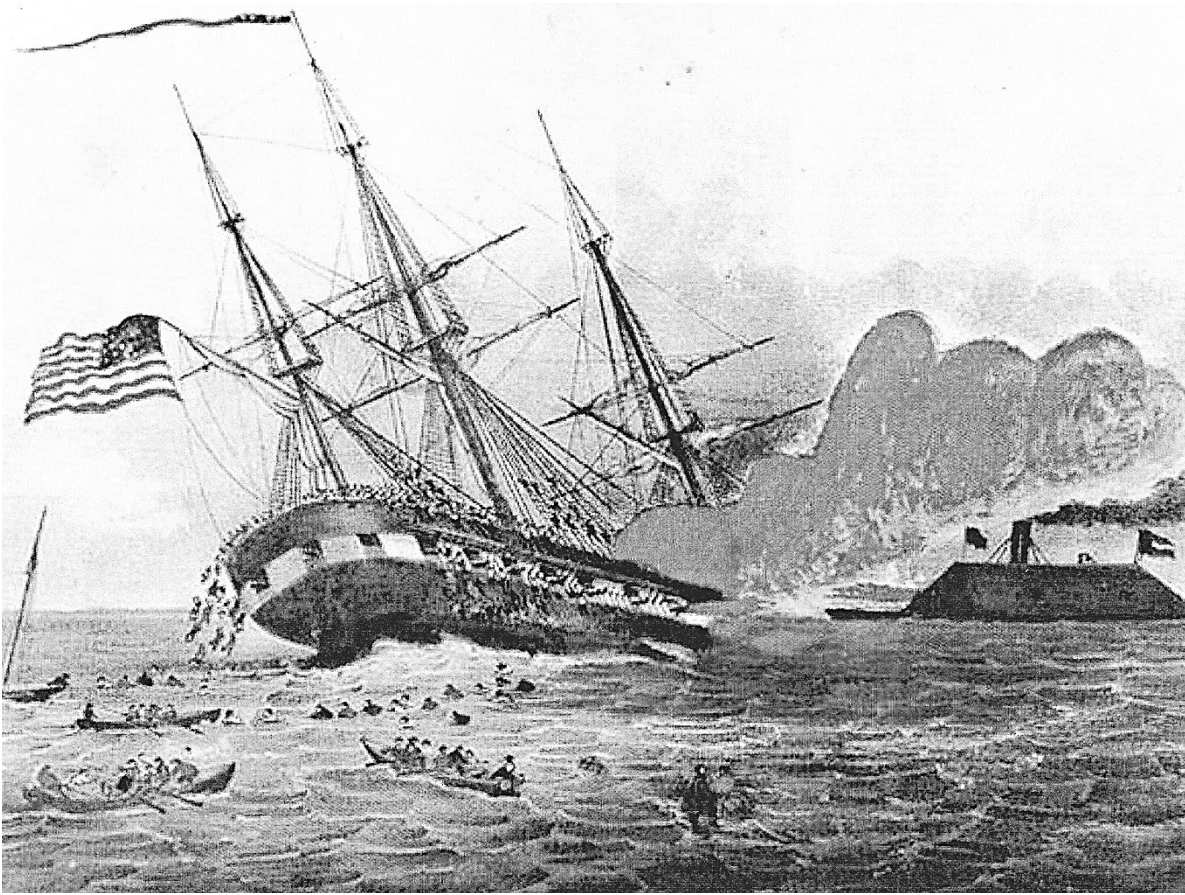
Given Demetrius Peter George’s, daring last minute rescue during the first day of the Battle of Hampton Roads, it is not surprising he became known as the “Greek Hero.” What is so utterly stunning is that that, today, his actions are a forgotten event of the American Civil War. The renowned two-day Battle of Hampton Roads, March 8 and 9, 1862, was that horrific running naval battle where steam-powered armored ships first proved their superiority over sail-powered wooden hull ships. The second day of this battle is when the USS Monitor and the CSA Virginia engaged in the first encounter between iron-clad ships in open naval warfare. Demetrius George’s lone dash aboard a rowboat altered events during the first day of battle.

But we are getting ahead of our story. Who was this Greek and how did he happen to arrive, witness and participate in this pivotal moment of naval history?

Demetrius Peter George was a Greek born in Thessaly around 1832. At the age of 14, George left his home and as so many other Hellenes before him went to sea. After traveling around the world five times young George settled in New York City, attempting to leave the sea far behind him. Unfortunately George’s life in Gotham of the 1850s is never described but we do know that in early 1860, George signed on to a merchant ship heading for the East Indies. Not long after his ship headed out, on April 12, 1861, the American civil war broke out when Confederate forces attacked a union military installation at Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

His merchant ship was turned over to union forces in Virginia. George offered to enlist with northern American military forces but was rejected. Yet George stayed on at the new union fort then being constructed at Newport News, Virginia. The young Greek served in some kind of support capacity for more than a year before the Battle of Hampton Roads.

On March 8, 1862, the Confederate sloop-of-war the CSS Virginia engaged a number of union vessels in the waters opposite Newport News. The CSS Virginia was in fact



The sinking of the Cumberland was a turning point of the Civil War and Demetrius Peter George played a huge role during the two-day Battle of Hampton Roads on March 8 and 9, 1962.

the savaged USS Merrimac which was refitted with iron plating and an iron-pointed ram.

The encounter between the CSS Virginia and the USS Cumberland was a decisive moment of the war. Michael J. Bennet, describes the last moments of the USS Cumberland in ‘Union Jacks: Yankee Sailors in the Civil War:’ “the story of the Cumberland’s sailors achieved such fame because of the dogged determination with which the crew fought. Early in the battle, the Merrimac gored the Cumberland, creating such a large hole that the ship began to sink rapidly. According to eyewitness accounts, not a seaman on the Cumberland left his station as the ship made water. Instead, men continued to work the guns by leaping from deck to deck as the water rose. Thomas Selfridge, an officer on the Cumberland, remarked that even through the ship was simultaneously sinking and being blasted apart, his

men continued their duties, “cool, grim, silent and determined.” Sailors remained steadfast to their guns even when forced to the uppermost decks of the ship. Only when the crew found itself within minutes of submerging completely did the officers give the order, “Every man look out for himself,” allowing sailors to leave their stations to save their lives.

Some men jumped into the surging waters. Many did not. Hoping to land that one lucky shot and seized with what the Cumberland’s surgeon likened to a ‘delirium,” a number of sailors refused to leave their stations. Stripped to the waist, black as powder, and with handkerchiefs bound around their heads, a handful of sailors on the Cumberland continued to load and fire at will. They were like “demons,” the surgeon recalled. One such demon had lost most of his appendages and had earlier refused any medical treatment. As the ship was

about to go under he was purported to have shouted, “Back to your guns, boys! Give em hell!” He and the rest of those who remained went down with the ship. (University of North Carolina Press, 2004: 201-202).”

Bennet posits that the seemingly endless stream of news accounts, poems and the wide array of lithographs depicting/describing the last moments of the USS Cumberland were a ready mix of ‘part romance, part reality’ Yet the actions of USS Cumberland officers and sailors unquestionably came to serve as a model of action under fire for all American sailors and officers for the remainder of the war and ever after. Bennet goes so far as to speculate that the last moments of the USS Cumberland crew ‘may have been the most remembered seamen of the war.”

Yet, somehow, it is no longer remembered that a clear-eyed young Greek sailed into the Cumberland’s

riggings just as she went under.

As George recalled: “I saw no person make any attempt at rescuing the sailors. So I asked permission of the commander of the forces in the fort to take a small gig (e.g. row boat) out to the sunken ship to rescue the men from the rigging of the sunken vessel. The position of the Cumberland at this time was directly opposite the fort and between the fort and the Merrimac. A heavy fusillade of cannonballs whizzed back and forth over the most of the ship, since the Merrimac had opened upon the fort, and the sailors were in imminent peril all this time. I got the boat out and pulled hard for the wreck. The men began to be discouraged and two of them fell from the rigging to the water, never to come up again.

After considerable exertion, I reached the wreck just as a marine fell from exhaustion and loss of blood, which was caused by a wound he received from a piece of flying shell. I reached out my hand to save him. As he descended I grabbed him by the coat and lifted him into the gig. The rest of the men were successful in getting down into the boat. There were seventeen of them in all.

We succeeded in landing safely, and had the sailors taken to the hospital, where they soon recovered (San Antonio Daily Express July 28, 1890).”

The USS Cumberland had a total crew of 376 officers and crew, 121 died at the Battle of Hampton Roads. The daring Greek, alone, saved 17 of that number and those he did were expressly the stalwart daredevil union sailors immortalized in poems and songs for the rest of the war.

Aside from news accounts of Demetrius George in the Pittsburgh Dispatch and those cited here I have found no official historical account anywhere of how the surviving USS Cumberland crew men---always described as clinging to the rigging until the end---ever managed to get ashore. At least the newspaper accounts report that so commonplace was knowledge of George’s actions that “the men who were engaged in that famous naval battle will no doubt remember Mr. George, who earned for himself the title of “Greek Hero” among his comrades. Up to the present time

the naval authorities in Washington have not recognized his feat in any official manner (Chicago Daily Tribune February 24, 1894).” Is this prejudice sublime?

At the end of the Civil War, Demetrius George settled in Chicago and lived there through the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, until around 1892. Sometime in the late 1860s, George had married a Canadian national by the name of Fanny. By 1870, the George’s had three sons: William (b. 1866), Harry (b. 1868) and Ilion (b. 1869). Over the next 20 years George was to have an additional three daughters Erico (b. 1877), Marion (b. 1878) and Marshe (b 1891).

Around 1892, George, a varnish maker, could not find work in Chicago and moved temporarily to Allegheny, Pennsylvania to live with a daughter who news accounts never identify by name. For at least two years, Demetrius George worked at the American Varnish Company in Allegheny. Not insignificantly, it is recorded in local Chicago newspapers that a number of early 1880 to 1890 Greek immigrants worked in local varnish factories. It was the inability of Demetrius George, the ‘Greek Hero of the Battle of Hampton Roads,’ to find steady work or get a military pension that lead to the articles of the 1890s. These same news accounts treat as a disgrace the news that George’s two oldest sons had to help support their father.

You judge for yourself what the young Greek sailor did at the Battle of Hampton Roads. You judge if Demetrius Peter George who was n’t good enough to join union forces or have Washington officials recognize his actions on March 8, 1861 accomplished anything of lasting worth. Better still ask if there are any descendants of the 17 union sailors he saved from certain death. Are there any surviving family stories of a lone Greek sailing through the gunfire into the sinking masts who reached his hand out through the fire and smoke to bring their ancestor to safety? That’s the only history that counts, anyway.

Readers interested in contacting Mr. Frangos are welcome to e-mail him at greekwrite@yahoo.com.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Limani: Greek Gem That Knows Its Way Around Fish

Continued from page 1

meats including a good-looking veal chop, lamb chops and cowboy steak. We tried the 16-ounce chicken breasts marinated with rosemary and thyme, which were running with juices. Still, the majority of the entrees ordered here are fish, and no wonder. Who could resist these bright-eyed, sparkling specimens? We tried the elegant Dover sole, fagri (described as a pink snapper from Greece) and a beautiful, meaty turbot.

All the fish were lightly grilled, filleted tableside and accompanied by a small bowl of ladolemono (lemon-olive oil) sauce. The sides that hit the spot were the horta, the grilled red and yellow peppers and Greek fries, crisp rounds sprinkled with oregano and topped with a light grating of kefalograviera cheese.

All desserts are house-made, including ice creams and sorbets. The latter included appealing flavors like pomegranate, cassis, passion fruit and pear. Chocolate lovers should head for the chocolatina, a pairing of a warm, oozing chocolate soufflé with roasted figs and fig ice cream. Another showstopper was bougatsa, citrus custard wrapped in phyllo and served warm. The similar galaktoboureko (cold custard and phyllo) was more ordinary.

At the end of the meal, the waiter or host takes diners’ valet tickets so cars will be warmed up and wait-



LEFT: Reno Christou, who worked at Estiatorio Milos for 16 years, beginning at age 15 as a busboy at the flagship restaurant in Montreal and transferring to the Manhattan sibling when it opened in 1997, is now the owner of Limani, which opened in December. RIGHT: Inside Limani Restaurant in Roslyn, N.Y.

ing when customers leave the restaurant — a nice touch on a frigid night. Limani is full of nice touches. Limani 1043 Northern Boulevard, Roslyn (516) 869-8989 limaniny.com

EXCELLENT THE SPACE Beautiful, all-white building with soaring ceilings and walls of windows. Wheelchair accessibility. THE CROWD Well-heeled couples and small groups. Few children.

THE BAR Very appealing space with a long white marble bar, marble tables for two and larger tables separating twin settees. Wine list of 350 selections by the bottle (\$32 to \$800) and 17 by the glass (\$10 to \$14). THE BILL Entrees range from \$28 (chicken) to \$55 a pound for

jumbo shrimp. Most fish range from \$24 to \$38 a pound. American Express, MasterCard, Visa and Discover are accepted. WHAT WE LIKE Fried zucchini and eggplant, crab cake, grilled octopus, tomato salad, fagri, Dover sole, turbot, chicken, horta, Greek

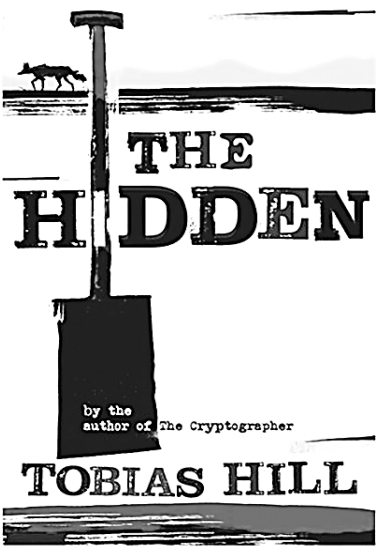
fries, grilled peppers, sorbets, chocolatina, bougatsa. IF YOU GO Dinner: 5 to 11 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 5 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday and 3 to 10 p.m. Sunday. Brunch: 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday. Reservations are a must. Valet parking.

BOOK REVIEW

The Hidden: A Portrait of Modern Greece and Spartan Violence

The Hidden
By Tobias Hill

There is even a name for those obsessed by the Spartans: Laconophiles. Sparta has always gripped popular imagination, from the writings of the fifth-century BC Thucydides to Zack Snyder’s film, 300. Yet material evidence for what we think we know — a highly ordered, martial society; subjugation of the serf-like helots; exposure of infants; heroic death at Thermopylae — is insubstantial, and Sparta’s collapse rich territory for speculation. Tobias Hill’s previous novels have dealt with the fantasies, dangers and surprises of exploring the unknown. Archaeology and a search for the elusive Spartans is a perfect topic for him.



In The Hidden, Ben Mercer, a lonely and unsettled young academic, arrives in mountainous southern Greece where a multinational archaeological team is excavating the site of Sparta. Mercer finds himself excluded by the close and hostile group already at work. As the team unearths skeletons, pottery and horror, it becomes clear that history is not just in the ground, but that every character, every act and decision conceals its own history in a tale of tribal belonging, memory and revenge. The secret they are hiding and the lengths to which Ben might go to be accepted by them will inevitably draw comparisons, unfairly, with Donna Tartt’s The Secret History. The Hidden is above all a superb portrait of modern Greece. As he

moves between Athens and the Peloponnese, Hill’s brilliance lies in capturing the contradictions of a country he knows well. It is not a place of sunny islands, genial taverna owners and affable chaos. Hill’s Greeks are tough, loyal and perceptive but also wary, secretive, vengeful and opportunistic. His novel confronts the beauty and brutality of a country which has its roots in antiquity and its face turned to the Balkans. Chapters set in contemporary Greece are interspersed with a vivid account of the Spartans. Glorification of violence lies at the heart of Greece’s distant past; political instability and atrocity have punctuated its recent history and, as an inadvertent background to current unrest, Hill’s description of a disconso-

late winter Athens, dripping with rain, anger and hopelessness, is as good as it gets. Hill is an accomplished poet as well as novelist and it is the balance between the two that raises a problem. In many ways the book is a fine extended meditation on loss and place rather than a conventional mystery. Indeed, the depiction of urban Greece has close resonances with poems such as his “London Pastoral”. But the powerful imagery tends to overwhelm characterisation. The languorous first two thirds, where the hard Greek winter slowly turns towards the warmth of spring, is wonderfully observed but, much of the time, the central characters on this magnificent stage are overwhelmed by the scenery.

The unfaithful wife who drove Mercer to Greece and catastrophe is unconvincing, her Oxford lover repellent, surely even to her? The members of the group are all so unlikeable that Mercer’s desperation to be accepted is baffling, yet this longing is as essential to the plot as is his wife’s rejection. Nor is there any plausible explanation for how this cabal came together and the motive for the concluding eruption of shocking violence is introduced abruptly and rather late. But it is hard to believe that even the author is keen on his modern cast; the figures who really come to life in Hill’s breathtaking landscape are the ghostly Spartans who claim it as their own.

Independent

DEATHS

■ CHAGARIS, GUSTER

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – The San Francisco Chronicle reported that Guster C. Chagaris passed away on Valentine's Day - the perfect day to celebrate the big heart and spirit he shared with all who knew him. He was dad, papou, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, friend. Most of all he was the loving and adoring husband of Irene, his soul-mate for 64 years. Dad had a great sense of humor, a contagious smile, and a twinkle in his eye. He was a man of integrity and service and his deeds and words were always loving and warm. He loved golf, playing cards and occasionally a good Manhattan. He loved his FSS trips with his two sons - a cherished tradition for many years. A CPA for nearly 40 years he was a mathematical whiz with a love of numbers. Gus served his country, a veteran and first lieutenant in World War II and the Korean War. He served his community as president of the Board of Directors of Mills-Peninsula Hospital 1969-1980. He was also the president of the N. Cal Hospital District Association and past president of the Kiwanis Club. A man of many gifts, he remains our inspiration. He was a long-time resident of Millbrae, age 90. The funeral was held on February 19 at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross in Belmont. Memorial donations to the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross (900 Alameda de Las Pulgas, Belmont, CA).

■ CHIAVARAS, BESSIE

WALTHAM, N.H. – The Daily News Tribune reported that Bessie H. Chiavaras, 92, of Waltham, formerly of Nashua, N.H., passed away on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, at the Hellenic Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Canton. Born January 24, 1917, in Nashua, N.H., she was the daughter of the late Peter and Elene (Spiroanopoulos) Dedousis. Bessie attended the local Nashua schools, and was a graduate of Nashua High School, Class of 1935. She later went on to St. Josephs Nursing School and earned her nursing degree in 1938. She was the first Greek-American registered nurse of her generation in Nashua. She worked for many years in Groton for Dr. Cyrus Comminos, and after returning to Nashua, was employed at St. Josephs Hospital until her retirement. Mrs. Chiavaras was always taking care of someone or something; she was a generous and kindhearted person. She enjoyed gardening, reading and was constantly involved with many philanthropic, social and community activities. Bessie was very involved with the church, a member of the Ladies AGAPE Society and the Waltham Garden Club, and was a lifelong member of the Hellenic Benevolent Womens Association. She will be remembered as a loving mother, mother-in-law and friend to many. Besides her parents, Bessie was predeceased by her husband, Daniel S. Chiavaras, in 1977; four brothers, Nicholas Dedousis, Peter Spiro Dedousis, George Dedousis and James Dedousis; a sister, Cornelia Contis; and her son-in-law, Thomas Christopher. She is survived by one daughter, Lela Chiavaras of Waltham; a sister, Angela Rodrick of Lowell; as well as several nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews. The funeral was held on February 14 at St. Philip Greek Orthodox Church in Nashua. Memorial donations to St. Philip Greek Orthodox Church (500 W. Hollis St., Nashua, NH 03062) or to the Hellenic Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (601 Sherman St., Canton, MA 02021).

■ GALLOS, RITA

WINSTON-SALEM, Mass. – The Winston-Salem Journal reported that Rita Gallos passed away on Saturday, February 14, 2009. Rita Gallos was born in Claremont, New Hampshire on June 30, 1924 to the late John and Merope Athanas and moved to High Point as a young child. Rita married Tom Gallos and moved to Winston-Salem, where she lived her entire adult life. Rita was very active with a variety of civic activities some of which include the Garden Club Council, International Festival and SCAN. Rita was a vital member of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and was one of the founders of the Southeastern Choir Federation of the Atlanta Diocese of the Greek Orthodox Church. Because of all of her works with the Philoptochos philanthropic group and choir organizations, Rita received many accolades including a special medal of recognition from His Eminence, Archbishop Iakovos. Mrs. Gallos was preceded in death by her husband of 43 years Tom Gallos; son, Chris Gallos (Sandy); and a sister, Efte Caplanides. She is survived by her loving daughters, Sue Telegolou (Spiros) and Robin Swaim (Dan), and her beloved grandsons, Joseph, Michael, Thomas, AJ, and Chris. Also surviving are her dear sisters, Andra Fragakis of Winston-Salem, Janie Gliarmis (Lee) of Wilson, and Ann Athanas of High Point and numerous nieces, nephews and lifelong friends, who she treasured and who will miss her dearly. Rita was a quiet, steady and fun-loving woman of great strength. We all learn by example and Mom left us many great examples of how we should live our lives. Her hands of love are still now but God has her in his loving arms. The funeral was held on February 16 at The Greek Orthodox Church. Burial was at Forsyth Memorial Park.

■ GAVREL, GEORGIA

HOUSTON, Texas – The Houston Chronicle reported that Georgia Klaras Gavrel passed away on Friday, February 13, 2009, in Houston, Texas, at the age of 97. A native Houstonian, Georgia was born on the 10th of December 1911, the third of seven children to George and Calliope Vlahos Klaras, who were among the first of Greek-American immigrants to establish in Houston, and were part of the founding group involved in the formation of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church here. Georgia was proud to be a product of the Houston public school system, graduating with honors from Central High School, which would later become Sam Houston High School. She went on to attend the Rice Institute (now Rice University) for two years. She put herself through college by working as a concession vendor at The Hermann Park Zoo, and vending newspapers on Houston Avenue and Memorial Drive. In 1931, during the height of the great depression, she married the love of her life, Chris Gavrel, and together they opened Gavrel's Cleaners, a dry-cleaning business, where they worked together every day until retiring in 1970. She implemented her scholarly talents to benefit her Greek immigrant husband, who lacked any formal education, by tutoring him, thus enhancing his reading, writing and arithmetic skills. Dissatisfied with retirement, she took a job selling ladies shoes, a job she would remain employed for five years. For over forty-five years she called West University Place "home." There her life was filled with love and happiness from a host of wonderful neighbors who visited her almost every day, treating her as though she was their own mother. She remained active all the while, mowing her own lawn until she turned 90 and driving a 5-speed manual transmission Ford Bronco to age 93. Refusing to rely on domestic help, she insisted on doing her own house work. Her book-keeping skills rivaled those of a Certified Public Accountant, retaining and maintaining all the books from 1931 to date. Georgia K. Gavrel's spirit and independence was up to the standards of her Greek Spartan heritage; she was tough when necessary, but kind and loving at all the right times. Her following among relatives, friends and neighbors reached celebrity and iconic status. She was a true superstar. Georgia was predeceased by her loving husband of 56 years, Chris G. Gavrel, and her loving daughter-in-law Marian Gavrel, and is survived by her son Coach C. Gavrel, along with many loving nieces and nephews to whom she was known as "Aunt Jo-Jo." The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to her caregivers, Mary Thompson and Jean Jackson. The funeral was held on February 17 at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Houston. Burial was at Forest Park Lawn-dale Cemetery. Memorial donations to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral (3511 Yoakum Street, Houston, TX 77006).

■ KALDES, JAMES

CAMP HILL, Penn. – The Patriot-News reported that James Kaldes, 93, of Camp Hill, passed away on February 12, 2009 in Camp Hill surrounded by his loving family. Born October 16, 1915 in Tripoli, Greece, he was the son of Vasilios and Angeliki Belehas Kaldes. A proud citizen of the United States of America and an honorably discharged Veteran of the United States Army, he served with the 100th Infantry Division, including service at the Battle of the Bulge. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Peter and Basilios Kaldes and a sister, Frances Pazakis. Jimmy is survived by his wife of 61 years, Athena; a son, William J. and wife Stephanie of Mechanicsburg, PA; a daughter, Helen Rassias and husband Nick of Exton, PA; a granddaughter, Faithe and husband Andreas Kalisperis; a grandson, Dimitri Rassias; a granddaughter, Jennifer and husband Eric Solomon; a granddaughter, Jessica Kaldes; a great granddaughter, Eleni Maria Kalisperis; two sisters in Greece including Margo and husband Pericles Georgopoulos and Angela Panousis; and many wonderful nieces and nephews. Following his return from military service, Jimmy worked for his beloved uncles, George and James Belehas at the Spot Restaurant located on the square in Harrisburg. Jimmy and Athena eventually purchased the Spot Restaurant, a Harrisburg landmark, moving it to 2nd and Walnut Streets, at which time his son, Billy and wife Stephanie took ownership. Jimmy was a member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Camp Hill, PA; a member of the Saints Joachim and Anna Society; a sixty-five year life member of Chapter 64 of the Order of Ahepa; a life member of American Legion Post 27; a life member of Post 6704, Veterans of Foreign Wars; lifetime charter member of the National World War II Memorial; and many other organizations. The funeral was held on February 16, at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Camp Hill. Memorial donations to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

■ KAPPOTIS, GEORGE

BEVERLY, Mass. — The Salem News reported that George C. Kappotis 82, of Beverly, passed away on Saturday, February 14, 2009 at Beverly Hospi-

tal following a brief illness. He was the loving husband of Phyllis (Sawyer) Kappotis with whom he shared 59 years of marriage. Born in Ipswich, George was the son of the late Consontinos and Chrisoula (Theocropoulos) Kappotis. Mr. Kappotis worked for several companies including; B&M Railroad, Peabody Leather, Danvers State Hospital, Mediplex and most recently at the Market Basket in Middleton. A member of St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, George was a member of St. Val's men's club. He was an avid Red Sox fan and during his younger years, George was involved with the Peabody Little League as a coach and with the Boy Scouts, as a Scout. Leader of troop 38. Surviving him are his four children; Charles Kappotis of Beverly, John Kappotis and his wife Gail of Florida, Ernie Kappotis and his wife Anne of Peabody and Christine Soucy and her husband Joe of New Hampshire. He was the brother of Peter Kappotis and his wife Julia of Peabody, Ernie Kappotis and his wife Susan of Florida, Mildred and her husband Bill Baltoumas of Peabody and Angie Effim of Peabody. Besides his 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Ann Tzouris and Joan Fedas. The funeral was held on February 18 at St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church in Peabody. Burial was at Harmony Grove Cemetery in Salem. Memorial donations to the American Cancer Society (30 Speen St., Framingham MA 01701).

■ KATSAROS, MARY

MARSTONS MILLS, Mass. — The Cape Cod Times reported that Mary Katsaros passed away peacefully in her sleep on February 13, 2009, one month after her 92nd birthday. She was the wife of the late Gus Katsaros. In 1946, Mary (Damascus) of Boston married Gus Katsaros of New York City after meeting during World War II while Gus was stationed at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod. The oldest of three siblings growing up during the Depression, Mary learned the value of hard work. She worked well in to her 70s, first as a bookkeeper for Manny Maxwell & Moore and Hooker Chemical, and later as a retail saleswoman for Macy's. She spent much of her life on Long Island, away from her beloved New England, where she and Gus were an active part of the founding community of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Hempstead, N.Y., and where she served as a Sunday school teacher for 20 years. A longtime advocate for her Greek-American heritage, she adopted several causes promoting the values of Hellenic culture. She was a member of both St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Centerville and St. Michael Orthodox Church in Cotuit. Mary is survived by two sons, Arthur Katsaros and his wife Denise of Center Valley, Pa., and John Katsaros and his wife Robin of Los Altos, Calif.; five grandchildren, Dean, Patricia, Beth, Christopher and Matthew; two great-grandchildren, Thomas and Carmen; and a sister, Helen Nichols of Boardman, Ohio. She was predeceased by a brother, John Damascus. The funeral was held at St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Hempstead, N.Y. Burial was at Pine Lawn Cemetery in Farmingdale, N.Y. Memorial donations to St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church, (62 Main St., Cotuit, MA 02635).

■ JOHN S. MORAITES, JD

Beloved husband of Dena Moraites (nee Pelekis), devoted and loving father of Steve J. Moraites and Eleni (James M.) Floras, proud Papou of Anthony and G. Dimitri Floras, brother of Dr. Richard (Aphrodite) Moraites, uncle of Stratton, Nicholas and Eleni Moraites, brother-in-law of Mary (late George) Chiampas and late Gus (Lillian) Pelekis, uncle of Dean Chiampas, Pamela Swan, Georgi and George Pelekis, many cousins, great nieces, nephews and friends. Services were held at the Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church 7000 Winton Rd.; Rev. Fr. Cyprian Streza officiating. Burial was at Spring Grove Cemetery. If desired, memorials may be made to the church or charity of your choice. Anderson Funeral Home serving the family. Succumbed to his neuromuscular problem on Sunday September 28, 2008. John was born and raised in Cincinnati. His parents were Steve and Helen Moraites who were Greek refugees from the Turkish World War One holocaust that uprooted over one million Greeks from their ancestral homelands in 1922. John attended local schools and graduated from Western Hills High School in 1942. He attended the University of Cincinnati but was called to military service after the attack on Pearl Harbor. John enlisted in the United States Navy and after boot camp received training to become a hospital corpsman; he was assigned to lone medical duty on a inesweeper, the USS Strategy. As hostilities in the Pacific became acute, he was transferred to the USS Rescue, a hospital ship in the 5th Fleet, to minister to those wounded and dying from many island battles. He was at the battles of Saipan and Okinawa where his ship was the focus of the suicidal Kamikazi attacks by Japanese aircraft. His ship was the first American vessel to enter Tokyo Bay after Japan surrendered. After the war, John resumed his pre-war studies at the University of Cincinnati; thereafter he entered the

school of law of the University of Alabama, where he obtained his Juris Doctor degree in 1951. He was admitted to the practice of law in the State of Alabama in 1951, and to Ohio bar in 1952. He subsequently formed the law partnership of Vollman, Moraites and Buttafoco. From 1968 to 1975, he was a municipal court prosecutor for the city of Cincinnati; he functioned as an administrative law judge for the State of Ohio hearing unemployment compensation appellate cases. He was also admitted to practice before the United States District Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. John was a member of the Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. John served his church all his life: in many parish posts including as historian, member of the board of trustees 1954 – 1972 and, and community president in 1961 - 1963. He received recognition and was honored by his parish for his many years of service. He also served on a national level with the Archdiocese and was a member of the Board of Trustees of Holy Cross Theological School at Brookline, MA, 1961 – 1963, being elected at a Clergy Laity Congress of the Archdiocese; John also served as a member of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Detroit. John received an award from the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople from Patriarch Bartholomew for service to his church.

■ POLITIS, THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. – The Citizen's Voice reported that Thomas Politis, 74, passed away on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 in Hollywood, Fla. Born Sept. 3, 1934, in Kingston, he was the son of the late Peter and Margaret Alexander Politis. Mr. Politis was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in the Special Services during the Korean Conflict. He was also a member of the Masonic Temple, the Pennsylvania Restaurant Association, the Shriners of North America and the Organ Guild. Mr. Politis was a graduate of Wyoming Seminary and a member of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Greater Wilkes-Barre. Mr. Politis, a longstanding member of the community, began his restaurant career in the family's landmark restaurant, The Spa, on South Main Street in Wilkes-Barre. Mr. Politis, together with his business partner, Theodore Tvorak, founded Regency Catering in 1969. Regency Catering was originally headquartered at the American Legion Post 132 on River Street in Wilkes-Barre. He was a past commander of Post 132. In 1972, Regency Catering moved its headquarters to Convention Hall in Pittston. Mr. Politis was also co-proprietor of Danilo's in Old Forge from 1972 to 1992. An avid musician, Mr. Politis was a member of the All Army Chorus and was featured on the "Ed Sullivan Show" in 1958 as a winner of the All Army contest. Mr. Politis, a beloved brother, uncle and friend, is survived by his sisters, Zoe Koltis, Hollywood, Fla.; Rhea Simms and her husband, Ronald, Shavertown; four nieces and nephews; three great-nephews; and one great-niece. Memorial donations to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church (32 E. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701).

■ TOSCOS, NADIA

FORT WAYNE, Ind. – The Fort Wayne Newspapers reported that Nadial (Yovan) Toscos, 92, passed away on Tuesday, February 17, 2009, at Heritage of Huntington. Born in Fort Wayne, she was a home maker. She was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and it's Philoptochos Society, District Treasurer for three years for the Daughter's of Penelope, and was their Woman of the Year in 1993. A very loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, flowers, music, and golf. Survivors include her son, Michael (Beth) Toscos of Fort Wayne; daughters, Zorana (Jim) Luellen of Fort Wayne and Victoria Moring of Huntington; five grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter. She was preceded in death by her husband, James G. Toscos, in 1984; parents, Christ and Sophia Yovan; two brothers; and two sisters. The funeral was held on February 20 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Burial was at Greenlawn Memorial Park. Memorial donations to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church or Make-A-Wish Foundation.

■ ZEKOS, THELMA

WORCESTER, Mass. – The Worcester Telegram & Gazette reported that Thelma Esther (Caragian) Zekos, 72, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at her daughter's home on Saturday, February 7, 2009 after valiantly battling pancreatic cancer. Thelma Zekos was a devoted mother, genuine friend, fearless loyalist and a phenomenal woman whose blue eyes sparkled. She was loved by

everyone and touched the hearts of all those who were so blessed to have her in their lives. She was an inspirational woman whose angelic nature, boundless energy, graceful presence, zest for life, strength, and unwavering devotion to family will be remembered eternally. She was a petite but powerful woman with a blazing spirit and faced her illness with courage and intensity. "Thelly," as she was affectionately called, prepared gourmet meals with ease and graciously welcomed guests into her home. She savored dining out and being first to try the newest restaurant. She relished visiting new places, traveling with friends and spending an overnight at a 5 star inn. Her love of family was evident in everything she did and she delighted in spending time with her children and absolutely adored her grandchildren. She was the "rock" of the family. Mrs. Zekos was born in Marlborough, the daughter of Emmanuel and Alexandra (Magiannis) Caragian. She graduated from Marlborough High School and attended St. Louis University. She was beautiful in many ways and in 1954 was crowned Miss Marlborough. Thelma worked at St. John's High School for 16 years and was a driving force in her son Paul's auction company where she helped raise millions of dollars for charity. Mrs. Zekos leaves a daughter Lynne A. Zekos and her

husband Joseph Trotta of Shrewsbury and their three children Stephanie and Joseph Kamataris and Paul Trotta, a son Peter C. Zekos of Hudson and his children Thomas, Elena, and Nicholas, a son Paul T. Zekos of Shrewsbury, a sister Constance Stergion of Missouri, several nieces, nephews, and many, many friends. She was predeceased by her husband Thomas P. Zekos, two sisters, Vasiliki (Bessie) Evangelous and Christina Casaceli, three brothers, Apostolos (Toby) Caragian, Stavros (Chava) Caragian, and Alexander Caragian, and a daughter-in-law Janet (Kruczynski) Zekos. She believed strongly in her faith and was a member of St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Worcester, where she was past president of the Women's Guild, a member of the Ladies' Philoptochos Society, and a former Sunday School teacher. Mrs. Zekos was also a member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Shrewsbury, and belonged to the Shrewsbury Women's Club. The funeral was held on February 12 at St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Worcester. Burial was at Mountain View Cemetery in Shrewsbury. Memorial donations to either St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, (34 Gold St., Shrewsbury, MA 01545) or St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral, (102 Russell St., Worcester, MA 01609).

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Gunmen Fire Shots Outside Greek TV Station

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Gunmen fired shots and threw a suspected explosive device outside a private television station in Athens on Tuesday, causing no injury but raising fears that small Greek militant groups are expanding their targets.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which occurred before the station's main evening news bulletin, when the building was full of employees.

Alter TV said four men in motorcycle helmets and hoods fired several shots in the car park at its western Athens central offices, damaging parked cars. The station said the gunmen threatened a guard and threw a small explosive device that failed to detonate, then escaped on two motorcycles.

Police spokesman Panayiotis Stathis said explosives experts are examining the device.

A police statement said 12 casings from 7.65 and 9 mm caliber bullets were found at the scene of the attack. Such ammunition has been used in recent strikes on police targets by small far-left militant groups, but ballistics experts were not immediately able to confirm whether the guns employed Tuesday had been used in previous attacks.

Interior Minister Prokopis Pavlopoulos condemned the attack, which he said was aimed "against the news media and democracy itself."

"The police will do whatever possible to apprehend those guilty of this attack and take measures to show that events like this do not occur in the future," he said.

The head of the Athens Journal-

ists Union, Panos Sombolos, said he believed local far-left militants were behind the shooting.

"It is very likely — even though it is very early — that we are dealing with the same people who have made recent threats against journalists," Sombolos said.

The attack follows similar strikes against police targets following the Dec. 6 police shooting of a 15-year-old boy — an incident that sparked Greece's worst riots in decades.

On Feb. 3, gunmen fired shots and threw a hand grenade, which failed to explode, at an Athens police station, causing no injury. A previously unknown group calling itself Sect of Revolutionaries claimed responsibility for the attack in a proclamation left on the dead teenager's grave.

The proclamation had threatened to continue attacks on police, and to also target journalists and politicians.

Last month, a far-left group called Revolutionary Struggle claimed responsibility for a Jan. 5 shooting that seriously wounded a 21-year-old riot policeman in central Athens.

The group is best known for firing a rocket-propelled grenade into the U.S. Embassy in Athens in 2007.

Former Public Order Minister Michalis Chrysochoidis warned that the militants would continue their attacks unless they are stopped.

"I have warned before that we have entered a new stage of (militant violence) which will prove to be a nightmare for human life and for our country," he said.

"Unfortunately we are dealing with people with no rationale or ideology, who just want to cause harm."

Police foil bomb attack at Citibank in Athens

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greek police destroyed a powerful car bomb left outside the offices of Citibank in a northern Athens suburb early Wednesday in an escalation of left-wing militant attacks.

The bomb — 110-130 pounds (50-60 kilograms) of an ammonium nitrate fuel oil explosive mixture attached to a timer — was found after a guard at the bank's offices saw a car being abandoned and called police. Police said at least three people were seen leaving the car with their faces covered.

The bomb squad destroyed the device shortly before 7 a.m. (0500 GMT), police spokesman Panagiotis Stathis said.

The explosives had been packed in five 12-liter propane gas canisters attached to two mechanical clocks, batteries and detonators.

No warning call was made, authorities said. It was not immediately known what time the bomb had been set to go off.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but authorities suspect the device was the work of the left-wing Revolutionary Struggle, a group that first appeared in 2003 and is best known for firing a rocket-propelled grenade into the U.S. Embassy in 2007 that caused no injuries.

In past proclamations, Revolutionary Struggle has sought to portray itself as a champion of the poor and oppressed, and has espoused anti-capitalist, anti-American and anti-European Union views. In its most recent statement, it called for a widespread armed uprising against the state and said it aimed to avenge the death of a teenager



EUROKINISSI

Greek police destroyed a powerful car bomb left outside the offices of Citibank in a northern Athens suburb on Wednesday, February 18, 2009. Authorities suspect the device was the work of the left-wing Revolutionary Struggle, a group that first appeared in 2003.

killed in December by a policeman. The boy's death sparked Greece's worst riots in decades.

Wednesday's car bomb was found hours after gunmen opened fire and threw an explosive device that failed to explode in the parking lot of the private Alter television station. Nobody was hurt but the attack shows that militants may be expanding their range of targets. Previous attacks have focused mainly on police.

Ballistics tests showed the weapons used in the TV station at-

tack were used in a similar attack against an Athens police station two weeks ago, police announced Wednesday.

That attack, which also caused no injuries, was claimed by a previously unknown group calling itself Sect of Revolutionaries, which has vowed to expand their targets to include journalists and politicians, among others. That group's statement, issued earlier this month, lacked any clear political aims, with the group declaring: "We don't do politics, we do guerrilla warfare."

Athens has seen a spate of attacks by domestic far-left extremists in the past two months, in the wake of the December riots.

Greece has faced targeted attacks by domestic terrorist groups for decades. But authorities believed the problem had diminished after the arrest of several members of the country's deadliest group, November 17, following a botched bombing in 2002. That group killed 23 people in nearly three decades of targeted bombings and shootings.

U.S. Senator Offers Help in Cyprus Peace Talks

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A U.S. senator made an unofficial offer Tuesday to help the leaders of Cyprus' rival communities in peace talks to reunify the divided island.

Sen. Richard Durbin said he has offered assistance to President Dimitris Christofias, a Greek Cypriot, and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat. He did not elaborate.

"We don't have a specific offer. I mean, what we said was we're available to help. And again, it is for both sides to decide what that help might be," the Illinois Democrat told The Associated Press after talks with Christofias.

Durbin, who will travel on to Greece and Turkey this week, said his three-day Cyprus visit is not as an official representative of President Barack Obama.

But he added he will convey to both the U.S. president and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

the message that the peace talks are "an opportunity in history that we shouldn't miss." "We should do everything we can if we're asked or called on to make this work," he said.

Cyprus was split into a break-away Turkish Cypriot north and an internationally-recognized Greek Cypriot south in 1974 when Turkey invaded in response to a coup by supporters of union with Greece.

Cyprus joined the European Union in 2004, but only Greek Cypriots enjoy the bloc's benefits.

Numerous U.N.-sponsored initiatives to reunify the island have failed over the last 35 years, including the most comprehensive bid in 2004 when Greek Cypriots rejected — and Turkish Cypriots approved — a U.N.-backed plan.

Christofias and Talat ended a four-year stalemate last year when they agreed to restart peace talks.



EUROKINISSI

Central Bank Governor and ECB governing council member George Provopoulos announced that Greece economy will grow by only 0.5 % in 2009.

Central Bank Governor: Global woes hit Economy

Continued from page 1

the government have deteriorated significantly in recent months. This increase in the cost of government borrowing is diffused to the entire Greek economy," he said.

Greek bond spreads over German bonds have widened to a record of over 300 basis points last month as investors turned away from euro zone periphery debt for safer ground.

The yield spread was about 280 points on Monday. Provopoulos said spreads were not expected to narrow significantly in coming months.

He said credit expansion to the private sector would slow but could come to 10 percent if banks take full advantage of a 28 billion euro bailout plan and if economic activity boost household income.

Greek banks, which have liquidity issues but no serious capital adequacy problems, have been slow to participate in the support plan. Provopoulos said unemployment, at 7.8 percent in November, was not expected to rise dramatically as the work force increase has slowed in the last four years. But the current account deficit will remain high, reflecting weak competitiveness.

Greece's Privatization Battle

By Ayse Ferliel and Alkman Granitsas
Wall Street Journal

ATHENS, Greece- The Greek government may have trouble meeting its 2009 privatization goals in the current economic climate, adding pressure to an economy already burdened by high levels of debt. The government aims to net €1 billion (\$1.29 billion) this year with a round of privatizations.

Economists, however, say that target may be overambitious, citing the recent failure to sell state-owned carrier Olympic Airlines SA and the container-handling operations at the port in Thessaloniki. Not meeting the privatization goal could be a major problem for Greece, which desperately needs to sell off state-owned assets.

With a debt burden equal to more than 90% of gross domestic product, Greece has the second-highest debt ratio in the euro zone after Italy.

As a result of the economic crisis, the cost of servicing that debt has risen to a forecast €12 billion this year from under €10 billion

two years ago. The cost now consumes about one-sixth of budget outlays.

"The privatization target... sounds rather overambitious and excessively optimistic," said George Pagoulatos, an associate professor of politics at the Athens University of Economics and Business. The unfavorable economic climate, lack of liquidity in the markets and increased credit risk could further jeopardize the privatization program, Mr. Pagoulatos said.

The latest blow came last week when state-owned Thessaloniki Port Authority SA, which operates Greece's second-largest port after Athens's Piraeus Port, formally invalidated a bid by a consortium including the ports unit of Hong Kong-based ports operator Hutchison Whampoa Ltd.

The Hutchison-led consortium had already withdrawn its winning bid of €419.5 million to manage the container operations at the port in December after failing to secure financing for the project. The formal invalidation of the bid paves the way for either a new privatization tender or fresh talks with sec-

ond- and third-placed bidders Cosco Pacific Ltd. and Dubai Ports World Sokhna.

The announcement came less than two weeks after the government canceled the long-awaited privatization tender for unprofitable national carrier Olympic Airlines after failing to receive satisfactory bids. The highest bid for Olympic's flagship flight operations was €24.5 million, roughly half of what the government had set as a minimum price.

The Greek government has a long list of companies slated for privatization - ranging from small banks to state-owned tourist enterprises and casinos.

Newly appointed Finance Minister John Papathanassiou earlier this month told reporters the government would announce its privatization plans in greater detail in the next few weeks.

"The privatization process will continue, despite the currently unfavorable conditions of the financial markets, and is expected to yield at least €1 billion," Mr. Papathanassiou said.

One possibility could be for the

government to exercise its option to sell a 5% stake in former telecom monopoly Hellenic Telecommunications Organization SA to Deutsche Telekom AG.

Last year, the government reached a three-way €3.2 billion deal with Deutsche Telekom and Greek private-equity fund Marfin Investment Group Holdings SA under which the German company acquired 25% of OTE.

The agreement envisions a series of put options under which the government could sell an additional 5% stake in OTE to DT at €27.50 a share. If implemented, this sale would raise just under €675 million - more than half the government's privatization target for 2009.

But economists say this may prove difficult with OTE shares currently trading at around €12 a share. A likely possibility is for the government to complete a revamped privatization program for Olympic Airlines.

The three separate components of Olympic - flight operations, ground handling facilities and the technical base - could, combined, net more than €100 million.

Police to Use Dogs to Control Fans

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Police officers in Greece can now sic dogs on sports fans — but not on demonstrators.

Officials say the Supreme Court has approved a draft presidential decree allowing police dogs to be used to control crowds at sporting events, but not demonstrations.

Judges also approved the use of dogs on foot patrols, where they can assist with arrests.

But the Court said Wednesday

officers cannot use dogs to control crowds during demonstrations or non sports gatherings.

Crowd violence at Greek sports events — particularly soccer games — is common. And the country has recently been wracked by demonstrations, a number of which turned violent.

Police currently use sniffer dogs to detect drugs and explosives. The decree does not require parliamentary approval.

HIDDEN GREECE

Hidden Greece will present 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.



The Forgotten Store

Not all stores make it in Athens, and some of the saddest still linger in neighborhoods, testament to dreams long gone and making a passer-by wonder just what it was like when they were still there.

Uncovering ancient secrets beneath the surface

CHICAGO (AP) — Scholars are reconsidering what ancient Greek mathematician and inventor Archimedes knew of the concept of infinity, and archaeologists may have found a fossil brain millions of years old, thanks to new ways of looking beneath the surface of ancient objects.

Using modern X-ray and spectral imaging, researchers are uncovering two ancient manuscripts by Archimedes, who lived in Sicily in the third century B.C., Uwe Bergmann of the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory told a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on Sunday.

In the 1300s the texts were scraped off the parchment and written over to create a prayer book, Bergmann said.

But now scholars have been able to discern the original writing of Archimedes' "The Method" and "The Stomachion," volumes that exist nowhere else.

It emerges that Archimedes was far ahead of his time, using a form of calculus and devising ways to

add an infinite number of sums, Bergmann said.

What is known of Archimedes' concept of infinity is likely to have to change from this, he said at a symposium on using modern methods to uncover the secrets of the past.

The document, called the Archimedes Palimpsest, came to light in 1997 when an anonymous collector purchased it at auction and sent it to the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore for study.

The document was originally written in the 10th century, Bergmann said, and no earlier copies remain.

Archimedes was a famed mathematician in his own time and is still studied today. Roman soldiers killed him when they conquered Syracuse in 212 B.C.

Paul Tafforeau of the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility in France told the session that studies of fish from the Devonian period, 350 million to 400 million years ago, have disclosed the presence of an ancient fossilized brain.

A first of its kind, Tafforeau said,

the fossil brain is expected to be formally reported and described in the scientific literature within a few weeks.

Francesca Casadio of the Art Institute of Chicago reported that radiation studies have allowed scholars to differentiate three bronze storage vessels from China.

Two of the vessels were archaic, she said, while the third turned out to be a later copy.

The study determined that a wine vessel made of bronze with tin and a little lead dated to China's oldest dynasty, the Shang, who ruled between 1600 B.C. and 1050 B.C.

A grain container was cast in a copper-tin alloy with lead, and dated to the Zhou dynasty between 1045 B.C. and 771 B.C. But the third container turned out to be a copper-zinc alloy with lead and tin, made in the 12th century A.D. in the style of the earlier containers.

"It was not necessarily done to deceive," she said, "but out of sheer appreciation for the earlier ones." Nonetheless, the testing does help scholars know more about that

they are studying without damaging the art.

"For a museum, that is very important," she said. And, Casadio added, "we learn how to protect and exhibit it so it will last another 4,000 years. We learn what was cutting edge technology 4,000 years ago." Jen Hiller of Diamond Light Source in the United Kingdom described the use of large radiation machines built to check on jet engines to study Egyptian statues. The Egyptians would sometimes place images or other items inside a statue, she said, and now that can be revealed without breaking things open.

X-ray studies of mummies have been done for years but not with the detail now available. Tafforeau also said radiation images have allowed researchers to study the contents of opaque pieces of amber, disclosing hundreds of animal parts from as long as 100 million years ago, including an unusual feather that could turn out to belong to a feathered dinosaur or an intermediate stage between dinosaurs and birds.

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Falling away from Hellenism

In a sweeping interview this week, Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos, one of our community’s greatest scholars and theologians, very matter-of-factly provides synoptic answers to the fundamental problems afflicting the Greek Orthodox Church in America.

Although he did not use the word, he basically told us the Church is not advancing its mission effectively in this country because of apostasy – a falling away from our faith and sacred tradition, an abandonment of our fundamental beliefs.

In the strictest sense, apostasy – a distancing from God – is a grave sin. We are not using the term in its strictest sense here. We are using it to describe a general condition afflicting the minds and lives of many faithful throughout this country, and the clergymen who are supposed to be guiding the flock of God toward salvation.

It turns out that the lofty concept of salvation is not so esoteric, after all. Father Constantelos, himself an esoteric person, readily isolates the illness: Many members of the Church in America have been “influenced by the materialistic life,” he said.

The Bible is replete with examples of people who weighed down by earthly care. In the Gospel of Luke (18.18-25), the Lord Himself notes how difficult it is for the wealthy among us to enter the Kingdom after the rich young ruler would not sell all he had; give to the poor; and follow Him.

The rich young ruler’s mind was too cluttered with material concerns – too attached to the world – so he was unable to free himself from his many possessions. Even though he kept the major commandments, he couldn’t take the extra step.

There are many people like this – decent, law-abiding, hardworking people – people who don’t realize that being “good” in that sense, alone, is not enough.

But what is it that clutters our minds so much and renders us unable to see the truth, the real good? Materialism. And what is it that makes us fall into that materialistic trap? Poor judgment and wrong thinking.

When bad judgment and incorrect thinking prevail in the Church, the Church’s mission is compromised, and it’s no coincidence that the Church in America started having more problems the further away it moved from its Hellenic character and integrity.

When Father Constantelos advised a young man that, in order to become Orthodox, he should learn his Greek; when that young man went to Saint Vladimir’s Academy, in part to avoid learning his Greek, only to come back and seek ordination in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese because the Greeks pay better; when convert priests say they “hate those Greeks,” the situation cries out for relief.

How dare they speak in such terms? Where is their spirit of love and compassion? And why do Greek American clergymen and laypersons reject an eminently qualified man like Father Constantelos and deliberately block him from offering his talents and services to the Church at our school of theology? Because he emphasizes Hellenic thinking and instruction?

People who do that despise their own selves. Unfortunately, the problem is very deeply rooted. Until some people relinquish their stubborn insistence on a “we’re Orthodox, not Greek” formula which never really worked; or until they are removed from positions of authority and replaced with right-minded persons, the Church in America will not experience its much-needed renaissance.

Be more confident

The recent controversy swirling around Roland Burris, the man who was appointed to fill President Obama’s vacated U.S. Senate seat by the disgraced Rod Blagojevich, couldn’t come at a better time, it seems, for Alexi Giannoulas who, after less than one term as state treasurer of Illinois, is now reportedly eyeing a run for the U.S. Senate in 2010, when Mr. Burris’ term expires.

In what appeared to be an effort to bone up his foreign policy credentials, he was in Greece, Cyprus and Turkey with Richard Durbin, the senior senator from Illinois, this past week.

Mr. Giannoulas is young – and ambitious. We would love to see him run and win, however – not run and lose – so we hope he considers his options very carefully. We also hope he speaks out more confidently about our community’s concerns.

Mr. Giannoulas used to play basketball with Mr. Obama, and some thought that, because of their pre-Election on-court bond, our new rising star was Mr. Obama’s “point man” for Hellenic issues.

But we’re not so sure that’s the case. In a recent report posted by the New York Times, Mr. Giannoulas expressed reluctance to correspond with the President about, well – anything:

“Rarely will I bother him for anything serious or non-serious. I figure if he needs me or wants to talk to me on any social level, he can get me very, very quickly. His friends need to have a shift in mentality. He’s no longer Barack. He’s an institution,” said Alexi Giannoulas, the state treasurer of Illinois and a friend (of the President).”

It doesn’t sound like he’s very confident about his friendship with Mr. Obama, does it? We’re not saying he should run to the President every minute, but Alexi should be more confident. After all, Mr. Obama stumped for him; he raised money for Mr. Obama; and there’s nothing wrong with “bothering the President” about our community’s issues.

Kudos to the 32

When the National Herald conveyed the community’s concerns about a pro-Turkish scholar’s prospective appointment to the National Security Council to members of Congress in mid-January, no one acted on it right away because it was just before the Inauguration.

But soon afterwards, Congressman John Sarbanes of Maryland crafted a letter to President Obama articulating the major Hellenic issues, and got 32 colleagues in the House of Representatives to sign it (see story on page 2).

The letter did not cite the scholar directly, but it did make some indirect references: “We hope that your Administration will reflect in its policies and personnel the positions that you and Vice President Biden have taken previously on these important issues... We trust that you will assemble a foreign policy team that will approach these issues with the same spirit and understanding that both you and Vice President Biden have shown over the years,” the letter states.

Asked why more members of the Hellenic Caucus did not sign the letter, a spokesman for Rep. Sarbanes told us the quick turnaround was a factor. The more time a congressman spends circulating a letter and the more time he gives his colleagues to review the letter, the more signatures can be obtained, the spokesman explained, citing other letters with more signatures.

Okay. We accept that. And we heartily congratulate the 32 people who signed the Sarbanes letter. They deserve our thanks and continued support. But we would also like to see a forceful and specific follow-up with the Administration.

At the same time, we also encourage the community to engage its legislators more actively. In all, six who signed the letter represent New Jersey; five represent California; and four represent Florida. In those states, our community is clearly very active. We need to be active in other states, too.

Church Sends the Wrong Message by Banning Parishioner

To the Editor:

We appreciate your newspaper’s efforts to shed light on Church issues, but my family and I are saddened to read about the church trespassing conviction of Emmanuel Papadopoulos as reported in Theodore Kalmoukos’ story, “Church Feud Ends in Conviction for Parishioner,” in your February 7 edition.

We have known Mr. Papadopoulos for over 40 years, and can attest to his outstanding ethical, reflective, conciliatory and devout Christian Orthodox character, contrary to the incredulous comments expressed in your article by Rev. John Artemas, the current priest of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Oak Lawn, Illinois.

The background for this distressing scenario and the extensive interviews conducted by Mr. Kalmoukos indicates that many unanswered questions remain regarding the financial irregularities during the years Archimandrite Timothy Bakakos served at Saint Nicholas, as documented by the parish-elected audit committee.

The unjustified and hasty removal of the church treasurer, Susan Searl, who initially discovered the irregularities, also makes one question the motives of the church hierarchy.

It is equally difficult to ascertain from the inconsistent interview responses given by Rev. Artemas, Bishop Demetrios (the former chancellor of the Metropolis of Chicago) and Metropolitan Iakovos, who ordered Mr. Papadopoulos to be banned from attending services at his parish.

What is unequivocally clear from Mr. Kalmoukos’ reportage, however, is that Mr. Papadopoulos, an exemplary citizen and faithful Orthodox parishioner, has been unjustifiably convicted.

Michael & Mary Keller
Grand Rapids, Michigan

If this Treatment Continues, Only the Priests will be Left

To the editor:

Please allow me to congratulate you for the thorough reporting on the issues pertaining to the St. Nicholas church in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Reading about Mr. Emmanuel Papadopoulos’ story, the parishioner of the St. Nicholas parish who was convicted in the secular court because he violated his priest’s restraining order prohibiting him to even step in the church, I am won-

dering where are we going as a Greek Orthodox Church in America?

Certainly we cannot take the words and the approach of Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago seriously, neither those of his chancellor Bishop Demetrios or Fr. John Artemas. I am wondering whom should we believe of the three? But what about the Archdiocese and the Archbishop, do they exist? What are they doing? I am wondering if the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Patriarch Bartholomew in Constantinople have knowledge of this deteriorating situation here in America?

The young men and women who see these things are leaving the church in droves and refuse to get actively involved in their parishes. I do not blame them.

Something should be done without any delay because in a few years the Bishops and the priests will be the only ones in the churches.

Constantine Pavlides
New Jersey

Israel’s Attack on Gaza was Illegal and Unacceptable

To the Editor:

How coincidental that the Israeli War against Gaza began days before President Bush left office and ended a day before the inauguration of Barack Obama. It is noteworthy that

the general public, due to limited press coverage, know little of the facts that led up to the was against the Palestinian people.

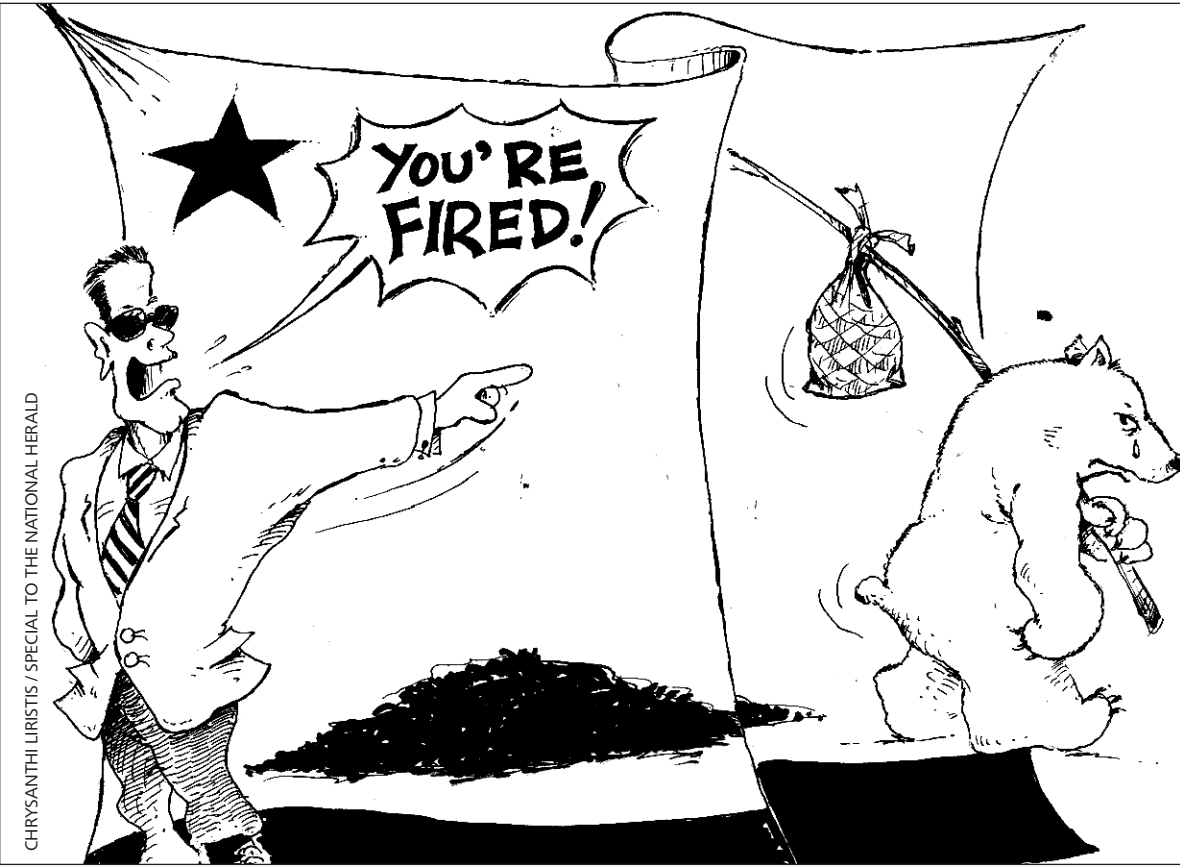
In 2006, the Palestinian people elected Hamas, lawfully and legally, by a landslide because that organization echoed the resistance and oppression they strongly felt. But Washington and Tel Aviv refused to recognize the legitimate choice. For 18 months, Israel had put Gaza under a genocidal siege by freezing, starving and cutting off medicine and food supplies. Most of the children in Gaza suffer from anemia because of this.

Israel states that Hamas broke the ceasefire, but Israel never lifted the blockade as agreed, leaving the people in Gaza desperate and hungry. Hunger is silent violence, as is humiliation, something that is doled out at the 700 checkpoints when a Palestinian wants to go to his job. The endless bulldozing of houses at random and the deportation of two million people and families throughout the 60-year occupation are not publicized anymore. A 23-year-old American citizen named Rachel Corrie was murdered in 2003 when an Israeli tank bulldozed her when she tried to defend a doctor’s house from being destroyed. He claimed he hadn’t seen her. Another regrettable “accident” like the hospital and U.N. schools in Gaza. Always regret-

table after the fact.

In the war against Gaza, Israel used F-16s and Apache helicopters given by the U.S. and targeted places where civilians seek shelter, raining down white phosphorus, the kind used and banned in Vietnam. It is a substance that, when it touches the skin, burns and adheres to the flesh until it reaches the bone. Then, Washington sent GBU-39 bunker buster bombs that are eight times more destructive than other bombs. This, against a few missiles that did very little damage in comparison and were deployed to bring attention to their desperate plight since even the U.N. did nothing. Of course, this was followed by the usual lies that Hamas alone was the target. The dead numbered more than 2,000, most of which were children. The U.N. building, mosques, hospitals, schools and residential buildings were all destroyed wantonly in an Israeli effort to minimize the population. Israel demands the right to exist, but never states that Palestine has that same right. Never in the 60-year existence of Israel, has there been a plan for a Palestinian state. The plain truth is that Israel wants the entire territory and will never agree to a state for the indigenous people. Zionism is racism whether the U.N. recognizes it or not.

Phyllis Sembos
Emerson, N.J.



LOGOS

A Prescription for Getting Through Hard Times

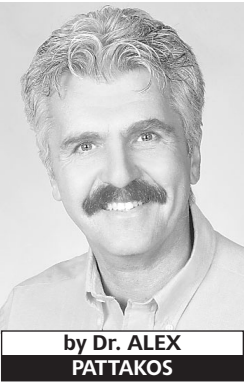
As Greek Americans, we all should be proud of Harry Markopolos, the financial analyst and whistleblower who helped lead to the arrest of Bernard Madoff. Madoff’s Ponzi Scheme, which has been described as the largest investor fraud ever committed by a single person, already has had profound, and in some cases, tragic, consequences around the world. Besides the staggering financial toll left in its wake, the so-called Madoff investment “strategy” has left many lives broken and in a state of emotional and financial ruin.

To make matters worse, the fall-out from the Madoff fraud has even been associated with people who have taken their own lives as a result of their misfortune. Most recently, for instance, a retired British army officer killed himself at his home in England, presumably in sheer desperation after losing his family’s entire life savings in the Ponzi Scheme. And right after the unraveled scheme was reported to authorities at the end of last year, a prominent French hedge fund adviser and investor, whose firm lost billions of dollars investing with Madoff, was found dead in his company office on Madison Avenue in New York City in an apparent suicide. Although no suicide note was found at the scene, the victim’s brother in France received a note shortly after his death in which he expressed remorse and a feeling of responsibility for all of the losses that had been incurred, even though there is no evidence that he was involved in the fraud.

Of course, in addition to this kind of widespread “personal” fall-out, both in financial and human terms, the Madoff affair rocked Wall Street, in a systemic and more impersonal sense, that already was churning from the growing financial crisis. It is against this complex backdrop that the full impact of Mr. Markopolos’s role in this still-unfolding human drama must be considered. Indeed, it sounds from all accounts that, like Clint Eastwood’s “Dirty Harry,” Harry Markopolos displayed a level of courage that truly deserves Hollywood’s attention. This said, and in no way minimizing the significance of Mr. Markopolos’s heroic deed, it is also important to recognize that true “courage” is not the absence of fear but the willingness and ability to walk through the fear. It is this kind of courage, I would argue, that was demonstrated by Harry

Markopolos when he repeatedly tried to blow the whistle on Madoff over many years. And it is this kind of courage, we should also be proud to say, that is deeply rooted and can be found as an identifiable characteristic in the Greek psyche and culture since ancient times.

True courage is largely a reflection of attitude which, in turn, is an expression of freedom of will. Put differently, our choice of attitude is ultimately a “freedom” that we all possess even if we don’t always choose to exercise it in healthy and meaningful ways, especially when we face difficult life challenges. Consider, for instance, not only the financial loss and suffering from the Madoff scheme but also the dire implications of the current economic crisis. Likewise, please reflect upon the victims of natural and man-made disasters (e.g., Asian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, and the current



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The National Herald

Even if you may believe that the “sky is falling” in today’s economy, or if you are facing personal challenges, what are you going to do about it?

wildfires in Australia), and those who must face the inescapable suffering from personal tragedies (e.g., due to terminal illness and disease, unforeseen accidents, and the like).

Indeed, it is during such times when true courage is put to its greatest test. It is our choice of attitude that determines first whether we will be able to rise above our circumstances or fall victim to them. Although he was not a Greek American, it was Henry Ford (where are you now, Henry, when we need you?!), who said, “If you think you can, or you think that you can’t, you are right.”

In life’s most difficult situations, it is our capacity to cope and our personal resiliency that are put to the ultimate test. Again, it is at such times that the “freedom to choose our attitude” takes center stage. The responsibility for choos-

ing our attitude lies solely and soundly with and within each one of us. No matter how much we may want to do so, it cannot be transferred to someone else. In my book, Prisoners of Our Thoughts, I introduce this freedom/responsibility for choosing our attitude as the first core principle of Viktor Frankl’s System of Logotherapy. Moreover, the following passage in my book

helps to frame the significance of this meaning-centered principle: “Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space lies our freedom and our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our happiness.” Logotherapy, as I mentioned in last week’s column, seeks to make us aware of our freedom of response to all aspects of our destiny. In this connection, please don’t forget Dr. Frankl’s profound words, “Everything can be taken from a man but...the last of the human freedoms—to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s way.” In other words, in all situations, no matter how desperate they may appear or actually be, you always have the ultimate freedom to choose your attitude.

When we choose our attitude in light of what I call “true optimism,” we actually make three choices: (1) we choose a positive attitude about the situation at hand; (2) we choose an attitude that supports a form of creative visualization about what’s possible; and (3) we choose an attitude that generates passion for the action that makes the possible become a reality. In other words, being a “true optimist” requires more than just positive thinking. Positive affirmations, like good intentions, aren’t enough; we need to be able to visualize the possibilities that may result from our choice of attitude, and be able to feel the emotion or passion behind our choice of attitude that will help us actualize or realize such possibilities. We each have the ultimate freedom to make these choices, but it is amazing how frequently we don’t. We either “choose” to abstain from taking full responsibility for what should be our conscious choices or “choose,” albeit uncon-

sciously, to remain frozen in thought patterns that may no longer serve our highest good. In short, we become “prisoners of our thoughts.”

In my work and personal experience, I have encountered clients, co-workers, friends, and family members who are stuck in old habits of self-imprisonment (and, of course, I’ve “been there, done that” as well!). They display the power of negative thinking about a given work or life situation, assuring that they could never visualize a better tomorrow. Or they are steeped in so much fear of the unknown that they have essentially immobilized themselves, effectively avoiding any kind of risk, or have reacted in ways that essentially work against themselves. The ultimate freedom to choose their attitude and a positive future, no matter how desperate they may be, seems as foreign to them as a life in which they could feel truly fulfilled and happy.

So how about you? Even if you may believe that the “sky is falling” in today’s economy, or if you are facing personal challenges that seem out of your control, what are you going to do about it? Are you willing and committed to be a part of the solution rather than a part of the problem? Are you a “true optimist?”

Remember, you are not your job, nor are you your bank account or stock portfolio. And although we may not be totally free from the various conditions or situations that confront us—in our personal and work lives—the important thing is that we can, “yes, we can,” choose how we respond, at the very least through our choice of attitude. This is our God-given right (the divine Λογος) and is an important step on the path to discovering the deeper meaning in our lives. As Greek Americans, would we really want to choose any other path?

Dr. Pattakos is the author of the international bestselling book, Prisoners of Our Thoughts: Viktor Frankl’s Principles for Discovering Meaning in Life and Work, and the founder of the Center for Meaning, based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. His column will be published weekly in The National Herald. Readers interested in contacting him with questions, comments, and/or suggestions for topics can send emails to: alex@prisonersofourthoughts.com.

LETTER FROM ATHENS

A Dangerous Game now Played with Higher Stakes

Pericles Panagopoulos was sick and shaken when found sitting on a park bench at 3 a.m. on January 19 in an isolated industrial zone of the western Athens suburb of Aspropyrgos, the latest victim of a favorite new get-rich-quick criminal scheme in Greece, kidnapping the wealthy. It has the police boxed in, even though they have caught some perpetrators, because the families of the wealthy don't want them to interfere, so in Greece you can get millions of dollars by finding some unprotected rich person and kidnapping them.You'll make a lot of money, likely won't get caught, and all you have to do is entertain the victim for a few days until the family forks over the cash. Now that it's proving so successful, you'll probably see more of them because these guys are making out like bandits, even better than the Pirates of Somalia, who plunder ships at will off the coast of Africa while the world's best-armed navies float around in circles like a lost flotilla, unable to find six guys in a speed-boat.

Panagopoulos, a shipping magnate, was released a week after being taken for what was reported to be as much as \$38 million. Not bad for a week's work, and the best part is nothing will ever probably happen to you. It's easy to be flippant,

Revolutionary Struggle said it “could crush the police securityleaving unguarded politicians and economicpowers that be.”

unless the victim is a member of your family, but all this laissez-faire approach to kidnappings does is encourage them and it's a matter of time until someone is killed. While details are murky, reports of the disappearance of a young man whose body was found had the earmarkings of a kidnapping that went bad, although no one wants it reported that way because because kidnappings start with rich people and pretty soon a cleaning lady will be abducted for a hundred bucks ransom.

Panagopoulos said he was treated well, just as a previous businessman kidnapped in Greece had been, because the perpetrators know a dead body isn't exactly a good bargaining chip, so they've been careful to be nice, knowing an easy payday is waiting. If some of them were caught and no one was hurt, of course, that might seem to be a deterrent instead of an incentive to this line of work. Panagopoulos, 74, who founded Greece's largest ferry company Attica, was picked up by the police where his kidnappers told the family they had left him. One of the richest men in Greece, he did not appear to have been mistreated while being held, although he had an illness requiring insulin. The police stayed mum during the drama, but Greek media reported his family left the ransom in an isolated spot 60 miles north of Athens, a drop-off undoubtedly known to the police. This is a dangerous game because apprehending the criminals before someone is released could result in a murder, but if no one is ever caught, that guarantees more of these scenarios and almost certain death for someone. A hard call, but doing nothing opens the

door for more of these crimes. Since there's no way to prevent the kidnappings (the kidnappers were armed with AK-47 rifles and used a truck to block the car of Panagopoulos, whose armed chauffeur was later found tied to a tree with a hood over his head, minus his handgun) the only way to end them is solve them. Until the last year, kidnappings had been rare in Greece, and some perpetrators had been caught, but this case was the third high-profile kidnapping since last summer and in one of them it hasn't turned out so well so far. Cardiologist Epameinondas Gerasimopoulos, abducted by two gunmen from his home in the affluent suburb of Vari, is still missing and feared dead. In June 2008, leading Thessaloniki industrialist George Mylonas was kidnapped by three men as he drove home with his wife. He was released two weeks later after his family paid \$15.4 million, police said. Two months later, police arrested one of Greece's most wanted fugitives as the mastermind, solving that one at least, but now they fear that kidnapping is re-emerging as a preferred criminal tactic in Greece, one of the safest countries in Europe.

So what are the police to do? Panagopoulos's wife negotiated with the kidnappers and even offered to take his place, and police said they respected her request not to intervene or try to locate or apprehend them. It was harrowing, as Panagopoulos said, "I feel well after undergoing an ordeal I don't wish anyone to go through. I feared for my life." The police later said, "We have certain leads and our hands are now free to track them down and bring them to justice. No crime is perfect, and we believe they have made some mistakes that will facilitate us."

It's not hard to pick likely victims because their success stories are all over the news. Panagopoulos had sold two cruise line ventures over the years, including the popular Superfast ferries, for more than \$530 million, so even \$38 million isn't much, something the kidnappers were undoubtedly counting on when setting a release price. What's worrying the police now - and should scare anybody with money in Greece - is that this could spread beyond the merely greedy to those with political agendas, as far-Left groups like the new Revolutionary Struggle could see the tactic as an easy way to finance their self-declared war against the State. The group, in a 9000-word proclamation to the media, said it "could literally crush the police security, leaving unguarded the political and economic powers that be," and said the rich, politicians, and even journalists are at risk. When

Panagopoulos was released, the kidnappers reportedly stuffed his driver's gun into his pocket and said: "Thank you, grandpa." What will they say when someone doesn't pay and winds up dead and nobody is caught? Thank you," anyway, because they have nothing to lose.

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 andyadabilis@gmail.com.



Special to The National Herald

Greek-American Relations in the Age of Obama

A new American president has created an opportunity for a fresh start to US-Greek relations, or has it?

The Greek relationship with America is long and complicated. In the late 18th and 19th centuries, American perception of Greece was through the classics, regardless of the mass of immigrants from Greece who made the US their home. The image of ancient Hellas always overrode the reality of the Greek immigrant arriving on the shores of America in search of a better life. Over the past two centuries, up until the last decade, America's elites were educated in the classics and in this context they maintained a connection with the ideals of ancient Greece. However, classical antiquity and the Age of Pericles were segregated from the contemporary Greek state and people.

In the 20th century, Greek American relations came into their own as a result of the Truman Doctrine in 1947. Prior to this event, Greece had been under the British sphere of influence and beyond the occasional pleasantries the two countries had little contact. The thousands of Greeks that continued to make America their home and their children who were rapidly becoming part of the US social and economic fabric, provided an indirect contact between the USA and Greece.

On the other hand, the Cold War that was practically inaugurated by the Truman Doctrine made Greece into a frontline state and one critical to US security interests in the Near East, Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans. Unfortunately, Greek

weakness and American need created a dangerous and unbalanced construct of Greek-American relations over the next thirty years. The US could not trust the Greeks to run their own state and armed forces so Americans worked around the Greek military-political system until Greece was both client state and an American dependency.

The culmination of these policies contributed, indirectly, to the establishment of the Greek 1967 Junta and a gave birth to an almost a national obsession with anti-Americanism – at least that is the perception in Washington. During the same period, as anti-Americanism almost became institutionalized in Greece, knowledge of Greece, both ancient and modern, receded from American campuses. Albeit the ivy universities continue to maintain departments of classics, but these no longer attract the American elite who now find that, rightly or wrongly, contemporary studies are more useful.

Unfortunately, in the panoply of university courses Greek studies are either non-existent or maintained on the fringes of classics departments. There are few courses on Greek language and literature available but even fewer on modern Greek history or politics. Equally disturbing is the almost complete absence of books on Greece. Consequently, informa-



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tion about Greece, Greek issues and Greeks in general is available on a superficial basis on the internet. A cursory examination of Greek-topics on the World-Wide Web offers telling testimony on the limitations of that medium for anyone wishing to secure information about things Greek.

Equally unfortunate, is the fact that Greek universities offer little in the English lan-

guage to explain Greek issues and there are no Greek think tanks to fill the gap. Under these circumstances, it is not so remarkable that there is a great disconnect between what Greeks want American politicians and analysts to know about them and what they actually know.

This situation will become worse under the Obama Administration because this president will be focused on the economy and in foreign affairs primarily on Iraq and more so on Afghanistan. Greece and Greek issues will be quite low on President Obama's priorities more of an afterthought than direct focus – unless there is a war in the region that involves Greece.

The most that the Greek American community or the Greek state can expect from this new administration is the status quo on all issues involving Greece. The only avenues open to ratchet up interest in Greece is for Athens to play a significant role

in the Middle East, particularly with Iran and for the Greek American community to make inroads in the American political system. Think tanks must be established to provide education and sensitization on Greek issues as well as the training of Greek-Americans and Greek-Canadians to articulate such issues. How else can anyone explain to the Obama Government why hundreds of young Greeks are destroying the center of Athens?

There must be a place for the American political establishment to turn to for comprehensive analyses on topics dealing with Greece. In effect, relations with the Obama Administration begin now and must be based on mutual understanding, which, in turn, is based on knowledge. Greece must be explained to Americans as much as America must be explained to Greece. It can no longer be taken for granted that Americans are carried by the sentiment of the glory of ancient Greece – for centuries the Golden Age of Athens carried Greece now, perhaps, it is for the modern Greek state to laude its own worth and accomplishments.

Dr. Gerolymatos is chair of Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia and the author of "Red Acropolis, Black Terror: The Greek Civil War and the Origins of Soviet-American Rivalry."

Eugene T. Rossides is off this week.

No Golden Parachutes For Failure?

Tucked into the voluminous bill passed by Congress and signed by President Obama to jumpstart the floundering economy is a provision limiting the compensation of top executives in the companies or financial institutions that will receive millions and millions of dollars in rescue funds. No longer golden parachutes.

In the last fifteen years, the salaries and bonuses paid to high executives have gone out of sight. It was not always like that. In 1960, the average compensation to the top executives of the FORTUNE 500 companies was only twice as much as the salary of the President of the United States. In 2007, it was 20 times higher than the compensation of the American President!

In 2007, Lloyd Blankfein of Goldman Sachs received \$70.3 million or \$35,000 per hour for a forty-hour week! Robert Nardelli the CEO of Home Depot received in six years \$250 million. Robert Kelly of Mellon Bank NY received in 2007 \$20.1 million, a "modest" \$10,000 per hour. And these exorbitant compensations were paid to those executives even though the companies they managed were not doing well or were going under. Moreover, all this was perfectly legal!

In 1980, executives in large companies made 40 times what the average worker made. Last year, the pay of a high executive was approximately 360 times that of the average worker (i.e. for every \$1000 a worker made, an executive made \$360,000).

How can this happen as if it is the most natural thing in the world? The answer is bundled in two words: "Incentives" and "Restraints."

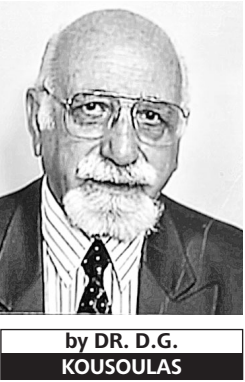
The Greek-American owner of a restaurant has a basic incentive. To net some profit at the end of the day because his personal income will come out of this profit. At the same time, he operates under certain restraints. To get that profit, he counts every penny, offers good food so the customers will come back, buys his supplies at the best price without hurting quality, and on and on. Unless he is a fool – in

which case he will not last long – he operates under those restraints which guide his operational behavior and in the end affect his profit.

The senior executives of public companies – whether in manufacturing, trade, or financing – operate under different incentives and a different set (or lack) of restraints. They are hired hands, presumably employed by the shareholders, and presumably answerable to them for their performance. Overseeing their performance are the so-called Boards of Directors, presumably representing the shareholders who are the legal owners of the company. I used the word "presumably" deliberately. The reality is different.

First, the shareholders. Most of the time, they own the stocks only temporarily and seldom play a real and decisive role in the running of the companies. They cannot even be considered "absentee owners" because absentee owners have a much more direct interest and involvement in their properties.

Technically and legally, the shareholders appoint the members of the Boards of Directors who are expected to keep a check on the company executives and together with them chart the course of the company for the benefit of the shareholders, the legal owners. In reality, however, the shareholders seldom select the members of those Boards. Usually, the shareholders receive a list of names of people they hardly know and they vote by proxy because few of them are prepared to travel to the place where the election is scheduled to take place. Moreover, most of the shareholders own the stock only temporarily and their main interest is to sell the stock at a higher price in the stock market and pocket the difference. Even those who hold the stocks of a company over a long period of time seldom participate in a



Special to The National Herald

We now come to the Executives.

Certainly, many of them would like to do well, have a successful company, and provide a good product or decent services. But they have no real stake in this. Their personal interest is in their compensation. Their incentive is decidedly different from that of the Greek-American restaurant owner. And since the big public companies deal with large sums of money, there is much fodder from which to feed. The Executives ask the Boards of Directors to approve exorbitant salaries and bonuses and the Boards approve. Most of the time, the primary incentive of the Board members is not to save money for the company and the stockholders but to receive a hefty fee for their participation in the periodic meetings of their Board.

This reality has gradually promoted a peculiar culture that can lead to compensations of several thousands of dollars for an hour's work.

It is a culture that it will be very hard, almost impossible to change. Under the stimulus law, only companies receiving taxpayers money will be subject to restrictions in determining the compensation of their top executives – and only as long as they continue to owe money back to the government. Already some commentators predict that some banks may try to pay back the money as soon as possible to get out from under the restrictions. Their top executives will certainly have

the incentive to do so. In a recent statement, the Bank of America Chief Executive Kenneth Lewis told Congress "We would like nothing better than to pay it back early." But paying back \$45 billion the Bank of America received from the government will not be easy. Will the bank take money that could be used for loans and divert it toward the reimbursement of the government just to get sooner out of the restrictions on executive pay imposed by this law? In the existing culture we described above anything is possible.

One possible way to affect this culture is to make the \$500,000 annual compensation provided in the stimulus bill permanent and apply it to all companies that are usually included in the FORTUNE 500. This annual salary will be \$100,000 higher than the current salary of the President of the United States, high enough by any measure. Then, bonuses could be added, bonuses related and tied to the company's profits and overall performance. In this way, an Executive will have a personal incentive to manage the company well since his ultimate compensation will be tied directly to the company's success. Under such a model of compensation, the spectacle of high executives who drove their companies to the ground walking away with millions of dollars in bonuses and golden parachutes (reward for their failures?) will be rather unlikely.

The high priests of the free market will reject such a suggestion in holy horror. But I doubt that Adam Smith, when he wrote his Wealth of Nations of 1776 in praise of the free market, could have imagined how his ideas would be distorted and exploited in our time. His free market model had the correct incentives and the proper restraints, set aside by today's high practitioners.

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.

The Real Global Threat is the Economy, not Terrorism

On Friday, February 13, 2009 the Washington Post reported that Director of National Intelligence Dennis C. Blair told Congress "that instability in countries around the world caused by the current global economic crisis, rather than terrorism, is the primary near-term security threat to the United States."

He might have added that Greece and Cyprus are in the crosshairs as well for precisely the same reason.

The worldwide financial crisis not only affects the security of a world power but the particular qualities of the crisis in the Greek neighborhood, the Eastern Mediterranean, pose a special threat to the stability of Greece and Cyprus as well.

A region whose economic situation has never been stable and whose politics are particularly lethal and convoluted can be expected to react badly to a worldwide economic downturn. Greece's most important and often most threatening neighbor is particularly vulnerable to the economic downturn. Turkey's unemployment rate rose from 10.1 to 12.3 % in one year and could reach 15%, in a few

months. Most importantly, youth unemployment increased even faster with 23.9% unemployed. Turkey's impressive growth rate between 2003 and 2008 was export driven but exports have decreased by more than 25% each month since November.

In the Balkans, Albanian dependence on worker remittances makes that country particularly vulnerable to declining employment in the EU and especially Greece.

Similarly, Greece's other Balkan neighbors are showing signs of deteriorating economic conditions and especially rising unemployment.

Further east, in Israel and the Arab countries, the situation appears as bad as in the Balkans. After five years of rapid economic growth the Israeli economy came to a standstill in the fourth quarter of 2008 and the Bank of Israel forecasts will contract by 0.2% this year. Israeli exports fell more than 20% and unemployment has increased to 7.9%. Combined with the downfall of Israel's Prime Minister over large scale government corruption and the war in Gaza, the situation led to shift in recent Israeli elections

towards right-wing and even fascist political parties. Two years of economic blockade compounded by a brutal war has turned Gaza into a human wasteland with seventy percent unemployment and the complete destruction of infrastructure.

The world's economic implosion has reduced exports and tourist revenues in the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories, already stagnant under corrupt administration and Israeli disruption of commerce. Throughout the region the world's economic turmoil exacerbates the problems of corrupt authoritarian governments and an increasingly wide gap between rich and poor.

Why should misery in the neighborhood pose a special threat to Greece and Cyprus? Because history points in that direction.

Turkey's military has regularly fabricated crises crisis with Greece whenever internal conditions

threaten their hold on power. Turkey controls a large minority population controlled through a combination of force and financial co-opting. The global crisis degrades the ability of the Turkish state to compel loyalty and it would not be the first time that Turkey's generals sought a unifying foreign distraction such as another Imia incident not surprisingly fabricated during political and economic turmoil in December 1996 in Turkey.

Even the invasion of Cyprus did not take place in a vacuum; Turkey's economy took a body blow following the oil price increase of 1974.

The collapse of Albania's economy in 1997 led to revolution, the looting of armories and a flood of migrants who brought guns and drugs to sell in Greece. Bulgaria and Turkey almost came to blows in 1987 over minority; not coincidentally because the Bulgarian communist regime was disintegrating under economic pressures at the end of

the Cold War. Middle Eastern issues pose a less direct but no less dangerous threat to Greece. Human misery caused by political and economic hopelessness will cause turmoil. Gazans provoked Israel into attacking them because Israel's blockade had reduced them to misery.

Turmoil can spread easily in this region and could have unexpected consequences. This could include the overthrow of governments friendly to Greece (e.g., Egypt) and renewed war which could send waves of refugees into Turkey further exacerbating internal problems.

These threats go beyond the normal economic issues most Western Governments face in the current crisis. In 1974 nobody in Europe took the Turkish threat to Cyprus seriously nor did Europe act in 1996 to protect European territory from an outside invasion. There is no reason to believe that European Governments will be any more willing to take threats to Greece seriously in 2009 nor, for that matter, to even believe that a threat exists. In 1996, President Clinton, intervened and brought the Imia crisis to a sudden and partly acceptable halt. Given the weight of the current eco-

nomic disaster in the US, we should not expect President Obama to move with the same alacrity and decisiveness.

Perhaps the best way for Greece to reduce youth unemployment would be to increase significantly the number of troops in the Armed Forces and the best economic stimulant would be to increase procurement of the significant military equipment and supplies manufactured in Greece. An economic stimulus that deters a neighbor's adventurism might be just what the economist ordered.

Kudos to Congressman John Sarbanes for organizing more than 30 other Congressmen to address the issue of new appointees with a history of hostility to Greece.

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



Special to The National Herald



The island of Crete has an array of locations for tourists to visit, from the ancient (left, the Minoan palace at Knossos) to the natural (center, Dikti mountain) to the modern (right, Sitia port).

By Joanna Kakissis
New York Times

A spiraling, slightly treacherous dirt road leads to Aspros Potamos, an enclave of 300-year-old cottages in eastern Crete once used by olive farmers and goatherds. Peaceful and primitive, with stone floors, oil lamps for light and a starry night sky, the cottages, now a rustic retreat for tourists, offer visitors a glimpse into the life of old Crete, without the boutique airbrushing.

It's not the usual vision of Greece's largest island, but for many, it's far more rewarding than the seaside nightclubs, umbrella-pinned beaches and Riviera-lite resorts that attract many people. The eastern Lassithi prefecture, which stretches from a lush plateau of farms to dry crags overlooking transcendently blue bays, offers plenty of portholes into a disappearing Crete and its robust geography.

But the last-paradise vibe may not last much longer. Several developers are scoping out the land for resort development, and residents fear that the resorts will guzzle the island's increasingly scarce water resources. I explored this old side of Crete during a trip last summer to the eastern side of the island. My family left Greece for the United



A nighttime view of Agios Nikolaos, a coastal town on the island of Crete, and capital of the province of Lassithi.

States when I was a child, and though I have visited my mother's island many times, Crete remains a tableau of longing: the puffing chimneys on the tiny stone houses in my mother's village, the farmers riding donkeys to orange groves.

Somewhere between our rented stone cottage and the expanse of Lassithi, I figured, were pieces of this reverie.

The first night didn't go well. I had forgotten matches for the oil lamp and a flashlight to maneuver

up the rocky steps to our room, and we had to mummify ourselves in the bed sheets to defend ourselves from mosquitoes.

To crank ourselves up the next morning, we drank strong, unsweetened Greek coffee on the terrace before driving north to Sitia, then east toward the island's tip. We passed ancient peak sanctuaries, a stunning coastline and Moni Toplou, the powerful monastery that owns much of the land in this area. The white turbines from Toplou's wind park starred the balding hills like kinetic crosses.

We stopped at Palaikastro, a pretty town of about 800 people in the rural municipality of Itanos. Nearby is a Minoan-era settlement that, according to some archaeologists, may have approached the size of Knossos, the palace complex about 60 miles to the west and the fabled lair of the mythical man-bull, the Minotaur. A badly marked dirt road leads from Palaikastro to the Minoan archaeological site of Roussolakos, which is cordoned off by a rusting metal fence and overlooks Kouremenos Bay. On the grounds are bouquets of wild oregano and wild bay plants.

A little farther northeast is another archaeological wonder, the ancient town of Itanos, now also known as Erimoupolis (the Deserted City). Itanos is near the popular Vai beach, which is surrounded by a thatch of palm trees and is often crowded to discomfort in summer. You will find far better beaches if you scope out the rest of the coastline here. We discovered a deserted cove just beyond the Itanos archaeological site and climbed down a jagged path to get to the shore. The smooth-pebbled beach embraced a circling sea, which merged into an illuminated sky. Here we ran into a middle-aged Scandinavian couple wading into the water, wearing nothing but diving masks.

"Do you think Crete is losing its sense of nostalgia?" I later asked Nikos Troulinos, a retired naval officer who farms bananas and olives in the area. We had stopped by his thatched road stand near Vai, where he sells his bananas and outstanding cold-extract olive oil.

Mr. Troulinos handed us small, fragrant Cretan bananas to sample. "You want nostalgia?" he said. "Here's nostalgia: I still milk my goats every morning, and my 2-year-old grandson likes to help me, and we drink the milk afterwards. I think that's about as close to grace as you can get. I mean, to be Cretans, should we be riding around on donkeys to fit your idea of nostalgia?"

The next day we went west to the verdant stretch of Lassithi, passing the miles of greenhouse-lined shore near the drab southeastern city of Ierapetra. We stopped in the seaside village of Myrto for honey-drenched kataifi (walnuts, sugar and spices wrapped in shredded phyllo) and a

walk through the tiny streets, which were full of Dutch tourists and looked, unnervingly, like a movie set. Then we went on to the forest of Selakano, where there are startling views of the Libyan Sea.

Situated in the Dikti mountain range (where Zeus was said to have frolicked as a boy-god) Selakano is a slow drive through narrow switchbacks and breathtaking gorges. The way to Selakano isn't well marked, so we stopped at a roadside cafe in the village of Males for directions. An old man in a weathered three-piece suit and a sweeping mustache pointed to my tiny rented Hyundai. "You'd do better with a donkey," he said.

Indeed the puny car struggled uphill, but we made it to the forest, which was thick with pine, plane, oak and cypress. The air was cool and rain-scented, the prelude to a

buildings in 1985 and moved in with her daughter Myrto Botsari. Over the years they added rustic wooden furniture as well as bathrooms and terraces. A photovoltaic solar energy system powers a small refrigerator and warms water for bathing.

The mother and daughter both still live there, though Ms. Botsari's husband, Manolis Kounelakis, now runs the show. Their guests — Americans, Britons, Irish, Germans and citified young Greeks — revel in the surroundings. They hike along gorges to the nearby mountain village of Pefki to hear local musicians recite mandinades — improvised couplets — at a tavern called Piperia (Pepper) and play the lyra, a pear-shaped, three-stringed lyre voiced with a bow. They eat snails fried in olive oil, rosemary and vinegar and drink raki (a potent Cretan spirit made from grape must). They chat with old men in cafes about the old days. "It's like you get to live another life," said Dita Hussain, a nurse from Portland who stayed at Aspros Potamos earlier last year.

Older Greeks stay away or leave bemused, like my mother, who laughed at my fascination with the oil lamps. Greeks who lived an impoverished childhood in their villages during the 1940s and '50s would rather not relive it. "But their children, who have grown up in cities and crave nature and a connection to a diminished past, stay for days sometimes, playing their guitars under the stars," Ms. Halkia said.

FAR FROM THE HAPPENING CLUBS

Aspros Potamos (30-284-305-1694; www.asprospotamos.com) has 10 cottages not far from the beach town of Makriyalos. The cottages, built at least 300 years ago, have been beautifully restored. Just don't count on your laptop; there's no electricity. Expect to pay 40 to



A view of Aspros Potamos (White River) village, an enclave of 300-year-old cottages in eastern Crete, once used by olive farmers and goatherds.

shower that sent us to Stella's Cafe in the hamlet of Selakano. A blossoming canopy of almond and pear trees embraced the village. Nearby, a bearded young goatherd managed his flock.

Over mugs of herb tea and plates of baby-walnut spoon sweet, the cafe owner, Stella Fanouraki, and her brother Manolis Kritsotakis, a retired 3M executive, described life in the village: mornings of tending flocks or gardens of tomatoes and peppers, and evenings sharing dinners of stewed goat and white beans. Mr. Kritsotakis, who grew up in the area but now lives in the tony Athenian suburb of Ekali, said he spent summers here, growing grapes, making wine and hiking with his daughters.

There's no place to stay in Selakano, but Ms. Fanouraki said a couple of her fellow villagers were planning to open guesthouses soon.

Though Aspros Potamos isn't nearly as cozy (or populated) as Selakano, the rustic cottages there have the same bygone magnetism. An Athenian transplant, Aleka Halkia, bought the abandoned

90 euros, about \$65 to \$145 at \$1.62 to the euro, a night (minimum three nights), depending on the season and the number of beds.

If you can't live without TV, go to the homey Thalia Hotel (30-284-3 0 6 - 1 4 4 8 ; www.palaikastro.com/thaliahotel) in Palaikastro, where double rooms cost about 37 euros. Another option is the Villa Mirtini (30-284-209-0130; www.mirtini.net) in Myrto, where prices are 35 to 60 euros a night depending on the room and the season.

In the mountain village of Pefki, Piperia (30-284-305-2471) serves excellent Cretan food. A nerati (a flat pie stuffed with a ricotta-like cheese and drizzled with honey), an omelet with staka (which resembles clotted cream), hortopitakia (wild-greens pies) and a round of wine and raki cost around 20 euros. Local musicians often play on weekends.

On your way to Selakano Forest, stop at Stella's Cafe (30-284-209-1235) for fasolakia me katsiki (beans simmered with goat) and a tiny plate of preserved fruit with a cup of herb tea.

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